

HOUSE HAPPENINGS

The Work Being Done in the Hall of Representatives.

LABOR OF PAST WEEK BRIEFLY TOLD

Condensed Report of the Bills and Resolutions Introduced, Together with a Sketch of the More Important Transactions.

Thursday, January 10.

The house met on time yesterday morning. Steinmeyer of Gage offered a joint resolution that a joint committee of three from the house and three from the senate be appointed to draft a revenue bill or such amendments as may seem necessary to be reported to the house for action. A joint resolution takes the same course as a bill being read on three separate days, and it was passed over.

Hawxby of Nemaha moved to send greetings to the state historical society and to extend thanks to the librarian and the society for extending the use of library. Carried.

An invitation to attend the meeting of the state historical society last evening was accepted.

The house took measures for the appointment of a committee of three from the standing committee on revenue and taxation, whose business it shall be to formulate a new revenue bill or such measures for revenue legislation as it may deem necessary. The fusionists gave notice of their support of a reasonable measure and it is confidently hoped that some revenue legislation will be accomplished this session. The resolution calling for the appointment of this special committee also calls for the appointment of a similar committee from the senate to act with the house committee. It is likely that the action will be agreed to. Steinmeyer, of Gage county, made the motion and he will doubtless be an active member in securing improvements in the revenue law.

Taylor, of Custer, moved to notify the senate of this action. Carried. A measure appropriating \$55,000 for the purchase of a state normal school at Hawthorne, or Western Normal, was introduced by Mockett, of Lancaster. A number of Lincoln people took the one from the recommendation of the county superintendents of the state in favor of two additional normal schools, and they will favor the bill. They argue that the accommodations to be found at Hawthorne are cheaper than any to be found in the state.

Lane, of Lancaster, introduced a bill to appropriate \$50,000 for the location of the state fair in Lincoln. Of this sum a part not to exceed \$25,000 is to be used for the purchase of the grounds north of the city and the buildings on the old fair grounds. The remainder of the money is for permanent improvements.

Friday, January 11.

At the opening of the house session yesterday, Wilkinson of Cass county, moved to appoint a committee of five. Brown of Otoe to be a member, to draw up resolutions upon the death of Carl Morton. Carried.

The committee appointed to ascertain the cost of printing the house journal reported a recommendation that five typewriter copies of the journal be prepared each day. Sprecher, in a minority report, moved that the journal be mimeographed at a cost of not over \$500. After a long discussion the motion came up on a vote to substitute the majority for the minority report and the vote was forty-six yeas and forty-nine nays. The motion to adopt the minority report of the committee carried.

A committee of three was ordered to provide for printing the messages of Governors Poynter and Dietrich, acting with a senate committee.

The bills for the payment of members of the legislature were reported, engrossed and ready for third reading.

At the afternoon session, Speaker Sears announced the following committees directed to be named by house committee to prepare resolutions on the death of Carl Morton—Wilkinson of Cass, David Brown of Otoe, Tefft of Lancaster, Hathorn, Hamilton. Committee to unite with senate committee to provide for the printing of Governors Poynter's and Dietrich's messages—Wilkinson of Cass, Andrews of Frontier, Murray of Thurston. Sub-committee on revenue and taxation to meet with like committee from the senate committee on revenue and taxation—Mockett of Lancaster, Jouvonnat of Boone, Loomis of Dodge.

Saturday, January 12.

Speaker Sears was ill yesterday and McCarthy of Dixon was in the chair when the house convened. Lane moved to suspend the rules and place house rolls Nos. 11 and 13 on their final passage. These bills are the bills appropriating \$115,000 for legislative expenses. Both carried.

Persinger moved that when the house adjourn it be till Monday at 2 o'clock. This carried.

Bills were introduced and read the first time.

Crisssey moved to reconsider the action of the house ordering the house journal mimeographed and adopting the minority report of the committee on printing made and adopted. A motion to table was carried with sixty-one yeas in its favor.

Mosaic Idea of Justice. Francis Parkman, the historian, had a mosaic idea of justice. A friend met him one day walking along the street, leading a street boy with either hand. "What in the world are you doing, Parkman?" asked his friend. "I found that Johnny here had eaten all of the apple, instead of dividing with his little brother. I am going to buy another for the younger boy, and make Johnny watch him while he eats it."

Often a man is known by the woman he belongs to.

SENATE SIFTINGS

Senate Chamber Proceedings Succinctly Stated.

UPPER HOUSE ACTIONS CHRONICLED

Labors of the Senators Hotted Down to Digestible Size and Dished Up to Our Busy Readers Who Want to Know What is Being Done.

Thursday, January 10.

Martin of Richardson introduced a bill for the repeal of the act of 1887 and also the act of 1885, both for the creation of a state board of transportation. The bill also repeals that part of the present law authorizing the board of transportation to regulate rates charged by express, telegraph, and telephone companies. As the supreme court of Nebraska has declared the board of transportation act of 1887 unconstitutional on account of the manner of its passage it would be inoperative, and the bill of Senator Martin seeks to repeal it as well as the former act which is considered weak in many respects. Some members of the legislature believe the wiping out of all these acts will pave the way for a railroad commission to be elected by the people.

The senate held a short session in the forenoon and adjourned till 10:45 January 11. A committee of three was appointed to confer with a like committee from the house and to arrange for the printing of the governor's message.

Owens of Dawson reported on behalf of his committee that typewritten copies of the senate journal could be had daily at an expense of from ten to twenty dollars. He said the secretary of the senate could have some copies made and placed on his desk for the inspection of the senators. The secretary was ordered to have five carbon copies made each day.

Friday, January 11.

The senate seated Senators Ransom and Liddell of Douglas yesterday, notwithstanding a vigorous attack on the committee report by Ransom himself. This peculiar situation of a member of the legislature attacking the report of the majority side of the house when that side had consented to permit him to retain his seat is something unheard of in the history of the state. Ransom found fault with the report because it did not contain reference to what he termed bribery and bribe-taking of E. Rosewater, the man who instigated the contests. The report was adopted though there was some talk by the majority of withdrawing the report and unseating the two fusionists. Ransom defied the committee to do this, asserting that he would rather lose his seat than remain silent in regard to Mr. Rosewater's connection with the South Omaha election frauds.

The committee recommended that the contest instituted against Oleson of Cuming, republican, be dismissed because a similar contest in the house against Hawxby, fusionist, had been dismissed. As both cases involved the same question of law, and as the questions do not in any manner affect the spirit of the law, the committee recommended dismissal.

Saturday, January 12.

The senate put in half the day listening to bills on first and second reading and then adjourned till Monday at 2 p. m. As few of the printed bills had been received and none were reported from committees it was impossible for the members to accomplish much for their constituents. Bills from No. 85 to No. 97 inclusive were introduced and bills from No. 68 to No. 76 were read the second time and referred to standing committees.

Senate file No. 94, by Steele of Jefferson, amends the game law, sections 86 and 86a, chapter 11, by making it unlawful for anyone to kill, or to have in his possession, except for breeding purposes, any prairie chickens, quail or wild turkey during the term of ten years from and after the passage of this act. A fine of \$5 shall be imposed for every such bird killed or offered for sale.

Tuesday, January 15.

The senate convened at 2 p. m. yesterday. A petition from the library board of Lincoln for the enactment of a law for traveling libraries and for a library commission was received and referred to the committee on libraries.

Arends of Otoe presented a resolution asking congress to pass a law for the establishment of a school of mines in each state.

Newell of Cass moved the appointment of a committee of three by the committee on revenue to confer with a like committee from the house in regard to a revenue bill. The motion was adopted and the chairman of that committee appointed Currie of Custer, Edgar of Gage and Wostenholme.

Van Boskirk of Box Butte introduced senate file No. 101, an act providing a game and fish commission and the appointment of two deputies, each to receive \$1,000 a year, and expenses, one to live at Lincoln and the other to have charge of the state hatcheries.

Miller, of Buffalo, introduced a bill to repeal the oil inspection act. He introduced another bill fixing the compensation of county commissioners. The salaries are graded according to

the population and range from seventy-five dollars to \$1,200 a year.

A bill was introduced to prevent the sale or manufacture of cigarettes. Nearly the entire afternoon was devoted to bills on second reading.

The two house rolls providing an appropriation for the salaries of the members of the legislature and the payment of legislative expenses were read a second time and on motion of Arends of the finance committee were ordered to the general file for consideration in committee of the whole. This action was taken to hurry the bills through.

Harlan of York secured the adoption of a rule governing the voting for senators in the senate today. It is similar to one adopted in the house. It provides that the voting shall begin at 11 a. m., and that each senator shall vote for two United States senators, his choice for the short term to be named first.

Wednesday, January 16.

The senate unseated Senator Hedgcock of Phelps county and declared that John M. Johnson, republican, of Harlan county was entitled to the place by reason of having received a majority of three votes. Hedgcock, fusionist, had been declared elected on the face of the returns by a majority of two votes. His seat was taken from him because of illegal votes cast. The committee on privileges and election has been at work on the case for several days and many witnesses were examined. Out of a large number of contests before the legislature, this is the only one resulting in the ousting of a member. The report of the committee was adopted by a strict party vote.

Martin of Richardson introduced a bill placing the clerk of the supreme court on a salary of \$2,500. The fees of the office are to go into a separate fund from which the clerk shall receive his salary and pay his employees. The judges of the court are to designate the number of employees in the clerk's office and to determine the salary, no employee to receive over \$1,200 a year.

Thursday, January 17.

The senate yesterday a vigorous attack was made upon that portion of the army reorganization bill which confers upon the president discretionary power to increase the strength of the army to the maximum limit fixed by the bill. Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, began the attack, and Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, replying, maintained that discretionary power ought to be conferred upon the president, and expressed astonishment that anybody should entertain a fear that the power would be abused. Mr. Bacon declared he would rather see his party condemned to universal and never-ending banishment from political power than to see such authority placed in the hands of the president.

An amendment opening the way to the appointment of volunteer officers to grades as high as that of captain in the regular establishment was adopted.

At the conclusion of the reading of the measure Mr. Pettus of Alabama objected to its further consideration and it went over. A house bill providing for the holding of circuit and district courts in the eastern district of Arkansas was reported favorably from the judiciary committee and passed.

Monday, January 14.

Immediately after the conclusion of the morning business the senate proceeded to pay a tribute to the memory of the late Senator Davis of Minnesota, and to adopt resolutions expressive of the sorrow of the members at the loss of that distinguished statesman. Mrs. Davis and friends occupied seats in the gallery and some five or six hundred Minnesota people, employed in the various government departments, also listened to the eulogies, having been excused from their duties. Senator Nelson of Minnesota presented the resolutions and made the first speech. Other eulogies were delivered by Senators Hoar, Morgan, Clark, Lodge, Daniels, Spooner, Pettigrew, McCumber, Foster and Towne.

Tuesday, January 15.

After the morning business in the senate yesterday the army reorganization bill was taken up. After some desultory discussion Mr. Bacon withdrew his amendment and offered another introducing the words "during the present exigency of the service," so that the clause would read "Provided, that the president, during the present exigency of the service, in his discretion may increase the number of the corporals in any troop of cavalry to eight and the number of privates to seventy-six."

Discussing the phrase "exigency of the service" Mr. Caffery of Louisiana said he presumed it was "the presidential idea of war in the Philippines."

Mr. Mallory of Florida, said as to exigencies it was possible an exigency might arise for the use of an army in Cuba.

Speaking to the amendment last offered by Mr. Bacon, Mr. Foraker of Ohio, maintained that the army of 58,000, the minimum size of the army fixed by the pending measure, was not a large force in all the circumstances. In view of the necessity for caring for coast fortifications and in view, too, of the probable early construction of the Nicaragua canal, every soldier provided for in the present bill would be needed.

Wednesday, January 16.

In the senate yesterday an effort was made to secure confirmation of the nomination of Mr. James S. Harlan, son of Justice Harlan of the United States supreme court, to be attorney-general for Porto Rico. Action was prevented by Senator Pettigrew. Senators Foraker and Spooner united in an appeal to Mr. Pettigrew to withdraw his objections, saying that Mr. Harlan is an excellent lawyer and an accomplished gentleman, and would fill the place as acceptably as anyone who could be named.

Mr. Pettigrew responded that he had no doubt of Mr. Harlan's fitness for

SENATE SIFTINGS

Senate Chamber Proceedings Succinctly Stated.

UPPER HOUSE ACTIONS CHRONICLED

Labors of the Senators Hotted Down to Digestible Size and Dished Up to Our Busy Readers Who Want to Know What is Being Done.

Thursday, January 10.

Martin of Richardson introduced a bill for the repeal of the act of 1887 and also the act of 1885, both for the creation of a state board of transportation. The bill also repeals that part of the present law authorizing the board of transportation to regulate rates charged by express, telegraph, and telephone companies. As the supreme court of Nebraska has declared the board of transportation act of 1887 unconstitutional on account of the manner of its passage it would be inoperative, and the bill of Senator Martin seeks to repeal it as well as the former act which is considered weak in many respects. Some members of the legislature believe the wiping out of all these acts will pave the way for a railroad commission to be elected by the people.

The senate held a short session in the forenoon and adjourned till 10:45 January 11. A committee of three was appointed to confer with a like committee from the house and to arrange for the printing of the governor's message.

Owens of Dawson reported on behalf of his committee that typewritten copies of the senate journal could be had daily at an expense of from ten to twenty dollars. He said the secretary of the senate could have some copies made and placed on his desk for the inspection of the senators. The secretary was ordered to have five carbon copies made each day.

Friday, January 11.

The senate seated Senators Ransom and Liddell of Douglas yesterday, notwithstanding a vigorous attack on the committee report by Ransom himself. This peculiar situation of a member of the legislature attacking the report of the majority side of the house when that side had consented to permit him to retain his seat is something unheard of in the history of the state. Ransom found fault with the report because it did not contain reference to what he termed bribery and bribe-taking of E. Rosewater, the man who instigated the contests. The report was adopted though there was some talk by the majority of withdrawing the report and unseating the two fusionists. Ransom defied the committee to do this, asserting that he would rather lose his seat than remain silent in regard to Mr. Rosewater's connection with the South Omaha election frauds.

The committee recommended that the contest instituted against Oleson of Cuming, republican, be dismissed because a similar contest in the house against Hawxby, fusionist, had been dismissed. As both cases involved the same question of law, and as the questions do not in any manner affect the spirit of the law, the committee recommended dismissal.

Saturday, January 12.

The senate put in half the day listening to bills on first and second reading and then adjourned till Monday at 2 p. m. As few of the printed bills had been received and none were reported from committees it was impossible for the members to accomplish much for their constituents. Bills from No. 85 to No. 97 inclusive were introduced and bills from No. 68 to No. 76 were read the second time and referred to standing committees.

Senate file No. 94, by Steele of Jefferson, amends the game law, sections 86 and 86a, chapter 11, by making it unlawful for anyone to kill, or to have in his possession, except for breeding purposes, any prairie chickens, quail or wild turkey during the term of ten years from and after the passage of this act. A fine of \$5 shall be imposed for every such bird killed or offered for sale.

Tuesday, January 15.

The senate convened at 2 p. m. yesterday. A petition from the library board of Lincoln for the enactment of a law for traveling libraries and for a library commission was received and referred to the committee on libraries.

Arends of Otoe presented a resolution asking congress to pass a law for the establishment of a school of mines in each state.

Newell of Cass moved the appointment of a committee of three by the committee on revenue to confer with a like committee from the house in regard to a revenue bill. The motion was adopted and the chairman of that committee appointed Currie of Custer, Edgar of Gage and Wostenholme.

Van Boskirk of Box Butte introduced senate file No. 101, an act providing a game and fish commission and the appointment of two deputies, each to receive \$1,000 a year, and expenses, one to live at Lincoln and the other to have charge of the state hatcheries.

Miller, of Buffalo, introduced a bill to repeal the oil inspection act. He introduced another bill fixing the compensation of county commissioners. The salaries are graded according to

the population and range from seventy-five dollars to \$1,200 a year.

A bill was introduced to prevent the sale or manufacture of cigarettes. Nearly the entire afternoon was devoted to bills on second reading.

The two house rolls providing an appropriation for the salaries of the members of the legislature and the payment of legislative expenses were read a second time and on motion of Arends of the finance committee were ordered to the general file for consideration in committee of the whole. This action was taken to hurry the bills through.

Harlan of York secured the adoption of a rule governing the voting for senators in the senate today. It is similar to one adopted in the house. It provides that the voting shall begin at 11 a. m., and that each senator shall vote for two United States senators, his choice for the short term to be named first.

Wednesday, January 16.

The senate unseated Senator Hedgcock of Phelps county and declared that John M. Johnson, republican, of Harlan county was entitled to the place by reason of having received a majority of three votes. Hedgcock, fusionist, had been declared elected on the face of the returns by a majority of two votes. His seat was taken from him because of illegal votes cast. The committee on privileges and election has been at work on the case for several days and many witnesses were examined. Out of a large number of contests before the legislature, this is the only one resulting in the ousting of a member. The report of the committee was adopted by a strict party vote.

Martin of Richardson introduced a bill placing the clerk of the supreme court on a salary of \$2,500. The fees of the office are to go into a separate fund from which the clerk shall receive his salary and pay his employees. The judges of the court are to designate the number of employees in the clerk's office and to determine the salary, no employee to receive over \$1,200 a year.

Thursday, January 17.

The senate yesterday a vigorous attack was made upon that portion of the army reorganization bill which confers upon the president discretionary power to increase the strength of the army to the maximum limit fixed by the bill. Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, began the attack, and Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, replying, maintained that discretionary power ought to be conferred upon the president, and expressed astonishment that anybody should entertain a fear that the power would be abused. Mr. Bacon declared he would rather see his party condemned to universal and never-ending banishment from political power than to see such authority placed in the hands of the president.

An amendment opening the way to the appointment of volunteer officers to grades as high as that of captain in the regular establishment was adopted.

At the conclusion of the reading of the measure Mr. Pettus of Alabama objected to its further consideration and it went over. A house bill providing for the holding of circuit and district courts in the eastern district of Arkansas was reported favorably from the judiciary committee and passed.

Monday, January 14.

Immediately after the conclusion of the morning business the senate proceeded to pay a tribute to the memory of the late Senator Davis of Minnesota, and to adopt resolutions expressive of the sorrow of the members at the loss of that distinguished statesman. Mrs. Davis and friends occupied seats in the gallery and some five or six hundred Minnesota people, employed in the various government departments, also listened to the eulogies, having been excused from their duties. Senator Nelson of Minnesota presented the resolutions and made the first speech. Other eulogies were delivered by Senators Hoar, Morgan, Clark, Lodge, Daniels, Spooner, Pettigrew, McCumber, Foster and Towne.

Tuesday, January 15.

After the morning business in the senate yesterday the army reorganization bill was taken up. After some desultory discussion Mr. Bacon withdrew his amendment and offered another introducing the words "during the present exigency of the service," so that the clause would read "Provided, that the president, during the present exigency of the service, in his discretion may increase the number of the corporals in any troop of cavalry to eight and the number of privates to seventy-six."

Discussing the phrase "exigency of the service" Mr. Caffery of Louisiana said he presumed it was "the presidential idea of war in the Philippines."

Mr. Mallory of Florida, said as to exigencies it was possible an exigency might arise for the use of an army in Cuba.

Speaking to the amendment last offered by Mr. Bacon, Mr. Foraker of Ohio, maintained that the army of 58,000, the minimum size of the army fixed by the pending measure, was not a large force in all the circumstances. In view of the necessity for caring for coast fortifications and in view, too, of the probable early construction of the Nicaragua canal, every soldier provided for in the present bill would be needed.

Wednesday, January 16.

In the senate yesterday an effort was made to secure confirmation of the nomination of Mr. James S. Harlan, son of Justice Harlan of the United States supreme court, to be attorney-general for Porto Rico. Action was prevented by Senator Pettigrew. Senators Foraker and Spooner united in an appeal to Mr. Pettigrew to withdraw his objections, saying that Mr. Harlan is an excellent lawyer and an accomplished gentleman, and would fill the place as acceptably as anyone who could be named.

Mr. Pettigrew responded that he had no doubt of Mr. Harlan's fitness for

NATIONAL SENATE

Transactions of Upper House of Congress Briefly Stated.

Friday, January 11.

Consideration was concluded of the committee amendments to the army reorganization bill and the senate took up the amendments proposed by individual senators. The amendments providing for the appointment of Generals J. H. Wilson and Fitzhugh Lee and General Shafter to be major generals of the regular army and retired, precipitated an extended and, on the part of Mr. Pettigrew, a bitter debate. The amendment prevailed, however, despite the opposition.

Mr. Teller presented a memorial from 2,000 "Filipino and peaceful inhabitants" of Manila. The memorial was in the form of an appeal to the congress of the United States, and, as Mr. Teller stated, was "signed personally by the leading people of Manila and that section—lawyers, bankers and professional men—representing the best elements of that community. It reviewed the circumstances leading up to the present struggle of the Filipinos for independence. It paid a high tribute to the work of Aguinaldo and his coadjutors in their endeavor to obtain liberty and independence for the people of the Philippines."

Saturday, January 12.

In the senate yesterday a vigorous attack was made upon that portion of the army reorganization bill which confers upon the president discretionary power to increase the strength of the army to the maximum limit fixed by the bill. Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, began the attack, and Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, replying, maintained that discretionary power ought to be conferred upon the president, and expressed astonishment that anybody should entertain a fear that the power would be abused. Mr. Bacon declared he would rather see his party condemned to universal and never-ending banishment from political power than to see such authority placed in the hands of the president.

An amendment opening the way to the appointment of volunteer officers to grades as high as that of captain in the regular establishment was adopted.

At the conclusion of the reading of the measure Mr. Pettus of Alabama objected to its further consideration and it went over. A house bill providing for the holding of circuit and district courts in the eastern district of Arkansas was reported favorably from the judiciary committee and passed.

Monday, January 14.

Immediately after the conclusion of the morning business the senate proceeded to pay a tribute to the memory of the late Senator Davis of Minnesota, and to adopt resolutions expressive of the sorrow of the members at the loss of that distinguished statesman. Mrs. Davis and friends occupied seats in the gallery and some five or six hundred Minnesota people, employed in the various government departments, also listened to the eulogies, having been excused from their duties. Senator Nelson of Minnesota presented the resolutions and made the first speech. Other eulogies were delivered by Senators Hoar, Morgan, Clark, Lodge, Daniels, Spooner, Pettigrew, McCumber, Foster and Towne.

Tuesday, January 15.

After the morning business in the senate yesterday the army reorganization bill was taken up. After some desultory discussion Mr. Bacon withdrew his amendment and offered another introducing the words "during the present exigency of the service," so that the clause would read "Provided, that the president, during the present exigency of the service, in his discretion may increase the number of the corporals in any troop of cavalry to eight and the number of privates to seventy-six."

Discussing the phrase "exigency of the service" Mr. Caffery of Louisiana said he presumed it was "the presidential idea of war in the Philippines."

Mr. Mallory of Florida, said as to exigencies it was possible an exigency might arise for the use of an army in Cuba.

Speaking to the amendment last offered by Mr. Bacon, Mr. Foraker of Ohio, maintained that the army of 58,000, the minimum size of the army fixed by the pending measure, was not a large force in all the circumstances. In view of the necessity for caring for coast fortifications and in view, too, of the probable early construction of the Nicaragua canal, every soldier provided for in the present bill would be needed.

Wednesday, January 16.

In the senate yesterday an effort was made to secure confirmation of the nomination of Mr. James S. Harlan, son of Justice Harlan of the United States supreme court, to be attorney-general for Porto Rico. Action was prevented by Senator Pettigrew. Senators Foraker and Spooner united in an appeal to Mr. Pettigrew to withdraw his objections, saying that Mr. Harlan is an excellent lawyer and an accomplished gentleman, and would fill the place as acceptably as anyone who could be named.

Mr. Pettigrew responded that he had no doubt of Mr. Harlan's fitness for

position for which he had been named and added that he had no personal objection to him.

"I can make no charge against the supreme court," said Mr. Pettigrew. "but I do say that the appointment of two sons of members of that court to important positions under the administration at this juncture of affairs in the supreme court is indecent, to say the least."

He referred to the nomination of Lieutenant Kenna, son of Justice McKenna, to the office of major in the army, saying that in giving him this place he had been promoted over 118 other lieutenants and captains.

What the Lower Branch of Congress is Doing.

Friday, January 11.

The general debate on the river and harbor bill continued in the house yesterday until 4 o'clock when the death of Representative Clarke of New Hampshire was announced and the house adjourned out of respect to his memory.

The features of the session were the speeches of Mr. Cushman of Washington and Mr. Hepburn of Iowa. The latter has been a persistent opponent of river and harbor bills for years and he attacked the bill all along the line in his usually vigorous fashion. Mr. Cushman's speech was unique in many particulars. He was in favor of river and harbor appropriations and his complaint was due to the fact that the members of the committee, according to his ideas had located the bulk of the appropriations in their own states, and had given scant consideration to the needs of other states, especially the Seattle ship canal in his own state.

Saturday, January 12.

Not since the fifty-first congress has the house passed as many pension bills as it did yesterday. In all 179 special pension bills were passed at yesterday's session. The most important one was to increase the pension of Gen. Americus V. Rice from thirty-six to one hundred dollars. General Rice was wounded several times during the civil war and lost a leg at Vicksburg. He was formerly a member of congress from Ohio and was the author of the arrearages of pension act. The senate had passed a bill to increase his pension to sixty dollars and the house raised the amount to one hundred.

Monday, January 14.

After an hour spent in miscellaneous business, during the course of which several bills of minor importance were passed, the house devoted Saturday to a continuation of the debate in committee of the whole upon the river and harbor appropriation bill, which was interrupted by private bill day.

The main feature was an elaborate speech by Mr. Catchings (Miss.) in defense of the improvement of the lower Mississippi river. Mr. Catchings retires from the house March 4, after fourteen years of service, during several of which he was chairman of the river and harbor committee, and during all of which he has been the special champion of the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi. His speech was in the nature of a valedictory. It received marked attention, and at its conclusion Mr. Catchings was given an impressive personal ovation.

By unanimous consent general debate upon the bill was closed at 2 p. m. Monday.

Tuesday, January 15.

The house yesterday postponed the district bill until Monday and proceeded with the river and harbor bill. Good progress was made, fifty-nine of the ninety-seven pages of the bill being completed. Many amendments were offered, but without exception all of them failed.

Chairman Burleigh of Ohio closed the general debate with a brief reply to criticisms of the bill.

The district of Columbia appropriation bill was reported. It carries \$7,747,564. At 5:05 p. m. the house adjourned.

Wednesday, January 16.

The house yesterday spent another day on the river and harbor bill without completing it. Twenty-six pages were disposed of. The friends of the bill successfully resisted all attempts to load down the bill with projects, and only one or two important amendments were adopted.

The senate resolution to appropriate \$7,000 to enable the secretary of the senate to pay the expenses of the inauguration of the president and vice president was called and precipitated a lively discussion because it did not recognize the house as a factor in the ceremonies.

Mr. Dalzel (Pa.) insisted that the house should be recognized.

Mr. Hepburn (Ia.) declared that the installation of the vice president was strictly a senate affair. The ceremony in the senate, he said, always had been the occasion of discourtesy to the house. He was in favor of the house confining its part strictly to the ceremonies in connection with the inauguration of the president on the east front. The resolution was recommended with instructions to report back a resolution providing for inaugural ceremonies under the auspices of a joint committee of the senate and the house.

Position for Wagner's Son-in-Law. Herman Grimm's successor as professor of the history of art at Berlin is Prof. Heinrich Thode of Heidelberg, whose wife is Richard Wagner's daughter. The cause of Hermann Grimm's retirement is bad health.

Birthplace of Conan Doyle. It may surprise some to learn that Dr. Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. His parents were of Irish descent and his father was one of four brothers, each of whom distinguished himself.

NATIONAL HOUSE

Transactions of Lower Branch of Congress Briefly Stated.

Friday, January 11.

Consideration was concluded of the committee