

PASS RATE BILL

SENATORS CONCLUDE A STRUGGLE OF MANY WEEKS

Vote is Almost Unanimous

THREE MEMBERS FORAKER MORGAN AND PETTUS OPPOSE

More Attention Given to It Than Any Measure for Many Years—Under Consideration Since February 26

WASHINGTON. — After seventy days of almost continuous deliberation the senate passed the railroad rate bill by the practically unanimous vote of seventy-one to three. The three negative votes were cast by Senators Foraker, republican of Ohio, and Morgan and Pettus democrats, Alabama. There was a somewhat larger attendance of senators than usual, but the attendance in the galleries was by no means abnormal and there was no manifestations of any kind when the result was announced. There was, however, an almost general sigh of relief among senators.

The bill has received more attention from the senate and from the country at large than any measure that has been before congress since the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act of 1893.

It was reported to the senate on February 26, and was made the unfinished business on March 12. From that time the bill was under general discussion without limitation on the duration of speeches, fifty-eight of which were delivered. Many of these were prepared with great care and two of them consumed more than a day's time in delivery. Senator LaFollette, the junior senator from Wisconsin, spoke for three days and Senator Daniel of Virginia for two days. Senators Bailey, Foraker, Lodge, Rayner, Dooliver and others spoke for one entire day.

For twelve days the bill was under consideration under a rule limiting speeches to fifteen minutes each. The debate has at all times been earnest and animated, but for the most part devoid of personality as between senators. In the last few days, however, having called out some caustic criticism.

In addition to passing the bill, the proceedings consisted in concluding the consideration of the amendments, and the delivery of a number of speeches on the bill. The only amendment adopted was the one offered by Senator Teller eliminating the words "in its judgment" from the power given to the interstate commerce commission to fix rates.

Czar and Court Dazed

ST. PETERSBURG.—The critical moment, which will decide whether there will be peace or war between the crown and the people, apparently arrived with the adoption by the lower house of Parliament of its reply to the speech from the throne. President Mourontseff has gone to Peterhoff to present the reply to the emperor and his majesty's response is awaited with great anxiety. Popular opinion considers that the government has no option between surrender or war. While events during the last week followed each other with extreme rapidity, the issue now raised is not likely to be decided quickly. The Russians generally believe that the emperor, court and government undoubtedly have been dazed by the blunt, direct fashion with which Parliament has spoken out, and their policy naturally will be to gain time.

The emperor personally is in a beneficent frame of mind and for the present will not listen to the counsels of those who advise him to dissolve Parliament and fight. Nevertheless, he is resolved not to yield anything like all that Parliament demands. It safely can be predicted, therefore, that he will presume a temporizing policy with partial amnesty as the first step thrown to the country.

The constitutional democratic leaders, whose program would be upset by the dissolution of Parliament, are quite as anxious as the emperor to avoid the precipitation of a conflict. They would regard the failure of the government to declare war as a big preliminary victory of which they would take advantage by forcing through their agrarian project, upon which they count to strengthen themselves in the country before the final battle opens.

NOT ONE WAS LET LIVE

VICTIM A PREACHER, WIFE AND SEVEN CHILDREN

House Set on Fire by Slayers and Bodies Cremated—Citizens Raising Money to Apprehend Murderers

PENSACOLA, Fla.—One of the most horrible crimes in the history of this state, if not of the entire south, was committed ten miles north of Milton. An itinerant preacher named Ackerman, his wife and seven children, the eldest about fourteen years old, were killed, and their bodies cremated in their home, which was burned by the assassins. The crime was discovered the next morning by parties with whom Ackerman had an appointment. They found the house in ruins and the charred bodies of Ackerman and the eight other members of their family scattered about among the wreckage. Examination by physicians showed that Ackerman and his wife had been struck on the head with some blunt instrument, their skulls being crushed.

The citizens of Milton have raised more than a thousand dollars which will be offered as a reward for the apprehension of the assassins, and Governor Broward has been appealed to offer a reward for the same.

Ackerman is not known to have had any enemies.

Czar May Yield

ST. PETERSBURG.—Former Premier Witte again took a prominent part in the conferences of members of the council of the empire, successfully insisting that the adoption of a reply to the speech from the throne should be postponed until a regular meeting of the council at which representatives of the press shall be present in order that the country may be informed as to the arguments advanced on either side. Nevertheless, the projected reply to the speech from the throne, which will probably be adopted, already has been drafted, and has been seen by the Associated press. Though delicately expressed, the reply virtually contains a demand for the amnesty of political prisoners who are not guilty of murder or robbery.

In other respects the only reply seems to be especially designed to disarm the suspicions that it is to be the role of the upper chamber to block legislation proposed by the lower house. After expressing the deepest loyalty to the emperor, the reply of the council of the empire contains these three principal points:

First—An unequivocal endorsement of a liberal regime.
Second—Declaration of the intention to work in harmony with the lower house for large reforms.
Third—Amnesty, the suggestion being so worded as not to wound the sensibility of the emperor, calling attention to the fact that all remarkable occasions in Russian history have been marked by an act of grace, and urging the strong claim to clemency of those who, in striving for liberty, transgressed lawful limits without being guilty of crime.

After struggling the whole day until late in the evening over a draft of the reply to the speech from the throne, the members of the commission of the house postponed the work of phrasing until 11 o'clock the next morning. The prospects are that full accord on several points may not be reached before the opening of the house and therefore the reply may be thrown into the full house for final discussion. The struggle has centered mainly on the agrarian plank, in which the peasant members, found that the recommendations of the constitutional democratic convention, though calling for a large measure of forced expropriation, was not sweeping enough. The peasants wished the abandonment of most of the limitations and qualifications of the right of expropriation.

The debate on the address will be protracted, probably occupying two days. Besides the points of universal amnesty and abolition of the death penalty, laid down in the instructions of the lower house, the document adroitly introduced the subjects of abolishment of the council of the empire and ministerial responsibility.

A crisis over the question of granting amnesty already confronts the emperor, who will be compelled to yield or have to accept the gage of battle. Almost every family in Russia contains a member or relative who has suffered or is now suffering or his political opinions.

FOR A NEW RUSSIA

HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT WOULD UPSET OLD ORDER

Demand Served Upon Czar

TIME RIFE FOR REGENERATION OF THE EMPIRE

Amnesty, Abolition of Death Penalty and Suspension of Martial Law Urged Upon the Emperor

ST. PETERSBURG.—After an afternoon spent in discussion of rules of order, the lower house of parliament began the debate on the address in answer to the speech from the throne, and adjourned at midnight after speeches by M. Roditeff and a dozen orators of lesser calibre.

The discussion, which will be resumed showed that the main attack on the address will be delivered from the left. The leaders of parliament have more to fear from the radicals than from the conservatives. The evening's debate was tame. Even the periods of M. Roditeff, the best orator among the constitutional democrats, explaining and defending the address, brought only a faint ripple of applause. The only scene of real enthusiasm was due to a reference to the absence from the address of a plank on the subject of woman's suffrage, which brought half of the members of the house to their feet cheering.

Other radical members demanded a paragraph asking for the punishment of officials guilty of excesses in past acts of repression and a fuller and plainer statement of the demand for a constitutional order.

Several conservatives essayed to speak, but the house was in no mood to listen then. Prince Volkonsky, a leading Octoberist, refused to continue his speech, and left the rostrum with a bitter fling at denial of the right of free speech.

Two features of the session developed outside the regular debate. The first was the adoption of a rule relative to the previous question, under which fifty members may prevent the stoppage of a debate, opening the door to successful filibustering by a determined minority of one-tenth of the membership of the house. The other feature was the appearance of a conservative group among the supporters of the government, forty-four peasant members signing a motion for postponement of the debate.

The meaning of the maneuvers was at first not comprehended by the members of the house, but when in reading the list of supporters of the motion, the name of Yerin, a government deputy and organizer of the scheme to provide for peasant deputies in lodging houses was reached, a low whistle of surprise and comprehension ran around the benches. Count Heyden and other members of the right supported the motion, but it was overwhelmingly defeated.

While partial amnesty might have made a deep impression had the emperor signaled the occasion of the assembling of parliament by such an act of grace, its favorable effect will be largely destroyed when thus forced from his hands.

There was a long wrangle at the opening of the session, over the question of parliamentary procedure, etc., no rules to govern the house having been adopted.

The following is the text of the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

"It has pleased your majesty in your speech addressed to the people's representatives to express your determination unshakingly to preserve the institutions whereby the people have been called to exercise legislative power in conjunction with their monarch. The parliament regards the monarch's formal promise to the people as a sure pledge of that consolidation and further development of order and legislation in accordance with a strictly constitutional basis.

"The house will for its part make every effort to perfect the principle of popular representation, and to submit for your majesty's assent a bill relating to such representation basing it, in accordance with the unanimously expressed will of the people, on universal suffrage."

The parliament holds it to be its duty to point out that the conditions under which the county lives render really fruitful work for the renovation of the best powers of the nation impossible.

THE STANDARD REPLIES

OIL COMPANY COMPLAINS OF COMMISSIONER GARFIELD

Challenges Him to Produce a Single Instance Where Rebates Have Been Received From the Railroads

NEW YORK.—The Standard Oil company issued to its shareholders a statement in reply to the special message recently sent to congress by President Roosevelt, and the report on the country's oil industry by Commissioner Garfield of the bureau of corporations, which accompanied it. The statement is signed by C. M. Pratt secretary and was issued by order of the board of directors. It denies positively the charge that the Standard Oil company benefited by secret rates for the transportation of its products.

"Whatever measures of prosperity it has enjoyed," says the statement, "is not traceable to illegal or reprehensible methods, but to its economic and elaborate industrial organization, covering, as it does, every detail of transportation, manufacture and administration."

The statement declares that the estimates that the company saves \$750,000 a year through the operation of a certain freight rates could only have been arrived at by theorizing.

The statement in part says:

"On a recent date the president of the United States submitted a special message to congress transmitting a report to him by Commissioner Garfield of the bureau of corporations, in which the commission charges that this company has habitually received from the railroads and is now receiving secret rates and other unjust and illegal discriminations.

"Preliminary disclaimers were at once made to Commissioner Garfield's allegations, but we feel that you may naturally anticipate a more elaborate and technical reply, which we submit here under.

"The large sums of money which Mr. Garfield sets down as one year's savings" to the Standard through the operation of certain freight rates—sums which the president aggregates as \$750,000—could only have been arrived at by theorizing.

"If the claim of Commissioner Garfield was true that the Standard is favored by open rates, it would involve not only collusion between the railroads and the Standard Oil company, but collusion by the railroads with each other. It would also involve the consent of a railroad not reaching Whiting Ind., for example to the establishment of rates not of that point at which the consenting railroad was receiving traffic. To bring about such an arrangement would be impossible. It may be said generally that there is a competing refinery in almost every section of the United States where the Standard has a refinery, except at Whiting, Ind.

"No rates can be made applicable to the Standard's competitors.

"After an investigation of shipments during a period of about fifteen years over more than two hundred thousand miles of railway the commissioner is not able to show that the Standard Oil company received a single rebate on its interstate shipments. He has only instances of when the rate situation in his opinion required explanation. This explanation was freely given, and we believe would be satisfactory to any man familiar with the transportation problems.

"If the commissioner had any doubts as to the regularity of these rates, he might have brought them to the attention of the interstate commerce commission, when the question at issue could have been heard and determined. In the absence of such determination, it is surely not within the limits of fairness for the bureau of corporations to cast aspersions upon a great corporation.

"The company owns and controls only a very moderate percentage of the crude production of the United States, and with at least 125 rival refineries in existence, it is a palpable absurdity to call it a monopoly. For the last quarter of a century more than 60 per cent of its output has been shipped to foreign countries.

In creating and sustaining the vast foreign trade the company has encountered innumerable obstacles and incessant competition from other petroleum industries possessing the advantages of geographical location and cheaper labor, and which are oftentimes developed under the fostering care of their respective governments.

NEBRASKA NOTES

Mr. Leo Rogers, of Arkansas, is in Falls City, making arrangements to locate a vinegar factory at that place.

Thompson Wilkinson, of Beatrice, who was recently injured by a severe fall at his home, is in a serious condition. He is 80 years of age.

I. E. Reimers, the younger member of the firm of Reimers Bros. of the city meat market at Stella has returned from Keokuk, Ia., with his bride.

The Methodist people at Papillion are thoroughly overhauling the church and when the workmen are through it will have the appearance of a new building.

Word has been received at North Platte of the death of Frank W. Bryant, a former clerk in the United States land office of that place. He died at Long Beach, Cal.

A charter has been granted the First National bank of Trenton, Neb., with a capital of \$25,000 and with W. S. Collett president, A. H. Thomas vice president and Ethyl Hall cashier.

Donald, the 9-year-old son of Fred Walridge of Tekamah, has been kicked in the face by a horse. It required seven stitches to sew up the wound and while it is not considered serious, it is very painful.

T. C. Kirk of Beemer, made a shipment of cattle to South Omaha recently. Mr. Kirk is one of the heaviest stock feeders in that section and is vice president of the Beemer State bank.

R. M. Crichton of Auburn, for several years bookkeeper, has been elected assistant cashier of the Carson National bank to succeed R. C. Boyd, who has resigned to become cashier of the First National bank of Johnson, Neb.

Work on the large school building at Spencer will be resumed within a short time the suspension having been caused by the contractor dropping out when the building was changed to brick instead of cement blocks.

William Morford, the 15-year-old son of Jacob Morford of Beaver Crossing, was badly hurt by a mule in his father's barn. A younger brother came up behind the mule and scared the animal, causing it to injure the boy.

W. A. Smith, cashier of the First National bank of Beemer, has just returned from a business trip to northwestern Nebraska, where he has been negotiating for several sections of Sherman county land near Rushville and Gordon.

Thieves are apt to carry away anything in the realm of portable effects but the limit seems to have been reached at Sidney the other night when burglars stole several full sets of teeth from the dental offices of Drs. Murlless and Beebe.

W. H. Horn and a force of men are at work taking down the main building of the old starch works plant at Beatrice. This will remove the last vestige of his famous relic of boom days. The balance of the buildings were purchased some time ago by Aaron Palmer of that city.

A prowler was seen by Neel Roberts near Richfield, walking around near Mr. Roberts' barn during the night. Mr. Roberts got his shotgun and watched the fellow. When he tried the stable door Mr. Roberts fired at him and filled his legs with fine bird shot. Mr. Roberts went to Papillion and took out a dog which he will chain near the stable.

A. L. Scutt broke ground for the erection of a new brick store building at Leigh. The structure will be 26x80 feet, two stories and basement. Leigh is experiencing quite an activity in the building line at present. Another brick store will soon be erected, besides several fine residences.

Joseph Baker, of Omaha, who purchased the Hinton ice plant under mortgage now has a large force of men at work there cleaning the place up and adding some new machinery with a view to operating the plant in Falls City. It was located in that city three years ago by Mr. George Hinton, but was only operated by him for a few months and since then has been standing idle.

William Flack, a 10-year-old boy, residing a few miles northwest of Auburn, was accidentally shot in the leg. He, with two companions, were riding in a spring wagon with the gun lying on the bottom. The gun was jolted against a large wrench in the wagon, which discharged it, the load striking the calf of the leg, but only a flesh wound was caused, which is not serious.