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The Week in Congress

The Senate did quick work Wednesday in disposing of the District of Columbia appropriation bill carrying about \$10,000,000, and at 2:40 p. m. adjourned until Thursday. The House was engaged in an extended debate on the Mann "white slave" bill. The House also passed a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Navy to report whether during the present fiscal year any powder has been bought from a trust.

The Senate had a brief session Thursday, the only incident of which was a speech by Senator Bradley of Kentucky, in which he defended his State and charged that the "tobacco trust" was responsible for the acts of violence which had been perpetrated by the so-called night riders. At 1:20 p. m. the Senate adjourned until Monday. Ignoring the protests of the Democratic members, the Republican majority in the House ratified their caucus nominees for the Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee, displacing Representative Rainey of Illinois, one of the Democratic selections, and naming in his stead Representative Lloyd of Missouri, who indicated his unwillingness to serve on the committee. Consideration of the urgent deficiency appropriation bill was resumed, but was laid aside until Friday, after three hours' debate.

The Senate was not in session Friday. The House passed the bill relieving William Boldenweck, assistant treasurer at Chicago, of responsibility for the \$173,000 subtreasury theft. Mr. Lloyd, of Missouri, resigned from the Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee, Speaker Cannon sustaining his right to refuse to serve. Various private claim measures were considered. Adjourned at 5:06 until Monday.

Mr. Tillman in the Senate Monday criticized the administration for failing to prosecute suits against the Southern Pacific Railway Company for the recovery of public land granted to the railroad under the condition that it should be sold in tracts of 160 acres at not more than \$2.50 an acre. The House passed the urgent deficiency bill, after cutting off the \$125,000 item for the Immigration Commission. The bill carries nearly \$5,000,000, which is \$1,000,000 under the treasury estimates. The House named Mr. Graham, the Democratic caucus choice, to succeed Mr. Lloyd on the Ballinger-Pinchot committee.

The Senate Tuesday passed the fortifications bill carrying \$5,817,200 and devoted some time to the consideration of a new national forest in Montana, but took no action. Mr. Bennett of New York made sweeping denials of the charges made the previous day by Mr. Macon of Arkansas of extravagance by the immigration commission. Mr. Macon refused to retract and the debate at times became torrid. The House passed a bill creating a bureau of mines in the Interior Department.

Steel Melts from Within.
From Pittsburgh comes the news of a discovery attributed to G. P. Blackiston in regard to the way in which steel melts. Contrary to the general belief, and to the known laws of physics, Blackiston has shown that steel melts from the inside first. He has had photographs made showing the shells produced by the melting of 2,000 bars of crucible steel, one flat and the other octagonal. These showed that both bars are hollow, while the outside surface remained in its original shape. It was discovered accidentally while the man was experimenting with a new type of oil furnace. Blackiston thinks the melting of the interior first is due to the oxidation of the surface to protect it from the heat. Others see an analogy between the molten interior of the iron and the molten interior of the earth, due to causes as yet undetermined. Nevertheless, the fact may lead to important changes in the smelting industry.

ALL AROUND THE GLOBE.
A series of women-suffrage meetings for negroes is the latest development of the suffrage crusade in New York City.

President Taft sent to the Senate the nomination of William P. Warner as United States marshal for the district of Nebraska.

James H. Stevenson, who drowned himself in the Delaware near Philadelphia, was private secretary to John H. Sanderson, who died while under conviction for looting Pennsylvania of millions in furnishing the new State capitol.

The American Association for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality recently held at New Haven, Conn., has opened headquarters in Baltimore and begun a campaign to prevent race waste rather than race suicide.

Andy H. Jones, cashier, charged with wrecking the First National Bank at Rugby, N. D., was found guilty in federal court at Fargo, N. D.

Three men were killed when a nitroglycerin magazine at Brandon's Nitroglycerin, Pa., exploded. The dead are Jacob Green, Peter Jennings and John Jennings.

The American museum of natural history is in the market for about 10,000 insects. It plans to make a collection representing every species of insect found within fifty miles of New York City.

The grand jury at St. Louis dropped its investigation of the American Credit Indemnity Company, suspected of having made false returns to the State Insurance Commissioner.

Professor William Robertson, aged 50, head of the Minnesota agricultural branch school at Crookston, was found dead in bed on a Great Northern train at St. Paul. He died of heart disease.

As a result of a confession of Henry Smith, Governor Swanson of Virginia will issue a respite of sixty days to the three other negroes condemned with Smith to death for the killing of Walter F. Schultz, a Chicago artist, on March 1 last.



OHIO HITS THE FOOD TRUST.

Cold Storage to Be Regulated and Price Boosters to Be Prosecuted.

Every energy of the Ohio state government is to be enlisted in the fight for a revision downward of the cost of living. Gov. Harmon, Attorney General Denman, State Food Commissioner Dunlap and Speaker Mooney have entered into close cooperation to achieve real results. Gov. Harmon sent a special message to the general assembly. Speaker Mooney and the Senate leaders will give right of way and boosting to necessary legislation. The attorney general will draft bills and resolutions and prosecute conspiracies to boost prices. The dairy and food department and the state board of health will hunt for the facts and causes of food prices and the condition of food sold from cold storage warehouses.

First will come a campaign to get the facts. A joint committee will make a legislative investigation. The committee will be amply financed, will hold hearings, and examine witnesses in a dozen cities. Commissioner Dunlap's food inspectors will be set to work to gather data. The chemists of the state board of health will examine food kept for various periods in cold storage. The public will be asked to take a hand in the crusade for facts. This triple line of inquiry by state agents, by legislative committee, and by volunteers from the ranks of the citizens of the state is expected to bring together a wealth of information which will enable the legislature to contribute in a sane and effective way to lessening the high cost of living.

NITROGLYCERIN EXPLODES.

Twenty Men Caught in Tunnel Being Dug to Supply Croton.

Twenty men engaged in boring a tunnel through a small mountain near Cold Springs, to form a part of the aqueduct which is to supply water to New York City from the Croton dam, were about to leave their task the other afternoon at 4 o'clock, preparatory to setting off almost a ton of nitroglycerin, when the explosive was mysteriously fired. Fifteen of the workmen were killed and the other five were seriously injured. After two hours of rapid toil by 150 men, the bodies were reached and taken to the mouth of the tunnel.

POLITICS and POLITICIANS

Both houses of the Illinois Legislature have entered upon the real fight for the enactment of a primary election law.

The program of the Democrats in the House at this session of Congress is to keep down the amount of the appropriation bills and to vote against ship subsidy," said Minority Leader Champ Clark of Missouri, in a recent interview.

Congressman Tawney, of Minnesota, who gained a lot of notoriety voting for the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, thinks he has been grossly misrepresented by newspapers. He claims that he has been misquoted and that the press has charged him with things of which he is not guilty.

The program of War Dickinson, according to reports, will probably be a candidate for United States Senator to succeed James B. Prater, whose term expires in 1911.

In the campaign for the re-election of Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, other insurgents are to assist and the first to respond was Senator Clapp of Minnesota, who spoke at Milwaukee.

Mrs. Sarah Plank Decker, the former head of the National Federation of Women's Clubs, is now being boomed throughout Colorado by the women voters as a candidate for Congress from a Denver district.

ATTACKS HARD COAL COMPANIES

Government Brief in the Anthracite Case Filed at Philadelphia.

The government's brief in its suit to break up the alleged anthracite coal trust was filed in the United States Circuit Court in Philadelphia the other day by William S. Gregg, special assistant to the Attorney General. The suit was brought in April, 1907, and the government's case was prepared by J. Carroll Todd and J. C. McReynolds. The three years that have intervened were taken up with the examination of witnesses for both sides. It is contended by the government that all the defendants have long been parties to a general combination and conspiracy which stifles competition and obstructs trade and commerce in anthracite coal and that they have monopolized the trade. The government asks the court to enjoin this alleged monopoly and to enjoin the defendants from carrying out the contract with the so-called independent companies by which the latter turn over their product to the larger companies for 65 per cent of the tidewater selling price.

JOHN FARSON IS DEAD.

Head of Stock and Bond House Succumbs After Brief Illness.

John Farson died at 3:45 o'clock Tuesday morning at his Oak Park (Ill.) residence, "Pleasant Home." He was conscious almost to the last, and the members of his family were at his side when death came. Mr. Farson's death followed a sudden and severe attack of heart disease. Until Sunday he had not been so ill as to require the services of a physician in twenty years. Mr. Farson was head of the stock and bond house of Farson, Son & Co., with offices in Chicago and New York. He was 55 years old and left a widow and two sons—John Farson, Jr., and William Farson. Mr. Farson was born in Union City, Ind., in 1855, the son of a Methodist minister. When his father was killed in an accident, the boy, then 13 years old, was forced to leave school and help support the family.

BALLINGER WITHDRAWS LAND.

All Forms of Disposition Barred by Plan to Aid Water-Site Location.

In aid of proposed legislation affecting the disposal of waterpower sites on the public domain, Secretary Ballinger has temporarily withdrawn from all forms of disposition the following areas: 3,723 acres along the Big Blackfoot river, Montana; 25,120 acres along the San Rafael river, Utah; 2,408 acres along the Coeur d'Alene river, Idaho; 169 acres along the Fresno river, California; 3,536 acres along the South Platte river, Colorado.

250,000 TO SAVE BIG AREA.

Secretary Ballinger Wants Ditches Dug in Washington Reservations.

The appropriation of \$25,000 for the construction of irrigation and drainage ditches on the Yakima Indian reservation in Washington, the appropriation to be reimbursable, is provided for in an item submitted by the Secretary of the Interior to the House for inclusion in the urgent deficiency bill. Secretary Ballinger says that unless the money is granted \$20,000 to 40,000 acres in the reservation will be ruined.

Danes Deal Cook Final Blow.

The committee of the University of Copenhagen has completed its examination of Dr. Frederick A. Cook's original notes and confirmed its previous conclusion, that not the slightest proof that the explorer reached the north pole had been submitted.

Three Suffocated in a Tunnel.

Three workmen were suffocated by powder smoke and nitro fumes in the Gunnison tunnel near Montrose, Colo., and thirty others barely escaped with their lives.

TERRIBLE RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Canadian Pacific Train Plunges Into River and 48 Are Drowned.

Forty-eight persons are dead and ninety-two are injured as a result of a wreck on the Canadian Pacific Railroad near Webbwood, Ontario, on the Sudbury branch of the road. Two coaches, a diner and a first-class day coach plunged from a bridge across the Spanish river. Not a person in the two cars escaped. All were caught like rats in a trap. They were drowned in the icy waters of the river. A few hours after the disaster the coaches lay in the river with only their tops showing above the ice. The bodies of the victims of the disaster were still in the cars.

The plunging of the diner and the day coach into the river threw the other coaches of the passenger train from the track. Some of these rolled down a steep embankment. The cars caught fire. A number perished in the flames. This added to the horror of the disaster. The wreck is the worst in the history of the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

The wrecked train was No. 7, west bound from Montreal to Minneapolis. Spreading of the rails as the passenger train crossed the bridge is supposed to have been the cause of the catastrophe. The scene of the disaster is in a desolate, sparsely settled country. Telegraph facilities are limited. Details are hard to obtain.

RAILROAD POOL COLLAPSES.

J. R. Keene Caught When Bubble of Stock Manipulation Bursts.

A pool in Columbus and Hoisington Coal and Iron stock, managed by James R. Keene, collapsed in New York, when for the second time in stock exchange history the plans of the master manipulator went sadly awry. In connection with the resultant drop in stocks, the failures were announced of Lathrop, Haskins & Co., 60 Wall street, and J. M. Fisk & Co., 42 Broadway, stock exchange firms, with liabilities conservatively estimated at more than \$5,000,000. The stock market became confused. And, as an effect additional to those following Mr. Keene's former reverse, more than a score of brokers and hundreds of worried clerks were still working at midnight in the effort to straighten tangled contracts of business.

SCARED GIRLS LEAP TO DEATH.

Five Philadelphians Die as Result of Panic and Fire.

Four girls and a man leaped to their death the other day in a panic caused by fire in a four-story factory building in Philadelphia. Five others received probably fatal injuries, and many more were hurt. Nearly all of the dead and severely injured were employed in the shirt waist factory of Joseph Chackin, on the fourth floor. Chackin was injured, one of his daughters is dead, and another dying. His force of operators was greatly reduced owing to the shirt waist strike. Otherwise the number of fatalities probably would have been greater. The flames originated in the elevator shaft, supposedly through the short circuiting of the electric motor.

Chackin's factory operatives became panic stricken and many jumped from windows. Men on the street spread blankets and an awning to break their falls, but in the smoke which filled the narrow street many fell to the pavement before these improvised fire nets could be extended for them. The building was equipped with fire escapes and fire ropes. One man, instead of lowering the rope and sliding down it, jumped from the window with the loose end in his hands. He was killed.

WANT FOOD PRICES LOWERED.

Farmers Demand That Duties on Necessities Be Reduced.

Asserting that under existing conditions revision of the tariff upward necessarily involves a revision of the standard of living downward, farmers of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, attending the convention of the Farmers' Educational and Co-Operative Union, took action demanding that tariff duties on the necessities of life be lowered.

THE NATION RISES TO LOWER FOOD PRICES

Lawmakers Join Women and Clergy in Seeking Cause of Exactions in Necessities.

PROTEST MEETINGS PLANNED

Department of Commerce and Labor Starts Investigation—Consumers to Boycott Dealers.

A mighty wave of protest against the increased cost of living is sweeping over the country. This wave, unique in many particulars, is gathering force as it rolls and surges from East to West and from North to South. Already its force is powerful; it promises to become irresistible. From persons of high degree and low degree this protest is emanating. Women and women's clubs—a mighty factor in any popular move—have taken the matter up with a will. Clergymen—Catholic, Protestant and Hebrew alike—bishops, archbishops and a cardinal, are inveighing against the tremendous increase in the cost of things necessary to feed families and sustain life. Anti-trust combinations are being formed; men, women and children in different sections of the country are taking pledges to abstain from meat and other articles of diet until the price shall have been lowered. The national House of Representatives has been asked to order an investigation into the whole question and the Department of Commerce and Labor already is making an inquiry into the subject.

The Attorney General of Missouri is planning an investigation into the high prices of meat and has asked other Mississippi Valley states to join him in his work. A resolution has been introduced into the Ohio Legislature calling upon the people of the State to abstain from eating meat for the next sixty days. These are just a few of the ways in which this mighty, almost country-wide protest against an intangible something that has forced up prices of necessities and luxuries has taken being.

Women of the country are most energetic in the fight which has been begun. Women, upon whom devolves the work of supplying the table and of supplying good, nourishing food for hungry little mouths, have looked askance at the ever decreasing supply in the face of increased expenditures and are ready and willing to join any movement that promises to remedy present conditions.

President Taft commends the aims of the National Anti-Food Trust League. In a letter to Dr. Emil Scharf of Washington, president of the league, President Taft said that he indorses any effort that may make for the reduction of the price of beef, mutton and the necessities of life. His indorsement of the league's work "is unconditional. There is no question by the wide boycott by the American people against exorbitant prices.

To show how green the increase in the price of articles of food—meats, poultry, canned goods, butter, eggs and the like—the following table has been prepared by the Chicago Examiner:

	To-day.	Three months ago.
Eggs, per dozen	\$1.42	\$1.30
Forstman apples, per peck	1.00	.40
Canned corn, can	.15	.10
Gods crackers	.11	.10
Proctor's sack	.36	.12 1/2
Butterine, pound	.12	.12
Rice, pound	.10-12	.12
Frankfurt, per lb.	.22	.15
Lard, lb.	.17	.12
Pork chops, lb.	.20	.14
Some home-made	.05	Given away
Pig tails	.10	.05
Spare ribs, lb.	.18	.07
Chicken, per lb.	.22	.18
Geese, per lb.	.12	.18
Frankfurt, per lb.	.12	.08
Pork sausage, per lb.	.12	.08
Butter, per lb.	.40	.30

FOREIGN

The Russian foreign office has received a memorandum from the United States government proposing as a solution for the Manchurian problem the neutralization of the railroads in Manchuria by their sale to China, financed by an international syndicate. The United States invites Russian participation in such a scheme. The supervision of the railroads would be placed thereby in the hands of the powers responsible for the financial arrangement which would see that the lines were conducted on a purely business basis and not used for political or strategic purposes.

The reported merger of the Waters-Pierce Oil Company and the Agullia Oil Company, of Mexico, is officially denied by President Landa y Escandon, of the Agullia Company. The Agullia concern is one of the largest in Mexico and controls the largest field in the republic.

In common with the other European countries, Austria finds herself confronted with the necessity of imposing new taxes to meet a deficit in the budget. Among the measures introduced to make the income and outgo balance is a tax on bachelors and childless married couples with unearned incomes.

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