

THE SENATE WORK

STATEHOOD DEBATE HOLDS BUSINESS BACK.

MANY BILLS ARE HELD UP

Ten Cash Measures Still to Deal With—Only Eight Days are Left in Which to Make Appropriations—Long Sittings Seem Certain From Now to Close.

WASHINGTON.—The course of proceedings in the senate during the present week will depend largely upon the statehood bill. If there is no agreement the bill will continue to cut a figure in the proceedings whether it be under consideration or not, just as it has done for the greater part of the session. If the canal treaty is proceeded with the statehood bill it will do much to shape its course; if the treaty is put aside and the appropriation bills taken up, the statehood question will present itself in the shape of riders on those bills.

According to the present program, the postoffice appropriation bill will be the first of the supply measures to be considered. It is indeed the only one of those bills not yet passed, which has been reported from committees. It carries the statehood bill as a rider, and unless an understanding is arrived at before the bill is taken up the question of its retention will immediately confront the senate. That will be the critical period in the statehood bill's career. Some of the anti-statehood senators contend that it can be beaten as a rider and advocate an invitation to this test of strength.

In accordance with the annual custom in the senate on Washington's birthday, the proceedings will begin with the reading of Washington's farewell address. The reading this year will be performed by Senator Dubois (Ia.). At the conclusion of this ceremony Senator Cullom (Ill.) will move that the senate proceed to the consideration of the canal treaty in executive session. If in the meantime a compromise on the statehood bill has been effected it is believed the ratification of the treaty can be secured within a day or two. But whether there is an adjustment on the statehood bill or not, or whether the treaty is ratified or not, it is intended that many more days will be allowed to elapse before taking up the appropriation bills. With only eight working days of the session left, all senators appreciate that it is essential that there should be little more delay in voting the necessary supplies for the support of the government for the next fiscal year.

Of the thirteen appropriation bills, six have so far been considered by the senate proper, but several of the remaining seven have had the attention of senate committees. Three have not, however, been received from the house of representatives.

Two of the appropriation bills, namely, the pensions and the diplomatic and consular bills, have passed both houses and received the signature of the president. The legislative, executive and judicial bill is ready to go to the president; the army bill is in second conference; the Indian and the District of Columbia bills are both in conference with many differences to adjust; the postoffice bill has been reported to the senate; the agricultural bill and the military academy bill have received final consideration at the hands of the committees having them in charge and are ready for report; and the sundry civil bill is undergoing the scrutiny of the committee on appropriations and will be reported during the week. The naval bill, the fortification bill, and the general deficiency bill are still in the house of representatives.

HOUSE HAS CLEAR DECKS.

Practically All Sessional Work Disposed Of.

WASHINGTON.—The house enters the last full week of the session with the decks practically cleared of everything except appropriation bills. Only one of these, the general deficiency, which was reported Saturday, remains to be passed.

Several interesting contests are expected on a number of bills in conference. Especially spirited would be the fight over the proposition to accept a statehood amendment if one should come to the house as a rider on an appropriation bill. It would command the solid support of the democratic side, and it is believed enough republicans to accept it, although it would be strongly resisted by the republican leaders. The Philippine currency bill has been set for Tuesday.

The suspension day, which, under the rules, precedes the expiration of each congress, begins on Wednesday, and by means of the parliamentary expedient of making motions under suspension of the rules parliamentary knots can be cut and legislation expedited.

SIGN A PROTOCOL.

American-Venezuelan Agreement is Approved.

WASHINGTON.—Secretary Hay, for the United States, and Mr. Bowen, for Venezuela, on Tuesday signed a protocol providing for the adjustment of United States claims against Venezuela by a commission to meet at Caracas.

This commission will consist of two members, a Venezuelan and an American, to be appointed respectively by Presidents Castro and Roosevelt, and in the event of disagreement an umpire to be appointed by the queen of the Netherlands.

The commissioners are to meet in Caracas on June 1 to make awards which are to be paid out of 30 per cent of the customs receipts at Puerto Cabello and La Guayra. The Hague tribunal is to decide what proportion of this 30 per cent comes to America and what proportion goes to other claimant nations.

It is expected that the minister for foreign affairs will be appointed as Venezuela's representative and that either Mr. Bowen or Mr. Russell, the United States charge, will be named to represent the United States.

Baron Gevers, the minister for the Netherlands, called at the state department Tuesday and gave notice of the acceptance by Queen Wilhelmina of the task imposed upon her, her consent having been previously sought by both parties to the arbitration.

Some light is thrown upon the unpleasant reference made by Mr. Haggard, the British minister at Caracas, to United States Charge Russell and published in the British blue book Monday by a naval officer now stationed at Washington, who was in Venezuelan waters and frequently at the American legation during the period referred to by Mr. Haggard. Without going into details it appears in this officer's statement that by trying to assist some British citizens in their distress without first losing the time necessary to hunt up and confer with the minister, the American legation incurred the ill will of Mr. Haggard, and the difficulty got to be rather personal, so that all the exchanges between the two ministers have since been of a most formal character.

The navy department Tuesday received the following cablegram from Commander Diehl of the Marietta, dated Willemstad, February 17:

"Raised blockade. War vessels withdrawn all blockaded ports."

NEW YORK.—The Associated Press has received the following cable from President Castro:

"CARACAS, Monday, Feb. 16.—I charge the Associated Press to transmit, together with my gratitude, my sentiments of deference to the people of the United States.

"PRESIDENT CIPRIANO CASTRO."

Child Saving Institute of Omaha.

The month of January was filled with interesting work in connection with this institute. The number of children on hand January 1st was 39; number admitted during the month, 15; number re-admitted, 2; while number, 56; number placed in homes during the month, 6; number returned to parents or relatives, 6; number of small infants who died, 2; making a decrease of 14. This left in the home on February 1st 42 children.

Several cases were taken into the courts in order to rescue children from immoral surroundings.

A great many appeals have recently come to this institute for admission of children. It will be impossible to respond to all these appeals which are coming week after week, unless additional funds are provided to meet the expenses.

Any one desiring further information is requested to write to the superintendent for the annual report.

It is hoped the readers of this article will respond to the needs of this work on behalf of the little ones by sending whatever sum of money can be spared.

GETS THE AMERICAN MILLIONS.

Another English Earl Trades Title for Good Dollars.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Mrs. William Thaw, formerly of Pittsburg, but now residing in Washington, on Tuesday announced the engagement of her daughter, Miss Alice Thaw, to the earl of Yarmouth.

Miss Thaw inherited \$1,000,000 in her own right from her father, who was an iron manufacturer, and will succeed to another large fortune on the death of her mother.

No date has been set for the wedding. She first met the earl of Yarmouth, who is the eldest son of the marquis of Hertford, about three months ago.

Will Discuss Philippines.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Vice Governor Luke Wright of the Philippine islands left for Washington Sunday at the request of Secretary Root. This probably will be his last visit to Washington before his return to Manila. During the present visit President Roosevelt and Secretary Root will have a final conference with General Wright about Philippine affairs.

THE NAVAL BILL

MEASURE PASSES LOWER HOUSE OF CONGRESS.

MANY AMENDMENTS OFFERED

Naval Vessels May Be State Built—Government to Refuse All Contracts if Builders Enter into Combination.

WASHINGTON.—At the end of a protracted session the house on Thursday passed the naval appropriation bill. Many amendments were offered to the provisions relating to the increase of the personnel and the authorization of the new ships to be built.

The most important amendment adopted authorized the secretary of the navy, in his discretion, to purchase or contract for submarine torpedo boats after investigation of their merits.

As passed the bill provides for three new battleships and an armored cruiser, two steel straining ships and one wooden brig for training purposes, in addition to the submarine boats discretionally authorized.

Without preliminary business the house proceeded with the consideration of the naval appropriation bill.

An amendment was adopted giving members of congress whose districts are not now represented at the naval academy the privilege of immediately appointing cadets to fill such vacancies.

Mr. Dick (O.) offered an amendment, which was adopted, to provide for the summary expulsion of any naval cadet found guilty of hazing.

When the paragraph providing for the increase of the navy was reached Mr. Mudd (Md.) a member of the naval committee, raised a point of order against those sections providing that the machinery and material used in the construction of the ships authorized should be of domestic manufacture and authorizing the secretary of the navy in case of a combination of bidders to have the ships constructed in government yards.

Mr. Gillett (Mass.) sustained the point of order, whereupon Mr. Kitchin (N. C.) appealed. The chair was sustained—109 to 88.

Mr. Fitzgerald (N. Y.) raised a point of order against the provision requiring the construction of the ships authorized by the bill "by contract" and the words were struck out.

An amendment was then adopted, reinserting the provision requiring the use of domestic machinery and materials in the construction of the ships.

Mr. Taylor (O.) on behalf of the naval committee, offered an amendment authorizing the secretary of the navy in his discretion to expend \$5,000,000 for submarine torpedo boats tested and found to be acceptable to the navy.

The amendment was agreed to, 84 to 87.

By unanimous consent the provision which had gone out on a point of order authorizing the secretary of the navy to construct the ships in government yards was restored.

The committee rose and the naval appropriation bill was passed.

SAYS THE MONEY HAS GONE.

Chairman of Montana House Committee Makes Serious Charges.

HELENA, Mont.—Chairman Everitt of the Montana house committee on irrigation and water rights, to which was referred resolutions calling for investigation of the state arid lands committee, announced in the house Tuesday that inquiry had developed evidence of a shortage and that \$20,000 received by certain members of the commission had not been applied as the law directs. The charge was made that the money had been misappropriated. On motion of Mr. Everitt the committee was allowed \$200 to employ counsel and a stenographer with which to further prosecute an investigation.

Preparing to Trek to America.

OGDEN, Utah—George E. Owens, the ticket agent of the Lackawanna railroad at New York City, is in Ogden with the intention of meeting a delegation of Boers, who are on their way east over the Southern Pacific. Mr. Owens states that these Boers will make a tour of the United States as the guests of the various railroads and will reach here Monday. He says the Southern Pacific has sold the delegates a large tract of land for settlement within 100 miles of Ogden. It is understood that the tract lies in the Bear river valley, to the northwest of this city.

Eulogize on the Sabbath.

WASHINGTON.—The house held a session Sunday to pay tribute to the memories of three deceased members, the late Representatives Tongue (Ore.), Rumble (Ia.) and Moody (N. C.). Mr. Moody of Oregon presided, in the absence of Speaker Henderson.

IN LOWER HOUSE.

Representatives Indulge in Personalities.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The house on Wednesday by a majority of 2 to 1 rejected the conference report on the army appropriation because of its provisions for the retirement of civil war officers at the advanced grade, and permitting officers to deposit money with the government at 3 per cent interest. The house emphatically voted against both propositions and sent the bill back to conference.

The proceedings on the conference report were enlivened by a sharp personal clash between Mr. Hull of Iowa and Mr. Slayden of Texas. The remainder of the day was devoted to the naval bill. Slow progress was made, only twenty pages being covered.

Mr. Hay of Virginia, one of the conferees, was one of those who strenuously opposed the adoption of the army bill, because of the provision for the retirement of army officers who served in the civil war with an additional grade and the provisions permitting officers to deposit their money with the government, such deposits to draw 3 per cent interest. He expressed the opinion that the latter provision would establish a dangerous precedent; that it would lead to the granting of the same privilege to naval officers who might be extended to civil employes of the government. He characterized it "paternalism run mad."

Mr. Slayden (Tex.) charged Mr. Hull with bad faith in not giving the house a chance for a vote on the deposit amendment. He said Mr. Hull had promised a vote.

"I desire to say," interposed Mr. Hull, "that the statement is not true."

"The gentleman's courtesy," retorted Mr. Slayden, "is equal to his veracity. It is a cheap form of debate which permits the gentleman to indulge in the expression he has used and only the fact that I am at the bar of the house restrains me from replying to his blackguardism as it deserves." The democratic applause was prolonged at this point.

This sharp colloquy aroused the house and Mr. Mann of Illinois undertook to rebuke Mr. Slayden. He said he was surprised that Mr. Slayden should use an expression "far worse" than that employed by Mr. Hull.

"The gentleman's idea of good manners does not especially commend itself to me," replied Mr. Slayden, who proceeded to say that only very strong provocation had induced him to say what he had. He then quoted from the record to show that Mr. Hull had virtually pledged the house an opportunity to vote on this proposition.

Mr. Stevens of Minnesota then moved the adoption of the conference report.

Mr. Cannon protested against the manner in which appropriation bills were loaded by the senate with all sorts of legislative provisions that were not in order in the house. The practice, he declared, not only demoralized appropriation bills, but would breed scandal and deserved criticism.

"In the house," said he "we legislate under rules. In another body, the senate, they legislate under unanimous consent. Gentlemen know what that means." (General applause.)

Mr. Richardson of Tennessee, in opposing the conference report, declared that whether he had sought to do so or not, Mr. Hull had misled the house.

Mr. Hull concluded the debate. He defended his position, calling attention to what he stated at the time the bill went to conference, to what occurred in the committee on military affairs, to show that he had carried out instructions. He said personally he would have preferred to have allowed the house to pass upon the antagonized amendments separately.

The conference report was voted down, 33 to 69. The house by specific votes insisted upon its disagreement to the retirement and officers deposit amendments. The bill was sent back to conference and the house resumed consideration of the naval appropriation bill.

Coal Dealers Must Pay.

CHICAGO.—The arguments were begun in Judge Horton's court Monday to determine whether the nine indicted officials of the Retail Coal Dealers' association of Illinois and Wisconsin should be granted a new trial. The proceedings followed the rendering of a pro forma verdict several days ago, and the imposition of a \$100 fine upon each of the defendants. Judge Horton's decision in the argument for a new trial is the point sought in the first instance and is awaited with much interest.

Legislators Almost Fight.

OLYMPIA, Wash.—As a climax to the most exciting morning of the session, the railroad commission bill in the house was declared indefinitely postponed on a viva voce vote at noon on Tuesday and the house adjourned amid an uproar, in which friends of the commission bill hurled anathemas at Speaker Hare, and the speaker and Representative Lewis almost came to blows.

NINE LIVES LOST

FATAL FIRE IN A CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, HOTEL.

GUESTS LEAP FROM WINDOWS

Some Escape Flames Only to Meet Death on the Pavement Below—Young Men's Christian Association Delegates Among the Victims.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia.—Nine lives, according to the best information obtainable under difficulties, were lost in a fire which Friday morning destroyed the Clifton hotel in this city.

The fire started at 2:30 and at 10 the smoldering debris furnished so fierce a heat that search for bodies was impossible. The list of the dead may prove longer than the number given, but it is hoped that the information which accounts for all but this number is correct.

Two persons were fatally injured and forty-two more hurt more or less severely, mostly by jumping from windows. The work of identification is complicated by the loss of the hotel register, which was burned.

The hotel, a three-story veneer structure, is said to have been a veritable fire trap. The flames started in a pile of rubbish in the basement, presumably ignited by defective electric light wires.

The night clerk was on the third floor when the cry of fire, raised by a bell boy, startled him. He took up the cry and in an instant the hallways were choked with frightened guests. A rush was made for the stairways. It was then that the crowd already collected in the street heard heart-rending cries of anguish and desperation, for the fire, feeding ravenously on the tinderlike material of the lower floor, had completely cut off escape.

There followed a stampede for the windows, the only means of exit left. The street below was now filled with a crowd scarcely less frantic than the despairing ones in the fast burning building.

"It was like a Dore picture of Inferno sprung to life," said one spectator in describing the scene. "The flames, looking blood-red from reflection against the snow, lit up the pale, drawn faces of the people in the windows, with a glow that was unearthly."

The victims were literally driven by the flames to jump. Nearly every one of them lingered to the last moment, urged by the people below to wait as long as possible in the hope of assistance. Then a cry would tell that the fire had reached them or the smoke had made it impossible to breathe, and one after another jumped, some to the street, and some, more fortunate, to the roofs of buildings adjoining. In a short space of time the street was filled with men and women, bruised and battered, with broken limbs and half crazed. All were in their night garments.

In an hour St. Luke's hospital contained fifteen injured, while many more, chiefly those who had escaped with comparatively slight hurts, were being cared for in buildings near the scene of the tragedy.

Some who jumped owe their lives to the fact that their falls were broken by telegraph wires which interposed in their downward flight. A number of the guests who were able to converse calmly following their escape declared that they had stumbled over prostrate bodies as they rushed to the windows.

The flames literally were chasing them, and the smoke made it almost impossible to breathe. The proprietor of the hotel placed his estimate of the number of people in the building at between seventy and eighty. Many of them were delegates to the state convention of the Young Men's Christian association.

The President Invited.

WASHINGTON.—Senator Kearns of Utah and Dietrich of Nebraska, William Glassman, mayor of Ogden, Utah, and Edward Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee, have invited President Roosevelt to attend the eleventh irrigation congress to be held in Ogden on September 9, 10 and 11. The president said he probably would not be able to attend the congress.

General Foote Retires.

WASHINGTON.—Brigadier General Morris C. Foote, recently confirmed, was retired on Friday. He was formerly colonel of the Twenty-eighth infantry and has been serving with his regiment in the Philippines.

Cattle Disease Serious.

BOSTON.—According to Dr. D. E. Salmon, who has come on from Washington, the foot and mouth disease in southeastern Massachusetts is of a more serious nature than has been realized in this state.

He says more precaution is necessary than those in charge of infected animals have been willing to take if the disorder is to be stamped out within a short time.

MAN TO FEED WYOMING ELK.

Jeton-Yellowstone Superintendent Has Hay-Fed Wild Animals.

NEW YORK.—Steps were taken here Tuesday to save 10,000 starving elk on the Jeton-Yellowstone reserves in Wyoming. Seven feet of snow covers their feeding ground and temperatures as low as 40 degrees below zero have added to their sufferings.

News of the critical condition of the elk herds reached here from the chief of the United States rangers to A. A. Anderson, a special superintendent of the Jeton-Yellowstone reserves, who spends his winters in New York.

Mr. Anderson at once ordered that a temporary supply of wild hay, at his own expense, be distributed as soon as possible at convenient points by the force of thirty rangers. He then proposed that \$1,500 to \$2,000 be raised here by subscription to purchase more wild hay and it is believed that prominent persons will support the plan.

LOOKING UP IRRIGATION.

A Lincoln Attorney Investigating as to Plans Mapped Out.

WASHINGTON.—Mr. A. E. Harvey, an attorney of Lincoln, is in the city looking after irrigation matters in Nebraska. In company with Mr. Shallenberger he called upon Professor Newell, chief hydrographer of the geological survey, to ascertain what plans had been mapped out for experiments in Nebraska. Mr. Newell states that before any irrigation projects can be started in Nebraska, it would be necessary for the citizens there to perfect some plans concerning the use of the waters stored; that is, if the government begins any projects they must have some assurance that the land irrigated would be taken by the citizens at least at the cost of irrigation, so that the government would not be out anything. Mr. Newell said that was his understanding of the bill; that the government should be reimbursed for the money spent by the sale of the lands irrigated.

CHILDREN IN A WRECK.

Eight Killed and Thirty or More Wounded.

NEWARK, N. J.—A fast express on the Lackawanna railway cut through a trolley car crowded with school children at the Clifton avenue crossing Thursday. Eight of the children were killed and thirty or more injured. The motorman of the car, who stuck to his post, will die, and the engineer of the express was so badly hurt that there is little hope of his recovery.

Both the express and the trolley were on steep grades, going at right angles. The express was signalled, and crossing gates were lowered while the street car was yet only half way down the hill. The motorman immediately turned off the power and applied the brakes, but the car slipped along the icy rails. It gained tremendous momentum, and at the bottom of the hill crashed through the gates directly in the track of the oncoming train. The locomotive ploughed its way through the trolley, throwing the children in every direction.

CUBA WILL RATIFY TREATY.

Would Have Been Done Sooner but for Delay Here.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Herbert G. Squires, minister to Cuba, arrived here Sunday direct from Havana and had an audience with the secretary of the navy. Mr. Squires said his mission here is to "clean up" certain matters connected with the Platt amendment. Awaiting him at his hotel was a cablegram stating that on Monday next the Cuban congress would take up the consideration of the reciprocity treaty and Mr. Squires expressed the opinion that it would be ratified during the coming week.

It was learned that this treaty would have been acted on sooner but the Cuban government was awaiting action by the United States senate. Now, however, that the matter has been delayed, the Cuban government will use every means in its power to expedite action on the treaty in the hope of favorable action by the United States senate.

Garfield Gets Good Place.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The president Tuesday sent to the senate the nomination of James Rudolph Garfield of Ohio, to be commissioner of corporations in the department of commerce and labor.

Francis Pushes Fair in London.

LONDON.—D. R. Francis, president of the St. Louis exposition, spent a busy day at Claridge's hotel conferring with the St. Louis fair commissioners to the various countries who have come to London to see him. A private dinner was given in his honor at the Carlton hotel Sunday night. Ambassador Choate, Prince Radziwill, Lord Grey, Admiral Fisher, Lieutenant General Sir Ian Hamilton, Arnold Morley,