

News in Brief

Representative Baker of New York declares members of congress who have passed are prejudiced in favor of the railroad.

The house of representatives agrees to an appropriation of \$100,000 for the use of the Chicago underground system to transport the mails.

Erskine Hewitt, son of the late Abram Hewitt of New York, has announced his intention to enter active politics in New Jersey.

Eighteen Minneapolis flour mills, owing to the poor condition of the flour trade, have shut down indefinitely. A thousand people are out of work.

Senators Foraker and Dick conferred in the senate chamber after the latter was sworn in and their cordial attitude presages a truce in the party fight in Ohio.

The senate committee on military affairs authorized a favorable report on a bill to appropriate \$50,000 for the improvement of the Presidio, San Francisco, Cal.

Charles M. Taft of Cincinnati, brother of Secretary Taft, is believed to be the purchaser of Cora's "Le Sor" and Diaz's "Fontainebleau" sold at New York for \$110,000.

Representative Benton of Missouri will have his way and the appropriation of \$90,000 to build a new "dam" for the White House will not be made at this session of congress.

The Turkish army under Shakh Pasha has surrounded 10,000 Albanians at Babatope Macedonia, and more Turkish troops are to be sent to his aid. Negotiations are continuing for peace.

William E. Curtis writes of the palace at Delhi, the most magnificent ever built in the world, and describes the vandalism that has leveled several of the halls and is making way with others.

A member of the Japanese house of representatives is accused of being a paid agent of Russia, and his newspaper in Tokio, which has published attacks on the nation's policy, is suppressed.

George Carnegie, proprietor of Dungeness, once of the homes of General Nathaniel Greene, and a nephew of Andrew Carnegie, has announced his candidacy for the Georgia senate on the democratic ticket.

The house committee on merchant marine and fisheries authorized a favorable report on the Frye bill extending the coastwise laws of the United States to the Philippine Islands July 1, 1905, without amendment.

A correspondent of the London Daily Mail at Chinnampo writes that every landing place along the northern coast of Korea has been taken by the Japanese and a big movement of troops is planned as soon as the ice breaks.

Information reaching Paris bears out the reports that the Japanese desire to retire the French and other foreign functionaries serving in Korea. The change is not likely to bring out a protest during the period of the war.

In the trial of Senator Burton in St. Louis a letter was read, purporting to have been written by the senator, in which it is stated that he had made inquiries at the postoffice department relative to the Rialto Grain company's case.

Among the passengers on the North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, which arrived from Bremen, Southampton and Cherbourg, was Charles M. Schwab, former president of the United States Steel corporation.

A special to the Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette from Dewitt, Arkansas county, says five negroes, who had been arrested as a result of race troubles at St. Charles, were taken from the guards by a crowd of men and shot to death.

The senate committee on foreign relations authorized a favorable report on the treaty between the United States and France extending all existing treaties with France to Tunis and all other French possessions and protectorates.

A pathetic message came to the state department from United States Consul Lee at Bombay, India, and addressed to Assistant Secretary Loomis as follows: "Daughter dead—plague; wife attacked." Mr. Lee is a native of Ohio and was appointed in 1899.

A cable dispatch was received from Colonel Lutwain, the governor of German Southwest Africa, announcing that a fight occurred at Omatako mountain, March 16, which resulted in the Hereros being repulsed with the loss of ten men killed. The German loss was two men killed and two wounded.

The Iowa house committee on constitutional amendments recommended the submission of a constitutional amendment to the voters to make a drainage law possible. The action of the committee is equivalent to the passage of the measure by both houses.

W. D. Ballantyne, ex-inspector of customs at Manila, P. I., has been acquitted by Judge Ambler on a charge of conspiring to defraud the customs by furthering the illegal entry of non-exempt Chinese. He was tried upon a similar charge in January last and acquitted.

A Johannesburg dispatch says: The bubonic plague is spreading. There now are sixty-nine suspected cases among the colored population and nine among the whites. The deaths resulting from the plague up to date are fifty-five, five whites and fifty natives.

A representative of Charles R. Flint of New York says the Chilean war ships, Captain Prat and Chacabuco, have been bought at referendum, but an undertaking has been given that they shall not be sold to any belligerent power. The sale will be ratified when approved by congress.

REPORT IS FILED

MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES QUESTION.

THE PROPOSED SENATE BILL

It is Scored in the Minority Report of the House Committee—Passage of Measure Would Result in Holding Up the Government.

WASHINGTON—Representative Stevens (Minn.) filed the favorable report authorized by the house committee on merchant marine and fisheries on an amended senate bill "to require the employment of vessels of the United States for public purposes."

The bill requires all government supplies transported by sea to be carried in vessels either owned by the government or flying the American flag. The report bases the necessity for the bill on the ground that it never is safe to depend on foreigners for the defense of our own country. It says that the United States now owns thirteen passenger and freight transports, and that should these be inadequate for the necessary transportation of government supplies and troops, ships flying the American flag only may be used in addition; that the government cannot expect American ships to be available in an emergency.

The views of the minority of the committee, prepared by Representative Lucking (Mich.) and signed by Representatives Spight, Goulden, McDermott and Lucking, declare the bill to be a stop in the policy of subsidizing our merchant marine, for which for seven years the most active, persistent, influential and unshinable lobby has been hounding the life out of both branches of congress. The report says that outside of the goods transported in vessels owned by the government there was paid in freights for such carrying in the year 1901, \$4,223,554, and that "this carrying is done principally to the Philippines, and like the major portion of all our war and naval expenditures of the present day, has been rendered necessary by the ill-advised subjugation and retention of those islands."

The report says the bill is a most barefaced misappropriation of public moneys, and adds:

"Of the seventeen vessels now engaged in this traffic on the Pacific, all are manned exclusively (except officers) by Chinese sailors, who work for about one-third or one-fourth the wages that American sailors receive, so that the American sailors have been completely supplanted by these Chinese in the very Pacific ocean companies who are pressing the bill and who are, in part, to get its gratification."

The report concludes that "in some respects this bill is worse than any pronounced subsidy measure which has been advocated in congress, because it gives an absolute monopoly to a few corporations and individuals who may, and probably will, form a combine and hold up the government for all it will stand."

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REPULSE OF JAPS.

Attempt to Bottle Up Port Arthur Harbor.

ST. PETERSBURG.—Under cover of darkness Vice Admiral Togo made another desperate attempt to bottle up the Russian fleet in Port Arthur, but he failed again, and when, after daylight, Vice Admiral Makaroff steamed out to give battle, the Japanese commander refused the challenge and sailed away.

The Japanese practically repeated the tactics of February 24, by sending in four fresh ships, preceded by a torpedo boat flotilla with the exception that the fresh ships this time were armed with Hotchkiss guns for the purpose of keeping off the Russian torpedo boat destroyers.

The enemy's attempt was discovered by means of the shore searchlights and a heavy fire was opened from the batteries and from two gunboats which were guarding the entrance to the harbor. The Russian torpedo boat destroyer Stihl was outside on scouting duty and the dash and nerve of its commander, Lieutenant Krinkin, is chiefly due to the complete defeat of the plans of the Japanese. He at once made straight for the oncoming ships, under a hail of fire from the Hotchkiss guns, and torpedoed the leading ship.

Three of the ships were shelled and piled up on the shore under Golden Hill and one under the lighthouse. The Stihl then engaged the entire six torpedo boats of the enemy, coming out from a terrific fight with seven killed and the commander and twelve of its complement wounded, but on the Japanese side only one boat's crew was saved. In addition, according to unofficial reports, it is believed that the Japanese lost two torpedo boats.

The Japanese cruisers which supported the attack exchanged shots with the batteries, and then drew off, after which Admiral Makaroff took a steam launch and examined the fireships. An hour later the Japanese torpedo flotilla, followed by Vice Admiral Togo's fleet, came up from a southerly direction. Just at daybreak Vice Admiral Makaroff, with his fleet, sailed out to engage the enemy, but after the ships and batteries had fired a few long-distance shots, Vice Admiral Togo decided to decline the issue and disappeared to the southward.

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WON BY THE JAPS

LAND ENGAGEMENT NEAR THE TOWN OF CHONG JU.

REPORT OF THE BATTLE SENT IN

Gen. Kouropatkin Says the Russians Were Defeated, but at Heavy Loss to Japanese—Russians Occupy Commanding Position, but Unable to Hold It.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The emperor has received a dispatch from General Kouropatkin giving a lengthy report from General Mishchenko, dated at 10 p. m. March 28, which says an important engagement took place near the town of Chong Ju, in which the Russians were defeated, retiring in perfect order.

The Japanese suffered heavily, but the Russian losses are not stated. Cavalry and infantry on both sides were engaged. The Russians occupied a commanding position. The Japanese fought gallantly, but owing to their heavy losses were unable to keep the position abandoned by the Russians.

General Kouropatkin's report, in part, is as follows: I have the honor to respectfully communicate to your majesty the report of General Mishchenko, March 28, 10 p. m., which says: "For three consecutive days our small outposts attempted to draw the Japanese cavalry into action, but through their patrols, after contact was established, retired beyond Chong Ju (about fifty miles northwest of Ping Yang)."

"Having learned that four squadrons of the enemy were posted five miles beyond Chong Ju on March 27, six companies marched toward Kagan and on March 28, reached Chong Ju at 10:30 a. m. As soon as our scouts approached the town the enemy opened fire from behind the wall. Two squadrons promptly dismounted and occupied the heights 600 yards distant. An engagement ensued.

"In the town a company of infantry and a squadron of cavalry were lying in ambush. Our men were reinforced by three companies and attacked the Japanese with a cross fire. Notwithstanding this and our commanding position, the Japanese gallantly held their grounds and it was only after a fierce fight of half an hour's duration that the Japanese ceased fire and sought refuge in the houses. The Japanese hoisted the Red Cross flag at two points.

"Soon afterwards three squadrons of the enemy were seen advancing along the Kagan road at full gallop toward the town, which two of the squadrons succeeded in entering while the third fell back in disorder under repeated volleys from our troops. A number of men and horses were seen to fall. For an hour afterward our companies continued to fire on the Japanese in the town, preventing them from leaving the streets and houses.

"An hour and a half after the beginning of the engagement four companies were seen on the Kagan road hastening to attack. I gave the order to mount and the entire force, with a covering squadron, advanced in permutation and formed in line behind the hill. The wounded were placed in front and the retirement was carried out with the deliberation of a parade."

Casualties in a Skirmish. SEOUL.—A report has reached here that 50 Japanese and 100 Cossacks were killed and wounded in a skirmish that occurred between Anju and Chong Ju. Marquis Ito, upon taking his departure yesterday, submitted to the government some suggestions for Korean reform. The emperor has appointed Yi Chi Ying, a former minister of foreign affairs, as a special ambassador to bear presents to the Japanese emperor and return the compliment of Marquis Ito's visit to Corea.

They End Their Troubles. ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The dead bodies of John B. Altman, aged 68, and his wife, Julianna, aged 47, were found in their home, both having been asphyxiated by gas, by their own prearrangement. Buried by debt, advancing years and the recollection of a fortune vanished are supposed to have led them to commit suicide. They left a note saying they had taken their own lives. In the cellar was found the dead body of their pet cat, which had been chloroformed.

Expect a Fight on the Yalu April 2. ST. PETERSBURG.—A correspondent of the Novosti at Liao Yang, under yesterday date reports that the Japanese have moved on the Yalu river and that a conflict between them and the Russians is expected about April 2d.

Delegates From Philippines. MANILA.—The Republicans and Democrats here are organizing to elect delegates to the national convention. They will urge the adoption of legislation favorable to the Philippine islands.

Vatican Has Not Received Protest. ROME.—The Osservatore Romano, the Vatican organ, denies that Cardinal Merry de Val, the papal secretary of state, has received from M. Delcasse, the French foreign minister, a protest against the speech delivered by him.

Will Limit Immigration. LONDON.—The alien immigration bill was introduced in the House of Commons and passed its first reading without a division. The bill follows the recommendations of the report of the royal commission on alien immigration, issued August 11 last, that the immigration of certain classes into the United Kingdom be subjected to state control. Home Secretary Akers Douglas, in introducing the measure, referred to the increase of crime due to the admission of the undesirable classes.

Wood Concedes Victory. LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Returns have been received from seventy-one out of seventy-five counties and they show that Governor Jefferson Davis carried fifty-three and Judge Wood carried twenty-two in the democratic state primaries last Saturday. The counties carried by Governor Davis are entitled to 302 delegates in the state convention. The number necessary to nominate is 222. Judge Wood has conceded that on the face of the returns he has not enough counties to win the nomination, but will contest.

Bullets Ended Their Lives. KEOKUK, Ia.—Examination of the bodies of C. Lemlee and wife, the aged couple found burned to death in their dwelling house at Montrose, disclosed the fact that each had a bullet hole through the head. A revolver with two empty chambers was found in the kitchen near where the man was found. The coroner's jury found that Lemlee had killed his wife, set fire to the house to hide his crime, and then shot himself. The police are now working on the theory that they were murdered.

For Unlimited Subsidiary Silver. WASHINGTON.—The senate committee on finance indorsed an amendment to the sundry civil bill, providing for the removal of the limitations as to the coinage of subsidiary silver.

Bubonic Plague in India. BOMBAY.—The latest available bubonic plague returns for the whole of India for the week ending March 1, show the appalling mortality of 40,527, an increase over those of the preceding week.

In the Nation's Strong Box. WASHINGTON.—Tuesday's statement of the treasury balances in the general fund, exclusive of the \$150,000,000 gold reserve in the division of redemption, shows: Available cash balances, \$224,600,151; gold, \$115,424,209.

Exposition Officials Deny It. ST. LOUIS, Mo.—When shown a dispatch from New York to the effect that a concern managed by J. D. McGregor proposed to furnish a large number of non-union persons to fill employment contracts with the World's fair, Walter B. Stevens, secretary of the exposition company, said: "The exposition company has no knowledge of McGregor and his plans. There is no agreement between concessionaires and the World's fair as to the employment of labor, union or otherwise."

Mine Under Fortress. ST. PETERSBURG.—A report from Vladivostok says that a mine has been discovered under the fortress with wires leading to a Chinese house in the town.

Russian Torpedo Boat Sunk. ST. PETERSBURG.—It is stated that one Russian torpedo boat was sunk in the engagement at Port Arthur this morning, but it is thought the vessel can be refloated.

THE SUNDRY CIVIL BILL.

Discussion of the Matter in the Lower House.

WASHINGTON.—For the want of speakers, general debate on the sundry civil appropriation bill in the house was closed several hours before the time agreed on, and the bill was read for amendment. Seventy-five pages were disposed of, the only important amendment being that providing for an initial appropriation of \$500,000 for the completion of the capitol building according to the original design.

Mr. Campbell (Kas.) and Mr. Williams (Ill.) were the principal speakers today, the former defending the protective tariff policy of the republicans and the latter denouncing the republicans for failure to investigate the postoffice department.

Mr. Williams said that the scandals in that department will become an important issue in the coming campaign. He arraigned President Roosevelt and Attorney General Knox regarding the trusts. Before he came into office, he said, he was recognized as a trust "buster," but since then all his indictments against the trusts were at once turned into apologies. He said the president was a "harmless agitator," and declared him to be an unsafe man.

POSTOFFICE APPROPRIATIONS. Rural Carriers May Receive Subscriptions to Papers.

WASHINGTON.—After two days' consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill the senate committee reported it tonight and it will be taken up in the senate tomorrow. On account of its incomplete state the exact amount of the increase made cannot be given, though it is said the bill will carry not more than \$1,000,000 over the bill as passed by the house, except for an emergency measure incorporated in the bill.

The house bill provides for the rental of the Pennsylvania railroad site in New York for postoffice purposes, but the senate committee decided that it would be better business policy to buy the site. Therefore an appropriation of \$2,000,000 is made for that purpose.

Among the amendments to the bill is the following: Salaries of rural free delivery carriers are fixed at \$720 a year, and the carriers are permitted to carry merchandise for hire and receive subscriptions for and deliver newspapers and periodicals, so that this occupation does not interfere with the proper discharge of their duties. It is stipulated, however, that the carriers shall not discriminate against any newspaper.

COMMITTEE ON IRRIGATION. Gets into a Wrangle Over Repeal of Desert Land Act.

WASHINGTON.—The question of committee jurisdiction resulted in a lively session on Wednesday in the house committee on irrigation of arid lands. The committee adjourned when the hour of 12 o'clock arrived with an appeal from the ruling of Chairman Mondell pending.

The trouble arose over a bill introduced by Representative Reeder, providing for amendments to the national irrigation act. When the bill was taken up by the committee Mr. Reeder moved to strike out the first two sections. Subsequently this motion was made to cover all after the enacting clause of the bill.

Mr. Underwood immediately presented a substitute, which was a repeal clause for the desert land law. Mr. Marshall of North Dakota made a point of order against this substitute, first that it was a matter over which the committee did not have jurisdiction, and second that it was not germane to the pending bill. The chairman sustained this point of order, and from his decisions Mr. Underwood appealed.

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Expect a Fight on the Yalu April 2. ST. PETERSBURG.—A correspondent of the Novosti at Liao Yang, under yesterday date reports that the Japanese have moved on the Yalu river and that a conflict between them and the Russians is expected about April 2d.

Delegates From Philippines. MANILA.—The Republicans and Democrats here are organizing to elect delegates to the national convention. They will urge the adoption of legislation favorable to the Philippine islands.

Vatican Has Not Received Protest. ROME.—The Osservatore Romano, the Vatican organ, denies that Cardinal Merry de Val, the papal secretary of state, has received from M. Delcasse, the French foreign minister, a protest against the speech delivered by him.

Will Limit Immigration. LONDON.—The alien immigration bill was introduced in the House of Commons and passed its first reading without a division. The bill follows the recommendations of the report of the royal commission on alien immigration, issued August 11 last, that the immigration of certain classes into the United Kingdom be subjected to state control. Home Secretary Akers Douglas, in introducing the measure, referred to the increase of crime due to the admission of the undesirable classes.

Wood Concedes Victory. LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Returns have been received from seventy-one out of seventy-five counties and they show that Governor Jefferson Davis carried fifty-three and Judge Wood carried twenty-two in the democratic state primaries last Saturday. The