A NEW ROAD

TO CONNECT KANSAS CITY WITH GULF OF CALIFORNIA.

IT IS STILWELL'S PLAN

Incorporates a Company for Immense Undertaking Involving Over $27,000,000

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 20.—Arthur E. Stillwell, promoter and former president of the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Railroad company, is the moving spirit in an ambitious railroad scheme that has been announced here.

His plan contemplates a new international railway system, 1,800 miles in length, stretching from Kansas City to the gulf of California.

The Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railway company was incorporated in Kansas City Saturday, with an authorized capital of $1,000,000. The incorporators include Mr. Stillwell, J. W. Hirst of Omaha, president of the Linseed oil trust; Dr. W. S. Woods and W. A. Rule, Kansas City bankers; J. C. Fox and E. W. Snyder, Leavenworth, Kan., capitalists; S. A. Witherbee, Detroit, Mich. Herman Kuhn of London, Eng., and several other capitalists of Missouri and Kansas. Through the corporation thus formed it is hoped to capitalize the scheme.

The plan contemplates a railroad from Kansas City through Topeka and Wichita, aKn., through El Reno, Ok., and through Northwestern and Western Texas, between the Santa Fe and Rock Island lines, to a point on the Rio Grande river, about 200 miles south and east of El Paso, thence southwest to Chihuahua, Mexico.

At Chihuahua connection is proposed with a line now being built to the southwest, its ultimate terminus to be Topolobampo, on the gulf of California. Of this line 160 miles is already constructed. Mr. Witherbee, the Detroit member of the corporation formed today, holds the concessions from the Mexican government, under which the work is progressing.

Mr. Stilwell proposes to incorporate the several lines into one great system. He announces that it is a $27,000,000 proposition, but in view of his success in promoting the Pittsburg & Gulf during the panicky times of the early '90s he believes it can be done.

ALLEN AND BUTLER ON THE WAY.

Come to Attend National Committee Meeting at Lincoln.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.—A delegation appointed by the citizens of Thurston county, Nebraska, consisting of Mark M. Murray and Mr. Wiltse, are in the city to promote legislation in favor of taxing Indian lands in the Pinnebago and Omaha reservation for the support of improvements assessed against the county, so as to equalize the burden of taxation nor borne exclusively by the white citizens.

Representative Sutherland of Nebraska presented to the attorney general a petition in favor of the pardon of W. Hahn of Hardy, Neb., convicted in the Kansas courts for fraudulent use of the mails. The attorney general has promised to investigate the case.

Representative Stark has received a telegram from Governor Poynter notifying him that he will attend the convention of governors in Washington after his visit to Chicago.

The appointment of M. B. Blumenberg of Ohio to the vacancy in the force of the house committee stenographers vacated the position of clerk to General Grosvenor's committee on merchant marine and fisheries, which has been filled by the appointment of Judge Ed P. Seeds of Manchester, Ia., former member of the Iowa state senate, and afterwards federal judge in Mexico. The place pays $2,000 a year.

Adam Rosgen and A. Holzer of Waterloo, Ia., are in the city on their way to Europe to witness the Passion Play at Oberammergau.

Mrs. Henderson, wife of the speaker, gave the last weekly reception at the Hotel Normandie on last Wednesday, making the seventh reception of the season, which are pronounced to be among the most successful of the kind ever given here, the attendance averaging from 150 to 200 each.

Colonel J. H. C. Wilson, postoffice inspector, has gone to Iowa to investigate and report the merits of the controversy relating to the removal of the postoffice at Waterloo from one side of the river to the other side.

Representative McPherson of the Council Bluffs district indignantly denies the report that he is one of the republican insurgents who will fight the Puerto Rican tariff bill, reported from the ways and means committee. He says he has been grossly misrepresented as to his attitude, which is in favor of the measure.

The Iowa delegation to the convention of the Daughters of the Revolution in this city this week is expected to assemble at an early date. The delegates are Mrs. Armstrong of Clinton, Mrs. Cowgill of Cedar Rapids, Mrs. Representative Hull of Des Moines, and Mrs. Julian W. Richards of Waterloo.

CARNEGIE ACCEPTS SERVICE.

Legal Battle Between Steel Kings Now On in Earnest.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 20.—The acceptance of service by the attorneys for the defendants in the Frick-Carnegie equity suit clears the way for the actual beginning of the fight in the courts between the two steel kings. The recognized adherents of each are doing all in their power to marshal their respective forces for the contest and consultations on campaign plans are being held night and day.

The fifteen days allowed for filing an answer to the suit dates from Friday. It will probably be filed before the expiration of the time limit, however, as the counsel for Carnegie says all the papers will be ready when he returns to Pittsburg, which will be early next week. Immediately after Carnegie returns he will go over the papers with his attorneys, affix his signature wherever required and no time will be lost in filing the defense.

The defense, it is said, will be in the nature of a general denial of the allegations of Frick as to Carnegie's malevolent intent and a strong contention that the "ironclad" contract still exists and is as forcible and binding as it was under the old firm of Carnegie Brothers & Co.

PORTO RICANS NEARLY FRANTIC.

Want McKinley to Grant them Free Trade for Their Own Benefit.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Feb. 20.—Several of the largest merchants of San Juan, upon being interviewed, unanimously expressed the opinion that immediate congressional action is absolutely essential to the interests of the island. They say that the crops are immovable, the proposed duty, under the Foraker bill, on sugar and tobacco being prohibitive. There are now 3,500,000 pounds of tobacco ready for shipment and by August there will be 5,000,000 pounds. The best price obtainable for tobacco in New York, under the half dollar duty, is $1.85. There has been a small coffee crop, owing to the hurricane, and sugar cannot pay the duty imposed, the planters holding their products and awaiting the action of congress. There is no money to plant new crops or to pay laborers, thousands of whom are on the point of starvation, being unable to obtain work. The estates are idle and bankers refuse to advance funds on account of the extension of mortgages; the planters are desperate, and the people discouraged, and they demand absolute free trade and authority for the island to contract a loan to pay immediate expenses and for the relief of the planters.

The local press expresses the opinion that the conditions of the island were better during the darks days of the Spanish regime.

The Foraker bill would be acceptable without the duty, the merchants being willing to pay a revenue tax in lieu of the tariff, which would relieve the planters.

TRUST ARGUMENT IN HOUSE.

Sultzer and Grovesnor Have a Very Spirited Debate.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.—Late Saturday afternoon the house passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, after having it under consideration four days. A spirited colloquy between Mr. Silzer (dem. N. Y.) and Mr. Grosvenor (rep., O.) was the feature of the day's session. Fresh from the anti-trust conference in Chicago, Mr. Sulzer called the attention of the house to the monster monopolies which, he said, were being fostered by the republican administration. He adverted in passing to Ohio politics. These utterances drew the fire of General Grosvenor, who referred to the "political garbage" which Mr. Sulzer had brought back to Washington after his "hippodroming tour through the west as a vice presidential candidate."

The civil service appropriation which was stricken out of the appropriation bill in the committee of the whole, was restored in the house, 77 to 123.

In order to present his views upon trusts and the financial bill, which is now in conference, Mr. Miers of Indiana offered an amendment. He antagonized the provision of the financial bill which authorized national banks to issue currency and denounced the fastening of the gold standard upon the people as a glaring iniquity. He declared that the retirement of the greenbacks and the placing of the national banks above the government was the completion of the most wonderful blunder of the age.

Mr. Miers declared that after the passage of the McKinley tariff law thirty-four new trusts were organized, and since the McKinley administration had assumed power and the Dingley law had gone into effect 200 of such monsters had raised their heads in the country, with a capital aggregating $7,000,000,000. Mr. Miers' remarks precipitated a lively political debate, participated in by Mr. Sulzer of New York, Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio and Mr. Cannon of Illinois.

Mr. Sulzer, after directing attention to the recent anti-trust conference held in Chicago, declared that the trusts were not only doing irreparable injury, but were doing it through the backing of a republican administration.

"The administration is responsible for the trusts," said Mr. Sulzer. "It stands sponsor for them and refuses to do anything to suppress them. The greatest of all these trusts is the money trust and the conference at Chicago unanimously condemned the gigantic iniquity."

In conclusion, Mr. Sulzer dared the republicans to pass the financial bill. It would be a signal to the American people to rise up and put in the White house that "peerless statesman and man of irreproachable character, William J. Bryan."

Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio replied in a humorous vein, adverting to Mr. Sulzer's aspirations to the vice presidency, and saying that after Mr. Sulzer had been "hippodroming about the country," he had come back to Washington loaded down with a lot of "political garbage." In answer to a question of Mr. Sulzer, he said that Mr. Monnett had not been renominated for attorney general of Ohio because he had already served two terms and stepped aside in response to an unwritten law of Ohio republicans. He closed by saying that the democrats had ample opportunity between 1892 and 1896 to enforce the anti-trust law, but had failed to do so. "The American people know that," he said, "and they know, too, that between 1892 and 1896 business broke down, people starved and everything in general went to the devil."

In reply Mr. Sulzer said: "The American people will not accept the brutal dictation of the gentleman from Ohio (Grosvenor) and his master, Mark Hanna."

Mr. Cannon poured oil on the troubled waters in an amusing speech, in which he appealed to the belligerents to permit a little public business to be transacted. "Just to fool the people." (Laughter.)

Soldier Dead Sleep Abroad.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 20.—From the records on file at the adjutant general's office it appears that all the dead of the Frist Nebraska have been returned to the state for final interment, save those whose names are given below. John A. Glover, sergeant, company A, died at sea; John Black, private, company B, died at Cavite; George L. Geddes, sergeant, company C, buried at sea; William Evans, sergeant, company C, died at Cavite; Julius G. Miller, private, company C, buried at Honolulu. Harry E. Fisk, private, company D, buried at Honolulu; Lewis D. Georgeson, private, company D, died at San Francisco; William P. Lewis, private, company E, killed at Manila; C. R. C. Maher, private, company E, died at Manila; Frank Seeley, private, company I, transferred to hospital corps and died; Lewis D. Passmore, private, company I, buried at sea; George W. Neiman, private, company G, buried at Honolulu.

BOER WAR.

COL. BADEN-POWELL WRITES OF HIS EXPERIENCES.

TELLS OF WAR LIFE.

Letter Brought in Stem of a Kaffir's Pipe, and Gives Interesting Bit of City Life.

London, Feb. 20.—Extracts from Colonel Baden-Powell's letters to his relatives are published in an illustrated weekly. He writes:

"Here I sit in my bomb proof bureau writing these letters. Around me is telephonic communication with each of my outposts. At each of these outposts a telescope keeps constant watch on the Boer outposts and guns. As soon as it is seen which way their fire is about to be directed, the wire communications are set to work and a bell with which each defensive quarter is provided, clangs is that part of town where the shell is about to fall and all in the open at once go to ground like rabbits. Generally speaking, most of us, unless duty takes us out, keep pretty close during the day, but we come out and take the air at night. The Boers usually finish pounding us towards evening, or just send us a few shells before the sun goes down.'"

One thing Baden-Powell has not neglected. He has effectually swept Mafeking clear of all suspected traitors. Those who are not outside are closely shut up in particularly strong quarters. He says:

"I have forty-seven prisoners, including the late station master as Mafeking, all of whom were rather more than suspected of treasonable correspondence with the enemy."

The paper goes on to say: One day night a few weeks ago, a Kaffir stole away from the outposts of the little beleaguered township. With the subtle instinct of these children of the veldt he made his way through the network of encircling trenches and laagers and set his face to the north and Buluwayo. He carried a couple of assegaies, a few mealies and a pipe. The latter may have seemed of little importance, but in the stem of that pipe lay the message from the cheerful, confident chief, which after a journey to Delagoa bay, gives to us at home those interesting details of the resistance offered by the towns of the Boer siege. He tells how even at Mafeking before war came to them people were ready to underestimate the character of hostilities likely to ensue, and pooh-poohed the necessity of making any special provision against Boer artillery. But Baden-Powell was not the man to be swayed by such ostrich-like counsel.

"I have come here to hold this town," he said.

Straightway before any enemy appeared on the horizon he set about marking out the line of his exterior defense works and with that common sense which is the best test of true soldiers, at once directed the construction of ample shell proofs against the guns which at that time seemed so chimerical to the people of Mafeking.

"Each one of the outer works," he writes, "all around the town was at once provided with underground shell proof accommodation for the whole of its garrison. The town itself was divided into three or four sections, each of which had its own arrangements for defense; within each big mounds of earth have been thrown up, with good interior apartments, al lconstructed of the handiest material, such as wall supports and cross beams of railway metal, with panelings and rofings of corrugated iron."

He then tells of how he converted the cellars of several houses into safe retreats of a similar kind, and by means of banking huge mounds of earth immediately overhead, they rendered good service to the garrison and inhabitants on the day when the Boer artillery began to rain shot and shell on the devoted little town.

But the perfect, machine-like system which holds sway at Mafeking is perhaps the most interesting fact about the siege. Go into any well known opticians' and you will find them turning out as many glasses as they can make in the shortest posible time, chiefly telescopes of great range, now urgently needed by our troops in South Africa. The inadequacy of our supply at the front has put us to serious disadvantage throughout the war. Not so at Mafeking. Her wily chief from the earliest moment saw to that, and he tells us he had them in constant use. In the center of the beleaguered town is a big traverse or mound of earth. Inside this mound is the brain of Mafeking, Baden-Powell.

INTEREST IN KENTUCKY REVIVES.

Democratic Legislature Returning to Meet Monday.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 19.—The adjournment of the democratic legislature at Louisville Saturday, to meet here today ,revives interest in the political contest and promises to remove the lull which has prevailed during the last few days. There are more democratic members in the city now than have been here together at any time since they adjourned and fled to Cincinnati, Louisville and other points, to avoid being arrested by the militia and taken to London, where the republican legislature was then sitting.

But few of the leaders had arrived last night, but those who are here say that the sessions at Frankfort will continue as long as there is no collision between them and Governor Taylor's soldiers.

No definite understanding has been reached between the democrats and republicans of the senate whether Lieutenant Governor Marshall (republican) or President Pro-tem. Carter (democrat) shallpreside, but the decision of the democrats to return to Frankfort is generally construed as indicating that they concluded that there was no danger of a serious clash over the chair.

Colonel James Andrew Scott, one of the democratic attorneys in the contest cases, and a devoted friend of the late Governor Goebel, is preparing a defense of the Goebel election law, which will be issued during the week. It will be in the nature of an address to the country, setting forth the provisions of the law and correcting what Mr. Scott thinks is a false impression with many people as to its import and workings.

MAY BE A BOER TRAP.

Suspisious Circumstance of Lord Roberts' Easy Advance.

London, Feb. 20.—The first outburst of jubilation over the relief of Kimberley having now spent itself especially in military and political circles a disposition is shown to suspend judgment on the importance of General French's operations.

Close study of the official and press dispatches shows the affair is something of a mystery, for information is withheld on several vital points.

The British do not announce the capture of a single gun, which proves that the Boers, so far from being surprised, had forestalled General French's dash and had moved their artillery from their positions in ample time.

The capture of a seventy-wagon convoy by General French was more than compensated for by the Boer capture of a 200-wagon British convoy.

Then the news that horse sickness has appeared in General French's force is reagrded as exceedingly grave. In fact, all except two of the London morning papers discreetly cut out that passage from the Reuter dispatches. Finally, the British position at Arundel is very serious, as the Boers evidently are making a determined effort to get at General Roberts' communications. In fact, on the information permitted by the British censor to be made public, the British military position provides ground, according to expert opinion, for much doubt, if not anxiety.

ZULUS REFUSE ARMS.

Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's threat in the house of commons that the blacks would be armed against the Boers and urged to attack them if their territory was invaded is less serious than was intended, for the Zulus, who were especially pointed out, have refused the arms offered them by the British authorities.

This information comes from an indubitable source. It is true that the Boers sent a force into Zululand to meet the British flying columns, but the Boers' only attacked the British magistrates' guard, guaranteeing full protection to the lives and property of the Zulus themselves, large numbers of whom the Boers have been feeding, saving them from famine.

The native Zulu policemen captured by the Boer force and sent to Pretoria were paraded before President Kruger, who assured them that as long as the Zulus remain neutral they will have every protection from the Boers. This address was repeated to King Dinizulu by the policemen, whom President Kruger instantly released, and caused the king to refuse the offer of arms and ammunition tendered him by the Natal government.

The Boers, though retreating from Magersfontein, are active elswhere. A special dispatch from Orange river, dated Friday, February 16, says they are attempting to cut the British line of communications at Gras Pan, but it is said they are not likely to effect a serious result. They are, however, undoubtedly making a strenuous effort to cut the British lines to De Aar.

On the other hand comes the news that General MacDonald has again occupied Kedoosberg.

STATISTICS AGAINST REPORTS.

Gen. Corbin Seeks to Belittle Press Statements on Insanity.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.—Adjutant General Corbin recently ordered an investigation of the reports that 250 demented soldiers had been sent across the continent during the past three months for treatment at the government hospital for the insane near this city, and that over 200 more soldiers were expected to arrive at San rFancisco shortly from Manila. He had just received a report on the subject showing that the stories were exaggerated. A statement of the commitments of enlisted men to the government hospital for the insane by the secretary of war from May 1, 1898, up to the present time, covering practically the entire period from the outbreak of the Spanish war, shows as follows:

"Admitted to the hospital, regular army, 13; state volunteers, 70; United States volunteers, 10; ex-soldiers recommitted, 9; a total of 223 men. Of this number there have since recovered and been discharged: Regular army, 68; state volnlteers, 54; United States volvolunteers, 6; ex-soldiers, 1; a total of 129.

"There are now under treatment at the hospital: Regular army, 66; state volunteers, 16; United States volunteers, 4, and ex-soldiers, 8; a total of 94 military patients.

"Of the total number treated at the hospital only thirty-seven men served in the Philippines and of these eleven have been discharged as cured. There was not a single insane patient among nearly 270 invalid soldiers just brought home on the hospital ship Missouri."

Has Immense Concessions.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 20.—Sidney A. Witherbee of this city, who is interested in the projected new International railway, in addition to holding the right of way for the Mexican branch of the proposed sytem, has a concession of $10,000,000 from the Mexican government to aid in its construction. The Mexican government also agrees to allow all materials used in the construction of the road to come into the country free of duty, and the road is to be exempt from taxation for a liberal number of years. Mr. Witherbee announces that a new line of trans-Pacific steamers will be built to run in connection with the road. Topolobampo, which is a fine harbor, will be the connecting point for the steamers. Mr. Witherbee's concessions provide that no other road can strike the harbor without a right of way from the new company.

German Liner Aground.

New York, Feb. 20.—It is reported that the Hamburg-American liner Graf Waldersee is aground in the bay.

The steamer was reported as having been seen aground near buoy No. 7 by Captain Sullivan of the government steamer Ordnance on his arrival at Sandy Hook from New York. Captain Sullivan passed the steamer on the way to New York, after leaving Sandy Hook at 2:30 p. m.

The thick snow prevents anything being seen from Sandy Hook and it is not known whether or not the liner floated off with the high tide.

At 10:25 tonight the gale appeared to be at its height down the bay, the wind blowing at the rate of over fifty-two miles an hour from the northeast and snowing hard. A very high sea was running.

Six hundred Finlanders have sailed from Liverpool for Canada, making about 8,000 who have emigrated during the past six months.

A STRUGGLE

BETWEEN THE STANDARDS OF PUBLIC MORALITY.

IN THE SUPREME COURT

Senator Thurston and Attorney Gensral Smyth Are Arranged Against Each Other.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 20.—Standing before the bar of the supreme court of Nebraska today there will be found two of Nebraska's strongest men and ablest lawyers. The contention between these two men and the different attitude which they assume are of vital importance to the people of this commonwealth and the country at large.

The battle is between Senator John M. Thurston, in behalf of the Standard Oil trust, and Attorney General C. J. Smyth, in behalf of the people of Nebraska.

ATTORNEY GENERAL SMYTH BRINGS SUIT.

Attorney General Smyth some time ago instituted proceedings in the name of the State of Nebraska for the purpose of compelling the Standard Oil company to respect the anti-trust laws of our state or to force this great corporation to cease to do business in Nebraska.

SENATOR THURSTON'S EMPLOYER

Senator John M. Thurston is now, according to uncontradicted reports in the public prints, in the employ of America's and the world's greatest of all trusts, the Standard Oil company. At any rate, Nebraska's republican senator recently left his seat in the senate chamber and came to Lincoln as the attorney for the Standard Oil company, and appeared before our supreme court in its behalf. Further consideration of the case at that time was postponed until today, and now the battle between the state as represented by Attorney General C. J. Smyth and the Standard Oil trust, as represented by Senator John M. Thurston, begins in earnest, and will in all probability last for several years.

DOES HE SERVE TWO MASTERS?

It looks strange, and is indeed a sad commentary upon the sense of duty which a republican senator entertains towards the welfare of his people and laws of his state and nation, for Attorney General Smyth to be forced to confront Senator Thurston in such a case. However, Senator Thurston, is but following the common practice of his eastern associates in the senate. They are all the admitted attorneys of various big corporations and trusts.

Nebraska is supposed to be Senator Thurston's home. Here is where he lived when he made his fortune as the attorney for the Union Pacific Railroad company, and at the same time conducted a flourishing business "influencing" our Nebraska legislatures with corporation funds. This is the state that handed him his senatorial commission on a silver platter, and yet he deserts the interest of the people at Washington to return here for the purpose of using all the power and prestige which he has gained by reason of his seat in the United States senate and his right-hand bower position with the present national administration against the simple and just anti-trust laws of his own state.

THE REASON WHY.

The Standard Oil company has but recently declared a dividend of eighty millions of dollars on an 100 millions of dollars capital stock. The total wealth of this gigantic corporation cannot be estimated, and the power it can bring to bear in prostituting United States senators to its base designs in defying the laws of states and countries, and crushing the life out of men who dare challenge their brutal sway, is beyond conception.

Were it necessary to the "business" policy of the Standard Oil company to put every senator, every congressman, and every member of the federal and state supreme courts on its pay roll at an increase of salary over what these lawmakers and judges are now receiving from this government, the Standard Oil company could do so, and still have millions left of its current receipts out of which to offer in lumps of $400,000 (as they did in Ohio to Attorney General Monnett) to officers to let their cases against the trust drop.

LESSON IN POLITICS.

It is a pity that the people of Nebraska cannot stand in the door of the supreme court room and look at these two men, and ponder over the vital principles involved. What a practical lesson it would be in political economy. How fully would those endowed with common horse sense realize that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Senator Thurston will in all probability receive many thousands of dollars—a fortune—for his services as a United States senator in helping the Standard Oil trust to defy and break down the anti-trust laws of his state. He will be cheered, patted on the back and wined, dined, and in a thousand and one ways treated like a prince, and will have money to burn. But, how about Attorney General Smyth? The same power which will be exercised to build up Senator Thurston will be ceaselessly employed to destroy the peace and happiness of Nebraska's official who attempts to discharge his duty. Indeed, out of the 225,000 voters in Nebraska, not a dozen of them will be thoughtful enough to drop a postal card or write an encouraging letter to Attorney General Smyth, their faithful official, and help him to do battle against the trust and its senatorial employes.

EVERYBODY CAN HELP.

Here is where the greatest strength of character and the highest moral courage is required, and now is the time and here is the place where thousands of people should make themselves seen and heard. It will be cursed cowardice if Attorney General Smyth is allowed to fight this battle single-handed and alone. Every man, woman and child who can write a few lines or speak a few words can and should be a volunteer soldier in this silent struggle, yet a most important battle, on our Nebraska soil.

Senator John M. Thurston has his backers. Shall Attorney General Smyth be without aid and comfort?

"He who would be free must himself strike the blow," is here repeated to the people of Nebraska for their thoughtful consideration and quick action.

BIG INCREASE IN PENSIONS.

The Number Introduced this Session is 1190.

Washington, D. C.—(Special.)—Nothing like the flood of private pension bills, which is being poured in on this congress, has ever been known before in American history.

In this respect this congress will break all records. The pension commitees are simply staggering under the increase of business. There has also been an increase in the number of bills introduced to amend the record of deserters, so as to enable them to get pensions.

Up to this time last year the senate committee on pensions had received about 400 bills. Since the opening of this session it has received 1,145 private pension bills and 45 general bills—1,190 in all. During the whole of the last session and the extra session which preceded it, 1,288 such bills were referred to this committee, so that the number introduced in two months of the present session is almost as large as the total number introduced in the last two sessions.

Senator Gallinger, chairman of the senate committee on pensions, says that if all the pension bills introduced at this session were passed it would bankrupt the government. Representative Cyrus Sulloway, chairman of the house committee on invalid pensions, does not agree with him. Mr. Sulloway wasasked how many private pension bills had been introduced in the house. He said:

"About 2,900. That is an increase over preceding sessions, but it is perfectly legitimate."

"What is the reason for the increase?"

"One of the reasons is that last year the pension bureau rejected 107,912 claims. Three thousand is not a very large proportion of 107,000. This talk about bankrupting the government is nonsense. The money spent on the old soldiers is a drop in the bucket compared with the sums that are being spent in other directions. Nobody objects to spending a lot of money on a dock without any sides to it, or on mending a slough in Louisiana."

Mr. Sulloway was aware of the existence of an outcry against the increase in pension legislation, and he said it was the work of newspaper writers who did not understand the subject.

"These bills don't average over ten to a congressional district," said he, "and how many congressional districts have you got? As a matter of fact, the distribution of pension money is a blessing to this country. It prevents Wall street from ever creating another black Friday. When you have got $30,000,000 among the people in free circulation it cannot be cornered."

Over 300 bills have been introduced to remove the charge of desertion. This large increase over the number of similar bills introduced in the preceding congresses. Senator Cullom introduced a bill early in the session to remove desertion charges by wholesale, but there was an outcry against it, and he dropped it, explaining that he had introduced it under a misapprehension. The bill is now being used against Mr. Cullom by his enemies in Illinois in the interest of Tanner's campaign for his seat in the senate.

NEW PROBLEM IN RANK.

Should Henderson or Frye Be First in Social Affairs?

Washington, D. C.—(Special.)—Does the speaker of the house rank the president pro tem. of the senate? is a question which bids fair to succeed the Dewey-Miles controversy on precedence.

For the last ten days senators and representatives and the women of their families have discussed this theme with much acrimony. The trouble arose over the selection of the president pro tem. of the senate for the place of honor at the state dinner given by the president two weeks ago.

The speaker of the house and many of his colleagues who were at the dinner, believe Mrs. Henderson should have occupied the place given to Mrs. Frye. They base their claims on the fact that —26— P CO ny—FdcU8pIK.. shrdluu j the speaker represents more potent interests and has greater power in the government structure.

Mr. Henderson, in discussing the case, said he based his opinions on no personal consideration. He would feel the same if Mr. Reed still occupied the speaker's chair. He thought there was a tendency to belittle the high office of speaker, and to take from it those prerogatives which were inherent.

He believes the seating of the guests at the state dinner was not due to an attempt to wound him or Mrs. Henderson, but was an unfortunate acident. Mr. Henderson and his colleagues would be glad to see fixed rules issued from an authoritative source clearly defining the status of every official of the government and determining his rank on every official occasion.

Another incident at this state dinner excited controversy. Many believe that Mrs. Hay, as the wife of the man who stands in direct succession to the presidency, should precede both Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Frye. The secretary of state and Mrs. Hay feel as strongly on the subject as do the speaker and Mrs. Henderson.

TO GOVERN HAWAII.

A Bill for Its Government to be Presented to the House.

Washington, D. C.—(Special.)—A bill for the government of Hawaii will be presented to the house. The measure will propose a territorial form of government. It will provide for a governor and secretary, to be appointed by the president. The internal officials will be named by the governor. It is stipulated that the governor shall be a native Hawaiian. A legislature, with two houses, is to be elected by the people. A delegate to congress will be elected also.

The provisions of the constitution of the United States locally applicable are extended over the territory, and the laws of Hawaii not inconsistent with the laws and constitution of the United States are to remain in force. The territory is also made a judicial, customs and revenue district of the United States.

The report, which was drawn by Chairman Knox, sets forth that there is grave doubt concerning the power of the Hawaiian government to grant franchises for industrial and commercial enterprises, or for railways which have been projected. In many respects the business affairs of the territory are brought to a standstill. Since annexation more than 25,000 Japanese contract laborers have been brought to the islands. The population of the islands is estimated at 130,000.

The exports of the United States to the Hawaiian islands for 11 months were $10,206,157. The imports $21,673,062.