

Washington News.

The United States supreme court decided the case of the state of Minnesota against the Northern Securities company, and the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railway companies, involving the validity of the merger of the two railroad companies, holding that it is without jurisdiction and reversing the decision of the court below.

It is stated that the administration has decided that it has ample warrant for continuing to enforce the Chinese exclusion act regardless of the denunciation of the treaty. The exclusion laws will continue to be enforced after December next whether the treaty expires or not.

The race question was again discussed in the house a few days ago when Mr. Scott of Kansas delivered a long address in which he referred to his previous statement that Mr. Cleveland had dined C. H. Taylor, a negro politician of Kansas. At the instance of Mr. Bartlett a letter from ex-President Cleveland was read denying that he had ever dined a negro. Mr. Bartlett concluded his remarks by declaring that Judge Parker of New York is the man whom the democrats will nominate for president.

The American Beet Sugar association held a meeting at Washington, about twenty-five persons being present and listening to addresses from officials of the department of agriculture. Secretary Wilson told the beet sugar men that his heart was in the development of home sugar industry.

A special sub-committee will be appointed to consider the Adams bill limiting the immigration from any foreign country to 80,000 persons a year.

The house committee on military affairs authorized a favorable report on a bill appropriating \$60,000 to purchase a temporary home in the District of Columbia for disabled volunteer soldiers.

Bourke Cockran, congressman from New York, spoke in the house on April 9. The Associated press says: Mr. Cockran attacked the president's executive order relating to pensions and characterized the president's interpretation of the law as "hollow mockery and a play of words," and said that this was known by the man who wrote it, as shown by the order itself. He declared that congress, on account of its pusillanimous failure to do its duty to itself, had lost caste; so much so that the newspapers of the country outside of Washington print only a paragraph or two of its proceedings. The action of the president, he said, had been justified by the secretary of the interior, on the precedent of President Cleveland, but if that be so, "in God's name let us condemn that act of Mr. Cleveland's as vehemently as the act of any republican president." The disposition to justify everything "because Mr. Cleveland did it," he said, was the highest compliment that could be paid to a man by congress, but the confidence which Mr. Cleveland enjoys only adds to the danger of the act and does not lessen it. The president and secretary

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of the interior found warm supporters in Messrs. Dalzell, Grosvenor, Gibson, Calderhead, Lacey and Hepburn. The first named maintained that it made no difference how many millions of dollars were involved in the president's order, because the secretary of the interior distributed the money voted by congress in accordance with the rules of evidence provided by the pension department. The debate occurred on a resolution introduced by Mr. Cockran, directing the committee on judiciary to investigate the recent pension order. It had been reported from the committee on rules with a recommendation that it lie on the table, and this was adopted by the narrow majority of three votes, the speaker having his vote recorded in the affirmative. Three republicans, Messrs. Cushman (Wash.), Littlefield (Me.), and McCall (Mass.), voted with the democrats against tabling the resolution.

The committee on military affairs authorized a favorable report on the senate bill "to provide for the proper marking of the graves of the soldiers and sailors of the confederate army and navy who died in northern prisons."

Senator Frye has introduced a bill providing for the retirement of letter carriers who have reached the age of 65 years and who have served for thirty-five years. The bill gives the retired carriers pay at 80 per cent of the salaries they were receiving at the time of retirement.

The house committee on industrial arts and expositions has decided to postpone further consideration of the Jamestown, Va., exposition appropriation of \$3,000,000 until the next session of congress.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of Washington, April 14, says: Senator Proctor today introduced a bill, which will be favorably reported by the committee on military affairs, to authorize the president to reward distinguished or especially meritorious service rendered by certain officers of the active list of the army. The bill provides for the creation of a distinguished service list, to include five colonels, six lieutenant-colonels, eighteen majors, ten captains and five first lieutenants. Appointments to the distinguished service list are to be made on the specific recommendation of a board, as near permanent as may be, of five general officers of the active list of the army.

A special committee of the senate, appointed to investigate the charges against Senator Dietrich of Nebraska, have made a report in which they say that Mr. Dietrich is completely exonerated.

Two bills providing for the addition of \$200 annually to the salary of city letter carriers, were presented to the sub-committee of the house committee on postoffices and post roads. The arguments in favor of the bills were based on the increased cost of living since the salaries were originally fixed.

Upon request of Senator Fairbanks, the senate ordered the printing of the speech of President McKinley at Buffalo as a public document. Mr. Fairbanks said that there have been many requests for copies of the address.

The house has been devoting its attention to a bill amending the law relating to the Philippine Islands. Mr. Jones of Virginia opposed the bill in reference to the amending of railroad franchises and the guaranteeing of 5

per cent on the capital invested. He says that British and Belgian capitalists are ready to build the roads without such guarantee. Congressmen Cooper and Crumpacker who are in favor of the bill declared that it properly safeguards the interests of the Filipinos.

A bill was passed in the senate providing for the opening of old Ft. Abraham, a military reservation in North Dakota, to settlement under the homestead law.

Several senators have discussed with Senator Elkins the advisability of making him chairman of the republican national committee. Senator Elkins has asserted that he will, under no consideration, accept the position.

Mr. Cochran of Missouri delivered an interesting speech in the house a few days ago on the usurpation of legislative power by the administration. In the course of his speech Mr. Cochran declared that ex-President Cleveland had given the most notable instance of such usurpation in forcing his financial policies on the people. Mr. Cleveland, he declared, was a man whose friendship meant destruction, whose touch meant paralysis and whose support meant dishonor. He declared Mr. Cleveland had been put into exile, never again to be reinstated in the confidence of the people.

An Associated press dispatch under date of Washington, April 15, says: "Secretary of the Navy Moody today transmitted to the house a request for a \$10,000 appropriation to provide for the proper care of the remains of the victims of the explosion of the battleship Missouri.

Would Not Dictate.

"Near my home over in Virginia," says the business woman, according to the Washington Post, "there is a small Baptist church where every Sunday a colored man called Uncle Rastus preaches. I have always suspected that Uncle Rastus doesn't know how to read, though he won't confess it. I am sure his eldest daughter selects his texts for him, but I wouldn't dare tell him I think so. He came to see me last time I was at home, and I promised to send him a new bible from Washington. His last name is Robertson or Robinson, and when I was asking how I should address the package I inquired how he spelled his name. Uncle Rastus wasn't to be caught by any such transparent trick as that.

"Well, Miss Betty," he said, "I ain't a-going to tell you how I spells it. You jes' spell it the way you likes best. I certainly ain't a-going to dictate to a lady."

The War News.

Last week was one of disaster to Russia and rejoicing to Japan. Port Arthur is still the chief scene of operations, and Japan scored heavily on April 13. Under cover of attacks on the Russian fleet in the harbor, Togo managed to lay a train of mines at the harbor entrance. Then Togo offered a seeming open advantage to Makaroff, and the latter rushed his fleet out to attack. When the mines were struck one exploded under Makaroff's flagship, the Petropavlovsk, and blown up and almost the entire crew of over 600 was annihilated. Makaroff was killed and Grand Duke Cyril severely wounded. The Japanese did not follow up their advantage.

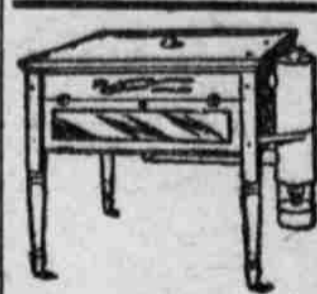
Various other engagements were had at Port Arthur during the week, but the results were not great. Russia is massing troops at the Yalu, and heavy battles are expected any day. Russia is in mourning over the loss of the Petropavlovsk and 600 seamen, and the death of Makaroff has been a severe blow. He was a dashing naval commander in whom the Russians had implicit confidence.

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