

The Work of Congress

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Washington, March 1, says:

The legislative activity of the fifty-eighth congress during its short session just closing may be estimated by the fact that over 100 laws affecting the general public have been enacted and over 1,000 private acts passed.

The private acts consist largely of pensions, granted, while a few relief measures and removal of charges of desertion made up the remainder. The regular appropriation bills all are progressing to completion and some of them have already received the signature of President Roosevelt. The senate has amended and ratified arbitration treaties with seven European powers and sixteen American republics. It also has sat as a court and acquitted Charles Swayne, judge of the district court for the Northern district of Florida, on articles of impeachment voted by the house.

In joint session of the two houses the electoral vote for president and vice president was canvassed and the official announcement made of the election of Roosevelt and Fairbanks.

A revision of the Philippine tariff has progressed nearly to completion without indication of defeat, and an act has been signed intended to develop the resources of those islands by guaranteeing interest on capital invested in railroad building and authorizing the issuance of bonds for municipal improvements, schools and roads. The laws for Alaska have been codified, an additional district judge authorized and the revenues from the liquor traffic in that territory diverted to the support of schools, the building of roads and the care of the insane.

Legislation for the government of the Panama canal zone and the regulations for the construction of the canal has been passed by both houses, but differences remain to be adjusted in conferences.

Two new battleships were provided for by congress in the naval appropriation bill.

The trade mark laws have been revised and an international copyright act passed. Jurisdiction of the forest reserves has been transferred from the interior to the agricultural department. Authority to make arrests in forest reserves has been granted employees, as a measure of further protection. President Roosevelt has been authorized to set apart a portion of the Wichita forest reserve as a breeding place for game animals and birds.

By resolution of the house the department of commerce and labor has begun an investigation of the oil trust.

Obscene matter has been prohibited from importation and transit as interstate commerce. As a further aid in the enforcement of the immigration laws steamships entering United States ports are required to furnish complete passenger lists.

Captured confederate battle-flags in the possession of the war department were ordered returned to the proper authorities of the state in which the regiment carrying the colors was organized.

The American National Red Cross society was incorporated as were the trustees of the grand encampment of Knights Templar of the United States.

Statehood bills have passed both houses and are in conference. Both measures contain provision for the admission of Oklahoma and the Indian territory as one state.

The foundation for railroad legisla-

tion has been laid by the passage of a bill through the house after exhaustive hearings and the beginning of an inquiry by the senate, which is to be conducted during the recess.

A halt has been called in the extravagance with which public documents have been printed.

The president was authorized to grant medals for heroism in the saving of life in train wrecks.

The extradition laws of the United States were extended to the Philippines.

The state of Arkansas was ceded a strip of land from the Indian territory. A portion of the Round Valley Indian reservation in California was opened to settlement. Settlers in the Rosebud reservation were given additional time to establish citizenship. The unallotted lands of the Yakima reservation in Washington were ordered disposed of.

Twenty-eight of the public acts are authorities to build bridges or dam navigable streams; twenty-three relate to the District of Columbia and four to the judiciary.

"Corpse" Came to Life

Nathan F. Chidester, a Jefferson business man, was attacked with a serious illness two days ago and died, according to the attending physician. An undertaker prepared the body for burial, it was wept over by the family, and on yesterday afternoon the funeral services were held at the Chidester home. A clergyman delivered a "powerful" sermon, at the close of which those present were invited to take a last look at the dead.

A relative of Chidester noticed, when she looked at the face, that the lips were moist. With a cry she declared that the man was alive. A hurried investigation was made and it was discovered that he was breathing. Physicians were quickly summoned and Chidester was removed from the coffin. In a short time he had regained consciousness and was sitting up in bed.

He is now able to walk about the house, and if no setback occurs he will be out attending to business in a few days. The coffin was taken back to the undertaking shop.

Chidester has not been told of the narrow escape from being buried alive. It is feared that the shock might be too great for him to bear in his present condition.—Jefferson, Texas, Cor. New York World.

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