

Washington News

Senator Hale has secured the incorporation of a provision in the legislative appropriation bill that information under the corporation tax law shall be made public only on the order of the president when he deems it for the public interest.

The house passed a bill forbidding proprietors of amusement places in the District of Columbia or the territories to deny admission to soldiers or sailors because of their uniform.

The legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill, as reported to the senate, carries \$34,034,357, an increase of \$197,562 over the bill as it passed the house.

Two of President Taft's conservation measures were introduced in the house. One providing for classification of public lands was introduced by Smith of California. Pickett of Iowa introduced one permitting the president to withdraw lands from entry.

The senate committee on appropriations has restored to the legislative appropriation bill the provision for automobiles for Speaker Cannon and Vice President Sherman.

The bill abolishing the federal circuit courts has been favorably reported to the house.

The senate confirmed the nomination of William S. Kenyon of Iowa to be assistant to the attorney general.

An Associated Press dispatch says: "Squatters' on unsurveyed lands within the national forests, who have occupied their tracts continuously since before the creation of the forest reserves and who have complied with the homestead law, have had their rights increased by an order which has just been issued by the secretary of agriculture. Such settlers can now acquire title, prior to survey to 160 acres, a full homestead entry, wherever possible. The object of the order is to provide for the listing of the full amount of land which the occupant would receive if he exercised his option of awaiting the government survey irrespective of whether or not the entire area is cultivatable, and the land is not more valuable for its timber than for agriculture. In cases where less than 160 acres have been listed to a person who settled upon the land prior to the creation of the forest an additional area sufficient to complete the homestead entry will be allowed on application."

The administration railroad bill introduced by Representative Townsend of Michigan and largely amended in committee was ordered favorably reported by the house committee on interstate commerce. The vote on the bill was on party lines. The republicans voted for it unanimously. Four democrats voted against it and two democrats voted present. There will be a minority report.

Norris of Nebraska was permitted to preside over the house of representatives ten minutes March 24.

President Taft has issued proclamations declaring that the following named countries are entitled to the minimum rates of the Payne-Aldrich act: The empire of China, including all its dependencies; Oman, Afghanistan; Nepal; Bhutan; Johore; Lux-

emburg; Montenegro; Montnaco; Andorra; San Marino; Liechtenstein; Haiti; the Kwantunk territory; Weihawei; Kiaochow; German possessions in Samoa; German New Guineau, including the insular possessions of the Carolines, Pelew and the Marianne islands; Marshall, Brown and Providence islands; Straits settlements, including Keeting islands; the federated Malay states; Brunei and Sarawak; Hong Kong and Kowloon; Nyasaland; northern Nigeria protectorate (Lagos); Gold Coast colony, including Ashanti; the colony and protectorate of Sirra Leone; the colony and protectorate of Gambia; Fiji; Tonga and Turkish possessions in Africa. China, commercially the most important nation in the list, had a total trade with the world for the year 1908 of \$436,258,000, of which the United States had \$42,295,000. Of this last amount the exports of the United States to China amount to \$26,810,000 and the imports of the United States from China that year aggregated \$15,485,000. The United States rank with other nations was fourth in exports to China and fifth in imports. During that year the principal exports from the United States to China were mineral oils, \$8,631,000; cotton manufactures, \$3,413,000; copper manufactures, \$3,231,000; wheat flour \$1,923,000; tobacco, \$1,518,000; iron and steel, \$1,175,000; manufactures of wood, \$1,002,000. The statistics show that there was an increase in the imports into the United States from China during the ten years ending in 1908, of 23.1 per cent, and an increase of exports to China during the same period of 123.6 per cent.

Senator Owen of Oklahoma advocated his bill for the creation of a new executive department to be devoted to the public health. He declared that six hundred thousand lives annually were sacrificed in this country because of the lack of proper attention to sanitation.

The committee on pensions recommended the abolition of pension agencies. Some of the regulars, under the lead of Dalzell, fought this recommendation. Norris, insurgent, championed it. The recommendation was approved by a vote of 76 to 94 and this will abolish eighteen pension agencies.

The city of Des Moines, Iowa, lost its fight for a re-adjustment of freight rates from that city to points in western Minnesota and North and South Dakota through the decision of the interstate commerce commission.

An anti-vaccination society, with Harry B. Bradford president has been organized at the national capital.

A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald says: "It is customary to pension widows of former presidents, and, while provisions have been made for Mrs. Mary Lord Harrison and Mrs. Frances F. Cleveland in the way of granting them franking privileges, etc., it was not until today that a serious move was made in the direction of placing them upon the pension rolls. The pension committee of the senate, following the well-established precedent, voted each of them \$5,000 a year, but not without encountering strong opposition. A minority of the committee, consisting of Chairman McCumber of North Dakota and Senator Curtis of

Kansas (republicans) and Senator Gore of Oklahoma (democrat), reported adversely to the pensions on the grounds that Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Cleveland were both in comfortable financial circumstances and in no need of aid."

David J. Brewer, associate justice of the United States supreme court, died suddenly of apoplexy.

It is reported that Representative Hinshaw, republican, of Nebraska will not be a candidate for re-election.

President Madriz of Nicaragua has offered to give the United States every guarantee demanded for the safety of American lives and property if this government will formally recognize the Madriz government. Secretary Knox insists that before recognition is extended, order in Nicaragua must be restored.

A Washington dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "In appreciation of the action of the war department in recommending and of President Taft in granting a pardon last year to John Joseph von Schiller, a grandson of poet Schiller, who for desertion, had been sentenced to three years in the federal prison at Ft. Leavenworth, German admirers of the poet intend to produce here one of his plays and donate the proceeds to the national soldiers home in this city."

Representative Shackelford, democrat of Missouri, made an attack upon Speaker Cannon in the house March 22. He said that Cannon must be driven from power as the first onslaught on Cannonism.

It is announced that the regular republicans will enter the chautauqua list in the effort to defend the record of their party and make an attack upon insurgency.

Representative A. Mitchell Palmer, democrat, of Pennsylvania, attacked the administration on the floor of the house. He praised Roosevelt. He said that the republican party had violated its pledges and was doomed.

In a speech in the senate, Senator Clapp of Minnesota denounced the Taft railroad bill, calling it "absolutely revolutionary."

Representative Sheppard of Texas, speaking in the house, combatted the Osler theory, and maintained that after the age of forty years men and women not only were endowed with their best faculties, for scientific and professional work, but in the government service were fully qualified in many instances for efficient service. General J. Warren Keifer of Ohio, who is in his seventy-fifth year and was formerly speaker of the house, frequently applauded his complimentary references to the abilities of old men, and women.

The military academy appropriation bill carrying \$1,856,649 has been passed by the senate.

"Copenhagen is the one place in the world where we should not send the proofs of an American explorer when those proofs have been attested in the United States," said Representative J. Hampton Moore, of Pennsylvania, in the house during his advocacy of recognition of Commander Peary by congress for his discovery of the north pole. Mr. Moore made a plea for proper recognition of Mr. Peary at the hands of congress.

A Washington dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "Steps (Continued on Page 16)



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