

WASHINGTON NEWS

The correspondent for the New York World sends the following to his paper: The house passed the Bulkly bill, providing for the coinage of one-half cent pieces and three-cent pieces. The bill provides that they shall be coined of 75 per cent copper and 25 per cent of nickel.

All new one-cent pieces are to be made a trifle smaller than the present penny. Hereafter they are to be made from the same specifications proposed for the half-pennies and three-cent pieces. At present the one-cent pieces contain 90 per cent of copper and 10 per cent of nickel. The change in the proportions of copper and nickel will cause the reduction in size.

The one-half cent piece provided for in the house bill has aroused curiosity regarding its use.

A few instances cited by its adherents are:

Some kinds of meats are listed at 12½ cents a pound, but if one takes one pound one pays 13 cents.

In other lines—dry goods (by the yard), groceries (by the pound) or green groceries (by the measure)—the price often is 12½ cents or "two for a quarter."

If one does not wish two for a quarter, having no need for the two, whether they be pounds, pints or other measurements, the customer pays the additional half cent. With the half-cent piece the purchaser would be able to meet the exact price asked.

Following is a dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald: A service pension bill, the result of a compromise between the house and senate bills, was passed by the senate. It will increase the pension expenditures \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 a year.

The maximum rate allowed in the bill as it will go to the president is \$30 a month. Any person who served ninety days or more in the civil war, has an honorable discharge and has reached the age of 62 years is entitled under the bill to receive a pension.

The rates are graded according to length of service and the age of the applicant. A man of 62 years who served ninety days gets \$13 a month; six months, \$13.50; one year, \$14; a year and a half, \$14.50 a month; two years, \$15 a month; two years and a half, \$15.50 a month; three years or more, \$16 a month. Older men drew larger sums.

Veterans of the civil war wounded or made ill in battle or in line of duty and unfit for manual labor by reason of such disability will be entitled to the maximum rate of \$30 a month without regard to length of service or age.

An Associated Press dispatch says: Charges against Judge Robert W. Archbald of the commerce court were unfolded before the house committee on the judiciary, which is to determine if impeachment proceedings shall be brought against the jurist. How Judge Archbald, in partnership with Edward J. Williams, a Scranton coal dealer, while deliberating as a judge on the "lighterage" cases to which the Erie railroad was a party, is alleged to have negotiated an option from that railroad for 42,000 tons of culm property, to be sold at a \$12,000 profit, was told to the committee by Williams himself.

Judge Archbald, accompanied by his two sons and his counsel, A. S. Worthington, heard the testimony

and occasionally looked at photographic copies of letters bearing on the case, one of them a letter in which the judge told of his connection with the Culm bank negotiations in his words. In addition to that transaction, Williams told of another deal in which he said Judge Archbald acquired an interest with him in an option on a million acres of Venezuelan timber land, for which the judge gave a note for \$500. Williams tried to discount this note with C. J. and W. P. Boland of the American Coal company of Scranton, who at that time had a case pending before Judge Archbald in the federal court. The Bolands refused to discount the note and later lost their case.

The limited parcels post bill passed by the house of representatives is described in a dispatch to the New York World in this way: The plan provides that packages of eleven pounds and less of fourth-class matter shall be carried through the mails at the rate of five cents per pound for the first pound and one cent per pound for the remaining pounds.

The plan was adopted as an experiment and is to remain in force until June 30, 1914. During the intervening time it is expected to be thoroughly tested. The bill provides also for the creation of a commission, composed of three senators and three representatives, who shall investigate the propriety and feasibility of establishing a general parcels post.

The commission is empowered to make a full investigation of the subject, and \$25,000 is appropriated to defray the expenses of their investigations. The commission is expected to start the investigation, in the event that the senate concurs, in the immediate future, and it is to report its findings to congress on the first Monday of next December.

When it became evident that the democrats were about to pass a parcels post provision Representative Mann, the minority leader, attempted to put the majority "in a hole" by playing a little politics. The expert republican tactician was beaten at his own game.

The bill was passed by a vote of 227 to 5, and the democrats smiled at the republican leader's discomfiture.

The bill carried \$275,000,000 and there are several radical provisions, such as federal aid for good roads, the compulsory publication by newspapers, magazines and periodicals of the names of their owners. The good roads provision added between \$16,000,000 and \$18,000,000 to the appropriation, and this amount, it is said, will be materially increased in the next post-office measure.

Referring to the passage of the workman's liability bill the Associated Press says: A number of amendments were offered, but only a few were accepted, and these were with acquiescence of Senator Sutherland, in charge of the bill. The principal changes made during three hours of roll calls provide that compensation for accidental injury and death of railroad employes shall continue to children until they are sixteen years old, and would extend payment in the case of daughters until they are twenty, unless same are married.

Again the bill would provide an exclusive remedy and compensation for accidental disability or death to employes of railroads in interstate

commerce or the District of Columbia on theory of insuring each employe against results of injury in employment without reference to contributory negligence or any of the rules of common law employer's liability. It would provide medical service for the injured and means for money recovery proportioned to the property of the victim. It is the outcome of a long investigation by the committee and was strongly urged by President Taft.

In the long debate which preceded passage of the bill many senators took part and there were spirited passages.

The United States government's suit for the dissolution of the steel trust was begun with the testimony of two witnesses before a commissioner in New York. Hearings will be held in various cities.

President Taft approved the plan of the commission on economy and efficiency to retire all government employes at the age of 70 on annuities equal to half salary.

Senators Bradley and Paynter were selected as members of the committee to make an investigation of the source and quantity of campaign funds in 1904 and 1908.

The workmen's compensation bill passed the senate 64 to 15, in almost the identical form in which it was originally drawn by the liability commission.

By a vote of 237 to 39 a joint resolution providing for election of senators by the people passed the house of representatives. The bill had already passed the senate and the proposition will now be submitted to

the several states for ratification. Representatives from Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana fought the passage of the resolution because of the Bristow amendment which gave the federal government supervision over the elections.

The senate committee on judiciary has reported favorably the resolution limiting the presidential tenure to a single term of six years. A minority report was made favoring a single term of four years. A similar measure is pending in the house and if congress passes it it will be submitted to the several state legislatures for adoption.

Signal honors have been arranged for the German fleet, which is to return last year's call of the American fleet early in June. President Taft personally will visit the officers, who later will be his guests at dinner.

The house passed the legislative and judicial appropriation bill with the appropriation for the court of commerce omitted. This will have the effect of abolishing that court.

An Associated press dispatch, Dated May 11, says: The president tonight signed the increased pension bill, passed by the house and senate. The measure was signed and became a law just before midnight in the executive office at the White house.

A congressional committee, including Senators McCumber and Burnham and Representatives Sherwood, the author of the original bill, Adair Russell and Carl C. Anderson, was awaiting the arrival of the president when he reached the White house on his return from Princeton. He affixed his signature to (Continued on Page 16.)

Plan Now to Reduce the Winter Feed Bills

This is a timely subject for every stock raiser and dairyman. Everywhere farmers are buying expensive feed and roughage and complaining because they are obliged to do so and that the prices are so high, due, principally, to the drouth of last summer that made the hay crop short.

But, blaming it on the weather doesn't help out the situation. A wise man doesn't get caught in the same predicament twice. If the severe dry season last summer teaches us how to avoid such a shortage of roughage as we are now experiencing in some states it will have been almost worth while. The very best time to learn the lesson well is now, before we forget about it. Why not begin now to fortify ourselves against another such season? We know of no better way than to buy a silo and fill it with corn or some supplementary crops.

Our advice to all owners of stock, and especially to dairymen, is to buy silos this summer. Those who have none can not afford to be without one, and those who have one may well consider whether it will not pay to build another or a better one. Think it over and take some action to reduce next winter's feed bill.

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P. O.

The Commoner, May 17, 1912.

