

# DO-NOTHING SESSION ENDS 'MID GREAT JOY

Currency Bill Is Passed by Congress in Its Closing Hours.

## NATION LIABLE TO WORKER.

Employers' Bill and Public Buildings Measure Among Last Acts to Become Laws.

### Washington correspondence:

The first session of the Sixtieth Congress came to a spectacular end ten minutes before midnight Saturday night. The last legislative day of the session was marked by a spurt of action which, continued a little farther, might have put a crimp in the relative "do nothing" program which the leaders set out to fulfill some months ago.

After adopting the currency conference report the Senate went ahead Saturday afternoon and passed the bill providing compensation for injuries to civil employees of the government engaged in hazardous work. Several amendments adopted by the Senate were accepted by the House unanimously, and thus the Roosevelt percentage in the contest with Congress over the policies of the administration went up several points.

One of the last measures to get through was the public buildings bill, which was held back to the last moment for the purpose of keeping members on the floor and the newspaper men in the press gallery. Every member on the floor had an American flag. They waved the flags and sang all the old melodies and a lot of songs of brand-new construction set to the old tunes.

Aside from the regular supply bills making appropriations for the support of the government during the next fiscal year, the achievements and failures of Congress during the session may be summarized as follows:

### What Congress Has Done.

- Enacted an emergency currency law.
- Prohibited child labor in the District of Columbia.
- Prohibited race track gambling in the District of Columbia.
- Increased widows' existing pensions from \$8 to \$12 a month.
- Granted pensions of \$12 a month to practically all widows of Mexican and Civil War soldiers.
- Authorized expenditures of \$30,000,000 for public buildings.
- Authorized general appropriations amounting to nearly a billion dollars.
- Ordered a currency commission to report on revision of financial and banking laws of the country.
- Reclassified the consular service.
- Passed employers' liability law to take place of the one declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States.
- Permitted free operation of foreign vessels in trade with Philippines.
- Passed administration bill authorizing employees to sue the government for personal injuries sustained while in the line of duty.
- Established a range for breeding American buffalo.
- Started the machinery for tariff revision by the appointment of an investigation commission.
- Authorized the construction of two battleships with the promise of two next session.
- Raised the pay of all officers and men of the army and navy, marine corps and revenue cutter service.
- Passed a militia law making every able-bodied man between 18 and 45 years liable to service.
- Adopted arbitration treaties with nearly every country in Europe and with Japan.
- Continued the work of the waterways commission.
- Provided for the defense of the Philippines and Hawaiian ports by submarine mines and fortifications.
- Appropriated \$1,500,000 for participation by the United States in the Japanese exposition of 1910.

### What Congress Has Not Done.

- Refused to place wood pulp on the free list.
- Declined to accept President Roosevelt's four battleship proposition.

### HARD LUCK TALES.

At Mazomanie, Wis., William Royston, a carpenter who was crushed under a falling building during the tornado, died from the effects of his injuries. Two other carpenters were also injured.

At Bensford, S. D., Peter Baker, a pioneer of about 80 years of age, shot himself with a shotgun. The night before he returned from Sioux City in a very weak condition and discouragement over his broken down physical condition is supposed to be the cause.

## THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS.

Met Dec. 2, 1907. Appropriated \$1,008,804,894, exceeding total of last session by \$88,000,750. Passed currency bill after delay in Senate by filibuster lasting twenty-seven hours and fifteen minutes, in which 110,680 words, equal to thirty columns of newspaper space, were uttered. Adjourned May 20, 1908.

Failed to adopt postal savings bank plan.

Passed up until next December the bill to reinstate discharged colored troops.

No national child labor law, but date set for its consideration next December.

Granted no increased powers to prohibition States over interstate shipments of liquors.

Enacted no law requiring publicity of campaign expenses.

Made no provision for the "spanking" of Castro, the Venezuelan president.

Failed to put wireless telegraphy under government control.

Refused to give interstate commerce commission authority to pass upon proposed increased railroad rates before they go into effect.

Failed to relieve the coal-carrying railroads from the necessity of disposing of their mines.

Failed to consider bills regulating dealings in options.

### Other Important Bills that Failed.

Administration-Civic Federation bill to amend the Sherman anti-trust law.

Bill for the reduction of the tariff on the products of the Philippine Islands.

Anti-injunction bill. (There are ten or fifteen measures of this nature before Congress.)

Bills for revision and codification of the laws of the United States in accordance with the report of a commission which put in seven years at the task.

Bill to make Porto Ricans citizens of the United States.

Bill for retirement of superannuated federal clerks.

Bill to provide embassies for representatives of the United States in foreign countries.

Bill to establish forest reserves in the southern Appalachians and in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

## CURRENCY BILL PASSES.

Measure Is Forced Through Despite Filibustering Tactics.

### Washington correspondence:

With the end of the most remarkable filibuster in the history of the Senate, and the passage of the Aldrich-Vreeland emergency currency bill by both houses and the winding up of other business, the Sixtieth Congress adjourned sine die at 11:50 o'clock Saturday night.

At 4:30 o'clock the Senate adopted the report of the conferees of the two houses on the currency bill by the decisive vote of 43 to 22, and thus was taken the last congressional step necessary toward the enactment of emergency currency legislation, toward which Congress has directed its principal effort since it convened last December. The result came unexpectedly soon, but not until the Senate had been well worn out by a filibuster which, while not largely supported, made up in intensity what it lacked in numbers. The obstructive tactics were begun by Senator La Follette (Republican) of Wisconsin when the report was taken up by the Senate, Friday, and being prosecuted by him all Friday night, was continued Saturday by Senator Stone (Democrat) of Missouri and Senator Gore (Democrat) of Oklahoma. Mr. La Follette broke the record as a long distance speaker, talking eighteen hours and forty-three minutes; Mr. Stone held the floor for six hours and a half, almost without interruption, and Mr. Gore spoke for something more than two hours.

When Senator La Follette ended his record breaking speech at 7:03 a. m. Saturday he was still in strong voice, and said that he was "reluctant" to yield the floor, but realized that other Senators wished to speak.

Many of the Senators were routed out of bed Friday night and early Saturday morning and brought into the chamber to make a quorum. Among these were Senators Stone and Gore, the Senate leaders deciding that it would not be good policy to allow them to enjoy an uninterrupted night's rest and be fresh for the task of continuing the filibuster begun by Mr. La Follette. Many of the Senators were brought in partly dressed by the deputy sergeants-at-arms.

President Roosevelt was summoned to the capitol to sign bills during the last hours of Congress at 9 o'clock. He was waited upon by a committee comprising Representatives Payne, Hepburn and Williams, and Senators Hale and Teller. Shortly before 10 o'clock he signed the compromise currency bill. Previous to his signature of the currency bill the President had handed it to Secretary Cortelyou, who carefully read its provisions. Two other members of the Cabinet were present—Secretaries Root and Garfield.

### Case Against the Buttercup.

Dr. W. N. Chaffant, who recently announced the theory that many of the cases of measles are due to the poison contained in the common field buttercup, now adds to the indictment against this flower of hitherto good reputation by asserting that it is probably the origin of cancer and other maladies. He has found that it contains a number of active poisons, one of which, if taken internally, may cause death.

## ALLISON WINS IN IOWA.

Returns Indicate Nomination of the Hawkeye Senator.

Returns from more than 800 precincts Wednesday indicated that Senator Allison had defeated Governor Cummins in the fight for the Republican Senatorial nomination, as a result of the State primaries. The Allison men claimed at least 10,000, but the Cummins leaders would not concede this.

Counties which two years ago went for Governor Cummins this year returned a majority for Allison. Seven Congressional districts give Allison his majority. He carried practically every



SENATOR ALLISON.

county in the First and Second Districts. In the Third District he lost Hardin County and in the Fifth Cummins secured a majority in three of the counties.

Official returns Thursday from all of the ninety-nine counties of Iowa give Senator Allison 102,150 votes, against 92,786 for Governor A. B. Cummins, for the Republican nomination for United States Senator. The Allison majority in the State is 9,373. Carroll has 25,000 over Garst for Governor.

In the congressional contest in the Seventh District the result was still in doubt. Judge Prouty's friends claimed the nomination by a majority of four votes. The other side declared that Captain J. A. T. Hull had defeated Prouty by a majority of 31 votes.

Senator Allison has been in the United States Senate since 1873 and he served four terms in the lower house before winning the toga. This gives him a record of forty-three years in Congress. Mr. Allison was born at Perry, Ohio, March 2, 1820.

## CURRENT COMMENT

The startling assertion that in the schools of 816 cities and towns of the United States conditions are ripe for a repetition of the Collierville, Ohio, fire disaster appears in a current issue of a fire insurance publication, the Insurance Press. A list of the danger spots is published, and it includes Chicago, New York, Cleveland, Detroit, Philadelphia, Boston and numerous other large cities, as well as smaller centers of population.

Fire statistics show that during the first quarter of 1908, fifty-eight fires occurred in educational institutions of the United States and Canada, resulting in death to many students, endangering the lives of thousands of others, and causing a property loss of about \$1,000,000. In many instances dormitories were burned, some while the students were asleep at night. Such dangerous blazes occurred in nineteen States and one territory. Public school fires caused damage in eighteen States. Panics among pupils and teachers invariably resulted. Safety was often found to be sought, not in the protection afforded by fireproof building material, iron escapes or other structural improvements, but in fire drills, which depended upon discipline that could be maintained only when danger was remote.

The statement is made that at 322 colleges and universities the question of the safety of the lives of students has scarcely been considered. By far the greater danger, however, is said to exist in the public schools of the country. Public school boards are said to appreciate their responsibility by providing fireproof materials in new buildings, but little or nothing is done to improve conditions in old school houses which were erected before the modern building era.

This is declared to be a matter worthy immediate and widespread action on the part of public officials. If theaters, churches, halls and other public gathering places are by law equipped with sprinkler systems, fire escapes and other safety devices, how important it is that school houses, where children spend as much as thirty hours a week, be protected. The Fort Wayne, Ind., hotel fire, which found helpless, sleeping victims in unprotected rooms, is the eighty-fifth blaze of its kind in the United States and Canada since the first of the year. Not all of these resulted in loss of life, but hotels, like schools, are shown to be in need of special protective apparatus.

### FROM FAR AND NEAR.

A federal grand jury has begun an investigation of alleged land frauds said to have been committed in Umatilla county, Oregon.

Lieut. Archibald Taggart, biggest policeman in New York, 6 feet 6 inches tall and 300 pounds in weight, has retired after twenty years to become a butcher.

Three men, John Sharpless, John Miles and a young Englishman, named Richmond, all of Nelson, B. C., were swept over the falls in Kootania river and drowned.

Owing to the extra bounty offered by stockmen in the Black Hills country, nearly 200 coyotes, a score of gray wolves and many other animals have been killed off during the past winter.

## WHICH OF THESE WOMEN WILL BE NEXT MISTRESS OF THE WHITE HOUSE?



### DEATH TAKES BULLER.

British General Who Lost Fine Military Reputation in Africa.

General Sir Redvers Henry Buller died in London after an illness of several weeks. He was born in 1839. Gen. Buller, for many years a famous soldier, was obliged to retire from the army with a discreditable record because of the successive defeats suffered during the Boer war. He was a veteran soldier and had won the Victoria cross for gallant deeds in India, Egypt, and other parts of the world where Great Britain had had fighting to do.

The action which finally led to his undoing was connected with the siege of Ladysmith in the autumn of 1899. Buller was commander in chief of the forces sent against the Boers and



GENERAL BULLER.

served through the first period of successive disasters, when his accounts usually began "I regret to report." Gen. Buller succeeded in relieving Ladysmith, which was invested for 118 days. He was succeeded in command by Gen. Lord Roberts. In 1882 Gen. Buller married Lady Audrey Jane Charlotte, a daughter of the marquis of Townsend.

### Mrs. Eddy's Latest Card.

In the current number of the Christian Science Sentinel of Boston, Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, head of the Christian Science church, notices the current rumors about her failing health with a formal statement to the public, saying that since she is watched "as one watches a criminal or a sick person, she begs to say in her own behalf that she is neither," and that to be criticized by a daily drive or a stay at home "is superfluous." It further recommends that when she does the latter the curious should be "resigned to the fact that she is minding her own business, and recommends this surprising privilege to all her dear friends and enemies." To her "beloved students" she gives assurance that she is "living, loving, acting, enjoying," and adds that the "Christian Scientist thrives on adversity," and concluding: "Justice, honesty, can not be abjured; their vitality involve life, calm, irresistible, eternal."

### State Rights in Court.

The extent to which the State courts shall give "due faith and credit" to the decisions of other State courts, as required by the constitution, is defined in a decision of the Supreme Court, 5 to 4, in the case of a cotton future deal at Vicksburg. The dealer was wiped out by a decline and the broker sued him for the sum due over margin deposited. In Mississippi the laws against stock gambling prevented a collection, but a judgment was got in Missouri. This, however, was not recognized by the Mississippi courts, but in this course the Supreme Court takes the opposite view, at least a majority of it holding that the Missouri judgment should be given full force in Mississippi.

### SENATOR JONES DEAD.

Noted Arkansas Politician Passes Away in Washington.

Former United States Senator James K. Jones of Arkansas died at his home in Washington at the age of sixty-nine. Heart failure was the immediate cause of death, which came within a day after the ex-Senator was stricken. At the time of his death Senator Jones was practicing law in partnership with his son, James K. Jones, Jr.

Senator Jones was born in Marshall County, Miss., Sept. 29, 1839, received a classical education, was a private soldier during the Civil War on the losing side, lived on his plantation after the close of the war until 1873, when he commenced the practice of law, and the same year was elected to the Senate of the State of Arkansas. The next step in the political ladder came in 1880, when he was elected in the Garfield-Hancock year as a Representative to Congress. It was not until Carlisle of Kentucky was elected Speaker that Jones came forth from obscurity and was made a member of the Ways and Means Committee of the House. In 1886 he was elected to the Senate and took his seat in 1887.

For eighteen years thereafter Senator Jones was a national character and a power in the councils of the Demo-



JAMES K. JONES.

cratic party. He became a member of the National Committee in 1886; was chairman of the Committee on Resolutions in the convention that nominated William J. Bryan; named as National Committeeman by his State, he became chairman and managed the campaign. Senator Jones was chairman of the Democratic National Committee in the 1900 campaign and gave way to Tom Taggart in the Parker campaign of 1904.

### INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS.

Gaston Faivre has been convicted in New York City of selling Easter chicks on the ground that the act was cruelty to animals.

## WHO'S TO RULE WHITE HOUSE?

Washington Society Speculates on the Next President's Wife.

### Washington correspondence:

While the presidential election is agitating the politicians and speculation is rife as to who will be the Republican and Democratic nominees for the Presidency and ultimate victor, society circles in Washington are far more interested in trying to guess who will be the first lady of the land after March 4th.

While admitting that Mrs. W. J. Bryan and Mrs. W. H. Taft have the best chances, society nevertheless discusses the possibility of the white house being presided over by Mrs. John A. Johnson, Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks or Mrs. Charles E. Hughes.

Mrs. Taft and Mrs. Fairbanks may be said to be equally well known in Washington society circles. Of Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Johnson little is known in the capital.

Mrs. Fairbanks may be said to be the most prominent of the possibilities. Mrs. Fairbanks was born in Marysville, Ohio, and lived there until she went to Delaware and to the Ohio Wesleyan University. Her maiden name was Cornelia Cole. She was a general leader among her friends and graduated in 1872 in the same class with her husband. In 1874 Mr. and Mrs. Fairbanks were married and went to live in Indianapolis, where they were soon identified with the life of the city.

In appearance Mrs. Fairbanks is unusually prepossessing, having that indefinable stamp of a gracious and refined woman.

Mrs. Taft, unlike Mrs. Fairbanks, has never been prominent in club affairs. She is a home-loving woman, her husband's club and confidant, and the idol of young Charlie Taft, the Quentin Roosevelt of the Taft family. Mrs. Taft was Helen Herron, of Cincinnati.

Mrs. Johnson, all who have met her declare, is a sweet, sympathetic woman, ever ready to lend a hand in the cause of charity. Her early experiences have taught Mrs. Johnson the uses of adversity and most of her time, when not helping her husband, is spent in aiding the poor of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Mrs. Johnson's maiden name was Ellinore Preston, and her home St. Peter, Minn.

Mrs. Bryan is never happier than when on the family farm near Lincoln, and boasts that she is a better farmer than most men. Nevertheless, Mrs. Bryan is an accomplished woman, widely read and possesses that indefinable art of impressing every one with her ability as a society leader, known as "savvy faire." Mrs. Bryan before her marriage was Miss Mary Elizabeth Baird, of Perry, Ill.

Mrs. Charles E. Hughes, wife of the governor of New York State, is a brilliant and accomplished woman, but has preferred to devote herself to home life rather than society. Mrs. Hughes numbers a great many New York society women among her friends. Mrs. Hughes was formerly Miss Antoinette Carter, of New York. Miss Helen Cannon is Speaker Joseph G. Cannon's younger daughter and would figure prominently in white house social affairs should Mr. Cannon win the presidency.