The Columbus Journal.

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The Week in The Legislature.

Senate.

S. F. 277, for the relief of R. F. Loomis of Furnas county, was recommended to pass in the senate on the 24th.

S. F. 159, to regulate commissions of stock sellers and to compel commission firms to execute bonds in the sum of $10,000 to protect shoppers, was placed on general file.

The judiciary committee recommended the indefinite postponement of S. F. 273, the Crow concurrent resolution relating to the pending sale of Union Pacific lands under foreclosure.

Senator Crow moved to amend by placing it on general file. In justification of his motion he spoke at some length, quoting from the United States supreme court decissions and government reports to sustain his position. He contended that the road was completed November 6, 1869, and not mortgaged until four years later. The act provided that all land not disposed of within three years after the completion of the road should revert to the government. The time of the completion of the road was the point at issue, opponents of the resolution holding that the road was not finally completed till 1872, when the bridge at Omaha was finished.

Senator Van Dusen said he favored the postponement of the resolutions, because the land granted mortgage was given in 1867 and the supreme court has held that to be a disposition of the land within the meaning of the act.

The senate refused the resolutions a place on the general file by a vote of 21 to 12, and the report of postponement was adopted.

A substitute for S. F. 187 was placed on general file. S. F. 91, 131 and 185 were recommended to pass.

H. R. 170, the bill providing for a State Board of Embalmers, whose duty it shall be to examine and issue certificates to embalmers, was placed upon its passage. The roll call showed only sixteen affirmative votes and seven opposing, whereupon Steele of Jefferson made a call of the house. Canaday of Kearney changed his vote from "nay" to "aye" and Farrell of Merrick voted "aye." The call was at once raised and the chair declared the bill duly passed.

The senate was called to order on the 27th by President Talbot at 11 o'clock.

S. F. 132, to fix the fees to be charged by county surveyors and also that all fees over $2,000 in Douglas county and $1,500 in Lancaster county be turned into the treasury, was passed.

S. F. 87, allowing mutual hail insurance companies to insure crops at all stages, whether growing or matured, against hail, was passed.

S. F. 37, a curative act, was passed.

S. F. 22, the bill to elect county commissioners by a vote of the entire county where the population exceeds 70,000, which was recommitted to correct some numerical errors, was again recommended to pass.

S. F. 39, the bill introduced by Gifferty of Cuming, enacting a new law to regulate the business and formation of insurance companies working on the "stipulated premium" plan, was the first bill considered, two being passed because the introducers were absent.

The bill defines the "stipulated premium" plan as follows:

Definition of Stipulated Premium company. Any corporation, company or association issuing policies or certificates promising money or other benefits to a member or policy holder, or upon his decease to his legal representatives or to beneficiaries designated by him which money or benefit is derived wholly from stipulated premiums collected in advance from its members or policy holders, and from interest and other accumulations and wherein the money or other benefits so realized is applied to or accumulated solely for the use and purpose of the corporation as herein specified, and for the necessary expenses of the corporation and the prosecution and enlargement of its business, and shall comply with all the provisions of this act, shall be deemed to be engaged in the business of life insurance upon the stipulated premium plan and shall be subject only to the provisions of this act. It shall be unlawful for any corporation, company or association not having complied with the provisions of this act to use the term stipulated premium in its application or contracts or to print or write the same in its policies or literature.

The supporters of the bill say it conforms to the New York law and is is similar to acts in other states. They say that: "This bill if passed will give Nebraska a law as good as that of New York, Ohio, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Iowa or that of any other state. It will insure the building up of strong insurance companies in this state, the reason why other states have built up large insurance companies, that bring a large amount of money for premiums for disbursement and investments in these states being that the legislatures enacted laws providing for the organization of good companies and for the protection of the investments and policy holders."

After amending the bill to their satisfaction and striking out section 12, relating to personal liability, it was recommended to passage. This discussion consumed the entire afternoon.

As soon as the roll call was completed in the senate on the 28th and the invocation given Van Dusen moved that the senate resolve itself into a committee of the whole, with Currie of Custer at the helm. His motion prevailed.

S. F. 136 was recommended to pass. It is Senator Crow's bill and may be of interest to owners of pet canines. It provides as follows:

"That dogs are hereby declared to be personal property for all intents and purposes and the owner or owners of any dog or dogs shall be liable for any and all damage that may accrue to any persons, firm, or corporation by reason of such dog or dogs killing, wounding, worrying or chasing any sheep or other domestic animals belonging to such person, firm or corporation and such damage be recovered from any court having jurisdiction of the amount claimed."

S. F. 135, by Holbrook, amending the mutual insurance laws of the state to include the following risks, "country school houses and contents, country churches and contents, country parsonages and contents, town halls and contents,'" was recommended to pass.

S. F. 61, by Fowler, to amend the law relating to receivers, was warmly discussed. Senator Fowler thought that receiverships under the present law only furnished men a fat job for an indefinite period, and that at the close of the receivership they had all the assets, while the banks' creditors held the sack. He was informed that a receiver to an Omaha bank was drawing $2,500 a year and he so managed the bank's affairs that his annual receipts were just sufficient to meet his salary and necessary expenses.

The receiver act as amended by this bill is as follows:

"Provided, however, that it shall be the duty of such receiver to make to the state banking board, consisting of the auditor of public accounts, the state treasurer and attorney general, detailed reports of the affairs of such bank at such times and in such manner as may be directed by said state banking board, and said receiver shall submit the affairs of such bank to the inspection of the state examiner when so required by the state banking board and if the said state banking board shall at any time find that said receiver is not winding up the affairs of such bank in a satisfactory manner and in their opinion it is for the interests of the creditors and stockholders of such bank that the receivership of such person shall terminate, it shall be the duty of said state banking board, or any two of them, to instruct the attorney general to file with the judge or court appointing such receiver a written request for the removal of such receiver and the termination of his receivership, and it shall be the duty of the judge or court which appointed him to at once and without unnecessary delay, remove such receiver and appoint in his place another person in the manner heretofore provided, unless it shall be made clearly to appear that the opinion of the banking board is unfounded."

The bill was recommended to pass.

March 1 was the forty-fourth day of the senate.

Senate file No. 251, Senator Canaday's anti-trust bill, was recommended for indefinite postponement by the committee on manufactures and commerce.

Senate file No. 120, by Senator Spohn, was read for the third time and put upon its passage. The purpose of the bill is to empower cities of the second class to purchase, own, improve, maintain and control lands for public parks and public grounds and to issue bonds, when voted by the electors, for the purchase and improvement of such parks and public grounds. The bill was passed by a unanimous vote.

Senate file No. 15, Senator Van Dusen's bill to protect primary elections and to punish offenses committed thereat, was read for the third time and put upon its passage. The bill provides that party primaries are to be held in the same form and manner as are regular state elections.

Notice of the holding of a primary must be given at least twenty days in advance. Only such persons may vote at any party primary as have at the last general election, registered their names in a book kept for that purpose at the polling place, as adherents of the party in question. No person not so registering and declaring himself shall be allowed to vote at any party primary.

Any person desiring to submit his name to any primary as a candidate for office or delegate to a convention must given ten days' notice thereof to the central committee. The provisions of the bill shall be compulsory only in counties having over 100,000 population. In other counties they may be adopted at the option of the party central committee.

The bill was passed by a vote of 22 yeas to 11 nays, a strict party vote, save that Senator Smith (fus., Antelope) voted with the republicans in the affirmative.

Senate file No. 133, extending the term of office of village trustees from one year to two years, was read for the third time and passed with the emergency clause, Senators Hale and Knepper alone voting in the negative.

Senate file No. 135, to allow mutual fire insurance companies to insure country school houses, churches, parsonages and town halls, was read for the third time and passed by a vote of 30 yeas to 2 nays.

Senate file No. 136, declaring dogs to be personal property and making owners thereof liable for damages done by them, was passed by a vote of 31 to 1.

Standing committees reported as follows:

Senate file No. 162, to prohibit the selling of beef and veal carcasses without exhibiting the hides to the purchaser to the general file.

Senate file No. 250, to amend the law relating to reports of state banks to the state banking board, to the general file.

Senate file No. 106, to amend the school laws, was indefinitely postponed.

In the senate on the 2nd S. F. 264, by Smith of Antelope, was indefinitely postponed on recommendation of the railroad committee. The bill sought to amend the laws relating to suits against railway corporations for alleged discriminations and unreasonable rates, and provided that when any suit is brought at law to recover unjust and unreasonable charges in any court of competent jurisdiction the burden of proof that the charges in controversy are just and reasonable shall rest upon the common carrier or carriers.

The same committee also reported S. F. 289 for indefinite postponement. This is the "anti-pass" bill introduced by President Gilbert with the consent of the senate. As will be remembered, it provides stringent laws against the giving or receiving of passes and goes so far as to prohibit railway corporations and newspapers from entering into contracts to exchange advertising for mielage, although the constitutionality of such a provision has been doubted.

Farrell of Merrick moved that the committee report be not concurred in, and the bill placed on general file for consideration in committee of the whole. His motion prevailed and the bill was placed on general file, eighteen senators having voted to sustain his motion and twelve against.

S. F. 18, by Talbot, was passed. This bill provides that

"Any number of persons not less than ten, a majority of whom shall reside in this state, may associate themselves together for the purpose of organizing a mutual bond company, and after securing 100 members, may form an incorporated company to insure the fidelity of its members holding places of trust and responsibility in, to or under any state, county, city, corporation, company, person or persons whatsoever, and may become security for its members for teh faithful performance of any trust, office, duty, contract or agreement, and may supersede any judgment or go upon any appeal or other bond, and may become such surety for its members in all cases where by law two or more sureties are required for the faithful performance of any trust or office. Such company shall embody the word 'mutual' in its name."

Other sections of the bill deal with the necessary provisions for guarding the formation of such associations.

A substitute for S. F. 191 was recommended to pass.

S. F. 189 was recommended to pass. It is Senator Reynolds' bill revising the present laws concerning the management of the public school lands, the most important addition to the present law being:

"If, after using due diligence to lease said land at an annual rental of 6 per cent upon the appraised valuation, the commissioner is unable to do so, he may offer the same for lease at less than the appraised valuation and lease it to the person or persons who will pay 6 per cent on the highest offered valuation, as annual rental, if, in his judgment, it is to the best interests of the state to accept such bid."

House.

The resolution stating that ex-Superintendent Gillespie of the deaf and dumb institute had been unfairly treated by the legislative committee and asking for the appointment of a committee to reinvestigate, came up in the house on the 24th, and Olmstead of Douglas moved the appointment of a committee to act with the one already appointed by the senate.

The motion prevailed and the chair appointed Olmstead of Douglas, Milbourn of Kearney and Watson of Pierce.

When standing committees reported Siecke's bill, H. R. 332, to compel the building of fishways in all dams obstructing running streams, it came in for indefinite postponement. This stirred up a long discussion, in which the rights were upheld, both of the millers to maintain dams and of the sportsmen to catch fish. The report of the committe was adopted.

H. R. 442, the Olmstead game law, was also indefinitely postponed.

H. R. 86, by Weaver, to compel assessors to report regarding residences and ages of old soldiers in their districts, with compiled reports by county clerks, was indefinitely postponed.

The next bill taken up was H. R. 310, by Jansen, a bill for an act to amend an act entitled "An act creating the Nebraska Territorial Board of Agriculture, approved October 14, 1858, and all subsequent acts supplemental or amendatory thereto; to provide for the establishment, government, maintenance and support of the state board of agriculture, prescribing its duties and powers, making appropriations for its support and the payment of its existing indebtedness; and to repeal the act creating the Nebraska territorial board of agriculture, approved October 14, 1858, all subsequent acts amendatory or supplemental thereto, or in conflict with this act and sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of article 1 chapter 2 compiled statutes, as heretofore existing.

The discussion on this bill lasted until 5 o'clock, when the committee arose without having finished the consideration of the bill.

The debate against H. R. 310 was led by Sturgess, who held that it was creating a private corporation under state authority and state expense. He also held that the feature in the bill providing for the gathering of statistics was useless and a usurpation of the powers of the labor bureau. The work could better be done by the state bureau. This led to an extended and at times acrimonious debate between Sturgess and Jansen. Sturgess was finally successful in getting this part of the bill stricken out.

Thompson of Merrick moved to strike the following section out of the bill:

Section 21. To pay off existing obligations of the Nebraska state board of agriculture for premiums unpaid, interest and other expenditures in connection with its work and duties for past three years, there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of $6,216.78, the same to be paid on a detailed, itemized statemennt of indebtedness, by the secretary of the board, presented the governor and by him approved.

Pending the consideration of this motion the committee arose.

The joint vote for senator showed the following result: Allen 58, Hayward 29, Thompson 13, Webster 16, Field 6, Weston 1, Lambertson 1, Adams 1, Hainer 1.

In the house on the 27th standing committees reported to the general file H. R. 431, 210, 510, 465, 404, 398, 403, 249, 348, 301 and senate file 66, 41 and 98.

The following house rolls were indefinitely postponed: 335, 227, 228, 286, 519, 479, 255, 52, 190, 480, 486 and 488.

Of the bills indefinitely postponed 335 was the Burns express bill; 227 was by Fisher, also taxing express companies; 228 was a new regulation for the insane hospital, being a duplicate of S. F. 66; 286 was by Dorby, amending the compulsory education law so as to allow the attendance of private schools; 519 was to define and establish legal holidays; 479 prohibited the employment of relatives of members of school boards as teachers; 255 related to changes of boundary lines of school districts; 52 was the Grosvenor bill for the free attendance at high schools, being a duplicate of S. F. 41, which was placed on file; 190 related to the manner of granting teachers' certificates; 480, 486 and 488 were to locate normal schools at O'Neill, Hastings and Holdrege.

The secretary of the governor appeared and announced that the governor had approved and signed H. R. 18, the bill to prevent the plowing up of public highways.

Mr. Ditmar of Otoe offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Be it resolved by this legislature, That the chief clerk of the supreme court of Nebraska is hereby ordered to make an accurate report of all receipts and expenditures of his office for the year ending January 1, 1899, and report same to this legislature within forty-eight hours after the passage of this resolution.

Pollard offered a substitute for the pending resolution, that the clerk of the supreme court be required to report the receipts of his office for the eight years ending January 1, 1899, and that the report be made to the committee on fees and salaries within forty-eight hours. The substitute was adopted.

H. R. 69, Eastman's initiative and referendum bill was indefinitely postponed.

H. R. 270, by Wilcox to amend the civil code so as to permit cities to appeal from judgments without giving bond, was recommend for passage.

S. F. 28, repealing sections 917, 918, 919, 921, 922, 923 and 924 of the statutes, relating to arrest in case of debt, was recommended for passage.

H. R. 20, by Mann of Saline, compelling the holders of real estate mortgages on property within the state to designate some agent resident of the state to whom payment may be made, was recommend for passage.

The joint ballot for senator resulted: Allen, 40; Hayward, 25; Thompson, 11; Webster, 9; Field 5; Weston, 1; Lambertson, 1; Adams, 1.

As soon as the house convened on the 28th there was an attempt to reconsider the action taken yesterday whereby the Burns express bill, H. R. 335, was indefinitely postponed. The motion failed to carry.

Standing committees were more liberal than usual this morning, all bills reported being for general file. The following were the numbers: H. R.'s 467, 538, 525, 466, 292, 438, 223, 455, 544, 54, 24, 411 and 8, F.'s 1 and 59.

Several senate bills were read on first and second reading, and the order of passage of bills was taken up.

H. R. 91, consolidated with 61, the Carton bill to provide for the manner of appointing judges and clerks of election, was passed by a vote of 68 to 8.

H. R. 53, the Zellers bill, was passed by a strictly partisan vote of 51 to 45. The provision of the new act is to do away with the blanket ballot and go back to substantially the same form as was in use prior to 1897. This prevented a name from appearing in the ballot more than once and fusionists referred to the bill as "an act to prevent fusion."

H. R. 65, Burman's bill defining and regulating pawnbrokers and imposing a license tax, was passed by a vote of 81 to 9.

H. R. 106, Clark's bill defining and determining the effect of conditions in fire insurance policies, making void the contract of insurance in case of change in the title, ownership, interest or possession of the insured in the property which is the subject of insurance, or liens created thereon, and likewise conditions providing for a forfeiture of the contract of insurance in case notice of contract is not furnished within a time certain, or in a prescribed manner, was passed by a vote of 87 to 0.

H. R. 152, the bill by Sandall to compel railroads to maintain fences, was passed.

H. R. 136, the bill for the relief of certain residents of Pawnee county who purchased tracts of the David Butler land from the state and afterward had to pay back taxes, was passed.

H. R. 184, Olmsted's bill to prevent corruption at elections, limiting the expenditures of candidates and compelling them to file statements of expenses, was passed.

S. F. 46, the Alexander amendment to the game law, was passed by a vote of 67 to 21.

H. R. 68, by Beverly, to regulate the employment of children in factories, manufacturing and mercantile establishments, was passed by a vote of 84 to 0.

H. R. 204, by Jensen, requiring carcasses of swine dead from cholera to be buried or burned within twenty four hours after death, was passed by a vote of 73 to 0.

S. F. 28, to repeal sections 917 to 924 of the civil code, was passed by a vote of 73 to 2. The sections repealed relate to arrest for debt.

S. F. 8, by Farrell, to require school boards to keep in repair suitable water closets in connection with all public buildings, was passed by a vote of 77 to 0.

H. R. 163, by Lemar, was passed. It provides that banks shall pay an incorporation fee to the state graded according to the capital stock.

The joint vote for senator resulted as follows: Allen, 55; Hayward, 38; Thompson, 13; Webster, 9; Field, 5; Lambertson, 1; Adams, 1; Weston, 1; Hainer, 1.

In the house March 1 petitions asking for the passage of the Jansen pure food commission bill from Knox, Burt and Thayer counties were read.

The following was introduced by Chambers and adopted:

"Whereas, It has come to the knowledge of this house that there are a number of bills for hair brushes, combs, blacking brushes, shoe blacking, mirrors, etc., and as these and similar goods have been procured by order of employes of this house; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this house notify all employes and clerks that this house does not furnish goods for private use, and to notify the committee to reject all bills of this nature."

A communication from the governor was received transmitting a number of letters relative to the White Cross society's work at Manila, and a resolution by Prince was introduced, providing that $250 be appropriated and transmitted to the president of that society, who is on the eve of sailing for the Philippines. After discussion the whole matter was referred to a committee to be presented to the governor for his consideration, as it will require a special message from him before an appropriation can be made.

The following were read the third time and placed on their final passage:

House roll No. 271, the barber's examiners' bill, was passed without the emergency clause.

House roll No. 196, to allow growers of grapes to sell wine of their own manufacture in small quantities without license, failed to pass.

House roll No. 111, relating to contracts by school boards for supplies and permitting members of the board to bid on contracts for school supplies was passed.

House roll No. 363 and senate file 41, school bills recommended by the state association, were called up, and a motion to make the consideration of them by the committee of the whole a special order was defeated.

When the house was called to order at 2:30 by Speaker Clark it resolved itself into committee of the whole for the consideration of house roll No. 171, the Weaver insurance bill, Harkson in the chair.

Before the consideration of the bill was completed the committee arose and asked leave to sit again. The report was adopted.

The governor's private secretary delivered the following special message from the governor which was read by the clerk:

To the Honorable Members of the House of Representatives.—Gentlemen: I would most respectfully call your attention to the propriety of making some provision for the welfare and comfort of the brave boys in the First and Third Nebraska volunteer regiments, now stationed at Manila and Cuba respectively. As the rainy season is fast approaching in these latitudes and the possibility of our soldiers being afflicted more or less with diseases prevalent in these climates, and the further fact that many soldiers have been wounded in recent battles, and still more may be killed and injured in skirmishes and battles which will take place in the future, the White Cross society of the United States is intending to establish a permanent hospital in Manila as soon as possible for the purpose of providing better accommodations for the sick and wounded. Other states having volunteers in the service have made provisions for the special care of their sick and wounded by appropriating adequate sums for the purchase of hospital supplies and delicacies so essential to the welfare and comfort of the boys in that far-off country.

It seems to me that it would be entirely proper for the legislature to remember our gallant soldiers at this time by an appropriation which could be used in case of need for such purpose, as well as to care for and return home the bodies of deceased soldiers.

The vote for senator today resulted: First ballot: Hayward 39, Thompson 16, Field 5, Webster 8, Hainer 1, Lambertson 1, Adams 1, Talbot 1, Reese 1. Second ballot: Hayward 37, Thompson 16, Field 5, Webster 9, Hainer 1, Lambertson 1, Adams 1, Talbot 1, Reese 1.

In the house on the 3d the following bills were placed on general file:

H. R. 532 is the Beverly bill to prohibit the manufacture of harness and cooperage in the state penitentiary.

H. R. 482, by Hibbert, is a bill to define and regulate bucket shops.

H. R. 509 is Ditmar's bill asking for $5,000 for the relief of Nebraska City on account of the smallpox quarantine.

H. R. 326 is by Sturgess relating to fees received by clerks of the district court and the payment of the same into the county treasuries.

H. R. 506, by Detweiler, provides for the foreclosure and sale of a portion of the property to discharge the debt and a deliverery of the residue to the defendant.

H. R. 497, by Detweiler, makes it a misdemeanor for a person or corporation receiving money to demand of the payer the expense of the revenue stamp for the receipt.

H. R. 279, by Prince, provides that inmates of soldiers' homes shall not be obliged to surrender their pensions.

H. R. 498, by Tucker, regulates the business of commission merchants at public markets.

Easterling moved that the action of the house which yesterday indefinitely postponed H. R. 34 be reconsidered and the bill be placed on general file. The motion prevailed. The one section in the bill is as follows:

"Section 1. That a railroad company receiving for shipment goods, chattels or merchandise consigned to a point on the line of a connecting carrier under an agreement to transport them to the terminus of its own road and to deliver them to connecting carrier named in the bill of lading, or contract of shipment, is answerable therefor for their safe delivery to the place of their destination, notwithstanding any contract, stipulation or agreement to the contract made between the original consignee and consignor."

H. R. 7 was passed by a vote of 70 to 11. The bill is by Evans to provide for the submitting to the electors of the state in the year 1900 the question of holding a constitutional convention.

The house went into committee of the whole with Smithberger in the chair. H. R. 54, the Zellers voting machine bill, was first taken up. This bill had been considered once before and recommended for amendment. When taken up today the objection was urged that the bill would compel the counties to purchase some special make of machine, and a motion to indefinitely postpone the bill carried by a large majority.

In committee of the whole H. R. 191, the Weaver insurance commission bill, was taken up. There was little discussion on the provisions of the bill until the taxation feature was reached. The original bill provided a 4 per cent tax against foreign companies doing business in the state. The committee reduced this to 3½ per cent. When this was reached today Weaver moved that the rate be fixed at 3 per cent. An amendment by Grosvenor making it 2½ per cent was defeated and the Weaver amendment was adopted.

The bill as adopted provides a 2 per cent discriminating tax against insurance companies of states other than Nebraska, and 3 per cent against companies from foreign countries. It was this latter tax that caused the debate.

The vote for senator was without result, standing as follows: Hayward 40, Thompson 13, Webster 10, Field 6, Adams 1, Lambertson 1, Hainer 1.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

The senate committee has ordered a favorable report on Senator Allen's bill providing for a public building at York, Neb.

The railroad committee of the senate had a meeting to consider the "anti-pass" bill introduced by President Gilbert. He appeared before the committee and made a long argument in favor of his bill, arguing along the moral lines of the demoralization of public officials by the distribution of passes. The committee adjourned to meet again.

The clerk of the supreme court has filed the following report, in accordance with the Ditmar-Pollard resolution:

To the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Fees and Salaries, House of Representatives: Gentlemen—In compliance with the resolution adopted by the house of representatives on February 27, 1899, I beg leave to submit the following report:

The total amount of fees received by me from July 14, 1890, to January 1, 1899, was $53,864.50.

I have expended of the above amount for clerk hire and assistance in my office $17,155.30.

Net receipts for period named in resolution, about nine years, $36,709.20.

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. CAMPBELL,
Clerk of Supreme Court.

At a meeting of the committee on public lands and buildings the condition of the capitol building occupied a considerable amount of the committee's attention. The committee realized that the building is in a terrible condition and repairs must be made at once. Just how much they thought could be spared for that purpose was discussed at length. The roof had corroded and rotted until the water poured into the upper rooms at every downpour and played havoc generally. The outer walls were badly in need of repainting. The board of public lands and buildings had estimated that to thoroughly repair the building and grounds would entail an expenditure of $85,000 It was the belief of the committees that whatever was done should be done with a view to permanency and that only the absolutely necessary repairs should be provided for by this session. It was agreed that a new roof on the capitol should merit first attention. Whether another tin roof should be put on or a copper roof, which is much more expensive, will be decided upon at the next meeting. Senator Barton and Representatives Smithberger and Hall were appointed to secure estimates as to cost. The general appropriation bill only carries $10,000 for repairs on the capitol.

A healthy hunger for a great idea is the beauty and blessedness of life.—Jean Ingelow

THREE THOUSAND IDLE

All Public Improvements at Santiago Stopped.

OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN WORRIED

Havana Instructions to Governor Wood Are Condemned — New Policy May Create Bandits Among Employes — Other Matters at the National Capital.

SANTIAGO, Cuba, March 4.—Between 2,000 and 3,000 men have been suddenly thrown out of work in the province of Santiago, over 700 being in the immediate neighborhood of this city. Although Governor General Brooke has wired $30,000 required for the February pay roll, there is still a deficit of nearly $20,000, and the orders from Havana still hold good, limiting the expenditure during the month of March for the entire province to $10,000.

The effect of this order on Civil Governor Castillo, Mayor Bacaradi and other Cubans prominent in official circles is simply paralyzing. Mayor Bacaradi has cabled the governor general, desiring to know what he is expected to do with such a large number of men suddenly thrown out of work.

"Though we are perfectly friendly to the Americans," he said in the dispatch, "the present policy seems suicidal, for public improvements are greatly needed and the men also are greatly in need of work."

Civil Governor Castillo wonders what will happen. He cannot see that the men suddenly thrown out have any alternative to becoming bandits, and he regrets exceedingly the damaging blow the province has received. Owing to his position, he may not comment upon the orders of his superiors, but he considers the prospects very gloomy.

Major General Leonard Wood refuses to make any further statement than that he will obey orders. Nearly $20,000 is still due for February, for which he will be personally answerable, but under the present orders he cannot continue men at work. Outwardly he is one of the calmest men today in Santiago, but as a matter of fact he is greatly worried.

Groups of men on street corners, in clubs, cafes, etc., openly abuse the American administration, saying that the Spanish was infinitely preferable, as in the worst times considerably more men were engaged on public works under the old regime than are now so employed. Probably the full effects of the new policy will not be visible before Monday, as the men will receive their pay tomorrow, and, although General Wood does not expect disturbances, Cubans who affect to be cognizant with the whole situation say it will be quite impossible to avoid an outbreak of some sort.

In spite of all the antagonism displayed against the American authorities at Havana, General Wood remains popular among Cubans of all classes, who declare the Havana instructions an "outrage upon his administration."

In the speeches made at the San Carlos club today the sentiment was that the new orders ought to be attributed to envy of General Wood's successful methods in this department, and so far as the province of Santiago is concerned, the Cubans say that if a vote were taken tomorrow they would elect him for the highest position in the island, in preference to any Cuban.

The new regulations have brought to a standstill all the improvements including the dredging of the harbor, roadmaking and sewerage. Probably mass meetings will be held on Monday to protest and inflammatory speeches are likely to be made, in spite of the orders prohibiting any criticism at public meetings of any acts of the military authorities.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—General Brooke has not yet communicated to the war department any complaint on the part of the people of Santiago respecting the sufficiency of the allotment of funds for the conduct of public works in the city and province. It is said that this is simply the same old complaint on the part of the Santiago people, without a single new feature. They have from the first bitterly resented any diversion of the money received at Santiago for the support of the island generally.

It is said at the war department that this policy cannot be permitted to prevail, as the immediate result would be the division of Cuba into a number of independent provinces, none of them willing to pay anything for the support of the general government, and that the plan would work in Cuba precisely as if New York and San Francisco should retain for the public works of those two cities the enormous amount of import taxes collected there. General Brooke was charged by the department to arrange a schedule which would provide for an equitable distribution of the receipts in Cuba, and the department is bound to believe that he has complied exactly with his instructions as to Santiago. This subject, among others, will be looked into by the insular examiners recently appointed.

Speaker Farr is Dethroned.

HARRISBURG, March 4.—A wrangle occurred in the house today and as a result of Speaker Farr declaring the house adjourned those remaining elected Bliss of Delaware county, an anti-Quay republican, speaker. The "rump" house then took a recess to the hour for the joint session.

Americans Not Seeking Franchises.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Contrary to the general expectation that American capital would seek early investment in the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico following the American occupation, is the fact, as stated by officials of the war department, that so far very few applications have been filed for grants, franchises or concessions for the construction of public works of various kinds. Probably more than a dozen requests for privileges of this character in Cuba have been made and less than that number in Porto Rico.

Cannot Buy Chile's Ships

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4.—Regarding reports from Chile that the government of that country was about to sell the United States and Ecuador a number of warships in pursuance of a policy of retrenchment, officials point out that except under special authorization such as was conveyed in the national defense act, the president has no power to buy any ships.

Now that a state of peace prevails so far as Spain is concerned there would be no warrant for the expenditure of another dollar for foreign vessels.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Interesting Review in the Forthcoming Report.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—There will be two unique departures in the forthcoming annual report of the civil service commission, which will be presented to the president shortly after the adjournment of congress. These will be a completed history of civil service from the beginning of this government and a full discussion of the methods of governing all the colonies of the world. Summing up the civil service history the commission makes the deduction that the civil service law was enacted for the purpose of carrying the government back to what is termed the wise period of the founders of the republic, when merit and not political partisan service was the basis of consideration in the matter of appointments and retention in office in the government service.

Reviewing the administration of the colonial affairs in the world, the commission in its report will state that universal experience shows that where the colonial government is affected by political changes at home their governments are unstable and extravagant and that in such colonies occur most of the revolts that figure in history, producing the high costs of military rule. The commission's report does not specifically recommend an extension of civil service over our recent acquisitions, but the application of these conclusions in the consideration of our insular affairs is left for deduction therefrom.

The report reviews the application of the civil service law since the last report and cites all the cases of violations, with pointed and vigorous conclusions based on these, and there are a number of recommendations made in the remainder of the report, including several renewed from last year.

Report on Trade in China

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Consul General Mason at Berlin has sent to the state department a copy of the report of the commission sent out in 1895 by the Lyons bureau of commerce to study conditions in China, which report, he says, should prove of real value to Americans who contemplate investing or settling in that country. The commission started from Tonkin, traveled extensively in unexplored portions of southern China, descended the Yang-tse-Kiang river almost from source to outlet and skirted the coast from Hong Kong as far north as Pekin. The different members of the party traveled in all over 12,000 miles in Chinese territory. The report calls attention to the fact that, according to the returns of Chinese customs authorities, the trade between China and Hong Kong is given as British, whereas in reality Hong Kong is distinctively a port of transit and that an important part of the foreign and coast trade of China passes through that port and is incorrectly designated as British and that the import trade from the United States alone is estimated at $39,300,000. The German trade has increased 70 per cent in the last four years.

Fifteen Hundred to Three.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The following dispatch has been received by Secretary of War Alger from General Otis in answer to Secretary Alger's dispatch of yesterday respecting the number of American prisoners held by the insurgents.

MANILA, March 3.—Secretary of War, Washington: Insurgents have not taken nor do they hold a single prisoner of war. They have three soldiers in Malolos picked up in January who without permission went among them near Cavite and Caloocan. I am looking after them and providing money. Have captured over 1,500 insurgent soldiers since February 24 and hold the majority as prisoners of war. Detrimental reports which reach the United States are manufactured mostly in Hong Kong. Troops here in splendid condition. OTIS.

A History of Cavite.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4.—Through the courtesy of a Spanish resident at Manila the navy department has secured a concise history of the navy yard and arsenal at Cavite. It appears this was started in 1799 by the Spanish admiral, M. de Alva, the materials being provided from San Blas, Cal. The arsenal developed greatly during the command of General Enrile in 1834, when a large frigate, the St. Esperaza, was launched there. A great part of the buildings was destroyed by earthquakes in 1828 and 1865. The arsenal and navy yard cover 71.61 square miles, and, it is represented, the yard can be made one of the best naval stations in the far east.

President at the Capitol.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4.—President McKinley will go to the capitol at 10 o'clock today and remain there during the closing hours of congress. This has been a customary practice with many presidents at the close of the short session, when the passage of important bills is delayed frequently until almost the constitutional expiration of the congress. The executive is thus put in easy communication with the legislators, with whom he can consult respecting the merits of such measures as might at first seem objectionable.

New Election by Spain.

MADRID, March 4.—The cortes will be dissolved, the election taking place toward the end of April and the new chamber of deputies meeting in May. Count de Rascon, Spanish ambassador to Great Britain, and Leon y Castillo, ambassador to France, have tendered their resignations. The prefects and secretaries of state have also resigned.

The Treaty Reported Favorably.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The senate committee on foreign relations agreed to report favorably a treaty between the United States and Great Britain sent to the senate yesterday by the president. The treaty regulates the descent of property of citizens of this country who die in Great Britain and of British subjects who die in the United States. It provides that property in such cases shall be disposed of as if the person deceased should die in his own country and gives administrators, executors, etc., three years in which to settle estates.

Receive the Nations' Gratitude.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 4.—The president sent to the senate the nomination of Rear Admiral George Dewey to be admiral of the navy under the act approved March 2, 1899, and Brigadier General Elwell S. Otis, U. S. A., to be major general by brevet, to rank from February 4, 1899, for military skill and most distinguished services in the Philippine islands.

The senate later confirmed both appointments.

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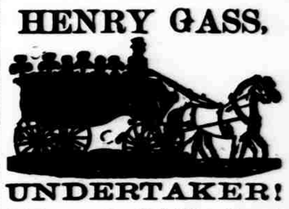

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