

BILLS AGAIN PASSED

Senate Adopts Conference Report on Porto Rico Measure.

STEWART VOTES WITH MAJORITY

Tillman Occupies Most of the Time, but is Called Down by Some Other Senators—Tariff and Beet Sugar, and Other Matters Touched Upon in Discussion.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The senate today adopted the conference report on the Porto Rico relief bill by a vote of 35 to 15, practically a strict party expression. No democrat voted for the measure, but the Nevada voted with the republicans.

The time of discussion was consumed principally by Tillman, who made a forceful attack upon the measure as agreed upon in conference, and secured the republican senators and republican party of indifference, by poverty and "dirty work."

Gallinger followed with a temperate statement of the measure, which he took occasion to make in favor of the report, but the passage of a Porto Rico tariff bill.

Spencer closed the debate with a forceful statement in opposition to Tillman's speech, in the course of which he took occasion to make a criticism of the South Carolina senator for dragging the measure into politics. His colloquialisms with Tillman were immensely enjoyed by the audience.

Tillman sharply criticized the method adopted by the United States of extending hands full of food to the people of Porto Rico as a gratuity.

"As long as you continue to feed these people down there," declared Tillman, "you may feed them. So long as the freedmen's bureau can maintain in the south the colored race there amounted to nothing. That's a race characteristic. This government will set itself up as an elementary institution by the measure of this bill and I do not believe we would stand on any such ground."

Perkins of California inquired if Tillman was in favor of free trade with the Philippines, knowing that those islands had the advantage of iron and Malay labor.

Tillman—if we are to continue to hold the Philippines I'm in favor of free trade with those islands. Those who voted to bring into the colored race there amounted to nothing. That's a race characteristic. This government will set itself up as an elementary institution by the measure of this bill and I do not believe we would stand on any such ground."

STEVEN ISSUES A PROCLAMATION.

Warrenburgs Will Lay Down Their Arms to Help the English.

BOER CAMP, Kroonstad, Thursday, March 24.—The Boers are being put in proper shape and the Free States who had to leave are returning in crowds. The president's proclamation has shown the burghers that the government is standing firm.

The commands are mobilizing in great numbers and the men are more determined than ever. President Steyn has issued a proclamation in which he warns the burghers who lay down their arms and help the English that they are liable to the utmost punishment as traitors.

LONDON, March 24.—The war office has issued this bulletin: "CAPE TOWN, March 23.—The following telegram has arrived from Nicholson, Bulawayo, March 16: 'The following is from the Boers: 'LOBATSI, March 14.—The Boers advanced from the south in considerable force this morning. They first advanced from Goring's Siding. After a sharp fight, the English were driven back. The Boers advanced post was compelled to retreat. The retreat was excellently carried out as to our main position. The Boers included Lieutenant Chapman and a corporal, prisoners, and two missing, probably prisoners. Five troopers were wounded. Chapman's horse fell with him close to the line. The exact Boer casualties are unknown, but several were shot at close range. In the afternoon the Boers advanced further north and shelled our position from ridges on our left. Our twelve and one-half pounder replied, the artillery duel continuing until sunset. Lieutenant Tyler has since killed one of the Boers. One native was killed."

Colonel Plummer apparently has retired to Crocodile pools, and Mafeking seems further off than ever from rescue. This news was contained in a dispatch from Bulawayo, dated March 19, and published in the Times. These articles add that the base hospital has been brought back to Galesburg, though the correspondent further says it is thought the object of the Boer demonstration on March 15 and 16 was removal of the siege guns from Mafeking.

COURT GUARDED BY MILITIA. Preliminary Examination of Secretary of State Cables Powers Begins.

FRANKFORT, Ky., March 24.—The preliminary examination of Secretary of State Cables Powers, charged with the assassination of William McKinley, began today before Judge Moore. The court house was guarded inside and out by militia and scores of deputy sheriffs armed with Winchester rifles to prevent any interference from "mountaineers" who were reported on their way to Frankfort, but their presence was unnecessary, as the mountaineers failed to appear and no disorder occurred.

The witnesses today included Warden Eph Lillard, Detective Doc Armstrong, Sheriff Bosworth of Fayette county, who arrested Secretary Powers and Captain John Davis and Silas Jones, who is now under bonds, charged with complicity in the murder. The testimony tended to show that the shots came from that section of the executive building in which Secretary Powers' office is located, although no one swore that the shots were from the secretary's office.

BRYAN'S NEW YORK FRIENDS MEET. Lincoln Platform Adopted by Executive Committee at Albany.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 24.—The executive committee of the "Chicago platform" democrats at the state here today. After adopting the platform as adopted in Nebraska last week it was resolved that the rank and file of the democracy of the state of New York should be invited to the delegates selected to attend the state and national conventions be men who are known and above suspicion and loyal to the platform and ticket of 1896, and the rank and file of the democracy to vote for the reaffirmation of the Chicago platform and for the renomination of W. J. Bryan of Nebraska as the Empire state's choice for president.

HARRIS IS NOT GUILTY

The Newspaper Man Who Shot John Blenkinson Goes Free.

THE JURY OUT BUT A SHORT TIME

Both Sides Allowed Three and One-half Hours in Which to Present Their Cases—How the Verdict Resulted Finally Was Discussed—Miscellaneous Nebraska Matters.

HARTINGTON, Neb., March 22.—"Not guilty" was the verdict in the case of Editor Harris, who shot John Blenkinson, brought in by the jury after two hours of deliberation. The testimony in the murder trial was all in at 10:30 in the morning and the state represented by J. C. Robinson, who is now in the county jail, was followed by Judge Weed, county attorney, who made a short address. Millard opened the argument for the defense. His argument was both logical and eloquent. They followed Jay with the closing argument for the defense. He spoke for fully two hours, during all of which time there was testimony from the jury in the packed court room. Argue of Stout City closed the argument in behalf of the state in a masterful effort, which showed his great ability as a criminal lawyer.

At 7 o'clock the judge delivered his instructions to the jury and they at once retired to the jury room. The quarrel between Harris and John Blenkinson, a wealthy stockman, in which the latter was killed, grew out of a dispute over an article about the dead man, which appeared in Harris' paper. Blenkinson came to Harris' office and made threats, and according to the newspaper man's story, which was evidently believed by the jury, the editor did not pull his revolver until he saw his antagonist reach for his hip pocket.

Trace of Stolen Cattle. ALBION, Neb., March 22.—In March, 1899, forty-one head of cattle were stolen from the ranches of S. W. Albritton in Boone county. At the time the case was pending in the court at Albion, the cattle were found in the hands of Preston Todd and Frank Clark of Cedar Rapids. Clark had been an employee on one of the ranches. There was no evidence connecting him with the theft, and all trace of the cattle seemed lost. Last week the state authorities received information in regard to the appearance of the stolen cattle. The information seemed reliable and an investigation proved that the guilty parties had been located. The cattle had been driven to Columbus from the Albritton ranches, to the farm of E. L. Williams, an old resident. Clark was arrested at Bloomfield, waived preliminary examination and was bound over to the district court. Robert Todd was arrested in Albia, Kan., waived preliminary hearing and was bound over to the district court. Robert Todd gave bond and was released.

Nebraska in Washington. WASHINGTON, March 22.—The controller of the treasury today approved application for authority to organize national banks as follows in Nebraska: E. L. Williams, a resident of the Albia National bank of Albia, capital \$25,000; A. P. Culley and others for the Howard County National bank of St. Paul, with a capital of \$25,000.

House committee on pensions has reported favorably the bill to pension Mary L. Stoenburg, widow of the late Colonel John M. Stoenburg, and of the first Nebraska volunteer infantry, at the rate of \$40 per month.

State Funds in Omaha National Bank. LINCOLN, Neb., March 22.—The case of the state against the Omaha National bank, to recover \$122,000 of state money lost in that institution, was up again in the supreme court on a motion filed by the attorney general for a mandate directing the district court of Douglas county to give it another hearing. The former decision in the supreme court was reversed in the supreme court and the case was remanded for further proceedings.

A motion filed by the defendant for a verdict based on the original trial was sustained and the attorney general contended that this was contrary to the instructions of the supreme court. The court decided to give the attorneys for the bank one week in which to make a showing. The case will then come before the court at the sitting beginning April 2.

State Gate Judgment. LINCOLN, Neb., March 22.—The attorney general received from St. Louis news that the case of the State against McDonald, receiver of the Capital National bank of Lincoln, has been decided in favor of the state. The suit was for \$236,000 of state funds deposited in the bank at the time of its failure. It was appealed to the circuit court, and the case there argued and submitted last January.

PREPARING FOR ARBOR DAY

State Superintendent Jackson Issues Address to Pupils of Public Schools.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 21.—The distribution of the Bird and Arbor Day Manual, published by the state for use in the public schools, has begun under the direction of Deputy State Superintendent Beck. The manual contains an Arbor day proclamation by Governor Poynter, an address to Nebraska teachers and pupils by State Superintendent Jackson, a short article on the economic effects of Arbor day by J. Sterling Morton and a collection of poems, songs and essays on subjects related to the planting and culture of trees.

Following is the proclamation issued by Governor Poynter designating April 23 as Arbor day: "We are all interested in the advancement of the state. Our state anything that will add to its desirability as a home, that will enhance its beauty or that will bring to it more good citizens should receive our aid and encouragement. Nothing in which our people have engaged has done more in all these directions than the planting of trees. Nebraska is known as the Tree Planting state. The land is fertile and the climate is such that the thousands of groves, orchards and shade trees which now adorn our prairies and beautify our homes. 'Legislative enactment is not enough. It is the planting of trees by the people that counts. In compliance with this provision, by the authority vested in me as governor of Nebraska, I proclaim Monday, April 23, 1900, Arbor day."

In his address to teachers and pupils the superintendent speaks of the wanton destruction of birds and urges the organization of Audubon societies. The appearance of sweet smelling and beautiful colored flowers, together with the joyful notes of our feathered friends, as they come up from the sunny southland, remind us once again that spring is here. At this season of the year all nature seems to take on new life and joy and gladness reign supreme.

We are happy to greet you as we approach the dawn of a new century and hope that the thoughts and emotions created by a careful consideration of the possibilities that open before you would lead to nobler thoughts and grander deeds. The object of this book is to place before you thoughts that will tend to give you higher ideals. I am sure that the book will be a source of great satisfaction to the pleasure which their presence and cultivation bring, you will forever be the friends and protectors of these graceful gifts of an All-wise Father. The wanton destruction of birds has reached such a point that our lawmakers have felt the necessity of enacting laws for their protection. It would be a source of great satisfaction, however, to know and feel that the boys of the great state of Nebraska refrain from killing birds and other harmless creatures from a higher motive than the fulfillment of a statutory law. I should be pleased to learn of societies formed all over the state for the protection of birds.

Nebraska at Washington. WASHINGTON, March 22.—Bids for the erection of an extension to the new postoffice building at Omaha were put on the market March 14 and the bids were opened April 24. The specifications call for granite of similar color and durability as that which enters into the construction of the present building. The Colorado company getting the contract for the stone for the new building.

The title of the First National bank of Bloomington, Neb., has been secured by the state of Nebraska. The bank is a member of the Federal Reserve bank of the same place. Congressman Burkett has introduced a bill for the improvement of the Missouri river at Nebraska City and is circulating \$50,000 for reclamation purposes.

Nebraska Soldier Buried. OSCEOLA, Neb., March 24.—William Lewis of company E, First Nebraska, was buried in the Osceola cemetery. The body had been buried twice, first on the brow of a hill overlooking a little river near Camp Dewey, just outside of Manila, P. I. Rev. James Malley, who was the chaplain, officiated at the funeral.

Infant Thrown in a Well. HUMBOLDT, Neb., March 21.—While drawing water from his well Preston Keiser drew up the body of a newly born child, which had been thrown into the well only a short time before. He at once notified the proper officials and Coroner Waggoner arrived and began arrangements for an inquest over the remains. The child was fully developed and had evidently been alive when born and cast in the well while breathing.

Prisoners Strive for Liberty. PLATTSBURGH, Neb., March 24.—When Deputy Sheriff J. D. McBride went into the jail with breakfast for the prisoners he discovered that during the night sometime they had commenced operations to gain their liberty. The prisoners were George S. Lee, who stole money and tickets from the Burlington company at Louisville while night operator, and the three men who burned a boxcar for the Missouri Pacific, all having been sentenced to terms of years in the penitentiary by Judge Paul Jensen.

THE HORLOCKER TRIAL

Attorney's Ask for Continuance on Account of Mother's Illness.

THE APPLICATION WAS DENIED

All Technical Objections Fall and the Prisoner Pleads Not Guilty—The Matter of Securing a Jury—Charges to Which the Accused Has to Answer.

HASTINGS, Neb., March 21.—The case of Miss Viola Horlocker, charged with attempting to kill Mrs. Charles F. Morey by poison, was called for trial in the district court. Miss Viola Horlocker entered the court room accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Durrant Cheever of New York. Immediately John M. Ragan of the defense arose and presented his application for continuance of the trial on the ground that the mother of the accused was seriously ill in New York City. After the overruling of the affidavit the attorney for the defense arose and asked leave of the court to withdraw the plea of not guilty given at the last term, which was denied by the court. Mr. Stevens immediately presented a motion to the court to quash the information. Mr. Ragan argued the motion for some length attacking the information for the reason that the defendant did not allege that the poison was a deadly poison and for the further reason that the defendant should be indicted by a grand jury and not by a judge. The attorneys for the defense were equal to the emergency and forthwith presented a motion challenging the array of three counts, and moved to quash the indictment.

The first contention was that the county board selected two lists of names of jurymen, the first list containing sixty-one names while the second list contained only thirty names. The second list, the second list being named without the board reconsidering its former action. Second, the January term was adjourned sine die and the February meeting was called or a special meeting. The present jury being drawn from the last list was hence not secured according to law, and third, the names of the jurors were not properly apportioned among the voting precincts according to law. The court overruled the challenge to the array and apparently all technical objections are exhausted.

Miss Horlocker was then formally arraigned and the county attorney read the information to which she pleaded not guilty. The jury was sworn and the case was set for trial on the 28th inst. April 10, 1899, a box of poisoned "bombs" were left at the studio door of Mrs. Charles F. Morey, who was at that time conducting a painting class, all the members of which partook of the drugged candy that was left at the door. Soon after they became seriously ill, and the life of Mrs. Morey and her two children was despaired of for some time. In the class were some of the most popular young ladies of this city.

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RELIEF IS NEEDED BACK

While Making Sufferers, Burghers Hold British in Check.

LONDON, March 23.—Again there is a persistent rumor that Mafeking has been relieved. It is even asserted that the war office has received a dispatch announcing the relief, but that publication is withheld because the form of the message admits the possibility of a mistake.

The war office, however, declares that there is no confirmation of the rumor, and no further news is on hand. It seems certain that Mafeking's only chance for relief are by the column supposed to be advancing from the south or the possibility that Colonel Baden-Powell is still strong enough to attempt a sortie with a view of capturing the Boer guns at a time when Commandant Symon has withdrawn his men to oppose Colonel Plumer.

It is reported from Lourenço Marques that Pretoria is prepared to stand a siege of two years and that the Boer army, are entreating to be allowed to shoot the British officers imprisoned at Pretoria.

It is also announced from the Transvaal capital that the Italian government has declined to intervene. A dispatch to the Times from Kimberley, dated Thursday, says: "The date of the departure of the Mafeking column from Warrenton has not yet been fixed. The point at Fourteen Streams is guarded by our troops. Skirmishing continues around Warrenton. The Boers are reported to have been seen at this point. KIMBERLEY, March 23.—There was a smart artillery duel at Warrenton yesterday. A battery under Major Blewitt, supported by the Kimberley Light Horse, located the Boers, and four guns, two of which used cordite, but ineffectively. The British battery replied with effect and silenced the Boer fire. The Boers sent two shells near the railway station, which was not damaged.

A scouting party got too close to the bank of the river and encountered a hot fire. The men were unable to get away and it was impossible to relieve them without loss, the party being obliged to wait for darkness in order to escape. The reconnaissance succeeded, and Major Blewitt retired with only one wounded.

This morning brisk firing was resumed at Warrenton at 6:30, but it has now slackened up. A detachment of fusiliers has arrived. A detachment of Vryburg infantry, which was imprisoned by the Boers was sent to Warrenton under a white flag after being taken from a laager to laager around the district. They say the big gun from Kimberley has been taken through Christiansburg to Pretoria. There are women and children in nearly every laager.

LOUD BILL IS RECOMMENDED. Decisive Vote Believed to Have Knocked the Measure Out.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—After a spirited discussion extending over three days the Loud bill, relating to second class mail matter, was recommended on postoffice and post roads.

The majority in favor of the motion to recommend was so decisive that it is regarded as unlikely that the measure will appear again during the present congress. Loud said after the vote was announced that the measure was the "third time and out," so far as he was concerned. The vote on the motion was 118 yeas, with sixteen present and not voting.

THE MORMONS DID IT.

WHAT WE OWE TO BRIGHAM YOUNG'S FOLLOWERS.

They Were the First to Put Into Operation the Idea of Irrigating Arid Regions—Has Grown Into Vast Proportions.

(Boise, Idaho, Letter.) Criticize the Mormons as you will, they must be credited with the wonderful system of irrigation by which the wastes of the western states have been redeemed. On July 21, 1847, Brigham Young and his little band of pioneers began the construction of the first irrigation canal ever built in the United States.

Irrigation made of Utah's desert wilderness the garden spot of America. It is doing as much for Idaho, where the mountains are so located that the valleys, and plains are millions of acres, may be easily and economically watered. On the Nile, in Italy, Spain and elsewhere in Europe, irrigation has prevailed for centuries. Indeed, 60 per cent of the world's breadstuffs and cereals are grown by irrigation.

Where "the vine-clad hills and citron groves" around Jerusalem in sunny Italy are found, a great population has been sustained for many thousand years—and the land has never worn out—its wonderful vitality being due to underlying strata of lava which by some curious chemistry renders the soil immortal.

Idaho's wonderfully productive soil covers lava strata deposited by volcanic lava long ago extinct. The rejuvenation of the land results not alone from this lava, but from rich fertilizers annually brought to it by the irrigation waters. It is almost an aphorism that land is good where sage brush grows. Marvelous must therefore be the fertility of Idaho, for everywhere the green of the sage is seen. Wheat, corn, barley, alfalfa, timothy, rye, flax, tobacco, broom corn, sorghum, sweet and Irish potatoes, beets, cabbages, hops, and fruits, such as prunes, apples, peaches, plums, peaches, cherries, apricots, nectarines, grapes and all of the small bush products, grow profusely. Particularly the apple pear and plum attain to perfection in size and flavor.

Alex. McPherson of Boise City realized \$600 per acre from apples. Geo. L. Hall of Mountain Home sold \$300 worth of peaches from one acre. T. J. Philp of Boise City realized \$800 from two acres of Italian prunes. Instances like these can be multiplied ad infinitum.

But Idaho does not depend entirely upon agriculture. Its mountains are filled with mining camps which furnish a home market for far more agricultural products than the state is now able to produce.

Sage River Valley contains about 2,000,000 acres and some of the finest pastoral acres there presented are in the midst of gold placer mining operations. Many farmers there realize handsomely for working during spare hours—washing shining powdered gold from the river's bed.

In a state having so many productive portions to select from it is hard to suggest particular locations, but settlers will find room for any number of new homes.

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