

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Our Over-worked Congressmen Take a Rest Till Monday.

But Still Weariness Does Not Allow the Committee Appointments to Sleep.

And They are Kindly Made in Advance for Speaker Carlisle.

The Doings and Sayings of a Day in Washington.

THE FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS. SENATE.

WASHINGTON, December 20.—In the senate today, Mr. Cullom introduced a bill to establish a board of railroad commissioners and to regulate inter-state commerce.

Mr. Van Wyck's resolution introduced yesterday calling on the secretary of the interior for information regarding lands granted to railroads, was called up.

Mr. Ingalls said he had no objection to the preamble except as tending to commit the senate to an interrotation of the decision of the supreme court.

Mr. Van Wyck insisted that his preamble was correct, and in the course of the debate referred to the opinions of Attorney General Devens and Justice Harlan on the same subject.

He criticized the opinions as well as the practice of the general land office for following the law, as laid down by those opinions rather than by the supreme court of the United States.

Replying to questions by Mr. Allison regarding Justice Harlan's opinion, Mr. Van Wyck said it was strange, indeed.

Marvelous things have taken place in the supreme court, as well as in the land department of the government, in reference to public lands.

How (Van Wyck) thought the senator from Iowa (Allison) would concede that fact at least. There was abundant evidence of that in his (Allison's) state and in the sufferings of the people by the deprivation of their property.

Millions of acres of the public domain had been given railroads, Mr. Van Wyck said, before the supreme court decision referred to the fact, which they are not entitled to under the decision, and although for a time the general land office followed that decision, it finally followed the opinion of Attorney General Devens and Justice Harlan.

This course Mr. Van Wyck censured. The discussion closed by the insertion in the preamble of the words, "It is alleged," so as not to commit the senate to any special interpretation of the supreme court decision, and thus amended Mr. Van Wyck's resolution was agreed to.

The senate went into executive session and on reopening the doors resumed consideration of the new rules, but after a short debate the matter was postponed till after the holiday recess.

The chair laid before the senate a communication from the secretary of the committee transmitting copies of papers relating to the attempted transfer of the Texas Pacific railroad company's land grant to the Southern Pacific railway company in Arizona, New Mexico and California.

The secretary concludes his communication with the statement that no action has been taken by the department on the subject.

A message was received from the house concurring with the senate amendment making the date of the reassembly of congress after the holidays Monday, January 7th.

The senate concurred in the joint resolution of the house relating to the celebration of the centenary of the surrender by Washington of his commission as commander-in-chief of the patriot forces of America. Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE. A long discussion sprang up over a resolution offered by Mr. Geddes to grant a month's extra pay to discharged employes, which was advocated by Messrs. Geddes and Keifer and opposed by Mr. Reagan, on the ground that the house had no right to be charitable with other people's money.

Mr. Blair moved to commit the resolution to the committee on accounts with instructions to inquire and report whether there were persons turned out of positions at the close of the last session and others put in their places who performed no duties.

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At present the Mississippi appropriation was used as a pack mule to carry through appropriations for other streams. The Mississippi river should stand on its own merits as a great national highway and have all the fostering care congress could give it.

The amendment was rejected and the original report adopted.

Keifer called up the resolution reported yesterday for the appointment of a committee on woman suffrage.

Mr. Reagan opposed the resolution on social and constitutional grounds. He argued that a committee could not report a measure which any court could enforce or which would not be unconstitutional.

He protested against kicking about the old constitution, which had been too long forgotten, granting the right of suffrage to women which would tend to degrade them. Congress should not try to over-drag the social statutes of the world.

Mr. Keifer spoke in favor of the appointment of a special committee to which should be referred all petitions and measures pertaining to the subject of woman suffrage.

The resolution was rejected, yeas 88, nays 124.

Mr. Holtzcliff, from the special committee having the matter in charge, reported a joint resolution requesting the president to issue a proclamation recommending the people, either by appropriate exercises in connection with religious services, or by such public observance as they deem proper on the 24th inst. to commemorate the surrender by Washington of his commission as commander-in-chief of the army.

The president is also requested to order a national salute from the various forts on the 24th.

The joint resolution passed. Adjourned until Monday.

CAPITAL NOTES. COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS. WASHINGTON, December 20.—A number of representatives who profess to have knowledge of Speaker Carlisle's intentions, give the supposed make-up of the ways and means committee to-day as follows: Morrison, Tucker, Hewitt, Mills, Harlan, Blackburn, Blount, Eaton, Kelley, Kasson, McKinley, Hiseock and Anderson.

Some doubt is expressed, however, as to the appointment of Anderson, (of Kansas). One or two, though, known to be selected, assert that he should be chosen because from the same state as Haskell, who would have been a member had he lived.

The chairmanship of the foreign affairs committee is determined. Cox and Belmont are still prominently spoken of for the position. Blount says he is entitled to it as he was the first democrat on the committee of the last congress.

A number of chairmanships are predicted as follows: On appropriations, Randall; judiciary, Tucker; banking and currency, Buckner; navy, Hewitt; shipping, Belmont; public buildings, Converse; commerce, Reagan; education, Willis; Kentucky, labor, O'Neil; District of Columbia, Barbours; Pacific railroads, Throckmorton; public lands, Blackburn or Cobb; rivers and harbors, Dunn, Arkansas; postoffice and post roads, Money, Mississippi; war claims, Sherman; justice, Vance; inland navigation, Matheson; agriculture, Hatch, Missouri.

THE COLORED MEN'S MEMORIAL. The executive committee appointed by the late Louisville colored convention resumed its session to-day with a full attendance. The committee appointed to draw up a memorial to congress in regard to the Freedman's bank, made a report. The memorial prays that the necessary appropriation be made to fully indemnify the creditors for all losses sustained by depositors. A memorial was reported in favor of national aid for education in the states founded on the census report of illiteracy and in regard to political outrages in the south.

The memorialist demand the protection of American people towards the colored people. A memorial upon civil rights was reported by the committee, of which Fred Douglas and Register Bruce are members. It endorses the decision of Justice Harlan, urges the passage of the Wilson amendment and Edmunds bill. The memorial gave rise to a discussion but were formally adopted.

APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED. The senate in executive session to-day confirmed a batch of over 140 appointments of postmasters, that for Nebraska and Iowa offices being: Nebraska—Wm. K. Coutant, Omaha; William H. Wideman, Norfolk; Joseph N. Davis, Wahome; Solomon J. Fayette, Blue Springs; Edward Whitcomb, Friend; Hiram Price, Albion; Lemuel J. Gandy, York; Peter F. Peterson, Tekamah. Iowa—Francis R. Bennett, Odebolt; Henry J. Brown, Sebley; H. P. Duffield, Shenandoah; Eugene R. Hastings, Carroll; A. B. Funk, Spirit Lake; Alfred D. Eldridge, Clear Lake; Edward M. F. Evans, Inton; J. C. Harwood, Clarion; Lafayette F. Millins, Atlantic; John Morrison, Signourney; Wm. Whiner, Greene; Elliott R. Shurtz, Marshalltown; Wm. W. Smith, Cedar Rapids; Wm. W. Worth, Indianola.

Ten Indian agents were also confirmed, also a number of collectors of customs, surveyors of customs and naval officers.

RUSSIA'S PETROLEUM. Fulton Paul, United States consul at Odessa, Russia, has forwarded to the state department a report of the petroleum development of Russia, in which he says: The residuum oil is much greater in quantity than in the United States, and besides being converted into benzine, gasoline and various other useful products, is used with a steam jet on locomotives and also on steamers on the Caspian Sea, the Volgo and other rivers. Experiments are now in progress to utilize it in the new torpedo boats now in course of construction for the Russian navy.

A relief party was sent out, but no news from there is expected to-night. Heavy ice is laying the terrible dust that exists in the streets there.

A CONTEST. Formal notice of contest for a seat in the house as representative for the First North Carolina district, has been served by Pool against Skinner, the sitting member.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE. The bill introduced by Senator Cullom to-day to establish a board of railroad commissioners to regulate inter-state commerce provides for the appointment by the president of five commissioners at a salary of \$5,000 each, who shall exercise supervision over the inter-state commerce of railroads, canals, other transportation companies and the commerce of foreign

countries and investigate all complaints made by the railroad commissioners of the states and others of discriminations in charges made by such transportation companies for their services as common carriers.

IT MAKES THEM SQUIRM. The Texas Pacific land grant papers, sent to the senate to-day, were accompanied by a number of letters on the subject from C. P. Huntington and Crocker, of the Southern Pacific. Both capitalists attempt to demonstrate that the Texas Pacific land grant lawfully became a portion of the Southern Pacific lands when the latter was absorbed by the former.

Secretary of the Interior, the appointment of a commission in this matter, and advises a congressional investigation.

NEBRASKANS AT THE CAPITAL. The Postoffice Spoils.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE. WASHINGTON, D. C., December 20.—The senate this afternoon confirmed the following appointments: Postmasters, Charles K. Coutant, Omaha; Joseph M. Davis, Wahome; Edward Whitcomb, Norfolk; William H. Wideman, Friend; Hiram Price, Albion; Peter F. Peterson, Tekamah; W. W. Morrison, Beatrice; George Little, Plumm Creek; J. Gandy, York; Solomon F. Fayette, Blue Springs. Ben C. E. Westadahl has been appointed railway postal clerk from Omaha to Ogden.

RAILROAD MATTERS. THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. NEW YORK, December 20.—The directors meeting of the Union Pacific railroad company was held this morning, President Dillon in the chair. Directors F. T. Ames, C. F. Adams, E. H. Baker, F. G. Dexter, S. H. H. Clark, G. M. Dodge, A. H. Green, John Sharp, A. Schell, Jay Gould, Solon Humphrey, and government directors, Bromley, Conger, Parrish, Haven and Hoyt were present.

Resolutions were adopted, instructing General Manager Clark to invite the other roads to enter the new alliance.

The tripartite agreement was unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

THEY ALSO DO IT. CHICAGO, December 20.—Representatives of the passenger department of the St. Paul, Rock Island, Burlington and Alton roads met here to-day to consult upon steps to secure the sale of tickets to Missouri river points equal to the advantages given the Northwestern and Washburn lines.

During the afternoon of the day the sheriff took the prisoners to the jail. Clements and Pettis were in a cell, and Montgomery was out looking for a bondman. They were taken to the jail in the morning, and not put in a cell till noon.

This offsets the convict Myer's testimony, who swore the prisoners had a consultation in the jail in the morning.

Charley Masters, 9 years old, testified to being the only scholar at school, and to playing about the coal house at recess and noon time. He said the Montgomerys, father and son, during the recess, going along the road past the school house. Witness said: "John asked me why I wasn't playing with the school children. I said there wasn't any. He said, 'well, wait and I'll come back and wrestle with you.' When Miss Bond came back we went in the school house. I told her there was a noise in the loft, and she said I thought it was made in a trunk. She said, 'no, it's rats.' The scuttlehole was open all day, and I saw mud, that morning, on the wall under the scuttle. I said to the teacher, 'look at that.' She said nothing."

WILL THEY COME IN? CHICAGO, December 20.—A rumor was reported on the Stock Exchange from New York to-day to the effect that the Northwestern, Washburn and Burlington roads have applied for admission to the tripartite alliance, and is fully credited by railroad men as the first two, because their representatives in the board of directors of the Great Pacific railroad voted for admission.

The business part of the city and many residences were draped in mourning. Flags floated at half mast, bells tolled in business houses and churches, and the city gave itself up to paying its respects to the honored dead. The city was crowded with representative citizens from all parts of the state. All state officials attended, senators and congressmen from Washington and members of the press.

The funeral services were held in the Congregational church of which Mr. Haskell was an active member. Hon. John H. Kasson, delivered a brief eulogy which concluded in the most touching and eloquent language. Dr. Richard Cardley, formerly pastor of the church, Dr. James Main and Rev. George E. Scott's spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Haskell's character and noble life.

The body was conveyed to Oakhill cemetery under the escort of the De Molay commandary, Knights Templar, and was followed by an immense crowd. At the grave the exercises were very solemn and impressive, after which the members of the congressional committee took formal leave of Mrs. Haskell and at 2:30 the party left by special train for the east.

A Grand Reception. SAN FRANCISCO, December 20.—A grand reception was tendered General Hancock this evening. The building was handsomely decorated for the occasion. The general was accompanied from the Palace by Governor Stoneman, Mayor Bartlett, state and federal officers, and a detachment of state militia. Five thousand invitations were issued. On entering the main hall the immense concourse rose and saluted the general amidst a burst of cheering and waving of handkerchiefs. The mayor made a formal address, to which the general responded in happy terms.

The Cantilever Bridge. SUSPENSION BRIDGE, N. Y., December 20.—The formal opening of the Cantilever bridge to-day was a perfect success. Its strength was tested by running on twenty locomotives and twenty-four cars loaded with gravel, which extended from end to end of the bridge on both tracks, but there was no apparent deflection. Levels were taken at intervals by a commission selected from three hundred engineers. One thousand people witnessed the opening. A banquet followed.

A Decreased Trade. SAN FRANCISCO, December 20.—Merchants of this city are complaining that their trade with the northwest is rapidly decreasing. The opening of the Northern Pacific reduced it 75 per cent. Four monthago three steamers week did not suffice to carry the freight to Oregon and Washington territory, and two months later two steamers were sufficient, and now they are reduced to one every five days.

A Dunkard Colony. KANSAS CITY, December 20.—A sale was made here to-day of 32,000 acres of land in Stafford county, near Great Bend Kansas, for \$100,000. The land was purchased by capitalists of Staunton, Va., with the purpose of establishing a colony of Dunkards on the land.

A Chinese Merchant. SAN FRANCISCO, December 20.—Judge Hoffman, of the United States district court, practically decided to-day what constitutes a Chinese trader, a habeas

ON AND OFF THE RAILS.

Still the Troubled Pool is not Reached By all the Lame.

Who Wish to Plunge in, that They, too, May be Healed.

Several Accidents with Serious Results and Narrow Escapes From Death.

Cutting Rates from New York to the Missouri.

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corpore case, by stating that if a Chinaman who is a laborer in his own country comes to this country with the purpose, according to the testimony adduced, of going into the merchandising business, he is, under the United States laws, a merchant.

An Iowa Elevator Burned. Special Dispatch to THE BEE. CHARLESTON, Ia., December 20.—The Porter elevator, owned by John Lindenholtz, of Essex, was burned at 6:15 to-night and is a total loss. The insurance on the building is \$5,000 and on stock \$500. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is supposed to have been a hot journal on machinery on the second floor.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS. A FRENCH VICTORY. PARIS, December 20.—A dispatch from Hong Kong says the French captured the principal outposts of Sontay, embracing five strongly fortified villages. The French loss was 200 men and fifteen officers killed and wounded. Admiral Courbet, commanding, had 7,000 men, 4,000 engaged in action, the remainder in reserve. The Chinese still hold the fortress of Sontay.

The principal fighting occurred at the river bank, and several villages were captured at the point of the bayonet. The French advanced within a mile of the citadel, but there will probably be very heavy fighting before they reach the place. The Chinese lost heavily from the shells of the fleet.

DESPERATE FIGHTERS. Admiral Peyson, minister of marine, has received the following telegram from Admiral Courbet, dated before Sontay, the 10th: "The expedition left Hanoi on the 11th, captured Fort Uyen and all earthworks back of the Red river opposite Sontay. The enemy were very well armed and fought desperately. The condition of the spirits of the French troops are excellent. To-day we commence the attack on Sontay."

TERMS OF PEACE. It is understood Marquis Tseng proposes to France the following fresh basis for settlement of the Tonquin question: The Delta of the Red river with the city of Sontay to belong to France. The Delta of Song Chau river and Bacchin to belong to China. The northern and western provinces of Tonquin to be neutral. China to renounce her suzerainty of the kingdom of Annam.

MORE CREDIT GIVEN. In the senate to-day a supplementary credit bill for 9,000,000 francs for the Tonquin expedition was adopted 211 to 7. Subsequently the Tonquin credit bill of 200,000,000 francs was also adopted 215 to 6.

KERRIGAN KILLED. DUBLIN, December 20.—It is reported that Kerrigan, the informer, was shot during a disturbance in Cong. Gouan Mayno. His testimony in the Huddy family murder case in 1882, convicted three men who were hanged; also in 1883, he was hanged for the murder of a man named James O'Connell.

THE LOUISIANA DEMOCRATS. BOSTON, December 20.—Gov. McKim was renominated for a second term at the annual meeting of the Democratic convention held at the Hotel Marlborough. The convention also nominated Clay Noblock for lieutenant governor, and E. A. Burke for state treasurer, J. M. Cunningham for attorney general, and Oscar Arrago for secretary of state.

Bringing Home a Wife. GRAND HAVEN, Mich., December 20.—Miss Mary Fairfield, daughter of Professor Fairfield, was married to-day to Hon. A. W. Field, of Lincoln, Neb. The bride and groom left this evening for Lincoln.

CATTLE NOTES. Stock men in Utah are holding on to their cattle and increasing their herds, hence the number of beef animals sent out the past season is much smaller than in previous years. The number shipped in 1882 aggregated about 45,000, and their number of this year will not reach much over 25,000.

The fence question is becoming one of considerable importance to the cattle owners in Texas. Captain Anderson, of Santa Fe, has bought the Stevenshead herd of cattle, with horses and ranges, for a sum well up to \$100,000. The range is on the Dry Canon, and is one of the best in New Mexico.

A great many Colorado cattle are being driven into the Texas panhandle. The report that 500 cattle belonging to the New Mexico Land and Cattle company, near Antelope Springs, had died recently from want of water, proves to be false.

Cattle owners just in from the plains say that the snow is not melting very rapidly, but sufficient to keep the valleys and small streams well supplied with water. They look for an easy winter for their herds.

M. V. Warren, of Trinidad, has purchased 1,000 head of cows, bulls and steers from a New Mexico firm, for \$200,000.

One of the heaviest transactions in cattle has ever taken place in this country, occurred in Denver on the 8th, the cattle owned of D. H. and J. W. Snyder & Co., purchasing 30,000 head from Texas parties. The cattle purchased ranged in size from all county Texas, between the forks of the Brazos river, and the sale included 400 head of horses, ranches, etc. The consideration was \$500,000 cash.

The firm is composed of D. H. Snyder, J. W. Snyder, Mrs. H. J. Brown and J. P. Brown who own also the "Hill" herd in Weld county, consisting of 24,000 head of cattle and 600 horses. Being the largest herd of 50,000 head of cattle this firm ranks among the very largest cattle owners.

The Merry, Merry Christmas Time. The joyous holiday season brings to mind the elegant gifts presented in the city of New Orleans on November 13th, by the 1882 Grand Monthly Distribution of the Louisiana State Lottery, under the sole care and management of General G. T. Beauregard, of La., and Mrs. A. E. A. Burke for state treasurer, J. M. Cunningham for attorney general, and Oscar Arrago for secretary of state.

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