

KENTUCKY DEMOCRAT'S COUP

Has the Paragraph Carrying \$200,000 for Spain Stricken Out.

HOUSE WRANGLES OVER POINT OF ORDER

Wheeler Declares His Opposition to the Appropriation on Any Principle and Resorts to Technicality to Defeat It.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Two very sensational and unexpected things happened in the house today during the consideration of the sundry bill.

The paragraph carrying the appropriation of \$200,000 for Spain, under the terms of the peace treaty, was stricken out upon a point of order made by Mr. Wheeler, a Kentucky democrat, who declared that he opposed the appropriation on principle and would resort to any technicality to defeat it.

After the sundry bill had been completed and reported to the house Mr. Wheeler of Iowa, the champion of the Nicaragua canal bill, moved to recommit it with instructions to report it back with the canal bill incorporated in it.

Warrant of law was necessary to make the appropriation in Mr. Hopkins' name. The bill which was in the chair, sustained the point of order against it, and upon an appeal his decision was sustained—149 to 56.

Mr. Cannon raised the point of order that the motion was out of order and was promptly sustained by the speaker. Mr. Cannon then asked Mr. Hepburn, 'Upon the ground that it seeks to accomplish indirectly what could not be done directly in committee of the whole.'

Mr. Hepburn appealed from the decision and Mr. Cannon moved to recommit it with instructions to report it back with the canal bill incorporated in it.

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Without further preliminary business the house went into committee of the whole and resumed consideration of the civil sundry bill.

Mr. Greener of Nebraska and Mr. Greener of Nebraska engaged in a personal controversy growing out of some remarks Mr. Greener made a few days ago against the public buildings bill which Mr. Greener had at the clerk's desk an article from a Kearney, Neb., paper, charging Mr. Greener with having purchased his seat in congress.

Mr. Greener assailed Mr. Greener for having read 'an old, threadbare, timeworn, worn-out, repudiated charge made by a so-called democratic paper which annually sold out to the republicans.'

Mr. Greener disclaimed any personal knowledge of the facts mentioned by the speaker and simply quoted democratic authority.

Mr. Greener attempted to show that Mr. Greener had favored the Blair public building bill in committee of the whole, a charge which the latter emphatically denied.

Mr. Bartlett, democrat of Georgia, speaking to a pro forma amendment, challenged some statements made by Secretary of the Treasury Gage to the effect that the fear of the administration of the Philippines costing enormous sums of money was all 'moonshine' and that the receipts would be all times exceed the expenditures.

Mr. Bartlett stated that the greatest revenue Spain had ever been able to obtain from the Philippines under the heaviest system of taxation was \$12,000,000.

When the paragraph appropriating \$20,000,000 for payment to Spain under the treaty of Paris was reached, Mr. Wheeler, democrat of Kentucky, made a point of order against it. His point of order was that the paragraph was obnoxious to rule 21 invoked yesterday against the Nicaragua canal amendment.

Mr. Wheeler called attention to Mr. Wheeler that the treaty was ratified by the senate and signed by the president. 'Who, else, Mr. Wheeler, would be liable for its execution upon the part of the United States.'

In reply Mr. Wheeler said that the Spanish Cortes might refuse to ratify the treaty and it would not become law until the other high contracting party had consented to it. He was opposed to the appropriation on principle, he said, and he proposed to take advantage of every technicality to defeat it.

Mr. Ball, democrat of Texas, supported the point of order, arguing that after the decision yesterday the chair must hold that the paragraph was out of order. He admitted that he himself had voted yea to override the veto and his inconsistency with the said bill to do that.

Mr. Ball said that Mr. Ball's remarks Mr. Cannon said he thought the point of order was well taken, but he asked if Mr. Ball would vote for the appropriation if the treaty were ratified.

Mr. Cannon appealed to Mr. Ball not to press the point of order and secured him for taking refuge behind a rule which he yesterday tried to override. He called attention to the fact that no dollar of this appropriation could go out of the treasury until the exchange of ratifications had been made.

Mr. Lacey of Iowa argued that the paragraph was in order; that there was a condition of law and this appropriation was necessary to terminate it. Besides, any treaty requiring a payment of money could not be complete until the legislation appropriating that money was made.

REVISION OF POSTAL LAWS

Code Commission Makes Its Report on This Branch of Its Work.

CONGRESS IS URGED TO ACT AT ONCE

Provisions of Present Laws Simplified and New Sections Introduced to Meet New Conditions Which Have Arisen.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The report of the commission on the codification of the United States criminal and penal laws is not yet completed, and the portion of it covering offenses against the mail has not been submitted to congress. The postmaster general has communicated with both houses of congress, asking for immediate enactment of the report on this subject, pointing out its urgent necessity.

The laws embraced up to and including the first session of the forty-fourth congress. The report, in brief, follows: In the numerous instances where penalties have been recovered by civil process in the nature of actions for debt, provisions for criminal prosecutions have been substituted as more efficacious. Other changes are reported, having in view a more proportionate adjustment of penalties to the gravity of the offenses respectively defined, in which the present laws, having been adopted from time to time, are not uniform. Revised laws, designed to secure precision and succinctness in the definitions of offenses, have been inserted.

Government's General Policy. 'This is in conformity,' the commission says, 'with the general policy of this government, and it is further recommended by considerations of great weight, it being found that in the larger cities these institutions are made the instrumentalities of practices partaking of fraud and immorality. In a recent instance at New York, a woman employed as the means by which two human lives were sacrificed under circumstances of grave criminality.'

COURT OF INQUIRY BEGINS

Body Formally Organized to Conduct an Investigation into Beef Used During the War.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—All the members of the court of inquiry convened by order of the president to investigate the charges of Major General Miles concerning the food furnished the army have arrived in Washington with the expectation of organizing the court to-day. The president, James W. Wade, president of the court, finally got through the snow blockade between here and Pittsburgh late last night. Brigadier General G. W. Davis also reached here from Cuba late last night. Colonel G. L. Gillespie came from Washington by rail, and Lieutenant Colonel Davis, who was the recorder of the court, also turned up this morning. The court was ordered to meet yesterday, but the snow blockade prevented a literal compliance as to the time of meeting. The court was convened this morning, and the court of inquiry was back today after being snowbound at New York. The quarters for the court are those recently used by the war commission.

Colonel Gillespie was the first member to put the court in motion to-day. He is followed by General Wade in civilian dress, not being sure the court would begin its sessions today. General Wade said the court probably would organize today and clear the way for the inquiry proper to proceed. The court was directed to 'investigate certain allegations of the major general commanding the army regarding the unfitness for issue of certain articles of food furnished the army during the war.

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REMODELING HALL OF THE HOUSE

One Proposal is to Take Out the Desks of the Members.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Several plans for remodeling the hall of the house of representatives were considered today by the house committee on ventilation and acoustics. Mr. Heavolve of Minnesota recently renewed attention to the subject by offering a resolution for the expenditure of \$100,000 for remodeling the hall by putting in a complete system of ventilation.

ADVANCE FOR GENERAL CORBIN

Bill Introduced in House to Make Him a Major General.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The military affairs committee of the house today reported favorably the senate bill to make Adjutant General H. C. Corbin a major general. The house bill for the same purpose has been reported already and this action today was taken to facilitate action upon it in the house.

Lord Herschell Injured

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Lord Herschell of the joint American-Canadian commission sustained quite a painful injury to his left leg yesterday through a fall on the ice on K street.

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