

NAVAL BILL PASSES

With Four Days of Acrimonious Debate House Disposes of Measure.

LOWERS MAXIMUM PRICE FOR ARMOR PLATE

Wordy Battle is Waged Over the Cost of Krupp Plate.

COMMITTEE DEFEATED ON SEVERAL POINTS

Government Not to Pay More for Armor Than Paid by Others.

SCHEME FOR FEDERAL PLANT RULED OUT

Moody Proposes Amendment Creating Rank of Admiral of Navy and Amendment is Passed with Unanimous Consent.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The naval appropriation bill finally passed the house this afternoon, after four days of acrimonious debate, most of which was spent upon the question of retabulating the naval academy at Annapolis in accordance with the scheme inaugurated by the appropriation of \$500,000 in the last naval bill and the proposition to increase the maximum price to be paid for armor plate to \$45 per ton, existing law limiting it to \$40. Upon both propositions the naval committee suffered signal defeats. The amendment to build a great armor plate plant was ruled out on a point of order after a long debate in which the price to be paid for armor was cut down from \$45 to \$40—the price which the committee insisted was being paid for the new Krupp armor—while a proviso was also adopted, precluding the government from paying more than was paid by any other foreign government for similar armor. When the bill was reported to the house Mr. Boutelle attempted to secure a reversal of the verdict of the committee of the whole on the naval academy and armor plate amendments, but in both cases he failed, his motion being voted down—79 to 155.

The house again declined to consider the Brown-Swanson contested election case from the Fifth Virginia district by a vote of 132 to 99. This is the second attempt to call up this case. Another victory over the committee was secured by the adoption of a provision to the naval bill creating the rank of admiral of the navy. This was accomplished by Mr. Moody of Massachusetts, who introduced an amendment to the naval bill creating this rank as an amendment to the naval bill. The amendment was clearly subject to the point of order raised against it by Mr. Boutelle, but the sentiment of the house was apparently unanimous in favor of the amendment that he withdrew the point of order and it was adopted without a dissenting vote. The naval committee had amended the senate bill so as to also create the rank of vice admiral, but Mr. Moody's amendment was the original senate bill without the latter provision.

At 1:45 p. m. the house went into committee of the whole and resumed the consideration of the naval bill. The pending question being on the point of order raised against the amendment offered by Mr. Underwood, democrat of Alabama, to appropriate \$4,000,000 for the construction of an armor plate plant at such a place as a board of naval officers might select.

Price of Krupp Armor.—Mr. Boutelle continued his defense of the recommendation of the committee to increase the maximum price of armor to \$45. Tests had demonstrated, he said, that the Krupp armor of 25 per cent less weight than Krupp armor had equal resisting power.

Mr. Sherman, republican of New York, who was in the chair, declared the point of order against the Underwood amendment.

The question then recurred upon Mr. Boutelle's amendment fixing the price of armor at \$45 per ton. Owing to its resisting power Mr. Boutelle contended that the Krupp armor of the same weight would be slightly less than that of Krupp armor at \$40 per ton.

Mr. Hopkins, republican of Illinois, moved to amend the Boutelle amendment so as to fix the price of armor plate at \$45 per ton. The motion was voted down, 79 to 155. The bill was then passed.

Mr. Hull, chairman of the military committee, gave notice that he would call up the appropriation bill tomorrow.

The senate amendments to the military academy bill were adopted. This bill now goes to the president.

The senate bill to permit volunteer regiments of the Spanish army to retain their colors was passed.

At 5:30 p. m. the house adjourned.

HELPS POSTOFFICE EMPLOYEES

Raise of Salaries in Sight for Faithful Government Servants.

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Postoffice Appropriation Bill Contains Provision for Ameliorating the Financial Condition of Certain of Its Employees.

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The bill raises the salary of clerks in many cases and fixes a minimum salary of \$500 per annum instead of \$350 at present. But this is not all. It establishes fixed grades for clerks and salaries according to these grades, so that the postoffice department is powerless to raise or lower clerks or their salaries as at present practice. It appropriates \$75,000 for the vacations of clerks, and provides especially that all railway postal clerks whose duties require them to work six days or more per week, fifty-two weeks per year, shall be allowed an annual vacation of fifteen days. Carriers also will be benefited by the bill, it being the determination of First Assistant Postmaster General Heath to increase the pay of this splendid body of working men in order to keep an effective force in service to the country.

Mr. Walker, republican of Massachusetts, offered an amendment to Mr. Hopkins' amendment, providing that the government should not pay more for armor plate than any other foreign government paid.

Mr. Daines, in defense of the committee's proposition, declared that there was no argument. These armor plate plants were the grandest examples of American enterprise. He recalled the day when this government was compelled to pay \$500 per ton for ordinary iron steel sheeted plate for the Miantonomoh. The great plants at Bethlehem and Homestead, he said, had been built at the instigation of the government, with the implied understanding that the government would take fair. The first armor was furnished at \$536. He then traced the history up to the offer of the Illinois Steel company to furnish armor at \$300 and its subsequent refusal, except on conditions which could not be entertained.

He asserted that the two companies in this country had furnished the government armor plate at a cost less than was furnished by any other company in the world. This was a business proposition. Krupp armor could still be obtained at \$400. But the new armor, the Krupp, had been found to be greatly superior to the Krupp armor. It was not only superior, but it was also cheaper. Mr. Williams, democrat of Mississippi, insisted that all the evidence before the public showed the difference in amount of royalty. The vote was then taken upon the Walker amendment, which carried, 112 to 48.

The Hopkins amendment to the amendment was carried, 102 to 78, and as amended, fixing the price of armor at \$45, the amendment was adopted by the division.

Admiral of Navy.—Mr. Moody, republican of Massachusetts, then created something of a furor by offering at the end of the bill a copy of the senate bill to create the rank of admiral of the navy. The naval committee reported the reading of the amendment. The committee had amended this bill so as to create the rank of vice admiral as well as admiral, the purpose being to allow Dewey to be appointed admiral and Sampson vice admiral. This move, such the naval committee.

Mr. Boutelle at first reserved a point of order against the amendment, but, turning suddenly upon Mr. Moody, declared he would withdraw the point of order, as what appeared to be the general demand of the house, if the amendment could be voted upon without debate.

"He will vote without a word," said Mr. Moody. "Vote," went up in chorus from all sides of the house.

The question on the amendment was put in the chair, and carried with a rousing cheer. When the yeas were called for there was the silence of the grave.

The bill was then reported to the house. Separate votes were demanded by Mr. Boutelle upon the naval academy and armor plate amendments, both of which were carried, the former 89 to 79, the latter 129 to 58. Mr. Boutelle then moved to recommit the bill with instructions to restore the price of armor plate to \$45 per ton, as originally recommended by the committee. The motion was voted down, 79 to 155. The bill was then passed.

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A bill reported from the committee on military affairs permitting volunteer regiments to retain their colors and to deposit them in the state capitals was passed.

Mr. Fry, republican of Maine, chairman of the committee on commerce, moved that consideration of the river and harbor bill be begun.

The river and harbor bill was then taken up. It reads as follows: Mr. Hansbrough presented the credentials of Porter J. McCumber, elected a senator from North Dakota for a term of six years, beginning March 4, 1899. They were filed.

ACQIESCE TO THE BRITISH

Sultan of Oman Compelled to Repudiate Agreement with France as to Muscat Coaling Station.

INSURGENTS ARE AGGRESSIVE

Small Bodies Harass the American Lines All Along the Front.

DETERMINED ATTACK NEAR CALOOCAN

Monadnock Drops Shells Into Their Lines, Fires Seen in Every Direction—Threatened to Burn the Walled City—Many Arrests.

BOMBAY, Feb. 23.—Important details regarding the action of the British authorities at Muscat, the capital of the sultanate of Oman, have been received by the public. It appears that the news of the lease by the sultan of Oman of a coaling station to France on the coast of Oman leaked out while the British political agent at Muscat, Major Eggen, was absent. He promptly returned to his post, but the sultan refused to furnish him with any information. The commander of the gunboat Sphinx thereupon dispatched a lieutenant and armed party to Muscat to deliver the ultimatum to the sultan. The arrival of the second-class cruiser Bellipa, flagship of the East India station, with Rear Admiral Drummond on board, threw the sultan's attitude into a panic, and he himself felt compelled to retract. During the morning of February 16 Admiral Drummond sent word ashore that unless the sultan attended a durbar on board the Bellipa on the 17th of the month he would bombard the forts at 2:30 p. m.

Notice of the admiral's intention was sent to the foreign consuls and the town was speedily in confusion. The admiral of the East India station, Rear Admiral Eggen, immediately took a position broadside to the town, while the other British ships cleared for action. The sultan thereupon posted a notification at the custom house and at the gates of the town that the agreement with the French was cancelled.

At noon the sultan sent his brother on board the Bellipa, but the British admiral refused to receive him as a substitute. A French steamer, the Comte de Orléans, almost unattended, arrived on board the Bellipa and remained there for two hours, while the whole population lined the beach and anxiously awaited the outcome.

The sultan's offer appears completely acquiesced to by the British demands and handed to Admiral Drummond the treaty with France. On the following day the admiral went to the palace, where a great durbar was held, and the sultan publicly repudiated his agreement with France.

JUSTICE WRITES CORDIAL LETTER

Expresses High Consideration of Captain Sturdy's Conduct at Samoa.

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War Ships and Transports in the Harbor at Honolulu—Deaths of Soldiers.

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The Oregon is likely to remain here two or three weeks. The Honolulu iron works is engaged on some repairs for which it will take at least ten days to complete.

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Judge Widemann was a Hanoverian by birth and was in his 78th year. In early life he was a seafaring man and came to the United States in 1847. He was appointed a justice of the supreme court in 1865 by Kamehameha V., served as minister of the interior, as minister of finance and as attorney general in Kalkaua's cabinet.

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CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Threatening; South Winds.

Table with 4 columns: Temperature at Omaha Yesterday, Hour, Deg., Hour, Deg. Rows for 5 a.m., 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m., Below zero.

PALM'S GOOD MEMORY

Insurance Commissioner Finds it Difficult to Recollect at Times.

ALWAYS ABLE TO TELL SIZE OF HIS FEET

Regulates Charges for Examination by the Business of the Company.

REGRETS THAT HE DID NOT CHANGE MORE

Tells the Committee that Certain Things Are His Secret Business.

WHEREAT PROUT CALLS HIM TO TIME

Burns Two Letters from Lichty and Becomes Highly Excited When Telling the Investigating Committee About It.

LINCOLN, Feb. 23.—(Special.)—Insurance Examiner Palm was on the stand this morning and in answer to questions said that if he had found in any examination that the company had donated large sums of money to a political party he would have noted this fact in his report to the auditor.

A letter placed in evidence was from Palm to the auditor announcing that he did not care to make the big companies and asking an authority to examine some smaller ones.

Palm explained this by saying that it would have taken 150 non-eight months to go through a big company like the New York or the Mutual Life company. It was his idea that two or three states ought to join together in this work. He had, while waiting for a letter from the auditor, gone to the office of the Mutual Life and looked over some papers. The letter under discussion was as follows:

NEW YORK, Dec. 7, 1897.—Hon. J. F. Cornell, Auditor, State of New York, Dear Sir—Your esteemed favor of the 4th received and its contents carefully noted. In reference to the Mutual Life examination, my of this city I wish to explain why the examination at this time was not made. Mr. J. H. Kipp left the city yesterday morning and I was unable to get in touch with him. I would explain to you the situation. The Mutual Life Insurance company did not refuse to allow me to examine their books and I would explain to you the situation. The Mutual Life Insurance company did not refuse to allow me to examine their books and I would explain to you the situation.

NEBRASKAN SHOT IN THE HAND

Member of Company H is Accidentally Hurt—Report of Others Wounded by Sharpshooters.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The War department today received the following: MANILA, Feb. 23.—Adjutant General, Washington: Casualties caused by insurgent sharpshooters yesterday and today in vicinity of Tondo and Baguio (Sabao):

Thirteenth Minnesota. Wounded: Captain Noyes C. Robinson, Company C, 11p, moderately severe. Sergeant George K. Shepard, Company C, 11p, moderately severe. Private Thomas F. Caidin, Company C, 11p, shoulder, severe. Private George S. Wooding, Company C, 11p, thigh, severe. Private Orton D. Grinnell, Company D, 11p, armpit, severe.

First Nebraska. Wounded: Private Ench Davis, Company H, shot in hand, self-inflicted, accidental, severe. Private Clyde A. McVay, Company A, South Dakota, is doing well, fourth toe of right foot amputated. OTIS.

Started by American Shells. PARIS, Feb. 23.—Agents in this city of the Philippines have received news from Hilo saying that the outbreak of fire there was not the work of the natives, but was started by the American shells.

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