

COMPROMISE BILL IS READY

Amended Measure is Reported to the Senate by Committee.

ARMY IS NOT TO EXCEED 65,000 MEN

Staff Provisions Agreed Upon Are Practically the Same as Those Contained in the Hull Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The senate committee on military affairs reported the compromise army reorganization bill just before adjournment of the senate at 6:30 p. m.

The formulation of the compromise was placed in the hands of Senators Hawley and Carter of the military committee, on behalf of the republicans and in the interest of the minority of the democrats. They met at 10 o'clock today and continued quietly in session.

The compromise had in charge until 4:30 o'clock, when the full committee met. The committee made a number of changes and after a sitting of four hours reported the bill to the senate.

The bill as reported differed in many details from the bill read in the house today by Mr. Hull, but the general framework is the same. In the new bill one section covers the entire increase of the army and it reads as follows:

Not to Exceed 65,000 Men. "That to meet the present exigencies of the military service the president is hereby authorized to maintain the regular army at a strength of not exceeding 65,000 enlisted men, to be distributed among the several branches of the service, according to the needs of each, and raise a force of not more than 35,000 volunteer infantry, as he may determine, from the country at large, under general law, or from the localities where their services may be required with respect to citizenship or educational qualifications, and to form the same into not more than thirty regiments of infantry of war strength in the regular army.

"Provided, further, that each regiment shall have one surgeon, with the rank of major; two assistant surgeons, one of whom shall have the rank of captain and one that of first lieutenant, and three hospital stewards:

"Provided, that such increase in the regular and volunteer force shall continue in service only during the necessity therefor, and not later than July 1, 1901."

The allotment of major and brigade generals is as follows: "The president shall have power to continue in service or to appoint by and with the advice and consent of the senate brigadier generals of volunteers, who, including the brigadier generals of the regular army, shall not exceed one for every 4,000 enlisted men actually in service, and major generals of volunteers, who, including the major generals of the regular army, shall not exceed one for every 12,000 enlisted men.

Staff Officers. "Provided, that regular army officers continued or appointed as general officers or as field or staff officers of volunteers, under the provisions of this act, shall not vacate their regular army commissions; and provided, further, that no general officers appointed under the provisions of this section shall not be continued in this as such beyond July 1, 1901."

Section 1 provides that the regular army "shall consist of three major generals, six brigadier generals, ten regiments of cavalry, seven regiments of artillery, twenty-five regiments of infantry. In the cavalry organization each regiment is composed of twelve troops, divided into four squadrons each. The artillery regiments are fixed at fourteen batteries, which may be organized as field or light batteries."

Two veterinarians are allowed to each regiment of cavalry. In the case of artillery the number of privates in a battery of heavy artillery is fixed at a "minimum of fifty-two" and of light artillery at a "minimum of fifty-three." The same word is used in fixing the strength of the infantry regiments, giving each infantry company "a minimum of forty-eight privates."

The infantry regiments are fixed at twelve companies, organized into three battalions formation. The adjutant general and inspector of the departments are to consist of the number of officers and enlisted men as follows: "The adjutant general shall consist of the officers and enlisted men now provided by law. A proviso makes the battalion of engineers a part of the line and allows retired officers to be assigned to active command."

Pension Chief a Brigadier. The present chief of the record and pension office is made a brigadier general, the subsequent chief to be colonel. The provision of law authorizing the assignment of officers of the quartermaster's and subsistence departments rank and position, and the continuance in service of certain volunteer officers of those departments for a period of one year is repealed.

Provision is made that no person other than an officer of the regular army who has passed the age 45 years shall be appointed as a field officer in the volunteer force, nor as a company or staff officer therein, if he be past the age of 35 years; neither shall any person not a regular army officer be so appointed until he shall have demonstrated his normal, physical and professional fitness for the grade in which he is to be commissioned to the satisfaction of an examining board, provided, that the field officers of the force herein authorized be appointed from officers of the regular army or from persons who served as officers of volunteers in the war with Spain.

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order and shall be submitted to the senate. The ayes and nays were demanded, and it was decided in order, yeas 7. Those voting no were Messrs. Allen, Bates, Cochrill, Pettigrew, Rawlins, Teller and Vest.

Mr. Vest then raised the question of relevancy of the amendment and demanded the ayes and nays. It was decided to be relevant, yeas 12. Those voting in the negative were: Allen, Bates, Clay, Cochrill, Daniel, McLaurin, Pasco, Pettigrew, Rawlins, Roach, Teller and Vest.

At this point a bill relating to the entry of lands in Greer county, Oklahoma, was passed. Mr. Spooner offered an amendment to the Nicaragua canal amendment as follows:

That if the president shall be unable to secure from the governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica such concessions as will enable the United States to build and perpetually own and control such canal, the president is authorized to negotiate, maintain and perpetually control some other canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and the president is authorized to negotiate for the abrogation or the modification of any and all treaty obligations, if any such exist, as shall in anywise interfere with the construction, ownership and the perpetual control of any such canal.

Mr. Frye, in charge of the bill, accepted the amendment and it was agreed to. Mr. Rawlins argued against the canal amendment. At the conclusion of his address he proposed an amendment striking out the appropriation for the purchase of the right of way for the canal.

The amendment was defeated—48 to 5. The measure was under consideration throughout the day and on several of the committee amendments a determined fight was made, but in every instance the opposition prevailed nothing. The sharpest contest arose over the Nicaragua canal bill.

At 3 o'clock the river and harbor bill was taken up. The Nicaragua canal amendment was rejected. The statement was made that the measure would never see the light of day in the house and that the canal would not be built under the proposition inserted in the bill.

During the afternoon Mr. Sewell of New Jersey delivered a speech in support of the Hull-Hawley army reorganization bill. He took up the river and harbor bill, which he would not object to, but the senate, to which the vice president submitted the point, overruled it. It was then attacked as not being relevant to a river and harbor measure, but this, too, was overruled.

Mr. Rawlins and Mr. Teller vigorously attacked the bill, their opposition being directed especially against the canal amendment. The statement was made that the measure would never see the light of day in the house and that the canal would not be built under the proposition inserted in the bill.

Reverting to the amendment providing for the construction of reservoirs at the headwaters of the Missouri river and appropriating \$50,000 for three reservoirs in Wyoming, Mr. Frye, in charge of the bill, asked that the amendment be passed upon.

Mr. Spooner of Wisconsin doubted the advisability of the amendment and said it had every appearance of being the entering wedge of an elaborate system of irrigation of arid lands which, if carried into effect would cost the government hundreds of millions of dollars.

Pending further action on the river and harbor bill Mr. Wilson of Washington presented the credentials of Addison G. Foster, elected a senator from Washington for a term of six years from March 4, 1899. They were filed.

When the discussion of the amendment was resumed Mr. Warren of Wyoming, Mr. Clarke of Wyoming, Mr. Allen, Mr. Foraker and Mr. Gage addressed the senate in favor of the amendment. The amendment proposed by the committee was adopted without division.

At the request of Mr. Sewell of New Jersey the river and harbor bill was laid aside temporarily in order that he might submit some remarks on the army reorganization bill, which he regarded as of higher importance than any other measure now before congress. He said that in a very short time he would be armed and equipped a great army of nearly 25,000 men. This army had been reduced more than one-half, yet today, in his opinion, the country was more in a state of war than it was when our army was before Santiago.

Mr. Sewell then stated his reasons for opposing the Pacific bill. He said he had visited them and was satisfied from personal observations that they and their inhabitants were not desirable acquisitions to this country. He declared that it would take an army of from 25,000 to 50,000 men to take control in the Philippines. Even now our control in the Philippines is not complete and this has been accomplished in Manila and thus far had been able to accomplish little.

In his opinion 20,000 men would be required in Cuba and several thousand in Porto Rico. Mr. Foraker interrupted Mr. Sewell to inquire what the United States would need a force of 20,000 men in Cuba for, stating his belief that we did not need any force there since there were no Spanish soldiers left.

Mr. Sewell—We have had peace in Cuba because we have a large force there. Those people are a turbulent people. They will have revolutions constantly. I believe we shall have a war with them after a while. Mr. Foraker—I don't think we will. Mr. Sewell—I do. But that is a question about which the senator and I differ.

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE

Transactions of a Day by the Assembled Solos at Pierre.

SENATE CONSIDERS THE DISPENSARY BILL

Several Amendments Are Adopted, None of Them of Any Importance—Appropriation Bill and the Amount It Carries.

PIERRE, S. D., Feb. 24.—(Special Telegram)—In the senate this morning the dispensary bill was taken up in the committee of the whole and an effort to continue it to a special order tomorrow was lost by a tie vote. Loomis then moved that the committee rise and report the bill for passage to the senate.

The senate general appropriation bill was taken up for final action and a number of amendments were offered, but none of any importance adopted. Tyler attempted to secure an amendment to strike out the purchasing provision and require the state manufactures, but failed in this.

The senate general appropriation bill was laid over for final action until this afternoon, after which the dispensary bill will be up for further discussion. An appropriations committee introduced a bill appropriating \$2,000 for deficiency in expenditure of the railroad commission, of which \$512.32 goes to T. H. Null and \$1,117 to W. O. Temple, as attorney's fees and bill to reimburse experts for the examination of the building at the reform school.

The general appropriation bill was taken up for final action and a number of amendments were presented, the principal of which were to increase the stenographer's salary in the executive office to \$1,500 per year, which carried and several "paternity" bills, the management of the fund provided for the blind asylum at Gary, all of which were lost.

The senate then went into committee of the whole on the dispensary bill and at adjournment it was adopted. The bill, which carries and several "paternity" bills, the management of the fund provided for the blind asylum at Gary, all of which were lost.

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