

RUSHING THE BILLS

Both Branches of Congress Put in Hard Day of it on Conference Reports.

NECESSARY LEGISLATION CLEARED AWAY

General Deficiency and Army Bill Through After Long Wrangle.

LIVELY SCENES LAST LATE INTO NIGHT

Hawaiian Cable Sticks the Sundry Civil Appropriation Measure.

NUMEROUS STRUGGLES OF CONFEREES

Senate Prepares for Adjournment by Suspending Regular Business and Devoting Attention to Urgent Matters.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—At 3 o'clock the house recessed till 4 o'clock.

At 3:30 p. m. the senate adopted the conference report on the river and harbor bill. It now goes to the house. There will be a continuous session till noon, when the session expires by limitation.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Excitement, confusion, heavy strain and hard work have characterized this, the last legislative day of the Fifty-fifth congress in the senate. At times the confusion was so great in this usually staid and decorous body as to render the transaction of business almost impossible. Business that ordinarily has the undivided attention of every senator on the floor was transacted amid so much noise that it was next to impossible to follow the proceedings.

Toward midnight order was being evolved from the seeming chaos of the early part of the day and evening and the prospect was favorable that congress would adjourn at noon tomorrow, with its absolutely necessary work completed.

When the senate convened at 11 o'clock this morning it faced the task of considering the two great appropriation bills—those of the army and for supplying the general deficiencies. The former carries appropriations exceeding \$50,000,000 and the latter about \$20,000,000.

With a determination to complete the appropriation bills, the senate began immediately at 11 o'clock in the morning to consider these measures and at 8 o'clock tonight the army bill was passed, the deficiency bill having passed nearly three hours before. A conference report on the Alaska criminal code bill was presented and agreed to. A partial report on the sundry civil appropriation bill was agreed to, but the inability of the senate conferees to secure an agreement on the Hawaiian cable proposition created a heated discussion, in the course of which Speaker Reed was alluded to in uncompromising terms.

The Toledo exposition bill, carrying an appropriation of \$500,000, was passed without debate.

Debate Late on Rivers and Harbors.

Tonight when the river and harbor conference report was presented a debate upon the recession of the senate conferees from the senate amendment providing for reservoirs to irrigate arid land at the headwaters of the Missouri river, was precipitated by the advocates of the proposition.

An effort was made to recommitt the bill to the conferees, but it failed after an impassioned speech by Senator Fry, who submitted the report. At 11:30 the debate is still in progress, with no indications of an early adjournment.

At 1 o'clock Mr. Morgan offered a joint resolution which he believed would terminate the pending controversy over the irrigation proposition. The resolution provided that all public lands classed as arid or semi-arid in the several states be granted to the states in which the lands are sold that no proceeds of those lands were sold or leased be applied by the states to the purposes of irrigation. Mr. Tillman objected to the consideration of the resolution. Mr. Tillman announced that he did not propose to allow another bill to be considered so long as he could object until the pending report on the river and harbor bill was disposed of.

At 1:30 a. m. Mr. Warren yielded to Mr. Pettigrew, who in support of the irrigation amendment. At 1:35 a. m. Mr. Mantle interrupted Mr. Warren, who had resumed his speech, and noted the absence of a quorum. A call of the roll developed the presence of sixty-two senators. Mr. Mantle then renewed his motion to recommitt the bill, but it was decisively refused.

When the senate convened in its last legislative session at 11 o'clock today more than the usual number of senators were on the floor. The morning business was suspended practically and the senate proceeded immediately to the business looking to adjournment.

The following bills were passed: To incorporate the National White Cross of America and for other purposes; amending the internal revenue laws relating to distilled spirits and for other purposes; authorizing the construction of a bridge over the Tennessee river at Sheffield, Ala.; authorizing the Washington and Gettysburg Railway company of Maryland to extend its line of road into the District of Columbia; a bill providing a site for the Washington public library building.

Temporarily the general deficiency bill was laid aside and the conference report on the Cleveland public building was agreed to by the senate.

Mr. Allison presented a partial conference report on the sundry civil bill. He said there were still twenty-two items in disagreement. The senate amendment which made appropriations for a large number of public buildings had been held up by the house conferees, who insisted that it should contain provisions only for the buildings which had passed both the house and the senate.

One of the important amendments which the house conferees had declined to accept was that providing for a Pacific cable. As the amendment was agreed to practically unanimously by the senate, Mr. Allison said the senate conferees had declined to refer the matter back to the senate.

Mr. Morgan emits a howl. Mr. Morgan denounced what he termed the "log rolling" in both houses regarding public buildings, declaring that the action of the ruler of the house was a fraud and an outrage.

"I say," said he, "bills passed by the senate in such a hurry that many of the names of the cities could not be understood by senators. I want to protest against that sort of legislation. I know where the initiative of this performance comes from. I know the origin of that wrong. I know the man who inspired it. His will and pleasure was to make fair weather for a particular

POINT OF ORDER PROVES FATAL

Senate Declines to Accept the Amendment Recognizing the Exposition.

DEFICIENCY BILL GOES WITHOUT IT

Both Senators from Nebraska Make a Fight, but the Measure is Knocked Out in the Final Rush.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—(Special Telegram.)—Not in many years have the closing hours of congress been watched with so much interest by the people of the United States as the congress which will expire by limitation of law at noon tomorrow. Throughout the day the entire Nebraska delegation on both sides of the capitol has been looking after legislation that would benefit the state.

When the general deficiency bill was reported this morning by the senate committee on appropriations, Senator Hale being in charge of the measure, both senators from Nebraska had determined to play a trump card so far as the Greater America Exposition was concerned. It was well toward midnight when Senator Thurston presented his amendment to the deficiency bill which he had passed upon some days before, having direct bearing upon recognition of the Greater America Exposition.

To counteract the opposition in the house it was decided to put an amendment on the floor of the deficiency bill. When Senator Thurston secured recognition, he said he would not make a speech, but would offer the amendment as it had passed the senate and was pending in the house. He pointed out the success of the Transmississippi Exposition and what it had done in an educational way in bringing the east in touch with the west and its triumph in distancing all other expositions in returning dollar for dollar to stock subscribers.

Senator Allen followed along the same lines, his remarks covering the educational features of the exposition of 1888 to a larger degree than those of Senator Thurston. From cover, Senator Allen came into the open and actively espoused the cause of the Greater America Exposition association.

Senator Hale, however, would not permit the amendment to go to the senate, objecting to its consideration on the ground that it was not a bill, but a resolution. President Hobart sustained the objection.

Indian Supply Depot. Senator Thurston, after this defeat, was chary of introducing anything else that might affect Nebraska's interests, but having the floor, introduced another amendment appropriating \$8,000 for carrying out the provisions of a former act, creating an Indian supply depot at Omaha. The amendment was part of the Indian appropriation bill, but had been knocked out in conference.

Thurston was fearful that the same action would be taken as on the Greater America Exposition and would go to the house. There was just a semblance of silence in the chamber, but no objection came, and the vice president announced that the amendment had carried.

It was unexpected that had occurred and money to carry out the provisions of the act creating a supply depot at Omaha is again in sight if the conference committee can agree. Congressman Mercer was informed of this action and he will labor with the house conferees to retain the same in the bill if such a thing is possible.

The general deficiency bill also carries an appropriation of \$25,000 for the introduction of new plumbing, steam heating plant, an elevator with freight attachment, plastering, painting and making such other repairs as are required and necessary to put the old postoffice building at Omaha in condition for occupancy as the headquarters of the Department of the Missouri.

Senator Allen attempted late in the day to insert a Greater America Exposition amendment in the bill appropriating an amount of money for an expedition at Toledo, O., which came over from the house. Both Hanna and Foraker said to Allen that if the amendment was adopted it would defeat the measure and then withdrew the amendment on the ground that he would not make his grievances those of the senate at large.

General Counsel W. R. Kelly of the Union Pacific, with Vice President Cornish, have seen in the city since yesterday looking after general railroad legislation.

The confirmation of Cadet Taylor came late yesterday on the motion of Senator Nelson, who had reported Taylor as survivor of the port of Omaha favorably several days before.

DID NOT ASK APPROPRIATION

Omaha Will Have the Greater America Exposition, Says Mr. Her, Whatever Congress Does.

"I am sorry to learn of the action of congress," said P. E. Her last night, when he was informed of the action of the appropriation, "but really I did not ask for any appropriation. All we wanted was its exhibits, or as many of them as possible, and let us have the use of the government building until the next Greater America Exposition. We are willing to pay all the costs of transportation and the salary of a custodian for the government exhibit."

"But whatever congress may have done or may do we will not allow it to make an account and have the exposition."

"It would be absolutely out of the question to turn back now. We have gone too far to turn back, I for one am satisfied the business men of Omaha will rally to the assistance of the project and that we will have a magnificent exposition, government aid or not."

"Still we do not give up hopes of recognition of some kind. There is another day but we expect to get something through in the shape of a resolution. Had the delegation from this state been united we would not have had any trouble at all in this matter. I wired Mr. Foraker today to leave no stone unturned, and I believe Dave Mercer and Senator Thurston have done their best. We have sent several telegrams tonight to Washington urging that the last day of the session be made the most of. We have wired Messrs. Thurston and Mercer asking them to get through with legislation tomorrow letting us have the use of the government building until November 1 and the loan of the government exhibits entirely at our own expense. We have also asked for the loan of the Indiana. We will pay for every item of expense connected with them. The government has already allowed us a man, with transportation both ways, from each of the colonies for the purpose of bringing here exhibits from the islands of Porto Rico and Cuba and the Philippines; so that that particular feature of the exposition is assured. All we want is what I have stated, and I would like it clearly understood that we never asked for any appropriation and never expected any. We have started this thing and we are going to carry it through."

POPE ON ROAD TO RECOVERY

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