

ASKS GUARD FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Senator Owen Makes Astonishing Declarations in Supporting Bill Aiming at New Department.

AMERICANS' LIVES ARE TOO SHORT

With Proper Sanitation Speaker Says We Can Live Much Longer.

IGNORANCE CAUSES BIG SACRIFICE

Six Hundred Thousand Deaths Each Year Unnecessary, He Says.

WANTS THE BUREAUS COMBINED

Measure Provides for a Department with Cabinet Officer at its Head—Gallinger Retorts that Figures Are All Imagination.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—That 600,000 lives are sacrificed annually to the altar of this country's ignorance and neglect of sanitary health laws was asserted by Senator Owen in the course of a speech in the senate today in support of his bill creating a department of health with a cabinet officer at its head.

Mr. Owen's address was based on the theory that the various health agencies of the government should be consolidated. He declared that with proper attention to the prevention of contagion and to the protection of the people against the use of polluted water and impure and adulterated food human life could be greatly extended and with all the safeguards applied the average life might be increased to the extent of twenty-seven years within the century.

In addition to the 600,000 cases of fatal illness annually, Mr. Owen asserted that an average of 3,000,000 people were constantly sick in this country with preventable diseases.

Hook Worm Plague.

Mr. Owen said he had been informed by an expert that 90 per cent of the children of one of the southern states were affected with the hook worm.

"I don't care who the expert is," remarked Mr. Money of Mississippi, "I don't believe a word he says."

Mr. Owen said that the hook worm could be cured by two doses of thymol, at a cost of 25 cents. Senator Hays suggested that there was \$1,000,000 "how on tap" for the eradication of hook worms.

Mr. Gallinger thought that since it had become known that there was so much money available for the hook worm that it had been in charge of a health department and not of mere health bureau.

"I'm afraid the senator is drawing on his imagination for his facts," objected Mr. Gallinger.

"I will give the senate the whole record," the Oklahoma senator retorted, "if the senator having."

"You shall have all the facts within two days," said Mr. Owen.

In conclusion Mr. Owen spoke of the prevalence of malaria in Oklahoma. He declared that every school teacher should be armed with a pamphlet instructing against the ravages of poisonous flies and mosquitoes.

Replying to the Oklahoma senator, Mr. Gallinger expressed the opinion that the government should go slow in establishing a department of health. He thought the public health, marine service hospital and the health department in the different states were doing reasonably well. As for the contention that the period of life could be materially lengthened, he regarded it "a dream, pure and simple."

Natural Resources vs. Life.

Senator Owen declared that, while he is in favor of the conservation of natural resources of the nation, "the conservation of the life of our people is of far greater importance, and the conservation of the vitality of our people is a problem of the first magnitude, demanding immediate intelligent attention."

He spoke against the bureau system of looking out for the public health, asserting that the question was of such greater importance that it could not be handled efficiently except by a separate department with powers as great as those now enjoyed by all of the other departments of the government.

"We have a bureau for 100 years," he said, "and are scattered in eight departments. They have been disconnected and without coordination. They ever have been jealous of each other, the one nullifying and hampering the work of the other. They have been without a responsible head because of this bureau system, but the chief of the public health and marine hospital service cannot express an opinion or give information until he has consulted the secretary of the treasury."

The secretary of the treasury was selected as a cabinet officer, he added, "not because of his knowledge of the public health, but because he was an expert on finance."

This government officer, he thought, should direct government activities in fighting disease. He declared that in the case of specific reports on the bubonic plague the bureau dealing with disease had been early supported by the commercialism and its supposed interests, putting in jeopardy the national health, the national interests and the national wealth and was required to withhold and suppress the truth in violation of a section of the quarantine laws.

Combat Against Disease.

Under a subordinate bureau co-operation in the fight against disease is impracticable, he declared. The bureau has not sufficient dignity or power in an emergency. He continued, "It has no national standing. It cannot take the initiative, but always stands subject to the orders of a secretary too greatly influenced by mere apparent commercial and fiscal interests."

The bill introduced by Senator Owen would co-ordinate into one working body all of the various health agencies of the government. It proposes no new officers, except the secretary and his assistant, and calls for no new appropriation aside from the salaries of the secretaries. It will provide a number of efficiencies, said Senator Owen, by preventing duplication.

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City of Des Moines Loses Fight for Rate Reduction

Interstate Commerce Commission Refuses to Order Lower Tariffs to Points in Dakotas.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The city of Des Moines today lost its fight for a readjustment of freight rates from that city to points in western Minnesota and North and South Dakota, when the Interstate Commerce commission announced its decision on the complaint of the greater Des Moines committee.

The committee contended that because Des Moines is in the territory in question, Chicago, St. Louis, Dubuque, Davenport, Clinton, Muscatine and Burlington should have an advantage in rates. Complaints have been made in the territory of railroad rates.

"This is an important matter," says the opinion announced by Commissioner Cook, "and it is to be considered the whole field when such a rate adjustment is undertaken."

The committee sought to be made by the commission and must carefully consider what probably would be the effect upon other points not involved in the specific complaint under consideration.

"Upon full consideration," continues the opinion, "our conclusions are that this complaint has not been sustained and that there have not been shown facts sufficient to justify this commission in ordering a change in the present rate adjustment and in attempting to establish a new rate adjustment which would be in consonance with the basis sought by the complainant."

Commissioner Lane dissented from the finding on the ground that the committee proceeding in which since the filing of the complaint, the railroads have thought the rates unfair.

DES MOINES, March 24.—(Special Telegram.)—There was much disappointment here today over the news from Washington that the rate case brought by Des Moines for a readjustment of rates to the northwest had been lost. This is the second time that the committee has been disappointed.

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PRAIRIE ABLAZE; MAY GET RESERVE

Sweeping Fire Starting Near Weir Threatens Great Loss in Thomas County.

ALREADY RUNS NINETY MILES

Government Officers Call on People for Help.

TRAINLOAD OF FIGHTERS GOES

Entire Region Responds to Stamp Out Leaping Flames.

FIRE FRONT OF FIFTEEN MILES

High Wind Drives Blazing Destruction and Blaze is Now Entering a Thickly Populated District of State.

HECLA, Neb., March 24.—(Special Telegram.)—A prairie fire that had its origin four miles west of here yesterday morning in the vicinity of the district school near Meir, was still burning fiercely at a late hour tonight in and around Dunning, nearly ninety miles distant.

The forest reserve officers at Halsey today called for help from the Burlington railway company. An eastbound train picked up volunteers at Theford and took them to Halsey, where they relieved the worn out fire fighters, who were protecting the reserve, and who had been working all through the night and day.

The damage to range fences and hay will be heavy, as the fire front extends nearly fifteen miles and is driven by a very high wind. Unless the wind goes down tonight the damage will be very great, as it is now entering a more thickly populated country.

Considerable hay was destroyed in the vicinity of Hecla and it is reported that the entire farm improvements on the Gordon place, four miles south of Seneca, were destroyed.

The territory covered is so large and the call for relief so demanding that it is difficult to get much information as to damage.

Halsey, the center station of the Dismal river forest reserve, is in Thomas county, eighteen miles southeast of Theford. The government for several years has been making experiments to prove that pine trees when once started will flourish in the sand hill region. The work is successfully under way and should the growth of young trees that has been started with such difficulty, almost with hopeless care, be destroyed, the loss would be keenly felt.

PRAIRIE FIRES IN KANSAS

Many Farms Are Burned Over in the Vicinity of Abilene and Ogallah.

ABILENE, Kan., March 24.—A prairie fire that started yesterday afternoon near the railroad tracks four miles west of Abilene and burned north was checked by farmers early today, but not till nine farms had been swept clean and much small stock killed. The loss will reach \$50,000.

The farmers in the burned area are left without tools or seed for spring work and with orchards and gardens destroyed.

OGALLAH, Kan., March 24.—A terrific prairie fire raged for several hours in Trego county last night, burning over fifty square miles and destroying thousands of dollars' worth of farm property.

Ogallah and several other small towns were endangered and were saved only after a large force of fire fighters had made a heroic fight against the flames, which were fanned by a high wind.

HOUSE COMMITTEE CHANGES

Mr. Foster of Vermont Succeeds Late Mr. Perkins as Chairman of Foreign Affairs.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Speaker Cannon announced the appointment of Representative Foster (Republican, Vermont), to succeed the late Representative Perkins of New York as chairman of the committee on foreign affairs.

The chairmanship of the committee on expenditures in the Department of Commerce and Labor, made vacant by promotion of Mr. Foster, was given to Mr. Gardner of Michigan, a staunch regular.

Both Mr. Foster and Mr. Gardner were elected by reason of seniority to the respective chairmanships.

Mr. Bennett of New York was appointed a member of the committee of foreign affairs to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Lovering of Massachusetts.

CALL FOR CATTLE RAISERS

Senate Committee on Food Prices Will Take Testimony of Live Stock Men.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Having heard retailers and packers of meat in an effort to fix the responsibility for the prevailing high prices, the senate committee making an investigation of this subject has arranged to take the testimony of cattle raisers at a hearing next Tuesday.

Building Permits.

Edward Schuster, 102 South Eighteenth, frame dwelling, \$2,400; Frank L. Williams, 1722 Spring, frame dwelling, \$1,700; A. F. Baker, 1027 North 10th, frame dwelling, \$1,000; Christian Businger, 2470 South Fifth, frame dwelling, \$1,000.



From the New York Herald.

ENTRIES WILL BE ALLOWED

Commissioner Dennett Makes Ruling Where Protest is Lacking.

BIG BOON TO PEOPLE IN WEST

Calling In of Special Field Agents Left Many Matters Pending Which This Will Settle.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, March 24.—(Special Telegram.)—A decision of much interest and importance to entrymen under the Nebraska one-section homestead act, known as the Kinkaid act, was made this morning by Mr. Dennett, commissioner of the general land office.

The North Platte district land office called the attention of Congressman Kinkaid to the fact that the field agents of the general land office, for the want of funds to pay their salaries, had been called in and that there were 200 proofs in that office awaiting the examination of these agents, thus resulting in much dissatisfaction, inconvenience and probable delay to those who had offered their final proof.

Residence there are five United States district land offices in western Nebraska in the Sixth Congressional district, and it is presumed that a similar condition to that described at North Platte exists in each of the other offices.

To relieve this situation, Congressman Kinkaid urged upon the commissioner that the final certificates be issued to entrymen except where complaint or protest is made, and Commissioner Dennett has concluded to adopt such recommendation.

Subsistence for Clerks.

Following his proposed amendment to grant a thirty-day leave of absence with pay to employees of postoffices of the country enjoying city delivery, Senator Burlett today introduced an amendment to the postoffice appropriation bill, which provides, all railway mail clerks shall be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred by them while away from home on duty.

A year ago Senator Burlett endeavored to have railway postal clerks given their expenses while away from home on duty, and he made one of the most interesting speeches on this subject heard in the Sixtieth congress. At that time Senator Penrose, chairman of the postoffice and post roads committee, practically said that mail clerks could be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred by them while on duty. But Senator Burlett, not willing to take any chances as to promises of year ago, introduced the amendment so it may be brought to the attention of the postoffice and post roads committee when the postoffice appropriation bill is pending.

It seems as if it is a fact railway mail clerks have to provide their own subsistence while away from home on duty, although every other employee of the government who is detailed on business for the government has subsistence provided for him.

Appropriation Bill Passes.

Senator Burlett, who with Senator Warren of Wyoming, virtually prepared the legislative, executive and judicial bill, had the pleasure of seeing the bill which he had been intimately connected as a member of the appropriation committee pass the senate today without serious trouble.

Indian Resolution.

The senate today passed a joint resolution amending a resolution approved January 19, 1910, which authorized the secretary of the interior to pay to the Winnebago tribe of Indians interest accrued since June 12, 1909, so as to authorize the secretary of the interior to reserve from the interest of the Winnebago in Nebraska a sufficient amount to pay their proportion of the necessary expenses of the Omaha and Winnebago agency.

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Bribe Taker Faints While Confessing

Indictment of