TALK IN CONGRESS

Senator Allison Explains the Currency Bill.

Close of House Debate on Porto Rico Tariff.

Some of the Dissenting Republicans Fall Into Line For the Measure.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.-Soon after he senate convened today Mr. Aldrich R. L.) called up the conference report on he financial bill and made an explanaion of the differences between the senate bill and the conference bill.

The last of the struggle over the Porto Rico tariff bill in the house opened at 11 o'clock with almost every member in his seat and a large attendance in the gal-

Immediately after the reading of the journal the clerk began reading the bill for amendment under the five minute rule. When section 3 was reached, Mr. Payne, chairman of the ways and means committee, offered the following substi-tute for that section:

Section 3.-That on and after the passage of this act all merchandise coming into the United States from Porto Rico coming into Porto Rico from the United States shall be entered at the several ports of entry upon payment of 15 per cent of the duties which are required to be levied, collected and paid upon like articles of merchandise imported from foreign countries, and, in addition thereto, upon articles of merchandise of Porto Rican manufacture coming into the United States and withdrawn for consumption or sale upon payment of a tax equal to the internal revenue tax imposed in the United States upon the like articles of merchandise of domestic manufacture, such tax to be paid by internal revenue stamps or stamps to be purchased and provided by the commissioner of internal revenue at or most convenient to the port of entry of said merchandise in the United States and to be effected under such regulations as the commissioner of internal revenue, with the approval of the secretary of the treasury, shall prescribe, and on all articles of merchandise of United States manufacture coming into Porto Rico, in addition to the duty above provided in payment of a tax equal in rate and amount to the internal revenue tax imposed in Porto Rico upon like articles of Porto Rican manufacture."

Mr. Payne explained that the substitute did two things. It reduced the duty from 25 to 15 per cent, and it also re moved some confusion regarding double taxation. Mr. Payne said he still adhered to the opinion that 25 per cent would be better than 15, because it would raise more revenue, but 15 per cent was better than nothing. In answer to a question as to how much the bill as amended would raise, Mr. Payne said the estimate for the original bill was \$1,700,-If that estimate was correct, the amended bill would raise about \$1,250,-000 per annum. Mr. Payne took occasion to reprove some of his critics who had complained that he had given no explanation of his change of front. His speech and his report, he said, gave a full explanation. He had believed in free trade with Porto Rico at one time, but subsequent information had convinced him that the duty proposed by the pending bill should be imposed.

Mr. Berry (Dem., Ky.) said the amendment proposed petty instead of grand larceny of the people of Porto Rico. He ridiculed the laborious debate through which the house had passed over the question of what the "United States" meant under the constitution. If this country had been called "Columbia" instead of the "United States," 1,200 pages of The Congressional Record could have been eliminated. No one would have had the hardihood to contend then that the constitution did not extend over

Mr. De Armond (Dem., Mo.) called attention to the peculiar language of the substitute. The words "coming into the United States," he said, were plainly ended to evade the constitution. But, argued, the "murdering of the queen's glish" and the violation of the canons language "could not make it consti-

Mr. Grow (Rep., Pa.), the venerable ex-speaker of the house, and Mr. Graff (Rep., Ills.) spoke briefly in support of the bill. The latter said his constituents expected him to abide by the will of the majority of his party. He did not desire to go back to his district to apologize for his party by announcing that he was and it was wrong. He referred to the history of the efforts of the Democrats to prematurely force the adminis tration into the Spanish war in vindication of the policy of standing by the ad-

ministration. Mr. Fitzgerald (Dem., Mass.) in opposing the bill referred to the expressed determination of Secretary Root to increase the number of native troops in Porto Mr. Fitzgerald wanted to know to what nation those native troops be longed. Were they to be told that the American flag they were sworn to defend meant one thing for Porto Rico and an other to the United States? Were they to become American citizens at 15 per

cent off? Mr. Bromwell (Rep., O.), who has hitherto opposed the bill, after paying his respects to some of his Ohio co leagues (Grosvenor and Shattue), said that he was now convinced that the administration which three months ago recommended free trade for Porto Rico now earnestly desired the passage of the bill. It mattered little whether he returned to congress, he said, but it was of great importance that the Republican party should remain in power. His announcement that he had decided to stand by his in the present emergency was

greeted with applause.
Mr. Grosvenor (O.) said that much of the opposition to the pending bill was due to the fact that it was misunder-stood. As late as last Saturday night the editor of a prominent Republican paper had made the statement to him that the bill proposed that we should put our hands into the pockets of starving Porto Ricans. When he learned that all the money collected at both ends of the line

went to the Porto Ricans, he was aston-

ished. He had also a letter from a dis-

tinguished divine complaining of the pro-

posed robbery of the Porto Ricans.
Mr. Otey (Dem., Va.) followed Mr.
Grosvenor with a speech which convulsed the house and galleries. He mimicked the mannerisms of some of the Republican leaders, concluding with a paredy upon the speech of Mr. Cannon (Rep., Ills.) yesterday.

The Payne amendment was adopted

without division.

Mr. Payne then offered the following additional section agreed upon at the conference of Republicans on Monday

This act shall be taken and held to be provisional in its purposes and intended to meet a pressing present need for revenue for the island of Porto Rico and shall continue in force after March 1,

Mr. Powers (Rep., Vt.), who was the author of the amendment, supported it. With him, he said, there was a question as to the constitutionality of the bill and one as to its expediency. A case was already in the courts, he said, which would eventually settle the question of consti-tutional law. As to the expediency, this section would make the measure temporary and provisional. It was, he understood, satisfactory to the president, and, that being the case, he was willing to give the amended bill his support.

CŒUR D'ALENE INQUIRY.

The Editor of a Local Paper on the

Witness Stand. WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.-The investigation of the course of the United States military forces in connection with the Cour d'Alene (Ida.) mining troubles was resumed today by the house committee on military affairs. Wilbur H. Stewart, publisher of a paper at Mullan, Ida., a town near the scene of rioting, testified at considerable length. He said his paper had no official connection with the miners and he had no part in the riots at the time of the blowing up of the mill. Subsequently, however, he was arrested without warrant at his office by State Auditor Bartlett Sinclair and an army officer. Mr. Sinclair stated to witness that he was accused of publishing seditious matter. A special train took him to Wallace, and after a night in jail he was put in the "bull pen." The officer who arrested him were the uniform of the United States army and was in charge of the military forces. Mr. Stewart described the interior of the "pen" along the same lines as previous witnesses. He said he was compelled by the negro soldiers to do revolting work.

Stewart testified that when he got sick and refused to do the work on account of illness the negro soldiers used obscene language and oaths against him until the corporal of the guard made them desist. The general treatment of the men in the "pen" was, he said, revolting to an American citizen. They were frequently insulted.

At the request of Representatives Lentz and Dick an additional number of

witnesses were summoned.

The Philippine Revenues. WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.-The war department has announced the customs receipts in the Philippine Islands by ports for the month of November. The total amount of import duties collected was \$327,607, of which \$293,400 was collected at Manila, \$18,836 at Hoilo and \$15,371 at Cebu. The total amount of export duties collected was \$24,912, of which \$8,679.77 was collected at Manila, \$1,759 at Iloilo and \$14,473.41 at Cebu. Other dues collected brought the total collection of customs in the islands for the month up to \$369,308, of which \$318,-504 was collected at Manila, \$20,743 at Hollo and \$30,059 at Cebu.

Labor Troubles In Porto Rico, first important strike among Porto Rican laborers began Monday morning, when 500 men who had been constructing the military road from Ponce to Adjuntas marched into the latter town, waving flags and carrying banners with the inscription, "We workmen demand 5 cents an hour." The strikers, who were or-derly, appointed a committee to consult with the contractors. The present rate of pay is 3 cents an hour, and the men complain that they are compelled to work from sunrise to sunset for 30 cents.

Rio Janeiro's Protest.

RIO JANEIRO, Feb. 28.-The president of the Commercial association has protested against extortions alleged to have been practiced by consuls at Triest Brazil that she will collect 300 francs per 100 kilos on coffee until August in the event of Brazil refusing to grant her the favored nation treatment and will then double the duty. The maximum tariff duties begin tomorrow.

Defaulting Treasurer Caught. ITHACA, N. Y., Feb. 28.-Word has been received here that Charles Ingersoll, the defaulting treasurer of Tompkins county, had been arrested in Iola, Kan. Ingersoll admitted his identity and surrendered \$250 to the sheriff who arrested him. He was contemplating going to Peru. In addition to the shortage in the accounts of the county Ingersoll owed several thousand dollars in private debts.

The Rush to Cape Nome.

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—Passenger agents of the railroads entering the northwest from Chicago estimate that during the pext three months 3,000 persons will be taken from this city to Cape Nome, in the Alaska goldfields. Nearly 200 prospectors have left Chicago during the past two weeks for the new El Dorado, and 75 others will depart within a fortnight.

Armor Plate For Russia.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.-A six inch armor plate intended for the Russian overnment was tested at the Indian Head proving grounds yesterday. A six gun was fired at the plate, the pro jectile having a velocity of over 1,900 feet per second. The plate was unharmthe penetration being less than an

Fatal Fire In Postoffice.

FIFE LAKE, Mich., Feb. 28.-The postoffice at Ivan, five miles east of here, was burned yesterday, and Herbert the postmaster's son, perished in ames. The shock and exposure the flames. caused by getting to the nearest neighbors, a quarter of a mile distant, may prove fatal to Mrs. Bates.

Rubber Factory Starts Up. BOSTON, Feb. 28. - The American Rubber company's factory at Cambridgeport has resumed operations at full time, thus giving employment to 1,000 people. The shutdown has lasted ten days.

BULLER'S ADVANCE

Slowly Cutting His Way to Beleaguered Ladysmith.

Takes Boers' Main Position at Pieter's Hill.

His Movement, However, Is Stubbornly Resisted and Costs Many Lives.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Buller, dated headquarters, Hlandwani, Feb. 28, 5 a. m.: "Finding that the passage of Lange-wacht's spruit was commanded by strong

intrenchments, 1 reconnoitered for another passage of the Tugela. One was found for me below the cataract by Colo nel Sandbach, Royal engineers, on Feb. We commenced making an approach thereto, and on Feb. 26, finding that I could make the passage practicable, I crossed the guns and baggage back to the south side of the Tugela, took up the pontoon bridge on Monday night and rehaid it at the new site, which is just below the point marked cataract. During all this time the troops had been scat-tered, crouching under hastily constructed small stone shelters, and exposed to a galling shell and rifle fire, and throughout they maintained the most excellent spir-Tuesday General Barton with two battalions of the Sixth brigade and the Dublin fusileers crept about a mile and a half down the banks of the river and ascended an almost precipitous cliff of about 500 feet, assaulted and carried the top of Pieter's hill. This hill, to a certain extent, turned the enemy's left, and the Fourth brigade, under Colonel Nor-cott, and the Eleventh brigade, Colonel Kitchener commanding, the whole under command of General Warren, assailed the enemy's position, which was magnificently carried by the South Lancashire regiment about sunset. We took about 60 prisoners and scattered the enemy in all directions. There seems to be still a considerable body of them left on and under Bulwana mountain. Our losses, I hope, are not large. They certainly are much less than they would have been were it not for the admirable manner in which the artillery was served. especially the guns manned by the Royal naval force and the Natal naval volun-

Queen Victoria has sent the following aessage to General Buller:

"I have heard with the deepest concern of the heavy losses sustained by my brave Irish soldiers. I desire to express my sympathy and admiration of the splendid fighting qualities which they have exhibited throughout these trying operations.' General Buller's account of the tre-

mendous resistance he is encountering in his efforts to reach Ladysmith has brought public interest, with a sharp turn, from complacent contemplation of Lord Roberts' victory to a realization of the serious conditions still existing in Natal. Though General Buller's lengthy dispatch is construed as a victory bravely won, the commander of the forces in Natal has so often reported similar victories without achieving his main objective that the public has learned to contain its jubilation until Ladysmith is nctually relieved, while the long list of casualties invariably following any apparent gain by General Ruller is al twaited with dread and anxiety which temporarily rob his partial success of its acclaim. However, it is the generally accepted belief that General determined to reach General White this time, and, though the stages are disappointingly slow, the nation confidently awaits the news of the relief of those 8,000 besieged troops. General Buller's report shows there is urgent need of Lord Roberts exerting every effort to still further draw off the Boers from Natal to the Free State. That he will do so, and quite likely is already doing so, by marching upon Bloemfontein, is regarded as almost certain by the mili-

tary critics here.
With the additional 600 Boers reported to be prisoners at Kimberley, it seems that the number of men captured by Lord Roberts nearly renches 5,000.

The afternoon papers continue to comment on the hero of Kandahar's great achievement, laying special stress on the gallantry of the Canadians, who, according to a Paardeberg special, were actually fighting hand to hand in the Boer trenches when General Cronje surrendered, though this scarcely agrees with Lord Roberts' dispatch.

News of the Hollanders.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28.-The newspapers generally express the opinion that General Crenje's capitulation does not mean the end of the war. The Algemeen Handelsblad says: "It is a long way between Lord Roberts and Pretoria. If he is finally victorious, a more dangerous guerrilla warfare will begin, and the Boers will smite the British everywhere. The Cape Dutch will form a permanent danger to South Africa."

The Telegraf says: "The Boers, embittered, will continue the war with greater Will Europe any longer stifle the voice of conscience?"

What Is Thought In Rome.

ROME, Feb. 28.-The capitulation of General Cronje has produced a painful impression in Rome. The newspapers are unanimous in expressing their admiration for the Boer commander and his troops. The Tribuna says, "The capitulation is undoubtedly important, but it does not conclude the war." The Sanfulla says, "General Cronje attained the object he desired—namely, to enable a great part of General Joubert's army to reach Bloemfontein.

Opinion of Berlin Press.

BERLIN, Feb. 28.-The German newspapers are disappointed at the surrender of General Cronje. They admit that Lord Roberts has shown real military ability and dash and that the Boers have lost in Cronje their most skillful leader.

Against the clot Machines.

ALBANY, Feb. 28. — After a brief hearing on the Wagner bill for the prevention of picture slot machines the committee on codes of the assembly agreed to report it favoraby. It has already passed the senate.

Smallpox In Detroit,
DETROIT, Feb. 28.—Nine students of
the Detroit College of Medicine and a
helper are detained in the smallpox hospital. They all worked over the body of a man who died of what was believed to be blood poisoning. Now it turns out to have been smallpox. The first case reported outside of Detroit is from Williamston, Mich., where Lorenzo Zimmer, a medical student, lives. The entire town has been exposed, as Zimmer visited all his friends after he returned from the

Historic Old House Burned. NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—An old two story frame house on Macomb's Dam lane, which was once part of the Jumel estate, was yesterday destroyed by fire. The loss was small. The principal interest in the fire is the fact that the building was at various times during the Revo-lutionary period the headquarters of George Washington. During the old days it was owned by Thomas Tone, and it remained in the possession of the Tone family for many years.

Nitroglycerin Kills Three.

MARIETTA, O., Feb. 28.—Three men were killed in the oilfields near this city yesterday by explosions of nitroglycerin. Harvey Benedict and Chester Campbell of Williamstown were blown to atoms while preparing to shoot a well. A few minutes later, near the scene of the first accident, a load of nitroglycerin exploded, annihilating Samuel Fleming, his team and wagon and shaking the country for miles around.

Money Stolen From the Mail. NEW YORK, Feb. 28.-It became nown at noon today that several money packages, said to contain about \$7,000 and intended to pass through the Long Island City postoffice, disappeared yesterday afternoon while en route from New York to Long Island City. All the information that can be learned from the postal authorities indicates that the mon-ey packages were stolen from a mail



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