

THE WASHINGTON NEWS

WHAT OUR NATIONAL LAW MAKERS ARE CONSIDERING.

Some of the More Important Work of the National Congress—Bills that the Committees Report Favorably Upon—Washington Topics.

The Senate has rejected the sectarian school amendment to the Indian Appropriation bill, offered by Mr. Jones (Democrat, of Arkansas), by a vote of 30 to 16. The bill was then passed. It carries about \$8,414,000.

The House Committee on Territories has reported a bill disapproving the action of New Mexico in creating "McKinley county," on the ground that the locality lacked the population and business to warrant county organization.

The Secretary of War has forwarded to Congress the report of a Board of Engineers and Architects in favor of the construction of a bridge across the Potomac river from Washington to Arlington, "as a memorial to American patriotism," in accordance with designs submitted by Professor Burr, a bridge engineer, of New York, at an estimated cost of \$4,800,000.

The Agricultural Appropriation bill just reported to the House carries \$4,116,400, being \$390,778 more than the law for the current year.

The President has nominated John B. Robinson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The Republican Caucus Committee of the Senate has decided that a steady effort shall be made to dispose of the business now before the Senate, including the Quay case, Philippine bill, Alaskan bill and appropriation bills.

The War Department has made public the correspondence relative to the recall of General Otis from Manila. The General will probably leave the Philippines after the arrival of the Commission, which will be about May 15.

A bill has been introduced in the Senate by Mr. Hawley, authorizing the secretary of war to make surveys for the establishment of camp grounds in the north, east, south and west for the training of soldiers of the United States and the National Guard.

Senator Gear has introduced an amendment to the Postoffice Appropriation bill, fixing eight hours as the length of the working day for clerks in postoffices, and providing for extra pay for additional hours.

The Naval Appropriation bill, reported to the House, carries items aggregating \$61,219,916, the bill being the largest ever reported by the committee.

The session of the senate April 4 opened with a discussion of the status of the Quay case, during which Mr. Wolcott apologized for language he had used. The Colorado senator made a vehement appeal for early action upon the Quay case, and it was decided finally to take up the case.

There was an exciting scene in the House April 4, as the climax of a discussion of the Kentucky situation when Mr. Wheeler, a Kentucky Democrat, and Mr. Pugh, a Kentucky Republican, faced each other from opposite sides of the main aisle and indulged in a wordy duel.

Major Frederick A. Mahan, Corps of Engineers, has been placed upon the retired list upon his own application, after thirty years' service. He is a brother of Captain Mahan, of the navy.

The Senate has brought to a close the debate on the Porto Rican Tariff and Civil Government bill, and, after rejecting all but committee amendments, passed the measure by a vote of 40 to 31.

The amount of bonds so far deposited in the Treasury for exchange for the new 2 per cents, is \$210,135,500, of which \$25,080,800 has been received from individuals and institutions other than national banks.

The resignation of Webster Davis as Asst. Sec. of the Interior has been accepted by Secretary Hitchcock, by direction of the President. The resignation, it is understood, was sent directly to the President by Mr. Davis, but was transferred to the Secretary of the Interior.

London Waiters Starving. Waiters in London are bitterly complaining of the effects the war is having on their particular vocation. The men who, during the London season, gained a livelihood by waiting at banquets, balls and parties, given by the elite in the West End, have earned practically nothing lately owing to the absence of such festivities. It was resolved at a recent meeting to ask the Lord Mayor to open a fund at the Mansion House for distressed waiters.

The new assessment of the public franchises of New York city, as made by the state tax commissioners, increases their value by \$189,654,971, which means an increase of nearly five millions in the city's revenues from taxes. Just how the energetic and watchful police force is to get a "rake off" on this has not been determined.—Philadelphia Times.

Cambridge University may lose its river, as a water company proposes to tap the sources of the Cam. The graduates are getting up a petition to Parliament against the scheme.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Events of the Week Told in a Few Words.

From Skaguay comes news of valuable quartz discoveries on Sullivan Island, Lynn Canal, where a fifty foot ledge will be developed immediately.

Ninety-three cases of the bubonic plague and twenty-nine deaths from the disease have occurred at Sydney, N. S. W.

Heavy rains have fallen in Germany, and the Elbe and Oder have overflowed in extensive districts in Saxony, Brandenburg and Silesia.

President Barber, of the Diamond Match Company, has offered to give \$100,000 to the Akron, Ohio, City Hospital, to be used as an endowment fund, providing the citizens of Akron raise \$15,000 additional for the purpose of paying off the debt now hanging over the institution.

The Schukert Electrical Company, at Berlin, is increasing its capital to 14,000,000 marks. Negotiations for the formation of a wire syndicate, including all Germany, are said to be nearing completion.

The leather manufacturers of Germany will meet at Frankfurt April 17 to arrange a price agreement.

Miss Olga Nethersole and Hamilton Reville, actor; Marcus R. Mayer, manager of Miss Nethersole, and Theodore Moss, manager of Wallack's theatre, New York, have been found not guilty of maintaining a public nuisance in presenting the drama "Sapho."

The charge to the jury by Judge Fursman, of the criminal branch of the Supreme Court, was highly favorable to the accused, and the jury were out only twelve minutes.

The Pure Beer bill has been killed by the New York senate, by a refusal to adopt a rule reported by the rules committee to permit of its immediate passage out of its order.

Despatches from Ponce and San Juan, Puerto Rico, announce that hundreds of sick and starving people have flocked into those cities from the country districts in search of relief.

Dr. Nansen has arranged with a firm of Leipzig publishers to publish a five volume English work containing the scientific results of his polar explorations.

It is said that by the desire of Queen Victoria, the son that was born to the Duke and Duchess of York will be christened Patrick.

Over a foot of snow fell in Western Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming April 5. Stock will be greatly benefited, as the melting snow will improve the range grass.

The Ohio senate has passed the Toledo Centennial bill, after cutting the appropriation from \$1,000,000 to \$750,000, and providing for a new commission of eleven members to be appointed by Governor Nash.

Richard A. Canfield, proprietor of a gambling house in New York, brought suit against Harrison I. Drummond and James T. Drummond, of New York and St. Louis, for \$55,000 lost in roulette.

A Federal Grand Jury, in Savannah, Ga., has charged that delays in New York will probably prevent the prosecution of Gaynor, Greene and others accused of defrauding the Government out of millions.

Jorge Cruz, a Porto Rican, has been brought to this country under a labor contract to test the question as to whether or not Porto Ricans are citizens of the United States.

Elihu Root, as a lawyer, held that Michael J. Dady's Havana contract was valid, and as Secretary of War rejected it.

Before the Congressional committee investigating the Idaho mining riots the manager of the Bunker Hill Mine refused to tell who had warned him that he was to be killed and the mine blown up.

A MYSTERY SOLVED.

An Elopement, Death by Fire and Possible Monument.

Edward McMoran and the wife of Samuel Rook of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., ran away several months ago. Now comes the news that both met death in a fire at Hartford Conn.

Rook and Morton, both Englishmen, came to Rochdale not long ago, as expert weavers. They received high salaries. Morton had been a student at Cambridge University England. He was the black sheep of a fine English family.

Rook liked the handsome young Britisher and took him to his home presided over by his handsome wife. He suspected nothing wrong even when the two disappeared. He alone of all in the village refused to believe they had run away together.

Morton a few days after the elopement got a good place in the big Cheney factory in Hartford and went to housekeeping with the wife of his former friend whom he introduced as Mrs. Morton. Soon afterward their house caught fire and both were so badly burned that they died within forty-eight hours. They were buried side by side as husband and wife in Spring Grove Cemetery.

When word of the tragedy reached the dead man's mother in England she wrote back in agonized words for particulars. This led to an investigation and Mr. Cheney sent for the facts.

A can of kerosene which they were using to build the kitchen fire exploded and burned both badly. They died within a few hours of each other. They were without funds, so Col. F. W. Cheney bore the expense of their burial. When taken to the hospital the two were suffering great pain, but each insisted that the other should be cared for first. A subscription paper is being circulated for a monument for the couple.

The Republicans were generally successful on Tuesday in the municipal elections in Kansas.

LATEST FROM THE FLOOD

HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS.

No Chance for Warning—Great Fall of Water Broke the Big Dam—Many Families Destitute—Relief Needed Immediately.

Flood news from Texas continues to grow worse. Reports coming in from the country tributary to the Colorado River are rapidly swelling the list of drowned. Thirty-four deaths have been reported up to tonight, and it is feared the list will go higher.

The entire community along the Colorado River was caught unawares by the breaking of the dam, and the solid wall of water, twenty feet high, which charged down the river with the speed of the winds, carried death and destruction to every section. It was thought yesterday that the telegraphic warning sent out had given all parties notice in time to make their escape. It did in the cases of city residents living along the river, but the country people had no notification.

Reports from Bastrop county are that the full force of the flood was felt there yesterday and last night, and residents were forced to flee from their homes. Many narrowly escaped death, but others were not successful, and the list of fatalities there this morning showed six Mexicans and nine negroes drowned.

In the lower part of Austin, which was inundated on Saturday by the breaking of the dam, eighteen persons are missing, and the supposition is that all of them were drowned. The list includes a white man named Harvey, a family of six named Sperry and two families of negroes named Dinson and Howard.

From Horsby Bend, ten miles down the river comes the report that Thomas Heley, white, and Joseph Burns, colored, were drowned, and Henry Hoover and James Fries, two young white boys, are missing.

The loss of cattle in Concho county has been very large. Counties south of here have suffered similar losses. Additional rises are reported from above, and warnings have been sent down the river to look out.

The local situation is not much improved. Something like one hundred poor families living in destitute circumstances.

Austin is well able to care for these persons. Governor Sayers to-day gave the city \$500 out of a balance left in his hands last year from the Brazos river flood fund, and if more is needed he has it at his disposal.

Railroad traffic in the southern half of Texas has been practically abandoned, and all outlets to California are closed because of the washouts on the Western divisions of the Texas and Pacific Railroad.

IRON HURLED A MILE.

Effort of an Old Spanish Cannon Burst with Dynamite.

A big chunk of iron, part of an old-fashioned smooth-bore Spanish cannon captured in the war took flight April 7 in Ansonia, Conn., and soared like a 13-inch shell at Santiago.

Workmen loaded the old gun with dynamite in the yards of the Farrell foundry to break it up. In tamping the charge the blast went off unexpectedly, and it was only by a miracle that they were not blown to pieces. They were only stunned.

A piece of iron as big as a cannonball went high in the air, sailed over the Naugatuck River, over the tops of business houses and struck against the Stilson brick block, a mile and a half away. It knocked out the bricks a foot in depth, and dug a hole a foot deep in the sidewalk.

Emma Kuss and her three-year-old sister were only two feet from where the meta struck.

CASUALTIES.

Torrential rains in Texas culminated April 7 in disastrous floods in the Colorado, Brazos and other rivers. The great dam in the Colorado, at Austin, gave way, letting loose a vast volume of water which wrecked the light and power plant, drowned eight workmen and did a vast amount of damage to property. It is thought that between thirty and forty lives in all were lost as a result of the disaster.

Mrs. Edward O'Donnell was burned to death at Burlington, N. J., April 6. A 4 year old daughter of Harry Openduffer, Swedeland, Pa., was found dying in her bed room April 5 with a bullet hole in her head. It is believed the child shot herself while playing with a pistol.

THE PHILIPPINES.

A report from General Otis shows that in the 124 skirmishes in the Philippines since January 1 the American loss was 81 killed and 164 wounded, while the insurgents and Ladrones lost 1,426 killed, 1,453 captured, mostly wounded. The Americans have also captured 3,951 small arms and 165 cannon. "A number of important insurgent officers are surrendering." General Otis says, "and the situation is gradually becoming more pacific."

A despatch from Manila says that General Bates has peacefully occupied Surigao, Cagayan, Iligan and Misamis, in the island of Mindanao, and captured a number of rifles and cannon. Insurgent atrocities in Cagayan and Camarines Provinces continue.

It is reported from Chicago that "Preparations are being made to boom ex-Governor Robert E. Pattison, of Pennsylvania as candidate for Vice-President at the Kansas City Convention."

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