

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 Democrats of the House have made a determined stand against the Senate bill providing for a commission to investigate trade conditions in the Orient, and have succeeded in eliminating the enacting clause in committee of the whole.

The Lacey Game bill has been passed by the House.

In the Senate the Alaskan Code bill was under discussion May 1. Mr. Hansbrough charged that the best claims were being held for the benefit of rich corporations.

The United States Senate by a vote of 52 to 3, has adopted the resolution declaring Nathan B. Scott to be entitled to his seat in the Senate from West Virginia. The Alaskan and Cotton Claims bills also were considered.

The House passed ninety-one private pension bills April 27. Among them was one to pension at the rate of \$40 a month the widow of the late John M. Stotsenburg, of the First Nebraska, who was killed in the Philippines. The conference report on the Hawaiian Government bill was adopted, and the bill now goes to the President.

The Senate in executive session has ratified the treaty with Spain extending for six months the time in which Spanish residents of the Philippines may decide whether they will remain subjects of Spain or become citizens of the Philippines.

The House Committee on Commerce has directed a favorable report on the Brosius bill, to prevent the adulteration, misbranding and imitation of food products.

The Senate has agreed to the conference report on the Hawaiian Civil Government bill.

The Agricultural bill has been passed, carrying a little over \$3,000,000.

The House, by a vote of 87 to 50, struck from the Postoffice Appropriation bill the entire provision for the pneumatic mail tube service. Mr. Moody, of Massachusetts, led the attack on the item, and assailed the methods of the Pneumatic Tube Company.

The Senate by a vote of 33 to 32 has decided that M. S. Quay was not entitled to a seat as Senator from Pennsylvania.

The House has passed the Foraker resolution continuing the present officers in Porto Rico in office.

The plans for the three new battle-ships have been approved. They will be the largest vessels in the United States Navy, and will surpass anything of their size afloat.

A STRANGE STORY.

News of a Fortune Discloses a Remarkable Romance.

Howard A. Saville, who disappeared from Gloucester, Mass., sixteen years ago and who is now notified that a fortune of \$20,000 awaits him in his native State, has been located in Kansas City. Since his departure from Gloucester his wife collected his insurance and remarried, and he has taken another wife.

Commenting on his strange story, he said: "I left Gloucester sixteen years ago and went to Cincinnati, where a severe operation was performed upon me for cancer. I then went to Arkansas. For eleven years I was postmaster at Simpson, Ark., in Bradley county. I have been in Rogers only about two years and I am in business there. I suppose that the operation started the report that I was dead."

"As to my first wife's affairs I am wholly ignorant, as I cut loose entirely when I left Massachusetts and have never had any communication with her since. I did not even know that she was alive. I am going back there."

CASUALTIES.

By the collapse of a condemned foot bridge belonging to a side show in the Exposition grounds at Paris April 29, caused by the overweighted towers, six persons were killed and about forty injured. The structure, which was not in use, crashed on the great crowd passing below, burying many in the debris.

The roof of a building in course of construction at the Dimmick Pipe Company's plant, at North Birmingham, Alabama, collapsed April 28, and two men were killed and eleven injured.

Mrs. James Simmons, who lived near Otter Lake, Michigan, deliberately jumped in front of a Michigan Central express train April 28 with her 2-year-old child in her arms. Both were terribly mangled, dying almost instantly. Mrs. Simmons's mind was unbalanced.

Three bridge builders were killed and three injured in Richmond, Virginia, on April 28, by the fall of a hoisting engine and crane. The men were employees of the Pennsylvania Steel Company, at Steelton.

The wife of Major General James H. Wilson, Military Governor of the Department of Matanzas-Santa Clara, Cuba, is dead from the effects of burns accidentally received while driving with her daughter. While alighting from her carriage Mrs. Wilson stepped on a match, which ignited her dress.

A WOMAN'S LEAP.

Plunges from Second Story Window to Escape Pursuer.

Frantic with terror, a woman threw herself from the second story window of her home in Yonkers Monday night to escape from a desperate man who had gained entrance to the house. Her condition is serious.

Miss Ellen Matz lives at No. 9 John street, Yonkers. She was alone in the house when she heard a knock at the front door. Without a thought of danger she hurried downstairs and opened the door.

Confronting her was a man. His hat brim was pressed down over his eyes and a muffler concealed the lower part of his face.

Without a word he sprang at the defenceless woman, forcing her back into the house. She tried to scream, but he seized her throat and stifled the cry. Desperately the terrified woman struggled with her assailant. Putting all her strength into a final effort, she tore herself free and darted upstairs, shrieking at every step.

The man was at her heels as she gained the second floor and darted into the front room.

In another moment she would have been at his mercy. But the window was wide open, and in her terror Miss Matz threw herself through it head first. She fell a distance of twenty-five feet, turning twice in mid-air, and landed on her feet. As she sank unconscious neighbors came hurrying to her help.

It was an hour before the injured woman revived sufficiently to tell her story. Just before taking the mad leap from the window she had glanced over her shoulder and recognized her assailant. She gave his name to the police, and a search for him began at once.

As a combined result of physical injury and nervous shock Miss Matz is in a serious condition.

THE GREAT FIRE.

Five Square Miles Burned Over in Ottawa and Hull.

The great fire at Ottawa and Hull on Thursday and Friday burned over five square miles of territory. More than 2,000 buildings were destroyed, seven lives lost, seven thousand men women and children made homeless, and the property loss is \$17,000,000, according to the latest estimate.

A relief committee has been formed by the citizens, and this, together with the Roman Catholic Archbishops of Ottawa and Montreal, will make an appeal for relief to the country. The most serious problem that confronts Hull is that of work. The majority of householders who were burned out are poor and have large families. It is not expected there will be employment for a considerable period, and the way in which many of the poor are going to live in the meantime is doubtful.

On the Ottawa side fully two-thirds of Dalhousie Ward is devastated, and an estimate by residents of the district places the number who were without roofs of their own last night in this district at 5,000. The destroyed property in this district included some of the finest residences in Ottawa, as well as a great many of the humblest.

All of Hull's principal buildings with the exception of the Roman Catholic Church are things of the past. The buildings and land in the place are valued at \$2,700,000, and of this amount over \$1,900,000 may be put down as a loss. Then in stocks, fixtures, equipment, household effects and wearing apparel there is a loss of nearly \$3,000,000. The vast piles of lumber which went up in smoke may be reckoned at \$2,000,000 more.

A FARM TRAGEDY.

Lover Shot Husband While the Wife Fixed the Lantern.

James Harris has confessed the murder of John Allen, a wealthy merchant of Ottumwa, Kan., and has implicated the wife of the victim. To the Sheriff Harris told this story, afterward putting it in writing and signing it:

"I shot John on Friday night. There is too much evidence against me now. Mrs. Allen was also implicated. For years we have been more than good friends. We wanted to marry, but we also wanted money, and we killed Allen to get his property and the \$1,500 insurance he carried. I was to get half of the money and she was to pay off a small mortgage on my little farm."

"We planned the murder several days ago, but no good opportunity presented itself until Friday night. I stood behind a tree in Allen's yard, where I had waited night after night without getting a shot. John and his wife had visited the store and were coming home."

"Mrs. Allen carried a lantern. She knew I was there and stepped inside just before John had set the lantern so that it threw its light on him. I got a good chance and fired just as he was stepping in."

Mrs. Allen was brought before Harris and he repeated his confession. Mrs. Allen, weeping, admitted she may have been too friendly with Harris, but denies complicity in the murder. She was placed in jail without bond.

Mrs. Allen is thirty-eight years old, and far from handsome. Her three children are married and one is the mother of a child. She and her husband did not get on happily, and more than once they separated.

Harris, the confessed murderer, is a handsome twenty-four-year-old farmer in Coffey County.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Events of the Week Told in a Few Words.

Dr. Dowle, the "faith healer," will start a lacemaking industry in Wisconsin.

Miss Helen R. Benedict was married May 1 to Thomas Hastings at Greenwich, Conn. One thousand guests were present at the church.

Dewey, the Admiral, received a hearty reception in Chicago.

Judge Kenefick, in Buffalo, decided that the Ford Franchise Tax law is constitutional. Reductions of more than \$41,000,000 in the valuation of franchises in New York city were announced.

Bishop Thoburn announces he will fight the suits for damages brought against him by alleged missionaries in India.

Grover Cleveland, according to leading Brooklyn politicians, will be asked to head the democratic national ticket.

An inmate of the Girls' Industrial School at Trenton has been confined in a dungeon for twenty-two days.

William F. Miller, the 520 per cent. syndicate man, was sentenced by Judge Hurd to ten years at hard labor in Sing Sing prison. His lawyers obtained a stay of execution until Friday.

Girls in the public schools of Washington are victims of the cigarette habit.

Miss Helen Gould has rented I. Townsend Burden's Fair Lawn, Newport, for the season.

In order to get rid of one woman delegate the Methodist General Conference may exclude 141 laymen.

Saville, the Rockport Enoch Arden, returns in search of a fortune and is identified by his first wife.

Mme. Melba denies that she contemplates marriage with Haddon Chambers or any one else.

Missouri Pacific directors voted to issue \$15,000,000 debenture bonds to pay off outstanding obligations. Russell Sage and George Gould will take four-fifths of the amount.

The Census Bureau has begun its work canvassing the 40,000 manufacturing establishments in New York City.

Methodist preachers at their meeting in New York scored McKinley for allowing the saloons of Manila to increase from 50 to 500.

In a quarrel in a court room at Paris, Texas, April 27, Lawyer E. P. Scott stabbed and seriously wounded Justice J. J. Hooks.

A report has been made showing that 66,869 Spanish residents of Cuba have preserved their allegiance to Spain under the terms of the treaty of Paris.

Twenty arrests have been made at Constantinople of Mussulmans alleged to be sympathizers with the Young Turkish party.

The German Postal Department has resolved to introduce the telephonograph, as a series of experiments has proved successful.

Senor Rivera has resigned as Secretary of Agricultural in the Cuban Cabinet, and declares that the island would not be annexed to the United States except by force of arms.

It is reported in railroad circles that John D. Rockefeller had secured control of the Missouri Pacific.

A FIGHT IN MID-STREAM.

Desperate Battle With an Insane Patient in the River.

An insane patient in Blackwell's Island, N. Y., named Garvin, escaped and ran for the East River, April 25.

Meanwhile John Dougherty, one of the guards, was slowly rowing along the island water front in a small boat. The madman darted ahead with great speed, but steadily the boat gained upon him. About midway between the island and the Manhattan shore the boat drew alongside the swimmer.

Garvin grasped the gunwale with his left hand, drew himself half out of the water and shot his right fist into Dougherty's face. The blow caught the unsuspecting guard square between the eyes, landing him on his back.

In another instant the crazed swimmer had overturned the boat and the men grappled fiercely in the water. Garvin fought with the superhuman strength of madness; Dougherty for his life. Swept along by the strong tide, the men clung desperately to each other, each striving to force his antagonist under water.

Garvin's muscular fingers had found the guard's throat. Twice they had gone down, the maniac on top, and Dougherty's head was disappearing for the third time, his strength gone and hold relaxed, when the rescuers reached them.

The guard was dragged into the rescuing boat more dead than alive, while Garvin, seemingly as strong as ever, fought savagely to escape. A blow from an oar finally knocked him senseless. He was taken back to the island and placed in a straightjacket.

FIRE RECORD.

Forest fires are devastating thousands of acres of timber land in the wilds of Cumberland and Atlantic counties. The village of Pleasant Mills was partially destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon, supposed to have been started by forest fires.

Fire at Laurel, York county, April 27, destroyed the buildings of the John S. Low Ice Company, the Pine Grove Iron Works and a number of dwellings, the losses aggregating \$75,000.

Fire has destroyed two saw mills owned by the Metropolitan Lumber Company, at Atkinson, Mich. Loss, nearly \$1,000,000; partly insured.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, Lucas County.

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Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1899.

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