

WHAT ALL THE WORLD IS DOING

Trend of Civilization in All Lines From Week to Week

POLITICS and GOVERNMENT

Foreign.

British Parliament Reopened.

King Edward reconvened parliament Feb. 14, reading the speech from the throne in person. The debate in the commons on the address in reply to the speech showed that the government of Premier Balfour was still able to command a safe majority. Mr. Asquith (Liberal) moved the amendment proposing to submit the fiscal questions to a general election and asked Mr. Balfour to say yes or no whether there was any real difference between the Balfour and Chamberlain policies. Balfour remained silent.

Mr. Chamberlain said a dissolution of parliament would suit him, but that his fiscal proposals could not be regarded as representing the government. He also declared that he had never said that free trade must be abandoned. Mr. Asquith's amendment was then rejected by a vote of 311 to 248, a great victory for the Balfour government.

Crisis in Venezuela.

The news from Minister Bowen, at Caracas, Feb. 16, that the Venezuelan supreme court had again decreed the sequestration of the property of the American Asphalt company brought this international dispute to the danger line. This decree stops the asphalt company from further effort to regain possession of its property in Venezuela.

Russia's War Losses.

Official Russian returns for the first year of the war indicate that nearly 50,000 men had been killed and 55,000 wounded. Kuropatkin and Oyama continued to face each other with immense armies along the Sha river, in Manchuria, both sides being entrenched. Oyama had begun to bombard the Japanese lines with siege guns brought from Port Arthur. Japan's Fifth Army was said to be moving against Vladivostok. Admiral Togo resumed command of the Japanese fleet for the purpose of taking the offensive against the Russian fleet under Rojstevensky in the Indian ocean.

The Russian Situation.

The report given out last week at St. Petersburg that the czar had expressed to Count Tolstol's son the determination to summon the zemsky zabor, or ancient land parliament, gave much hope to the moderate liberal party, but this report later was contradicted. Following an order by the czar, General Trepoff gave notice that a commission which would include workmen would soon be appointed to hear the grievances of the strikers. The strike situation in Poland continued more serious, and a large sum of money was said to have been supplied to the strikers from an unknown source. Serious collisions continued to occur at Lodz. The press was ordered not to report any such collisions.

With Calls on the Emperor.

Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria has given a special audience to Franz Kossuth, son of the famous Hungarian rebel and now the leader of a Kossuth independence party. Kossuth explained to the emperor his party programme, which includes the complete economic separation of Austria and Hungary.

Legislative.

Sullivan-Hearst Wrangle.

The bitter attacks made by the various Hearst papers on the Democratic members of the house who followed Leader Williams in support of the Davy rate bill and the administration measure resulted last week in a bitter attack upon Mr. Hearst by Mr. Sullivan of Massachusetts. Mr. Sullivan said Hearst maintained "a political assassination department of his newspaper" and that he came to congress solely to exploit his candidacy for the presidency, a candidacy which, Sullivan said, "began in debauch and ended in fiasco."

Hearst replied in person on the floor of the house, making the sensational charge that Mr. Sullivan and his father had been convicted of manslaughter at Cambridge, Mass., in 1885. Next day Mr. Sullivan admitted the circumstances connected with the homicide in such a way as to obtain the sympathy of the house.

Evidence Against Swayne.

The senate devoted two hours of each day's session to the impeachment proceedings against Judge Swayne. Various witnesses were brought forward by the prosecution whose testimony tended to show that the accused judge had not maintained a legal residence in his district. They said he came to Florida with a hand bag to hold court and then returned to his home in Delaware. The accused has been in personal attend-

ance on the sessions since Feb. 10. The senate decided to exclude his statement made to the house committee, and this was regarded as a point in his favor. Against this Mr. Bailey (Dem., Tex.) appealed, but the chair was sustained. Railroad men testified that Judge Swayne rode on passes at a time when it is alleged, he was charging the government for his transportation.

House Challenges Senate.

By the overwhelming vote of 261 to 5 the house passed the resolution of Chairman Payne of the ways and means committee, declaring that the Hansbrough amendment to the agricultural bill as adopted by the senate was a constitutional infringement of the privileges of the house and that the bill be returned with this information. The whole house cheered when this resolution was presented. The senate next day receded from its position by recalling the Hansbrough amendment.

Congress Divided on Canal.

The house bill for the government of the Panama canal zone which was passed last week abolishes the canal commission and places the work of construction of the canal in the hands of the president without indicating preference as to sea level construction. The president is also authorized to operate the Panama railroad. At the same time the senate has devised a bill which does not abolish the canal commission.

House After the Oil Trust.

The house adopted a resolution Feb. 15 calling on the secretary of commerce and labor to inquire into the cause or causes of the low prices of crude oil or petroleum, especially in the Kansas field, and the unusually large margin between its price and that of refined oil, and particularly to find out if this condition is due to any combination or conspiracy in restraint of trade.

Legal and Criminal.

Mitchell's Partner Owns Up.

Ex-Judge Tanner, the law partner of United States Senator Mitchell of Oregon, has turned state's evidence by confessing that he committed perjury in the story he told to the Portland grand jury Jan. 31 in the hope of preventing the indictment of the senator. The main point of this confession is that the partnership agreement which Tanner had said was signed March 5, 1901, was in reality prepared and signed in December last. The government also got possession of a letter sent by Senator Mitchell to Judge Tanner under date of Feb. 5. This is said to show the testimony Mitchell wanted Tanner to give. At the end Mr. Mitchell wrote, "Burn this without fail."

On Feb. 13 the grand jury at Portland returned an additional indictment against Senator Mitchell and Representatives Williamson and Hermann on the charge of having conspired to create the Blue mountain forest reserve in eastern Oregon with intent to defraud the government of public lands and also of seeking to obtain more than 2,000,000 acres of public and school lands in several states to the value of \$3,000,000.

Public Spitting as a Crime.

Within the last week or two the health department of New York city has arrested a large number of persons for breaking the ordinance of spitting in public places, such as railroad platforms, sidewalks and street cars. In all cases a small fine has been imposed.

Edwards Woman Not Hanged.

The Pennsylvania board of pardons recommended the withdrawal for one month of the death warrants for Mrs. Kate Edwards, the white woman, and Samuel Greason, the negro, who were to have been executed Feb. 16 at Reading, Pa., for the murder of Mrs. Edwards' husband in 1901. This action was not expected because the state supreme court had denied a new trial.

Dominican Treaty Mollifies Senate

In sending to the senate Feb. 15 a brand new treaty for American settlement of Santo Domingo's finances, together with a message urging its ratification, the president bowed gracefully to the senate's constitutional right and duty of passing on all treaties. This right the senate had given notice it would defend when it voted, 50 to 9, to amend the seven arbitration "agreements" so as to make them actual treaties requiring that subjects proposed for arbitration should receive the senate's sanction. Thereupon the president made it known that the treaties would be dropped for good, thus making good the threat he had made in a letter to Senator Cullom.

The unofficial knowledge of the executive agreement of Jan. 20 for a virtual protectorate over Santo Domingo, which was to go into effect Feb. 1 without the senate's sanction, is what stirred the senate to act on the arbitration treaties. All this was to be investigated under the Bacon resolution and also the original agreement of Jan. 31, 1903, under which arbitrators had authorized the American administration of Puerto Plata to cover an American claim.

The treaty now before the senate provides that American agents shall administer the ports, paying 45 per cent to the creditors and the balance to Santo Domingo. The United States promises to respect the integrity of the island. It is also distinctly provided that the treaty shall be effective only after ratification by the senate and by the Dominican congress. The foreign relations committee decided to consider the treaty in connection with the Bacon resolution for an investigation of the whole affair.



Senator Bacon.

to Gresson notwithstanding the confession made by Mrs. Edwards exonerating him from any part in the murder. Prior to that the prison born child had been taken from the condemned woman to be educated under a new name at a southern industrial school.

General.

The President at New York.

The Lincoln day banquet of the Republican Club of New York City was made memorable by the address of its chief guest, President Roosevelt. "Justice to the Negro" was his appropriate theme. The president said that the first consideration in solving this problem was to secure to each man equality of treatment before the law. He declared that the colored man who fails to condemn crime in another colored man is the worst enemy of his own people. He quoted approvingly the address of Bishop Coadjutor Strange of North Carolina indicating what the white men of the south should do for the negro—namely, give him equal opportunity to make a living, equal legal rights and political privileges, the same advantages of education and frequent friendly conferences between the leading men of both races to be arranged.

Woman Suffrage Bill Dead.

The bill giving women the right to vote for presidential electors, which was passed by the Kansas house of representatives, was defeated in the senate Feb. 14 by a vote of 60 to 20.

Oil Refinery For Kansas.

The bill providing for a state oil refinery in opposition to the Standard Oil company, which had already passed the senate of the Kansas legislature, went through the house Feb. 15 by the vote of 91 to 39 and was signed by Governor Hoch. The refinery is to be erected at Peru, Kan., where a penitentiary will be built so as to provide convict labor. An appropriation of \$410,000 was made for this purpose. The sentiment for the measure was increased by the action of the oil trust in virtually boycotting the Kansas field. To further trench the state's position the house by a two-thirds majority passed a bill to prohibit the piping of gas to places outside of the gas belt. There is also talk of calling a constitutional convention.

Philadelphia's Discontent.

The recent crusade against police protected vice in the city of Philadelphia, backed by the combined forces of the churches and the reform organizations, has now created such a storm that an independent political movement is in progress.

Executive.

More Diplomatic Changes.

Soon after March 4 Ambassador Porter, at Paris, will be succeeded by Ambassador McCormick, now at St. Petersburg. Ambassador Meyer, now at Rome, will go to the Russian capital, and Henry White, now first secretary at London, will go to Rome. Minister Wilson, at Chile, will be transferred to Brussels, and later Mr. Bowen will be changed from Venezuela to Mexico.

Garfield to Probe Oil Trust.

Following the passage of the house resolution requesting an investigation into the cause of the low price of petroleum, especially in Kansas, the president directed Commissioner of Corporations Garfield "to act vigorously on the resolution at once."

Hitchcock Checks Oil Deal.

Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock announced Feb. 16 that representatives of the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil company, which is a branch of the trust, had agreed to relinquish their leases on two-thirds of the 1,500,000 acres of the Osage Indian lands, with the understanding that on one-third their leases would be extended for ten years. The secretary believed that the purpose of the oil men was to secure a monopoly of the industry in that territory.

Once on the B. E. V. Railroad.

The Harrisburg Patriot says: An old-style engine used many years ago in the mountain districts for hill climbing passed through here recently. The locomotive had the name of the Bloom Run railroad on the outside and was numbered 100. The entire engine was supported by four wheels, two under the pilot and two at the rear end of the tank, the latter being constructed together with the engine. Instead of driving wheels at the side, there were small cog wheels by which the engine was operated. Grades of nearly all kinds and descriptions can be mounted by the small steel, although the hauling capacity is very small. The smoke stack widened into a large funnel shaped mouth. The engine was destined to go to Contractor Simms & Co., at Safe Harbor, where improvements to the road are being made. It was in service on the Bald Eagle Valley railroad of the Tyrone division for many years. It attracted a great deal of attention from the railroad men as it was being shifted into a freight train in the yard.

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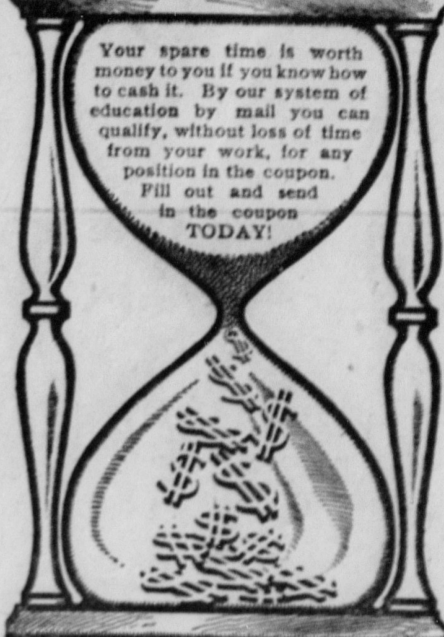
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