

DOINGS OF LAWMAKERS

Mr. Caffery's Speech the Feature of Senate Session.

OBJECTS TO H. W. CORBETT

Has the State Authority to Fill an Original Vacancy?

The House of Representatives Spend the Day in the Discussion of Political Topics--Remarkable Discovery Made by Jerry Simpson--House Civil Service Committee Gives Hearing to a Number of Representatives of War Veterans' Interest

Washington, Feb. 3--One of the features of today's session of the senate was a speech by Mr. Caffery, of Louisiana, in support of the resolution reported by the committee on privileges and elections, declaring that Henry W. Corbett is not entitled to a seat in the senate from the state of Oregon.

The agricultural appropriation bill was under consideration the greater part of the afternoon and was finally passed. After a brief executive session the senate adjourned.

Germany's order prohibiting the importation of American fruits into the empire called out a resolution from Mr. Davis (Minn.), chairman of the committee on foreign relations, calling upon the president, if not incompatible with the public interest, to transmit to the senate correspondence and other information bearing upon the matter in his possession or in that of the state department. The resolution was agreed to.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

The house spent the day ostensibly considering the fortifications appropriation bill. In reality the major portion of the time was consumed in the discussion of political topics. The existence or non-existence of prosperity in this country was again the main question of dispute.

YELLOWSTONE PARK EXTENSION.

A bill increasing the reservation by 3,000 square miles. Washington, Feb. 3--Secretary Bliss has sent to the public land committee of the senate and house a bill prepared by Colonel Young, the acting superintendent of the Yellowstone National park, for an extension of the limits of that reservation by about 3,000 square miles.

NOMINATED BY THE PRESIDENT.

Washington, Feb. 3--The president today sent the following nominations to the senate: Robert Carson, of New Jersey, to be collector of customs for the district of Perth Amboy, N. J. Commodore Charles S. Norton to be a rear-admiral. Colonel M. L. Ladington, assistant quartermaster general, to be brigadier general and quartermaster general.

REPUBLICANS ORGANIZE.

Congressional Committee Selected for the Coming Campaign.

Washington, Feb. 3--The Republican members of both houses of congress held a caucus tonight at which the Republican congressional committee was permanently organized for the campaign.

IT WAS MERELY A SUGGESTION

Statement from High Official Sources. Report of Preparations to Strengthen the British Fleet in the Far East with Three Squadrons.

London, Feb. 3--On incontrovertible authority the Associated Press learns that Great Britain has not backed down on the question of making Tollen-Wan a free port. The Marquis of Salisbury, George N. Curzon, the parliamentary secretary of the foreign office, the Russian ambassador and the Chinese minister each remarked yesterday in conversation that they had not heard of any backdown.

THE GERMAN FRUIT EXCLUSION DECREE

An Act of Discourtesy Entirely Without Precedent--American Fruit Growers Will Lose Heavily.

Washington, Feb. 3--During the afternoon further advices were received from Ambassador White as to the nature of the German fruit exclusion decree. It would seem that the full details are not yet obtainable in Berlin, but it is expected that the ambassador will cable the entire decree as soon as he can obtain it.

THE FEARFUL BLIZZARD.

Recent Chilly Season on the Atlantic Coast is a Record Breaker.

Highland Light, Mass., Feb. 3--The fearful blizzard which just swept the coast was a record-breaker, and exceeded in duration and violence the storm of 1888.

Senators Penrose Introduces a Bill to Establish New Rates.

Washington, Feb. 3--Senator Penrose today introduced two bills for the regulation of rates of postage. One of them provides a uniform rate of one cent on all letters, with a minimum rate of two cents on letters. The other provides for one cent postage on letters not to be delivered by carriers in the city to which directed.

Charged with Murder.

Belfast, Feb. 3--Philip King has been arrested on the charge of murdering his mother-in-law and two children. King, who is a farmer residing near Sliemac, is alleged to have committed the murders on Monday last, but the bodies were only discovered today, and King, who had run away, was soon afterwards taken into custody.

NO BACK DOWN ON PART OF ENGLAND

The Opening of Tollen-Wan Never a Strict Condition.

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SQUADRONS IN READINESS.

Shanghai, Feb. 3--The China Gazette, says the British Indian, Australian and Pacific squadrons have been ordered to be ready to reinforce the fleet in the far East, thus giving the British admiral a total of eight ships, with "any combination opposing British policy."

JAPAN NO LONGER OBJECTS.

Willing That Hawaii Should Be Annexed to the United States.

Washington, Feb. 3--Japan has been removed as an element in the opposition to the consummation of the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States. This result has been attained by the conclusion of an agreement between our government and that of Japan as represented by Minister Tomihata, which has practically settled the status of the Japanese in Hawaii.

BANK UNDER AN INJUNCTION.

The Action Follows the Arrest of a Former Cashier.

Boston, Feb. 3--The Massachusetts Savings bank's commissioners today placed the Framingham Savings bank under an injunction to prevent it from doing business until further action can be taken. The action followed the arrest of William H. Bird, former cashier of the bank, who in the Framingham court today was held in \$20,000 for the benefit of the bank's funds.

FRANCE AS A NAVAL POWER.

The Minister of Marine Defies Other Mediterranean Nations.

Paris, Feb. 3--The committee on naval estimates today proposed that an ironclad, three cruisers and eleven torpedo boats be begun this year. Vice Admiral Besnard, the minister of marine, said the government's naval programme had made the Mediterranean a French gulf. It was intended now to build ironclads for extra European waters, with an extensive sphere of action. The government is actively pursuing experiments with submarine boats.

Very Cold Morning.

Wilmington Registered 42 Degrees Below Zero this Morning.

Herold's Weather Forecast.

New York, Feb. 3--In the middle states and New England, today, partly cloudy weather will prevail, followed by slowly rising temperature. On Saturday, in both of these sections, partly cloudy, warmer weather.

ELLIS ISLAND ABUSE.

Representative Robbins Says the Inspection Is a Farce.

Washington, Feb. 3--Representative Robbins, of Pennsylvania, is going to make an attack in the house on the methods of instant inspection pursued at Ellis Island. If what he charges is based on fact, his disclosures will be sensational. Some time ago Mr. Robbins spent three days at Ellis Island keeping an eye on the work of inspecting immigrants. He is a Republican member of the house committee on immigration and as he desired material for use in the committee he did not make himself known.

MR. WANAMAKER WILL CONSIDER IT

Is Not Anxious to Be Candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania, but Will Think It Over.

Philadelphia, Feb. 3--Ex-Postmaster General John Wanamaker, who was elected upon yesterday at a meeting of business men and politicians from all parts of the state, their choice for governor, returned home today from the south. He freely discussed yesterday's meeting, but was silent on the question of his acceptance, or of the request that he permit the use of his name as a candidate. He said, however, he would give the call his serious consideration. In a statement he said:

FAILURE OF AUTONOMY.

Weighty Information from This Government from Mr. Atkins.

Washington, Feb. 3--Important information as to the success of the Spanish schemes for autonomy in Cuba has been received here. Mr. Atkins, of Boston, who is the most prominent American grower of sugar on the islands, has written to Consul General Lee expressing the opinion that autonomy is a failure and that there is no immediate prospect of peace.

MANY PASSENGERS INJURED.

A Rear-End Collision on the Boston and Maine Railroad.

Scitoville, Mass., Feb. 3--A local passenger train from Stoneham, on the Southern division Boston and Maine railroad, was struck in the rear and telescoped at the Winter Hill station this morning by a train from Concord, and several persons were injured, some seriously. The number of those who were hurt severely enough to require medical attendance is reported as fifteen, but it is said that several who received minor cuts and bruises were taken to cars for themselves until they reached their homes or places of business.

OUR TORPEDO FLEET CRIPPLED.

Four of the Six Boats Injured by the Heavy Weather.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 3--The torpedo boat flotilla, in the Gulf, is badly disabled by its rough sea service. Two remain uninjured, the Cushing and the Ericsson, the second torpedo boat built for the government. The Porter and Dupont had their propeller struts broken; the Foote has broken or badly cracked her shaft, and the Winslow shaken up.

LOSSES BY FIRE.

A Church in Indiana and a Sawmill in Wisconsin Burned.

New Albany, Ind., Feb. 3--The First Presbyterian church, the largest in the city, was destroyed by fire last night. The loss is estimated at \$50,000. The fire was caused by a defective flue. Menominee, Mich., Feb. 3--The big Sawyer & Goodman sawmill at Marinette, Wis., was burned to the ground early this morning. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

Cold Wave in New England.

Boston, Feb. 3--A cold wave of a severity almost equal to that of last week prevailed in Maine and New Hampshire.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Weather Indications Today: Fair; Warmer; Southerly Winds.

- 1 General--Y. M. C. A. Building Burned. Statement of England's Position in the Far East. Doings of a Day in Congress. Mr. Wanamaker Undecided. 2 State--The Sheriff Martin Trial. 3 Local--Y. M. C. A. Fire (Concluded). 4 Editorial--Y. M. C. A. Comment on the Press. 5 A City in Which Crime Is Thought Clever. 6 Local--The Halstead Reception. Criminal Court Proceedings. 7 Local--Select Council Sets Mr. Sanderson's Ruling Aside. 8 Kohut Acquitted of Murder. 9 Local--West Side and Suburban. 10 Lackawanna County News. 11 Neighboring County Happenings. The Markets.

BISCUIT TRUST FORMED

It Includes All the Cracker Bakeries Between Portland, Maine and Salt Lake City.

Chicago, Feb. 2--All the biscuit and cracker companies between Salt Lake City on the west, Portland (Me.) on the east, St. Paul on the north and New Orleans on the south will tomorrow morning be under one management. The name of the new concern, which was incorporated today in the state of New Jersey with a capital of \$25,000,000 of preferred and \$25,000,000 of common, is the National Biscuit company.

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Y. M. C. A. IN RUINS

Was the Center of the Largest Fire of Recent Years in Scranton.

DAMAGE OVER A QUARTER OF A MILLION

Electric Wire Is Said to Have Been the Cause of the Blaze.

THE FLAMES SPREAD WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE RAPIDITY

From the Y. M. C. A. Building They Found Their Way Into the Powell Building on the North, the Handley Estate Buildings on the South and the Frame Stables Across Breck Court in the Rear.

The Fire Broke Out at 11.10 and It Was About 1 O'clock Before the Firemen Had It Under Control--Details of the Progress of the Flames and the Losses Sustained by the Occupants of the Various Buildings.

BUILDINGS and contents to the value of a quarter of a million of dollars or more disappeared in the fire and smoke which last night destroyed the Young Men's Christian association building and several nearby structures. It started at 11.10 o'clock from an explosion of cinematograph films used in displaying exhibition pictures in a vacant store room in the association building. The buildings wholly, or partially destroyed were: YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION BUILDING, 218, 220, 222 and 224 Wyoming avenue, totally consumed by fire.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

THE fire started in the southern store room of the Young Men's Christian Association building, No. 218 Wyoming avenue, where a cinematograph entertainment had been holding forth for several weeks. It was caused by an electric wire, which carried power to the machine, coming in contact with the combustible film on which the pictures are made. An explosion occurred and in an almost incredible space of time the building was wrapped in flames.

SPREAD OF THE FLAMES.

The flames receded for an instant and the coalless man started back into the store. He had only reached the doorway when he was collided with by a second man who crept out from beneath the cloud of flame that was now hanging within three feet of the floor. Smoke now commenced to pour out in dense black volumes and the two men ran away from the heat into the crowd that had already commenced to collect. By this time the crowd commenced to realize that a dangerous conflagration was impending. Some one rushed to the alarm box at the Jersey hotel corner and sent in an alarm. A young man named Hart, who happened to have a key to the Young Men's Christian association corridor entrance, rushed up and aroused J. M. Chance, who occupies one of the third floor rooms as a sleeping apartment. Others roused the neighbors, and others hurried to notify the street car employees to take away the cars that are left standing on the switch over night.

SPREAD OF THE FLAMES.

THE Crystals were the first on the scene, but even before they arrived after their run of only a block the show-room was one solid mass of fire from one end to the other and the flames were attacking the upper floors immediately above, in both

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