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THE SENATE PASSES THE ARMY BILL

An Avalanche of Oratory Precipitated by Introduction of the Spooner Amendment.

EXCITEMENT IN SENATE

Scenes Without Parallel Since the Enactment of Resolutions Declaring a State of War to Exist Between the United States and Spain. The Most Notable Speech Is Delivered by Mr. Bacon, of Georgia. The Administration Arraigned.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The senate passed the army bill at 12.54 o'clock a. m., containing the propositions of the Republican majority for the temporary government of the Philippines and for the future relations between the United States and Cuba. Many amendments were offered to both propositions, but were voted down. The original Spooner amendment was amended regarding franchises, as proposed by Mr. Hoar, the latter proposition having been accepted by the majority yesterday.

Not since the enactment of the resolutions declaring a state of war to exist between the United States and Spain has there been such an avalanche of passionate oratory as the senate listened to today. Throughout the session the army appropriation bill was under discussion, the controverted questions being the Spooner Philippine amendment and the Platt Cuban amendment. Curiously enough the debate was confined entirely to the Democratic side of the chamber, with one exception. Both amendments were denounced as vicious and pernicious legislation, subversive of the principles of this government and unparalleled in the history of legislative enactments.

The most notable speech of the day was delivered by Mr. Bacon, of Georgia. He had been thoroughly aroused by the reports that the Democratic members had been induced by questionable means to withdraw their opposition to the proposed legislation and he passionately branded as a libel upon honorable men and senators any and all such statements. Personally he declared he would defeat the amendments if he could, although he realized the majority would have to accept the responsibility for them. His arraignment of the administration for "coercing congress into enacting such provisions in the closing hours of the session" was sensationally fierce and he declared that the only possible objections of such actions was "that the plunderers and vultures" might have an opportunity to prey upon the prostrate land of the Filipinos.

Senators Turner, of Washington; Tillman, South Carolina; Pettigrew, South Dakota; Hoar, Massachusetts; Teller, Colorado; Mallery, Florida; Lindsay, Kentucky; Culberson, Texas; Jones, Arkansas; Money, Mississippi; Allen, Nebraska, and others, addressed the senate, all of them denouncing the proposed legislation.

Early in the evening the voting began on the minor amendments to the measure. All of them were offered by Democratic senators, and all of them were voted down by heavy majorities.

The Decisive Movement.

At last the decisive moment arrived. The senate had been in session continuously since 11 o'clock this morning. The vote was taken upon the amended Spooner resolution, which was adopted: yeas, 45; nays, 27, a party vote, except that Hoar voted with the Democrats, and McLaurin, of South Carolina, voted with the Republicans in the affirmative.

The amendment, as agreed to, is as follows:

All military, civil and judicial powers necessary to govern the Philippine islands, acquired from Spain by the treaties concluded at Paris on the tenth day of December, 1898, and at Washington on the seventh day of November, 1900, shall, until otherwise provided by congress, be vested in such manner as the president of the United States shall direct, for the establishment of civil government and for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants of said islands in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion.

Provided, That all franchises granted under the authority hereof shall contain a reservation of the right to alter, amend, or repeal the same.

Until a permanent government shall have been established in said archipelago full reports shall be made to congress on or before the first day of each regular session of all legislative acts and proceedings of the temporary government instituted under the provisions hereof; and full reports of the acts, doings of said government and as to the condition of the archipelago and of its people shall be made to the president, including all information which may be useful to the congress in providing a more permanent government.

Provided that no sales or lease or other disposition of the public lands or the timber thereon, or the mining rights therein shall be made; and provided further, that no franchise shall be granted which is not approved by the president of the United States and is not in his judgment clearly necessary for the immediate government of the islands and indispensable for the interest of the people thereof and cannot without great public mischief be postponed until the establishment of permanent civil government; and all such franchises shall terminate one year after the establishment of such permanent civil government.

Arguments on Cuba.

Mr. Platt (Conn.) then offered the amendment prepared by the committee on relations with Cuba. Mr. Jones (Ark.) moved to strike out the third condition, providing that Cuba shall agree that the United States shall exercise the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence.

Mr. Hoar said he considered the en-

(Continued on Page 3.)

RIOT IN REICHSRATH.

Austrian Chamber the Scene of Furious Disorders Yesterday.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Vienna, Feb. 27.—The reichsrath was again the scene of furious disorders today. Fressls, a Czech deputy, persisted in making a speech in the Czechisch language.

The German deputies, knowing enough of the tongue to know that he was blackguarding them, crowded around the vice-president, who was in the chair, shouting: "You scoundrel, make him withdraw; you are not fit to preside over a parliament of cannibals."

The vice-president fled, pursued by jeers and missiles.

Such expressions as "You skunk," "you lunatic," were hurled at him.

Meanwhile Fressls continued to talk in the same tongue. Stein, a German deputy, rushed upon and seized Fressls by the throat and shook him like a dog shakes a rat. The Czechs rushed to the supports of Fressls and hammered Stein's face till the blood from his mouth and nose flowed in streams. The Germans then rallied to the support of Stein and soon the deputies were fighting furiously. The uproar in the chamber was deafening. Plofacs, a Czech deputy, had his coat torn off and received a severe wound in the hand. Many other deputies on both sides were battered and bruised. The president finally closed the sitting. The deputies left the chamber shaking fists and shouting curses at one another.

STEEL CONSOLIDATION WILL BE BENEFICIAL

Manner in Which the Combine Is Viewed by Judge Gary, of the Federal Company.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

New York, Feb. 27.—Judge E. H. Gary, president of the Federal Steel company, in response to a request today for his views on the consolidation of the steel properties, spoke as follows:

"The consummation of the plan which Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co. have been considering for uniting under one management the properties and business of many of the large iron and steel industries as announced by them will be favorably received.

"The business has been managed with ability, courage and patience and with great promptness. The circumstances which surrounded the enterprise at the beginning were so complicated and the interests involved so variant and wide, as to make it apparently impossible to accomplish the desired result. Therefore the successful termination of the negotiations which have been progressing will be considered as the greatest business achievement of this decade.

"While there will doubtless be some disappointment among the stockholders of the respective companies in consequence of the fixing of comparative values, which may be considered too low or too high in some cases, yet it must be admitted the gentlemen in charge have, in view of the conditions which existed, done everything possible to protect the interests of all concerned. If it be true that the values fixed are comparatively too low or too high in any case, it is, nevertheless, probably true that the acceptance of the offers which are made to the holders of stock of the old companies will result in great benefit to them.

"Notwithstanding the magnitude of the enterprise and the large amount of figures involved there should be no unfavorable effect in business circles, for it is proposed simply to withdraw from the market a large amount of stocks representing many different corporations under as many different managements, and place in their stead the stock of a new corporation, and the amount of new cash required will be comparatively small and contributed largely by those who are now interested in the old companies, thus transferring balances on money principally in the same banks."

THORNYCROFT'S MEN ARE NEARING DE WET.

Hertzog Is Reported to Have Crossed the Orange River.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

De Aar, Cape Colony, Feb. 26.—Thorneycroft's column, when last heard from, was a few hours' march behind De Wet. The other columns have seemingly lost touch with him.

Hertzog, the Boer commander, is reported to have crossed the Orange river and appears to be still inside the rectangle formed by the railroad and river.

Holiday for Pension Clerks.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Today the commissioner of pensions dismissed his entire force for a week's holiday and turned over the building to the inaugural officials, who will then make ready for the inaugural ball. To make room for the dancers it will be necessary to move 200,000 pension cases. The use of the pension office for the inaugural ball will cost the government $25,000 in salaries alone. Many think this is the last time the pension office will be used for the inaugural ball.

Packing House for Mexico.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Chihuahua, Mexico, Feb. 27.—The large packing house which is being erected here by Morris & Butts, of Kansas City, is practically completed. Its total cost will exceed $1,000,000. It will have a daily capacity of 300 beeves, 500 hogs and 300 sheep. A line of refrigerator cars will be established to transport the product of the new factory to different parts of Mexico.

Ribbon Weavers' Strike Ended.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

New York, Feb. 27.—The strike of silk ribbon weavers, which began in the mill of the Meeding Manufacturing company in Paterson, N. J., yesterday, came to an end today, when an understanding was reached between the employes and the firm. The result is a victory for the strikers who have secured the 25 per cent. demanded.

Basket Ball.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Princeton, N. J., Feb. 27.—The university basket ball team defeated Lafayette team here this afternoon by a score of 22 to 0.

THE LATEST LIBEL LAW

Text of the New Measure That Was Evolved from the Grady Muzzler.

FAMOUS M'CLAIN BILL

With the Addition of the Amendments Which Representative Cooper Proposed to Allot to the Grady Bill—The Amendments Are Adopted and the Bill Passes Second Reading.

Special from a Staff Correspondent.

Harrisburg, Feb. 27.—Appended is the new libel law evolved from the Grady muzzler. It is the McClain bill, with the addition of the amendments which Representative Cooper proposed to attach to the Grady bill. The Grady bill with the Cooper amendments would be almost the same as the McClain bill, the one essential difference being that the McClain bill specified that punitive damages could be recovered in addition to actual damages in a civil suit for libel, which was objectionable to Mr. Cooper, and which, after a conference last night, Mr. McClain agreed should be modified:

AN ACT

Relating to criminal prosecutions and civil suits for libel, and repealing the act entitled an act relating to libel and its punishment, approved July 1, 1897.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania in general assembly met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That in all criminal prosecutions or indictments for libel no conviction shall be allowed if the subject matter of the publication, whether contained in newspapers or otherwise, relates to candidates for public office or to the official conduct of public officers and is found to the satisfaction of the jury to be proper for public information or investigation and not to have been maliciously or negligently made. In all such cases the truth may be given in evidence to the jury.

Sec. 2. In all civil actions for libel the plea of justification shall be accepted as an adequate and complete defense when it is pleaded and proved to the satisfaction of the jury, under the direction of the court as in other cases, that the publication is substantially true and is proper for public information or investigation and has not been maliciously or negligently made.

Sec. 3. In all civil actions for libel no damages shall be recovered unless it is established to the satisfaction of the jury, under the direction of the court as in other cases, that the publication has been maliciously or negligently made but where malice or negligence appears such damages may be awarded as the jury shall deem proper.

Sec. 4. No defense at law shall be criminally tried, nor shall any civil action for damages be maintained for the printing or publication of the same libel upon the same individual, in more than one county in the state, and all damages shall be recoverable in one suit.

Sec. 5. The act entitled "An act relating to libel and its punishment," approved the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and all laws or parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are, hereby repealed.

The amendments were adopted with practically no opposition and the bill passed second reading unanimously.

Mr. Paul, of Philadelphia, wanted to insert a "choker" in the way of a "probable cause" proviso, but Representatives McClain and Cooper vigorously opposed it and it was smothered.

Week before last, when the Grady bill and the Cooper amendments were under consideration, Mr. Cooper announced that a compromise was under consideration and moved to let the matter go over, with the stipulation that it should be the special order for 11 o'clock this morning. This being adopted, Mr. McClain had a motion passed, making his bill a special order for 11.15 this morning.

When the first measure was reached this morning, Mr. Cooper moved to postpone it for the present, after making known to the house the result of the compromise conference of the night before. His motion to postpone was for the purpose of keeping it on the calendar, to serve as an alternative groundwork for a libel bill, in the event of the McClain bill being lost.

Some opposition was manifested to the amendment striking out the word "punitive" in the third section, but when Mr. McClain explained that the word "damages" without qualification could in the discretion of the court and jury embrace actual, exemplary and punitive damages, the opposition melted away. Mr. McClain explained that by leaving the word "punitive" stand it would have the effect of causing a jury to believe it was mandatory to find punitive damages.

Both Mr. McClain and Mr. Cooper made strong speeches in support of the bill and each courteously gave the other his share of the credit of moulding the bill.

The bill will go back to the senate as a substitute for the Grady "muzzler." Senator Grady will fight it, but it is quite certain his antagonism will not prevent its adoption.

The bill has the endorsement of the State Editorial association's legislative committee, and is claimed to be in line with the ideas of the conservative editors throughout the state.

T. J. Duffy.

University Debate.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Philadelphia, Feb. 27.—Governor Nash, of Ohio, has consented to act as presiding officer at the inter-university debate between the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Michigan, which will be held at Ann Arbor, Mich., on March 8. The question which the students will debate is "Resolved, That the United States senators should be elected by direct vote of the people." The Quakers will defend the negative side of the question.

Princeton Editors.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Princeton, N. J., Feb. 27.—Alexander J. Barrow, '02, of Pittsburg, was elected editor in chief of the Daily Princetonian today, and Robert C. Gordon, '02, Waynesboro, Pa., was elected assistant editor in chief.

DECISION AGAINST BELL.

Judge Brown of U. S. Circuit Court Gives Opinion in Berliner Case.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Boston, Feb. 27.—Judge Brown, of the United States circuit court, today decided against the American Bell Telephone company in the famous Berliner patent case.

The suits were the Bell company against the National Telephone Manufacturing company and others and the same against the Century Telephone company, brought to restrain respondents from selling, using or making telephonic apparatus with the microphone attachment, and to account to the Bell company for past use, manufacture and sales, upon the ground that such use, manufacture or sale was an infringement of patent.

The cases were argued before Judge Brown a year and a half ago and as they related to the same patent, the microphone, were put in together and were tried as if they were one case.

The Berliner patent is considered one of the most important held by the Bell company and does not expire until Nov. 17, 1908. The patent is the same one that has been before the courts in the United States vs. Bell Telephone company, where it was held that the patent was not invalid on account of delay at the patent office. The whole case turns upon the validity of this patent, the defense setting up, among other things, the invalidity of the patent and its lack of invention anticipation and non-patentability.

It is understood that an appeal will be made from the decision and that it will be carried to the United States Supreme court upon this appeal.

AN AGREEMENT ON REVENUE REDUCTION

Republican Conferees Reach an Understanding on Many of the Items in the Controversy.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The Republican conferees on the revenue reduction bill today reached an agreement on many of the items in controversy, in addition to those on beer, tobacco, bank checks and medicines, heretofore given. The house provision repealing the tax on insurance policies, life and fire, are retained. The senate provision regarding conveyances of real estate, etc., are preferred over those of the house, which made a complete repeal of all taxes on conveyances. The senate provision exempts conveyances under $2,500 and imposes a tax of 25 cents for each $500 over $2,500. The numerous special taxes on theaters, circuses, exhibitions, etc., are taken as provided by the house. Besides the compromise of $9.60 on tobacco, the cigar rates come in for much discussion. But owing to some question as to the rights of the conferees over this item, the rate on cigars probably will remain at $3 per thousand.

The understanding thus far reached is looked upon as likely to be final, although the conferees themselves say that no formal agreement has yet been arrived at and it will not be until the Democratic conferees are called in that a final agreement can be made.

In the meantime, the Republican members are continuing their meetings on the various items still open, with the prospect that a complete adjustment is not far off.

The $3 rate on cigars is that fixed by the house and is a repeal of the entire 60 cents added for war purposes. The senate proposition was to take off half of the 60 cents making the rate $3.30.

VETERANS DECLINE TO JOIN THE PARADE

Soldiers of the Civil and Spanish Wars Refuse to March Behind the Other Organizations.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Veteran organizations of the Civil and Spanish wars have officially declined to participate in the inaugural parade on March 4. The decision affects organizations in the Grand Army of the Republic, the Veterans' union and the Spanish War veterans. The dissatisfaction of the veterans with the place assigned them in the parade is responsible for today's action.

It was their wish to act as the personal escort to the president. Grand Marshal Green, on the contrary, assigned them to a position in the line ahead of the civic organizations and following the National Guard. General Daniel Sickles today notified General Green that the veterans had declined to participate in the parade, and he tendered his resignation as marshal of the veteran division.

TROUBLES OF THE SULTAN OF WADAI.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Tripoli, Feb. 27.—A rebellion has broken out against the sultan of Wadai, owing to the many executions. Ahmed, son of the late sultan Ali, has been proclaimed king by the rebels. A French force is reported to be half way between Fort and Wadai.

Fake Interview Denied.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Washington, Feb. 27.—An authoritative denial is given at the white house to an alleged interview with President McKinley, printed in the Manchester (Eng.) Guardian, and circulated in this country. The language attributed to the president is as follows: "The thirst of Christendom for blood must now be considered sufficiently slaked after taking at least 100 lives for every Christian slaughtered."

Petition Against Water Company.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Harrisburg, Feb. 27.—The borough authorities of Port Allegheny today petitioned the attorney general for a writ of quo warranto against the Port Allegheny Water company to show cause why its charter should not be forfeited. It is alleged that the company does not carry out its contract in supplying water. Mr. Elkin reserved his decision.

THE HOUSE IN AN UPROAR

Debate on the Ripper Bill Followed by a Small Riot in Which Many Members Take a Hand.

HOSACK BADLY HANDLED

He Interrupts the Calling of the Roll by Yelling "Mr. Speaker" in Loud Tones, and Is Seated by Sergeants-at-Arms—His Friends Take a Hand and in the General Melee George Marshall, of Scranton, Takes Mr. Coray, of Luzerne, by the Neck. Blows Are Struck and a Free-for-All Engagement Unsurpassed by a Session of the Austrian Reichsrath Follows.

Special from a Staff Correspondent.

Harrisburg, Feb. 28.—At 12.14 this morning, after the most tumultuous session in the history of the Pennsylvania legislature, the celebrated "ripper" bill was passed without amendment on second reading by the house of representatives, by a vote that exceeded the constitutional majority of 102, which is required to pass it finally.

Shortly after 11 o'clock a riot was precipitated by one of the employes of the house. Message Clerk George Marshall, of Scranton, making an assault on Representative Coray, of Luzerne. Fully fifty members, officers, employes and spectators were in the melee, and although few, if any, heavy blows were struck, there was no end of throttling, jostling, tugging and threats. It was fully ten minutes before the combatants were separated and the disturbance quelled, and another five minutes passed before the order of business was resumed. The whole house, and most of the hundreds of spectators who lined the sides of the room, pressed forward to the scene of conflict, some walking over the desks, when they found the aisles congested and a number of women who were on the floor, making, in alarm, for the exits. Speaker Marshall rapped and rapped, called, pleaded and prayed for order, and commanded Sergeant at Arms Rawlings to restore order, but his voice was drowned in a babel of excited language of the belligerents, and the cries from all of "Order!" "Order!" and such reminders as "Gentlemen, this is the legislature of Pennsylvania;" "Don't forget where you are," and the like. Several of the orators of the house mounted desks, and Mr. McClain, of Lancaster, ascended the platform, and all, at once, tried to attract attention and give advice, but their efforts only added to the din. Just how it was quelled it would be hard to say; "died out," best describes it.

When Trouble Began.

The first section of the schedule, the "ripper" clause, was being voted upon when the trouble began. Mr. Hosack, of Pittsburg, a young insurgent leader, whose place is immediately in front of the speaker's desk, and who had previously been made to take his seat by the sergeant-at-arms at the behest of Speaker Marshall, arose to address the chair. The speaker refused to recognize him, as the call of the ayes and nays had already been commenced.

Mr. Hosack persisted in calling for the speaker's attention, and the chair each time rapped him to order and demanded that he take his seat. He refused to comply, and Speaker Marshall believing he would tire of his conduct ignored him for a time, but Mr. Hosack continued to call "Mr. Speaker," "Mr. Speaker," between the call of every name as the clerks were proceeding with the roll.

Patience ceased to be a virtue and Speaker Marshall ordered the sergeant-at-arms to compel Mr. Hosack to take his seat. Mr. Hosack continued to repeat "Mr. Speaker," "Mr. Speaker," "Mr. Speaker," like a phonograph with a stationary reproducer. Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms J. M. Nichols, a big lanky fellow, laid his hand on Mr. Hosack's shoulder and ordered him to take his seat. Mr. Hosack would not deign to notice him, but kept up his measured call of "Mr. Speaker."

Nicholl then threw his arms around Mr. Hosack and forced him into his seat and held him there. Mr. Coray, insurgent of Luzerne, rushed to Mr. Hosack's side and began to tug at Nicholl. Messenger Marshall, who was in the rear of the room at Representative Reynolds' desk, rushed down the aisle and, feeling himself called upon to assist the assistant sergeant-at-arms caught Representative Coray by the throat, pushed him back from Nicholl and bore him towards the floor. By this time pandemonium reigned and it was impossible to follow in de-

(Continued on Page 3.)

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Weather Indications Today.

FAIR; NORTHWESTERLY WINDS.

1 General—Uproar Attends the Passage of the Ripper Bill on Second Reading.
Army Bill with Spooner Amendment Passed by the Senate.
The New State Libel Law.
2 General—Carbondale Department.
3 General—Uproar Attends Passage of Ripper Bill (Concluded).
4 Editorial.
Note and Comment.
5 Story—"The Sweethearts of the Alice Club."
6 Local—One Volunteer Fireman Would Resent Insults.
Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company Extending Its Leases.
7 Local—Anthracite Operatives Between Two Fires.
Miss Howell Is Wedded.
New Trolley Company Changes Its Route.
8 Local—West Scranton and Suburban.
9 General—Northeastern Pennsylvania.
Financial and Commercial.
10 Local—Live News of the Industrial World.

MISSIONARY WORKERS MAKE REPORTS

Fortieth Anniversary Meeting of the Women's Union Missionary Society Held at Philadelphia.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Philadelphia, Feb. 27.—The fortieth anniversary meeting of the Women's Union Missionary society was held here today. Addresses were made by Miss Mary Deyo, a missionary to Japan, and Mrs. B. H. Bradley, prominent in mission work in India. The subject of both addresses was "The Woman Behind the Curtain," and both speakers told of mission work in foreign fields.

The society, which was organized in 1860, is the oldest Woman's Foreign Missionary organization in the country, and has numerous branches throughout the United States. It has also established centers in Burmah, India, China, Japan, Greece and Cyprus. The society's boarding school in Japan was the first of its kind in the empire and in this institution hundreds of girls have been fitted for teachers, evangelists and other positions of usefulness.

The reports read today show the financial condition to be fairly prosperous, but more funds are required to successfully conduct the work. The Margaret Williamson hospital in Shanghai was the first organized there for women and children and thousands yearly received treatment at the hands of skillful medical missionaries.

JUDGE AND JURY QUIT.

Bankrupt Minnesota Court—Beltrami Had No Cash with Which to Pay Its Officers.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 27.—Beltrami county, in the northern part of Minnesota, is bankrupt, and unless the legislature passes a bill for its relief a condition will prevail bordering upon anarchy. The county judge and the jurors drawn for the present term of court have gone out on strike because there is no money with which to pay them. Nearly all of the county offices have been closed by the occupants, while the sheriff, who has been caring for prisoners at his own expense, threatens to turn them loose and close the jail in order that he may get out and earn money to support himself and his family.

There is not a stick of firewood in any of the county offices, even if the officials should return and none of the dealers will furnish any unless they are paid the cash, which, of course, so long as there is no money in the treasury, they cannot get. Merchants refuse longer to accept county warrants for groceries, etc., and as a result the $25,000 worth of warrants outstanding are not at the present time worth the paper upon which they are written.

The situation has developed into an every-man-for-himself race for life. Persons who have money are holding to it, and those who have none are trying in vain to borrow enough to carry them through the winter. The situation is badly strained and there is no relief in sight.

The trouble is caused by a decision of the court allowing various logging companies doing business in Beltrami county to avoid paying their back taxes, upon which the county depends for its revenues.

Nearly all of the prominent men of the county are now here and will go before the legislature tomorrow in an endeavor to have a bill passed that will allow the county organization to be continued.

THE STATE TREASURER FILES ANSWERS

Respondents Allege That the Districts Have Been Paid.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Harrisburg, Feb. 27.—State Treasurer Barnett and Superintendent of Public Instruction Schaeffer filed answers in the Dauphin county court today to the petitions of seven school districts for writs of mandamus to compel the state authorities to pay them their share of the school appropriation on the basis of 5,500,000 annually, instead of five millions.

The respondents allege that the districts have been paid all they are entitled to receive for the current school year, and, therefore, deny the right of the districts to petition for a mandamus to compel them to perform a duty which they have already performed.

The case will be argued on March 6.

Admiral Cervera Promoted.

Madrid, Feb. 27.—The queen regent has signed a decree appointing Rear Admiral Cervera to be a vice admiral.

CUBANS FRAME CONSTITUTION

Clauses Regarding the Relations Between the United States and Government of the Island.

THE FEATURES ADOPTED

Government of Cuba Accepts in Its Entirety the Treaty of Paris, in Which Are Affirmed the Rights of Cuba, and Obligations, and Substitutes Itself for the United States in the Pledge Assumed.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Havana, Feb. 27.—The constitutional convention remained in session until 3 o'clock this afternoon completing the work of drawing up the clauses of the constitution regarding the relations between the United States and Cuba.

The following has been adopted:

"First—The government of Cuba will not make a treaty or agreement with any foreign power which may compromise or limit the independence of Cuba, or which may permit or authorize any power to obtain by means of colonization or for military or naval purposes, or in any other manner, any foothold or authority, or right over any portion of Cuba.

"Second—The government will not permit its territory to be used as a base of operations for war against the United States or against any foreign nation.

"Third—The government of Cuba accepts in its entirety the treaty of Paris, in which are affirmed the rights of Cuba, to the extent of the obligations which are explicitly indicated in these, and especially those which the international law imposes for the protection of life and property, and substitutes itself for the United States in the pledge which they assumed in that sense, according to Articles 12 and 16 of the treaty of Paris.

"Fourth—Cuba recognizes as legally valid all acts of the military government during the period of occupation, also the rights arising out of them in conformity with the joint resolution and the Foraker amendment and the laws of the country.

"Fifth—The governments of the United States and Cuba ought to regulate their commercial relations by means of a treaty based on reciprocity and with tendencies towards free trade in natural and manufactured products mutually assuring ample special advantages in their respective markets."

Scheme of Relations.

The scheme of relations was publicly approved this afternoon by the convention. For two hours previous to the public meeting an executive session was held to draw up a preamble and revise the report of the special committee. Another vote was then taken on the preamble and the scheme of relations, only three dissenting.

The preamble, which is lengthy, sets forth the receiving of the letter from General Wood outlining the wishes of the Washington executive regarding future relations. It asserts that the convention understood the desire of the executive to bring about these specified relations with the object of preserving the independence of Cuba, and that the suggestions as to naval stations was made on those lines.

"But this in itself" the preamble goes on to say, "would militate against the independence with both parties desire to preserve."

Regarding the other conditions suggested for preserving independence, such as raising loans, the preamble points out that they are fully covered by the constitution, which document, in the opinion of the convention, amply protects independence, including liberal laws as to the rights of foreigners and individual rights.

Regarding the sanitary question, the preamble declares that the future government should make satisfactory arrangements with the United States to protect that country as well as Cuba.

The convention clearly implies that its actions would not bind the future government, for the last part of the preamble reads:

"The convention considers that relations might exist if the first government under the republic claims it advisable."

Big Fire in Philadelphia.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Philadelphia, Feb. 27.—A fire of unknown origin late tonight destroyed the warehouse of the Phillips Oil company, at 136 North Delaware avenue. The first floor of the structure was occupied by the Anglo-American Provision company. Adjoining buildings, occupied by the N. K. Fairbanks company, manufacturers of cottolene; Armour & Co., meats, and the Weikel & Smith Spice company were damaged. The loss is estimated at $100,000.

Lake Engineers on Strike.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Cleveland, Feb. 27.—As a result of the refusal of the Lake Carriers' association to grant the demands of the marine engineers for additional help in the engine rooms of steamers, National President George Miller this afternoon declared a strike in force, affecting about 1,800 engineers on the lakes.

Court Building on Fire.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

New York, Feb. 27.—The attic and a large portion of the roof at the northwest corner of the criminal court building were destroyed by fire today. To get a pipe line through the center of the building the stained glass dome, which cost $12,000 to put in, had to be broken.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Forecast for Thursday and Friday: Eastern Pennsylvania—Fair Thursday and Friday; fresh to brisk northwesterly winds.