

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

A Bill Creating the Above Causes Lively Debate in the Senate.

SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED MEASURE

It Is Pointed Out That if the Bill as Reported Becomes a Law the Secretary of Commerce Would Have More Power Than the Secretary of the Treasury.

Washington, Jan. 16.—The senate today for a brief time had under consideration the bill creating a department of commerce and the discussion tended to show that the measure will have to be amended in many particulars before it can receive the approval of the senate. Serious objections were raised to the transfer to the proposed department of several important bureaus now a part of other departments of the government. It was pointed out that if the bill as reported became a law it would create the greatest department of the government and that the secretary of commerce would have more power even than the secretary of the treasury.

After some minor amendments to the bill had been offered by Mr. Nelson (Minnesota) and adopted, Mr. Lodge offered an amendment to section 11 of the bill providing that the secretary of state should designate an official in his department to furnish instructions to consular officers and to prepare the dispatches of the consular officers for transmission to the secretary of commerce.

The amendment aroused considerable comment, all of it being favorable to Mr. Lodge's proposition. Mr. Hale sharply criticized the bill. He said the measure so suddenly flashed upon the senate created the largest department in the government. It did not begin in a modest way, but ransacked every department of the government for important bureaus to dump into this new department. The new secretary of commerce would become the most important member of the cabinet. He would be even a more important official than the secretary of the treasury with all his great administrative duties.

Many bureaus had been included in the proposed department that have no more relation to commerce than light has to darkness. He referred particularly to the transfer to the new department of the coast and geodetic survey and urged that if that bureau were changed at all it should be placed under the navy department. He referred to various "navies" in the several departments.

Mr. Tillman on His Feet. "This brought Mr. Tillman to his feet. "I would like to add another navy to those enumerated by the senator," he said. "That is, the army transport service. That is assuming great proportions and about it I have heard some scandal."

At the instance of Mr. Teller the section providing for the transfer of the geological survey to the department of commerce was stricken out. Mr. Hale gave notice of an amendment providing for the transfer of the coast and geodetic survey to the navy department. After Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, had criticized the bill and urged that no action be taken at this time, the measure went over.

Upon request of Mr. Hoar, the resolution adopted yesterday in reference to supplies sent to the Boers in Bermuda was recalled, the senate saying the United States had not adopted the particular provision of The Hague treaty covering this question. The resolution went to the foreign relations committee for investigation.

The house current resolution providing for memorial services, Feb. 27, in honor of the late President McKinley, was adopted. Mr. Mallory, of Florida, and Mr. Clay, of Georgia, declared they had been misrepresented in a New York paper, which said they favored the Panama canal. Both said they were for the Nicaragua canal. The senate passed the house resolution appropriating \$90,000 to pay the expense of the government exhibit at the Charleston exposition.

Senator Mitchell of Oregon introduced a bill prepared by the Pacific coast senators and representatives, for Chinese exclusion. He said that the gentlemen who prepared it agreed to its provisions generally but reserved the right to offer amendments when the bill was under consideration. A large number of uncontested bills and private pension measures were passed, after which the senate adjourned until Monday.

Collector for Philadelphia. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Jan. 16.—The president today to the senate the nomination of C. Wesley Jones (the present incumbent) to be collector of customs for the district of Philadelphia, and of H. Davis, of Pennsylvania, to be collector of customs for the district of Alaska.

ate General Butterfield's Successor. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Albany, N. Y., Jan. 16.—Governor Odell has appointed Colonel Thomas W. Bradley, of Orange county, a member of the New York state commission on the Catskill and Champlain basins. He will succeed General Butterfield in the death of General Daniel Butterfield.

BATTLE UNDERGROUND.

Thieves, Officers and Employes Have a Desperate Encounter in a Mine.

Victor, Col., Jan. 16.—A desperate battle four hundred feet underground, between ore thieves and officers and trusted employes, occurred in the Independence mine, on Battle mountain, today. Between fifty and seventy-five shots were exchanged between the opposing parties. Lee Glockner, a member of the company's force, was shot twice, but not seriously injured. The fight was most determined, but the thieves finally gained the upper hand and forced the company men to retreat toward the big shaft, giving the thieves an opportunity to escape. The management of Stratton's Independence company, of London, England, which owns the Independence mine, has been aware for a long time that rich deposits of sylvanite in the mine were being systematically robbed, the stealings amounting to thousands of dollars a month. Detectives were employed, and it is said the thieves were detected in the act of looting a rich seam of ore. They escaped through the underground workings connected with an adjoining property.

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TUNNEL WRECK

Manager Franklin Admitted Trainmen Had Complained That Signal Lights Could Not Be Seen.

New York, Jan. 16.—The coroner's inquest to determine the responsibility for the death of seventeen persons in the New York Central railroad tunnel last week, was begun today. Coroner Scholer presided. District Attorney Jerome and attorneys representing the various interests at stake were in attendance. The coroner's attorney addressed the members of the jury, saying, in part: "It may be that there were one or more persons criminally responsible for the deaths of the victims of this disaster. It is your duty to say whether these victims came to their deaths through criminal negligence of some person. This is your province and if you go beyond it, you yield, perhaps, to public clamor and you do not thereby add the cause of justice."

William T. Devine, a passenger on the New Rochelle train, testified that the train had been standing still for about a minute before the collision. Policeman Patrick H. Fox said he asked Wisco, engineer of the White Plains train, what had caused the accident. He said he had received many complaints from trainmen regarding the signal lights in the tunnel. These men had called his attention to the fact that on foggy days the lights could be seen only a very short distance.

"So, especially during the winter months," he said, "the conditions were very unfavorable. He said that 323 schedule trains ran through the tunnel every day. Mr. Franklin said he was under the orders of President Newman, of the New York Central, and President Hall, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad. He said he had spoken to them about the tunnel lights when they had taken him to task about trains being late. Nothing in particular, he said, had been done about the complaints of the engineers concerning the lights.

Answering Mr. Jerome, Manager Franklin admitted that the murky morning on which the disaster occurred was the first time Engineer Wisco had taken a passenger train through the tunnel every day.

Counsel for Wisco asked to put some questions to Mr. Franklin, but the district attorney objected, and the coroner sustained the objection. Adjournment was then had until tomorrow.

PRESENT FOR MISS ROOSEVELT.

Prince Henry Will Bring a Souvenir of the Launching of Yacht.

New York, Jan. 16.—Prince Henry of Prussia will bring from Germany a handsome present for Miss Alice Roosevelt from the emperor in recognition and as a souvenir of her part in the launching of the new royal yacht. Announcement of this fact was made today in a dispatch to the Staats-Zeitung from Berlin. The cablegram also said that Prince Henry had been directed to arrange for aquatic sports between American and German yachts in the foreign ports where they meet. The German government has accepted Mayor Low's offer of the use of West Thirty-fourth street pier for the imperial yacht Hohenzollern during the visit to the city of Prince Henry. The acceptance is accompanied by an expression of thanks in the name of Prince Henry.

YORK DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

York, Pa., Jan. 16.—The Democratic caucus tonight selected the following ticket to be voted at the primary election: Mayor, Luther A. Smith; treasurer, F. E. Will; controller, Dr. F. Rice; city assessor, George Spaul, C. A. Boyer and Harry E. Meyer.

MINE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Shamokin, Pa., Jan. 16.—Mine Inspector Edward Brennan's annual report shows there was no fatal and no non-fatal accidents in the Schuylkill district the past year. One life had been sacrificed for every 100,000 tons of coal mined.

HOLD UP AT SPIRO.

Southbound Kansas City Train Is Robbed by Masked Men.

Fort Smith, Ark., Jan. 16.—The southbound Kansas City Southern passenger train was "held up" last night at Spiro, between fifty and seventy-five miles from Fort Smith. The express and mail car were entered. The local safe in the express car was opened, but nothing secured from it. The robbers tried to open the through safe but failed. Then they rifled the mail car and, it is said, secured a quantity of registered mail. The scene of the robbery is fifteen miles from Fort Smith. A report today from there says that United States marshals are scouring the country in search of the robbers. Three suspects, in each, have been arrested and taken to Spiro. The railroad and express officials decline to state how much booty was secured. It is stated, however, that the robbers got away with \$2,000.

The robbers flagged the train between Spiro and Redland. While two of the seven men covered the engineer and fireman with revolvers, others forced a porter, who had appeared on the steps of the forward coach, to uncouple the baggage car from the rest of the train. John Block, a traveling salesman from Fort Smith, alighted from the train and was about to fire upon the robbers when he was prevented by Conductor Sullivan, who feared that the men would fire into the passenger coaches. The baggage car uncoupled, the engineer was compelled to pull up the road a distance of one mile. Then the robbers after disarming the messenger, went through the baggage and mail car. Their work finished, one of the robbers handed the messenger the revolver taken from him, and all made for the timber.

Postoffice officials here denied that any registered mail was taken, and the express officials say that one package containing \$3 covers their loss.

FIRE IN CHICAGO.

Flames Break Out in the Ticket Office of the Union Station.

Chicago, Jan. 16.—Fire broke out in the ticket office of the Union station, Adams and Canal streets, today, and for a time threatened the destruction of the building. The smoke and flames spread rapidly, and the employees of the several roads that make the station their Chicago terminal, had an exciting time to escape suffocation. The men were busy at work on annual statements in offices just above and to the rear of the ticket office, and a number of them were seated on chairs at the foot of the steps leading to the thrones.

The gentleman usher of the black rod, General Sir Michael Biddulph, having summoned the speaker and the members of the house of commons, his majesty read the speech from the throne. His majesty referred, in terms of gratification to the world tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales, expressed regret over the fact that the war in South Africa was not concluded, said he trusted the decision of the sugar conference would be satisfactory, and noted the conclusion of the isthmian canal treaty.

In reference to the tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales the king said: "They were everywhere received with demonstrations of the liveliest affection, and I am convinced their presence served to rivet more closely the bonds of mutual regard and loyalty by which the vigor of the empire is maintained."

Great Britain's relations with foreign countries were disposed of briefly, as follows: "My relations with other powers continue to be of a friendly character, and New Zealand's independence in the endurance of the hardships incident to guerrilla warfare, and a humanity, even to their own detriment, in their treatment of the enemy, which are deserving of the highest praise.

The necessity for relieving those of my troops who have met the strain of war has afforded me the opportunity of again availing myself of the loyal and patriotic offers of my colonies, and further contingents will shortly reach South Africa from the Dominion of Canada, the commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand.

In respect to the sugar conference, the king said: "I trust its decision may lead to the abandonment of the system by which the sugar-producing colonies and home manufacturers of sugar have been unfairly weighted in the protection of this important industry."

"I have concluded with the president of the United States a treaty, the provisions of which will facilitate the construction of an interoceanic canal under guarantees that its neutrality will be maintained, and that it will be open to the commerce and shipping of all nations."

Next followed references to the Anglo-Brazilian treaty, to the referring of the British Guiana-Brazil boundary questions to the arbitration of the king of Italy, to the necessity for the continuation of famine relief measures in India, and to the death of the Ameer of Afghanistan, "whose son, Habib Ullah, has expressed an earnest desire to maintain the friendly relations of Afghanistan with my Indian empire."

After announcing that the estimates for the present year had been framed as economically as due regard for their efficiency renders possible in the special circumstances of the present exigency," the speech concluded with mentioning proposed legislation of solely domestic interest, with the exception of a bill to facilitate the sale and purchase of land in Ireland.

Their majesties then retired amid a fanfare of trumpets and attended by the same regal ceremony as accompanied their entry into the house.

House of Commons.

There was only a meagre attendance of members when the house of commons met at 4 o'clock this afternoon to commence the work of the session. Irish affairs cropped up almost immediately. Earl Percy, conservative (elder son of the Duke of Northumberland and member for the South division of Kent) moving a resolution to the effect that the election from the railway of Colonel Arthur Lynch "who was commonly and notoriously reported to have aided the king's enemies" was an insult to the house, and a committee should be appointed to consider the course to pursue.

EDWARD OPENS PARLIAMENT

Contrary to Expectations No Definite Statement Is Made Regarding Boer War.

EXTRACTS FROM KING'S SPEECH

His Majesty Regrets That the War in South Africa Is Not Yet Concluded, but Makes No Suggestions, Irish Land Purchase Bill Suggested—References to Sugar Conference and Isthmian Canal Treaty.

London, Jan. 16.—King Edward opened parliament this afternoon with a ceremonial in all essential respects identical with that of February last. His majesty referred, in terms of gratification to the world tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales, expressed regret over the fact that the war in South Africa was not concluded, said he trusted the decision of the sugar conference would be satisfactory, and noted the conclusion of the isthmian canal treaty.

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WILL ENTERTAIN THE PRINCE.

Ambassador Von Holleben Has Given Notice to the State Department.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Ambassador Von Holleben, who was at the state department today, has given notice that he will entertain Prince Henry and also at the German embassy here. Dr. Hill, the first assistant secretary of state, who by reason of an extended residence in Germany is perfectly conversant with the German language, may be charged to represent the department of state in the ceremonies connected with the reception of the prince.

Governor Francis, of Missouri, also called on Secretary Hay in connection with Prince Henry's visit. He urged that the programme for the prince's entertainment be made to include a visit to St. Louis, in order that the prince might see the scale on which the approaching Louisiana purchase exposition is projected.

Chemist Gets Good Fee.

New York, Jan. 16.—A jury in the supreme court today rendered a verdict for \$6,000.55 in favor of Prof. Rudolph Witsman, who had sued the city to recover \$6,180 for services rendered by him in making a chemical analysis on portions of the remains of Henry Barnett, whose death figured in the indictment and trial of Roland H. Moloney. The verdict included \$4,950.55 interest on the amount sued for.

Spirited Debate on Schley Resolution

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 16.—The house today, after a spirited debate, adopted a resolution commending Admiral Schley. The Republicans opposed that part of the resolution which commended the court of inquiry that set in the Schley case and refused to vote when the roll was called. All of the seventy Democrats voted for the resolution.

Mr. Cleveland Gains Strength.

Princeton, N. J., Jan. 16.—Ex-President Cleveland has sufficiently recovered from his illness to enjoy short drives in the country. Today he and Mrs. Cleveland drove through the streets and a short distance out of town. Mr. Cleveland looked well. If he continues to gain in strength he will go on a southern hunting trip with friends next week.

Corporations Chartered.

Harrisburg, Jan. 16.—Charters were issued by the state department today to the following corporations: Pittsburg Improvement Lumber company, Pittsburg; capital, \$200,000. Dispatch Publishing company, Wilkes-Barre; capital, \$1,000.

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Financial Circles Agitated by News of Peace Negotiations.

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Mr. Buchanan, of the United States, Senator Macedo of Mexico, and Senator Bermejo, of Argentina, each made speeches asking in turn "if we are all agreed, what is there to discuss."

At the afternoon session the Chilean delegates resumed speechmaking. Senator Alzamora, of Peru, had just risen to reply when a slight shock of earth quake spread consternation through the assembly, and for nearly one minute afterwards the gilded hall of sessions swayed like the salon of a liner. The delegates sprang from their chairs and grabbed their desks in alarm, but were reassured by the calmness of the Mexicans.

The proceedings were interrupted for fully ten minutes. Members of the congress could see from the windows of the palace kneeling crowds on the plaza. When Senator Alzamora resumed his speech, he alluded in temperate although unmistakable terms to the delays which Chile had put in the way of the convening of the conference.

Blest Gana, of Chile, made an effective answer. The session terminated according to the plan for the acceptance of The Hague articles.

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DINNER TO THE JUSTICES OF SUPREME COURT

Washington, Jan. 16.—The president and Mrs. Roosevelt tonight gave another of the state dinners customary at this season of each year, nearly 100 guests being invited to meet in the gallery of the supreme court. The table was of recent design and was laid in the East room. The formal decorations were very elaborate. The guests included a number of senators and representatives and their families.

Steamship Arrivals.

New York, Jan. 16.—Arrived—Germania, Liverpool and Queenstown. Sailed—La Gasconne, Havre, Lizard—Passed: Zealand, New York for Southampton and Antwerp; L'Aspatienne, New York for Havre.

Wife Murderer Hanged.

Michigan City, Ind., Jan. 17.—Hinkard, the wife murderer, was hanged at 12 1/2 o'clock (Friday) morning.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

New York, Jan. 16.—J. V. S. Odell, secretary of the New York yacht club, died at his residence at his home in Willsboro, a suburb of Saratoga, aged 62 years. Mr. Odell had been ill for about two weeks of kidney trouble. Mr. Odell was elected secretary of the yacht club in 1889 and held that office continuously to the time of his death. He joined the club in 1867. Philadelphia, Jan. 16.—Richard Patterson, vice president of the National Liquor Dealers' association, and former state representative, died last night at his home in Willsboro, a suburb of Saratoga, aged 62 years. Mr. Patterson was also president of the State Liquor Dealers' association.

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