

GENERAL MILES IN WAR PAINT

Objects to Senator Hawley's Bill for the Organization of the Army Staff.

WILL RESIGN IF THE BILL BECOMES A LAW

He Thinks the Unity of the Army Would Be Destroyed—Authorities Cited Showing the Necessity of Having One Head to the Army.

By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press.

Washington, March 20.—General Nelson A. Miles today told the senate committee on military affairs that if the bill introduced by Senator Hawley, at the instance of the war department, for the organization of a general staff for the army, should become a law, he would decline to accept his commission.

Secretary Root—"The proposition is to have the lieutenant general to do it."

Work During Spanish War. "That work was done during the Spanish war practically by the gentlemen in the adjutant general's office."

General Miles said that if this provision should become a law it would have the effect of destroying the unity of the army, and he read numerous authorities, including Napoleon, Wellington, Washington, Cass and Grant, to show the necessity of having one head to the army and of controlling authority.

In the Interest of Favorites. Then, he added, in all probability, the senior general of the army would not, under the provision he had quoted, have been in position to do anything, and he called attention to the clause relieving him (the senior general) of command and making it possible for any other officer to be appointed.

General Miles was questioned as to the reasons for locating the American army of occupation at Tampa and holding it there so long with the resulting congestion. Replying to the first question, he said that it was because of the order to occupy Havana.

He today, in his statement, the secretary said that the general staff of the army, as it is proposed to organize under this bill, would be simply an advisory board, and that its principal duty would be that of an advisory board.

"It proposes," he said, "to create by detail from the officers of the army, a body of officers who shall be charged, in the first place, with the duty of doing the military thinking, of doing what the navy has a board engaged in now, and what we ought to have in the army and have not today. The primary idea is not to give orders. It is to study and prepare plans for the men who give orders."

Asked as to the place the commander-in-chief would occupy with reference to this board, the secretary replied that he would accept plans made by the board or not as he might please. The secretary continued as follows: "The plan of the bill is to have the chief of staff selected by the president as commander-in-chief, and to have it a detail, so that he will come in with the president and go out with the president."

Senator Bate—"Do I understand that there is a limit to their power, so that they will not interfere with the lieutenant general?"

Secretary Root—"The proposition is to have the lieutenant general to do it."

As to the work of this character during the war with Spain, Secretary Root said: "The work was done during the Spanish war practically by the gentlemen in the adjutant general's office. But how many men did they have to do it? Each man was at his desk, having his regular duties which were pressing upon him enough for two men to do, and it was only by working day and night, with the halls thronged and crowded with people, who were pressing with ten thousand things, having nothing to do with the military part of their duties, but were performing that they were able to do these things that ought to have been put in the hands of men who had nothing else whatsoever to do. If we had not had an adjutant general with the strength of an extensive organization, which was an extraordinary executive capacity, the whole system would have been broken down absolutely. You cannot depend on having such men."

He also said that such a board would be of great assistance to the secretary of war, and that the organization is such that it is impossible that successful results can be produced until they have been worked out by most painful and expensive experience. They will come in time, because the American people will set up a jury-rigged, extensive organization, which will be adapted to the circumstances, but you will not have had forethought and provision and prearrangement and an understanding of what was going to be done unless you get a different organization in the time of peace.

Statement Excites Interest. The news of General Miles' statements today before the military committee of the senate excited great interest at the war department, when it became known there late in the day. There was a very general inquiry as to whether by passing the criticisms upon various officials as reported in the press, the senate would not expose himself to disciplinary treatment. The answer to this must be based on the exact amount of privilege which attaches to testimony given before a committee of congress. This question will not work in the course of General Hughes' testimony before the senate Philippine committee when the general sought to escape answering questions which would involve criticism by him of his superior officer, General Otis. It appeared that there was a variance of opinion in the committee itself as to how far General Hughes was at liberty to violate army rules and proprieties, even in answer to committee questions, and the question itself was left unsettled.

While General Miles did not expect when he gave his testimony, that it would be made public in any form, he is now willing that it shall be published by the committee, making, himself, the broad statement that the statements which were given to the press as those made by himself before the committee, were misrepresentations, totally unwarranted and unauthorized.

The opinion by the president of his usual right this afternoon and the fact that he and Secretary Root were in conference for nearly four hours, led to the supposition that they were discussing General Miles' testimony. This, however, was an erroneous conclusion, for they were talking about an army regulation, and the secretary was unaware of the testimony until he returned to the war department, late in the afternoon.

Secretary Root exhibited little feeling when his attention was called to the proceedings before the committee. He remarked quietly that he was very sorry Lieutenant General Miles opposed this bill. He pointed out that under section seven of which General Miles complained, the lieutenant general would have greatly enlarged powers in army management, instead of being restricted in his functions, as he supposed. As to the question whether General Miles had said anything which would require action at the hands of the department or the president, the secretary firmly declined to express an opinion, for the present at least, preferring to await an official copy of the committee hearing before reaching any decision.

METHODIST CONFERENCE.

Business at the Sessions Held at Columbia Yesterday.

Lancaster, Pa., March 20.—The Philadelphia Methodist conference in session at Columbia this morning passed a resolution providing that memorial services for departed members shall be held on the first day of the 1903 conference and on the first day of each succeeding conference. It was also resolved to destroy all papers and testimony relating to conference trials from 1801 to the time of the last meeting of the general conference. Dr. McLaughlin, corresponding secretary of the Seaman's home, made an appeal and address on behalf of this institution. Dr. J. M. King, of the Church Extension society, stated the board has added 171 churches. Dr. George E. Reed, president of Dickinson college, reported that the attendance at his institution during the past year was 204, the largest number of students ever enrolled there. Speeches were made by Dr. C. W. Hishel, on behalf of the school of theology of the Boston university, and by Dr. B. P. Raymond, for the Wesleyan university, of Middletown, Conn.

The board of trustees of the Methodist Episcopal hospital presented its report, showing that 774 patients had been treated in the past year. The receipts were \$6,008.21, which, with a balance from previous years, summed up a total of \$7,124.25; the expenditures were \$6,448.67. Bills due and unpaid, however, will exceed the receipts by \$67.88. The board requested that conference vote the collections of the second Sunday in May as a donation for the hospital.

PROCEEDINGS OF A DAY IN CONGRESS

Vote on Bill to Protect President Will Be Taken Today—House Wants Miles Correspondence.

By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press.

Washington, March 20.—Throughout today's session of the senate, the bill providing for the protection of the president of the United States was under discussion. Just before adjournment an agreement was reached to vote on the measure and pending amendments at 4 o'clock tomorrow. The speakers today were Messrs. Preuss (Ala.), Hawley (Conn.) and Nelson (Minn.), in support of the bill, and Messrs. Rawlins (Utah), McCumber (N.D.), Malory (Fla.), Carmack (Tenn.) and Money and McLaughlin (Miss.). In opposition to the bill, speeches in the main were of reinforcement of arguments that have been advanced heretofore, few new points being raised. The principal point made by the opponents of the measure was that federal officials ought to be treated in the courts precisely as any other citizen.

Three substitutes for the bill are pending and will be pressed when the voting begins tomorrow. The house today made very slow progress on the river and harbor bill, disposing of only thirty pages and leaving about fifty pages still to be considered. The river and harbor committee again today succeeded in defeating every amendment offered. Mr. Bellamy, of North Carolina, during the day took occasion to denounce the "Columbian proposition to investigate southern election laws and designed to stir up sectional strife. He appealed to the conservative Republicans to defeat the resolution.

Representative Burleson, of Texas, introduced the following resolution of inquiry: "Resolved, That the president be, and he hereby is, respectfully requested, if the same is not incompatible with the public interests, to transmit to the house copies of all correspondence relating to, and papers bearing upon, the matter of the recent request of Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles, to be assigned to duty in the Philippines and to be allowed to take into effect there a plan outlined by him having for its purpose and being calculated to bring about an immediate cessation of hostilities in said Philippines without further loss of life on either side."

GALE ON THE POCONO.

Valuable Property Wrecked by the March Winds.

Special to the Scranton Tribune. Stroudsburg, March 20.—A gale that blew with a velocity of thirty miles an hour raged all Wednesday and until an early hour today over Monroe county, doing much damage to property, etc. The kitchen roof of the Hotel Montezuma, at Stroudsburg, was torn off and carried many feet away. A new, large dormitory, built near Echo Lake, was completely torn off its foundation and carried a number of feet away. Fences and trees are blown down in all parts of the county.

PANAMA CANAL CESSION APPROVED.

By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press. Paris, March 20.—On application of the Panama Canal company, the civil tribunal today approved the eventual cession of the canal property to the United States, subject to a reservation of modifications to be obtained from the Colombian government concerning articles 29 and 31 of the agreement.

Superintendent of P. & R.

By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press. Philadelphia, March 20.—W. A. Garrett was today appointed general superintendent of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway company to succeed W. G. Foster, who resigned yesterday. Mr. Garrett succeeded Charles A. Beach, superintendent of the New York division, and J. B. Warrington, superintendent of the Philadelphia division.

Stranahan Is Collector.

By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press. Washington, March 20.—The president today nominated Avenue N. Stranahan to be collector of customs for the district of New York.

Pensions Granted.

By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press. Washington, March 20.—John Hunsman, of Scranton, has been granted a pension of \$8.

JOHN DILLON SUSPENDED

One of the Liveliest Scenes Witnessed in the House of Commons.

EXCITING TILT WITH MR. CHAMBERLAIN

The Colonial Secretary's Remarks Concerning the British Who Lose No Opportunity of Slandering Their Countrymen Arouse the Ire of the Irish Nationalist—An Unparliamentary Expression Stunned Members of the House. The Offending Member Suspended for One Week.

By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press.

London, March 20.—One of the liveliest scenes witnessed in the house of commons since the palmist days of the Irish nationalists, ended this afternoon with the suspension of John Dillon. During the discussion of the South African affairs, the liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, vigorously protested against the government's conduct in uttering "malignant slanders" in calling the liberals "Boers." These slanders, Sir Henry said, were used for party purposes. The government which had been going from blunder to blunder, claimed immunity from criticism, and if this continued it would follow "the precedent of the evil days of the American war." The speaker proceeded to give a bitter, detailed criticism of the government's treatment of the Boers, and its miscalculations, declaring that the honor and interests of the country were just as dear to the liberal as to the most supercilious defender of the government's policy, and the liberals would continue to protest in the name of the righteous and generous traditions of the nation against the methods of the government.

The colonial secretary, Mr. Chamberlain, in the course of an equally incisive reply, said he desired to deliberately accuse Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman of losing no opportunity for slandering his countrymen, the soldiers and the government. Consequently, the "malignant slanders had come from the opposition." The speaker, Sir William Court Gully intervened and declared that the term "malignant slander" was unparliamentary.

But Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Mr. Chamberlain thereupon withdrew the words amid cheers. Mr. Chamberlain, proceeding, referred to the Boers who are fighting on the British side, when John Dillon (Irish Nationalist) intervened, and in a scathing attack on which Mr. Chamberlain retorted: "The honorable gentleman is a good judge of traitors."

A scene of great confusion followed. When order was partially restored, Mr. Dillon demanded a ruling on Mr. Chamberlain's words.

The speaker said: "An honorable member speaks of soldiers slandering the British flag as traitors. I deprecate the interruption and I deprecate the retort of the other member." Mr. Dillon then said: "I will tell the right honorable member that he is a damned liar." A dead silence followed this remark. Such unparliamentary language seemed to stun the house.

The speaker invited Mr. Dillon to withdraw the expression, but the latter refused. Consequently, Mr. Dillon was suspended from service in the house.

HAYTI IS AGITATED.

The Political Situation Is Critical. Approaching Revolutionary Stage. By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press. Port au Prince, Hayti, March 20.—The political situation is critical. The authorities continue making arrests. The prisoners of importance are taken on board the Haytian warship Crete A. Pierrot. The authorities here believe the disturbances in Hayti will be quelled before they reach the stage of being considered revolutionary.

Huntington Mine Workers Adjourn.

By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press. Huntington, W. Va., March 20.—The annual conference of the United Mine Workers of America adjourned tonight after a three days' session. Huntington was selected as the place for holding the next annual meeting, but little information is given as to the work of the convention, but the prevailing opinion seems to be that, unless the operators shall make some concessions that are demanded, a general strike in the two Virginia will be called by May 1.

Keogh Defeats Stoff.

By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press. New York, March 20.—In the professional championship tournament in Brooklyn which closed after a three days' session, Weston, the Wyoming cowboy champion, who defeated William E. McTear by a score of 125 to 71, today defeated Keogh, of Buffalo, defeated H. P. Jones of Cleveland, by the score of 125 to 81.

PENNSYLVANIA TUNNEL.

President Cassatt Believes Opposition Is Based on Misapprehension.

By Exclusive Wire from the Associated Press. New York, March 20.—President A. J. Cassatt, of the Pennsylvania railroad, said today that he believed the opposition to the tunnel bills, to further his company's plans to run its trains into New York city, was based on misapprehension. Mr. Cassatt said that the company wanted a perpetual franchise, but that it was willing to pay proper compensation to the city. Mr. Cassatt said: "The Pennsylvania Railroad company only desired such legislation as would permit the granting of a perpetual franchise under which its system would furnish to the tunnel bills, to further his company's plans to run its trains into New York city, was based on misapprehension. Mr. Cassatt said that the company wanted a perpetual franchise, but that it was willing to pay proper compensation to the city. 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