

WHAT OUR NATIONAL LAW MAKERS ARE CONSIDERING.

Some of the More Important Work of the National Congress—Bills That the Committees Report Favorably Upon—Washington Topics.

The Agricultural Appropriation bill just reported to the House carries \$3,116,400, being \$300,778 more than the law for the current year.

The President has nominated John B. Robinson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The Republican Caucus Committee of the Senate has decided that a steady effort shall be made to dispose of the business now before the Senate, including the Quay case, Philippine bill, Alaskan bill and appropriation bills.

The War Department has made public the correspondence relative to the recall of General Otis from Manila. The General will probably leave the Philippines after the arrival of the Commission, which will be about May 15.

A bill has been introduced in the Senate by Mr. Hawley, authorizing the secretary of war to make surveys for the establishment of camp grounds in the north, east, south and west for the training of soldiers of the United States and the National Guard.

Senator Gear has introduced an amendment to the Postoffice Appropriation bill, fixing eight hours as the length of the working day for clerks in postoffices, and providing for extra pay for additional hours.

The Naval Appropriation bill, reported to the House, carries items aggregating \$81,219,916, the bill being the largest ever reported by the committee.

The session of the senate April 4 opened with a discussion of the status of the Quay case, during which Mr. Wolcott apologized for language he had used. The Colorado senator made a vehement appeal for early action upon the Quay case, and it was decided finally to take up the case.

There was an exciting scene in the House April 4, as the climax of a discussion of the Kentucky situation, when Mr. Wheeler, a Kentucky Democrat, and Mr. Pugh, a Kentucky Republican, faced each other from opposite sides of the main aisle and indulged in a wordy duel. Mr. Pugh charged Mr. Wheeler with misrepresenting certain facts. Throughout the debate, which was precipitated by a speech of Mr. Boreing, of Kentucky, there was an air of suppressed excitement. Mr. Lacey, of Iowa, concluded the debate with a denunciation of the Goebel law. This incident overshadowed the speeches on the Hawaiian bill.

Major Frederick A. Mahan, Corps of Engineers, has been placed upon the retired list upon his own application, after thirty years' service. He is a brother of Captain Mahan, of the navy.

The Senate has brought to a close the debate on the Porto Rican Tariff and Civil Government bill, and, after rejecting all but committee amendments, passed the measure by a vote of 40 to 31.

The amount of bonds so far deposited in the Treasury for exchange for the new 2 per cents, is \$210,135,500, of which \$25,080,800 has been received from individuals and institutions other than national banks.

The resignation of Webster Davis as Asst. Sec. of the Interior has been accepted by Secretary Hitchcock, by direction of the President. The resignation, it is understood, was sent directly to the President by Mr. Davis, but was transferred to the Secretary of the Interior.

A MYSTERY SOLVED.

An Elopement, Death by Fire and Possible Monument.

Edward McMoron and the wife of Samuel Rook of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., ran away several months ago. Now comes the news that both met death in a fire at Hartford Conn.

Rook and Morton, both Englishmen, came to Rochdale not long ago, as expert weavers. They received high salaries. Morton had been a student at Cambridge University England. He was the black sheep of a fine English family.

Rook liked the handsome young Britisher and took him to his home presided over by his handsome wife. He suspected nothing wrong even when the two disappeared. He alone of all in the village refused to believe they had run away together.

Morton a few days after the elopement got a good place in the big Cheney factory in Hartford and went to housekeeping with the wife of his former friend whom he introduced as Mrs. Morton. Soon afterward their house caught fire and both were badly burned that they died within forty-eight hours. They were buried side by side as husband and wife in Spring Grove Cemetery.

When word of the tragedy reached the dead man's mother in England she wrote back in agonized words for particulars. This led to an investigation and Mr. Cheney sent for the facts.

A can of kerosene which they were using to build the kitchen fire exploded and burned both badly. They died within a few hours of each other. They were without funds, so Col. F. W. Cheney bore the expense of their burial. When taken to the hospital the two were suffering great pain, but each insisted that the other should be cared for first. A subscription paper is being circulated for a monument for the couple.

ROBBER BAND USE PISTOLS

Shoot, Blind, Gag, and Rob a Watchman and Blow Open a Safe.

A gang of six burglars, supposed to be those who have been operating along the line of the New York and New Haven Railroad's suburban line, have begun their work in Larchmont and Mamaroneck. At the first place they were surprised in an effort to enter the post office, and after an interchange of shots disappeared. An hour later they turned up at Mamaroneck, where they had a successful evening in every thing except that they obtained little for their pains.

Shortly after the last train from New York passed Larchmont, Policeman John J. O'Brien saw men near the post office. As he approached the men started away and were joined by others. There were six in all. When he could not come up with them, O'Brien opened fire and emptied his revolver. The men replied as they ran, and O'Brien says fully a dozen shots were fired at him. He was not hit, and apparently he hit no one.

About 2:30 o'clock William Eastman night watchman in the freight house at Mamaroneck, heard a knock at the door. Supposing it was a trainman he opened it, and found six men there. Two of them had their revolvers out and were covering him as he opened the door. Eastman drew his revolver, but one of the six fired before he could and the bullet grazed his cheek, breaking the skin for a distance of four inches and searing the tip of his ear.

The men threw Eastman down and bound and gagged him. He was then lashed to a piece of furniture and placed on the floor, face down, with the article on top of him. The men then began work on the safe. A tall, stout man directed their operations. When the charge was inserted the men withdrew from the building, leaving Eastman lying within a few feet of the safe. The explosion tore the safe to pieces and badly wrecked the interior of the building. How Eastman escaped injury cannot be explained. Debris fell all around him and one piece from the safe made a big dent in the floor close to his head.

The men re-entered and rifled the wrecked safe. All they obtained was \$50, and the big man cursed one of the others because he had apparently led them to believe there would be several hundred dollars in the safe.

Finding nothing else worth taking, the men left, with the exception of a negro, who was directed to guard Eastman. The negro remained about half an hour, and then, after taking Eastman's gold watch and his revolver followed the others. Eastman could not move. He was found a couple of hours later by Timothy Lynch, the freight agent. A search was at once made for the burglars, but no trace of them was obtained.

POLITICAL.

The Democratic State Convention, in Harrisburg, has adopted a resolution binding the delegation to the National Convention by the unit rule to support William J. Bryan for President. Eight delegates-at-large and four electors-at-large were elected, and P. Gray Meek, of Centre county, was nominated for Auditor General, and Harry E. Grim, of Bucks county, and N. M. Edwards, of Lycoming county, for Congressman-at-large.

Washington politicians do not take seriously Admiral Dewey's announcement of his candidacy for the Presidency.

The municipal elections in Missouri resulted "on the whole, favorable to the Democrats."

Republican gains were made at the municipal elections in Nebraska on Tuesday. Several Democratic strongholds elected Republicans. The greater number of towns voted for license.

The result of the municipal elections throughout Wisconsin, outside of Milwaukee, shows that where Republicans and Democrats placed party tickets in the field the Republicans gained the greater number of victories.

NEW YORK MARKETS.

Table listing market prices for various commodities including Flour and Grain, FLOUR, RYE FLOUR, BARLEY, WHEAT, CORN, OATS, Produce, HAY, HOPS, WOOL, BEEF, PORK, BUTTER, and CHEESE.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Latest News From the Active Business World.

After a conference between President Turner and a grievance committee, representing the 425 employees of the St. Louis and Suburban Railway Company, the men have asked permission of their official head at St. Louis to strike. The management of the road refused to submit the differences over hours and extra time to arbitration.

A combine of Pittsburg steel firms, made necessary by the new moves of the Carnegie Company, has been effected, Jones & Laughlin's, Limited, and Laughlin & Co., Limited, having been consolidated. The capital stock is \$20,000,000, which is considered much less than the actual value of the company holdings. The company title will be Jones & Laughlin's, Limited, with B. F. Jones at the head and chairman.

Many strikes have been declared in various parts of the country, workmen demanding higher wages and shorter working hours. The men were generally successful in New York city, but in Westchester County building operations were stopped.

One thousand Orange, N. J., mechanics, about equally divided among the painters, masons, and carpenters, struck April 2. The masons and painters already have an eight-hour day, but they demand an increase in wages. The painters now receive \$2.50 a day. They ask that this be increased to \$2.75. The masons demand 45 cents an hour; they are now getting 40 1/2 cents. The carpenters demand \$2.75 for an eight-hour day. Their present rates are \$1.50 to \$2.50 for a working day of nine hours.

In Mount Vernon, N. Y., 1,500 carpenters and 500 plumbers and gas fitters are on strike. Two hundred carpenters of Long Branch, N. J., have struck for eight hours work in a day. Strikes in New England are frequent. They are mostly for the purpose of securing a shorter work day.

EARLY ESSAYS.

Hanna on England and Rockefeller on St. Patrick.

Among the treasures which Andrew Freese of Cleveland, O., clings to in his old age are two essays, one written by John D. Rockefeller and the other by Marcus A. Hanna, when they were his pupils, nearly fifty years ago. Mr. Hanna's essay is entitled, "England and the United States." At eighteen he expressed his ideas as follows:

" 'Tis true that England has been for many years the unrivaled nation of the earth, but the United States has been like a soaring eagle, gradually but rapidly mounting on their flight to fame, and now that she has reached an exalted position in the eyes of the world, she gazes with indifference upon her mighty rival.

"In England the land is held by wealthy lords and nobles, who spend their time and money to gratify their own selfish desires, while hundreds of the poorer classes are struggling hard to gain a living and enduring all the privations of poverty can inflict. Not so in a land of liberty. Here every man is free and all enjoy equal rights and privileges, and every honest and industrious man can gain a comfortable livelihood."

Mr. Rockefeller's essay tells of the life of St. Patrick. Characteristic sentences in the essay are:

"From a poor shepherd boy he had become a Bishop, which was in those days a very high office. History gives instances of the power of a Bishop being equal to and greater than that of a King.

"St. Patrick was far superior to his countrymen in knowledge and had a great sway over their minds. They even thought him to be a saint."

BUILT ON SAND.

Hotel Wollaston, in Boston, to Be Taken Down.

Because it was built on sand, and shifting sand at that, the Hotel Wollaston, one of the handsomest new apartment houses on the Beacon Street Boulevard, must be taken down. The cost of the structure was \$200,000, and it was completed about two years ago. Soon after it was occupied the walls both inside and outside, began to open, and so rapidly did the cracks widen that the attention of the authorities was called to the structure, and it was ordered vacated. As a consequence, one of the most handsomely finished apartment hotels in the city—it lies just over the Brookline boundary—has lain idle for a full year, with its vacant rooms growing more and more seamed.

Jorge Cruz, a Porto Rican, has been brought to this country under a labor contract to test the question as to whether or not Porto Ricans are citizens of the United States.

Elihu Root, as a lawyer, held that Michael J. Dady's Havana contract was valid, and as Secretary of War rejected it.

Before the Congressional committee investigating the Idaho mining riots the manager of the Bunker Hill Mine refused to tell who had warned him that he was to be killed and the mine blown up.

The Fastest Cruiser.

China may be a slow nation, but she likes fast boats. The fastest cruiser in the world has just been completed by the Armstrongs for her, and the famous Schichan firm recently built her a torpedo boat capable of covering 35.2 knots per hour. The new cruiser is to be known as the Hai Tien, of 4,400 tons, and under natural draught will have a speed of 23.6 knots per hour. At this rate she could cross the Atlantic in about four and one-half days.

A TOWN'S REPORT of the receipts and expenditures of Elkland township for the year ending March 12, 1900.

Financial statement table for Elkland township showing receipts and expenditures for the year ending March 12, 1900. Includes categories like Poor Fund, Special Road, and various departmental expenses.

RODE IN ICE WAGON

A Sensible Washington Woman Discovers How to Keep Cool.

If you had happened to be near one of the largest apartment houses in the northwest quarter of the town one hot summer's day, you might have seen a strange sight, for a gayly painted ice wagon lumbered up to the door and the iceman handed out, not a cake of ice, but a real live woman, and a pretty woman at that. Great was the astonishment of everybody who saw, but the woman herself wasn't in the slightest degree embarrassed. She had been hurrying all over the town since morning, making ready to go away for the summer, and when at last she stepped into a small shop in a side street to attend to the very last errand on her list she was beginning to be dizzy, and her head ached with the terrific heat till she was on the very verge of collapse, says the Washington Post. The shopkeeper suggested calling a carriage, but she was afraid to wait. Just at that moment an ice wagon drew up to the curb, and the woman—well, a moment later she was sitting on a borrowed stool between two blocks of ice in that wagon. She simply had herself delivered at her own door, and she firmly believes that if she had waited for a carriage she'd have succumbed to the heat. The ice wagon, she says, and she doesn't forget to add, her own common sense, saved her life.

Squirrels Take a Bath.

Officer Lovelace made a discovery of some interest at Columbus, O., in reference to the State House squirrels. Every morning, just about daylight, in the extremely hot weather, he noticed a troop of six to eight, sometimes more, of these alert little creatures going down State street toward the west on a big telegraph cable. The officer was interested, and concluded to watch them to see where they were going and for what purpose. Eight of the little animals crossed the street from the Capitol grounds, ran nimbly up the big pole which supports the cable, and in a line about a five feet apart, as usual, they started west, the officer following at a safe distance so as not to alarm them. When the animals arrived at State street bridge they ran down the pole at the east end, chasing one another down the river bank, plunged in for a bath. After disporting themselves for about ten minutes in the cool water they returned to the Capitol in the order in which they had come, as nearly as the officer could judge.

Editor's Special Page.

"Uncle" Dick... presented to the editor of the... Argus a curiosity in the form of an egg. The egg measured eight inches in circumference, contained two yolks, two whites, and another egg as large as an ordinary hen's egg.

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