

ROUTINE WORK IN CONGRESS

Outline of Business Transacted by the Members of Both Houses.

WITH NATIONAL LAWMAKERS

Brief Summary of the Doings of the People's Servants in Session at Washington Cleverly Condensed by Special Correspondents.

Wednesday, Jan. 26. Mr. Rawlins called up his resolution directing the secretary of war to furnish the senate the proceedings of courts-martial in the Philippines.

The house made slow progress with the Indian appropriation bill, covering only about eight pages in over four hours. Mr. Burton of Ohio hung on the flank of Mr. Sherman of New York, had charge of the bill, and insisted upon an explanation of every item.

In the senate Mr. McLaughlin of Mississippi urged adoption of the Rowles resolution, calling on the secretary of war for the evidence in certain court martial cases in the Philippines.

The day in the senate was set apart to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. McMillan. At the conclusion of the routine business Mr. Burrows (Mich.) called up the resolutions relative to his late colleague and paid an earnest tribute to his memory.

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the consideration of private claims bills. A large number were passed in committee of the whole. When the committee rose Mr. Payne (N. Y.) objected to the ordering of the previous question on the bills and moved an adjournment.

Saturday, Jan. 31. The greater part of the time of the senate was devoted to exercises in connection with the acceptance from the state of Maryland of statues of Charles Carroll and John Hanson, which will henceforth stand in Statuary hall at the national capitol.

After three hours of general debate upon the postoffice appropriation bill, which was made notable by a speech in favor of tariff reform by Mr. Williams of Mississippi, who is a candidate for the Democratic leadership of the next house, the house suspended public business and listened to three addresses by Mr. Pearre of Maryland, Mr. Dalzell of Pennsylvania and Mr. Schirm of Maryland, on the life and public services of Charles Carroll of Carrollton and John Hanson, two signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Monday, Feb. 2. The senate had the army appropriation bill under consideration. It was about to be passed when Mr. Pettus of Alabama requested that it go over to permit some amendments to be offered. During the reading of the bill Mr. Hale and Mr. Cockrell got into a discussion over the general staff provision, the former contending that it was general legislation and had no place in the bill.

The house passed about forty bills under suspension of the rules. The most important of them was a bill to authorize a resumption of the negotiations with Great Britain for the preservation of the Alaskan fur seals and to give the secretary of the treasury authority, if a modus vivendi is not concluded prior to the opening of the pelagic sealing season this year, to exterminate the seal herd on the Pribylov islands, except 10,000 females and 1,000 males.

Favors Boundary Treaty. Washington dispatch: The senate committee on foreign relations unanimously authorized favorable reports upon the Alaskan boundary treaty and the protocol for the extension of time for the ratification of the Cuban reciprocity treaty, but failed to reach a decision upon the Panama canal treaty.

Gardner Postal Bill. Washington dispatch: The house committee on postoffices and post roads authorized a favorable report of the bill introduced by Mr. Gardner of Michigan to prevent robbing the mails and to provide a safer and easier method of sending money by mail.

Priest is Killed. El Paso, Tex., special: Father D. W. Kendrick, western procurator of the Order of Lazarists of the Roman Catholic church and pastor of St. Vincent's church at St. Louis, was accidentally killed in this city by falling off a moving train.

Score One for England. London cablegram: Kerr, Stuart & Co. of Stoke-on-Trent have secured a contract for heavy locomotives for the interoceanic railway of Mexico. It is said that many builders in the United States competed for the contract.

Dudley Suck to Retire. New York dispatch: Dudley Suck, who has been a church organist for fifty years, is to retire from his place as organist and choristmaster in Plymouth church, Brooklyn, on May 1.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

Measures Under Consideration in the Capitol at Springfield.

YATES TO GAIN DELEGATES

Allegation is Made That the Proposed Judicial Apportionment Bill Will Place Judges Under Obligation to the Governor.

The new judicial apportionment bill, it is alleged, will put certain judges under obligations to Yates. An increase of their salary from \$3,500 to \$5,000 per annum is regarded as eminently fair. A number of the Republican circuit judges in the state always are potential factors in securing delegates to the state conventions.

Delays Report on Rules. Speaker Miller may delay reporting the rules to the house. He is trying to satisfy the Sherman people by showing them the committee assignments to demonstrate that there is no discrimination against them.

Speed of Autos. Representative Lyon has prepared a bill to regulate the speed of automobiles on country highways. The measure was prepared at the suggestion of the board of supervisors of Lake county and is the outgrowth of the trouble which the residents of the country districts have had with automobilists from Chicago.

Many Bills on Railroads. Representative Burgess has a batch of bills "to improve the railroad service." One compels the railroad companies to furnish cars for coal, lumber and manufactured articles within three days after a request or pay a demurrage of \$3 per day from the date ordered.

The State Undertakers' association has a bill making it unlawful for any person to embalm a dead body without having obtained a license from the state board of health to practice the profession.

Administrators' Salary. Representative Mitchell of Chicago has a bill for introduction in the morning intended to put the public administrator in counties of third class on a salary of \$3,500 a year, fees and interest on money in his hands to be covered into the county treasury.

Stringent laws for the regulation of child labor are to be asked of the present legislature. A bill will be introduced and Chief Factory Inspector Edgar T. Davies will urge its passage. The proposed measure provides that no child under the age of 14 years shall be employed in any theater, concert hall or place of amusement where intoxicating liquors are sold or in any mercantile institution, store, office, laundry, manufacturing establishment, bowling alley, passenger or freight elevator, factory or workshop or as messenger or driver thereof.

The most important improvement over the existing law is the provision for certificates of age for children over 14 years and under 16 years old. Instead of securing an affidavit before a notary, as is permitted now, the parent or guardian must obtain an age and school certificate. This document shall be approved only by the superintendent of schools or by a person

Takes Carbolic Acid. Fred Erhardt, Jr., was accidentally poisoned by taking carbolic acid in his room in East St. Louis. Being ill, he was in the habit of taking medicine during the night, and this time he secured the wrong bottle.

Taxes Are Reduced. With a valuation of nearly \$400,000 greater than last year, the property owners of Alexander county this year will pay nearly \$8,000 less of taxes than last year.

authorized by him in writing, or where there is no superintendent of schools by a person authorized by the board of education. The person approving the certificate shall have authority to administer the oath provided therein, but no charge shall be made therefor.

In cases where the above proof is not obtainable the parent or guardian must appear before the juvenile or county court and make oath as to the age of the child. The court may issue an age certificate if satisfied with the evidence given.

An extraordinary effort is expected in this session of the General Assembly to raise or utterly remove the \$5,000 limitation on amount of damages recoverable from persons, companies or corporations for causing the death of any person "by wrongful act, neglect or default."

Two bills in this direction have already been introduced, one by Representative Greenebaum, which raises the death damages limit from \$5,000 to \$15,000, and one by Representative M. E. Hunt, which raises the limit to \$10,000. A bill removing the limitation and leaving the amount of death damages to be fixed by a jury in their judgment is expected. If one should not be introduced soon, an effort will be made to remove the limitation by amending the Greenebaum or the Hunt bill in committee.

The proposed reapportionment of the Supreme court districts so as to provide a Republican majority for Joseph N. Carter's re-election next June has struck a constitutional snag. The reapportionment planners are wondering whether the makers of the constitution intended to prevent rearrangement of the districts by the legislature or left the obstacle there by inadvertence in using ambiguous language.

The constitution of 1870 makes the Supreme court districts, naming the counties to constitute each, and then says the districts shall remain as they are "until otherwise provided by law." The "reapportioners" apparently read only that much and construed it as having the general assembly power to redistrict. But after naming the districts the constitution adds:

"The boundaries of the districts may be changed at the session of the general assembly next preceding the election for judges therein and at no other time."

The general assembly undoubtedly could change the district boundaries at this session if all of the districts were to elect judges in the coming June; but there is an election of a Supreme court judge in only one of the districts, the Fourth, which Justice Carter represents. The Fifth district, represented by Justice Hand, will elect in 1909. The other five districts will elect in 1906.

While the session of the general assembly is the next preceding the election in the Fourth Supreme court district, it is not the next one preceding the elections in the other five districts. Therefore it is contended that this general assembly cannot touch these boundaries because it cannot rearrange the Fourth district without rearranging others which do not fall within the language of the constitution.

"I have not looked at the question closely enough to venture a hard and fast opinion," said Attorney General Hamlin when his attention was called to the clause quoted, "but it certainly looks like a troublesome snag for reapportionment."

New Senate Bills. Among the senate bills introduced were the following:

Fifteen bills by Senator Juul. These bills constitute the first series of about seventy-five or eighty bills which will be introduced by Senator Juul. They are in line with the recommendations of the practice commission which were reported to the Forty-second General Assembly in the shape of bills and failed of passage. All of the bills introduced are amendments to the practice act.

By Senator Albertsen—Declaring Spring Lake in Tazewell county and the canal connecting it with the Illinois river navigable.

By Senator Pemberton—Preventing unjust discrimination by railroads and requiring them to permit switch connections from warehouses, elevators, manufacturing plants, etc.

By Senator Stubbiefield—Authorizing the Soldiers' and Sailors' home at Quincy to admit as inmates the wives of old soldiers and sailors who are now or may be in the home.

Consideration of the resolution introduced by Senator Gardner with reference to the election of United States Senators by a direct vote of the people was made a special order for Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Woodchoppers Are Busy. One result of the coal famine is that it has stimulated the woodchoppers' industry. Choppers are now paid \$1 per cord for cutting alone, and large quantities of wood are shipped from all of the smaller stations about Cairo to the larger cities.

ILLINOIS STATE NEWS

STRANGER VICTIMIZES A FARMER Secures \$18.50 for a Few Cents' Worth of Yellow Root.

Frank Schmidt, living six miles north of Carlyle, was the victim of a bunco game. A stranger visited the Schmidt residence and managed to interest the unsophisticated farmer. He said his medicine was a sure cure for the very ailment from which Schmidt was suffering. He wanted just one man in each township to act as a sort of talking advertisement. The faker then prepared the medicine by coloring a lot of water with yellow root. This was placed in two bottles, two quart fruit jars and a half-gallon jar. One bottle was labeled "one teaspoonful at noon in water," another "fifteen drops before supper" and a third "one teaspoonful at bedtime." The farmer was instructed to use this as a foot bath and it would act the same as an electric battery. The stranger obtained \$18.50.

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dr. J. F. Snyder of Virginia Elected President at Springfield.

The fourth annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical society convened in the state library at Springfield. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Dr. J. F. Snyder, Virginia; vice president, H. W. Beckwith, Danville; second vice president, Prof. Everts B. Greene, University of Illinois, Urbana; third vice president, William Voelke, Chicago, president of the German-American Historical society; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Springfield, Ill. Members of executive committee—Dr. E. J. James, president of Northwestern university; George N. Black, Springfield; David McCulloch, Peoria; Capt. J. H. Burnham, Bloomington, and Dr. H. H. Chamberlain of Lebanon, president of McKendree college.

Miner is Electrocuted. August Weisenger, an employe of Donk Bros.' Coal company at Collinsville, met with a peculiar accident, which resulted in his death. He sat on a metallic powder keg and received an electric shock which threw him some distance backward against the power wires, resulting in instant death. A long copper-tipped miner's needle had been placed in such a position that one end rested against the electric feed wires and the other touched the keg, completing the circuit.

Muscular Christianity. Dan George, a negro 80 years of age, has been taken to the hospital at Anna. George is from Oliva Branch, where he owns a farm. He became insane on the subject of religion and attempted to convert his neighbors with force. If one professed Christianity he was safe, but otherwise George would attack them with his fists or with a heavy walking stick.

Last of the Toll Roads. The old gravel road which has been conducted as a toll road between Metropolis and towns north since the civil war has been abandoned. It is now open to the public. It was the only remaining toll road in that part of Illinois. It has not been a paying investment of late years.

Child is Drowned. Coroner McCracken held an inquest at Belleville on the body of May Norris, the 7-year-old daughter of Mrs. Mary Norris of East St. Louis, who was drowned by falling into a cistern at the contagion hospital at the county farm. A verdict of accidental death was rendered.

Acid by Mistake. Della Kennedy, a young woman residing at Springfield, swallowed a quantity of carbolic acid, medical attendance being summoned in time to prevent fatal results. It is supposed that she swallowed the acid mistaking it in the dark for medicine for tonsillitis.

Conservator for Spendthrift. A conservator has been appointed in the person of Walker Egan for Walter B. Kilmer, who has become a spendthrift. In his better days Kilmer was a chemist by profession and is the author of a school text-book on the subject.

Explosion a Torpedo. Elias Wright, a student of the state normal university, while attempting to explode a railroad torpedo, was struck in the arm by a fragment. All efforts to locate the metal proved of no avail and the young man was sent to his home in Lawrenceville.

May Day in Peoria. The large plant of the Peoria manufacturing company is employing over 500 operatives, and May Day is observed by a settlement of the workers to indicate the beginning of the year.

Gasoline Burns Baby. The 7-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Holt of Jena was severely burned by the explosion of a gasoline lamp.

Minister's Widow Dies. Mrs. Elizabeth Nisbet, widow of Rev. William Nisbet, died in the old homestead, south of Virginia, aged 87 years.

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ALTON PASTORS ENTER POLITICAL FIELD

Alton pastors have declared a truce as to the necessity of better enforcement of the laws and also to the necessity of electing first-class officials. At a meeting of the Alton ministers, at which the question of city politics was discussed, a committee was authorized to visit upon all candidates who may be named, to urge them to obtain from all of their expressions of opinion and also to give as to the needs of the city. It is proposed by the pastors to exert their influence in and out of the pulpit in behalf of the candidates who will make the best provision for the betterment and moral reform of the city. The pastors say that there is too much idleness in the enforcement of the municipal laws and that too much license is allowed places of immoral character. They will take an active part in the campaign in April and will endeavor to throw all the votes of the people in favor of a stricter observance of law and order to some one candidate who will be decided upon after all the candidates have been interviewed.

State a Mail Pouch. Frank Morris and John Dixon were tried in the federal court at Springfield for opening and destroying a mail pouch and contents. Morris proved his innocence, but Dixon was sent to the penitentiary for one year. It was shown that he stole a mail pouch from the depot platform at Clinton and set it so as to make a blanket of it, keeping warm meanwhile at a boiler made of the contents.

Want Free Delivery. A petition is being signed by the citizens of Greenville for the establishment of free city delivery of mail. The receipts of the local postoffice, the authorities say, are sufficient, and it only remains, after circulation and signing of the petition, for the city council to systematically number the houses and mark the location of streets at each corner.

Flour Workers' Union. A local union of the International Flour and Cereal Workers of America has been formed at Alton, and the following officers elected: Wm. Gleason, president; George Egan, vice president; James Tobin, financial secretary; C. Sobel, treasurer; Charles Austin, recording secretary; Jesse Arnold, guide; Max Schaub, sentinel.

Cattle Inspection. The government cattle quarantine has gone into effect, and from now on all Southern cattle will have to pass inspection before they are allowed to pass from the South to the North. F. W. Hopkins, the government inspector, has already entered upon his work at Cairo.

Get \$6,000 Apiece. The members of the Langport family in Alton who are entitled to participate in the division of the estate of a relative in Austria have finally proved their relationship, and they have received the money due them. Each member of the Alton family entitled to a share in the estate received over \$6,000.

Improving a Church. The contracts have been let for completing improvements in the Upper Alton Baptist church and work has been started by the contractor. The improvements include overhauling the pipe organ and redecorating the interior. Part of the improvements have been completed.

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