

THE SALISBURY TRUTH.

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NO. 19.

WORK OF FIFTY-FIFTH CONGRESS BROUGHT TO A CLOSE

FISAL HOURS WITNESSED MUCH HARD WORK AND A NUMBER OF DRAMATIC SCENES—ALL NIGHT VIGILS.

SPEAKER REED IGNORED GENERAL WHEELER WHO WISHED TO SPEAK.

Mr. Bailey, the Democratic House Leader, Was Selected to Present Resolution of Thanks to the Speaker—Valedictory of Speaker Reed and Vice President Hobart—Senate Gives Way to the House.

The fifty-fifth congress came to an end Saturday at noon.

Wearily the house sat through the whole of Friday night, recessing from time to time while awaiting conference reports upon the appropriation bills. The leaders upon whom the strain and burden of the closing hours fell most heavily and the speaker, who had the greatest responsibility of all, remained constantly in their places watching vigilantly the progress of the contests between the two houses.

The final agreement on the river and harbor bill containing the compromise on the Nicaragua canal was secured about 3:30 a. m. The sundry civil bill, in which the house forced the senate to surrender the provisions of the Pacific cable about 6, the District of Columbia, with the provisions for sectarian institutions eliminated about 7 o'clock; the deficiency at 8:30 and the final conference report upon the naval bill about 9:30 a. m.

With the advent of the day the house began to take on the appearance of life. Members went below for their baths and breakfast and returned refreshed to their stations.

As early as 7:30 the people began to pour into the galleries, the first party to arrive being a dozen ladies, who took their places in the public galleries. The important business of the house had been virtually completed when the house recessed for an hour at 9:30. All that remained was the enrollment of bills and the final ceremonies.

The last legislative act of the house was the passage of a joint resolution authorizing the acceptance by the United States of the cession of a tract of land from the state of Massachusetts. It was now 11:45 by the clock, but at this moment the assistant door-keeper of the house, armed with a long pole, set back the hands of the clock ten minutes. This raised a loud laugh.

But immediately afterwards came a most dramatic episode. Gen. Wheeler, of Alabama, who had carefully refrained from exercising his privileges as a member of the house pending the determination of the house as to his right to a seat in the house, arose from his old seat down near the front of the democratic side and loudly asked for recognition.

"Mr. Speaker! Mr. Speaker!" he called.

The speaker's face was flushed slightly, but he looked straight ahead as if he did not hear.

"I ask unanimous consent to speak for five minutes," shouted the general.

But the speaker disregarded him. Every eye was now riveted upon the diminutive figure of the grizzled old veteran of two wars.

The situation was intensely dramatic, but Mr. Payne, the floor leader of the majority, hurried to the rescue. He moved a recess for ten minutes.

"Pending that, I ask unanimous consent to speak for three minutes," demanded General Wheeler.

The speaker then turned toward him for the first time, and looking straight into the gray eyes of the general, ignored his request completely, putting the motion of Mr. Payne and declaring it carried.

As the hands of the clock pointed to seven minutes to 12, although it was really then three minutes past the hour, the committee appointed to wait upon the president marched down the aisle. The speaker had retired to his room and Mr. Payne, the speaker pro tem, was in the chair. Mr. Dalzell, in the center, announced that the committee had fulfilled its duty and that the president had made reply that he had no further communication to make.

"The president requested us to state," he continued, "that the fifty-fifth congress has performed its extraordinary duties manfully and he requested me to extend to each and every member his best wishes for his safe return to his home."

Great applause greeted this announcement. But five minutes remained. In it was enacted one of the most dramatic scenes ever witnessed in the hall of representatives.

Mr. Payne summoned Mr. Dockery, democrat, of Missouri, to the chair and he, in turn recognized Mr. Bailey the minority leader of the congress, to present the resolution thanking the speaker for the impartial manner in which he had presided over the deliberations of the house.

The chair called for a rising vote on the resolution of thanks. Every mem-

ber was on his feet and the resolution was unanimously agreed to, amid prolonged applause.

Mr. Dockery, when the applause had subsided, appointed Messrs. Bailey, Bell, of Colorado, and Payne a committee to escort the speaker to the chair.

A moment later, as the speaker emerged from the lobby, escorted by the committee, the cheers that greeted his appearance made the rafters ring. As the speaker faced the house the stillness of death settled down upon it. The speaker fairly towered over his surroundings. Slowly and with great deliberation he returned his thanks for the compliment the house had conferred upon him. He said:

"In laying down for the third time the insignia of an office which has but one superior and no peer, I might, perhaps, fairly congratulate myself upon having had a great opportunity to administer a great office in the fashion indicated by the noble words known to our law, 'without fear, favor or hope of reward.' Where I have succeeded I am sure to have your final approval; where I have failed, I am sure you have given me credit for honorable intention.

"Notwithstanding any differences of opinion or of party you have given me your confidence in all which pertained to my duties here in a manner so full and ample that my memory of it will never pass away. When I compare the opportunity you have given me with what it has been possible to do, I see how much I need your kind remembrances of today, for which I return you thanks and gratitude. With pleasant memories for our past, I shall always cherish, and for the future, which I shall always entertain. I now declare this house adjourned without day.

"Half a dozen times during the progress of his remarks the speaker was obliged to pause owing to the spontaneous applause which arose from all sides, and when he concluded with the announcement that the house should adjourn sine die the applause and cheers were deafening. The galleries joined in the outburst. Patriotic songs were sung and cheers given for the army, navy, Dewey and Wheeler.

At 12:45 the senate began its last legislative session of the present congress. Mr. Cockrell presented the usual resolution of thanks to the vice president and Mr. Vest that to Senator Fry, president pro tem, for the very able, courteous and impartial manner in which they had presided over the deliberations of the senate. Both resolutions were unanimously adopted.

After some further discussion, the conference report was agreed to without division.

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BAILEY SHOWS DISAPPROVAL

OF THE VOTE BY THE HOUSE IN THE WHEELER CASE.

TEXAN CREATES LIVELY SENSATION

Declares Emphatically That He Will Not Be a Candidate For the Speakership. Mr. Bailey's Statement.

A Washington special says: Congressman Joe Bailey created a lively sensation among his Democratic colleagues of the house Friday morning by making the declaration that under no circumstances would he be a candidate for the speakership in the next congress.

"I would not accept the leadership after what has been demonstrated to me," said Mr. Bailey, in talking of his decision afterwards, "if it was given me unanimously."

Thursday's vote on the Wheeler case was the cause of Mr. Bailey's decision. He explained his position in the following statement given out to press:

"I want it distinctly understood that I am not actuated by any feeling of pique or personal disappointment; but I am proceeding purely on the idea that as a large number of democrats are unwilling to insist upon an obedience to a perfectly plain provision of the constitution, they ought not to be made responsible for the leadership of a man who believes that the constitution is the supreme law of the land and ought to be obeyed at all times and by all men. I would raise the same question again, and I will raise it as often as it presents itself, but when I raise it from my place in the ranks of the party, I must take the responsibility and others will not be compelled to share the responsibility with me. I believe that the democrats who voted to allow these military appointees of the president to retain their seats in congress greatly mistake the sentiments of their democratic constituents. It is utterly impossible for me to believe that any man in this country is more popular with the masses than the constitution, a reverence for which has been the chief article of our faith. I regret the vote almost beyond expression, because I doubt if with that precedent established by an appointee of the president will ever again be denied a right to sit in the house of representatives.

Then he continued with his announcement, which was a great surprise to everybody. Even Mr. Bailey's closest friends were surprised, and all their efforts to get him to reconsider his decision failed. There is no possible doubt that Mr. Bailey would have been the democratic nominee for speaker in the next congress. There never has been a chance for his opponents to beat him and they have recognized that fact.

Bankhead at the Front.

Now that Mr. Bailey is out of it, three names are figuring in the gossip over the democratic leadership—Bankhead, of Alabama, Richardson of Tennessee, and DeArmond, of Missouri. Mr. Bailey believes his friends will absolutely control the nomination and will not hesitate to say that they will not choose either Richardson or DeArmond.

Bankhead himself is for Bankhead. This fact gives Colonel Bankhead's candidacy a decided impetus. He is one of the strongest of democrats, a man familiar with all phases of legislation and one who has many warm friends among his colleagues. There is a strong feeling in Washington, however, that there will be other aspirants and that some man not yet mentioned may be selected as the minority leader.

SIGNED MINERS' SCALE.

Work at Prairie Creek, Ark. Mines Has Been Resumed.

A dispatch from Little Rock, says: The operators at Prairie Creek have signed the miners' scale, and work is proceeded there. It is believed that the smaller mines around Spadra will also sign the scale, and that they will start up in full blast.

REINA MERCEDES FLOATED.

One of the Spanish Battleships Sunk at Santiago Has Been Raised.

A Santiago dispatch says: After considerable delay the former Spanish cruiser Reina Mercedes, which was sunk in the channel of Santiago harbor during the bombardment by Admiral Sampson's fleet on June 6th, has been raised and pumped out, the government tugs assisting the wreckers.

She was brought up to the city Thursday afternoon. Such repairs as can be readily effected will be made, after which she will probably be towed to Havana, though final orders as to her movements have not yet been received.

WARSHIP IS PROFFERED

To Convey the Remains of Lord Hershell to England.

To show the depth of the sympathy felt by the United States government with the British government and the family in the loss of the late Lord Hershell, our government has proffered the use of the United States warship to convey the remains of Lord Hershell to England.

The particular vessel which has not yet been selected, but it will be one of the ships now at Havana attached to the north Atlantic squadron, if the British embassy cares to accept the offer.

REBEL SUPPLIES BURNED.

The Gunboat Concord Returns to Manila After a Week's Cruise.

The United States gunboat Concord has arrived at Manila after a week's cruise along the west coast of the island of Luzon.

The only incident of her trip was the burning of a schooner loaded with supplies for rebels at Dagupan, the terminus of the railroad.

The natives fled and abandoned the town when the gunboat anchored.

PRIVATES SUSTAIN MILES

In Regard to Canned Beef—Startling Testimony Before Board.

There were several interesting developments in the beef court of inquiry at Washington Thursday. It was a field day for the volunteer men of the service, the waiting room being filled all day with members of the various volunteer regiments which served in Cuba and Porto Rico.

The first of these—Clarence Walters, of the First volunteer engineers—told a sensational story of hardship and inhumanity suffered during his service, describing the canned roast beef in harsher terms than has ever before been applied to that much discussed article. Later in the day Lieutenant Sewell, United States army, who was major of the volunteer legislation in which Walters served, contradicted his story completely.

Walters, in his testimony, said that the first can of beef he saw opened on the transport going to Porto Rico had worms in it and a few minutes after being opened developed such a putrid odor that it was impossible to have it about. He ate some of it and was made violently sick. He said he had been on sea trips before and was never seasick. The more of his company complained of the meat and nearly all of the men of his battalion were sick throughout most of the voyage as a result of eating this meat.

After reaching Porto Rico he was sick for a week as a result of the voyage. At least two-thirds of his company were fully as sick as he and from the same cause.

Captain Herbert Hicks, of company M, Second Massachusetts, followed with an account of the canned beef used by his command in Cuba. His description of the meat did not make it quite so repulsive as that served to Walters in Porto Rico, but he said it was "a slimy, stringy mass, nauseating to the taste, without nutriment and without form that could be recognized as meat except by the melted fat with which it was soaked." Witness was shown several of the cans on hand with the commission, but said that they were not the same that he had seen in service. Walters made the same statement on being shown the same cans.

An important development was the denial by one James Egan and also attributed to Dr. Maxwell Christie, of Philadelphia, that they had seen beef injected with chemicals in an Omaha packing house.

Dr. Christie explain that what he had seen was the pickling of corn meats, the brine being injected into the meat to save several weeks' time in the pickling vats.

Lieutenant George Taylor, late of the Sixth Massachusetts, who said he was a groceryman before entering the service, said his regiment served in Porto Rico. They had very little that they could eat on the trip down. They sometimes had bacon, but no chance to cook it, and had to throw it overboard. They had canned roast beef, which they could not eat, and had frequently only canned tomatoes, hardtack and coffee. Asked if he thought any sickness in his command was caused by the food the men had to eat, he replied:

"I think it was more due to what we did not have to eat. When we got to Porto Rico there were thirty of our men so sick that they were never landed."

He had been a grocer ten years and had seen a canned roast beef before, but no chance to eat it, and had to throw it overboard. They had canned roast beef, which they could not eat, and had frequently only canned tomatoes, hardtack and coffee. Asked if he thought any sickness in his command was caused by the food the men had to eat, he replied:

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WILL STRIKE FINAL BLOW.

THE FILIPINO INSURGENTS MUST BE SUBJUGATED.

DEWEY AND OTIS ARE READY.

Important Developments Are Expected to Materialize Within the Next Fornight.

A Washington special says: There is some reason to expect important news from Manila within the next fortnight. It has developed that Gen. Otis has practically completed his plans for a grand onslaught on the insurgents, which is expected to deprive them of offensive power at least.

It is probable that he will form a large part of his force into columns, as soon as his reinforcements are all at hand, and will push these in parallel lines straight through the jungles, clearing out the insurgents in every direction as the troops go forward.

Forty-one thousand officers and men of the combined army and navy forces comprise the approximate total American strength now at or en route to and under order for service in the Philippine islands. No further reinforcements are now in contemplation. The forces of the two services already stationed in and about the archipelago consist of twenty regiments of infantry, one engineer battalion, seven troops of cavalry and eleven batteries of artillery, an aggregate of about 24,500 men. Nineteen vessels, with an aggregate of 297 officers, 2,990 men and 253 marines, make up the naval contingent. This is exclusive of the transport Solace, with 162 officers and men all told, which is constantly passing back and forth from Manila. There are about 4,800 reinforcements on the way to Manila, making as rapid progress as possible, and there are nearly 7,500 men in the force under orders to proceed to the Philippines.

The following ships are now at Manila or Hong Kong under the command of Admiral Dewey:

Baltimore, Bennington, Boston, Buffalo, Callao, Charleston, Concord, Colugo, Don Juan de Austria, Helena, Isla de Luzon, Isla de Cuba, Manila, Manadnock, Monocacy, Monterey, Olympia, Petrel and Yorktown.

These vessels carry 297 officers, 29,900 sailors and 253 marines. The transport Solace does not remain at Manila. The Castine and Princeton are now on their way through the Red Sea to join Admiral Dewey, and the Oregon and her attendant vessel, the Iris, are traveling through the Pacific to the same destination. These vessels will add to the naval forces at Manila 59 officers, 739 men and 84 marines. The captured ships Don Juan de Austria, Isla de Luzon and Isla de Cuba, are not available for immediate service as they are in need of repairs. The Solace has taken on a number of recruits and with these the Isla de Luzon will be manned. The Wheeling will join the Manila fleet but is not to be counted as being available in the immediate future.

Reinforcements En Route.

Reinforcements for the Philippines now on the way aggregate in the neighborhood of 4,800 men, all told. These are made up of three general expeditions as follows:

The transport Grant, with General Lawton and staff, with a total of 42 officers and 716 men, including one battalion of the Seventeenth infantry regiment and four companies of the Fourth infantry. This expedition sailed from New York January 19th.

The transport Sherman, Colonel J. H. Page, commanding, carrying a total of 34 officers and 1,702 men, including the entire Third regiment and a battalion of the Seventeenth infantry. The Sherman sailed from New York February 3. The transport Sheridan, under command of Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Smith, of the Twelfth infantry, carries all of the Twelfth and a battalion of the Seventeenth infantry, making a total of 57 officers and 1,796 men.

Besides these three, Boonoke and a fair sized detachment of recruits for the various regiments already in the archipelago, has gotten a good start on the way to Manila, and the transport Valencia sailed from San Francisco last Sunday for Manila, via Honolulu, with 150 recruits for the infantry, artillery and hospital corps.

REFINED SUGARS ADVANCE.

The Price Is Increased One-Eighth of a Cent Per Pound.

A New York dispatch says: An all-round advance in the price of refined sugars was made Monday by the American Sugar Refining Company, Arbuckle Brothers and Howell, Son & Co., the last named firm representing the independent refiners.

The advance is 10 per cent, bringing barrels of sugar up to 54 and packages sugar 51 cents.

The Mollenhauser refinery, one of the independent concerns, resumed operations in all departments Monday.

COMMISSIONERS IN SAN JUAN.

Civil Government of Porto Rico Will Now Be Given Consideration.

The United States transport McPherson, formerly the Obedm, arrived at San Juan Monday with General Robert P. Kennedy, Major Charles W. Watkins and Congressman Henry G. Curtis, of Iowa, who constitute the Porto Rico commission on education, taxation and cognate interests.

The commissioners will consider only questions relating to the civil government and not interfere with the affairs of the military administration.

It had been generally understood that the commission would assume the functions of the military department.

COST OF DYING RAISED.

Gigantic Burial Casket Trust Is Being Formed in State of Ohio.

A dispatch from Sandusky, O., says: A gigantic casket trust is now forming and should expectations be realized one dying three months after this date will do so at a greater expense than now. Many of the factories have been running with little or no profit, because of cut rates, it is said, and prices will be raised immediately after the organization of the trust.

MONEY GOES TO CUBA.

Three Million Dollars Will Be Sent To Pay Insurgent Troops.

The war department is now making arrangements for shipping to Cuba the \$3,000,000 asked for by General Brooke for paying off the Cuban army. The money will be shipped the latter part of the week from New York and two or three paymasters will be detailed to take charge of the money and accompany it, turning it over to General Brooke's possession.

WHEELER'S SUPPRESSED SPEECH.

Doughty General Gives to the Press What He Intended to Say in the House.

A Washington special says: With reference to his attempt Saturday to secure recognition for the purpose of addressing the house, General Wheeler says:

"Seeing there was nothing to be done in the house, I asked unanimous consent to speak for five minutes. I was not recognized, but Mr. Payne was notified to move a recess of five minutes. I then asked that before that motion was put that I be permitted to address the house for three minutes. I am confident no member of the house would have objected. What I intended to say was as follows:

"No one reverses the constitution more than myself and I could not be induced to advocate a construction contrary to the intent of its framers.

"When I received the appointment as major general of volunteers last May I was requested by persons whose desires I could not disregard not to resign my seat in congress. I found that during the present congress thirty-three of its members had been appointed to offices and that none of them had resigned their seats in congress. I examined the decisions and proceedings on the subject and found that during the 110 years of the existence of our government hundreds, and possibly thousands, of the members of congress had accepted offices during their terms and that none of them holding temporary offices like mine had ever been unseated. I found that the decisions of the courts, even including four of the decisions quoted by General Henderson in his report, to make the ground that the inhibitions found in the constitution with regard to officers referred to offices of a permanent character and not of a temporary character. I also found that the attorney general of the United States had rendered an elaborate opinion on the subject. He took precisely the same ground and held that an office in the volunteers was not such an office as was inhibited by the constitution. I was anxious for the matter to be brought up in the house and fully discussed, so that decision would be in the harmony with the spirit of the constitution."

BILLS PASSED IN CONGRESS

During the Closing Week of the Session Others That Failed.

The most important laws enacted by congress during the last week of the session were the army reorganization bill, the navy personnel bill, the bill providing a code of laws for Alaska, the omnibus claims bill and numerous important public building bills.

The project for the construction of a canal across the isthmus at Nicaragua made progress to the extent that a provision was attached to the river and harbor appropriation bill providing for a very important inquiry into the matter.

The addition of a provision to the army appropriation bill forbidding the granting of property franchises in Cuba was also an important legislative act.

Among the important projects which failed to receive favorable attention in the closing days were those providing a Pacific cable for a government armor plant for an anti-sealing law, for an eight-hour law and for a government for Hawaii.

The navy personnel bill completely reorganizes the navy and is the consummation of years of earnest effort by the navy department. The original army bill was intended to meet the same war by the personnel bill, but it failed, and the present bill is considered defective in that it is only a temporary measure. It, however, increases the army to 100,000 and provides for the retention of this number until 1901.

The omnibus claims bill provides for the settlement of several hundred claims, some of which are almost a hundred years old. The Alaskan code met a long-felt want in supplying a system of laws to the northwest territory.

QUAY MAY WITHDRAW.

Such a Report Is Current But Is Denied By Senator's Supporters.

There are rumors current in Harrisburg, Pa., that Senator Quay will withdraw from the senatorial contest and that Colonel George F. Huff, of Greensburg, will be chosen his successor.

Senator Quay's managers ridicule these reports and insist that under no conditions will he withdraw.

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