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GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1911 A MATTER OF HISTORY—LAWS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

PRESIDING OFFICERS' WORK.

Senators and Representatives Manifest Esteem Held For Speaker and Lieutenant Governor—Torrens Bill Shamelessly Murdered.—Governor's Salary \$5,000.

Raleigh.—The first of final ceremonies for adjournment was when members of the house presented to Speaker Dowd a splendid silver service as a testimonial of the regard and esteem of the members of the house. Mr. Turlington of Iredell presided for the ceremony and Mr. Dillard of Cherokee was spokesman. In a chaste, eloquent and brief address, he presented the testimonial as coming from appreciative hearts for the Speaker's impartial, able and kind administration of his high and responsible duties. Speaker Dowd was deeply affected, expressing in most appreciative terms his appreciation for this manifestation of esteem. Members of the house stood while the speaker was responding and applauded greatly.

The house passed the Torrens land title bill similar to that the senate recently defeated and sent it by special messenger to the senate for its action. The house vote was 67 to 11.

The house passed the Pothel bill to regulate crossings of railroads and electric lines with an amendment that it do not apply to towns of less than 5,000.

The house defeated 60 to 23 the Dillard bill to create a state game commission.

The house also passed the bill requiring additional educational qualifications for medical licenses. This measure was defeated in the two previous sessions of the assembly. It passed this time almost without opposition.

Insurance Investigation Ctf.
The Koonce resolution from the house for investigation of the conduct of fire insurance companies in North Carolina caused debate. The senate voted to refer to the insurance committee.

The senate passed the committee bill to reapportion the senate membership and sent it to the house. The only change is that it combines Edgecombe and Halifax counties in one district with two senators, thereby making 38 instead of 39 districts in the senate.

The house resolution passed to investigate the sale of the Atlantic & Yadkin railroad to the Atlantic Coast Line and its dismemberment in division with the Southern was voted down by the senate over the strenuous protest of Senator Hobgood.

The senate concurred in the house amendment to increase the Governor's salary to five instead of six thousand dollars.

It was announced by Senator Gardner that a classification of counties as to pauper status by the state treasurer lifted sixteen out of the pauper class and placed them in the surplus column.

The Hobgood bill to allow life insurance companies to withdraw securities from the State Commissioner of Insurance only with the consent of the policyholders affected, the bill to provide for an additional clerk in the Governor's office and increase the salaries of the others, and to provide a reformatory for colored youths passed and were sent to the house.

House Changes Reapportionment.
The house passed the senate bill making a reapportionment for the state senate, the only change the house made in the bill as it came from the senate being that Lee county was changed from the twenty-first to the fourteenth district, so as to make the fourteenth, with Sampson county in it, Democratic.

The house took up the congressional apportionment bill as it came from the senate and, on motion of Williams of Wainwright, voted to transfer Catawba from the eighth to the ninth district. This change was

Applied for Regular Soldiers.
Adjutant General R. L. Leinster, has made application to the United States War department for a company of regulars to be detailed to Raleigh during May for the purpose of demonstrating a great variety of military maneuvers for the benefit of the officers' camp of instruction that is to be held there for officers of the North Carolina National Guard as a sort of initiation for the new rifle range just completed. A wide scope of military service will be demonstrated.

advocated by Speaker Dowd and others. The senate concurred.

The senate gave final reading to the bill to change the name of law clerk in the attorney general's office to assistant attorney general. Included among the raft of local bills passed and sent to the house were: bills to provide engineering assistance to counties in the construction of good roads; allow one dollar a day extra to legislative clerks. Bills ratified: to incorporate the Durham & Danville railway; establish the North Carolina School for the Feeble-minded; incorporate the Davidson Interurban railway company.

The senate considered for nearly two hours the Hobgood bill to prohibit railroad companies from exacting liability release contracts from employees, the bill having the effect of breaking up the relief association of the Atlantic Coast Line. In the end the roll-call vote was 25 to 7 against the bill. Senators advocating the bill were Hobgood, Bassett and Graham, while those opposing were Hartsell, Johnson, Thorne, Armstrong and Barnes.

When They Woke Up.
The sensation of the session was the discovery that the senate had unknowingly passed and ordered enrolled the Torrens land title bill, which had passed the house earlier in the day and sent to the senate, no senator grasping its meaning by the comundrum reading of the title by the reading clerk. The senate several days ago killed the senate bill on this subject by a decisive majority, and when it was discovered that it passed "unbeknownst" an identical bill from the house, a wave of excitement ran through the senate chamber, but the oversight was soon corrected by a vote to reconsider and recalling the bill from enrolling clerk's office. This incident put all senators on their guard and the careful scrutiny given each measure given promise of no recurrence of such a blunder.

Primary System Defeated.
After two hours of the most spirited argument of the whole session the house tabled the Hobgood bill from the senate for a state-wide primary to apply to all counties and all parties with primaries on the same day and voting places. The test vote was on an amendment by Mr. Doughton to exempt any county or any party by vote of county executive committees. This was a roll call vote and was 68 to 36 for the amendment. It was after this amendment was adopted that Mr. Ross, in charge of the bill, moved to table on the ground that the amendment defeated the very purpose for which the friends of the measure sought its enactment.

Senator Boyden's appeal in behalf of the Confederate veterans won, the annual appropriation to the Soldiers' Home being fixed at \$40,000 instead of \$20,000, as recommended by the appropriations committee and passed by the house in the general appropriations bill. This was the only amendment made, three others being voted down.

Turlington house anti-trust bill was received and Senator Hobgood asked that it go on the calendar as it is a copy of his bill now in committee hands. Senators Graham and Bassett objected, declaring that this is too important a matter not to be duly considered by committee. It was referred to the judiciary committee.

Esteem Senate Presiding Officer.
Lieutenant Governor W. C. Newland was presented with a handsome silver service by Senator Thorne on behalf of the senators of both parties as a token of their esteem and love for him.

Senator Starbuck, Republican leader, made a graceful talk, thanking the presiding officer for his fair rulings and expressing the high regard the Republican members have for him.

Senator Hyatt also expressed his appreciation of the worth of the presiding officer, who was deeply moved and made a graceful speech of acceptance.

The machinery act passed third reading and was sent to the house for concurrence in the senate amendments.

The joint legislative committee on agriculture voted to report unfavorably the bill by Speaker Dowd for the consolidation of the State Agricultural department and the A. and M. college, and to recommend that the legislature provide a committee to investigate the advisability of such a merger and report to the next legislature.

Triangular High School Debate.
In a contest spirited from start to finish, Mr. Carey J. Hunter, Jr., Mr. Clifton Beckwith, Mr. Phillip Woolcott, and Mr. Oliver Smith won places on the team to represent the Raleigh High School in the triangular debate between Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh.

The query was: "Resolved, That the Federal Government Should Levy a Graduated Tax on Income, Carrying Constitutional Objections." The debate will be held in the three cities on the night of April 14th.

SUMMARY OF THE SIXTY-FIRST CONGRESS

WHAT WAS DONE AND LEFT UNDONE BY THE NATIONAL LAWMAKERS

RESULTS IN EXTRA SESSION

Few Things of Importance Were Accomplished in the Last Short Session.

Washington.—In the retrospect the sixty-first congress, which has just expired by constitutional limitation, appears to have been distinguished by three things: the revision of the tariff in the so-called Payne-Aldrich bill, which was passed at an extra session in the summer of 1909; the large amount of important legislation, much of it upon the recommendation of President Taft, enacted at the regular session of 1909-1910, and the exceedingly small product of the "short session," so-called, now closed.

The interval between the last two sessions was marked by the political upheaval registered at the general election of last November, which changed a large Republican majority in the house of representatives, cut the Republican majority in the senate almost to the vanishing point and incidentally effecting striking changes in the senate personnel.

The failure of this session to enact much important legislation has resulted in the practical certainty that the new sixty-second congress will be called almost immediately in extraordinary session, especially by reason of the strong desire of President Taft to secure action upon the pending reciprocity agreement with Canada, and the consummation of which the contracting parties pledged the utmost efforts of the two governments.

In strong contrast with the support which the Taft administration received from the Republican majority in the matter of legislation in the regular session of 1909-10 is the fact that at the present session the majority has been anything but united; the reciprocity agreement was passed in the house by the aid of a large proportion of Democratic votes, while in the senate the rift in the majority between the "Regulars" and "Insurgents" has been an important factor in its sidetracking and in the consequent summoning of the extra session.

To this division in the majority was largely due the most dramatic feature of the previous long session—the protracted and sensational conflict last spring which ended in material changes in the rules of the house generally interpreted as "the overthrow of the speaker," and which after a bitter fight lasting many hours and including an all-night struggle, stopped only just short of the actual unseating of Speaker Cannon. While the acrimony between Regulars and Insurgents neither began nor ended with the battle over the rules, that was its most conspicuous episode; and there has been little peace between the factions since in either house.

In the senate the most sensational feature of this session was the unceasing effort, in which the Insurgents were most active, to unseat William Lorimer as junior senator from Illinois, on the ground of alleged bribery in connection with his election by the legislature of that state in the spring of 1909. The echoes of this battle are still reverberating, and its bitterness added friction to the closing hours of the senate session.

Another important recent action of the senate was the defeat of the resolution embodying a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for the direct election of senators by the people.

This resolution received more than a majority of the senate, but it needed a two-thirds vote, and fell short by only 4. Had the senate passed it the house almost certainly would have done so. The friends of this proposition entertain little doubt that it will pass the next congress and go to the senate for ratification or defeat.

The output of this session in the way of general measures consists chiefly of the appropriation bills, and several of those seemed in danger.

Burglars Get Fortune.

Daytona, Fla.—A series of robberies culminating with the burglary of the home of Mrs. Roger Whinfield at Seabreeze, is estimated to have netted a gang of burglars more than \$50,000 in jewelry. According to the report of Mrs. Whinfield, jewelry valued at \$25,000 was secured from her home, including a pearl brooch and two diamond pendants worth \$10,000. This robbery followed the burglarizing of the homes of E. R. Hotchkiss here and J. D. Price at Ormond.

more than once in the tense situation of the last few days, when long hours passed away in filibustering on one side or the other.

Thousands of bills have been introduced and several thousand more came to the closing session as a heritage from the first and second sessions. In all, there were between 35,000 and 45,000 measures before the congress when it came to a close. Failure to enact many laws was not due to lack of raw material.

These are some of the more important measures, outside appropriation bills, that the final session of this congress enacted into law:

Providing for forest reserves in the southern Appalachian and White mountains.

Providing for the inspection of boilers on locomotives.

Providing for the purchase or erection of embassies, legations and consular buildings abroad.

An ocean mail bill passed the senate, but the house did not manifest enough liking for it to send it on to the white house.

Barren as the final session may have been of fruitful legislation, the Republican leaders point to the preceding sessions as more fruitful.

For the first, or extra session, they point to:

The Payne-Aldrich tariff act, with its maximum and minimum features and corporation tax provisions, and its customs court.

The resolution providing for an income tax amendment to the Constitution.

For the first regular session they refer to laws for:

Establishment of postal savings banks.

Admission of New Mexico and Arizona to statehood.

The most extensive census ever taken.

Creation of the commerce courts, and sweeping amendments to the interstate commerce act.

Bullinger-Pinchot investigation.

Conservation legislation, including authorization of withdrawal of public lands to preserve water sites, and authorization of the issue of \$20,000,000 in bonds for completing irrigating projects.

Legislation designed to suppress the "white slave trade."

Publicity of campaign contributions at election of members of the house.

Amendment to the employers' liability act of 1908; supplemental safety appliance act; requirement that railroads report accidents to interstate commerce commission, and establishment of a bureau of mines.

Reorganization of lighthouse service.

Authorization of expenditure of \$28,000,000 for public buildings.

HIGH LICENSE IN ALABAMA.

One Saloon in Birmingham for Every 3,000 Inhabitants of the City.

Montgomery, Ala.—The house of representatives passed the Smith bill, which regulates the sale of liquor in Alabama by a vote of 58 to 27.

A number of amendments were offered and few adopted. Walker Percy of Birmingham got in an amendment fixing the saloon license in his county at \$3,000 and the number of saloons to one for every 3,000 inhabitants. His amendment to take the power of appointing the excise boards out of the hands of the governor failed.

The Smith bill fixes the license in Mobile and Montgomery at \$1,500 and in Mobile one saloon to every 750 people, and in Montgomery one to every 1,000.

Excise boards are created to control the sale of liquor, and the Wiley pure food regulations are adopted to govern the quality of liquors to be sold. This measure is said to be the most stringent ever enacted in any state in the Union.

"Hookworms of World."

Chicago.—"The Hookworms of the World," a fraternal organization among members of the National Association of Retail Hardware Dealers, will be organized at the next annual convention to be held in Little Rock, Ark.

Wyoming Bars Prize Fights.

Cheyenne, Wyo.—Governor Cary vetoed the Umshler bill legalizing prize fights of 25 rounds in Wyoming.

Merger of Cotton Mills.

Boston, Mass.—One millions dollars has been subscribed by Boston capitalists for the proposed merger of nine big cotton mill industries, all valued at \$10,000,000, to be known under the consolidation as the Parkers Mills company. This will be the third largest concern of its kind in the world, being exceeded in number of spindles only by the Amoskeag corporation, of Manchester, N. H., and the New England Cotton Yarn company. The mills which it is proposed to merge are all in South Carolina.

CONGRESS ELEVATES PEARY.



Robert E. Peary.

WAS A WHIRLWIND FINISH

CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT BILL PASSED BY HOUSE HELD UP IN THE SENATE.

Explorer Peary Given Thanks of Congress—Higher Postage on Magazines Killed in the Senate.

Washington.—There was no congressional reapportionment by the sixty-first congress. The reapportionment bill fixing the number of representatives at 433, which passed the house earlier in the session, met with serious opposition in the senate, and was not brought out by the committee having it in charge.

Robert E. Peary, civil engineer in the United States navy, was elevated to the roll of fame by congress, placed on the retired list with the rank of rear admiral and the highest pay of that grade, and extended the thanks of congress "for his Arctic explorations, resulting in reaching the North Pole."

The pay of a rear admiral of the corps of civil engineers is less than that Commander Peary is now receiving, so he does not benefit conspicuously in a financial way from the action of congress. However, only six men have been given the thanks of congress in the past thirty-five years.

The senate passed the postoffice appropriation bill, carrying about \$25,000,000, after striking from it the provision increasing to 4 cents a pound the postal rate on the advertising sections of the large magazines.

Among the amendments adopted in the postoffice appropriation bill was one by Senator Swanson granting 30 days' leave of absence annual to the rural free delivery letter carriers.

The codification bill, providing for the abolition of circuit courts of the United States and containing an amendment put on by Representative Bartlett of Georgia, which revives about eight million dollars of Southern war claims, finally passed all the stages of legislation.

OVER 30,000 PLAGUE VICTIMS

Famine Follows Disease in China's Starving Thousands.

Peking, China.—Famine and the plague are sweeping over China. The known deaths from the plague number 30,000, and, according to the official statistics, the death rate averages 200 daily. But the officials have little knowledge of the conditions in the interior, or, if they have, they are not permitting the facts to be known.

It is impossible even to estimate the number of deaths that have resulted from lack of food. Dr. Samuel Cochran, an American, who is engaged in the work of relief, writes:

"One million people will die before the first crop is harvested. This will be scanty, because the people have not the strength to till the soil, and no animals remain for plowing."

So far Japan and America are the only foreign countries that have contributed to aid the sufferers.

Myers, Montana's Senator.

Helena, Mont.—Henry L. Myers (Dem.) of Ravalli county was elected United States senator to succeed Senator Carter on the seventy-ninth joint legislative ballot.

Princess Slain by Her Lover.

Rome, Italy.—Princess Di Trigona, a lady-in-waiting to Queen Helena, niece of Marquis Di Sanguliano, the Italian minister of foreign affairs, and cousin of Prince Di Scales, secretary of state in the foreign office, was murdered, in a small hotel in this city by Lieutenant Baron Paterno, a cavalry officer, who then killed himself. Princess Di Trigona was one of the most beautiful ladies-in-waiting to the queen, and when Queen Helena was informed of the tragedy she fainted.

CONGRESS MEETS IN EXTRA SESSION APRIL 4

PRESIDENT CALLED NEW CONGRESS IN THE FACE OF MOST TREMENDOUS PRESSURE.

TARIFF MAY BE REVISED

Democratic Leaders Realize That There Can Be No Sudden Reduction of Tariff Duties.

Washington.—Within the hour following the close of the sixty-first congress President Taft issued a proclamation calling the new congress to meet in extraordinary session Tuesday, April 4.

At that time he will submit for ratification to a house overwhelmingly Democratic and to a senate barely Republican the reciprocity agreement with Canada. The McCall bill, carrying that agreement into effect and passed by the house, met death at the hands of the old senate, which had been freely predicted for it.

The president, well warned—if not entirely reconciled to the fate in store for the measure—was at the capital to witness the obsequies. The bill was not allowed at any time to come up in the senate for a moment's consideration.

The permanent tariff board bill—forced to its passage through a reluctant senate—was hurried over to the house, there to be strangled by a Democratic filibuster. The president, in the room reserved for him in the senate lobby, heard the news with resignation. Congress provided funds to continue the work of the temporary tariff board for another year.

It was at the request of the Democrats of the house and senate that President Taft fixed the date of the extra session as April 4.

There is little doubt now that the Democrats of the house will undertake to revise at least two or three of the schedules of the Payne-Aldrich tariff act, and there is every reason to believe that these bills will be favorably received in the new senate—the increased Democratic and insurgent strength in that body giving a majority to the principle of a further revision of the tariff downward. It is supposed also that so long as the new schedule does not flagrantly violate the policy of protection, President Taft will not withhold his approval of it. He has announced, however, that if a general revision, in violation of the protective policy, should be inaugurated, he would not hesitate to use the power of the veto.

How long the extra session will last is problematical. While the new congress may promptly ratify the reciprocity agreement, some Democrats are in favor of withholding confirmation until two or three new tariff schedules are ready. If tariff differences should arise between the new house and the senate, the session unquestionably would be a long one.

In this connection, however, the interesting fact was developed that the president has a constitutional right to bring the session to an end in case the two houses of congress cannot agree upon a time for adjournment. Such action, it is admitted, would be revolutionary, and there is thought to be little likelihood that any president would care to invoke the power vested in him by Section 3, Article 2, of the Constitution.

Flew 125 Miles Over Ocean.

Nice, France.—Lieutenant Baguè accomplished a sensational and daring feat by flying over the Mediterranean from Antibes to the little island of Gorgona, off the Italian coast. He covered a distance of more than 204 kilometers (124.5 miles), establishing a new record for over-sea flight. This he did without the assistance of tug, torpedo boats or any other craft to guide him or add to his confidence by their presence.

\$1,000,000 Fire in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis, Minn.—One of the most disastrous fires this city has ever known destroyed the Syndicate block on Nicolette avenue, between Fifth and Sixth streets, at a loss estimated at \$1,000,000.

Flower Shower for Lorimer.

Chicago.—Admirers of Senator William Lorimer to the number of several thousand greeted him here upon his return from Washington. Two hundred and fifty automobiles, forming a parade, escorted the senator from the station to his residence. Senator Lorimer was accompanied by former Judge Elbridge Haney and five detectives, who met him at Fort Wayne, Ind. When he passed through the station it required seventy policemen to keep the crowd from swarming over his escort.