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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Opinion Expressed that the Bill is as Dead as a Salt, Dried, Sun Cured Codfish.

THE FINAL HEARING AT HARTFORD

Many of Opinion that the Measure will Not be Reported Favorably—John Cairns Gave Spicy Wind-up to the Hearing, "The Matter Should Not be Left to a Lot of Ignoramuses in the Legislature."

Hartford, April 8.—The final hearing before the committee on the judiciary in regard to the creation of a public utilities commission was held at the capitol today and many of those who have attended the hearing are of the opinion that the committee will not report the measure favorably and that is the opinion of those who are opposed to the measure, as voiced by Lewis S. Sperry, who said: "I think the bill is as dead as a salt, dried, sun cured codfish." The argument for the opposition was made by Mr. Sperry and William Waldo Hyde, who appeared as attorneys for several street railways which they mentioned. Mr. Hyde opened and said that he believed a false impression had been given at the first hearing that public sentiment demanded the passage of the measure.

He deprecated what he termed attempts to scare the committee on political lines and said that it was pretty cheap talk and that the committee must solve the matter on lines of principle.

Not Unanimity of Feeling.

He called attention to the fact that the republican party did not put itself on record as being in favor of the measure and that there is not the unanimity of feeling which had been represented to the committee. The committee is not compelled to report favorably on the measure because the commission has presented it. He admitted that it is the duty of the public service corporations to furnish service at reasonable rates and without discrimination against anyone, but stated that there have been no complaints that such is being done. He claimed that if passed the bill would be unconstitutional, and that there is under the present laws sufficient power to correct any abuses. "The purpose of the measure is to take from the legislature powers that have been vested in it by the constitution and give them to a commission. It provides that the present laws shall be exercised only when the commission sees fit to do so, and the public will not determine what shall be done, but the guess, or whim, of three individuals who would be a law unto themselves," said Mr. Hyde.

If Laws Are Imperfect Legislation Should Change Them.

He further stated in alluding to Stiles Judson's speech that at least it was full of nerve for a man who, as the records show, voted to make the bonds of the Connecticut Railway and Lighting company savings bank investments. He said that if the laws are imperfect now the legislature could change them and that he had been told by bankers within forty-eight hours that the Connecticut Railway and Lighting company is worth every dollar for which it is capitalized. He cited further cases of alleged overcapitalization and said that a charter is worth only as much as the brains and intelligence of the men who held it make it. Under a commission which would vise the bonds they would carry the guaranty of the state and if the commission made a mistake the purchasers would have no redress.

Corporations Not Overcharging Patrons.

Lewis S. Sperry was the next speaker who read a letter from H. C. Warren of New Haven in opposition to the measure. Mr. Sperry also affirmed that the corporations in Connecticut are not overcharging their patrons.

He also read a letter from George D. Burgess of New Haven, in opposition to the measure. He pointed out that Stiles Judson's evidence of the popularity of the measure was that the governor had threatened the legislature with a call for a special session if they did not start the work and he alluded in a humorous way to the "business men 300,000 strong," who were said to be in favor of the measure.

Not Business but Politics.

In regard to the provision that stock could not be issued without the sanction of the commission, he said:

"Why, they couldn't issue stock unless they put on their gum shoes and came up to Hartford to see Andy Gates, or some other republican leader, to find out if they could make certain improvements. That isn't business but it is politics."

He then called attention to the fact that the corporations could issue unlimited stock and bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness for expenditure outside the state or country and pointed out what a drain this would be upon the state.

"The measure was drawn by a commission which was not paid for its work, and I do not see any reason why it should be. It was favored by a governor who wished to bust the machine that created him.

"He went to all the county fairs and chicken shows and commended the finest eggs and the smallest sucking pigs, and between times heard the voice of public opinion whispering not from the mountains, but from the basements of the town halls, calling for such a bill. Gentlemen, if you think it has merit, study it.

"Years ago there used to be some democrats in this state, but there have not been since the Bryan total eclipse in 1896, and the eclipse is still on, but a party of that name in its platform favored this measure and wanted a public utilities commission. In another place it has declared itself to be opposed to government by commissions and it nominated for head of its ticket a man who is a director of most of the corporations which this commission is aimed to control.

"Gentlemen, if you took the corporations out of this state the state would be nothing but a game preserve."

He hoped the day would come when the executive would keep his nose and the big stick out of the legislature and allow the lawmakers to make the law. Public service corporations reduce their rates to encourage traffic and make business.

Argument in Favor of the Measure.

Frank S. Butterworth appeared to argue in favor of the measure and said that intelligent opinion is in favor of the measure. He cited a number of public service corporations where the service, he said, was very bad, among them being the New Haven Gas company, and that if the Hartford Gas company had not been overcapitalized the public would get a cheaper rate. He said that the New Haven Gas company's stock sells at 170 and that from time to time stock has been issued which was sold to stockholders at $100 per share, allowing the stockholders to make 70 points on it. He pointed out many of the good results complished by the New York commission.

Spicy Windup to the Hearing.

This concluded the arguments. John Cairns, however, who stated that he is a president of the Bolton Telephone company, gave a spicy windup to the hearing. He spoke in favor of the measure and said: "That such matters ought not to be left to the legislature, which has been composed of a lot of ignoramuses who wouldn't know a stock certificate from a handbill. They are from the country districts and they do not represent the state; neither do the labor unions represent the state. I have been a member of one and I know how the trick is done. The legislators don't represent anything after they get in their cordwood for the winter."

This closed the hearing on the public utilities bill.

TARIFF BILL IN HOUSE.

Republicans Caught Napping—Several Outbreaks of Bad Temper.

Washington, April 8.—Because of the numerous committee amendments to the Payne tariff bill, the house of representatives was compelled to sit until late in the evening in order to insure action on the various paragraphs coming within the scope of the special rule adopted last Monday before the final vote is taken tomorrow afternoon.

At one time the republicans were caught napping and an amendment by Mr. Clark of Missouri was adopted, fixing the rate of duty on iron or steel wire of the number sixteen gauge at three-fourths of a cent per pound but this was thrown out later. Fearing that he might not meet with such success again, Chairman Payne took his republican colleagues to task for absenting themselves from the chamber and appealed to them to remain in their seats. This was done, with the result that in all the committee amendments he was sustained.

While occasionally there were outbreaks of bad temper, on the whole the session assumed a normal aspect and business proceeded with a reasonable degree of facility.

With a number of committee amendments yet to be considered the house at 6.58 p. m. adjourned.

ELEPHANT "TOM" RUNS AMUCK.

Kills His Keeper, Smashes, Wagons, Etc.—Forty Bullets Subdued Him.

Des Moines, Ia., April 8.—"Tom," an elephant in the winter quarters of the "Yankee" Robinson circus, ran amuck tonight, and seizing his keeper, Charles Bellew, hurled him high in the air and then trampled him to death.

The excited beast then ran through the animal park, uprooted small trees, destroyed three circus wagons and demolished a bridge across a lagoon. Forty bullets were shot into the elephant before he was subdued.

Census Bill Reported to the Senate.

Washington, April 8.—A bill to provide for the enumeration of the thirteenth and subsequent censuses was today reported to the senate by Mr. LaFollette, chairman of the committee on the census, who stated that he would ask the senate to consider it tomorrow. Several resolutions calling on the secretaries of state, of agriculture, and of commerce and labor for information concerning duties on sugar were adopted. At 12.35 p. m. the senate adjourned until tomorrow.

TRIAL OF MRS. SAMPSON.

It Is Expected That Case Will Go to Jury Today.

Lyons, N. Y., April 8.—The state's case against Mrs. Georgia Allyn Sampson, the young woman charged with killing her husband, Harry Sampson, last November, came practically to a close tonight, the prosecution will rest its case tomorrow morning when Albert H. Hamilton, a gun expert, concludes his testimony. The defense's testimony will be brief and it is the general expectation that the case will go to the jury late tomorrow afternoon.

The defense gained a short-lived victory early today when District Attorney Gilbert sought vainly to place the black outer shirt of Harry Sampson into evidence. Justice Rich ruled against its admission at the time because sufficient ground had not been established for its introduction. District Attorney Gilbert seemed chagrined, for without the shirt in evidence the state would not be able to show that the bullet hole was not a contact shot and that Harry Sampson was fired at from a distance, thus precluding the theory of suicide.

The state's attorney, however, succeeded in getting the outer shirt into evidence this afternoon through its gun expert, Albert H. Hamilton, who placed the undershirt within the black shirt so as to show how the perforation in both shirts made by the bullet coincided.

EFFORTS TO CURB SPEEDING.

Sixty-Seven Autoists Arrested in New York Last Night.

New York, April 8.—The efforts of the police to curb the speed mania, to which have been ascribed the many casualties to pedestrians occurring within the past few weeks, resulted in the arrest tonight of sixty-seven automobilists. Most of those arrested were charged with running their cars in excess of twenty miles an hour, or twice as fast as the regulations permit. There have been more than two hundred arrests for this offense the past few days.

Guy Hutchinson Under Arrest.

New Haven, Conn., April 7.—Guy Hutchinson, secretary of the Corbin Motor Vehicle company of New Britain and a quarterback on the Yale football team of 1905, was arrested here tonight for operating an automobile without a license and speeding. He was held under $300 bail for his appearance in court tomorrow morning.

Cabled Paragraphs.

Messina, April 8.—A violent earthquake was experienced here last night at a quarter before 10 o'clock. It was accompanied by subterranean rumblings.

Paris, April 8.—Gambaiseuil and Ropolin, two horses owned by W. K. Vanderbilt, each got a second place in the running here today. Mr. Vanderbilt's Ganga Chata was another contestant, but did not get a place. Eymett, owned by H. P. Duryea, was another starter, but failed to get a place.

St. Petersburg, April 8.—A despatch received here from Pyatigorsk, a town and watering place in Cis-Caucasia, says that the governor of the province has issued orders that Jews be denied admission to the health resorts in the Caucasus during the coming season. Jewish musicians also are barred from playing in government orchestras.

Berlin, April 8.—The latest intelligence from German Southwest Africa says the discoveries of diamonds at Luderitz bay are more important than was at first supposed. Diamonds hitherto have been picked up on the sandy desert, but attempts to bore for water led to the finding of blue earth pockets containing diamonds similar to the Kimberley and other South African stones.

Monte Carlo, April 8.—In the motor boat races today Chantecler won the championship for sea cruisers over a course of 200 kilometers (about 124 miles). The time was 4 hours, 49 minutes and 58 seconds. Alterations have been made in the Standard, one of the American boats, which was withdrawn from the events earlier in the week on account of unsteadiness, and there is every indication that she will make a good showing in tomorrow's race.

FISH OIL, GUANO MAKING, GARBAGE REDUCTION.

Troubles of the Sound Shore People Described—Hartford Hearing Continued—Arguments of Counsel.

Hartford, April 8.—The hearing of yesterday afternoon before the joint committee on public health and safety on the fish oil and guano and the garbage reduction matter, so far as the arguments of of counsel were concerned, was continued this afternoon.

In Behalf of the Cottagers.

Charles E. Gross of Hartford opened for the cottagers on the Niantic shore and the numerous lawyers on the committee listened with interest as he described the troubles of the shore people with the fish factory nuisance last summer. He said that this fish factory was ever a nuisance to the shore people, but the worst season they'd ever known was that of 1908.

Mr. Gross realized that this was an established business and that there existed rights by way of a vested interest, but he felt that the Niantic Menhaden Fish Oil and Guano company could so arrange its plant as to do away with the nuisance and ought to be compelled to and certainly the shore people didn't wish a garbage reduction plant brought in from Bridgeport. While they are only residents in that town a few months in the year, it was felt that the wishes of the thousands of such people ought to be considered very seriously.

For the Bridgeport By-Products Co.

Ex-Representative Day of Colchester appeared for the Bridgeport By-Products company in support of an amendment of the 1907 garbage transportation law, which would permit his concern to go on and utilize the property which it has purchased in East Lyme just as it wishes if it can show the state board of health that it will keep within the law. He believed that his concern had a constitutional right to use the land it owned for whatever it pleased as long as this could be done without injury to anyone else.

Mr. Day insisted that the growing cities of New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury and Hartford were put to it to care for their garbage and asked where they could more appropriately go than to these great shore towns, where the reduction plant can be far from any center of population. He referred with sarcasm to the testimony of the summer residents yesterday and characterized as a false much that was testified to by Dr. Dart, the Niantic health officer.

Questioned by Dr. Sedgwick of the committee, Mr. Day told of the process of reduction and showed how the cooking of the garbage destroyed all odors. He turned to President Livingstone to answer regarding some technical point and the colloquy which followed between the latter and the committee resulted in the suggestion by Senate Chairman Phillips that the committee be invited to Bridgeport to inspect the reduction plant, which Mr. Livingstone cheerfully agreed to do.

Major Hull of New London Heard.

Major H. A. Hull of New London followed for the Niantic Menhaden, Etc., Co. He said that the fish oil and guano business was established in its exact present location in Niantic in 1858, moved to Grant's Neck and then moved back a few years ago. There has been invested now nearly $150,000, partly in two boats specially fitted for the business.

The lobster industry in this state would be ended by the stopping of this business and that of the one other fish factory in this state, which is in Mystic. The company has a monthly payroll of some $7,000. It takes in a good season about $250,000 worth of property out of the ocean.

"Out of the ocean!" cried Mr. Hull. "Why, in two or three years this would pay for all those summer cottages."

"We're not for sale," interrupted Mr. Gross.

Major Hull made a comparison between conditions in the towns of Waterford, East Lyme and Old Lyme, and those about the Mystic fish mill. The towns of Stonington and Groton have much larger grand lists and many more people who live nearer the fish factory, but they're not asked to be restricted.

He insisted that property values in the vicinity of the fish mill had largely increased since it was built, to the loudly voiced protests of the other side.

Major Hull enlarged on an accident which happened where a Mr. Luce had impounded 30,000 buckeyes, which died and drifted down into the Sound before the accident to the fish factory's menhaden tank, and protested against his company's being blamed for that. He also accused the cottagers of dumping their refuse and garbage back a mile in the woods and said that one of the doctors who inspected this spot said that the odor there far outranked that from the fish mill.

Judge Shumway had said that he was satisfied this fish factory was not a menace to health and he would not close it, said Major Hull, and he felt that it could be operated without being a nuisance.

Major Hull told the committee that the cottagers who were nauseated were so troubled because they went swimming in water with this fish oil standing on it. He went on then to describe what had been done, at the expense of $10,000, during the winter, to better the conditions at the fish mill and called it bad faith for the cottagers to come to the legislature to get legal restrictions which would be injurious to the business before they had tried the company in its effort to improve conditions. He closed by begging that his company be left to the enjoyment of its common law rights.

For the Shore People.

Attorney Anson T. McCook, appearing for the shore people, asked that there be permitted no further extension of the fish factory and no location of a new garbage reduction plant and quoted law to show that the prevention of nuisances is quite as important as their abatement. To regulate this industry is not to interfere with the rights of vested interests, but to exercise the proper police power of the state.

He described the local conditions and showed how annoying and menacing to health is the present fish factory and how serious would be the probable conditions if the Bridgeport concern came in and built a plant as is desired.

"If this isn't a menace to health in Bridgeport at present, let Bridgeport keep it," he said.

Speaking of the appeal to the state board of health from the local selectmen desired by the By-Products company, Mr. McCook said that if there was to be an appeal, it should not belong to this company, but to the people.

The By-Products company had no property in East Lyme when the hearing before the selectmen was held; it had only an option.

After Mr. McCook closed Mr. Gross jumped up to say that when a private nuisance was extended it became a public nuisance and the legislature certainly has the right to legislate to suppress a public nuisance.

Mr. Day said a few more words to establish the right of his company to use its property in East Lyme in any way it wished, if it could prove to the satisfaction of a court that it was not to establish a nuisance. His company doesn't feel that it can obtain justice from the East Lyme authorities and wants the right of appeal to a fair, impartial tribunal. He proposed to withdraw the appeal to the state board of health and make it to the superior court.

Miners Present New Proposal

TWO HOURS' CONFERENCE AT PHILADELPHIA.

NO SOLUTION OF CONDITIONS

Governing the Hard Coal Fields—Men Agree to Wage Agreement Renewal With a Few Changes.

Philadelphia, April 8.—At the conclusion of a two hours' conference between the operators and a committee representing the anthracite coal miners which terminated late this afternoon, both sides seem as far from an ultimate solution of the working conditions governing the hard coal fields as ever. The miners' representatives presented a modified proposition. In this new preposal the miners agree to the renewal of the recently expired wage agreement with a few changes which are provided for in the following language:

The New Proposal.

"It is further understood and agreed that if wages of employes have been reduced during the past three years under the stiplation that it was new work or for other cause, such wages shall be restored. It is further agreed that the right to hire and discharge is vested exclusively in the mine manager or operator. The persons discharged shall have the right of appeal and if it is shown that they were discharged without cause, shall be reinstated.

"No suspension of operation shall take place during the adjustment of differences between employer and employe."

No Statement by Operators.

No statement was given out by the operators and it is not known how they view the proposition of the miners, carrying, as it does, the recognition of the union, in a different form than originally presented.

One of the Demands Practically Agreed To.

Philadelphia, April 8—It was learned tonight that during the conference the first of the added demands of the miners had been practically agreed to by the operators. President Baer, after a conference with President Truesdale of the Lackawanna in reference to the dispute over "new work," made the following announcement:

"We state officially that hereafter any controversy relating to new work may be submitted to the board of conciliation to determine whether the condition of the veins and the work are the same, and if they are found to be the same then the rates existing on old work shall apply to the new."

At the request of the miners, this paragraph was put in writing.

MME. HELENA MODJESKA DIES IN CALIFORNIA.

Famous Actress a Victom to Bright's Disease—Interment in Poland.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 8.—Mme. Helena Modjeska, the famous Polish tragedienne and one of the most famous actresses of the American stage, died at 10 o'clock today at her island home at Bay City, Orange county, at the age of 65, after an illness of about two months. For several days she had been unconscious, and her death was almost hourly expected. Bright's disease, complicated with heart trouble, was the immediate cause of death.

Gathered around the bedside of the noted actress when she passed away were Count Bozenta, husband of Mme. Modjeska; Ralph Modjeska and his wife, a son and daughter-in-law, of Chicago, and Dr. J. C. Boyd, the family physician.

Washington, April 8.—The decision to take Mme. Modjeska's body back to Poland for interment gave rise to the question as to whether the Russian government would permit this, in view of the debarment of the actress from her native land and the fact that the obsequies might incite a national anti-Russian demonstration.

At the Russian embassy here today it was stated no objection would be made by the Russian government, so far as is known here.

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Nominated.

Washington, April 8.—The president today sent to the senate the nomination of Charles D. Hilles of New York to be assistant secretary of the treasury.

Attached for Bill of $71.

New Haven, April 8.—Because a bill of $71 owed to the New Haven Water company was unpaid, a deputy sheriff today attached property of the New York and Bridgeport Transportation company on a dock. The bill was paid and the attachment discharged.

Automobile Law, Favorable Vote

ON DRAFT OF THE LAW OUTLINED FOR CONNECTICUT.

BUT FEW CHANGES MADE

Proposal to Make Outside Autoists Pay a License Fee Has Been Dropped—Registration Fees.

Hartford, Conn., April 8.—The committee on roads, rivers and bridges has voted favorably upon the draft of the automobile law which was outlined some days ago by the Associated Press with a few changes.

No Fee from Outsiders.

The proposal to make autoists from outside the state pay a license fee has been dropped and the law in that respect will not be changed.

Provisions of the Measure.

The measure provides for the appointment of a commissioner who shall see that the law is enforced and shall have offices at the capitol and shall issue licenses according to the clauses of the law. He may summon witnesses and administer the oath and take testimony and may delegate the power to an agent and may order the carrying out of the provisions of the law, the production of books, papers and documents and any person who swears falsely to the commissioner or his agent may be found guilty of perjury. Fees for attendance and travel of witnesses shall be the same as in the superior court and shall be paid by the state. The superior court shall have judgment in equity to enforce all lawful orders of the commissioner. He shall appoint from time to time competent persons as investigators or examiners in respect to the enforcement of the law, who shall have all the powers of constables except the service of civil process and power to arrest any violators of the automobile law. The commissioner may investigate the cause of any accident in which a motor vehicle is involved and may prepare from time to time rules and regulations not inconsistent with the law governing the use and operation of motor vehicles, and these rules shall take effect when approved by the governor and published in at least one newspaper in each county. This does not give the commissioner power to regulate the speed of motor vehicles. He shall receive a salary of $2,500 per year and expenses as approved by the controller. The act is to take effect upon its passage and other acts inconsistent with it are repealed.

Registration Fees.

The general automobile law is changed to delegate certain powers now exercised by the office of the secretary of state to the commissioner and for matters of registration provides practically the same restrictions as are now in force, with the exception of fees, which shall be:

Motor cycles, $1; commercial motor vehicles, $5; vehicle of 20 horse power up to 30 horse power, $10; from 30 to 35 horse power, $15; from 35 to 40 horse power, $20; from 40 horse power and up, $30; for all vehicles of a manufacturer, $100; for all vehicles of a dealer, $20; for every operator's license, $2; for the substitution of registration, $2; for additional certificates, 50 cents; for additional number plates, $1.

No one is allowed to use a machine without the permission of the owner.

The proposed clause which would put a tax on autoists coming into the state from other states has been dropped, as it was shown that they bring a large revenue into the state and it would work an injustice to the hotel keepers.

Engines Must Be Muffled.

All engines must be kept constantly muffled while being operated and no signal device may be used except a horn, chime, whistle or bell. This eliminates the siren whistle. No motor bicycle may be operated with muffler opened. No person shall operate a motor vehicle where the operator's view of the road and traffic is obstructed at a greater speed than ten miles per hour, and in passing a trolley car from which passengers are being discharged at a rate of speed greater than three miles per hour.

Licenses May Be Revoked.

The commissioner may revoke licenses upon violations of the law, and a penalty is provided for anyone operating the motor vehicle after the license of that vehicle has been revoked. Upon the second conviction any intoxicated person found operating a motor vehicle shall be punished by not more than two years and not less than six months' imprisonment and the revocation of that person's license and that of the owner and employer. When appeals are taken the license shall be suspended until said person is acquitted in the court of appeals. Refusal to stop when signalled by an officer is also the subject of a penalty.

The measure will be favorably reported to the legislature on Tuesday.

EXPLOSION FELT 40 MILES.

1,200 Quarts Nitro-Glycerine, 400 Pounds Giant Powder.

Bolivar, N. Y., April 8.—Twelve hundred quarts of nitro-glycerine and four hundred pounds of giant powder stored in two magazines owned by the Hercules Torpedo company and the Ellsworth Powder company, blew up early today. The houses of A. G. Parker, Benjamin Ingalls and Mont Moore were practically demolished. Every house in a radius of three miles was badly shaken. The explosion was felt for a radius of forty miles. No person was injured. Loss about $20,000.

Movement for a "Home Coming" to Ireland.

Washington, April 8.—The parting statement of Richard Croker, the former Tammany chieftain, before he left here today for New York, was that while he would never give up his American citizenship, yet his sympathies were entirely with the people of Ireland in their hopes for material improvement. Mr. Croker was led to make this remark after a talk with friends here who are backing a movement for a "home coming" to Ireland, which he declared was a capital idea.

Marie Dressler Operated On for Tonsil Troubles.

Chicago, April 8.—Marie Dressler was operated on here today for two large growths extending from the right and left tonsils. They were removed successfully. Her physicians said that she would be ill for a week or two, but that the operation would result in the restoration of her normal voice.

Three-Masted Schooner Launched.

Camden, Me., April 8.—The three-masted schooner Frank E. Swain was launched today from the shipyard of Robert L. Bean. She is of 700 tons capacity, 348 net tonnage and 131 feet long. The vessel will hail from Boston.

Condensed Telegrams

By the Bursting of a Dyke at Catanzaro, Italy, twenty-two fishermen were swept to sea. Eleven of them were drowned.

A Despatch to the London Daily Telegraph from St. Petersburg says that M. Iswolsky, the foreign minister, has tendered his resignation and is awaiting the emperor's decision.

Acting on a Question referred by Secretary of the Navy Meyer, Attorney General Wickersham has decided that congress was fully within its constitutional rights in the legislation directing that marines be restored to duty aboard naval ships.

Dr. Persifer Fraser, the well known scientist and handwriting expert, died in Philadelphia after a month's illness from heart trouble. He was the first foreigner on whom the University of France conferred the degree of B. S. Dr. Fraser was 65 years old.

After Perhaps the Most Remarkable contest ever held in Vermont, the deadlock over the choice of a president in the Burlington board of aldermen was broken on the 528th ballot, after more than eighteen hours of voting. C. P. Dion was elected as presiding officer of the body.

Postmaster General Hitchcock has approved a rectangular design for a special issue of stamps on June 1 commemorative of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition. The stamp bears a ribbon inscribed "Alaska-Yukon-Pacific, 1909," and a circle frames the picture of a fur seal standing on a cake of ice.

Over a Million Dollars a Year can be realized by growing timber on the uncultivated lands of Rhode Island, according to a statement made by Gifford Pinchot, chief forester of the United States, during an address to the general assembly Wednesday. His address was a plea for the conservation of the natural resources of the country.

W. J. Chalmers, receiver for A. Booth & Co., filed petitions in the United States circuit court at Chicago Wednesday asking that the $419,577 on deposit in the First National, the Commercial National, the Corn Exchange and the Continental National banks to the credit of the Booth company be turned over to the common assets of the fish firm for the benefit of all the creditors.

Mrs. Bertha Eugenie Julienne Low, wife of Will H. Low, the artist, died at her home in Bronxville Wednesday after a brief illness. She and her husband were intimate friends of Robert Louis Stevenson and at the time of her death she had translated nearly all of the Scotch romancer and essayist's works into French. She was a contributor to American and French periodicals and was an authoress of merit.

FREIGHT RATE TROUBLES, PLAN FOR ARBITRATION.

Idea of the Trunk Line Association—Situation More Complicated.

New Haven, Conn., April 8.—The latest phase of the trouble over freight rates in New England, which has reached a complicated stage, is a plan for arbitration, devised by the Trunk Line association, by which a committee will take into consideration the whole subject of rates, including the rates of the southern steamship lines, of the trunk lines by the mixed freight and rail lines and by the New England water lines, northward and westward.

The scope of the investigation includes not merely the existing difficulties, but the devising of a positive plan by which rates upon all the systems will be adjusted. There is also a plan for a special committee to meet Vice President Hays of the Grank Trunk, who has been understood to be the vetoing member of the Trunk Line association, as regards the plan for equalizing the New England rail and water rates.

A complication, has, however, just entered the situation by what is understood to be a new position assumed by the Boston and Maine in opposition to the lower rates westward from northern New England. It is understood that the Boston and Maine company now takes a definite stand against any increase of the northern New England rates on the ground that it would be unquestionably a violation of the Sherman act and would subject the company to heavy fines and penalties under the federal law. This further snarls up the complex question very seriously.

In railroad circles here a possible, if not probable, solution of the trouble may be an agreement of the New York, New Haven and Hartford company with the Grand Trunk, by which the latter would obtain the same rates as now obtain in the traffic arrangement of the New Haven with the Canadian Pacific as an all rail combination. Several weeks ago there were negotiations on this subject between the Grand Trunk and the New Haven, at the end of which the Grand Trunk refused to make certain concessions and the negotiations ended.

Such a settlement would retain the present rates for northern New England, which have recently been the subject of agitation in Massachusetts and elsewhere, but it would hardly be acceptable to the regular trunk lines as tending to divert the business which in the case of the New Haven and the Canadian Pacific agreement precipitated the whole trouble.

Inquiry in railroad circles here indicates that the situation is now considerably more complicated than ever, particularly in view of the position of the Boston and Maine. The lake and rail rates will come into practical effect with the opening of the lake and rail routes two days hence, and will probably somewhat affect the acuteness of the dispute.

Mark Twain Adds 150 Acres to His Farm.

Redding, Conn., April 8.—Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) has purchased 150 acres of land adjoining his recently acquired property. The "farm" as the author calls his really beautiful estate, now comprises 350 acres of agricultural and wooded tracts near the center of which is the Clemens home. The house, a most inviting abode, rises from a knoll that commands a far view of the surrounding country.

Aeroplane Attached in Suit to Recover Money.

Bridgeport, April 8.—Stanley Y. Beach, editor of the Scientific American and resident in Stratford, today has the aeroplane of Gustave Whitehead, an inventor, attached in a suit to recover money advenced to Whitehead, for, it is understood, experiments in aerial navigation. The damages claimed are $2,500. The large model with which Whitehead has been experimenting in Fairfield was taken in charge by the deputy sheriff.

Found $8,500 Buried in Kettle.

Lexington, Ky., April 8.—While digging in an abandoned lot today workmen found a brass kettle containing $8,500 in gold and silver. It had apparently been buried for half a century. The lot was sold at a commissioner's sale a week ago for $116.

GOVERNOR'S MIND CONTINUES CLEAR

Signed Requisition Yesterday on Governor of Massachusetts for Extradition of Antons

NO SETBACK IN MR. LILLEY'S CONDITION

He is Waiting Doctor's Orders Before Signing Resolution for Lieutenant Governor to Act During Executive's Incapacity—When the Resolution is Signed Lieut. Gov. Weeks will Make Public Statement.

Hartford, April 8.—Up to this afternoon at 2 o'clock Governor Lilley had not signed the resolution passed by the general assembly on Wednesday, providing for the performance of the duties of governor during the incapacity of the incumbent of the office.

Waiting Doctors' Orders.

The delay in signing the resolution is not due to the weakness of the governor. He signed a requisition this morning on the governor of Massachusetts, for the extradition of Mitchell Antons, wanted for obtaining money under false pretenses. The governor signed his name clearly and apparently without much physical effort.

Executive Secretary Goodwin will not present the resolution passed Wednesday by the general assembly to the governor for his signature until he is authorized by the physicians in attendance on his excellency.

The governor's mind continues clear.

When the resolution is signed by Governor Lilley, Lieutenant Governor Weeks will make a public statement as acting governor.

Statement by Physicians.

Dr. Beach visited Mr. Lilley during the forenoon, and, after a conference with Dr. Graves, the following statement was given out:

"We feel that Governor Lilley's condition is all that we could ask for. He is in better condition than during the past twenty-four hours."

DEPOSED PRESIDENT CASTRO WITHOUT A COUNTRY.

Efforts to Keep Him Out of Venezuela Crowned With Success.

Washington, April 8.—The efforts of the American government to keep former President Castro out of Venezuela and away from the nearby mainland and islands have every indication of being crowned with success.

Most of the powers having possessions in that part of the world have indicated to the state department that Castro's presence is not wanted within their boundaries and that they were willing to acquiesce in the desire of the United States that he be far removed from the scene of his former prestige.

Notwithstanding Castro's deposition as president, he has still a great many warm adherents in his native country, and it is realized here that his return might be made the occasion of a demonstration resulting in the re-establishment of unsettled conditions.

This government feels that Castro ought not to be allowed to return to Venezuela or to be permitted to make his headquarters in any of the surrounding ports.

FOREST FIRE AT STERLING.

Burned Over Six Hundred Acres of Land.

Sterling, Conn., April 8.—A lighted match dropped among leaves started a woods fire here today that was probably one of the most destructive that has visited the eastern part of the state for several years. Starting on the Thomas Finlay farm, where a carpenter who was repairing a fence dropped a match with which he had lighted his pipe, the fire, fanned by a strong wind that at times was almost a gale, spread rapidly east and south, destroying valuable timber land that lay in its path. At Porter's Mills several old unoccupied buildings were burned. In all the fire burned over six hundred acres of land.

MRS. GOELET'S AUTOMOBILE

Ran Down and Badly Injured Street Sweeper in Fifth Avenue.

New York, April 8.—Mrs. Ogden Goelet's automobile, with its owner and a chauffeur as its sole occupants today ran down and injured a street sweeper in Fifth avenue.

The accident occurred during the busiest hour of that fashionable thoroughfare, while hundreds of gaily dressed women crowded the driveway in carriage and automobiles, and it caused a big block in traffic.

The injured man, Christo Salantire, was taken to the New York hospital, where he was found to have sustained serious internal injuries. The chauffeur, William Sullivan, was placed under arrest.

Small Amount of Work Accomplished at Ruined Messina.

London, April 8.—A special despatch from Messina to a London newspaper declares that notwithstanding reports to the contrary, the king and queen, who recently visited the earthquake districts, are greatly displeased with the small amount of work so far accomplished. No attempt has been made to clear away the ruins, and there is no water supply, proper sanitation, or the means of transit. Hundreds of wreached survivors, the despatch says, are still dwelling in misery in huts which they themselves have erected, or in broken down railway carriages.

$15,000 Fire at Palmer, Mass.—Aid Sent from Springfield.

Palmer, Mass., April 8.—Driven eastward by a high wind, a fire which originated in a rag pickers' shop in the rear of the Converse house at 4.30 o'clock this afternoon totally destroyed four buildings and damaged twenty more, including the mill of the Wright Wire company. The Converse house, which caught fire several times, and dwelling houses in the vicinity were saved by bucket brigades. A steamer was sent from Springfield, but the blaze was under control when it arrived. Loss $15,000.

Official Figures Regarding Scout Cruisers' Tests.

Newport, R. I., April 8.—Official figures given out tonight regarding the performance of the scout cruisers Birmingham, Chester and Salem on their run of 2,000 miles, to test their engine economy, show that the Birmingham, which is equipped with reciprocating engines, again consumed less coal per 24 hours than either of her sister ships with their turbine engines. The Birmingham burned 153 1-2 tons of coal in each 24 hours; the Chester 157 tons and the Salem 202 tons.

Mountain Moving Bodily.

Nice, April 8.—A mountain has begun to move bodily as a result of railroad excavations in the Verdon valley. A large mass has become detached and is moving at the rate of sixty or seventy yards an hour.

Crazy Snake Still in Hiding.

Chandler, Okla., April 8.—William Tilghman, a deputy United States marshal, chosen by Colonel Hoffman to capture Crazy Snake, left here today. Crazy Snake is believed to be hiding near Henryetta.

The labor unions and unemployed of New Zealand are protesting against assisted immigration to the colony.

THREE BARGES ADRIFT IN BLOCK ISLAND SOUND.

Broke Away from Tug Waterman During Wednesday Night's Blow.

Charlestown, R. I., April 8.—Three barges flying signals of distress were the objects of attention on the part of the life saving crew of the Quonochontaug station today. Two of the barges were together and about six miles off shore, while the third barge was some two miles beyond the other two. They are believed to be part of a tow reported lost by the tug R. M. Waterman in last night's gale.

Though the wind was blowing sixty miles an hour, the Quonochontaug life savers launched their lifeboats and started to pull out to the assistance of the distressed craft, but before the life savers could get half way to the nearest of the barges a tug appeared in sight and proceeding to the barge furthest off shore took her in tow. Another tug soon appeared and headed for the two barges that were near together. The life savers seeing that the tug would reach the barges long before they themselves could, put back to their station.

Newport, R. I., April 8.—The tug North American, towing the barge Breeze, which she picked up in Block Island sound today, arrived here late today. Capt. Abel M. Peterson of the Breeze said that after the barges Breeze, Brunswick and Beacon broke adrift during last night from the tug R. M. Waterman in Long Island sound he and Seaman George Wood lashed themselves to the pumps. There they remained throughout the night, with the barge pitching and rolling in the gale and high seas.

The tug John Scully, towing the barge Brunswick, passed by here late today without putting in and went on to Providence. It was then feared that the Beacon had been lost, but whether her crew was rescued could not be learned here.

TO PRESERVE SMALL OYSTERS.

Object of a Bill Now Before the Connecticut Legislature.

Hartford, Conn, April 8.—Bills dealing with oyster fishing and providing that no dredge now authorized to be used upon natural oyster grounds of this state shall have a net of less than a two inch mesh, nor rings less than three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and also providing for the repeal of a certain section of an act which prohibits dredging in the waters of Milford, were heard before the shell fisheries committee this afternoon. The object of the first named bill is to preserve the small oysters by having the meshes made large enough for them to slip through, the result being protection for the oyster set. A number of persons addressed the committee on the bills, the discussion becoming spirited at times.

D. A. R. "INSURGENTS"

Will Make No Stir at Congress of the Daughters.

Washington, April 8.—The "insurgents" among the Daughters of the American Revolution, who have nominated a candidate for president general of the organization in opposition to the administration candidate, "will not create the faintest ripple at the congress of the Daughters," according to Mrs. Donald McLean, president general of the society, who predicts the election of Mrs. M. T. Scott of Illinois as her successor at the coming general meeting to be held in this city. The "insurgents" have chosen as their candidate Mrs. William C. Story, state regent of New York, who has withdrawn her candidacy for re-election as state regent in New York.

WHO OWNS THIS $1,000 BILL.

Found in Collection Plate of a Pennsylvania Methodist Church.

Washington, Pa., April 8.—An advertisement in a local paper today announces that there was found in the collection plate of the Roscoe M. E. church after the services last Sunday night a $1,000 bill. The church officials think the donor made a mistake, as the yearly collections of the church do not average much more than this amount. The officials in th eadvertisement offer to return the money to the owner, if he wants it back and can prove that he inadvertently dropped it into the plate.

Discussion of Measures Concerning Voting on Excise.

Hartford, Conn., April 8.—The excise committee at the capitol this afternoon listened to a general discussion of two measures concerning voting on excise, both of which were introduced by Representative Tibbits of Norwich, and which bear upon voting on the license question in that town. The purpose of the measure is to provide that such vote shall be taken at the regular town election.

Flies With Greatest of Ease.

Paris, April 8.—Santos Dumont today flew a distance of 2,500 metres (about one mile and a half) with the greatest of ease in his new monoplane. He alighted safely and without difficulty.

**Pathfinder Auto Reaches Topeka.