PRESIDENT'S BOSTON VISIT.

THREE SPEECHES IN THE BAY STATE CAPITAL YESTERDAY.

ONE TO THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, ONE TO THE LEGISLATURE AND THE LAST TO THE COMMERCIAL CLUB.

Boston, Feb. 17.—The second and last day of the visit of President McKinley to Boston was busy as well as auspicious. Like its predecessor, it was a beautiful one as far as wind and weather were concerned.

The President arose and breakfasted at 9 o'clock, and at 10 o'clock was on the way to Tremont Temple, where he spoke to the members of the Massachusetts Department of the G. A. R., who were assembled in annual convention. Immediately afterward carriages were taken for the State House, where the President visited the Legislature in joint session and made an address. After a short reception the Presidential party was taken through the subway and thence to the Algonquin Club, where a breakfast was given by the members of the Commercial Club, composed of the principal business and professional men of the city. The party left the South Terminal station for Washington on their special train at 5:10 o'clock.

Secretary Long did not return with the party, preferring to go to his home at Hingham with Mrs. Long, and start for Washington in the morning. Ferdinand Peck, Commissioner of the United States to the Paris Exposition, and his wife accompanied the President as far as New-York.

The President was in excellent health, and expressed himself as having enjoyed every moment of his trip, and as being well pleased with the welcome and greeting he had received at the hands of the Home Market Club, whose special guest he has been, and from the citizens of Boston and the Commonwealth.

ADDRESS TO OLD SOLDIERS.

The visitors from Washington started from the Hotel Touraine for the G. A. R. encampment under escort of the 1st Battalion of Cavalry. They were received with cheers by the old soldiers. The President, being introduced, spoke in a low tone and with deep feeling. He said:

Mr. Commander, Comrades of the G. A. R.: I count myself most fortunate to find upon my visit to the city of Boston, my comrades of the G. A. R. in session in the same city, thus giving me an opportunity once again to look into your faces and exchange the friendly greeting of comrades with each and every one of you. You fought in a holy cause, which, under the providency of God, triumphed. You not only were good soldiers, maintaining in the battle's front the honor and integrity of the flag we loved so much, but since the war and in your relations as citizens to the Government you have ever been loyal and faithful, preserving in peace the Government which you secured in war.

The sad feature about all these reunions is that our numbers are diminishing. Every annual reload discloses one or another of our comrades not present, but accounted for. They have gone to join their comrades on the other side, now in the majority, sleeping within that low green tent whose curtain never turns. It has occurred to me, as it has to every old soldier of the war, that the conspicuous commanders, those who gave orders we loved to obey, have all gone from among us—Grant and Sherman and Sheridan and Logan and Hancock, and a long line besides that are treasured in the memories of the soldiers of the Republic.

I am glad to have an opportunity of living, as you have had the opportunity of living, in this last year, when the American people have again manifested their patriotism, their love of country, their devotion to American honor. I want to see all the brave men of the Spanish war, North and South, in some great patriotic organization, and I knew none better than the Grand Army of the Republic. I thank you and bid you all good morning.

A CALL FOR ALGER.

After the applause had subsided there were loud cries of "Alger! Alger! You're all right!" The Secretary of War arose and said, among other things:

One of the proudest memories of my life, one of the proudest memories of your lives, was the gathering here in 1884, when the Grand Army of the Republic was at high-water mark. Such a demonstration of patriotism had never been seen before, and never will again. The material is beginning to get a little old. We have got a new crop, as the President says, but they are not the old fellows. Boys, you have done your share, and this country would not have had any expansion or any power but for your valiant services.

REMARKS BY LONG AND SMITH.

In response to the cries of "Long! Long!" the Secretary of the Navy said:

Members of the Grand Army of the Republic: There is one eloquence that is above that of the highest standards of classical or modern literature. It is the silent eloquence of the presence of the men who fought the great fight for the Union, and put our country on the broad ground which it now stands for, carrying forward the civilization of the world. A civilian, I can best show my appreciation of your services by silence. It cannot be expressed in words. William McKinley undoubtedly cherishes his present great office as the highest honor that can come to any American citizen, but, as he said before, the one thing which he cherishes most in his heart is the thought that he was once a soldier in his youth as you of the Grand Army of the Republic were.

Secretary Gage followed Secretary Long. He was introduced at the request of Secretary Alger. He said:

A cowardly civilian myself, I do not think I have any right to make my voice heard in any gathering of heroes. As I look in your faces and as I remember your valor and patriotism and self-sacrifice, I know of no higher blessing in life than that which you have in your sense of duty well done.

Postmaster-General Smith spoke next, and said:

I am called a man of words. I come into the presence of men of action. I cannot look into your earnest faces without feeling the profound debt of gratitude which this Republic owes to you, and as a citizen of this Republic I feel that it is the duty of all of us to do what we can to discharge that great debt of obligation.

After Secretary Smith's address the President and his party withdrew and drove to the State House to visit the Legislature.

GUEST OF THE GENERAL COURT.

The members of the Legislature gathered with unusual promptness at the State House this forenoon, in anticipation of the visit of the President. An hour before the time announced for his arrival the corridors were thronged, and as soon as the balconies of the House, where the proceedings were held, were opened the crowd pushed in. In five minutes every seat was taken. The floor was reserved for members of the two branches of the General Court, the Executive Department and special guests.

Both branches of the Legislature opened their session at 10:30, and immediately adopted the necessary orders for a joint convention, and the Senators repaired to the front seats in the House.

The President and his party were received by Governor Wolcott. Under the escort of J. R. Adams, Sergeant-at-Arms, the party proceeded to the House, and passed down the main aisle amid the cheers of all present, who arose the moment the President was announced.

President George A. Smith of the Senate welcomed the distinguished guest in a brief address, and introduced him to the convention.

THE GLORY OF MASSACHUSETTS.

As the President arose waves of applause rolled through the hall and cheer upon cheer rang out. When it was possible for him to be heard the President spoke as follows:

Gentlemen of the General Court: Although limited for time, I could not deny myself the honor of accepting the invitation officially extended by joint resolution of your honorable body, which I had the pleasure of receiving from the hands of your distinguished senior Senator, the Hon. George F. Hoar. I am not indifferent to your generous action, and it cannot be more sincere than the feeling of pleasure which I have in meeting the Senators and Representatives of the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I am glad to be in this ancient Capitol. Here great public questions have had free discussion. Here great statesmen, whose names live in their country's history, have received their training and voiced the enlightened opinions of their countrymen. Here through the century you have chosen your fellow-citizens to represent you in the councils of the Nation through that great parliamentary body, the Senate of the United States. You have chosen well, and leaders you have never lacked.

What illustrious men have thus borne the commission of the legislative body of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—Adams and Pickering and Webster, Choate and Everett and Winthrop, Sumner, Wilson and a long list besides illustrious in the annals of your State and the Nation, and those later statesmen, Hoar and Lodge, honored everywhere for their distinguished services to our common country.

It was in the Massachusetts House of Representatives that John A. Andrew made the speech for human liberty which touched the hearts of his fellow-citizens and made him your great War Governor. Nor do I forget that at one time the Speaker's chair of this legislative body was occupied by your former Governor and Representative in Congress, the able Secretary of the Navy, the Hon. John D. Long, whose great Department has added lustre to the American Navy and glory to the American name.

I am glad to be on this historic ground. It revives memories sacred in American life. It recalls the struggles of the founders of Massachusetts for liberty and independence. Their unselfish sacrifices, their dauntless courage, are the inspiration of all lovers of freedom everywhere. Their lives and character reach into every American home and have stimulated the best aspirations of American manhood.

In the beginning of our National existence, and even before, this was the home and fountain of liberty. It is the home of liberty now, and I am sure that what those great men of the past secured for us they would have us transmit not only to our descendants, but carry to oppressed peoples whose interests and welfare by the fortunes of war are committed to us.

We may regard the situation before us as a burden or as an opportunity, but whether the one or the other, it is here, and conscience and civilization require us to meet it bravely. Desertion of duty is not an American habit. It was not the custom of the Fathers, and will not be the practice of their sons.

LONG AND GAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

The applause that followed the remarks of the President continued for some minutes. The members of the joint convention were then introduced to the President, who took a place in front of the Speaker's desk.

After the members had resumed their seats there were loud cries for Secretary Long, who spoke for several minutes in a humorous way, and then said:

I know I voice your sentiments when I say that you take great pleasure in welcoming the President of the United States and his Cabinet. If ever there was a President whose purposes were high and pure, and who had the noble courage to carry out his convictions, it is the present President of the United States. He holds a place in the affections, as well as in the confidence, not only of the people of Massachusetts, but all of the people of the whole country, which is unsurpassed in the annals of the great office he holds. And the men who are associated with him are worthy of the trust which is now put in their hands. The best evidence of the manner in which they have met their responsibilities is in the results, and these results are great in the progress of the civilization and the enfranchisement of the world to which our country above all others is committed.

Secretary Long then raised the gavel and pronounced the familiar formula for adjournment, to the amusement of all present, and added: "But before concluding the session I wish to improve the opportunity to present to you the man who presides over the finances of the Nation, the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, Lyman J. Gage." Secretary Gage, in response, said:

As Secretary of the Treasury it has not been my duty to stand in the front with the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy in carrying the great responsibilities which had to do with the winning of victories for the American Army and Navy and honor for the American flag. It has been my simple duty to stay by the "stuff" (laughter and applause), and I often think that in many respects it is the more kind duty of the two. It seems to be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to pay out, and it is no part of his duty to appropriate. Somebody else does that, and he is expected to provide.

The country is to be congratulated that under the administration of this faithful President no question of the standard of payment has arisen, even in the face of the great National conflict. We may look forward with hope that the future will have bright prospects for us in store.

TRIP THROUGH THE SUBWAY.

This ended the speechmaking, and the President and his party withdrew amid applause and cheers, led by a prominent Democratic member. It had been planned that the President should proceed at once to the Algonquin Club, but at the last moment he decided to accept the invitation of the Transit Commissioners and General Bancroft, of the Boston Elevated Railroad Company, to inspect the subway. Therefore the procession passed to the Temple Place entrance of the system. Two special cars had been reserved for the party, who went over the regular route to the north station, rounded the loop and, returning, crossed over the Boylston-st. line to the Church-st. entrance. There the party alighted, were met by their escort, and proceeded to the Back Bay.

TALK TO BUSINESS MEN.

The last occurrence of the President's visit to Boston was the breakfast at the Algonquin Club, tendered to him by the Commercial Club. The party arrived at the clubhouse shortly after 1 o'clock, and after a short reception repaired to the dining-hall. The decorations were all floral, and were beautiful.

Charles F. Choate, president of the Commercial Club, presided. At the principal table with him, besides President McKinley, were the Presidential party, Governor Wolcott, Mayor Quincy and Alexander S. Wheeler. When the President arose to speak he was warmly greeted. He said:

Gentlemen of the Commercial Club: I am glad to meet the members of the Commercial Club and the business men of Boston here assembled. I rejoice with them upon the better conditions of trade now prevailing throughout the country. The last twelve months have marked great changes and brought business improvement to industrial America. The man of affairs feels better because his affairs are in a better state. He is more comfortable than he has been for many years. He has taken on new courage and confidence. He is satisfied with the revenue and financial policies of his country. He can now make accurate calculation on the future.

The last year has recorded a volume of business, domestic and foreign, unparalleled in any former operations of the United States. Our enormous export trade had made American balances satisfactory, and almost for the first time the money of the country has been so abundant and the wealth of the country so great that our capitalists have sought foreign investments. We are fast going from a debtor to a creditor Nation. I hope nothing will check it.

We have quit discussing the tariff and have turned our attention to getting trade wherever it can be found. It will be a long time before any change can be had or any change desired in our present fiscal policy, except to strengthen it. The differences on this question which existed have disappeared. We have turned from academic theories to trade conditions, and are seeking our share of the world's markets.

Not only is our business good, but our money is good. There is no longer any fear of debased currency; it has been happily dispelled. The highest and best standard recognized by the leading commercial nations has been maintained, and it has been done without a resort to loans. The cause of sound money has advanced in the last two years. Honest finance has made positive gains. I do not think we quite appreciate yet the full measure of its success.

Both branches of Congress on the 4th of March next will have an unquestioned majority opposed to any demoralization of our currency and committed to uphold the world's standard. Certainly for two years every branch of the National Government will be united for good currency and the inviolability of our National obligations and credit. The investments and other enterprises of the people can therefore not be unsettled by sudden changes.

We have been engaged in war. Two hundred and seventy thousand of our citizens have been in the field; our sailors have been afloat in two hemispheres, and yet the business of the country has been steadily growing, our resources multiplying, the energy of our people quickened, and at the end of our glorious land and naval triumphs we find our country in a condition of almost unparalleled activity and prosperity.

Our domestic situation is fortunate indeed, considering the new questions which we must meet and solve. That they will be settled on the lines of right and duty I cannot doubt, and that the business men of Boston and of the whole country will be an active and helpful force in their rightful solution I confidently believe.

The President was followed by Secretary Gage, Secretary Long and Congressman Grosvenor. The President held a short reception after the breakfast, and at 4:50 drove to the South Terminal Station. The special train started at 5:10 for Washington.

CASE AGAINST PROF. STEPHENS.

HIS COUNSEL ASSERTS THAT IT IS BASED ON EXTORTED CONFESSION.

Easton, Penn., Feb. 17.—The trial of Professor Stephens, charged with burning Pardee Hall, was resumed this morning. John Carey, of the Columbia House, Phillipsburg, where Stephens stayed the night Pardee Hall was burned, was the first witness called. Carey had with him his register to show that "Aaron Snyder, Scranton," (the name Stephens wrote in the book) was at the house on the night of December 17, 1897. Stephens did not register until after midnight of the 17th.

Quintus Messenger, a watchman at Lafayette College, told of his encounter in the college chapel on a dark night in June last with "a living creature." He was stationed there to watch for the person who had been committing depredations in the building. He heard the door of the chapel open. Then an object stole toward the organ. When the intruder raised the lid of the instrument Messenger struck out with a piece of hose. He hit the organ. A second blow came into contact with his unknown visitor. Messenger did not know whom or what he had struck. He found a key in the door entered by the intruder. Later it turned out that the key was the one given to Stephens when he was an instructor at the college, and which he did not return when he was forced to go away.

Charles Zimmerman, a student friend of Professor Stephens, told of a blue mark on Professor Stephens's forehead the day after the latter's experience in the chapel with the night watchman. Zimmerman also identified the signature "Aaron Snyder," on the Columbia House register as the writing of Professor Stephens. Professor Moore identified the key found at Stephens's home as one fitting the door in Pardee Hall. This closed the Commonwealth's case, and counsel for the defence addressed the jury. Counsel contended that there was practically nothing in the case except the confession his client had made. The confession, he said, was extorted from the defendant, the prisoner was so oppressed that he did not know what he was saying.

To the surprise of every one, the taking of testimony was abruptly concluded this afternoon. Stephens insisted upon going on the stand, contrary to the advice of his counsel. His lawyers then asked for a recess, in order to hold a consultation with the prisoner. While they were expected by the jury room an exciting scene took place. Stephens became vexed when the lawyers persisted in objecting to his going on the stand, and, it is said, they threatened to abandon the case altogether. After a half hour's delay, Mr. Shipman returned to the courtroom and asked permission to enter a plea of guilty. Judge Scott would not permit this, whereupon Shipman announced that the defence had concluded its testimony and he began to plead to the jury.

NO BOOKS PRODUCED BY STANDARD OIL CO.

SECRETARY GIVES FORMAL REASONS FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENT.

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 17.—The Standard Oil Company refused again to-day to produce its books in evidence at the investigation resumed before Master Commissioner Brinsmade, and Attorney-General Monett asked that F. B. Squire, secretary of the company, be committed to jail for contempt of court.

Colonel Brinsmade refused to send Mr. Squire to jail, but said that he would certify all the records to the Supreme Court and let the Court decide whether a penalty should be inflicted for the refusal to answer the question.

Squire was the only Standard Oil Company official to appear at the hearing of the half-dozen or more summoned. He submitted his reasons for refusing to show the company's books, as follows:

First—Because they are demanded in an action instituted against the Standard Oil Company for contempt of court, and I am informed that to enforce their production for such a purpose is an unreasonable search and seizure.

Second—Because the books disclose facts and circumstances which may be used against the Standard, tending to prove it guilty of offences made criminal by an act of the Legislature of Ohio passed on April 19, 1898.

Third—Because they disclose facts and circumstances which may be used against myself personally as an officer of said company, tending to prove me guilty of offences made criminal by the act aforesaid.

SAYS HIS WIFE WAS A DOMESTIC SERVANT.

MR. PYOTT DOES NOT WANT TO SUPPORT HER—SHE CLAIMS KIN WITH WELL-KNOWN PERSONS.

Chicago, Feb. 17.—A separate maintenance suit by Mrs. Jeannette C. Pyott against Joseph C. Pyott developed curious details to-day. In a cross-bill the defendant asserts that Mrs. Pyott is not a fit person to be his wife, as she had been a domestic servant in Scotland before coming to America. On the other hand, Mrs. Pyott, who is fifty years old, makes affidavit that she is a lineal descendant of the Lord of Glasgow and a near relative to other well-known persons, including the Clarks, the thread manufacturers of Glasgow. Pyott, who is seventy-two years old, was married at Sedley, Ind., on October 20, 1898. Mrs. Pyott's maiden name was Orr.

ELECTRIC POWER TO OPEN A BANK VAULT.

ROBBERS CONNECT A DRILLING MACHINE WITH TROLLEY WIRE—SECURE NO MONEY.

Oberlin, Ohio, Feb. 17.—Bank robbers gained entrance to the vault of the Oberlin Banking Company between midnight and 2 o'clock this morning. They connected the trolley wire of the Cleveland, Berea, Elyria and Ohio Electric road, which runs past the bank, to a drilling machine to operate on the outside door of the vault. After forcing this door the robbers inserted a charge of powder and blew the interior of the vault to pieces. The walls on all sides were badly shattered, plastering was torn off and the vault doors were blown over twenty feet out of their settings. However, no money was secured, as the robbers failed to get into the big safe, evidently for lack of time. The papers and books inside the vault were practically destroyed. No clew whatever has been found to the perpetrators of the crime.

JAPANESE TRY TO BRIBE INSPECTOR.

San Francisco, Feb. 16.—On the steamer Queen, which arrived from British Columbia, were eleven Japanese. Inspector Geffney boarded the vessel and proceeded to examine them. The first man examined handed the inspector $5 and the other ten followed suit. The inspector ordered their arrest for attempted bribery, and believes that their action was conclusive evidence of their presence in this country being illegal.

TEMERARIO TO GUARD ESQUIMAULT.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 17.—Esquimault is to have a guardship. The third-class battle-ship Temerario is now being fitted out at Davenport for her voyage to Esquimault, to which station she has been appointed as port guardian. The Temerario carries eight guns. Her displacement is 8,340 tons, and she carries about four hundred men.

Dead Man's Island, in Burrard Inlet, close to Stanley Park, has been sold to a Mr. Lindgate, of Peterboro, Ont. The island is a part of the Imperial Government reserve, but the British authorities at Esquimault say the island is of no use for military purposes.

SEES HER CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH.

Philadelphia, Feb. 17.—A special dispatch to "The Evening Telegram" from Dubois, Penn., says that a dwelling-house at French Run, thirty-five miles east of Dubois, belonging to a woodsman named Carlson, was burned this morning. Carlson was away from home, but his wife and five little children were in the house. The mother was awakened by the noise of crackling wood, and had just time to grasp her baby and jump from a second-story window into the snow. She was then obliged to stand and witness the burning to death of her four other little ones, ages twelve, seven, five and two, respectively.

BEEF INVESTIGATION BEGUN.

THE COURT OF INQUIRY HOLDS A SECRET SESSION.

GENERAL MILES MAY TESTIFY ON MONDAY—WESTERN PACKING-HOUSES TO BE VISITED.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The Court of Inquiry to investigate the charges made by General Miles in regard to the quality of the beef furnished to the Army met to-day in the rooms formerly occupied by the War Investigating Commission in the Lemon Building. The full membership was present, and the Court went into secret session to discuss the preliminaries of the proceedings and to map out the line of inquiry to be pursued.

Colonel Davis, the recorder, said this afternoon that probably all of to-morrow will be occupied in examining reports of regimental and other commanders who took part in the Cuban and Porto Rican campaigns, the object being to select witnesses to be summoned. In addition to these reports, the proceedings of the War Investigating Commission will be looked to for suggestions of witnesses. The taking of testimony is not likely to begin before Monday. The session then will be open. General Miles is expected to testify first, presenting his charges and the foundation for them. The investigation will be limited strictly to canned roast beef and refrigerated beef, but the scope of the inquiry will be so comprehensive as to follow the beef from packer to private soldier, so that the action of the packers and all War Department officials connected with the beef supply will be investigated. Colonel Davis said that the inquiry would continue indefinitely, and he could give no idea as to when it would end.

Speaking further of the investigation and the probable testimony, Colonel Davis said the Court was not limited in its sittings to Washington, but, under the order convening it, could travel from place to place. The list of witnesses will include many civilians, as well as Army officers. Suggestions as to witnesses from any quarter, Colonel Davis said, would be considered, and all would be summoned who might throw any light on the controversy.

It was learned this afternoon that the Court has practically determined to visit the packing-houses in Western cities from which beef was furnished. Chicago, South Omaha, Kansas City, and perhaps St. Louis, will be visited.

Some of the officers whose reports General Miles has submitted to the Court are now in the Philippines. Their testimony will not be sought. Of course, they could not be ordered here, and the taking of their depositions would be attended with too much delay and inconvenience. It was pointed out by a member of the Court that their testimony would be cumulative, and therefore really unnecessary, since it would be in accord generally with what would come from officers who are accessible. The depositions of a number of officers now in Cuba will be taken.

The Court will meet at 10:30 a. m. to-morrow and resume behind closed doors the work of mapping out the plan of procedure and preparing the list of witnesses to be summoned.

The Board appointed to fix the responsibility for the loss of 200,000 pounds of beef furnished to the Porto Rican expedition has not finished hearing testimony, and has not framed its conclusions. Captain Scherer, the recorder of the Board, said to-day that it would be two weeks before any report would be ready, as the Board was awaiting important testimony in response to the series of questions sent to officers and others connected with the expedition. Until these answers are received it will be impossible to reach conclusions.

BUSINESS IN THE SENATE.

THE NAVAL PERSONNEL BILL PASSED WITH SOME AMENDMENTS.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The Naval Personnel bill, for which the Navy has been contending for many years, was passed by the Senate this afternoon. The committee amendments striking out Sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 were agreed to. After a long discussion the regular amendments of the committee were adopted. Mr. Hale then offered the following amendment to Section 10:

Provided further, That any officer who has been or may be transferred to the Construction Corps for special ordnance duty shall be considered an additional officer in such corps, shall take rank with the other members of such corps according to the respective dates of the completion of their four years' course at the Naval Academy and standing on the merit roll, and shall be promoted to higher rank with the officer next below him.

This was agreed to, and the bill was reported to the Senate from the Committee of the Whole. The striking out of Sections 13 and 14 was antagonized by Mr. Lindsay. After considerable discussion, however, the amendment of the committee was adopted. Mr. Lindsay then offered the following amendment, which was agreed to:

That all the naval cadets of the line and engineer divisions who shall have completed the four years' course at the Naval Academy, and who served at sea in the late war with Spain, shall be commissioned in the lowest grade of the line or Marine Corps, and the members of each class shall take rank among themselves according to their graduating multiples as determined at the end of the four years' course at the Naval Academy.

The bill was then passed. The Senate insisted on its amendments, and appointed Senators Hale, Chandler and Tillman as conferees.

Mr. Hawley, chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, gave notice that on Monday at the close of routine business he would move to take up the Army Reorganization bill.

The remainder of the session was devoted to passage of bills on the private pension calendar, seventy-four in number, and to the reading of the Alaska Code bill.

MOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS.

THE IROQUOIS AT HONOLULU—THE OREGON PROBABLY ON THE WAY TO MANILA.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The Iroquois arrived at Honolulu with dispatches for the United States officials there and for the Oregon on January 28. It is supposed that the latter ship has already put in at Honolulu and departed on her way to Manila. The Baltimore and the Monterey arrived at Hong Kong to-day from Manila, probably for supplies and some repairs. The Sterling arrived at Boston to-day to go out of commission. The Justin has arrived at Mare Island and been placed out of commission.

PERRY BELMONT NOT IN THE COMPANY.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Perry Belmont, whose name was mentioned in a recent Associated Press dispatch as interested in the reorganized company which is to succeed the Holland Torpedo-boat Company in the construction of the submarine boat Plunger for the Navy, is, according to his own statement, not connected in any manner with the enterprise. The statement in the original dispatch was based on a formal letter to the Navy Department from C. E. Creey, representing himself to be the attorney for both the old and the reorganized company.

A PENSION FOR GENERAL PALMER.

Washington, Feb. 17.—In the Senate to-day Mr. Gallinger called up the bill granting a pension to John M. Palmer, formerly a Senator from Illinois. The Senate passed a bill granting General Palmer a pension of $100 a month, but the House reduced the amount to $50 a month. Mr. Gallinger said he understood that General Palmer was in almost destitute circumstances, and while he felt that the distinguished soldier was entitled to the amount carried by the Senate bill, he did not think it desirable to risk a failure of the bill by sending it to conference. He then asked that the bill as amended by the House be agreed to. This was done, and the bill goes now to the President for his signature.

EIGHTY-ONE LOCOMOTIVES FOR CHINA.

Philadelphia, Feb. 17.—The Baldwin Locomotive Works has just closed a contract for the building of eighty-one locomotives, the largest single order ever received by the company. The locomotives are for use on new railroads now under construction in China. The contract was under consideration about a year ago, but the breaking out of the war with Spain opened up such an element of doubt regarding safe delivery that the matter was dropped for the time. The negotiations were recently renewed, and have just been brought to a conclusion and the contract signed. Over $[illegible] is involved in the work, and the Baldwin company will rapidly push the construction of the locomotives. Shipment to China will begin in the course of a few weeks.

CANAL MEN WIN A POINT.

NICARAGUA MEASURE ATTACHED TO THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

ACTION OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE—PROVISION FOR NEW-YORK HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The Senate Committee on Commerce decided to-day to put the Nicaragua Canal bill on the River and Harbor bill. Senator Morgan made a brief argument favorable to the construction of the canal. He controverted the opinion that the addition of the amendment would be detrimental to the interests of the River and Harbor bill, and expressed a preference for that measure over the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill as a vehicle to carry the Canal bill. There was no prolonged discussion, and there seemed little division of opinion as to the wisdom of attaching the amendment to one of the appropriation measures. Some of the members desired that the amendment should go on the Sundry Civil bill, but a motion to recommend that it be incorporated in that measure was voted down. Senator Nelson then moved the amendment to the River and Harbor bill, which prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes—Messrs. Nelson, Berry, Penrose, McBride, McMillan, Elkins and Jones (Nev.).

Senator Frye, chairman of the committee, did not vote.

Noes—Messrs. Caffery, Mills, Pasco and Murphy.

While Senator Caffery voted against the amendment, he did not indicate any purpose to oppose the passage of the bill in the Senate because of the incorporation of the canal provision. He joined with all the other members of the committee in the vote to report the bill with the amendment added.

The committee completed consideration of the River and Harbor bill. Aside from the Nicaragua Canal the cash appropriations are increased about $2,000,000 over the amount voted by the House, while the amount of continuing contracts is increased about $10,000,000.

Senator Frye made the following summary of the changes:

The increases on limitations on contracts are only in the important harbors, as follows: New-York Harbor, North Channel to the ocean, through East Channel, together with Bay Ridge and Red Hook channels, $6,500,000, increase, providing a depth of 40 feet and a width of 1,200 feet; Hudson River, increase, $1,000,000; East River, for the removal of rocks, $150,000 increase; Baltimore Harbor and Patapsco River, increase, $1,000,000; Delaware River and Philadelphia Harbor, to obtain a 30-foot channel, increase $1,000,000; Sandy Bay Harbor of Refuge (Massachusetts), $1,000,000 increase; Southwest Pass, mouth of the Mississippi River, increase of $1,500,000 to make a 35-foot channel; Galveston to Houston, Tex., increase of about $1,000,000.

The total expenditure in this increase will be spread over two or three years, contracts being authorized for the full amount of increases. The House bill was decreased by striking out sundry items to the extent of over $2,300,000. The net increase for the next fiscal year was about $2,000,000, and the net increase of continuing contracts to the extent of about $12,500,000. The whole bill, exclusive of the Nicaragua Canal amendment, carries an expenditure for the next year to the amount of about $14,000,000, and for the following two or three years of about $28,000,000, making a total expenditure of about $42,000,000.

Other important changes than those indicated in Senator Frye's statement are New-Haven Harbor, continuing contract reduced from $295,000 to $250,000; Buffalo Harbor, continuing contract reduced from $198,113 to $175,000; Plymouth, Mass., increase from $10,000 to $85,000; Bridgeport, Conn., limit of contract reduced from $288,327 to $250,000; Absecon Inlet, N. J. (new item), cash appropriation of $10,000, limit fixed at $450,000; Wilmington, Del., limit of appropriation increased $175,780 to $270,780; Hillsboro Bay, Fla. (new item), cash appropriation, $100,000, limit fixed at $800,000; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, cash appropriation, $100,000 (new); Harlem River, New-York, increased from $25,000 to $100,000; East River and Hell Gate, increased from $100,000 to $250,000; Potomac River, increased from $30,000 to $100,000, and limit fixed at $150,000; Anacostia River (new appropriation), $200,000; James River, Va., decrease from $150,000 to $100,000; Waccee River, S. C., a direct appropriation is made and limit fixed at $100,000; St. Johns River, Fla., from Jacksonville to the ocean, limit fixed at $1,250,750.

The following decreases in limitations on final cost were made after the decision was reached to insert the Nicaragua Canal amendment: Boston, $600,000; Toledo, from $825,000 to $300,000; San Francisco, from $5,000 to $500,000; Calumet, from $850,000 to $600,000. The continuing contract on the Chicago River was stricken out.

The following are the amendments to the River and Harbor bill relating to New-York Harbor:

Improving New-York Harbor, for maintenance, $100,000. For a channel 2,000 feet wide and 40 feet deep from the Narrows by the so-called East Channel across Sandy Hook Bar to the open sea. $1,000,000, and contracts are authorized in addition aggregating $3,000,000. If unable to make contracts within these limits, the bill provides that the work shall be carried on by the Secretary of War, and a provisional appropriation of $250,000 is made. Continuing improvement of Bay Ridge Channel and Red Hook Channel, New-York Harbor, $100,000. The work is to be begun at the forty-foot curve at the southern end of Bay Ridge Channel and be continued through it along the Brooklyn shore to Twenty-eighth-st. until Bay Ridge Channel shall have a uniform depth of forty feet at low tide and a width of 1,200 feet. The improvement of Red Hook Channel is to be begun at the southern end and at its junction with Bay Ridge Channel, and be continued through it to its junction on the northern end with Buttermilk Channel until Red Hook Channel has a depth of forty feet at low tide and a width of 1,200 feet. The limit of contract authorized is fixed at $2,000,000, in addition to the above appropriation.

THE ARMY REORGANIZATION BILL.

CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS MADE TOWARD A COMPROMISE IN THE SENATE.

Washington, Feb. 17.—There was a movement in the Senate to-day looking to a compromise on the Army Reorganization bill. The movement originated with several Republican Senators, who believe that a compromise is preferable to an extra session of Congress. The Cockrell bill was accepted by them as the first advance on the part of the Democrats toward an understanding, and many felt that they would go further in that direction if the Republicans should indicate a willingness to meet them halfway. The movement grew wholly out of the desire to avoid an extra session, and some of the Republican leaders took part in it. When the matter was brought to the attention of Senator Hawley, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, he gave it no countenance whatever, declaring that he was not willing to yield anything. He criticised the Cockrell bill, finding especial fault with its provisions for the enlistment of natives of the new possessions in the American Army. He announced that he would stand by his notice to call up the bill reported by the Republican members on Monday, and insist on consideration on that basis, and that only. Other Republican members of the committee did not appear so decided. Senator Proctor, who does not support the Hull bill, is expected to return to the city to-morrow, and there will then be a majority of the committee against the bill. The Democratic Senators generally assume an appearance of indifference, but the indications are that they will make some concessions. It may be said, therefore, that while no compromise has been reached, good progress toward one has been made.

NEW PACIFIC CABLE MEASURE.

SENATOR FRYE PROPOSES AN AMENDMENT TO THE SUNDRY CIVIL BILL.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Senator Frye to-day introduced an amendment to the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill for the encouragement of a Pacific cable. It provides for the payment of a subsidy not exceeding $100,000 a year for twenty years for a cable from some point in the United States on the Pacific Coast to Hawaii, Guam, the Philippine Islands, Japan and China. The contract is to be let to an American company, and to the lowest responsible bidder. The contractor is to be required to have his cable laid to Honolulu by July 1, 1900, and to Manila by January 1, 1903. The details are to be placed in the hands of the Postmaster-General, and messages of the United States are to be carried free forever. The Government is authorized to take possession of the line in case of war, and in certain contingencies is to own the line.

SUNDRY CIVIL BILL PASSED.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL AMENDMENT FINALLY SHUT OUT.

CONSIDERATION OF THE NAVAL APPROPRIATION BILL BEGUN BY THE HOUSE.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The House to-day finally passed the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, to which it had devoted over a week. No important amendment had been adopted. The Speaker's ruling on the motion to recommit the bill with instructions to incorporate in it the Nicaragua Canal amendment was sustained by a vote of 155 to 96.

The Naval Appropriation bill was taken up and over half of it was completed. There was no general opposition to the bill, although it carries $44,000,000, being $8,000,000 more than the largest Naval Appropriation bill ever passed by Congress. An attempt to defeat the provision for a joint arrangement between the Government and the Fitchburg Railroad Company at the Boston Navy Yard failed. A point of order against the provision in the bill relative to the rearrangement and reconstruction of the buildings at the Naval Academy went over until to-morrow.

THE PAYMENT TO SPAIN.

TWO BILLS APPROPRIATING THE $20,000,000 INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Two bills were introduced in the House to-day to pay Spain the $20,000,000 provided for in the Peace Treaty. One, by Representative Cannon, is in the terms of the provisions of the paragraph which was eliminated from the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill. The other was introduced by Representative Gillett, of Massachusetts, and, in addition to the appropriation, contains a second section substantially in the language of the McEnery resolution passed by the Senate. The third section is the same as the Bacon resolution offered as an amendment to the McEnery resolution, and which was defeated by a tie vote in the Senate.

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THE QUEEN'S DRAWING ROOM.

Presentation of Americans.

It has been rumored in London that the Drawing Room, which always marks the opening of the fashionable season, would not be held this year, but that the Queen would give a special audience of the foreign Ambassadors instead. This would prove a bitter disappointment to the world of fashion on both sides of the Atlantic. Nobody realizes better than does the Queen what a hold the function has on the minds of her feminine subjects, and not of her subjects only, but of the many American ladies who hope to pass through this gateway to the innermost circles of London society. The number of American ladies seeking this royal favor and on whom it is bestowed is steadily increasing, and this, combined with the growing friendship between the two branches of the Anglo-Saxon family, makes the occasion one of special interest. For weeks past the British press has given details of the preparations, while the accounts following the event as published in the daily papers and illustrated weeklies of London will be most complete in descriptions and illustrations of the brilliant scene, the gowns and the jewels, the formalities, and lists of debutantes, among whom are always mentioned a dozen or more fair Americans. This news, most carefully selected, can best be obtained, and at the low price of ten cents each clipping, from the NATIONAL PRESS CUTTINGS BUREAU, 1, Arundel Street, Strand, London, which makes a specialty of supplying interesting information on this and the thousand other subjects treated of in the newspapers. In the way of historical items, hobbies and fads, sales of curios, travel and adventure, as well as in English society and foreign commercial news, the British and Colonial papers are an inexhaustible mine.

The first and grandest Drawing Room of the season, at which Mr. Joseph Choate, the new American Ambassador, will be present, will be held by the Queen on February 24th, and persons desiring the best accounts would do well to get their or