

NO SAFETY IN BATTLE.

So Cowles Tells Senate Committee—Lessons of Missouri Disaster.

Washington, March 4.—There is no safe place in battle, declared Rear Admiral William F. Cowles, chief of the bureau of equipment, testifying to-day before the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs in the investigation of criticisms of American battleship construction. He was in command of the Missouri at the time of the worst explosion in the history of the navy. After recounting graphically the story of that accident, the admiral replied to questions as to the cause, the lessons learned from the accident and the precautions taken to prevent such occurrences in the future.

"You can't handle powder and handle it fast without having accidents," he said. "You have got to handle it fast because you must reach your gun first."

"On the principle that a man must get his hand to his pistol pocket before the other fellow," suggested Senator Tillman.

"You have got to hit the other fellow quick, and as many times as you can before he gets at you," said the admiral.

As an advocate of the open turret and the direct hoist, Admiral Cowles was enthusiastic. He asserted that they had decreased the time between rounds of fire from 300 seconds to 40 seconds.

Describing the Missouri accident, Admiral Cowles said that if the flaps on the doors of the powder magazines had been closed the ship would have been in no danger whatever. The present designs, he said, made it impossible for fire to get into the magazines under any circumstances.

The witness said that shipmates of the men killed on the Missouri had no hesitancy in going into the ill-fated turret and continuing the target practice.

Chairman Hale referred to what he called the "mania for rapid firing" which has developed in the American navy, and Admiral Cowles gave the committee to understand that he approved of that "mania" in some degree. He thought, however, that with the shutters in the ammunition hoist the men still could fire fast enough, and the Navy Department was right in declining to permit the officers to have them fastened back.

"During battle the guns will not be fired as rapidly as in target practice," said the admiral, "but we want to be ready."

He said the open hoist was less dangerous to the ship than the two-stage hoist, though it was sometimes bad for the men.

Taking up the question whether naval officers have been discouraged from submitting suggestions to the board on construction, of which he is a member, the admiral denied the charge emphatically. He said that criticisms were frequently investigated without considering the officers making them, and the experiments were always going on in technical parts of which fault was found.

"Nothing ever comes from naval officers without the board treating it with the utmost consideration," he declared.

As regards the charge that the armor belt on the American battleships was too low, Admiral Cowles said that he concurred in the views expressed by Admirals Converse and Capps. He declared that he would feel safer in going into battle with only eight inches of armor above the water line than with three feet, for that would mean an insufficient amount under the water covering the ship's vitals.

"Then you do not think it advisable to raise the belt above the water line at the expense of the width of the belt beneath?" asked Chairman Hale.

"No, sir, I think it all right as it is," was the reply.

Lieutenant Commander Cleland Davis, assistant chief of the bureau of equipment, known as one of the navy's authorities on armor plate, also expressed the opinion that the armor belt on American battleships was properly located and that the open turret and direct ammunition hoist were of the best design in use.

Commander Sims to-day made this explanation regarding his testimony before the Senate Naval Committee:

"The impression I intended to convey was that the navy was in a state of inefficiency and not prepared for war, and that owing to this state of inefficiency there was no proper system of training for the gunners. This was not the fault of the personnel, who are the best in the world, but simply because the training established by the department was incomplete and did not develop the ability of the gunners or of the materiel."

"Men are the superiors of any others in the world and they have shown since the present system of gunners' training has been established that they can equal or beat any other navy in the world."

EMPEROR TO RETAIN DOUMA SYSTEM.

St. Petersburg, March 4.—The Emperor has reaffirmed his intention to persist in the constitutional experiment. This reply was made to the ultra-radical address of the Moscow nobility and is regarded as a serious reverse to the campaign for the restoration of autocracy. The newspapers here are unanimous in saying that the Emperor's words denote the growing stability of representative institutions. Paul Milyoukov, leader of the Constitutional Democrats, considers the answer a great victory for Premier Stolypin.

M. FALLIERES TO VISIT RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, March 4.—A visit to Russia this summer by M. Fallieres, the President of France, is regarded in diplomatic circles with practical certainty as a part of the French President's long trip to return the visits of the monarchs of Sweden and Norway, and also to Copenhagen.

Owing to the projected visit of King Gustaf to Russia, M. Fallieres will not start on his trip until about the end of July. He will be escorted by a squadron of warships, which will go to Cronstadt.

Nothing is known in diplomatic circles here regarding the reported intention of King Peter of Serbia to visit Russia, or that of Emperor Nicholas to visit Italy.

Hunger or Faintness

between meals is a frequent condition of school children.

They do not get the right kind of food to nourish their bodies and brains. Try a dish of crisp

Grape-Nuts

and cream for the children's breakfast and note how they grow clear-headed, study well, learn easily and become sturdy boys and girls.

They make the best men and women, too.

There's a Reason

Some funny stories about "Big Bill" Haft are told by three brothers—Henry, Horace and Charles—in next Sunday's Tribune.

MILK SPREADS DISEASE

A Carrier of Infection—Pasteurization the Only Practicable Remedy.

Washington, March 4.—Surgeon General Walter Wyman of the Public Health Service to-day submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury a report on Milk in Its Relation to Public Health. The report is the result of an investigation ordered by President Roosevelt and conducted by federal experts under the direction of Professor M. J. Rosenau, of the hygienic laboratory. It fills seven hundred and fifty pages and is one of the most thorough studies of the milk problem yet produced. In his introduction to the twenty-two chapters of the report, Dr. Wyman states that it has been the object of the work to include all available data showing the influence of milk as a carrier of infection and the measures necessary in consequence.

Dr. Wyman declares that the ideal milk, drawn from a cow with a healthy udder and preserved from contamination, is not the milk of commerce, and cites the fact that samples of market milk in New York showed 25,000 bacteria to the cubic centimeter, London 25,888,000 and Washington 22,134,000, and he calls attention to the evidence presented in the report which is given as proof that five hundred epidemics of typhoid fever, scarlet fever and diphtheria were caused by infected milk.

The surgeon general writes: "The most important points on that probably the most important disease of cows from the standpoint of public health is tuberculosis, and that it is the most prevalent. He insists that all milk should come from either tuberculosis tested cattle or be subjected to pasteurization."

The important subject of pasteurization has been carefully studied by Rosenau, who points out its advantages and discusses its inconveniences. He recommends 60 degrees Centigrade for twenty minutes as the best temperature to use in pasteurizing milk, as this degree of heat is sufficient to destroy the pathogenic micro-organisms without detouring the milk itself.

While pasteurization is not the ideal to be sought, practically it is forced upon us and saves many lives—facts which justify its use under proper conditions.

It is recommended that, in large communities at least, pasteurization should be under the direct supervision of the health authorities.

References will be observed to the achievements of Nathan Straus in promoting the use of clean pasteurized milk for infants and the establishment of infants' milk depots, both in the United States and abroad, and it is proper here to give recognition to his philanthropic and successful efforts.

The report contains an array of evidence of the responsibility of infected milk for epidemics of typhoid fever, scarlet fever and diphtheria. John W. Trask, passed assistant surgeon general, has tabulated the data of 500 epidemics that were definitely traced to the milk supplies, including 317 typhoid epidemics, 125 scarlet fever, 51 diphtheria and 7 of pseudo-diphtheria, or epidemic sore throat. Dr. Trask gives figures to show the amazing rapidity with which typhoid and diphtheria germs increase in milk. Seventy-eight typhoid germs in a cubic centimeter of milk increased in seven days to 490,000,000; in the same time thirty-nine diphtheria germs increased to 10,000,000.

OPPOSE WOMEN VOTING.

House Committee Will Report Adversely.

Washington, March 4.—The advocates of woman suffrage, who have made life unpleasant for the two judiciary committees, have done so fruitlessly and with little chance of securing the legislation they desire. The House Committee has decided to report adversely the Davey resolution conferring on women the right to vote.

ALDRICH BILL VOTE.

Put Off Another Week—Hopkins Supports and Heyburn Attacks It.

Washington, March 4.—Senator Hopkins addressed the Senate to-day in support of the Aldrich bill, and incidentally condemned the proposition to guarantee all deposits in national banks which is contained in an amendment offered by Senator Nelson and also in the Fowler bill. Senator Heyburn made a long speech against the bill. He maintained that the measure permits banks to retire their circulation without limitation through the employment of the provisions of the Aldrich bill the United States bond secured currency would soon be entirely replaced with currency secured only by railroad bonds. Senators Teller and Knox controverted this argument.

Earlier in the day Senator Putnam presented a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information regarding every loan made by New York banks between June 1 and December 1, 1907, with the names of the borrowers. The resolution was strongly contested by Senators Aldrich, Hopkins and Dewey, the latter making a brief but forcible speech in support of the New York banks.

In the last hour of the session the army pay bill was taken up. The news of Senator Proctor's speech reached the Senate, and while no formal announcement was made the body quickly adjourned.

Senator Aldrich stated in the Senate to-day that he hoped to secure a vote on his currency bill by next Wednesday. He repeats that he is merely waiting until Senator La Follette, who is ill, is able to speak on the measure before asking for an agreement on a time to vote.

ATTITUDE OF NEW YORK CONGRESSMEN.

Washington, March 4.—The attitude of the New York delegation to the House on the financial question was outlined to-day by Representative Bennett, of that State. He said:

"The delegation will, in my judgment, stand as a unit with any body of men on either side of the chamber who will insist on this session with all opportunity for amendment, and so far as I know there are no votes in the delegation for the Aldrich bill at this time."

Mr. Bennett said that the delegation had had a meeting, and his statement represented the sentiment of them all.

CONDEMNNS THE ALDRICH BILL.

Prosperity Convention Urges the Passage of the Fowler Measure.

Baltimore, March 4.—To-night's session of the "prosperity convention" now in progress under the auspices of the Travelers and Merchants' Association was addressed by Congressman Charles N. Fowler, who spoke on "The Financial Situation" and devoted much of his time to discussion of the pending bill of which he is the author.

Following his address, resolutions were adopted declaring the recent bond secured currency, which has no relation whatever to the trade and commerce of the United States, and that there should be no further patchwork in the matter of financial currency legislation, nor cowardly political expediency. The resolutions were unanimously approved and the convention adjourned.

The resolutions called upon all merchants' associations, boards of trade and commercial organizations throughout the United States to work for the passage of the last named bill and against the Aldrich measure.

SIX HAGUE TREATIES APPROVED.

Washington, March 4.—The Committee on Foreign Relations heard to-day the Secretary of State's report on the six Hague treaties which are before the Senate for ratification. The committee, after the hearing, unreservedly approved six in executive session, unanimously approved six in the convention, which will be reported to the Senate at the first executive session, presumably on Friday.

Those approved to-day relate to the following: The opening of hostilities; laws and customs of war on land; rights and duties of neutral states and individuals in land warfare; the placing of submarine mines; bombardment and blockade; the Geneva Convention on the improvement of the conditions of the wounded in maritime warfare.

Some funny stories about "Big Bill" Haft are told by three brothers—Henry, Horace and Charles—in next Sunday's Tribune.

FIXING ARMY PAY.

Power Conferred on President as Long Ago as 1814.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, March 4.—"Alas! our civil liberties were wrecked in 1814, under a Democratic administration, with Mr. Madison as its head."

This startling announcement was made in the Senate to-day by Senator Lodge, when, in course of the debate on the army pay bill, Senators Bacon, Teller, Culberson and others declared the provision of the bill conferring on the President the right to fix the pay of the enlisted men of the army was subversive of freedom and republicanism and that it was a menace to the civil liberties of the American people.

Senator Warren, in charge of the bill, explained that the language was taken from the statute governing the pay of the enlisted men of the navy. Whereupon Senator Teller gravely protested that either he had been absent from the chamber when the provision was adopted or that he had thought the case of Senator Frazer, who offered \$300,000, Mr. Hale promptly and emphatically protested against the imputation of the Senator from Colorado. He said that in view of the great age of the Colorado statesman he was prepared to admit that he might or might not have been in the Senate when the statute was enacted, but that he, Mr. Hale, while admitting to a venerable age, protested against the charge that he was in the Senate and had advised the Senator from Colorado when the statute was enacted, which was on April 18, 1814. Mr. Teller then solemnly denied that he was in the Senate at that time.

No opposition to the increase of the pay of the army, provided by the bill, was shown except in the case of Senator Frazer, who expressed the belief that the lieutenant general and major generals should receive no increase, and that the enlisted men should receive 20, instead of 40, per cent.

The Democrats generally, however, were greatly exercised because the bill conferred on the President authority to increase the pay of all enlisted men, not to exceed 40 per cent.

LEOPOLD'S CONCESSIONS.

Control of Congo Administration and Budget Relinquished.

Brussels, March 4.—The sweeping concessions made by King Leopold in the new treaty which provides for the annexation of the Congo Independent State to Belgium are attributed to his dread of British intervention, backed by the United States. The King, it is reported, would rather run the risk of facing an international accounting of his stewardship than the former contingency.

An official forecast of the new treaty indicates that King Leopold not only surrenders the Congo domain in the Congo, the revenues from which he has enjoyed personally, but also yields control of both the administration and the budget of the Congo to the Belgian parliament. The Cape Ferrat properties, in the South of France, which the King also throws in, were bought out of his Congo profits.

King Leopold showed his resentment at the attitude of Great Britain and America at a recent court ball, when he displayed excessive coldness toward H. L. Wilson, the American Minister, and Sir Edmund Phipps, the British diplomatic representative.

BANK LAWS IN CHINA.

Effort to Introduce Western Methods—Pei-Ho Changes Course.

Peking, March 4.—The Throne has approved a series of laws intended to foster the Western system of banking in China. The Department of Communications and the Department of Finance have opened banks for the redemption of the provincial transit duties which the government plans to extend in the construction of the Che-Kiang Railroad, but up to the present time the system has met little success. The efforts made by Prince Tsai-Tse to reform the currency of China have been annulled by the contentions between the government and the various viceroys regarding the adoption of a standard coin.

The Chinese government has been informed by American engineers who visited the district that the Pei-Ho changed its course for a distance of sixty miles between Tuen-Chou and Tien-Tsin after the inundations of last August and September. The government's officials had failed to report the matter. The floods in the Pei-Ho Valley have impoverished tens of thousands of people and foreigners have spent and are still spending large sums of money to relieve the winter famine in this region. In spite of the fact that this territory the number of the population is not known. The missionaries expect to continue to add the sufferers until next May, but unless the government forces the water back into its former course and the inundated region will remain a lake and the villagers will be driven from the region.

RISE IN CAMEROONS FEARED.

Herr Dernburg Tells of Conditions in Rubber Producing Regions.

Berlin, March 4.—Herr Dernburg, the Colonial Secretary, replied at the session of the Appropriations Committee of the Reichstag to-day to questions regarding the conditions in the rubber producing districts of Cameroons. He said that charges of bad treatment of natives in the rubber producing districts of Cameroons. He said that the demand for rubber had advanced prices and that consequently there had been great efforts to develop the rich regions from agricultural pursuits to hunt for rubber. Rubber forests were being destroyed for cotton planting new trees. In many districts the government had stopped the traffic altogether, and further regulations were being made to protect the villagers along the caravan routes from violence, especially requisition of food and destruction of huts.

Herr Dernburg added that the economic feature of the situation was the worst. When the rubber supplies were exhausted the natives must return to agriculture. He said that a native insurrection was possible in the future and that the government must take measures to protect the blacks. He denied that the slave trade existed openly in this region, although in remote districts such conditions might exist.

HONDURAS RATIFIES PEACE TREATY.

Tegucigalpa, March 4.—The Honduran Congress ratified without changes to-day the treaty and conventions concluded at Washington last year by the Central American Peace Conference.

THREATS AGAINST KING ALFONSO.

Barcelona, March 4.—Placards posted throughout Barcelona to-day announcing that an attempt would be made to kill King Alfonso on his visit to the city on March 12 were torn down and destroyed by the police.

CHARGES AGAINST ADMIRAL DIKOFF.

St. Petersburg, March 4.—An interpellation was introduced in the Duma to-day demanding explanations from Admiral Dikoff, Minister of Maritime Affairs, in regard to the charges against him in the Russian naval service. It was communicated to the Russian navy secretary, the English shipbuilders, in connection with the construction of the new Russian cruiser Rurik by this firm.

EMIGRATION TO MEXICO OPPOSED.

St. Petersburg, March 4.—The "Rossia" publishes to-day a note of warning to Russian workmen against emigrating to Mexico. It says that Russia is not easily found there and that wages are unstable. It tells the experiences of parties from Vladivostok who were seduced by steamship agents to go to Mexico, with unfortunate results.

CHAMBER PACKED AGAIN

Continued from first page.

declared that he knew of several poolrooms open during the New York racing season in spite of the alleged efforts of the racing men to keep track information from them.

"Did you ever take any steps toward law enforcement by trying to close those poolrooms?" asked Senator Gilchrist.

"I might ask you," returned Mr. Brogan, "why you, having taken your oath of office to uphold the constitution of this state, which prohibits gambling, do not try to obey it by supporting this legislation?"

Mr. Gilchrist subsided.

F. K. Sturgis, secretary-treasurer of the Jockey Club, was the first speaker. He recited the history of the Jockey Club and described its work of licensing jockeys and trainers, the forefeet system, the registration of horses and its propagation of the thoroughbred strain by the distribution of stallions at various points for breeding. George M. Rommel, of the bureau of animal industry, declared that the value of the thoroughbred strain was recognized by many governments, notably Germany. The thoroughbred, he said, had reached a point where further development was possible only through racing.

Representatives of various county agricultural societies went on record as opposed to any change, whatever in the Percy-Gray law, and George E. Monroe, for the State Association of Town Agricultural Societies, declared against any change unless accompanied by a permanent appropriation. This feature of the hearing was varied by a spirited declaration that the Saratoga County Agricultural Society was for the enactment of anti-gambling legislation.

PRACTICAL STATESMANSHIP QUESTION.

John A. Hull, of the Kenilworth Racing Association and the Buffalo Driving Club, said this was a question of practical statesmanship, not of legislation exclusively for a species of human good without blood or passion. The advocates of the bills had not produced statistics to show that the Percy-Gray law was a failure.

Frank Lord, formerly deputy assistant district attorney, said his experience was that the racetracks did not corrupt the young, but that poolrooms did. Poolroom men grew rich; bookmakers did not. The Jockey Club was the best policeman the poolroom ever had.

Mr. Auerbach introduced his proposition for credit betting by the admission that "between ethics and law there is a wide gulf." He thought the clergymen and societies advocating the bills could render better service by joining hands with practical and fair organizations like the Jockey Club. Enactment of the Agnew-Hart bills would revive the crippled poolroom industry. They embodied an "academic notion." The credit betting scheme had been submitted to many practical men, and was endorsed by the Rev. Thomas R. Slicer, Commissioner Bingham, Justices Gildersleeve and Blanchard, Judge Foster, William Rand, Howard Gans and George Bordon Battle.

"Would you have the Legislature countenance betting?" asked Senator McCarren.

"It need not countenance anything of the sort. This would result in a great restriction of betting, just as it did in the first days of the Percy-Gray law."

LOUIS MARSHALL DEFENDS BILLS.

Louis Marshall, member of the constitutional convention, was the first speaker for the bills. He said he thought he knew the spirit in which the constitution was framed, and the Percy-Gray law in no way conferring law and order. The Court of Appeals had held that technically it was not unconstitutional, but to say that the court approved it was to say unwarranted things. In the latest opinions, the court could be seen to writhe because such a law was on the statute books. Mr. Marshall added:

"The question here is whether the Percy-Gray law is an offense against the constitution. I say the Governor has spoken truly and for the conscience of the state when he said that it was. He requires no defence from me. He has the good will of every man favoring law and order, and the ill will of every man against them. If you can pass a law like the Percy-Gray law it is in your power to re-establish policy or the Louisiana lottery. Mr. Morris offered \$300,000 to the Legislature of that state for a new charter for his lottery scheme. It was refused. He came here, established the Morris Park racecourse and enacted the Percy-Gray law, and almost identical with it, was declared unconstitutional just before the constitutional convention of 1894.

"The Percy-Gray law is a crime against public decency, morality and the foundations of our government. Think to what depths of depravity we are sunk when we confer law and order on a poolroom keeper that the room kept was not a racecourse authorized by statute, and that without such avertment an indictment was fatally defective. Incoherencies, inconsistencies, inconducities result from this law."

"ACT TO PERMIT SANITARY GAMBLING."

He declared that the legislators' oath of office compelled them to support these bills, and ended with the declaration that from Mr. Auerbach's description he fancied the Percy-Gray law should be termed "An act to permit sanitary gambling." Then he asked for five minutes at the end to make answer.

"I close the debate, Mr. Chairman," said the former Governor.

"Are you afraid to have me answer you?" challenged Mr. Marshall.

"Not unless you say more than you've said in your first speech," was the reply.

Assemblyman Hart then read a telegram from Governor Folk of Missouri, saying that abolition of gambling there had not hurt racing, but had improved conditions so that no one would dare attempt to bring back the old days of the gambling.

George T. Moon, of the Manufacturers' Association, flatly contradicted Mr. Lord. He said he many times had attended racetracks to rescue young men and boys from the result of indiscretion, and could substantiate this by legal evidence.

The Rev. Dr. Laidlaw, of the American Federation of Churches, read a letter from the claim agent for a surety company that one-third of the defaulters were due directly to racetrack gambling.

Daniel Colvin, of the Flatbush Taxpayers' Association, demanded: "What will you say to your people at home if you sidestep these bills or throw them down? Is it safe for Republicans in a doubtful year, with an important political campaign, to refuse to pass laws against gambling?" We dare not.

H. C. Wright, of the City Club, taking statistics from a Jockey Club pamphlet that 90 per cent of racegoers did not bet, declared that, since the associations would save the 5 per cent of gate receipts now paid to agricultural societies, if the Agnew-Hart bill were passed they would lose on 5 per cent of their present income.

"All this hubbalooboo is being made over 5 per cent of your income," he declared. "Is that worth the degradation of the young men of this State?"

Senator Saxe, trying to trip him on some of his statements about the restraining influence of the Ten Commandments and the Penal Code, got sadly mixed, so when Mr. Wright asked if he could not understand irony, the entire assembly shouted in laughter. Dr. Laidlaw replied to Jockey Club arguments about the restriction of poolrooms by a letter from Commissioner Bingham that in the New York racing season the poolrooms increased enormously.

EX-GOVERNOR BLACK'S ARGUMENT.

Ex-Governor Black then began his rebuttal. A great storm of handclapping greeted him as

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FAVOR TORRENS SYSTEM.

Advocated Before Legislative Committees. (By Telegram to The Tribune.) Albany, March 4.—No opposition was manifested to the adoption of the Torrens system of registration of land titles at the hearing held by the Senate and Assembly judiciary committees on the bill drafted as a result of an investigation into the subject. On the contrary, numerous arguments were advanced in favor of the adoption of the system.

The first speaker was Professor Alfred Reeves, of Brooklyn. A member of the faculty of the New York Law School and a member of the Torrens commission, he outlined the history of the commission, upheld the constitutionality of the proposed system and declared that its adoption would save time and money and would place the real estate of the state where money could be immediately realized.

Legal arguments in favor of the bill were advanced by Gustav W. Thompson, former deputy register of titles of Kings County, and David A. Clark, president of the Torrens commission. The benefits which were enjoyed in Massachusetts under the system were pointed out by Ralph Folks, Francis E. Ward and other speakers.

A. W. Van Thun, of the Brooklyn board of brokers, said that while he had no quarrel with the title companies he deemed them of little service. "What we want in this state," he said, "is a system to insure the stability and certainty of land titles." Others who supported the bill were Stephen M. Hays, of Staten Island, and Sydney V. Lowell, of Brooklyn.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BILL

Meets No Especial Opposition in Senate and Assembly Committees. (By Telegram to The Tribune.) Albany, March 4.—Tact approval of the project to create a state department of highways to consist of three members appointed by the next Governor, and to take over from the State Engineer the supervision of the construction of highways under the \$50,000,000 act, was expressed at the hearing to-day before the Senate and Assembly committees on internal affairs. The only material opposition to the bill, which not only creates a highway department but wipes out all existing highway laws, and makes a new highway code, was directed against the section which abolishes the county maps approved by the last Legislature and which binds the state to construct only such highways as are laid down on the maps. The reason for this was explained by Chairman Mills as due to the fact that already there are thirty bills before the Legislature seeking to amend the maps which were approved last year.

INSURANCE LAW CHANGES

Important Amendments Provided in Fancher-Hamm Bill. Albany, March 4.—Months of conference in which Governor Hughes, members of the Armstrong Insurance Investigating Committee of 1902, the chairman of the Senate and Assembly Insurance committees and representatives and agents of the insurance companies have taken part, resulted to-day in the introduction by Senator Fancher and Assemblyman Hamm, the chairman referred to, of a bill making important amendments to Section 57 of the law governing the expenses of life insurance companies.

The amendments do not change the restrictive character of the section or increase the limit of the total expense fund, but aim chiefly to equalize the effect of the charge for medical examinations. Under the new bill there is allowed each company 15 per cent of its net premium free from any deduction for medical cost, which is to be a charge only against the "loadings" in excess of 8 per cent. Another change is a proposed increase in commissions from 2 to 3 per cent for the years from the tenth to the fifteenth, and after that from 2 to 3 per cent. This percentage is to cover the actual cost of collection and the compensation for the time expended by managing agents.

NEW ASSEMBLY BILLS.

Albany, March 4.—Senator Agnew introduced a bill to-day providing for the establishment of four state workhouses for the imprisonment and support of persons confined in State Prison. This bill also requires the State Commission of Prisons to inquire into the structural and sanitary condition of the penitentiaries at Albany, Jamesville, Rochester and Buffalo as to the advisability of acquiring one or more of them for workhouses.

In a bill introduced by Assemblyman Holbrook, it is proposed to establish a bureau for examining and licensing automobile motormen, to be conducted in connection with the State Labor Department. The bureau is to be composed of a chief examiner, at an annual salary of \$2,000, and four assistants, at \$1,500 each, to be appointed by the State Commissioner of Labor.

BARGE CANAL WORK APPROVED.

Albany, March 4.—Plans for barge canal work involving the expenditure of more than \$5,000,000 were approved at a meeting of the State Canal Board to-day. The plans are embodied in three contracts, as follows: No. 39, dredging the Mohawk River, from Bedford Falls to Minerva, at an estimated cost of \$2,000,000; contract No. 40, improving the canal in Orleans County at an estimated cost of \$1,500,000; contract No. 41, damming the Oneida River at Coughdeny and constructing a lock at Baldwinsville at an estimated cost of \$1,500,000.

MIDSHIPMEN GRADUATE IN MAY