

HILL WITH CRITICS

Naval Officer Supports Arrangement of the Navy.

HAS LECTURED ABOUT DEFECTS

Replies to President's Inquiry and Declares that Faults Exist in Battle Ships—Sims Expected to Take Like Stand—Admiral Mason Defends Navy at Investigation.

One of the naval officers who has been charged in newspaper publications with having inspired articles criticizing the construction of war ships, especially that of Henry Reuterhald, the marine artist and author, has given a complete reply to the President, through the Navy Department.

This officer is Lieut. Commander Frank K. Hill, who, with Commander William S. Sims, the expert inspector of target practice, was by recent direction of the President called upon in writing to answer the assertion that they had inspired the publication of articles criticizing the navy.

Commander Hill, in his reply, meets the issue squarely. While denying the rumor that he was directly responsible for the articles in question, he asserts with much candor that, in his opinion, there are serious defects in the construction of our battle ships; that he has called attention to these matters in lectures which he has delivered in the line of duty as a lecturer before the Naval War College, and that he has called his views and opinions to the attention of the Navy Department through the medium of official reports.

He upholds Reuterhald. He says that the five principal points brought out in the Reuterhald article were identical with those which he has named in his lectures before the War College, and which he has called to the attention of the Navy Department and officers of the navy on several occasions. It is made to appear from Mr. Hill's report that these officers' views are so well known that no surprise need be felt that a naval writer like Reuterhald learned of them and wrote an article on the subject.

Even Chief Constructor Capps, who is most uncompromising in his denunciation of those who have criticized the navy from a structural standpoint, admits freely that it is not only the privilege, but the duty, of every naval officer to express his honest convictions through private official channels, in cases he finds anything in the service to criticize. The opinion is, therefore, that Lieut. Commander Hill and Commander Sims cannot be blamed by the President or the Department if they have confined their criticisms to the department and have not uttered them in public.

Sims May Do Likewise.

Mr. Hill, at least, denies that he has done more than to call attention to what he regards as serious structural defects in naval shipbuilding through the medium of his lectures before the War College and official reports to his superior officers. It is expected that Commander Sims will take the same stand.

Lieut. Commander Hill and Lieut. Commander Vogelsang, both of whom have been named in a letter to Senator Hale as officers who are able to give him some information as to the condition of our naval ships, are to be called by the Senate committee to give testimony. As the course of these officers have been held to be perfectly proper from a service standpoint, they are in no sense on the defensive.

Commander Hill's report takes the ground that there are certain defects in the armor belt of our battle ships, and he also enters into a discussion of the turret question.

Rear Admiral N. E. Mason, chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, was before the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs yesterday morning, and during his testimony, during which time he was questioned about the safety of the ammunition hoists and turret construction on war ships.

Mason Defends Policy. He defended the policy of the department, and declared that every possible precaution had been taken to prevent "harbacks" and to make the ammunition hoists safe. Replying to a question from Senator Tillman, as to the criticism of Henry Reuterhald, that no emergency hoists, as in foreign navies, were provided, and the work in the turret would be at a standstill if, for any reason, the hoist was to become disabled, Admiral Mason stated that there were no emergency appliances, and he considered this unfortunate, but said that there was not room in the turrets for them.

The turret construction and devices for hoisting shells, as in those of any other nation. The British navy had direct hoists and 56 interrupted hoists. The Japanese followed the English. The French designs were exactly like those in the United States navy.

Emergency Cables Useless. Pressed by Mr. Tillman on the subject of emergency devices for hoisting ammunition, Admiral Mason said cables were provided for use in case the hoisting cable broke, but that so much time would be required to make the adjustment that they would be useless in a great emergency, requiring speed. He admitted that sometimes electric power failed, and the work of hoisting ammunition was thereby interrupted.

Mr. Hale—Do you consider the emergency hoists necessary? Admiral Mason—No, I do not.

In regard to the adoption by the Construction Bureau of the two-stage hoists, which have been installed in the new battle ships—the Delaware, North Dakota, South Carolina, and Michigan—the admiral expressed doubt as to whether they were safer than the direct hoists. The second stage amounted to an ammunition storehouse, and if an explosion should occur there the damage would be greater than if the ammunition were in the open.

Precautions for Safety. Asked by Mr. Hale if he thought the department had done all it could to secure safety of ammunition hoists, Admiral Mason said: "I do. We have put in the shutters and have installed the two-stage lifts in the newer construction. We have new designs which we intend to adopt as soon as we can get the money from Congress, and the use of the ships long enough to make the alteration in the turrets."

Mr. Tillman—How much will these changes cost, and how long will it take? Admiral Mason—About \$3,000 for each turret, or \$15,000 for each ship. It would require a month to make the change.

Sensor Perkins inquired why the department preferred the 12-inch gun to the 13-inch gun. Admiral Mason explained that to secure a 13-inch gun that would carry the same force as a 12-inch gun would add eleven tons to the weight to be carried, and secure no better results. The department, he said, had adopted the set-down policy of discarding the 13-inch gun for the 12-inch.

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Senators Curtis and Owen, both of whom have Indian blood, engaged in a dramatic forensic encounter over the rights of the five civilized tribes.

Senator McCready, of Kentucky, made an address in opposition to the Aldrich bill. The Indian appropriation bill was discussed for two hours, but its consideration was not completed.

Unable to secure unanimous consent to fix a date for a vote on the small subsidy bill, Senator Gallinger gave notice that he would call the bill up for consideration on Monday next.

Senator Burkett made an effort to secure consideration of the Dillinger school bill, but on a point of order, made by Senator Nelson, the bill was left on the calendar.

After a short executive session, in which the amendments adopted by the last peace conference at The Hague were considered, the Senate, at 4:35 p. m., adjourned until noon to-day.

HOUSE.

A resolution requiring the Committee on Ways and Means to remove from its offices in the House wing in the Capitol to quarters in the Office Building was passed.

The House committee on the Whole proceeded to the further consideration of the army appropriation bill. The proposed increases in pay for enlisted men were knocked out on points of order.

At 5:10 the committee arose and the House adjourned until to-day at noon.

SULZER DEFENDS BRYAN.

New Yorker Says Dalmat Mistaken Facts Concerning Nebraska.

Representative Sulzer, of New York, yesterday took issue with Representative Dalmat, who, on Wednesday, produced a clipping from a morning newspaper in which some remarks rather derogatory to William Jennings Bryan were set forth.

Mr. Sulzer said that the article in question, which he understood Mr. Dalmat to say, was a report of a resolution adopted by the Virginia Democratic Association, was a misstatement of fact. He produced an affidavit from R. E. Yelott, president of the Virginia Democratic Association, in which Mr. Yelott disclaimed the resolution, and said that it had never been voted upon by his association.

Mr. Sulzer said the purport of Mr. Dalmat's speech, that part, at least, in which he referred to Bryan, had been to place facts which were incorrect before the public, through the Congressional Record.

Mr. Dalmat, who entered the hall before the New Yorker finished speaking, said that he had no intention of mistating the facts, and said that Mr. Sulzer was "raising a tempest in a teapot."

The record will show that the "resolution" was not a resolution, which was Mr. Sulzer's desire.

BELT TO GET PENSION.

Senate Approves Testimonial to Fire Chief's Worth.

The Senate yesterday concurred in the House amendment to the Metropolitan police pension law, providing that Chief Bell, of the Washington fire department, shall receive on his retirement a pension of \$45 a month.

There was no objection to the amendment, it being the sense of the Senate that the chief's long and honorable service to the city was deserving of consideration. The President's signature will now make the amendment part of the law.

NAVY YARD TRACK TO STAY

Senate Amends Bill and Railroad Is Enjoyed by Court.

Government Will Buy Right of Way for New Line and Company Will Accept This Compromise.

Two events which occurred yesterday will have the combined effect of preventing the Washington Navy Yard from being cut off from rail communication with the outside world.

The Senate passed the Carter bill to require the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad Company to construct a new track connecting with the navy yard along the bank of the Anacostia River and to maintain the present track connection pending the completion of the new line, after amending the bill so as to authorize the payment by the government of \$25,000 to the railroad for the private right of way which must be secured for the new line.

Chief Justice Clegg, in the District Supreme court, issued a temporary injunction restraining the railroad from removing the present track connection, or in any way interfering with its use.

The injunction is made returnable on March 20 for argument. This assures sufficient time for the bill to pass the House and receive the signature of the President. It relieves the railroad company from the necessity of tearing up the tracks before midnight-to-night in order to get the \$2,500,000 which the government still owes on the sum allowed the company by the Union Station act. The money was withheld by the terms of the act to assure the removal of the tracks.

The company will not oppose the injunction, since it is thereby relieved from the necessity of the station act. It regards the navy yard track, which is the subject of the bill, as a public highway.

It is believed that the bill yesterday passed the Senate will not be opposed in the House, and that the danger of isolation which threatened the yard has been disposed of effectually.

PINCHOT PLEADS FOR TREES.

Forester Explains Action of Woods to House Committee.

Argument was yesterday made before the House Committee on Judiciary in support of the constitutionality of the bill providing for the creation of a forest reserve on the Appalachian and White Mountain ranges for the preservation of the navigable streams of the Eastern part of the United States.

The Gifford Pinchot, chief forester of the United States, illustrated with a glass of water and a piece of blotting paper the effect of forests in controlling the flow of rivers. Forests, he said, act like blotting paper and absorb the rainfall, making the supply of the streams slow and steady. Forests also, he declared, increase the rainfall by about 10 per cent.

The argument was that, as the Federal government had control of interstate commerce, it had the right to take such action as would keep the streams navigable and, therefore, preserve the rivers so they should be navigable. No action was taken.

Will Aid Pensioners.

A bill was introduced in the House yesterday by Representative Fassett, of New York, authorizing mail carriers to certify pension vouchers for persons on the pension rolls who receive their mail by rural delivery service.

WILLEY HEARINGS END.

The subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee has practically finished the hearings in the case of the impeachment proceedings against Judge Leubus R. Willey. It is probable that the committee will cross-examine Lorin Andrews, an attorney of Shanghai, who drew up the charges against Judge Willey, some time next week.

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INDIAN SOLDIERS GLASH

Senators Owen and Curtis Have Warm Debate.

CONTEST IS PURELY VERBAL

But Asperity Is More Prominent Than Senatorial Courtesy—Oklahoma Defends Citizenship Rights of His Adopted Tribe—Gore Suggests Recognition of Belles.

The United States Senate yesterday was the battleground of the Cherokee and the Kaw Indian nations; but, alas, the Indian nowadays uses neither tomahawk nor thunder stick, so that the battle was a bloodless one.

Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, who has Cherokee blood in his veins, and Senator Curtis, of Kansas, who is proud of the fact that he is one of the last remaining Kaws, were the principals, and the weapons were words, that at times held more of asperity than of Senatorial courtesy.

The Indian appropriation bill was being considered, and Senator Owen wanted to amend a line of the bill by inserting before the word "Cherokee" the qualifying word "late." Mr. Curtis objected, maintaining that the Five Civilized Tribes still occupied, legally speaking, tribal relations toward the United States government. This was, he said, both in usage and in law.

Flings Challenge at Curtis. "I'll debate the matter with the Senator from Kansas now," declared Senator Owen, rising in his seat and moving toward the center aisle. He was visibly excited.

"Sir," he added, addressing the Vice President, "I am a Senator of the United States, and a member of a living tribe of Indians, and, as such, under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior."

"Your property is under supervision, and you know it," interposed Mr. Curtis. "I deny it," retorted the Senator from Oklahoma.

"But the land you hold as an allotment from the Cherokee tribal lands is so held," replied Senator Curtis. "I agree that the land is so held, but I insist that it ought not to be," said the Cherokee Senator, returning to the fray. "I was an adopted member of the late Cherokee tribe, also a member by blood."

By the act of Congress of March 3, 1891, which I had signed, all the Indians in the Indian Territory were made citizens of the United States, with all the rights of citizens. One of these individual rights is the control of one's property."

Owen in His Element. The Senator of Cherokee blood then discussed the law affecting the property rights of Indians. For years, he has made a study of it, and his fortune of more than a million dollars has been earned as a lawyer in litigation affecting Indian property rights.

Mr. Curtis sought to interrupt him. "I decline to be interrupted," snapped the Cherokee Senator.

Mr. Curtis was plainly nettled by the summary manner in which the only other Senator of Indian ancestry had cast him off, for when Mr. Owen later offered to entertain the question from his Kaw brother, the latter replied: "I have no question to ask now."

Mr. Owen continued in an impassioned speech to defend his individual rights as a citizen of the United States of Indian blood. He denounced the construction placed upon the law by the Interior Department, by which the government still seeks to control allotted lands. He said that the insertion of the word "late" was necessary to give the Indian a proper status.

A little later in the course of his remarks Mr. Owen was interrupted by his Kaw colleague, Mr. Curtis, who decided that after all he would condescend to ask a question.

Belligerent Rights Demanded. Then Mr. Owen appeared unwilling to yield, his Cherokee blood having mounted. This moved Mr. Owen's colleague, Mr. Gore, the blind Senator, to request the Vice President to "recognize the belligerent rights to these two Indians."

This caused an uproar of laughter, but Vice President Fairbanks considered it no laughing matter, and reprimanded the galleries severely.

Again Senator Curtis sought to interpose a question. "Does the Senator from Oklahoma yield?" asked the Vice President.

"Oh, yes," replied Mr. Owen, waving his hand in a depreciating way toward his Kaw brother.

"Well, you don't need to," snapped Mr. Curtis, his eyes flashing. "I wanted to ask if it isn't time that the government exercise legal control over your Cherokee tribal lands?"

"The Senator from Kansas, I presume, believes it," said Mr. Owen. "But I hold that, as a citizen of the United States, I can dispose of my property—sell it, give it away—and there is no power in the Federal Government to prevent it."

Carter Has Narrow Escape. Senator Carter, of Montana, tried to get in, but his white chin whiskers were grazed by the Cherokee rhetorical scalping knife, and he essayed no further interruption.

The colloquy was interrupted by the unfinished business, laid before the Senate at 2 o'clock. The Cherokee Senator rushed over to the Republican side and extended his hand to the Kaw brother.

"They seem to have buried the hatchet," remarked Senator Carter; and the galleries roared again.

After the Aldrich bill had been discussed by Senator McCready, the Senator from Oklahoma again took the floor and reopened the Indian debate. This time, however, there was no belligerency, and Senator McCready took up the subject for Senator Owen's contention. A long legal debate ensued, and when the vote was put Senator Owen's amendment was lost.

OPPOSE VOTE ON SUBSIDIES.

Senator Gallinger Fails to Get Date for Action Settled Upon.

Senator Gallinger made an effort in the Senate yesterday to have Thursday, March 5, fixed as the date for a vote on the ocean mail subsidy bill. That date being objected to by Senator Simmons, he proposed the Monday following.

An objection prevented an agreement, and finally the Senator from New Hampshire contented himself with permission to have the bill considered next Monday. Senator Simmons and other Democratic Senators are preparing to speak on the bill.

WILLEY HEARINGS END.

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PRESS GALLERY—No. 28.



JOHN P. MILLER.

Mr. Miller is the manager of the Washington bureau of the Baltimore Sun. He is a native of Maryland. After leaving Georgetown College, he began newspaper work on the Washington Post. He served that paper one year, leaving to take charge of the political work on the Washington Evening Star, a position which he filled for twenty years with credit to himself and to the paper.

In addition to his work on the Star, Mr. Miller was correspondent of the Philadelphia Evening Telegraph, in which his analytical sketches of public men were quoted widely and translated into foreign languages. He also wrote for the New York Commercial Advertiser, during which time he achieved a national reputation as an authority upon international questions.

Mr. Miller scored a famous feat in publishing the first letter of Mr. Olney to Great Britain, demanding that the Venezuelan boundary question be submitted to arbitration. He was also the first to announce the recall of the Italian Ambassador. He is a member of the Gridiron Club.

WORKING FOR COMMISSION

Public Service Board for District Gains Favor.

House Committee Begins Planning to Curb Corporations—Will Have Public Hearings.

The first few steps in the attempt to give the District of Columbia a public-service commission have been taken, and, if the plans formulated by the House District Committee do not fail, the remainder of those steps will soon be taken, and the bill to create such a commission may be brought before the House.

While the committee took no definite action at yesterday's meeting, it was decided that there will be public hearings on the question of the creation of such a commission, and that such hearings will be begun as soon as possible.

It is the present intention of the committee to try to have the contemplated legislation in shape for presentation to the House in about three weeks. The next District day will be next Monday, but it is out of the question that such an important measure can be framed by that day.

Two weeks from Monday is another District day in the House, and at that time, it is said, a bill for the public-service commission will be brought upon the floor.

PRESIDENT FOR BATES BILL.

Executive Wants Congress to Fortify Pearl Harbor.

President Roosevelt regards the Bates bill, introduced on Wednesday, providing that a naval station shall be established in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as one of the most important measures up for consideration in Congress.

Representative Bates, author of the bill, was called to the White House yesterday. The President desired to talk to him about the proposed fortification of the Hawaiian harbor. Mr. Bates is the authority for the statement that the President is deeply interested in the Pearl Harbor bill, and is hopeful that it will be passed by Congress before adjournment.

FOWLER BILL APPROVED.

House to Get Favorable Report on Currency Measure.

A decision to report the Fowler asset currency bill was reached by the House Committee on Banking and Currency yesterday. The author of the measure, Representative Fowler, of New Jersey, who is chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, will report the bill probably this week.

The Fowler bill is not unanimously indorsed by the House committee. Mr. Fowler will report it with some Democratic, as well as Republican, votes.

NO INCREASE FOR SOLDIERS.

Fatal Points of Order Knock Out Proposed Pay Changes.

The House spent most of yesterday's session discussing a point of order made by Representative Tawney, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, against the proposed increase of pay of enlisted men of the army.

Every one who spoke declared himself to be in favor of the increase, but Mr. Tawney and those who took the same view insisted that it should come in a separate bill, in accordance with the rules. All provisions in the bill affecting the rate of pay for enlisted men went out on points of order.

Favor Arlington Road.

No action was taken yesterday by the House Committee on Military Affairs on the Carlin bill, proposing to construct a macadam driveway from the end of the new highway bridge across the Potomac River to Arlington. Several persons spoke in favor of the bill, which, if passed, will result in the shortening of the distance from this city to Arlington by almost two miles.

HAGUE TREATIES IN

President Submits to Senate Results of Conference.

AMERICANS DECLINE THREE

Ten Conventions and One Declaration, However, Received Approval of Delegates from This Country. Progress in Humanizing War Shown in Subjects Death With.

President Roosevelt sent to the Senate yesterday authenticated copies of thirteen treaties and one declaration, adopted by the Hague Peace Conference last summer.

Of the thirteen conventions, ten were signed by the American delegation. The three treaties which the American delegates declined to sign were a treaty relating to the treatment of the enemy's merchant ships at the outbreak of hostilities, a treaty regarding the conversion of merchant ships into ships of war, and a treaty relating to the rights and duties of neutral powers in war.

In the act finale adopted by the conference the American delegation made a reservation in regard to an expression of the view of the conference respecting compulsory arbitration. This reservation was made because the delegates regarded the expression in favor of compulsory arbitration as a mere expression of opinion, which was not accompanied by any substantial treaty.

On Use of War Balloons. The declaration, signed by the American delegation and submitted to the Senate along with the thirteen treaties, related to the launching of projectiles from balloons and airships.

The treaties were accompanied by a letter of transmittal written by Secretary of State Root, and the report of the American delegates, written by Dr. James Brown Scott, solicitor of the State Department.

The thirteen treaties adopted relate to the following subjects: A convention for the pacific settlement of international conflicts, being an amendment of the corresponding agreement of July 29, 1899.

A convention relative to the recovery of copyright in literary and artistic works.

A convention concerning the rights and duties of neutral states in maritime war.

A convention regarding the treatment of the enemy's merchant ships at the outbreak of hostilities.

A convention regarding the transformation of merchant ships into vessels of war.

A convention in regard to the placing of submarine mines.

A convention concerning the bombardment of undefended towns by naval forces.

A convention for the adaptation of the principles of Geneva concerning the treatment of the wounded in land wars.

A convention imposing certain restrictions upon the right of capture in maritime war.

A convention proposing the establishment of an international prize court.

What the Conference Did.

The clauses of the arbitration convention of 1899 were materially amended by the last conference. Thirty-two new articles were added, twenty-eight of which relate to the International Commission of Inquiry, and embody the results of experience gained in the operations of that tribunal, especially that secured from the Dogger Bank incident.

The convention in regard to the recovery of debts was especially urged by the American delegation, and it was vigorously supported by the South and Central American delegates, who were the chief beneficiaries of the undertaking.

The treaty establishing an international prize court of appeal was suggested by Germany and supported by the American delegation. The treaty regarding the rules of war on land enlarges the immunity of non-combatants, the status of prisoners of war was ameliorated, the existing prohibition upon the bombardment of undefended towns was extended to include all means and methods which may be resorted to with a view to the reduction of a fortified place.

Defines Rights of Neutrals.

The rules prescribing the rights and duties of neutral states are comprised in eleven articles, in which, after providing for territorial inviolability, the organization of troops or the establishment of recruiting offices in neutral territory is prohibited, as is the passage through such territory of organized bodies of troops, or convoys of provisions or munitions of war.

The treaty regarding submarine mines was calculated to secure for commercial vessels a substantial immunity from injury by floating or anchored mines. The new articles restricting the right of maritime capture guarantee an immunity from capture to postal correspondence between neutral and belligerent states, and to vessels engaged in coast fisheries, scientific, religious, or philanthropic missions, and those engaged in minor coasting trade.

The American delegation withheld its vote on the convention regarding the conversion of merchant ships into vessels of war on account of lack of clearness in the draft of the convention.

PAYNE SUFFERS MUCH.

Defeated by Eighty-nine Votes, He Hobbies About on Crutches.

The long-standing controversy between the Committee on Appropriations and Ways and Means over the proposed movement of the latter to the House office building was ended yesterday in favor of the former by a vote of 151 to 62, on the question of adopting the recommendation of the special committee assigning rooms in the office building to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Representative Payne, chairman of the defeated committee, looked downcast and forlorn. Crutches, supplanting the cane of Wednesday, went with him everywhere.

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TO REPORT FULTON BILL.

Oregon Senator Draws Definite Statement from Committee.

Senator Fulton, of Oregon, complained yesterday in the Senate that the Interstate Commerce Committee had failed to act on a bill he introduced last December, authorizing the Interstate Commerce Commission in its discretion to suspend a proposed increase in a rate, pending an investigation to determine its justice and reasonableness.

Under the rate law, the carrier may enforce a rate after thirty days' notice. The Interstate Commerce Commission has approved the Fulton bill.

Senator Cullom, in the absence of Senator Elkins, chairman of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce, explained that the committee would soon report the bill.

REPORT FEW STREET BILLS.

House District Committee Acts Favorably on Several Measures.

With but few amendments of a minor character, the Committee on the District of Columbia yesterday decided to report to the House four measures which it has been considering for some time.

The bills which will be so reported are: One authorizing the extension of Ninth street northwest, one authorizing the extension of Girard street northwest, one for widening Benning road, and one for affecting the pensions of a few fire department officers of the District.

A bill amending the license law, with respect to licenses paid by drivers of passenger vehicles for hire, will be reported without amendment in any form.

ASKS BRIDGE FOR POTOMAC.

Bill for Survey for One Over Eastern Branch Introduced.

Representative Mudd yesterday introduced a bill to provide an appropriation of \$5,000 for the purpose of having a survey made for a highway bridge, of modern construction, with a draw of 130 feet, over the east branch of the Potomac River.

The bill states that the survey is to be made from Half street southwest to the "new-made land on the opposite side of the channel." The work is to be done under the Commissioners and with the approval of the Secretary of War.

MILLIONS FOR AGRICULTURE.

House Committee to Ask Congress for \$11,000,000.

More than \$11,000,000 will be asked of Congress in the agriculture appropriation bill, which has been finished by the House Committee on Agriculture and which will likely be reported in a few days.

This amount is about \$1,000,000 more than that asked last year, but does not exceed in this respect the increases noticeable in past years. The committee, it is understood, has acted upon the belief that no greater increase could be asked of Congress this year.

McCREADY OPPOSES BILL.

Kent