

SENATE IS URGED TO PASS GAS BILL

Gallinger Reports Benefits to Accrue from Measure.

OPPOSITION FEARED IN HOUSE

In Lengthy Document the District Committee Explains Necessity for Changes It Recommended and Succinctly States Reasons Why Speedy Legislation Should Be Passed.

Urging the enactment of the substitute gas bill introduced Thursday, and declaring its immediate result will be a saving of more than \$200,000 annually to the consumers, Senator Gallinger yesterday submitted a report on the bill, which deals in detail with every phase of the question.

Although it may pass the Senate with little opposition, rumor is rife that the bill will encounter rough sledding when reported in the House. Apparently to set at rest any disquietude that may exist over the provisions of the measure, Senator Gallinger has made the report on it full and wide in its history of the pending legislation.

In an effort to forestall any objections on the part of the House, the chairman of the Senate District Committee ordered that several hundred additional copies of the report be printed for the use of the House committee.

Adverse Report on Bills.

Immediately after presenting the report, Mr. Gallinger submitted adverse reports on the four House bills, whose features are embodied in his substitute measure.

The District Committee of the Senate is of the opinion that the bill is so framed as to do equal and exact justice to both the consumer and the producer. The members point out that its enactment will settle a disagreeable controversy and its passage will be the means of saving thousands of dollars as the city grows and business expands.

It is plainly brought out in the report that the Congress committee, although they have been criticized in the past for not taking remedial action sooner, have all the while been making efforts to reach a just and practicable solution of the problem involved. "In meeting the views of the public without doing violence to private rights."

The report, in part, reads as follows:

"It is hoped, and believed, that this bill solves the problem satisfactorily for all concerned. The last reduction in the price of gas was made on a sliding scale in an appropriation bill in 1896. At that time the price in the city of Washington was \$1.25 and in Georgetown \$1.50. The provisions of the bill were that a reduction of 5 cents a year should be made until the price should be \$1 in Washington and \$1.25 in Georgetown, which reduced rate was reached in the year 1901.

"Since then the price of gas in Georgetown has been voluntarily reduced by the company to \$1, so that the price now paid throughout the entire District is \$1 per 1,000 cubic feet, which compares favorably with the average price being paid in the cities of the United States of like size under fairly similar conditions, and as was ascertained by the chairman of this committee by an extensive correspondence last year. However, it is the opinion of your committee that the time has now arrived for lower prices, and that a 10 per cent reduction can be fairly demanded of the corporation, which proper provisions looking to future reductions.

Monoxide Prohibited.

"It will be observed that in the section of the bill providing for 90-cent gas it is also provided that on and after September 1, 1910, gas in the District shall not contain more than 10 per cent of carbon monoxide. This means that the plant of the Washington Gaslight Company will have to be changed from a water gas to a coal gas plant, involving an outlay variously estimated at from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000. The demand for this change is overwhelming. It being made in the interests of the health and lives of the consumers.

"It goes without saying that to require the companies to abandon their water gas apparatus, worth several million dollars, and to replace it with an up-to-date new coal gas plant of much more expensive character raises an equity which is worthy of legislative recognition.

In relation to the limit on the valuation of the two plans fixed by the bill, the report says: "The proposed limitation to increase capitalization is based upon three different methods of safely computing the present value of the plant, as follows: First, there are 120,000 shares of the Washington Gaslight Company, and during the past ten years the average price of these shares has not been less than \$9 per share. The public therefore has paid a valuation on its capital stock of not less than \$1,080,000. There are certificates of indebtedness outstanding amounting to \$2,000,000, and improvement bonds amounting to \$308,750, or a total valuation of the property of this company, as shown by the price of its shares, of \$10,988,750."

The report quotes the District assessor to show that the value of the real estate of the Washington company is \$2,520,441, and that it pays a tax on its property of 5 per cent, amounting to \$126,100, which is equivalent to a personal property tax of 1/2 per cent on \$6,152,022.

This amount, it is explained, added to the value of the real estate would give a total valuation of the property of the company of \$10,691,474.

In the third place it is explained that the sliding scale by which the price is to be reduced 5 cents every time the dividends have increased one point above 7 per cent is based upon the scale in effect in London and adopted by Massachusetts.

Sliding Scale Explained.

The same method is employed in explaining the limit placed on the Georgetown company. It is stated that in 1908 the company produced 57,000,000 cubic feet, and with \$5 of capital stock for every 1,000 feet the company would be entitled to capitalize at \$485,000.

The report concludes as follows: "Your committee are of the opinion that the bill is so framed as to do equal and exact justice to both the consumer and the producer, and its enactment is earnestly urged. It will settle a disagreeable controversy, and its immediate result will be a saving of more than \$2,000,000 annually to the consumers of gas, which amount will constantly increase as the city grows and business expands."

Conference on Post-office Bill.

The House yesterday notified the Senate that it had failed to agree on certain provisions in the Post-office appropriations bill which passed the Upper House Friday. Accordingly, Vice President Fairbanks appointed Senators Penrose, Dooliver, and Clay managers on the part of the Senate to confer with the House conferees.

May Investigate District.

Senator Gallinger's resolution authorizing the Senate District Committee to conduct hearings during the recess to investigate District affairs was unanimously passed yesterday, following a favorable report from the Committee to Audit and Control Contingent Expenses of the Senate.

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

SENATE.

The Senate convened at noon. The Indian appropriation bill was passed by the Senate with little opposition.

Criticism of the President is said to be contained in the report of the Judiciary Committee on the Tennessee Coal and Iron merger, which was completed yesterday, and will be submitted to the Senate to-morrow.

Senator Gallinger presented a report on the omnibus gas bill.

Senator McClain has been designated to read Washington's Farewell Address in the Senate to-morrow.

Post-office appropriation bill sent to conference. The Senate adjourned at 5:15.

HOUSE.

The House convened at 11 o'clock. Diplomatic and consular appropriation bill passed.

Rivers and harbors appropriation bill passed. Military Academy appropriation bill passed.

Representative Hitchcock, of Nebraska, discussed income tax.

House took up for consideration the sundry civil appropriation bill.

House adjourned at 3:35 until noon to-day.

FAVORS LOCK TYPE

Testimony of Col. Goethals on Canal Made Public.

CHAGRES RIVER IS PROBLEM

Asserts the Longer He Stays on Isthmus the More Convinced He Is of the Impracticability of the Sea Level Canal—Believes the Total Cost Will Be About \$375,201,000.

The testimony of Col. Goethals, chief engineer of the Panama Canal, before the Appropriations Committee last week was made public yesterday.

"You have heretofore approved the lock type of canal?" suggested Chairman Taft.

"Yes, sir," replied Col. Goethals.

"Have you or any of your associates discovered anything in connection with the work of constructing the canal that would tend to change your opinion regarding the wisdom and practicability of a lock type canal since you first commenced work?" asked Mr. Taft.

"On the contrary," the colonel replied, "the longer we stay, the more convinced we become that the lock type of canal is the proper type of canal to build.

Chagres River Problem.

"The great problem in the construction of the canal is the control of the Chagres River. The Chagres River, by the lock type of canal, is controlled by a lake formed by the construction of the dam at Gatun, the lake level to be at 85 feet above mean tide.

"In the sea-level canal, in the sea-level project, the control of the Chagres River is effected by the dam at Gamboa. The dam there at Gamboa is 4,500 feet long. Seven hundred and fifty feet in the length of that dam has pressure against it due to a possible head of 170 feet, or practically twice the head of water that acts on the Gatun dam.

"The resulting canal from the lock type has a channel 1,000 feet wide for practically 14 miles, a channel 800 feet wide for about 4 miles, a channel 500 feet wide for about 20 miles, and 300 feet wide at the bottom for 1/2 miles."

Cost of Canal.

"What will the canal cost completed?" asked Representative Fitzgerald, of New York.

"For construction and engineering," replied Col. Goethals, "the cost will be \$25,706,000. If we add to that sum the cost of sanitation and civil government, we reach a figure, assuming completion January 1, 1915—as to which there is no doubt in the mind of any one—assuming that we will find the canal completed in January, 1915, we reach a figure of \$35,210,000. Add to that the \$40,000,000 purchase price and you have the total cost to the United States of \$375,201,000."

How about the sea-level type?

"For construction and engineering alone, exclusive of sanitation and civil government—which we estimate at the rate of \$2,800,000 a year—and based on the fact that the sea-level canal will take at least six years longer to build, the sea-level canal for construction and engineering alone, exclusive of sanitation and civil government and the purchase price, would cost \$477,601,000."

"And would take six years longer?"

"Yes; six years longer, and \$2,800,000 a year for sanitation and civil government."

WAGE FIGHT ON LA FOLLETTE

Senators Comment Unfavorably on His "Iniquitous Inquisitiveness."

Wisconsin Member Said to Be Preparing for Attack and Lively Times Are Expected.

"Iniquitous inquisitiveness" is one of the most polite comments that a thoroughly shocked Senate applies to the "shake-em-up" tactics of Senator Robert M. La Follette.

"Unpleasant citizen," "malicious meddler," and others of warmer sentiment are the epithets which the Wisconsin Senator's name arouses in the hearts of some of the elder solons.

The Badger Senator has become the most cordially disliked man, the most thoroughly hated—and, perhaps, feared—man of his colleagues. There is every reason to believe that that sentiment will crystallize into a general movement to clip Senator La Follette's wings.

Not only is the Wisconsin Senator wickedly inquisitive and pugnacious on the floor of the Senate; not only does he air his opinions—generally unfavorable, to his colleagues in his new weekly, but he has not hesitated to invade "home territory" of his enemies, and, while on the Chauvaud platform, make things red hot. He is credited with no small part in defeating such men as Long, of Kansas; Ankeny, of Washington; Kittredge, of South Dakota; Dryden, of New Jersey, and others.

Just now he has a fight on at home with his colleague, Senator Stephenson, who was so anxious to retain, he says, that he is credited with spending \$37,000 for that honor.

Those who profess to know, predict that the scoring administered by Senator Penrose last week is merely the opening gun of a campaign against the Wisconsin Senator to be waged by the traditional leaders against the reactionary tendencies he represents. Another hostile member, it is understood, is leading up for the fray. In the meantime La Follette, having scented powder, is also priming himself. The Congressional Record is likely to play no small part in the battle as the recorder of the actions of all the belligerents.

The outlook is for bitter, malignant warfare from now on.

When you have lost or found anything, telephone an advertisement to The Washington Herald, and bill will be sent you at 1 cent a word.

DIRECTS CHANGES IN HALL OF HOUSE

Committee Reports Resolution on Rearrangement.

RETAIN RECTANGULAR SHAPE

Chairman McCall Tells of the Proposed Reconstruction and Quotes from Ambassador Bryce and Woodrow Wilson in Criticism of Present Scheme—to Improve Acoustics.

The reconstruction of the hall of the House of Representatives is directed in a resolution reported to the House yesterday by Representative McCall, of Massachusetts, chairman of the Committee on Library.

The work is to be done under the supervision of the superintendent of the Capitol, in accordance with the plan submitted by him some time ago, and will cost, approximately, \$350,000. Under the new plan the seating arrangements will be changed completely.

The report of Superintendent Elliott Woods, of the Capitol building and grounds, was submitted by Mr. McCall, and explained in detail the proposed scheme.

Three schemes, designated as A, B, and C, are included in the report, but the committee decided upon the second. This plans the rearrangement by making the room smaller and moving it south. The hall in the rear of the Speaker's desk will be done away with, leaving only the lobby used by the members. The hall will be rectangular in shape, but will be much smaller than the present chamber.

The seats will be arranged in circular rows, similar to the present plan, but the desks will be removed, thereby drawing the seats closer together and saving a lot of space.

Individual Seats.

Individual seats will be used, and writing desks large enough to hold several volumes, or for the ordinary use of members.

In making his report, Mr. McCall said his committee had spent considerable time considering the three schemes submitted by Supt. Woods, but that it finally was agreed to retain the rectangular hall. One of the plans of Mr. Woods was for a hemicycle, similar to Statuary Hall, but this plan was not approved, it being considered unwise to have two hemicycles so close together.

The poor acoustic properties of the present chamber was called to the attention of the Representatives by Mr. McCall. He said that it was believed that this would be changed in the proposed plan. He quoted from Ambassador Bryce and President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton University, who both said it was practically impossible to have intelligent debate because of the large amount of space wasted.

The resolution will be called up some time next week, and members of the committee believe it will be passed.

Criticism Present Plan.

In writing of the present plan of the hall, Ambassador Bryce said: "It is more than three as large as the English House of Commons, with a floor about equal in area to that of Westminster Hall—128 feet long by 32 feet wide and 36 feet high. The proportions are so good that it is not until you observe how small a man looks at the farther end, and how faint ordinary voices sound, that you realize its vast size.

"When you enter, your first impression is of noise and turmoil, a noise like that of short, sharp waves in a Highland Loch, fretting under a squall against a rocky shore. The rising and dropping of desks lids, the clapping of hands to call the passage—keen little boys, who race along the gangways—the rattling of many feet, the hum of talking on the floor and in the galleries, make up a din over which the Speaker, with the sharp taps of his hammer, or the orators straining throats, find it hard to make themselves heard."

Voices Harsh.

"I never heard American voices sound so harsh or disagreeable as they do here. Nor is it only the noise that gives the impression of disorder. Often three or four members are on their feet at once, each shouting to catch the Speaker's attention. Less favorable conditions for oratory cannot be imagined, and one is not surprised to be told that debate was much more animated and practical in the much smaller room which the House formerly occupied.

"Not only is the present room so big that only a powerful and well-trained voice can fill it, but the desks and chairs make a speaker feel as if he were addressing furniture rather than men, while few of the members seem to listen to the speeches.

"It is true that they sit in the House instead of running out into the lobbies, as people do in the British House of Commons, but they are more occupied in talking or writing, or reading newspapers than in attending to the debate.

"To attend is not easy, for only a shrill voice can overcome the murmurous roar; and one sometimes finds the newspapers, in describing an unusually effective speech, observe that Mr. So-and-so's speech drew listeners from all parts of the House."

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They could not bear him where they sat, so they left their places to crowd in the gangways near him.

"It is hard to talk calm, good sense at the top of your voice; hard to unfold a complicated measure. The speaker's vocal organs react upon his manner, and his manner on the substance of his speech. It is also hard to thunder at an unscrupulous majority or a facetious minority when they do not sit opposite to you, but all around you and behind you, as is the case in the House."

CONSULAR BILL PASSED.

Appropriations amounting to \$3,542,738 Authorized by House.

The diplomatic and consular appropriation bill, carrying authorized expenditures of \$3,542,738, was passed by the House yesterday.

An amendment, offered by Representative Longworth, of Ohio, providing that the government should expend not to exceed \$1,000,000 a year for the construction of diplomatic and consular buildings abroad, was defeated.

GEN. KEIFER ANGRY

Clashes with Mr. Burton Over River and Harbor Bill.

A spirited colloquy between Representatives Burton and Keifer, of Ohio, followed by a bitter speech by Gen. Keifer directed against Mr. Burton, marked the passage in the House yesterday of the river and harbor bill.

When the bill was called up by Mr. Burton, chairman of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, Mr. Keifer showed a disposition to oppose its passage. The objection was interposed. Mr. Burton said, by members who had failed to have incorporated in the bill surveys for projects in which they were interested.

It is the custom of the House to dispense with the first reading of appropriation bills. Mr. Keifer insisted that the measure be read. Mr. Burton interrupted the reading to move that the rules be suspended and that the bill be passed. Mr. Keifer suggested that a quorum was not present. The roll was called, disclosing the presence of a sufficient number of members to make a quorum.

Mr. Keifer took the floor and made a speech in which he resorted to sharp language in characterizing his colleague. He charged that the chairman of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors had refused to give his assent to incorporating in the pending bill authority for a survey of the Miami and Erie Canal, running from Cincinnati to Toledo, with a view to converting it into a ship canal.

"Yes," said Mr. Keifer, "the bill provides for a survey of an intercoastal waterway paralleling the Atlantic coast, and running along the Gulf to Rio Grande, Tex."

Mr. Keifer wound up by denouncing the provisions of the bill creating a national waterways commission to be composed of members of Congress.

"This is a polite way of saying that we want a junket, and that we will take it," snapped Mr. Keifer in conclusion.

Mr. Burton replied that many arguments were made in the House that required no answer. His colleague's effort, Mr. Burton said, was a striking example in point. Thereupon he called for the passage of the bill, which was passed without further trouble.

The bill carries an appropriation of about \$500,000 for surveys of projects, and also places a fund of \$500,000 in the Treasury to be used for river and harbor purposes in cases of emergency.

HOLD HE INTERFERES.

President Criticized During Discussion of Military Academy Bill.

President Roosevelt's interference with the conduct of the West Point Military Academy has seriously affected discipline at that institution, according to a statement made in the House yesterday by Representative Slayden, of Texas.

The bill carrying appropriations for the maintenance of the Academy was under consideration. It provoked a discussion as to conditions at West Point.

Representative Terrill, of Massachusetts, declared that the curriculum was too severe, with the result that many worthy boys were denied the privilege of gratifying their ambition to enter the army.

This suggestion was combated by Representatives Sulzer, Parker, and Slayden, all members of the House Committee on Military Affairs.

The real trouble at the Military Academy, Mr. Slayden said, was the President's interference. The President wrote a letter to the academic board, in behalf of five cadets who had been dropped for deficiency in studies. He asked that these cadets be given another chance. The academic board replied to the President, outlining the reasons that prompted them in recommending the cadets for dismissal, adding that it would reluctantly comply with the President's wishes if he pressed the matter further.

The Military Academy bill, as passed, carries appropriations aggregating \$2,523,821.

DISTRICT BILLS REPORTED.

House Measure Directs Commissioners to Widen Benning Road.

The bill providing for opening a street from Nineteenth street northwest, near U street, westward to Columbia road was favorably reported to the House yesterday from the District Committee, with certain amendments.

The Smith bill to amend the act for the widening of Benning road was also favorably reported from the District Committee. This bill directs the District Commissioners to begin proceedings in the Supreme Court of the District to condemn the land necessary to widen Benning road from Fifteenth street east to Oklahoma avenue.

Indian Bill Considered.

The Senate passed promptly to the consideration of the Indian appropriation bill yesterday. Satisfactory progress was made.

CONGRESS BRIEFS.

There are no general appropriation bills pending in the Senate. The agricultural bill now in committee will be reported to-morrow.

Representative Rainey, of Illinois, will speak on the Panama Canal deal to-morrow during the general debate on the sundry civil appropriation bill.

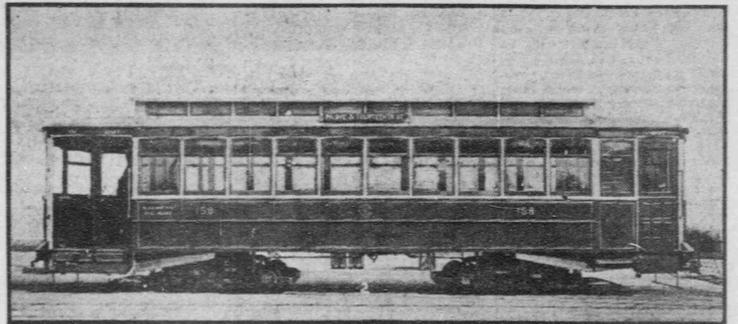
Conferees of the House and Senate held the first conference yesterday on the District of Columbia appropriation bill. A report is expected to be forthcoming early this week.

The Commissioners yesterday asked Congress for additional appropriations amounting to \$2,011,410 to be used as follows: One thousand dollars for health department, \$100,000 for pay judgment obtained by Frank Pitzer, and \$1,000 for the Easy-on Dispensary.

Commencing To-day, February 21, 1909,

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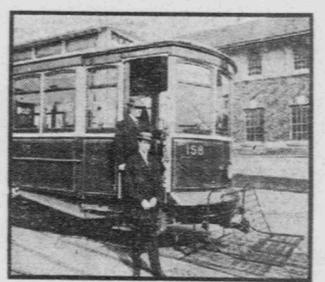
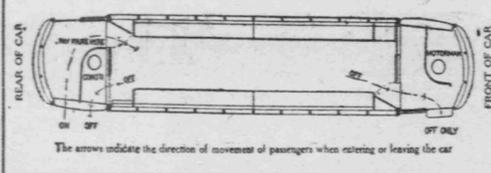
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- 1st. All passengers are required to enter the car at the rear end only and by step marked "IN."
- 2d. On boarding platform passengers will pay fare to conductor and immediately pass into the car, moving as far as possible to the front.
- 3d. Transfers will be issued only at the time fares are paid.
- 4th. Passengers will have exact fare or change to purchase tickets in hand before boarding car.
- 5th. Passengers riding on transfers will have transfers unfolded in hand and ready to give to the conductor.
- 6th. Passengers are urged to leave car by front door.
- 7th. Persons desiring information, presenting bills to be changed, or with question as to transfer, will be requested to step aside until others on the platform have passed into the car.

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