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A REBUKE FOR RUSSIA

Decision of the North Sea Commission Public.

A LENGTHY DOCUMENT

RUSSIAN ADMIRAL NOT JUSTIFIED IN OPENING FIRE.

Fishing Fleet Committed No Hostile Act and No Torpedo Boats Were Near Trawlers.

The international commission on the North Sea incident rendered its decision at Paris today, finding that "the opening of fire by Admiral Rojestvensky was not justified."

The decision amply sets forth that the commissioners unanimously recognize that the fishing fleet committed no hostile act, and, also, that there were not, neither among the trawlers nor in their vicinity, any torpedo boats.

PARIS, February 25, 3:30 p.m.—The decision of the international commission of inquiry into the North sea incident was publicly announced at the closing session of the commission today. The decision

Admiral Rojestvensky.

lengthily sets forth the circumstances and incidents, and gives the opinion of the admirals on the various important points involved.

The decision says the delay of the Russian transport Kamschatka, following the breakdown of her machinery, was perhaps the cause of the incident. The commander of the Kamschatka signaled to Admiral Rojestvensky during the evening that he had been attacked by torpedo boats. The admiral therefore had reason to believe he might be attacked, and gave orders for strict vigilance against the possible approach of torpedo boats.

Admiral's Orders Not Excessive.

The majority of the commission considers that Admiral Rojestvensky's orders were not excessive in time of war, particularly under the circumstances, and that he had every reason to consider the situation very alarming.

"The commissioners," the decision says, "recognize unanimously that the fishing fleet committed no hostile act and the majority of the commissioners being of the opinion that there were not, neither among the fishing boats nor in their vicinity any torpedo boats, the opening of fire by Admiral Rojestvensky was not justified."

The decision further says the Russian commissioner did not share in the latter opinion.

"In any event," the decision continues, "the commissioners are glad to recognize unanimously that Admiral Rojestvensky personally did all he could from the commencement to the end to prevent the trawlers from being the object of fire by the Russian squadron."

Squadron's Withholding Assistance.

Concerning the squadron's proceding without assisting the damaged trawlers, the decision says:

"The commissioners are unanimously, under the circumstances preceding and following the incident, of opinion that there was such uncertainty concerning the danger to the squadron as to warrant Admiral Rojestvensky in continuing his route.

"However, the majority regrets that the admiral did not inform the neighboring maritime powers of what had occurred."

The decision concludes as follows:

"The commissioners declare that their views as formulated are not of a nature to cast any disrespect upon the military valor nor upon the sentiments of humanity of Admiral Rojestvensky and the personnel of his squadron."

Closing Session a Brilliant Scene.

The closing session of the commission presented a brilliant scene. The spacious salon of the foreign office was crowded with prominent officials, members of the diplomatic corps, including the Russian, British and American ambassadors, members of the Japanese legation, officers of the army and navy, judges of the highest French courts and the wives and other relatives of members of the commission. Contrary to expectation, the admirals forming the commission did not wear full uniforms, but appeared in ordinary civilian dress.

Admiral Fournier, president of the commission, read the decision amid impressive silence, the spectators following it minutely.

Decision Regarded a Compromise.

The general impression among the audience was that the decision was in the nature of a compromise, as the majority approved the British contention that no torpedo boats attacked Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron, and that therefore his opening fire was not justified, and as the majority also approved the Russian contention that Admiral Rojestvensky acted according to his belief, even though mistaken, and that therefore his action did not reflect upon his military valor or sentiments of humanity.

Admiral Fournier closed the commission with a speech of thanks to its members. He said that each of them would return to his country bearing as a recompense for his labors the legitimate satisfaction of duty well accomplished. They left behind them a profound impression of esteem for the devotion in which the difficult task had been performed.

Significant Exchange of Remarks.

A significant exchange of remarks was made by Sir Edward Frye, representing Great Britain, and Baron Taube, representing Russia. Both spoke in the most amicable spirit and eulogized the arbitration. Sir Edward said:

"This is one of the most important events ever brought before an international court. All should feel gratified with the satisfactory results attained."

The speaker closed with the quotation: "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."

Rear Admiral Davis' Opinion.

Rear Admiral Charles H. Davis (United States) said concerning the decision:

"The conclusions seem to me to be equitable. They are formulated in a manner to satisfy the legitimate desire of the two parties and mark an important step in the Pacific solution of international conflicts."

NEWS AT LONDON.

Received With Apparent Equanimity at Foreign Office.

LONDON, February 25.—The foreign office received the findings of the North sea commission with apparent equanimity, but declined to give out any official expression of opinion thereon. An official said to the Associated Press:

"The finding of the commission is final. We therefore must be satisfied, and it would be bad taste for us to express dissatisfaction."

The Associated Press understands unofficially, however, that the foreign office is well pleased with the findings.

The findings were received in London with every sign of gratification, which was all the more marked because of the premature reports that the decisions of the admirals had been of an anti-British character.

The whole report is regarded here as discrediting the Russian case. Even the phrase that the firing was not unduly prolonged, which seems to afford a certain justification for opening the firing, is at the same time taken as implying that the Rusians continued to fire after they had discovered their mistake.

The definite finding of the admirals that no torpedo boats were at the scene of the incident gives considerable satisfaction, and it is pointed out that the British contentions were further upheld in the finding that the trawlers Crane and Aurora were the boats the Russians mistook for torpedo boats.

FORMER GOV. BOUTWELL ILL.

Fears Entertained for Outcome of Pneumonia Attack.

GROTON, Mass., February 25.—Former Governor George S. Boutwell is critically ill of penumonia and there is fear for the outcome, as he is eighty-six years of age. He was seized suddenly while sitting in his library last evening. Today his symptoms were so grave that the attending physician decided to call a specialist from Boston.

Mr. Boutwell has been a member of both branches of Congress, and was Secretary of the Treasury during President Grant's first administration.

GUESTS OF GEN. AGNUS.

Dinner Given by the Publisher of the Baltimore American.

Gen. Felix Agnus, publisher of the Baltimore American, entertained a number of friends at a beautifully appointed dinner at the New Willard last night, the guest of honor being Mr. Paul Sterritt of New York, president of the Fuller Construction Company, which has just completed the handsome new building of the Baltimore American. Informal speeches were made by Gen. Agnus, Secretary Shaw, Commodore Wallace and Mr. Seckendorff. The guests were Secretary Shaw, Commodore Wallace, Representative John A. T. Hull, John F. Wilkins, Thomas C. Noyes, W. S. Carroll, M. G. Seckendorff, William Thomas, Arthur Marks, Louis Garthe, M. L. Witherspoon, Col. L. S. Brown, I. L. Graves, John H. Edwards and John S. Shriver.

ALABAMIANS AROUSED.

Excited Over Capture of Negro Suspect—Lynch Talk.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., February 25.—A special to the Journal from Huntsville, Ala., says that Richard Young, a negro suspected of the murder of Miss Belle Bloodwarth of Decatur, was captured at Huntsville today and there is great excitement among the citizens there.

Threats have been made to burn the negro at the stake. The governor has been notified and may call out troops. Young, for whom a reward of $2,000 had been offered, made a desperate resistance.

REFUSED TO EXTEND SESSION.

West Virginia Legislature Adjourns Today—Many Bills Hung Up.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., February 25.—The regular session of the legislature adjourned early today, leaving the legislative and general appropriation bills on second reading in house. The minority refused to assent to a suspension of the constitutional rule in order to advance these bills, which had been introduced only three days before the end of the regular session.

All propositions in both houses to extend the session were voted down. Just before the legislature adjourned Gov. White sent in a special message convening the legislature in an extraordinary session beginning today to consider and pass these delayed bills.

CHICAGO DEMOCRATS.

Name Judge Dunne as Their Mayoralty Candidate.

CHICAGO, February 25.—Judge Edward F. Dunne of the circuit court was unanimously nominated by the democratic city convention today as candidate for mayor of Chicago. The party platform adopted by the convention declares the issue to be whether "the expressed will of our own citizens" or the "interests of a Wall street syndicate" shall direct public policy regarding the ownership and control of the city streets for traction purposes.

Finnish Diet at Standstill.

HELSINGFORS, Finland, February 25.—The work of the Finnish diet is practically at a standstill while awaiting the reply of Emperor Nicholas to the petition for the submission of measures for the Russification of Finland for the diet's approval. The emperor's only response till now has been to order the senate to report upon the petition.

Ice Blockade Broken.

NANTUCKET, Mass., February 25.—The ice blockade which has prevailed about this island since February 2 was effectively broken today by the steamer Nantucket, which broke out of the harbor. She had been frozen in for 23 days. There is still much ice in the harbor, but beyond the water is clear. The residents here, who are usually prepared for the blockade in winter, have suffered only inconvenience by the embargo.

IF THE CORKS WILL ONLY HOLD FOR ANOTHER WEEK!

ACTION IS DEFERRED

Imperial Promise Again Proves a Gold Brick.

ZEMSKY SOBOR PUT OFF

CZAR'S MINISTERS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED QUESTION.

Very Disquieting Reports From Poland and the Caucasus—Almost Reign of Terror.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 25.—The Russ says the committee of ministers decided at yesterday's meeting to indefinitely postpone the consideration of the question of convocation of a zemsky sobor, owing to the impossibility of summoning the assembly until exhaustive rules governing the examination thereof, etc., have been drawn up.

STRIKE SITUATION SERIOUS.

Sensational News From Caucasus—Streets Filled With Dead.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 25.—The reports today both from Poland and the Caucasus are very disquieting. Owing to lack of direct traffic, communication with many places in the Caucasus verification of the countless rumors afloat is impossible, but that it is positively known that almost a reign of terror exists in the territory between the Caspian and Black seas. Private vengeances have glutted the streets of Baku, Batoum and Tiflis with dead Armenians and Mussulmans. The reports, however, of the capture of Russian garrisons and of the firing of the Black sea fleet on Poti, etc., are not confirmed.

Critical in Poland.

In Poland the strike situation is once more assuming a critical stage, and it is feared the authorities may again be forced to adopt violent measures.

The railroad strike situation in southern Russia is also more menacing. Traffic on half a dozen roads has been stopped, causing still further difficulties in the transportation of grain and coal and bringing business to a standstill. Over 150,000 carloads of grain await movement in the Volga district and several hundred thousand tons of coal for the iron and steel manufactories cannot be budged from the Donetskiy collieries.

Dangerous Agrarian Movement.

Added to this is the dangerous agrarian movement among the peasants of some of the southern provinces as a result of the circulation of the report that the emperor March 4 will issue a manifesto providing for a general division of lands, which has been the dream of peasants ever since their emancipation. Here in St. Petersburg the workmen are in a constant state of agitation. The employers are unable to deal with the men, who walk out and resume work on alternate days. There are now over 40,000 men idle and walking the streets.

MERCHANTS ASSASSINATED.

Whole of Caucasus Said to Be Seething With Discontent.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 25.—Advices from Batoum say the prefect of police and several leading merchants of that city have been assassinated and that numbers of Ottoman subjects have been murdered by Georgian strikers.

The Porte has drawn the attention of the Russian embassy to the situation, and the latter has promised the necessary protection.

The revolution manifestos in favor of a republic are being circulated broadcast in Batoum.

The movement is not confined to the city workers, but has many adherents among the peasants and agricultural classes, who claim that the land owners are treating them as serfs.

The whole of the Caucasus is said to be seething with disaffection. Armenians, Jews and people of other nationalities and creeds are aiding the strikers, who appear to be acting under the orders of a secret committee at St. Petersburg.

Vienna Railway Strike Not Ended.

WARSAW, February 25.—Contrary to expectations, the Vienna railway strike has not ended. The engineers and firemen and the mechanics employed in the machine shops at Warsaw and Zborow are dissatisfied with the terms offered, and refuse to accept them. A crowd of strikers today prevented a resumption of the train service, which had been arranged to commence at noon.

THE FIGHTING AT BAKU.

100 Killed or Wounded in the Streets—Rioting.

TIFLIS, Caucasus, February 25.—Details of the recent street fighting at Baku show that thirty-five persons were killed or wounded February 20 and that on the following day the racial bitterness between the Mussulmans and Armenians reached a climax. Street murders were incessant and firing lasted all day long.

Altogether a hundred people were killed or wounded. Bazaars and shops were plundered, and as the garrison was inadequate, reinforcements of five battalions of infantry with artillery and two squadrons of Cossacks had to be called in and used their arms to suppress the outbreak.

Further disturbances occurred February 22. The residences of the wealthiest inhabitants were plundered and burned. The governor traversed all the quarters of the city, exhorting the people to cease hostilities, and the Armenian and Mussulman clergy met and embraced in public and expressed a desire for a reconciliation of their peoples.

The rioting was thereupon suspended, but again broke out February 24.

CLOSING SWAYNE CASE

MR. DE ARMOND ARGUES FOR THE PROSECUTION.

Ex-Senator Thurston Appeals for Vindication and Acquittal After Several Hours' Speaking.

The impeachment trial of Judge Charles Swayne was resumed by the Senate this morning at 10 o'clock and as soon as a quorum could be secured Mr. Thurston began his argument in Judge Swayne's behalf. Early as was the hour, the galleries were well filled and Mr. Thurston received close attention.

"I stand here," he said, in beginning his address, "to raise the last voice ever to be heard between this time and the time when the judgment of God shall be pronounced in support of the personal honor and the official integrity of Charles Swayne, the respondent at this bar."

Mr. Thurston contended that a judge cannot be impeached for a crime against a state law disconnected with his official duties, and referring to the first seven articles of impeachment, he declared that in an ordinary court they would be barred by statutes of limitation and should be here. Referring to the charge of using private cars he said:

"There are reasons why the mantle of charity should be drawn about transactions of that kind by public men."

On the point of residence, Mr. Thurston said that if Judge Swayne did not make his home at Pensacola he had no home anywhere. He explained his prolonged and frequent absences by saying that for 150 to 200 days each year the judge was engaged in holding court in other states.

He traced the present prosecution to the Davis-Belden contempt case, declaring that a conspiracy to depose the judge had grown out of it and extended until it reached its present stage. He justified the punishment in the Belden-Davis case and in the O'Neal case.

With an appeal for vindication and acquittal, Mr. Thurston closed at 12:40 p.m., after speaking for two hours and a half.

The Prosecution Closes.

Manager DeArmond closed the argument for the prosecution, following Mr. Thurston.

Taking up the Belden-Davis contempt case, Mr. De Armond declared that Judge Swayne's course had been in contempt and defiance alike of law and of human rights. He referred to the charge of non-residence, saying that while there was no legal requirement for the respondent as an individual to remain in the district it was incumbent upon him, under the law, to abandon his office if he did not live in the district. He contended that it was competent to impeach a judge for crime, whether committed in connection with official acts or not. He declared that the taking of more money for expenses than was expended was nothing less than larceny.

To Defend Public Printer.

The Attorney General has instructed United States Attorney Beach to defend Public Printer Palmer before the Police Court Monday morning to answer a charge of violating the smoke law. It is understood no matter which way the case is decided it will be taken to the Court of Appeals.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Bill to Increase President's Salary

HAS BEEN OVERLOOKED

REPRESENTATIVE AIKEN THINKS IT SHOULD BE PASSED.

Says There Would Be No Objection if It Was Brought Up—Some of Today's Callers.

There is one bill pending in Congress that has the approval of practically every member of that body, and yet no action has been taken upon it. Attention was called to the fact today by a prominent senator who was at the White House. This is the bill providing for an increase of the salary of the President of the United States to $100,000 per year and a pension of $25,000 for the remainder of his life. The bill, upon introduction in the House by Representative Maynard of Virginia, attracted favorable attention throughout the country, the opinion of democrats and republicans being that the President of the United States ought to receive a salary of this size and a pension for life after leaving office. In the rush of other business the bill has been overlooked. Mr. Maynard, the author, has been pressed for time in working for the Jamestown exposition bill, and has not been able to push it as he desired. It is understood that some of those who favor the measure may get together at once and try to secure its passage, satisfied that there will be no opposition from the democratic side of the House, and that there ought not to be any from the republican side.

A number of democratic senators and representatives favor the measure and desire an opportunity to record themselves that way. Some of them desire to make speeches. The feeling is that the measure, if it is ever to become law, ought to go through now that it may benefit about the hardest working and most popular President the country has had.

Republican members of Congress who talked with a representative of The Star today did not care to have their names used, saying that while they would do anything to get the bill through they did not want to appear in any peculiar light. Some of the democrats felt the same way, but Representative Wyatt Aiken of South Carolina did not hesitate to say that the measure ought to go through at this session.

"The President of the United States is underpaid," said Mr. Aiken, "and the salary ought to have been raised long ago. No President we have had or will have for many years to come more richly deserves the increase than Mr. Roosevelt. I sincerely hope that the persons having the bill in charge in the House will go to work Monday and not rest until it has passed through that body. There ought not to be objection from a single man, and it ought to go through by unanimous consent. I believe it would do so, too. Somebody seems to have neglected pushing it up to this time, and about all that is needed now is for some one to get behind the bill and shove it right through, especially where it is known there is a clear road for it.

"There is much economy talk in the House, but no one wants this to apply to a man who is pleasing so many people by his course in the White House. The entire increase would amount to $50,000 a year, so far as the President is concerned. The proposed increase in the salaries of other officials could be allowed to go over until another session before full consideration is given to it. The others will not begrudge the fact that the President secures the increase before they do.

"As I understand it, the measure providing for the increase must be passed at this session or it will not apply to President Roosevelt at all. The next administration would not be qualified to make an increase in salary, and the President will be excluded from participation in the benefit of any readjustment of salaries which the next Congress may deem to be just. The work ought to be done now, and can be done if the right persons will get back of it.

"Of course the matter is too delicate a one for President Roosevelt to permit it being mentioned to him, but I am satisfied that if action were taken by Congress in a unanimous sort of way the President would not feel that he was justified in interfering with the action of that body by a veto."

Asking Presidential Assistance.

The President is going through his usual experience at the close of a session of Congress. It is that of listening to the appeals of members of Congress for help for bills that are pending, most of them meritorious measures, too. The hope is that the President will use his influence with the Speaker or with House or Senate leaders to secure the passage of these bills and resolutions. Instances were seen today in visits of Delegate Kalanianaole of Hawaii and Senator Foster of Washington, the latter accompanied by some Alaskan people. The Hawaiian delegate has a bill pending providing for the establishment of a hospital in the leper settlement of the Hawaiian Islands for the study and observation of the disease, as well as treatment. The bill provides for an appropriation for beginning the institution. It is generally recognized that a scientific institution of the kind ought to be established in Hawaii. Senator Foster's visit was in regard to the resolution pending authorizing the construction of a railway from Valdez to Eagle City, Alaska. Andrew Burleigh of Alaska was with Senator Foster. It is stated that capitalists stand ready to build the road if the authority is given.

A South Carolina Judgeship.

Representative Lever of South Carolina introduced G. T. Graham of Lexington, S. C., a prominent lawyer of that town. Mr. Graham is a candidate for judge of the proposed new judicial district in South Carolina should it pass Congress at this session, and the place be given to a democrat. It is recognized that there are just two republicans in the state large enough to fill the bill, and of these it is learned that one lives in another district. Because of this scarcity of republican material any one of a large bunch of democrats stand ready to take the judgeship. The probability, however, is that the President will appoint one of the republicans, the chances now favoring Captain John G. Capers, the republican national committeeman and United States attorney. The only fight that has been made against him is that his official residence is in the present district and not in the new district, but he has furnished claims showing that his residence is as much in one district as another.

Want a Judge Retained.

A delegation of members of the bar of New Mexico were presented to the President today by Representative Dalzell of Pennsylvania The delegation came all the way to Washington to ask the President to retain Judge Hosea Townsend of the Indian territory as a federal judge of the new state if the statehood bill goes through Congress. It was represented that Judge Townsend was one of the most efficient men in the federal judiciary, and that he ought to stay on the bench.

Representative Campbell of Kansas introduced to the President today Judge J. C. Pollock of the United States district court of Kansas. Although it is not unlikely that some phases of the proposed investigation of the oil operations in Kansas eventually may come before Judge Pollock in his judicial capacity, the subject of the investigation was not discussed by him with the President. Representative Campbell will present to Commissioner Garfield some additional information he has received regarding the work of the oil companies in his state. The information consists merely of details which will tend to facilitate the inquiry.

Invitations Continue to Come.

Two invitations to visit cities were extended to President Roosevelt today, the visits to be made when he takes his southwestern trip the latter part of next month. Major W. H. H. Llewellyn, who was an officer in the President's regiment of Rough Riders, invited him to stop at Las Cruces, New Mexico, en route from Texas to Colorado. Representative Slayden of Texas urged the President to make a stop at New Braunfels, Tex., while he was in that state. Mr. Roosevelt promised to give both invitations consideration. The commander-in-chief of the New Mexico department of the G. A. R. sent word to the President that if he would stop at Las Cruces that the G. A. R. would turn out to meet him and desired to be received by him. At New Braufels, Tex., 1,000 German-American children have prepared a special song that they wish to sing to the President. As New Braunfels is between Austin and San Antonio a short stop may be arranged there.

Col. Chinn's Brand of Democracy.

Col. "Jack" Chinn of Kentucky was numbered among the many callers at the White House today. He is a typical Kentucky democrat, but he is an admirer of the President. "Roosevelt is my kind of a man," remarked Colonel Chinn. "So much so that I may now call myself a Roosevelt-Bryan democrat. That is the way I feel toward him."

Representative Dayton introduced to the President C. Lee Cook, an inventor of metallic packing for engines. It has been adopted in the navy. Mr. Cook is a wonderful man. He is so deformed that he has little use for his hands or legs, and is pushed around in a peculiarly constructed small wagon. He was wheeled into the room of the President in this vehicle today. He is the president of a company that has made many thousands of dollars, all as a result of his inventive genius and wonderful intellect. Although so badly crippled he is taken to engine rooms, wherever he may be, and has himself placed under engines, where he observes their work and machinery, getting ideas wholly in this way.

Col. S. Kistoe, United States consul general at Rotterdam, was introduced to the President by Senator Clapp.

APPOINTED TO THE BENCH.

Senator Quarles Nominated to Succeed Judge W. H. Seaman.

President Roosevelt sent to the Senate today the appointment of Joseph V. Quarles to be United States district judge for the eastern district of Wisconsin. The appointment both surprised and gratified Senator Quarles' colleagues in the Senate. He will retire from that body on the 4th of March, and will be succeeded by Governor Robert M. LaFollette. Senator Quarles was identified with the "stalwarts" in the recent factional contest in Wisconsin, and, as the followers of Governor LaFollette were victorious, Mr. Quarles was not returned to the Senate. For many years Senator Quarles has been identified prominently with the Milwaukee bar, and is recognized throughout the state as a lawyer of notable ability.

The recent retirement of Judge Jenkins from the United States circuit bench in the seventh judicial circuit created a vacancy which the President filled by the promotion of William H. Seaman, United States district judge of the eastern district of Wisconsin. The President, in turn, appointed Senator Quarles to the position vacated by Judge Seaman. The courtesy unvaryingly shown by the Senate to retiring senators doubtless will insure the early confirmation of Senator Quarles.

Soon after the appointment was sent to the Senate today Senator Quarles called at the White House to thank the President for his consideration.

PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS.

Senator Quarles Selected to Be Federal Judge in Wisconsin.

The President today sent to the Senate the following nominations:

United States circuit judge for the seventh circuit (Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin), William H. Seaman of Wisconsin.

United States district judge for eastern district of Wisconsin, Joseph V. Quarles of Wisconsin, whose term as United States senator expires March 4 next.

Collector of customs at Mobile, Ala., William F. Tebbetts of Mobile.

To be rear admiral: Captain Albert S. Snow.

To be a lieutenant commander: Lieutenant Charles H. Hays.

To be lieutenants: Lieutenants (junior grade) Chauncey Shackfors and Ralph E. Pope.

To be chief boatswain: Boatswain Hugh Sweeney.

To be postmaster—Thomas B. Lowerre, at Flushing, New York.

A STEP IN ADVANCE

Friends of the Territories Somewhat Encouraged.

MR. MORGAN YIELDED

SENATE CONFEREES ON STATEHOOD BILL APPOINTED.

First Meeting Monday—The Outcome Regarded as Very Much in Doubt.

In the few minutes allowed for legislation before the beginning of the Swayne impeachment trial the Senate today made amends for the delay yesterday in the matter of appointment of conferees on the joint statehood and Panama canal government bills. Mr. Morgan made no further opposition to the announcement of the conferees on the statehood bill, and while he declined to serve on the Panama canal conference he did not seek to postpone action on the request of the House for a conference. Consequently, in the ten minutes between the convening of the Senate at 9:50 and the beginning of the impeachment case both committees were filled by the chair.

The tying up of the bill yesterday when Senator Morgan proceeded to discuss it and refused to permit at that time a vote on the motion to appoint conferees seemed to permanently obstruct further action. But as unexpectedly as the senator from Alabama tied up the bill yesterday the obstruction was loosened today.

The Senate was to meet at 9:50 o'clock, but Senator Morgan was in his seat at 9:30 o'clock. Those who observed his presence there and knew that he had declined yesterday to withdraw opposition in spite of remonstrances from Senator Bate, who has represented the minority in the control of the bill, Senator Morgan last evening insisted upon "paddling his own canoe," and gave no intimation when the Senate adjourned that he would not continue the same course today. Very generally it was feared that Mr Morgan might set his face permanently against any further action on the statehood bill. Such opposition on his part would have been fatal to the measure in this Congress. For that reason when he was seen in his seat at 9:30 o'clock this morning many feared there would be nothing done on statehood.

But when the Senate met with only ten minutes intervening until it was to resolve itself into a court of impeachment, Senator Morgan offered no objection and Senators Beveridge, Nelson and Bate were appointed conferees on the part of the Senate.

Mr. Morgan Yields.

The statehood bill being laid before the Senate, Mr. Morgan said: "Yesterday I took the floor at an embarrassing time and under what were to me embarrassing circumstances. I had supposed that those who opposed the House bill were to continue their opposition at this time, but I had not been long speaking when I found myself in semi-antagonism to my friends. I had expressed my views on the constitutional features of the bill when it was before the Senate, but had not had any opportunity to discuss its suffrage features. I was anxious to express my views on that point, and having done so, I shall not proceed further."

Mr. Morgan had scarcely ceased speaking when the chair made his announcement of conferees on the statehood bill, designating Messrs. Beveridge, Nelson and Bate.

Conferees at Work.

This step in advance in the procedure, while it is welcomed by all of the friends of the measure, is not regarded as an element of great hopefulness, unless some substantial concession from the House of Representatives can be had in relation to statehood.

There will be no meeting of the conferees today, and none is expected until Monday or Tuesday. But no sooner had the conferees been appointed than they began the most difficult task that faces them—to attempt to discover, if possible, in what form the statehood bill can be passed through the Senate, and what, if anything, can be secured in the way of a concession from the House of Representatives.

As the case stands this afternoon Speaker Cannon has given no intimation that he will accept any proposition to change the House bill. It is just as positive that unless some concession is made to the Senate the bill will go no further than it stands today except that the conferees will be allowed to make their report, which in the Senate throws the whole matter open for debate and will allow any one of the many senators who have shown opposition to the House bill to effectually tie it up until after adjournment.

It was understood a couple of days ago that if the House would accept Senator Foraker's amendment, which allows New Mexico and Arizona to vote separately on the proposition to give them joint statehood, that would be sufficient to get the bill through the Senate. Such a compromise seemed possible, because many senators who favored it were convinced that while New Mexico would ratify such a form of statehood, Arizona would stand against it. For that reason they considered that the Foraker amendment would be equivalent to throwing out of considertaion statehood for New Mexico and Arizona, because with the failure to ratify statehood by those two territories the matter would be before Congress again next December.

Other senators who have not felt so intensely the desirability of making two instead of one state of New Mexico and Arizona have been indifferent to the action of the people of those territories, feeling that even if both territories should accept statehood under such conditions they were warranted in providing it.

Many of the republican senators who have reluctantly approved the Foraker amendment are inclined to believe that with statehood so near at hand the people of both of these territories would accept the measure as passed by Congress, and that doing so, the Foraker amendment would be of no consequence.

Current Feeling in the Senate.

These divergent views have tended to create great hopefulness that the Senate would agree to a report from the conferees in which the House would concede the Foraker amendment. Today, however, as the discussion has proceeded in private conferences about the Senate, a good many senators are not inclined to accept such a compromise. The democrats generally are inclined to take the bill if it provides only for Oklahoma and Indian territory. But Senator Beveridge and other republicans have shown no inclination to take that view. The republican program is to provide statehood for all of these territories in this Congress or to let it go over until the next Congress.

The entire efforts of the conferees today were devoted to ascertaining what report it is possible for them to bring in that will allow the bill to go through both houses of Congress. When that is known it will be a very simple matter for the conferees to agree. Up to this afternoon little or no progress has been made in this direction. A good many senators are inclined to believe that it will not be possible to secure a compromise that will be acceptable to the Senate and the House. For that reason most senators regard statehood as probably dead. But this discouraging view of the situation is having no effect on the conferees themselves. They have been working diligently all the afternoon and will continue to do so in order to secure a satisfactory agreement.