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SENATOR SCOTT'S CASE IS DEBATED. Pettus Disputes His Right to a Seat. HE STANDS ALONE IN IT. Other Members of the Elections Committee in Scott's Favor.

Allen and Teller, of That Committee, Deny the Power of the Senate to Question the Validity of the West Virginia Legislature's Organization, and Say No Charges Are Made Against Scott Himself—Senator Carter Will Try to Get a Vote on the Alaska or Code Bill Some Time Today, if Possible.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—Almost the entire session of the senate today was devoted to the consideration of the right of Nathan B. Scott, of West Virginia, to retain his seat in the senate. Pettus, who, alone of the members of the committee on privileges and elections, is opposed to the claim of Scott to a seat, made an elaborate argument to sustain his views.

Morgan spoke in favor of his colleague's contention. McComas, Turley, Chandler, Teller and Allen supported the resolution declaring Mr. Scott entitled to his seat. The case went over without action. A resolution introduced by Perkins, calling on the secretary of the treasury to send to the senate the imports by months and rates of duty under the reciprocity agreement, that went into effect in 1898, was adopted.

Pettus Attacks Scott. Pettus then addressed the senate in opposition to the resolution declaring that Nathan B. Scott is entitled to his seat as senator from West Virginia. Pettus presented a minority report of the committee on privileges and elections in the Scott case, being the only member of the committee who declined to sign the majority report. In opening his discussion, Pettus referred to the statement of Chandler in the Quay case, in effect that the votes of some senators were cast against Mr. Mantle in 1893 because he was a silver man and the votes of others in retaliation were cast against Corbett two years ago, because he was a gold standard advocate.

Pettus then entered upon an argument in support of his position that Scott was not entitled to his seat, following closely the lines of his report. Pettus refused to permit an interruption by Spooner, who desired to ask a question. "I shall not yield for debate on this question," said the senator from Alabama. "It is not fair and just for a senator to interrupt an argument for the purpose of asking a question, or for the purpose of interrupting arguments."

Pettus analyzed the work in the legislative declaring "the debauchery of such infernal proceedings cannot be too strongly characterized. It is a horrible state of affairs. And yet we are told that the United States senate cannot examine into a fraud like that." Later he pointed out that at one point of the proceedings Mr. Scott needed just one more vote. "There are some very smart people in West Virginia," said he, "and they went immediately to the bargain counter."

Criticizes the Governor. Further along Pettus sharply criticized the action of the governor of West Virginia in entering into the case in the interest of Mr. Scott. "It makes me sick," said he, "that the governor of a state should get down into the mud and dirt of a vile case like this. And from his actions I should think they needed civil service in Charleston." Pettus maintained that the case had not been clearly investigated by the privileges and elections committee.

In conclusion Pettus moved that the report and resolution in the case of Mr. Scott be referred to the committee on privileges and elections, with instructions to investigate the case thoroughly. Chandler Defends Scott. Chandler, chairman of the committee on privileges and elections, presented an explanation of the agreement entered into by the Republican and Democratic leaders in the legislature in the state of West Virginia, and declared it was perfectly valid, perfectly honest and fair. He held with Turley that the senate had no right to investigate the action of the legislature on election contests.

CANADA'S CAPITAL IS DEVASTATED BY FIRE. Twelve Thousand People Rendered Homeless—Five Square Miles of Buildings Destroyed, and Property Loss of Twenty Millions.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 27.—Five square miles of territory burned over; more than 2,500 dwellings, factories, mills, stores and other buildings destroyed, entailing a loss estimated to reach \$20,000,000, and between 12,000 and 15,000 men, women and children homeless, is summing up of the havoc wrought by the fire which has been raging at Hull in Ottawa since 11 o'clock yesterday morning, and at midnight was not completely under control.

Nothing of Hull Left. Most of the lumber piles in Ottawa and Hull have disappeared and are now mere heaps of charred wood and ashes. Half a dozen churches and schools, a number of mills, the Hull waterworks, the Hull courthouse and jail, the post-office, the convent—almost every business place and about 1,000 dwellings and shops in Hull have been destroyed. Indeed, practically nothing of Hull is left but a church and a few houses beyond it.

Heavy Gale Was Blowing. The spot where the fire originated is about a quarter of a mile from the main street of Hull, and as a gale was blowing from the northwest right in the direction of lumber piles and mills on both the Hull and Ottawa shores of the Ottawa river and Chaudiers falls, it was soon seen that the fire was almost certain to be a large one. By 11:30 the fire had gotten a good hold on Main street, and the entire street, with dozens of cross streets, was burning. Practically there is not a house left in the street. About this time the fire made a jump of nearly half a mile and ignited Eddy's woodyard, near the match factory. It was soon in flames and the 50-mile an hour gale which was blowing drove a high column of flame across Bridge street and set fire to the Eddy paper mill and the other buildings of the company.

Fire Crosses the River. The fire at this time also sprang across the Ottawa river and caught the sheds in the rear of the Mackay Milling Company on Victoria island, and in a few minutes the lumber piles on Victoria and Chaudier islands, one of the power-houses of the Ottawa Electric Company, the Victoria foundry and half the buildings on the two islands were in flames.

Chaudier Flats Swept Away. The result is that the whole of that part of Ottawa known as the Chaudier flats, surrounding the Canadian Pacific Railway station, where the lumber mills are all located, is fire-swept. The only building standing in the whole area is that of the Ottawa carbide factory, which is newly erected and fireproof. From the flats the fire extended across the Richmond road on to Rochesterville, and as far as the experimental farm. Westerly the fire took in Hintonburg and Mechanicville, so that on the Ottawa side of the river there is a larger area covered by fire than on the Hull side. It is estimated that at the present the number of people homeless in the two cities and suburban towns is less than 12,000, and it may reach 15,000. Hull has a population of about 12,000 people.

get a vote upon the Alaskan civil code bill tomorrow. He had read a strong appeal from the Seattle Chamber of Commerce for the early passage of the bill. "The following bills were passed: Appropriating \$250,000 for the erection of a public building at Ogden, Utah, making \$75,000 immediately available; amending the act to prevent forest fires on the public domain, and providing penalty for persons convicted of starting such fires. The senate, at 5:19 p. m., adjourned.

IN THE HOUSE.

Postoffice Appropriation Bill Passes, Provisions for Special Mail Facilities Remaining in. WASHINGTON, April 26.—After four days of discussion, the house today passed the postoffice appropriation bill. The attempt to strike out the \$190,000 for special mail facilities from New York to New Orleans, and from Kansas City to Newton, Kan., met the fate it has ever since the appropriation was placed in the bill in 1894. No one demanded a separate vote upon the amendment striking out the pneumatic tube provision, and the house by a large majority stood by the amendment to give extra compensation to letter carriers for work in excess of forty-eight hours a week, although the carriers were said by Cummings to be opposed to it.

The bill to increase the salary of the director of the census to \$7,500 and the salaries of supervisors of census by 2 percent of the amount received by their enumerators was passed. The final conference report on the Hawaiian government bill was presented, but not acted upon owing to the absence of a quorum. Tawney of Minnesota moved to increase the salaries of 49 railway postal clerks of class "A" from \$1,300 to \$1,400. Lost opposed. The amendment was adopted, 81 to 52.

Two hours were devoted to the debate on provisions appropriating \$17,225 for special facilities from New York to Atlanta and New Orleans, and \$25,000 from Kansas City, Mo., to Newton, Kan. Little (Ark.) opened the debate in opposition to them. He declared they were relics of the most vicious system of legislation that ever invaded congress. Underwood (Ala.) favored the appropriation for the Southern mail subsidy, which, he said, was necessary to keep up quick communication with the South. Williams (Miss.) vigorously opposed the appropriation. He denounced it as a "job," and part of a scheme in which the

ple and more than half of them are homeless tonight. The entire business part of the city, including the courthouse, post-office, public buildings and newspaper offices, is one mass of ruins.

Sheltering the Homeless. The government has given the drill hall and the city the large exhibition buildings to accommodate the sufferers. All the institutions in the city which have any accommodation at all have lent a hand to all the distressed. The only industry left standing in Hull is the Coulmer & Houston lumber mill at the extreme end beyond the city limits, near Gaieneau point.

Loss in Ottawa. The Hull Lumber Company's mills, the extensive works of Ebby, both match and paper factories as well as his residence, are all in ruins as well as the Inter-Provincial bridge which connects the city of Ottawa with Hull.

On the Ottawa side of the river the loss is still greater. There are in the ashes the Bronson & Weston Lumber Company mills, the J. R. Booth lumber mills, the McKay Milling Company, the Ottawa electric railway power house, the Martin & Warneck mills, the Victoria foundry, the Ottawa saw works, the Ottawa Specialty Company, the Palm planing mills and several other industries. There are also some fine residences included in this area. Among them are those of J. R. Booth, which was valued at \$100,000; the residence of his son-in-law, A. W. Fleck; that of Hon. George Foster, Lewis Russell, manager for Mr. Bronson, and Mr. Palm, of the Palm mills, the latter two beautiful houses out of which their owners were not able to take anything, so quick did the flames extend to them.

Outside Aid Called For. As soon as the members of the government saw that the fire was to be a serious one, the acting member of public works telegraphed to Montreal, Peterboro and Brockville for fire appliances and all assistance that could be sent. But although they arrived speedily they were of no avail. In Hull the fire has about burned out. The business portion is all gone and over half of the residences. The Roman Catholic cathedral has been saved, together with Eddy's sulphide works, Gilmore and Houghton's mills are also standing. The only means of communication between Ottawa and Hull is by boat. From 2 o'clock the only water to be had in Hull is from the river.

Chief Bennett, of the Hull fire brigade, was injured and taken to the general hospital at Ottawa. How the Fire Started. The fire originated through a fire in a dirty chimney, and the high wind caused the flames to spread rapidly. Coming to the Ottawa side of the river, that portion of the city east of Division street, the old boundary line of the city before Rochesterville was annexed, was almost entirely burned down. Here and there a building remains. The village of Hintonburg, still further east, in close proximity to the city, has not been destroyed as reported. The greater part remains. Mechanicville, too, was supposed to have been entirely swept away, but still remains. The fire at midnight was largely confined to that part of Rochesterville lying near the St. Louis dam, in the south-

east part of the city. Unless a heavy wind rises the remainder of the city is safe. The bucket brigades of the military and the Montreal firemen with their engine did yeoman service at this point. In addition to the losses mentioned, there is that of the Export Lumber Company, limited, whose establishment was at the Chaudier. Their loss will be very heavy, but is covered by fire insurance in American and English companies. A prominent lumber dealer told your correspondent that the price of lumber would certainly be raised on account of the fire.

The Casualties Reported. The casualties so far reported are: Miss Cook, an old woman, who lived on Wellington street, near the French church, and who was burned in her house to a crisp. An unknown man was found on the Canadian Pacific railroad track. James Mahan, of Queen street west, is reported to be fatally injured, and some pieces of timber fell on James Merrifield, who was taken to the hospital.

The government is supplying blankets and doing all in its power for the comfort of the sufferers. Insurance Companies Lose Heavily. The Ottawa Insurance Company, a new institution, will be a heavy loser in the fire. All the Canadian companies and some of the English and American companies are interested. A prominent lumberman placed the losses for lumber piles at from \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000. This is thought to be a low estimate, as the Export Lumber Company alone had nearly \$1,000,000. The same lumberman estimates the entire loss at about \$15,000,000.

The large cliff which extends from the Ottawa river back by Christ church and St. John the Baptist church on to Rochesterville was the only thing which stopped the whole city of Ottawa becoming a prey to the fire. Shortly after noon the wind, which was blowing previously in a north-westerly direction, changed to a south-easterly direction, and in this way what remained of Ottawa was saved.

Canadian Pacific a Loser. While the Victoria and Chaudier islands were a seething mass of roaring flames, the fire made another jump and caught in the freight sheds of the Canadian Pacific railroad yards at Chaudier, and soon after the Union station was ablaze. The rolling stock and most of the freight and baggage had been removed, but the flames spread with great rapidity, and in a very short time the whole of the Chaudier flats were fire-swept. The mass of fire was blown by the wind, which stiffly continued to blow a gale, down upon Rochesterville, Mechanicville and Hintonburg.

The fire also devastated the little settlement of St. Mary's village. The flames sheered along the Richmond road, burning Martin & Warner's flour mill and extending almost to Skead's mill, some three miles beyond the city limit. At this time (5 a. m.) there was almost a continuous line of fire from its starting place, at Chaudier street, Hull, to the St. Louis dam and the experimental farm in one direction and through and beyond Hintonburg in another, a distance of nearly seven miles. In some places the fire was more than half a mile deep.

HEAVY SLAUGHTER OF FILIPINO INSURGENTS.

About Three Hundred of Them Killed in Various Fights Within a Brief Period. MANILA, April 26, 6:18 p. m.—About 200 of the enemy have been killed recently in North Ilocos, including Dodds' fight and the attack on Batoc April 17, when from 600 to 700 rebels, a quarter of whom were armed with rifles, determinedly attacked the Americans, charging their positions and fighting at close quarters. The engagement lasted all the afternoon, the enemy burning the town, but they were repulsed after the arrival of American reinforcements. The insurgents generally are aggressive in that province. They captured an American provision wagon near Lapo. The Americans, having obtained evidence that the abductees of Lapo, Magalang, Cabugos and Sinalt were holding treacherous communication with the insurgents, imprisoned them and burned Lapo town hall.

There have been several minor fights in the province, including an attack by 200 insurgents on Lavag April 17, forty of whom were killed and eighty were captured. The officers report that the men of the Thirty-third regiment and Third cavalry behaved splendidly under very trying circumstances. There were no American casualties at Batoc, where 190 insurgents were killed and seventy were captured.

SYMPATHY FOR AGUINALDO.

Queer Project of Canadians to Retaliate for American Sympathy With the Boers. SPECIAL Dispatch to the Post-Intelligencer. DETROIT, April 25.—The loyal British subjects of Windsor will rebuke the Philadelphians who sent President Kruger, of the Transvaal, resolutions of sympathy. On the 24th of May, the queen's birthday anniversary, they will dispatch two delegates to the Philippines bearing a message of sympathy and admiration to Aguinaldo and the Tagal warriors. The decision to retaliate upon Philadelphia was arrived at in a meeting of the board of education of Windsor. Arrangements were made to solicit subscriptions to defray the expense of delegates. A canvass will be made of the city, and if enough money cannot be

MESSES IN THE NET WERE MUCH TOO BIG.

Boer Forces Have Apparently Slipped Through.

BRITISH IN HOT PURSUIT.

Running Fight Goes on Along the Southern Border.

Roberts Wires That He Has Received Word From Mafeking That All Was Well—Native Women Who Escaped From the Town Were Captured by Boers and Sent Back, After Having Been Stripped and Whipped With Sjamboks—Free State Boers Secret Their Guns and Return to Their Farms.

LONDON, April 27, 5 a. m.—Israel's plight, which is not marked on the maps, lies between Swannas post and Thaba N'Chu. Gen. Hamilton has probably by this time arrived at Thaba N'Chu, as he is urging his utmost endeavors to cut off the Boers who are retreating from Dewetsdorp.

Boers Will Not Stand. The Boer forces at Thaba N'Chu are not unlikely to make a stand to cover the escape of the convoys from the southward. They have laagers eight miles apart stretching from Brandfont to Thaba N'Chu with a base camp at Samaklidi station. A report comes that a small force of British mounted infantry had a brush with a party of Boers three miles east of Karoo siding, who were trying to establish a connection between Brandfont and Boer forces to the southward.

Delayed Details Arriving. Otherwise there is no news beyond the official dispatches of Lord Roberts, except belated details of recent operations. It appears that Gen. Brabant, in the fight with the Boers at Wepener, had a narrow escape. Gen. Pole-Carew's advance was much hampered by the tardy arrival of artillery, which prevented him from capturing Leuw kop before darkness set in and enabled the Boers to secure their retreat.

Several Unaccountable Delays. Although the large succession of operations worked successfully, several cases of unaccountable delay in the advances are remarked by the correspondents. Taken on the whole, however, there has been no bungling and apparently Lord Roberts, with the commands in the hands of younger generals, now has an exceedingly efficient army.

Boers Not in Boshof. The report that the Boers had recaptured Boshof proves to be untrue. Lord Methuen is still there and Gen. Hunter's division from Natal, which was supposed to be going to Bloemfontein, is arriving at Kimberley. This is evidence that some important operations are afoot in that district. It is understood that the reason the Boers did not destroy the Bloemfontein water works was that there are many Boers among the stockholders.

The Boers are showing more activity in Natal. They are placing some heavy guns four miles north of Elands laage.

In the Commons. Mr. Wyndham's explanation in the house of commons yesterday has aroused considerable comment, especially his statement that Lord Roberts has been delayed by the necessity of defeating detached forces of the enemy which threatened his communication from Cape Town and Port Elizabeth and which blocked them from East London. The only intimation hitherto received that the East London line was blocked had been discredited. This was the Boer report that the bridges at Bethulle had been blown up.

All discussion of the Spion kop dispatches has been postponed until May 22 by the blocking motion introduced in the commons yesterday by James Lowther. A body of Boer prisoners has been landed at St. Helena. Boer Peace Commissioners. The Netherlands minister of foreign affairs yesterday received the Boer peace commissioners. It is alleged that they will time their arrival in the United States so it will occur at the most exciting time of the presidential election.

From Lourenzo Marques comes a report that large quantities of gunpowder are going to the Boers disguised as sacks of meal. Hamilton Encounters No Opposition. The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Standard, telegraphing Thursday, says: "Gen. Ian Hamilton, with mounted infantry, naval guns and howitzer battery, advanced from the water works in the direction of Thaba N'Chu. A large force of infantry supported him. He met with no opposition and the mounted infantry occupied a position dominating the Ladybrand district."

Boers Playing Pacifico Dodge. The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, under Wednesday's date, says: "Our mounted infantry entered the high mountain plateau of Thaba N'Chu today almost without opposition. As Thaba N'Chu is a natural fortress, this must mean that the Boers have practically thrown up the sponge in this section of the country. If the force presses on to Ladybrand the whole country south of that point and in line with Bloemfontein will be completely in our hands. "One difficulty is that many of the Boers forming commandoes, immediately on finding themselves beaten, retreat to their farms and resume the roles of peaceful citizens, hiding their rifles."

Will Execute Turning Movement. The war office publishes the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Bloem-