

CATON INSURANCE BILL PASSES HOUSE

Measure Now Goes to the Senate for Final Action—Vote 51 to 26.

NEED MORE JUDICIAL CIRCUITS

It is Expected That the Upper House Will Create at Least Five New Districts—Closing of the Po- tomac to Oystermen Will Be Op- posed in Virginia.

(Special to Daily Press.)
RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 26.—Con-
trary to expectation, the debate on
the Caton insurance bill was cut
short at the very beginning of it
this afternoon. The House voted to
dispose with the constitutional
readings, and the bill was passed
by a vote of 51 yeas to 26 noes.

It provides that insurance com-
panies shall invest the surplus arising
from business in the State in
Virginia State, city or county bonds.
It is strenuously opposed by the in-
surance people.

The swift action on the bill came
as a surprise.

The measure now goes to the Senate
for action. Some surprise was
expressed at the ease with which
the bill went through. A long debate
was anticipated.

More Judicial Circuits Wanted.

It is likely that the Senate bill
creating four new judicial circuits
in the State will undergo material
amendments in the House, and that
this branch of the Legislature will
add still another circuit.

A sub-committee of the House
committee on courts of justice con-
sidered the matter today and in-
structed one of its members, Delegate
Early, to draft a new bill to embody
his ideas.

This bill will suggest a circuit
composed of the counties of Alber-
marle, Greene and Madison—Judge
White's; another, composed of the
counties of Rockingham and Page;
a third, composed of Culpeper, Or-
ange, Louisa and Goochland.

The Twenty-ninth circuit accord-
ing to the sub-committee's plan, will
be composed of Amherst, Nelson,
Buckingham and Fluvanna.

The circuit to be composed of
Portsmouth, Princess Anne and Isle
of Wight will not be interfered with
by the House committee if it offers
the contemplated amendments.

Potomac to Remain Open.

Delegate Mason, the member of
the House from King George, is in re-
ceipt of the following telegram from
C. A. Loockerman, one of the Mary-
land legislators who recently came
to Richmond to confer with the Old
Dominion solons about joint oyster
legislation: "Bill introduced yester-
day by Senator Linthicum closing
waters in Maryland against dredg-
ing for purpose of getting your peo-
ple to close Potomac. Don't regard
it. Hold committee against
close of Potomac."

Delegate Mason assures his Mary-
land friend by letter that the Vir-
ginia Legislature will not close the
Potomac if he can help it.

To Investigate V. P. I.

The House this afternoon, without
a dissenting vote, adopted Delegate
Thornhill's resolution calling for an
investigation of the Virginia Poly-
technic Institute hazing affair.

The resolution is the outcome of
certain charges made against the fac-
ulty and visitors of the school by
ex-Judge George L. Christian, of this
city.

If the Senate concurs in the resolu-
tion, a joint committee of five will
conduct the investigation.

V. M. I. Not Overlooked.

The V. M. I. will also come under
the scrutiny of a legislative investi-
gation committee.

In the House today Delegate Swift,
of Spotsylvania, introduced a joint
resolution looking to the investiga-
tion of the Virginia Military Insti-
tute during vacation by the Gener-
al Assembly. The resolution was adopt-

ed without reference to a commit-
tee.

Senate Concurs in Action.

The Senate, when the passage of
the resolution to investigate the Vir-
ginia Polytechnic Institute was pre-
sented, immediately concurred in the
action of the House.

Senator Phlegar, in whose district
the institute is situated, made the
motion to concur, saying the insti-
tute invited the inquiry. There was
not a dissenting vote.

Belle Haven Tired of City Life.

A bill to revoke the charter of
Belle Haven, Accomac county, has
been offered in the Senate by Mr.
Gunter. The proposition is said to
be the culmination of factional dif-
ferences that have destroyed the
peace of the little Eastern Shore com-
munity, and it is hoped either to
unite the contending citizens or se-
gregate them by a reversion to coun-
ty government.

The bill provides that all real and
personal property of the town shall
become vested in the county board
of supervisors, by whom it shall be
administered for the payment of any
municipal debts, and the remainder
to the public school now located in
the town.

Ministers After Legislators.

The Methodist ministers in their
weekly meeting this morning discov-
ered with some feeling the slow
progress of the legislature upon the

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WAR IS DECIDED UPON

Ambassador in St. Petersburg Says the Die is Cast.

EMPEROR WILLIAM IS BLAMED

Moroccan Conference Considered a Failure and Only Way Now to Settle the Dispute Is to Resort to Arms— Europe Dreads Outcome.

(By Associated Press.)

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 26.—
Most alarming views with reference
to the relations between Germany and
France prevail in certain diplomatic
quarters, where the situation is con-
sidered to be extremely tense and a
conflict by no means unlikely.

An ambassador of one great Euro-
pean power said today that war in his
opinion, was inevitable and had, in
fact, been decided upon.

"It is said," added the diplomat, who
is not rank among the admirers of
Emperor William, "that for the whims
of one man, you must be plunged into
the horrors of war."

At the French embassy opinion as
to the situation is frankly pessimistic,
and the outlook at present is regarded
as extremely serious.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Y. M. C. A. Directors Choose Mr. L. C. Phillips as President.

A called meeting of the board of
directors of the Young Men's Chris-
tian Association was held last evening
in the Association building. Officers
for the ensuing year were elected as
follows:

President—L. C. Phillips.
First Vice-President—J. A. Willett.
Second Vice-President—B. W.
Crumpp.

Recording Secretary—Wm. F. Leath.
Treasurer—C. D. West.

State Secretary L. A. Coulter at-
tended the meeting at which several
matters of interest to the association
were discussed. The annual canvass
for subscriptions to meet the current
expenses of the association will be
taken up in a few days.

Launching This Week.

It is probable that the Lake sub-
marine cruiser will be launched at
the shipyard this week. The little
craft has been drawn to the water's
edge and is about ready to go over-
board.

Roy J. Charles Bankrupt.

Roy J. Charles, of this city, yester-
day filed a petition in bankruptcy in
the Federal court at Norfolk, through
his attorneys, Messrs. Lett & Mas-
sie. The liabilities are placed at
\$1,104 and the assets at \$60.

Young People's Circle.

The Young People's Circle was
very highly entertained last Friday
evening by Mrs. W. A. Jennings at
her home, 2503 Orcutt avenue.

CHRISTIANS SLAIN BY CHINESE MOBS

Another Church Row Causes the Death of Many Mission Work- ers in the Interior.

AMERICANS ESCAPE MASSACRE

Gunboat Sent to the Scene of the Dis- order, But as the Report Says it Was Only a "Local" Affair There Is Not Any Alarm Felt Over the Fate of Other Missionaries.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Advises
at the State Department received this
morning indicate that trouble in the
interior of Southern China has already
occurred, in conformity with warnings
recently circulated that the lives of
foreigners in that part of the empire
would be in danger on and after Feb-
ruary 24.

One family of the name of Kiang-
ham, English missionaries, consisting of
two adults and two children, have
been killed. The information comes
from Consul General Rodgers, at
Shanghai.

He reports that the mission stations
at Nanchang and Kiangsi, near Kin-
kiang, have been destroyed, although
this statement in his first dispatch
this morning, under date of February
26, is modified by a later dispatch,
stating that a report has been received
that the mission at Nanchang, an in-
land station, had been saved.

Americans Are Rescued.

The dispatch states that fourteen
American missionaries, living in the
neighborhood of the mission reported
destroyed, are believed to have escap-
ed. The causes of the uprising are not
known, details being lacking.

Consul-General Rodgers states that
the El Cano, an American gunboat,
now patrolling the Yangtze, has been
ordered to Kinkiang.

The El Cano has left Nanking, and
will arrive at the former place Wed-
nesday.

The first cablegram this morning
from Consul-General Rodgers was as
follows:

Missions Destroyed.

"Missions at Nanchang and Kiangsi,
near Kinkiang, have been attacked and
destroyed. The cause is understood to
be local, but particulars have not
been received. Telegrams received at
Shanghai indicate that the fourteen
American missionaries escaped.

"The Kiangham family, English, two
adults and two children, are under-
stood to have been killed. The gun-
boat El Cano, now at Nanking, has
been ordered to Kinkiang, where she
is expected to arrive on Wednesday."

The second cablegram stated that
after he had filed the previous mes-
sage, it had been reported to Mr. Rod-
gers that the Nanchang mission had
been saved.

The scene of the trouble is about 400
miles up the Yangtze river.

Church Trouble Starts Row.

Mr. Rodgers later cabled that the
inland British missions are reported
safe. He says that the reports of the
Nanchang troubles are conflicting. It
is now reported to have originated
in a dispute between French Jesuits
and Chinese officials. A Chinese
magistrate was at first reported to
have been stabbed by a Catholic mis-
sionary, but it is now claimed that the
magistrate stabbed himself.

Eight Persons Killed.

In the riot which occurred yesterday
six Jesuits and two members of the
Kiangham family were killed. Chinese
troops were protecting the rioters.
The refugees are going to Kiu Kiang.
The American mission building is un-
derstood to have been saved and order
is now restored. Mr. Rodgers adds
that all is quiet in Shanghai.

The officials here accept Consul-
General Rodgers' suggestion that the
trouble at Nanchang, is local, as has
been the case with the last two pre-
ceding attacks upon foreign missions
in China. While there is little appre-
hension that the trouble will spread,
it is realized that the incident ap-
pears to justify the preparations under-
way from a military point of view.

The Chinese minister has received
a cablegram from the viceroy at Can-
ton, saying everything is quiet.

Methodists Escape.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Reports of
rioting at the American mission sta-
tion at Nanchang and the escape of
eight American missionaries stationed
there, were received here today by
cable at the Methodist board of fore-
ign missions. Bishop J. W. Bash-
ford cabled:

"Mission Nanchang rioted; Method-
ist missionaries escaped on boat."

TILLMAN INTRODUCES HEPBURN RATE BILL

Senate is Now Expected to do the Work Which Committee Failed to do.

REPUBLICANS ARE NOT UNITED

Senate Concurs in the Resolution Demanding an Investigation into the Railroad Coal Merger—Ohioan After Southern Representation in Congress.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—
The Hepburn railroad rate bill was
reported to the Senate today by Sen-
ator Tillman in accordance with the
action of the Senate committee on
inter-state commerce last Friday.

Large crowds assembled in the gal-
leries anticipating a field day of de-
bate, but were disappointed. There
was little of interest in the pro-
ceedings regarding the bill. Mr. Till-
man said that within two weeks he
should make the rate bill the un-
finished business and to displace the
starehoid if that measure was not
disposed of before that time.

"A majority of the Republican mem-
bers of the committee did not join
in the favorable report which has
just been made by the Senate from
South Carolina," Mr. Aldrich said "for
the reason that in their judgment
an attempt should have been made
by the committee to remedy by prop-
er amendments, some of the obvious
and admitted defects and omissions of
the House bill and that clear and
adequate provision should have been
made for subjecting the orders of the
commission affecting rates to judi-
cial review."

Indian Bill Considered.

Mr. Clap called up the bill to dis-
pose of the affairs of the five civil-
ized tribes in Indian Territory and
in the preliminary discussion showed
that there was considerable opposi-
tion, also that there was to be criti-
cism of the disposition of the coal
lands owned by the Indians.

Mr. Dick occupied the floor during
the afternoon continuing his speech
in support of the joint starehoid bill.

The vice president laid before the
Senate the message from the House
announcing its passage of the Gilles-
pie-Tillman resolution requesting the
inter-state commerce commission to
investigate the relations of railroads
with the production of bituminous
and anthracite coal and oil. Mr.
Tillman moved to concur in the
House amendments, which passed the
resolution. It now goes to the
President.

Powder Trust Considered.

Mr. Daniel secured consent to the
publication in the Congressional Re-
cord of a letter from Robert S. Wad-
dell, of Peoria, Ill., regarding the
manufacture of powder. He said
that the letter shows that the manu-
facture of powder is in the hands of
a "trust" and he considered this
condition a menace to the public wel-
fare.

Adjourns in Henderson's Memory.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—
The death of former Speaker David
B. Henderson was the subject of
appropriate action in the House of
Representatives when after the trans-
action of less than half-day's business
resolutions of regard and esteem
were adopted and adjournment taken
as a further mark of respect to his
memory.

Bills relating to the District of
Columbia were passed, one incor-
porating the National Society of the
Sons of American Revolution.

The balance of the session was de-
voted to a consideration of the Dal-
zell bill, incorporating the Lake
Erie and Ohio River Ship Canal
Company. The debate on this bill
was finished and a roll call on the
previous question was about to be
taken when the House adjourned un-
til tomorrow.

Kiefer Aims Blow at the South.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—
Representative Kiefer, of Ohio, in-

troduced a bill today to reduce the
number of representatives of Southern
States in the House because of the
disfranchisement of negro voters. The
bill makes the reduction as follows:
Alabama, from nine to five.
Arkansas, from nine to five.
Florida, from three to two.
Georgia, from eleven to six.
Louisiana, from seven to three.
Mississippi, from eight to three.
North Carolina, from ten to six.
South Carolina, from seven to three.
Tennessee, from ten to eight.
Texas, from sixteen to twelve.
Virginia, from ten to eight.

To Prevent "Cotton Leaks."

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—
The judiciary committee of the Sen-
ate today authorized a favorable re-
port on the so-called "cotton leak"
bill.

The bill provides for the punish-
ment by fine or imprisonment of all
officials and employees of the govern-
ment who take advantage of any in-
formation obtained directly or indi-
rectly, by reason of their position,
affecting cotton or other products.

"Poison Squad" Reports.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—
Dr. H. W. Wiley's experiments in
feeding young men on a diet in
which preservatives and adulterants
formed an important part were dis-
cussed at length today by the house
committee on inter-state and foreign
commerce.

MITCHELL CALLS MINERS

Roosevelt Urges Coal Diggers to Avert Strike.

CONVENTION SET FOR MARCH 15

President of the Immense Body of Union Men Will Try Again to Get His Followers to Come to Terms With the Great Coal Barons.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—John Mit-
chell, president of the United Mine
Workers, of America, after holding
a conference with the operators and
miners relative to the trouble in the
mining regions announced that it had
been decided to call a national con-
vention of the United Mine Work-
ers of America for March 15.

This convention was decided on
Mr. Mitchell said, after the receipt
of a letter from President Roosevelt
deploring the failure of the recent
convention and urging a further con-
ference to try to decide on peace
terms.

MERRIMAC RESIDENTS WANT COUNTY ROADS IMPROVED

Civic Association Organized and Com- mittee Appointed to Petition Board of Supervisors.

A number of the residents of the
Merrimac section of Elizabeth City
county met at Mr. W. C. Perkins'
store, Claremont avenue, night for
the purpose of advocating taking steps
to remedy existing deplorable condi-
tions of streets and roads of that section.

The meeting was called to order by
Mr. D. F. Beale and an organization
was effected with Mr. L. M. T. Beale
as chairman, Mr. Fred G. Kipper as
secretary, and Colonel William Thomp-
son, formerly governor of the Soldiers'
Home, as treasurer.

The name adopted by the organi-
zation is the "Merrimac Civic Improve-
ment Association."

A committee of five was appointed
to draw up a petition to the board of
supervisors of Elizabeth City county,
asking that a public highway be built
from the city limits of Newport News
to Hampton. The committee was
named as follows: Colonel William
Thompson, George W. Wells, D. F.
Beale, Fred G. Kipper and G. P.
Byrum.

Among those who addressed the
meeting were Colonel Thompson,
Messrs. D. F. Beale, L. M. T. Beale,
Fred G. Kipper and George W. Wells.

Supper Before Lent.

A supper at the parish house of St.
Paul's church tonight will be the last
social event of the church before
lent. It will be given by the ladies
of St. Paul's Guild and an invita-
tion has been extended to members
of the church and to all others who
may wish to attend.

GRAFT IN CORPORATION COMMISSION CHARGED

Clerk Upshur Accuses Major Lan- ier of Holding up Firms Like a Bandit.

ASSEMBLY STIRS UP A SCANDAL

Companies Having Business to Trans- act With the Board Were Told to First Employ Lanier's Company or There Would Be Troublesome Times in Prospect For Defiant Ones.

(Special to Daily Press.)

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 26.—The
joint legislative committee appointed
to investigate and report upon the in-
cident of the discharge from the ser-
vice of the State corporation commis-
sion of Major A. S. Lanier, one of
the clerks to the commission, began
its sessions today.

Chief Clerk Upshur read the charges
which he had prepared against Lanier
in his report to the commission, which
charges allege that Judge Beverly
T. Crump, chairman of the commis-
sion, had taken stock in a concern
promoted by Lanier in the office of
the commission, using information be-
longing to the State, it is alleged, for
his own personal ends.

Lanier Brought Action.

Major Lanier brought action for
libel against Clerk Upshur to force
the latter to make public the charges
against him, which have never been
made public, and which Lanier had not
seen until today.

Clerk Upshur, in his report, makes
use of the following language: "The
confidence reposed in Major Lanier
by the chairman of the commission
was betrayed by his beginning the
prostitution of his public office to his
private gain and to the detriment of
similar chartered companies, and
placing himself and the Virginia Cor-
poration (Inc.), Lanier's concern, in
the attitude of a bandit, holding up for
tribute any one whom he might be
able to draw into his net."

Like a "Hold-Up" Game.

"Persons coming into this office to
transact business with its officers are
openly solicited by Major Lanier to
pay his company a certain amount an-
nually to perform arduous duties im-
posed by law and exacted by the com-
mission, impressing upon them the
fact that if they attempted to handle
their business themselves with this
department they would be apt to find
themselves in the pitfall of penalties
so carefully and elaborately enumer-
ated by himself."

Mr. Upshur concluded his testimo-
ny before the committee this evening
and Major Lanier took the stand as
a witness, alleging as heretofore, that
whatever he did in connection with
the formation of the Virginia Corpora-
tion Company (Inc.), was done with
the knowledge and apparent encour-
agement of Chairman Crump.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM COOLEY

Commissioner Assures Capt. Stuart That He is Satisfied.

Following is an extract from a let-
ter which has been received by Col-
lector of Customs J. E. B. Stuart
from Civil Service Commissioner
Cooley.

"I have already written a letter to
Senator Nelson stating that matters
have been satisfactorily adjusted;
and I have personally advised Sec-
retary Shaw that this is the case. So
far as this office is concerned, there-
fore, you have a clean bill of health
at the treasury department, and be-
fore the Senate committee. If you
insist upon it we can make copies
of all the material testimony and for-
ward them to you. It will, how-
ever, be a somewhat lengthy under-
taking, and unless you insist upon it,
the commission would ask to be
relieved of this as it is not seen
that it can serve any useful pur-
pose. We are entirely satisfied that
there will be no further trouble at
Newport News.

"Very respectfully,

(Signed) ALFORD W. COOLEY,
"Commissioner."

Blew Down Fence.

During the terrific wind and rain
storm which swept over the city
Sunday afternoon a part of the fence
enclosing the Y. M. C. A. athletic
field was blown down.

Working on Budget.

The finance committee of the city
council was in session until nearly
midnight last night. The committee
is working on the budget for the com-
ing fiscal year.