

PERMANENT CENSUS MEASURE CAUSES MUCH WARM DEBATE.

Mr. Burkett of Nebraska Makes a Bitter Speech in Opposition to the Bill.

VIGOROUSLY CHAMPIONED BY MR. HOPKINS, CHAIRMAN OF THE CENSUS COMMITTEE.

Proposes to Retain Present Trained Force of Clerks.

THEIR CREDITABLE RECORDS.

Declined That Permanency of the Bureau Would Be an Economy and Result in Better and More Scientific Methods—To Grant Employees the Privilege of Transfer.

The Hopkins bill to make the Census Bureau permanent was taken up as a special order in the House today immediately after the reading of the Journal.

Chairman Hopkins started in to state the advantages of a permanent bureau when he was besieged with questions as to what effect the enactment of the measure would have upon the present employees as regards civil service.

Wants Present Force Retained. Representative Grosvenor asked whether the force would be continued under civil service rules and regulations.

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He said they had distinguished themselves by their good work, which was a credit to the Bureau, and he wanted them retained without being subjected to competition in a further examination with the average high school graduate seeking a position.

He suggested the advisability of including an amendment authorizing the President in explicit terms to extend the civil service to the employees of the bureau.

Thinks the Point Covered. Mr. Hopkins said that the present force had passed a rigid examination and had had two and one-half years of experience and the President had placed them under civil service law without any special law.

He thought the present law, which is continued by the proposed bill, would cover all the requirements.

Mr. Mann (Rep., Ill.) thought it would be well to insert a provision enabling Census Office employees to transfer to any other department of the Government.

In answer to a question, Mr. Hopkins said the examination of the Census clerks had not been prepared by the Civil Service Commission, but under the direction of the Director of the Census.

Cost of the Census. Continuing, he said the cost of the census up to this time had been \$13,516,216.

PANAMA COMPANY FORMALLY OFFERS CANAL FOR \$40,000,000.

Tender Made to Admiral Walker, President of the Isthmian Canal Commission.

The Panama Canal Company in a letter received today by Admiral Walker, president of the United States Isthmian Canal Commission, made a formal offer for the sale of the canal property to the United States for \$40,000,000.

There is no reservation, the terms including all excavations already made, the Panama Canal Company's interests in the Panama Railroad, all machinery, the hospitals at Colon and Panama, maps, drawings, plans, and records, besides large grants of land from the Colombian Government.

M. Llanusa, the secretary general of the company, said today after the offer had been received, that his company was able to give a clear title, not only to the property, but to the concessions made to the company by the Colombian Government.

It is understood the offer has been transmitted to the President.

Colombia is Willing. Colombia has already officially communicated to the United States Government her willingness to repeal in any form that the President and Congress may desire the permission granted some months ago to the Panama company to sell its rights to the United States.

Senator Herran, Chargé d'Affaires of the Colombian Legation, said: "Colombia is anxious that the United States shall complete the canal, and will facilitate the work therefore in every possible way consistent with the proper protection of its own interests."

Admiral Walker at White House. Admiral Walker called at the White House this morning, and handed a number of documents to the President.

It is believed the offer of the Panama Canal Company was contained in one of the documents.

It was now costing \$150,000 a month, and the estimated cost for the year 1902 was \$1,972,720.

During the enumeration, he said, there had been 62,000 employees, 3,400 of whom were engaged in Washington. The present force was 2,700. He thought merit alone would count in retaining clerks when a reduction was made necessary.

Mr. Burkett Opposes It. Representative Burkett (Rep., Neb.) made a strong speech in opposition to the bill. He said it was inopportune at this time and that the matter had not been sufficiently digested to permit the House to know what was wanted. He said all the pending bill did was to continue the present law with a big force of employees who were not needed.

The only persons demanding it, he said, were the Director of the Census and those on the salary list.

He denounced the proposition to pay the Director \$7,500 a year which was within \$500 of the salary of a cabinet officer, and \$1,500 more than the chief of any other Government bureau, while his work would be infinitely less for the next few years than it was while the census was being taken.

Statisticians and Experts. He attacked the proposition to continue at high salaries a large number of statisticians and so-called experts. The only reason advanced was that the Director of the Census wanted it.

The two arguments made for a permanent census, he said, were to retain a trained force and to issue "additional professional bulletins."

He thought that a Census Bureau should be under a Department of Commerce and Industries.

Statistics Enough Already. He said we already had statistics enough; they were being issued from time to time by each department of the Government. The bill did not provide what the bureau should do, as it was created to do a certain work, which it had done already, and there was nothing for it to do now.

General Demand for It. Supporting the bill, Mr. Hopkins said the bill was submitted in deference to a general public and legislative demand.

A permanent bureau would not only save money to the Government but its existence would result in the establishment of much better and more scientific methods.

He agreed with General Grosvenor and several others that it would be a good thing to give these clerks a status for transfer, so that this young blood might be infused into other branches of the service, whose work was impeded by reason of incompetent and superannuated clerks.

Merely a Safeguard. This action on the part of the United States Government is not intended in any way to coerce Venezuela, but it is expected that President Castro may be overthrown, which will undoubtedly cause the presence of United States warships to be desirable for the protection of American lives and property.

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They Occupied Most of the Time of Today's Cabinet Session. Secretaries Root and Wilson took up most of the time of the Cabinet meeting today in discussing conditions in the Philippines. Secretary Root said that matters were surely adjusting themselves in the islands.

Secretary Wilson spoke about the agricultural possibilities there, and in this country, dealing particularly with the cultivation of rice and tobacco.

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Overtures by Boers. LONDON, Jan. 10.—The "Globe" prints a city rumor emanating from what is claimed to be well-informed quarters, that overtures for peace have been made by the Boer chiefs, who are prepared to surrender if they are not expelled.

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WISKER'S STORY OF WRECK.

Dramatic Account of Disaster by Accused Engineer.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—In an interview with the pastor of the Mott Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, which he attended, John Wisker, the engineer accused of causing the tunnel wreck by his negligence, today gave his version of the accident for the first time since his arrest.

He denied that he saw any danger signals, or even heard a torpedo, which it is claimed was placed on the track in the rear of the fated New Haven train.

"The tunnel," he said, "was choked with blinding smoke and steam. An outbound train was passing, too, and the noise was deafening. I did not see the emergency brakes, and later the emergency brakes, but it was not because I heard my fireman call first 'green' and then 'red.' I did not hear him say anything at all."

"The truth is, I could not tell exactly where I was for the dense smoke and steam. I felt almost when I passed Sixty-third Street, where the green or white light should have been. I was leaning out of my cab window peering with my eyes wide open, for the signal, but not a glimmer could I see."

"But I felt instinctively that I had passed the spot where the light should have been, and put on the service brakes. Then I looked harder than ever for the other lights, which I knew should be posted at Fifty-ninth Street. I trembled with anxiety as the train rushed on, and no light appeared. I felt sure something was wrong, but I was a little late, and we must bring our trains in on time. Unable to stand the strain any longer, however, I put on the emergency brakes. It was too late."

"I knew it was coming. I recognized that the toll of years was about to end in a wreck. I realized, too, that my life was in danger, as were the lives of the passengers in my own train, and in the train upon which I was rushing down."

"I knew I was impotent to avert it. I had done all I could. The brakes were all on, and the lever reversed. I could only stand at my post and pray to God for help in the crisis."

"I recall now that when my train entered the tunnel we were running faster than usual because we were a little late. But the train was not beyond my control, and I slackened speed when I first had a feeling that we had passed the signal point. Then I could not have stopped in time even if I had seen the red light. But no warning came, and I rushed on to my doom. I feel hopeless now. There is nothing left me in life."

"I almost wish my life had gone out with the fifteen poor victims who were killed."

JURIES BRIBED WITH DRINKS.

Charges Made By the Anti-Saloon League.

NO CHECK ON SALES TO MINORS.

Mr. Shoemaker, Attorney for the League, Gives His Explanation of Why Prosecutions of Liquor Law Violators Usually Fail—Congestion of Saloons at Fourteenth Street and Wallack Place.

Mr. A. E. Shoemaker, attorney for the Anti-Saloon League of the District, made some startling charges against the Police Court this morning at a hearing granted him by the Commissioners.

He declared that those interested in defying the Police Court cases of liquor law violations make the acquaintance of the Police Court jurors and through the influence brought to bear on them escape conviction.

He declared that he had seen jurors taken across the street to saloons and treated by persons in the interest of the persons under prosecution, and that when their cases were brought up the verdict was invariably "not guilty."

It was suggested by Mr. Shoemaker that the remedy for this condition was to shorten the period in which the jurors serve from three months to thirty days. In this way he thought the indefinite postponement of these cases and the tampering with the jury would be measurably eliminated.

No Check on Sale to Minors. Mr. Shoemaker also said that a decision of the District Court of Appeals with reference to the selling of liquor to minors had literally turned the present law into a farce.

He said there had been no prosecutions for selling to minors since the handing down of that decision.

Failure of Police Court Cases. He presented a statement of the accounts in the Police Court and the difficulty experienced in securing convictions of persons violating the liquor laws.

He said that since the present license law went into effect in March, 1893, there had been 225 prosecutions of liquor dealers for violation of the law entered in the Police Court. Of this number he said fifty-two were convicted.

In about one-half of the fifty-two cases the Court imposed the minimum fine of \$50, and in about fifteen cases the personal bond of the dealer was taken in lieu of a fine, and in several cases he said sentence was suspended.

Mr. Shoemaker stated that of the 225 cases against licensed dealers, twenty-eight were tried resulting in a verdict of not guilty, fifty-one were dismissed, and in each of eighty-one cases a nolle prosequi was entered.

He said that the 225 cases did not represent the great number of cases brought to the attention of the Prosecuting Attorney for which warrants were refused on some apparent weakness in the testimony.

Policy of Delay. He declared that the great difficulty in these prosecutions lies in the delay caused by the continuation of the cases in court on one pretext and another. Mr. Shoemaker complained that the cases were so manipulated by counsel for the defense that the prosecuting witnesses were worn out and refused to attend further on the sessions of the court.

Where Saloons Are Congested. The Rev. Frederick D. Powers spoke in behalf of the riding of the resident section of the city of the saloons. He described the conditions existing in the vicinity of Fourteenth and Wallack Place. He says that within three blocks of his home there are ten saloons, and that the streets leading to Fourteenth Street are constantly made a highway for the bucket brigade. He said that in the summer especially there was great disorder caused by the passage back and forth of negroes and the drinking of beer in the open street.

He urged the closing of the saloons on Fourteenth Street and the stopping of such traffic.

Urges New Laws. A special appeal was made to the Commissioners to secure the passage of the bill prepared by the league introduced in the last Congress to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors in the District of Columbia.

The league also urged the enactment into law of the recommendations of Major Sylvester relative to the closing of saloons on resident streets and the changing of the term of the jury service in the Police Court.

In addition to Mr. Shoemaker and the Rev. Mr. Powers there were present at the hearing the president of the league, Mr. J. L. Erwin; and the Rev. Charles H. Butler and the Rev. Frederick Heise, and Messrs. S. W. Russell, J. M. Pinkens, and E. K. La Fren.

EFFORTS TO MAKE THE SCHLEY CONTROVERSY A PARTY ISSUE.

Resolutions Prepared for Next Caucus of the Democratic Members of the House.

THE REAR ADMIRAL IS DECLARED TO BE THE REAL HERO OF SANTIAGO.

Representative Sheppard is the Author of the Proposed Eulogy.

ACTION BY CONGRESS DEMANDED.

Adoption of the Minority Report of Admiral Dewey Made a Part of the Programme—Speculation as to the Effect of the Movement Partially Underway.

Is the Schley controversy to be made a party issue? This is a question which is just now agitating the leaders of the two great parties.

The matter was to have been brought up in the caucus of the Democratic members of the House which was scheduled for tonight and which was indefinitely postponed owing to the illness of Representative Richardson, Democratic floor leader of the House.

It was the intention of certain partisans of Rear Admiral Schley to force through this caucus resolutions endorsing Admiral Schley as the "hero of the battle of Santiago," and pledging the Democracy of the House to bring about his vindication by the adoption of the minority verdict of Admiral Dewey as a member of the Schley Court of Enquiry.

Text of the Resolutions. What effect the postponement of this caucus session may have upon the movement cannot be stated, but it is expected that when the caucus meets something definite will be attempted. It is also assumed that the Democrats of the House will be convened in caucus in a few days, when Representative John L. Sheppard of Texas will introduce the following resolutions bearing on this subject:

"Be it resolved by the Democratic members of the American Congress, in caucus assembled, that it is the sense of this body that Rear Admiral Winfield Scott Schley is the real hero of Santiago; that the memorable victory achieved by the American arms on that glorious occasion is due principally to his genius and inspiration."

"And be it further resolved, That the Democratic members of Congress hereby pledge themselves to use every honorable and patriotic effort to secure his vindication by the American House of Representatives and the adoption by that branch of the Government of Dewey's dissenting opinion, which expresses the judgment of the American people and the verdict of history, and that should this effort fail on account of Republican ascendancy we will appeal to the country to rebuke the party which so misuses its power, and to return to Congress a Democratic majority which will right one of the most infamous and appalling wrongs ever committed against an American citizen."

Probable Effects of the Movement. Just what effect these resolutions if adopted will have on the majority in Congress cannot be estimated at this time, but it is believed in some quarters that the unanimous adoption of Mr. Sheppard's resolution, by the Democratic caucus will force the issue and compel the majority in the House to take some action, pro or con, on the sundry and divers Schley bills and resolutions that have been introduced in the House since the opening of Congress on December 2.

THE SCHLEY RESOLUTIONS. House Committee on Naval Affairs Refers Them to Subcommittee.

The House Committee on Naval Affairs organized today and devoted some time to the consideration of Schley resolutions. Mr. Rixey desired the full committee to consider these, but they were referred to a subcommittee.

There are nine of these resolutions altogether.

McMillan has introduced in the Senate, was considered in detail. Senator McMillan will tomorrow have a conference with the District Commissioners regarding it.

ENLISTMENTS OF MINORS. How Secretary Root Proposes to Prevent Future Troubles.

Secretary Root has issued a circular to recruiting officers of the army, calling attention to the large number of requests for discharge received from enlisted men, who claim their enlistments were illegal, on the ground that they entered the service while under twenty-one years of age.

Recruiting officers are ordered to take the utmost care to prevent the enlistment of minors without the written permission of parent or guardian. If a recruiting officer is in doubt as to the age of a recruit he is to refuse enlistment unless the necessary proof can be furnished in writing of the eligibility of the candidate.

The decision rendered last week in the Philadelphia Court of Appeals, releasing from the service a marine, who, it was claimed, enlisted under twenty-one without lawful consent, has necessitated Secretary Root's circular.

A TEN-MINUTE SESSION. New York Legislature Transacts Little Business Today.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 10.—About twenty members of the Assembly were in attendance at the session today.

Speaker Nixon was absent and majority leader Allis presided.

The annual appropriation bill was reported favorably from the ways and means committee, and was advanced to a third reading.

The cities committee reported favorably Mr. Davis' bill, increasing the number of trustees of the New York public library from twenty-two to twenty-five.

A calendar with two unimportant bills was prepared, and after the bills had been advanced to a third reading the Assembly adjourned, being in session less than ten minutes.

Only six Senators graced the session of the Senate this morning. The only business done was to confirm Governor Odell's appointment of Frank L. Smith as a loan commissioner for Chautauque county.

APPROVAL OF LOCAL PLANS.

Senate District Committee Expresses Its Favor.

THE SIXTEENTH STREET OPENING.

Immediate Beginning of the Work Advocated—The Park and Railroad Terminal Projects Discussed—General Interest Displayed.

The Senate Committee on the District of Columbia held a well-attended meeting this morning and informally discussed several matters which have come up during the holiday recess. There were present Senators McMillan, chairman; Gallinger, Hansbrough, Stewart, Dillingham, Foster of Washington, Martin, Clark of Montana, and Foster of Louisiana.

Award of Jury Approved. Especial attention was given to the proposed opening of Sixteenth Street and all of the members present were unanimous in the opinion that the work of improvement should be begun immediately.

The award of the jury was considered and the committee came to the conclusion that no more reasonable award could be secured at any later date. Senator McMillan said that he saw no reason for delay and the other members agreed with him.

Park Plans Explained. The park improvement plans, as far as completed, were explained to the committee by the chairman, and the coming exhibition of the plans at the Corcoran Art Gallery discussed.

Railroad Bill Considered. The railroad bill, providing for the new union terminal station, which Senator

McMillan has introduced in the Senate, was considered in detail. Senator McMillan will tomorrow have a conference with the District Commissioners regarding it.

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CARNEGIE INSTITUTION WILL BE PURELY PRIVATE CORPORATION.

Congress Not Called Upon to Accept the \$10,000,000 Donation.

The announcement of the Carnegie Institution reveals the fact that the Pittsburgh philanthropist has abandoned altogether his original idea of Governmental control of the concern.

It is a private corporation as operated under the laws of the District of Columbia, and will in no way be connected with the Government.

The President will have no more official connection with the institution than he has with the Columbian Law College, of which he is president ex-officio.

Independent of Congress. Congress will not be asked to legislate in the matter of the \$10,000,000 donation for the Carnegie Institution. The President will not be asked to legislate in the matter of the \$10,000,000 donation for the Carnegie Institution.

Mr. Carnegie by accepting this course will not be compelled to convert into cash the United States steel bonds which the President declined to accept in the name of the Government.

The bonds will simply be transferred to the board of trustees of the institution, the expenses of which will be met out of the 5 per cent interest that they bear.

"Nothing definite can be announced as to the probable action of the board of trustees of the Carnegie Institution until after their meeting the 29th of January," said Mr. Charles D. Walcott, one of the incorporators, this morning. Matters of detail will come up then.

"It is too early to predict what will be the first action taken by the board. You will see by looking over the list of names of the members that there is room for a great diversity of opinion."

Mr. Walcott did not know to what bank the \$10,000,000 in 5 per cent bonds would be handed over. At the meeting which will be held in the office of the Secretary of State on January 15 a working organization will be effected.

AMERICAN FLEET, WITH RANKING OFFICER, TO BE READY FOR VENEZUELAN DEVELOPMENTS.

Rear Admiral Higginson, with Four Battleships, to Protect Our Interests.

Orders will soon be issued by the Navy Department to Rear Admiral Higginson, commanding the North Atlantic Squadron, now cruising in West Indian waters, to proceed with his ships to Venezuela. It is understood the Administration fears a serious outbreak of anarchy in that country.

Merely a Safeguard. This action on the part of the United States Government is not intended in any way to coerce Venezuela, but it is expected that President Castro may be overthrown, which will undoubtedly cause the presence of United States warships to be desirable for the protection of American lives and property.

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ARGUES AGAINST A GOVERNMENT CABLE.

COMMITTEE HEARS MR. WARD.

General Manager of Pacific Commercial Company Urges That the United States Keep Its Hands Off.

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce today took up the question of a Pacific cable and heard Mr. George Ward, of New York, vice president and general manager of the Commercial Pacific Cable Company, in opposition to all legislation on the subject.

Mr. Ward explained that the Commercial Pacific Cable Company had entered into a contract with the Indiana Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works Company by which that company guarantees to manufacture and lay a submarine cable of the Commercial Pacific Cable Company between San Francisco and Honolulu on or before November 1, 1902.

Cable Now Being Made. The actual manufacture of the cable was now going on, he said, at the rate of 240 miles a month, and that rate would quickly be increased to over 620 miles a month.

The Commercial Pacific Cable Company had accepted the provisions of the Post Roads Act of Congress of 1898 and had laid out and operated a cable from San Francisco to Honolulu on or before November 1, 1902, and the remainder of the cable from Honolulu to the Philippines