

ANTI-BETTING BILL GETS NEW FORCE IN N. Y. ASSEMBLY

Committee Closes Ears to Opposition—Prepares Report.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 19.—The senate judiciary committee in session this morning decided to report at once the Agnew bill, which provides for the repeal of the Percy Gray law, and refused all further hearings. The Jockey Club was routed, and the last barrier of the passage of the anti-betting bill is down.

It is said Joseph Auerbach's attack on Governor Hughes at the hearing yesterday was mainly responsible for the refusal of the members to grant any further hearing, although it was known that the only excuse for a hearing was for delay.

The vote to give no further hearings and to report the bill out was unanimous in the committee. Senators McCarran, Grattan, Taylor, Colahan, and Grady being absent. Those who voted in favor of the bill were Senators Raynes, Page, Cobb, Davis, Armstrong, Aldis, Smith, and Hingman.

The absence of Senators McCarran and Grady is regarded as very significant. Both were said to have been about the senate chamber, but refused to go into the executive session of the senate judiciary committee.

Instead the two senators stood out in the lobby and talked with each other. Friends of the anti-betting bill now see no reason to believe that the bill on the part of the Jockey Club, why the race track bills should not be in the hands of the governor within ten days.

No one in the committee proposed an amendment to the Percy Gray law and the eight votes in favor were by Republicans.

BENNING BOOKIES MAY BE RAIDED

It is the desire and the intention of the Commissioners to make a raid on the bookmakers the opening day of the Benning meet if they feel that they will be upheld by the courts. Whether they will or will not arrest the bookmakers is a question yet to be determined. The Commissioners are waiting the opinion of Corporation Counsel E. H. Thomas before deciding upon the course to be construed.

Bookmaking has been the subject of several conferences between the Commissioners and Mr. Thomas. The former have announced their views as decidedly opposed to this form of gambling, but wish to be assured of their premises before proceeding to drastic measures. In view of the recent decision of Justice Stafford, of the District Supreme Court, regarding bookmaking there is a question as to whether it is in the power of the Commissioners to order wholesale arrests. The corporation counsel has been instructed to carefully look into the statutes and report to the Commissioners. If they are assured by their attorney that they will be acting within their authority the path of the bookmakers will be a thorny one.

Roars of Applause, Forty-two of Them, In Minute Speech

Who put forty-two applauses in the Congressional Record? It was a man from Georgia. He spoke one minute in the House on the bill to restore to the coins of the United States the motto "In God We Trust." Then he inserted several thousand words in the Record, and noted, for the benefit of his constituents, that forty-two times his transcendent eloquence and glittering speech brought forth "applause."

A reading of his speech in the Record gives the idea that, so greatly were his hearers moved, they raised their hands to express their appreciation, and made the welkin ring with loud buzzes. Who put those forty-two applauses in the Record? It was a man from Georgia, but he has requested that his name be not disclosed. He realizes today the enormity of his egotistic sin.

ORCHESTRA MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY

The annual meeting of shareholders in the Washington Symphony Orchestra will be held at 4:45 o'clock Monday afternoon, March 23, in Knabe's music rooms, 1212 F street northwest.

Through the action of creditors of the orchestra in consenting to take stock for their claims or in making a gift thereof to the corporation, the orchestra is now free from debt. Two amendments to the by-laws will be offered at the meeting. One provides for a board of directors not exceeding twenty-five in number and declares the conductor and manager, or managers, ineligible to membership on the board of directors; the other that a quorum of the board of directors be 25 per cent of the membership thereof, but not less than three.

Congress Sets Record For Introducing Bills

More Than Twenty-nine Thousand Measures Presented During First Half of This Session—Billion Dollar Congress Pales.

This session of Congress will be a record breaker in respect to the number of bills introduced. It may be a "do-nothing" Congress so far as getting anything in the way of legislation enacted is concerned. Everyone says it is, and that it will continue to be. But Representatives and Senators are pouring in bills for the relief of the country at an amazing rate.

In the House, what Speaker Cannon calls the "hopper," is full of unground legislation most of the time. It is fed with bills on every conceivable subject. In the Senate the number of bills is more moderate, but it is unusually large.

Since the Sixtieth Congress opened last December, up to March 19 there have been no less than 19,642 bills introduced in the House, together with enough House joint resolutions, House simple resolutions, House concurrent resolutions, House reports, and House documents to bring the total up to 22,156.

In the same time 6,191 Senate bills have been introduced and enough joint resolutions, simple resolutions, concurrent resolutions, reports, and documents to bring the total up to 7,216.

29,352 in Both Houses. There have been 29,352 bills, resolutions, reports, and documents, put in in both houses of Congress since the session opened. What this means in a comparative way as to the growth of the business of introducing bills is shown by comparison with the noted "Billion Dollar Congress," the Fifty-first.

In the "Billion Dollar Congress," in both sessions, there were introduced in the House 19,524 bills, documents, reports, and resolutions, and in the Senate a total of 8,591, giving a grand total in both House and Senate of 28,115. In other words, in the two sessions of the "Billion Dollar Congress" there were fewer bills, documents, resolutions, and reports put in than there have been in a little over half of the first session of the Sixtieth Congress.

Billion-Dollar Congress Pales. The figures make the boasted "Billion Dollar Congress" look pale in comparison with the present one. "Compared with more recent Congresses," it is plain this one is setting a swiftness pace than any of its predecessors, so far as the initiation of measures is concerned. When it comes to passing them, that is another question.

Of course, the bills that are being poured into the mill of legislation this session are of every conceivable kind and character. Private bills and special pension bills are plentiful. Never before were there so many bills for the Government regulation of this and that. The Administration's activities in behalf of the idea of Government regulation of railroads and corporations have borne fruit in a great array of bills pertaining to these matters. Public building bills are unusually plentiful. Moreover, nearly every community that can catch slight of salt water with a telescope or that has a river in hailing distance, wants a boon in the shape of harbor or river improvement. Currency bills are more numerous than usual, and so are those dealing with the liquor question in some phase.

These are but a few of the subjects covered by the thousands of bills which have been introduced and which for the most part will find their way by the end of the session, not to the statute books, but to the pigeon holes.

STUDY OF FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT'S NEW PLAN

An exhaustive investigation of foreign business will be made by the Department of Commerce and Labor and the National Commerce Council, the advisory committee of which held a conference with Secretary Straus yesterday.

The conference was held in Secretary Straus' office, and was attended by representative business heads from the North, South, East and West. Chairman Schwab reported on the lines of industry in which the investigation should be made, and recommended plans by which confidential information received from United States consuls should be disseminated, so as to reach the manufacturers interested.

It was announced that on May 12 the first meeting of the entire council would be held in Washington. Officers will be elected and a Washington office will be established.

JUDGE DE LACY FAVORS PROBATION FOR ADULTS

Probation for adults as well as children was advocated by Judge De Lacy, of the Juvenile Court, at a meeting of the Sons of the Revolution in the Arlington Hotel last evening.

Judge Thomas M. Anderson, the recently elected president of the Sons of the American Revolution, thanked the members for the honor conferred upon him. Former Senator John M. Thurston spoke on the value of having an honored ancestry. An original poem was read by Colonel Tweeddale, and a number of new members were elected.

MAIL BUSINESS RECEIVES A BLOW

Merchants Urged to Hold Trade From Foreign Houses.

Bent on taking a reef in the Washington mail order business of a score or more out-of-town firms, James Caulfield, formerly of Washington, but now of Chicago, will address the members of the Retail Grocers' Association at its next meeting.

Mr. Caulfield says between \$300,000 and \$500,000 is taken out of Washington every year by firms which pay no taxes, license or other revenue to the city, and have no interest here except to sell through their voluminous catalogues.

He recently completed a tour of the Southern States and stopped in his former home to urge the retail grocers, whose business is most largely affected by the mail order system, to cut down the postal transactions which deprive them of almost half a million dollars in twelve months.

"While I shall bring this matter forcibly to the attention of Washington merchants," said Mr. Caulfield this morning, "I must admit that there is less ground for a determined fight here than in some of the places I have visited. In many Virginia cities I displayed, in 75 and, in some instances, 90 per cent of the buying was done through catalogues and the mails. The mail order business is strictly legitimate from a legal viewpoint, but, morally, it is not the system which good citizens should support.

"The mail order people handle only those commodities and necessities on which there is liberal profit, leaving goods on which little or nothing is made to be sold by the local retail grocers. What I wish to impress upon the grocers of Washington is that they can sell the goods supplied by the mail order people for the same price, and thereby increase their own business and keep the money in Washington."

ACCUSED JEWEL THIEF CAUGHT IN CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., March 18.—J. Edward Boeck, a New York jewelry buyer, wanted in that city on a charge of stealing pearls and diamonds valued at \$165,000, was arrested here late last night.

Boeck had desk room in the offices of Marcellus & Pitt, Broadway, New York, and had access to their stock of gems.

Many pearls were being imported for the Chinese government, and Boeck is alleged to have obtained \$50,000 worth of these in addition to other jewels. He disappeared last May.

TARIFF INQUIRY PLAN IN CONGRESS

Representative Tawney's Resolution Will Urge Thorough Investigation.

That the closing days of the session will see the passage of a House resolution for an inquiry into tariff schedules now seems highly probable. Representative Tawney, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, already has a resolution outlined which would direct the Ways and Means Committee to employ experts to make an inquiry into the coming summer and fall into the tariff schedules, with particular reference to the difference in the cost of production in this country and abroad. Further than this, the resolution contemplates hearings by the Ways and Means Committee after the Presidential election.

Were the hearings held before the election, it is argued, it would be impossible to separate the tariff from politics, whereas nonpartisanship in any movement toward revision is considered highly desirable.

The obstacles to a tariff inquiry are not entirely removed. Representative Daizell of Pennsylvania is holding out against an investigation of the kind Mr. Tawney proposes. Representative Payne is not enthusiastic, but he has yielded to the point wherein he will not oppose the plan. Speaker Cannon has been counseled with and has been convinced of the wisdom of ordering the investigation, according to statements of friends of the Tawney idea.

The plan is now to get the resolution passed in the closing days of the session.

CLERKS CHEER GOULDEN; FAVORS CIVIL PENSIONS

Representative Goulden of New York was cheered to the echo by members of the United States Civil Service Retirement Association, last night when he declared his advocacy of retiring Government employes on a liberal pension after they had spent the best years of their lives in the Federal service.

Mr. Goulden said that the majority of municipalities and large corporations pension their superannuated employes and deplored the fact that the Federal Government was less grateful, businesslike and humane. He said the municipalities and corporations had found it to be the best plan from a business standpoint, and believed the Government would be the gainer if civil pensions were granted.

The same sentiment was voiced by half a dozen other prominent speakers who followed the New York Congressman.



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