

INSURANCE COMPANIES IN BAD WAY

HOUSE KILLED SENATE BILL WHICH MEANS MUCH TO FOUR COMPANIES.

ALLEN ASSESSMENT LIFE BILL Refuse to Assent to Raise in Salaries of Supreme Court Judges.

Three senate bills of importance were killed by the house sitting as committee of the whole yesterday afternoon. They were as follows:

S. B. 179, Allen—Permitting assessment life associations heretofore licensed to continue business within the state.

S. B. 270, Overson—Relating to the salaries and expenses of supreme court judges.

S. B. 46, Wartner—Authorizing a popular vote on the question of calling a delegate convention to amend and revise the constitution of the state.

The insurance bill. There was quite a discussion on Allen's bill relating to assessment life associations. The fact of the matter is that four such companies have been doing business in the state of North Dakota for many years. Illegally, it is said. The insurance commissioner of the state has stated that no license would be granted these companies for the ensuing year or for any year hereafter unless legislation was passed to remedy existing companies, or unless the attorney general should decide that such licenses may be issued.

So the senate bill was drawn up and passed. But when it was taken up by the house insurance committee it was amended and a clause inserted to keep out all other assessment life associations excepting the four already doing business here.

To this clause objection was raised on the floor of the house. Some claimed that it was an attempt on the part of the four assessment life companies now in the state to create a monopoly while on the other hand it was claimed that the old line insurance companies deliberately insisted on the insertion of that particular clause, knowing that it would probably kill the bill and thus create a monopoly more or less, for them.

Messrs. Harris, Torson and Burgett talked in behalf of the measure and L. L. Twichell led the fight on the bill as amended. Staale Hendrickson resented some remarks made by one of the other representatives concerning the old line companies and made known his feelings. Treadwell Twichell stated that it was no oversight that this class of insurance companies was kept out of the state and seemed to think it best to keep them out. Representative Divet objected to the clause which would allow no other companies of this class except the four now doing business in the state to come into North Dakota and suggested that all such companies be allowed to enter the state or else all be excluded. "It looks bad and smells bad to me," he said in referring to the bill. The question being put on the motion to recommend the bill for indefinite postponement, the motion carried by a vote of 44 to 35.

The four assessment life associations now doing business in the state are: Guarantee Fund of Omaha, Neb. Surety Fund of Minneapolis. Merchants' Life of Burlington, Ia. Illinois Bankers' Life of Moundmouth, Ill.

Salary of Judges. The house took just about a minute to kill S. B. 270, which raises the salaries of the supreme court judges \$600 per year. Mr. Ployhar moved to recommend the bill for indefinite postponement and the motion carried. There was no debate on the bill.

Constitutional Convention. As the house the other day killed L. L. Twichell's bill which provided for the calling of a constitutional convention, so yesterday was the Wartner bill (S. B. 46) killed. As this matter was thrashed out when the Twichell bill was up and the sentiment of the house was strongly against the idea of holding a constitutional convention at this time, General Williams' motion to recommend the bill for indefinite postponement carried with no debate on the proposition.

FOUR MEET DEATH IN RUSH OF WATER

Wrecking Crew Was Trying to Remove Ice From Railroad Track Near Lisbon, N. H.

Lisbon, N. H., Feb. 25.—Four men were killed and ten seriously injured in the rush of ice and water in the Ammonoosuc river. This occurred while the wrecking crew was trying to remove ice from the flooded railroad track in the meadows near town.

DEATH FOLLOWS IN WAKE OF POISONED ROLLS AT FESTIVAL

Alma, Neb., Feb. 25.—One dead, another dying and thirty seriously ill as a result of eating rolls sold at a church festival here several days ago. Rat poison it is believed, was accidentally mixed with the flour from which the rolls were made. A. A. Billings, cashier of the Alma state bank, died last night. Leola Hagg, daughter of a merchant here, is dying.

MUGGETT BILL WAS AMENDED

Relates to County Seat Removal; Nelson Delegation Wins Out.

The Nelson county seat fight was brought to the attention of the house yesterday when Senate Bill No. 219, Mudgett, came before the committee of the whole house on a divided report from the house committee. The majority of the committee submitted an amendment to the bill as passed by the senate and moved its adoption. The minority report recommended the bill for passage without change.

The amendment offered by the majority of the committee was calculated to suit that faction of the Nelson county electors who desire to see the county seat removed from Lakota, where it is now located, to some point more to the center of the county. In the amendment the percentage of electors required to decide the question of the removal is reduced to 60 per cent and provides that an election on this question may be called if the county seat is within four miles of any boundary of the county.

Staal Hendrickson moved to amend the amendment offered by the majority of the committee so that the distance from the boundary be reduced to 3 miles and 3,000 feet—claiming that this would keep Burke county out of a possible county seat fight which a majority of her electors did not desire to have come up. Hendrickson's amendment was adopted and then the amendment offered by the majority of the committee was also adopted. In this form the bill was recommended to pass.

Both of Nelson county's representatives talked for the adoption of the amended bill. Peterson reviewed in brief the county seat fight which has been going on in his home county and said that the bill if amended as suggested would be a relief to the county.

IDAHO WILL GO DRY NEXT YEAR

Senate Passes Statewide Prohibition Bill and Governor Alexander Will Sign It.

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 25.—The senate of the Idaho legislature passed a statewide prohibition bill making manufacture, sale and transportation for sale of intoxicating liquors unlawful after January 1, 1916. Governor Alexander announced that he would sign the bill.

HOUSE BILL 71 IS OPPOSED

Many Prohibitionists Believe It Will Shift Burden of Enforcing Liquor Laws From Elective Officials.

Two house bills of general interest were passed yesterday by the senate. House bill 70 abolishing capital punishment was deferred one day to allow Senator Wartner to get the proposed amendments in shape. It is believed the bill will pass as amended. The friends of the law enforcement bill, House bill No. 71, were disappointed in seeing it deferred two days. There is a growing sentiment against this bill because it shifts the burden of enforcing the liquor laws from elective officials to an appointive official. Some of the friends of prohibition are now working against the measure on the grounds that it will let the bars down and make the enforcement of the liquor laws less efficient than they are now.

One temperance measure passed the senate almost unanimously makes agents who sell to piggers and bootleggers equally liable with those who vend the wet goods. This bill is aimed at the agents of foreign corporations who solicit the trade of the blind pigs and bootleggers. Little opposition developed to this bill after the emergency clause was stricken out and the punishment for violation fixed at an indeterminate sentence of not less than one year nor more than three years.

LINDE TRY TO PROBE THE BANK LOANS

HOW LOANS WERE HANDLED SHOWN IN YOUUMAN'S TESTIMONY UNDER CROSS EXAMINATION.

MYSTERIOUS PERSONS NAMED Attorney General Tries to Establish Identity of Certain Persons But Fails.

Attorney General Linde submitted Grant Youuman, Minot banker and author of "Legalized Bank Robbery," to a grueling examination yesterday. The entire examination went to show that Bank Examiner Severton and former Bank Examiner Knudson gave Mr. Youuman ample time to charge off excessive loans. As early as August 27, 1912, Mr. Youuman was forced by Examiner Knudson to charge off between \$40,000 and \$45,000. But in lieu of the paper taken out, Mr. Youuman placed into the bank by assignment from his own trust company certain mortgages on real estate which the bank examiner's department held to be as worthless as the ones charged off.

Alvin H. Campbell was one of the signers of a \$2,000 mortgage whose identity Mr. Linde tried to establish. "Did he live in Minot?" asked Mr. Linde.

A. Yes, he lived in Minot.
Q. Had you known him for some time?

A. None of those boys (referring to a number of mortgage signers to alleged excessive loans) did I know to exceed a month.

Q. Do you know where Mr. Campbell is now?

A. I know his address.
Q. What is his address?

A. I don't remember. Now in saying that, I can get it by looking up his address.

Most of the testimony was directed to establish the nature of the loans objected to by Severton.

Asked about a certain piece of land Mr. Youuman said:

"I saw the land when I made the original loan. Went there between 11 and 12 o'clock one moonlight night and looked at this land."

Q. Did you examine any of these other lands in the moonlight?

A. That depends on my condition, whether I was drinking or not.

Q. How did you get into communication with Mr. Campbell for the sale of this land?

A. I don't remember.
Q. Did you get out on the streets and get these fellows to come in and buy this land?

Mr. Bangs: Now, if the committee please, I want at this time to object to this style of examination, and this cross-examination, because it has absolutely nothing to do with the banking department and simply drags the examination out.

Mr. Linde: The purpose is to show the valuation of the paper.

Mr. Haroldson: Go on.

Mr. Bangs: If this examination is to perpetrate and continue the persecution of Mr. Youuman, I will make no more objection, but if we are to have a fair examination I want to stay and take part in it.

Mr. Linde: I will not go into these other mortgages so much in detail.

Mr. Haroldson: This question is about the value of the land?

Mr. Bangs: It is not about the value of the land, and I want to state that I want to stay and take part in this examination if it is for the purpose of bringing out the facts and showing whether or not this banking board and the examiner has acted in good faith in connection with these transactions, but I don't want to be a party and no man can possibly feel that he ought to be a party to the examination attempted by the state examiners office simply for the purpose of continuing what we believe is or has already been a persecution.

Mr. Haroldson: This committee will guard against anything of that kind. But this committee wants to know the details concerning the value of these lands that were held as assets of the bank when the examiner closed the bank.

Mr. Linde: The contention is that there was \$250,000.00 worth of fraudulent mortgages in the bank at the time of the last examination, and the examiner acted strictly within his rights in closing the bank, and it is also material for disproving the charges of Mr. Youuman as to the motive of Mr. Severton and others in connection with the closing of the bank. It is quite material to show that these mortgages were fraudulent.

Mr. Bangs: We did not touch these things and we will concede for the purposes of this examination that the mortgages were valueless.

Mr. Linde: Will you also concede they were fraudulent?

Mr. Bangs: No.

Q. Sometime prior to this last examination you advertised certain lands for sale, did you not, Mr. Youuman?

A. Yes.
Q. And in the list of lands that you

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BRITISH PORTS NOW CLASSED WAR RISKS

Secretary McAdoo Issues Order Covering Insurance From Government Bureau

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—All ports of the British Isles have been made "special ports" requiring special rates of war risks insurance from the government bureau by an order issued tonight by Secretary McAdoo. Only special ports in the United Kingdom under former orders were those on the North Sea north of London. The order also extends the special port zone on the continent to include Bordeaux. The previous limit was Dunkirk. The bureau reserves the right to refuse insurance to these ports.

WILSON MAY CALL EXTRA SESSION

Colombian and Nicaraguan Treaties Must Be Ratified; Colombia Aroused Over Delay.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—Whether a special session of the senate will be called by President Wilson after March 4 to consider the Colombian and Nicaraguan treaties, probably will be decided by the President tomorrow at the cabinet meeting. Many of the President's advisers oppose the special session, but the administration is anxious to have the treaties ratified, and it is considered probable the session will be called for March 5.

Colombia Aroused. It is understood that Colombia is becoming much aroused over the delay in the ratification of the treaty, and was considering protesting to the powers unless some action be taken. The treaty expresses protests that anything happened to mar the friendly relations of the two countries, and provides the payment by America to Colombia of \$25,000,000 for the latter's loss resulting from the taking of the Panama canal zone. This was ratified by the Colombian senate many months ago.

INTRODUCE FARM CREDITS BILL

Would Create Bureau of Farm Credits in Treasury Department.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—The senate today passed the agriculture bill carrying approximately twenty-three million dollars tonight. The naval bill was taken up. Seven of the appropriation bills were disposed of and seven are awaiting action. Considerable debate resulted from the striking out of the appropriation for combating the foot and mouth disease among cattle.

Farm Credits Bill. The farm credits bill providing for government loans to farmers and attached to the agricultural appropriation bill in its hurried passage through the senate was presented by Senator McCumber as an amendment and provision incorporated in the supply bill without record of vote.

The McCumber amendment would create a bureau of farm credits in the treasury department to make loans of government funds through the National banks on farm mortgage notes. These loans would run ten years at five per cent interest minimum \$200, and maximum \$10,000 to individuals.

FIGHT TO SAVE FRANK'S LIFE

Attorneys for Condemned Man Appear Before United States Supreme Court.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—Attorneys for Leo Frank, sentenced to die for the murder of Mary Phagan, the Atlanta, Georgia, factory girl, argued before the supreme court of the United States that their client should be released from custody. The court is considering the appeal from the refusal of the federal district court of Georgia to interfere in the case. Frank's attorneys are making the appeal on the ground that the trial court which sentenced Frank had lost jurisdiction because of the mob violence tolerated during the trial and the consequent absence of the prisoner from court when the verdict was rendered. The argument will be continued tomorrow when the representatives of Georgia are also to be heard.

PRESS GANG FROLIC IS A GREAT HIT

FUNCTION AT GRAND PACIFIC ATTENDED BY A BIG CROWD AND STUNTS ARE NOVEL AND ENTERTAINING

POLITICIANS BUTT OF HUMOR Cartoonist Baer Brings Down the House By Unique Chalk Talk On Current Events.

It was a mighty well pleased bunch of men who left the Grand Pacific hotel last night, where the second grand banquet of the Capital City Press club was held. From 9 to 12 p. m. fun and joshes and noise filled the dining room of the hotel, and it is doubtful if in the history of the state so many prominent men had no much more noise in getting it.

About 225 persons were present, among them the members of the supreme court, all the state officers, most of the senators and a large majority of the house members of the legislature, besides a number of Bismarck people and visitors from all parts of the state, who being in the city, made haste to catch on to a good thing.

Cushing Deserves Credit. Especial credit for the clever execution of the numerous stunts pulled off at both the club's banquets is due W. F. Cushing, chairman of the committee of arrangements, who certainly has proved himself a rattling good humorist and most resourceful in fun making. He was ably supported by Secretary of State Thomas Hall, Insurance Commissioner Walt Taylor, Judge Andrew A. Bruce and Harry M. Case, the other members of the committee, who successfully contributed to the amusement of the evening.

Edgar Richter, president of the North Dakota Editorial association, was a guest of honor. The economical tendencies of the present legislature were splendidly taken off by the first part of the program last night. When the guests got to their seats they found at each

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ENGLAND RECEIVES AMERICAN NOTE BUT CONTENTS ARE KEPT SECRET; NEUTRALS SUFFER FROM BLOCKADE

PRESS AND PUBLIC OF GREAT BRITAIN SPECULATING ON WILSON'S SUGGESTIONS, ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF UNITED STATES' STAND

AWAIT ENTRY OF ITALY AND RUMANIA IN GREAT CONFLICT

LONDON, FEB. 25.—The American note, the contents of which are secret, which seeks to bring about an understanding regarding the war zone prescribed by Germany and shipment of foodstuffs designed for the civilian population in belligerent countries, considered at a meeting of the cabinet today, of which no intimation of the official attitude can be obtained.

Express Disapproval. The press and public on the supposition that President Wilson has suggested that England should not carry out the threat to place an embargo on foodstuffs for Germany, and that in return Germany should not enforce her submarine blockade against the British Isles, has already expressed their disapproval of acceptance of such a proposition.

Neutrals Suffer. While eight British ships have been destroyed in the week since the blockade has become effective, it was pointed out the majority of them were small, and that, instead of having food for England they were either carrying coal or other freight for neutrals.

It is believed here the destruction of neutral ships and cargoes will embroil Germany with the neutrals. This and other diplomatic questions, such as the possible entry of Italy and Rumania into the war, largely overshadowed the battlefield news.

Big Battle Developing. Battles of great magnitude are developing along the eastern front of importance. The Germans are apparently attempting to make their way to Warsaw from the northwest, penetrating to the most important town of Przasnysk, and almost directly north of the Polish capital. They claim to have captured 10,000 prisoners and much war material there.

The Germans are indicated in strong force in North Poland, judging from their reports of successes there. In western Galicia, along the Carpathians, battles are raging without slackening, thence through the western Galicia and Bukovina.

In the west the Allies are confining themselves to bombardment of the Germans along the coast, and offensive operations in Champagne, Argonne, and the heights of the Heuse and Vosges. Both the Russians and Turks claim success in the Caucasus.

In the house of commons Sir Edward Grey made the important announcement that England sympathized with the Russian's aspirations to gain access to the open sea through Turkey. It was greeted with cheers.

CLAIM RUSSIAN POSITIONS. Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—The capture of several Russian positions to the east of Grybow and taking of 56 prisoners is reported from Vienna to Austro-Hungarian embassy here. The dispatch reported further progress south of Dnieper and said three and a half thousand men and ten officers were captured in battles February 21 and 22.

ALLIES AIRMEN BUSY. A constant dispatch says two allies aeroplanes were seen flying to the southward. There is great excitement in Friedrichshafen. The Zeppelins there are covered with metal netting. The lights of the town were extinguished and people sought the cellars. The aeroplanes flew over Meersburg and later landed at Belfort.

DARDANELLES PORTS REDUCED. A London dispatch says: "All forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles have been reduced by the allied fleet. This is officially announced."

Proposals Considered. Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—The United States has suggested informally to England and Germany that in the interests of humanity and in safeguarding legitimate commerce, all mines should be removed from the high seas except those directly necessary for the protection of coast defenses and harbors.

This suggestion, along with the proposals to obtain England's acquiescence in a plan to permit the distribution of imported foodstuffs to the civilian population of Germany and bring about the abandonment of Germany of its submarine warfare on merchant men has been submitted by England to her allies for consideration. Germany has manifested her willingness to make concessions which gives officials here ground for the hope that a conciliatory spirit may be adopted by England.

NO JURY DUTY FOR LADIES. Miles City, Mont., Feb. 25.—Those women of the state who have been apprehensive that they will be compelled to sit on juries can free their minds from any perchance the timid minds from any anxiety in that connection, unless perchance the senate changes its mind between now and the closing day of the session, says the Helena Record. A short time ago Senator Edwards introduced a bill making women liable for jury duty, but this morning it was killed on a report from the committee on public morals.



Judge Parker.

Uncle Sam's "Emergency Man" Secretary of the Interior he made on the Federal Government team has finally secured his release. He started to get it seven years ago, but Uncle Sam wouldn't let him. He was too valuable. But he has finally made it and this week James I. Parker, who has handled public domain affairs under seven successive Secretaries of Interior will lay aside his public duties and go back to the practice of law.

Seven years ago Judge Parker—he has served as a judge of the court—took a notion to resign. They told him they couldn't spare him. Later, he threatened to resign anyhow, but the Secretary of the Interior prevailed on him to stay. But the other day, without saying a word to anybody, he quietly wrote out his resignation and walked out to practice law in Washington on his own hook.

Judge Parker probably knows as much if not more about Uncle Sam's public lands, forests, minerals and rivers than any other man in the country. He started out as examiner of land claims and contests; then they made him attorney in the Interior Department; next they made him chief of the great lands and railroads division of the Interior Department where he did some of his most fearless work, uncovering rotten western land frauds.

When "Jim" Garfield came in as Secretary of the Interior he made Judge Parker, Democrat, his private secretary with extraordinary powers. But Parker showed signs of resigning again so they compromised, with him by making him attorney to the Secretary and he stayed there until Garfield went out. Neither feuds, fights or factionalism jarred him. All the time of the terrific Ballinger-Pinchot controversy he went quietly on with his work. He was Garfield's mainstay, yet Ballinger, whom Garfield and Gifford Pinchot hated, made him "Assistant to the Secretary," which is about the same as "Assistant to the President" of a big railroad corporation.

Parker prepared to resign again, but Pinchot said he wanted to see him after some big fellows about to steal some of Uncle Sam's forests. Pinchot was fired by Taft, but Parker kept right on, remaining with the Forest Service until the new Democratic administration came in when Secretary Lane made him chief clerk and chief executive officer to look after all the different bureaus of the big Interior Department.

But the love of the law finally conquered and within the last few days there has appeared on the windows of a suite of offices in the Maryland Building a new lawyer's sign.

Moral: If you want a release from Uncle Sam's team, don't play too good a game.