

MENDING THE NETS.

Dr. Talmage Preaches a Sermon on the Story of the Fishermen.

Christ's Disciples as Fishers of Men - The Gospel Net and How It Should Be Kept in Repair.

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In this discourse Dr. Talmage describes the Gospel net and how it is to be repaired after being damaged; text, Matthew 4:21. "James, the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother, in a ship with Zebedee, their father, mending their nets."

"I go a-fishing!" cried Simon Peter to his comrades, and the most of the apostles had hands hard from fishing tackle. The fisheries of the world have always attracted attention. In the third century the queen of Egypt had for her fishery \$100,000,000, received from the fisheries of Lake Moeris. And, if the time should ever come when the immensity of the world's population could not be fed by the vegetables and meats of the land, the sea has an amount of animal life that would feed all the population of the earth and fatten them with a food that by its phosphorus would make a generation brainy and intellectual beyond anything that the world has ever imagined. My text takes us among the Galilean fishermen. One day Walter Scott, while hunting in an old drawer, found among some old fishing tackle the manuscript of his immortal book, "Waverley," which he had put away there as of no worth, and who knows but that to-day we may find some unknown wealth of thought while looking at the fishing tackle in the text.

It is not a good day for fishing, and three men are in the boat repairing the broken fishing nets. If you are fishing with a hook and line, and the fish will not bite, it is a good time to put the angler's apparatus into better condition. Perhaps the last fish you hauled in was so large that something snapped, or, if you were fishing with a net, there was a mighty floundering of the scales or an exposed nail on the side of the boat which broke some of the threads and let part or all of the captives of the deep escape into their natural element. And hardly anything is more provoking than to nearly land a score or a hundred trophies from the deep, and when you are in the full glee of hauling in the spotted treasures, through some imperfection of the net they splash back into the wave. That is too much of a trial of patience for most fishermen to endure, and many a man ordinarily correct of speech in such circumstances comes to an intensity of utterance unjustifiable. "Therefore no good fisherman considers the time wasted that is spent in mending his net. Now, the Bible again and again represents Christian workers as fishers of men, and we are all sipping through the sea of humanity some kind of a net. Indeed, there have been enough nets out and enough fishermen busy to have landed the whole human race in the kingdom of God long before this. What is the matter? The Gospel is all right, and it has been a good time for catching souls for thousands of years. Why, then, the failures? The trouble is with the nets, and most of them need to be mended. I propose to show you what is the matter with most of the nets and how to mend them. In the text old Zebedee and his two boys, James and John, were doing a good thing when they sat in the boat mending their nets.

The trouble with many of our nets is that the meshes are too large. If a fish can get his gills and half his body through the network, he tears and rends and works his way out, and leaves the place through which he squirmed a tangle of broken threads. In our desire to make everything so easy we relax, we loosen, we widen. We let men after they are once in the Gospel net escape into the world, and go into indulgences and swim all around Galilee. From north side to south side, and from east side to west side, expecting that they will come back again. We ought to make it easy for them to get into the Kingdom of God, and, as far as we can, make it impossible for them to get out. The poor advice nowadays to many is: "Go and do just as you did before you were captured for God and Heaven. The net was not intended to be any restraint or any hindrance. What you did before you were a Christian do now. Go to all styles of amusement, read all the styles of books, engage in all styles of behavior as before you were converted." And so, through these meshes of permission and laxity, they wriggle out through this opening and that opening, tearing the net as they go, and soon all the souls that we expected to land in Heaven, before we know it, are back in the deep sea of the world. Oh, when we go a-Gospel fishing, let us make it as easy as possible for souls to get in and as hard as possible to get out.

Is the Bible language an unmeaning verbiage when it talks about self-denial, and keeping the body under and about walking the narrow way and entering the strait gate and about carrying the cross? Is there to be no way of telling whether a man is a Christian except by his taking the communion chalice on sacramental day? May a man be as reckless about his thoughts, about his words, about his temper, about his amusements after conversion as before? Alas, the words of Christ are so little heeded when He said: "Whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." The church is fast becoming as bad as the world, and when it gets as bad as the world it will be worse than the world by so much, as it will add hypocrisy of a most appalling kind to its other defects.

Furthermore, many of our nets are torn to pieces by being entangled with other nets. It is a sad sight to see fishermen fighting about sea room and pulling in opposite directions, each to get his net, both nets damaged by the struggle and losing all the fish. In this land, where there are more than 70,000,000 people, there are at least 30,000,000 not in the Sunday schools and churches. In such an Atlantic ocean of opportunity there is room for all the nets and all the boats and all the fishermen and for millions more. There should be no rivalry between churches. Each one does a work peculiar to itself. But there are cities in this country where there is now going on an awful ripping and rending and tearing of fishing nets. Indeed all over Christendom at this time there is a great war going on between fishermen, ministers against ministers.

Now, I have noticed a man cannot fish and fight at the same time. He either neglects his net or his musket. It is amazing how much time some of the fishermen have to look after other fishermen. It is more than I can do to take care of my own net. You see the wind is just right, and it is such a good time for fishing, and the fish are coming in so rapidly that I have to keep my eyes and hand busy. There are about 200,000,000 souls wanting to get into the kingdom of God, and it will require all the nets and all the fishermen of Christendom to safely land them. Oh, brethren of the ministry, let us spend our time in fishing instead of fighting. But if I angrily jerk my net across your net, and you jerk your net angrily across mine, we will soon have two broken nets and no fish. The French revolution nearly destroyed the French fisheries, and ecclesiastical war is the worst thing possible while hauling souls into the kingdom. My friends, I notice in the text that James, the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother, were busy at mending some body else's nets, and I rather think that we who are engaged in Christian work in this opening century will require all our spare time to mend our own nets. God help us in the important duty!

In this work of repair we need to put into the nets more threads of common sense. When we can present religion as a great practicality we will catch a hundred souls where now we catch one. Present religion as an intellectuality and we will fail. Out in the fisheries there are set across the waters what are called gill nets, and the fish put their heads through the meshes and then cannot withdraw them because they are caught by the gills. But gill nets cannot be of any service in religious work. Men are never caught for the truth by their heads; it is by the heart or not at all. No argument ever saved a man and no keen analysis ever brought a man into the kingdom of God. Heart work, not head work. Away with your gill nets! Sympathy, helpfulness, consolation, love, are the names of some of the threads that we need to weave in our Gospel nets when we are mending them.

When you are mending your net for this wide, deep sea of humanity, take out that wire thread of criticism and that horsehair thread of harshness and put in a soft silk thread of Christian sympathy. Yea, when you are mending your nets tear out those old threads of gruffness and weave in a few threads of politeness and gentleness. In the house of God let all Christian faces beam with a look that means welcome. Say "good morning" to the stranger as he enters your pew and at the close shake hands with him and say: "How did you like the music?" Why, you would be to that man a panel of the door of Heaven; you would be to him a note of the doxology that seraphs sing when a new soul enters Heaven. I have in other days entered a pew in church, and the woman at the other end of the pew looked at me as much as to say: "How dare you? This is my pew, and I pay the rent for it!" Well, I crouched in the other corner and made myself as small as possible and felt as though I had been stealing something. So there are people who have a sharp edge to their religion, and they act as though they thought most people had been elected to be damned and they were glad of it. Oh, let us brighten up our manner and appear in gentleness or ladyhood.

Again, in mending our nets we need also to put in the threads of faith and tear out all the tangled meshes of unbelief. Our work is successful according to our faith. The man who believes in only half a Bible or the Bible in spots, the man who thinks he cannot persuade others, the man who halts, doubting about this and doubting about that, will be a failure in Christian work. Show me the man who rather thinks that the garden of Eden may have had an allegory and is not quite certain but that there may be another chance after death and does not know whether or not the Bible is inspired, and I tell you that man for soul saving is a poor stick. Faith in God and in Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost and the absolute necessity of a regenerated heart in order to see God in peace is one thread you must have in your mended net, or you will never be a successful fisher for men. Why, how can you doubt? The rottenest thread to tear out of your net is unbelief, and the most important thread that you are to put in it is faith—faith in God, triumphant faith, everlasting faith.

Oh, this important work of mending our nets! If we could get our nets right, we would accomplish more in soul saving in the next year than we have in the last 20. But where shall we get them mended? Just where old Zebedee and his two boys mended their nets—where you are, James and John had no time to go ashore. They were not fishing for fun, as you and I do in summer time. It was their livelihood and that of their families. They mended their nets where they were—

In the ship. "Oh," says some one, "I mean to get my net mended, and I will go down to the public library and I will see what the scientists say about evolution and about the 'survival of the fittest,' and I will read up what the theologians say about 'advanced thought.' I will leave the ship while, and I will go ashore and stay there till my net is mended." Do that, my brother, and you will have no net left. Instead of their helping you mend your net, they will steal the pieces that remain. Better stay in the Gospel boat, where you have all the means for mending your net. What are they? Do you ask? I answer, all you need you have where you are—namely, a Bible and a place to pray. The more you study evolution and adopt what is called advanced thought, the more useless you will be. Stay in the ship and mend your net. That is where James, the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother, mended their nets.

I notice that all who leave the Gospel boat and go ashore to mend their nets stay there. Or if they try again to fish they do not catch anything. Get out of the Gospel boat and go up into the world to get your net mended, and you will live to see the day when you will feel like the man who, forsaken Christianity, sighed: "I would give a thousand pounds to feel as I did in 1820." The time will come when you would be willing to give a thousand pounds to feel as you did in 1901. These men who have given up their religion cannot help you a bit.

These dear brethren of all denominations, afflicted with theological figments, had better go to mending nets instead of breaking them. Before they break up the old religion and try to foist on us a new religion let them go through some great sacrifice for God that will prove them worthy for such a work, taking the advice of Tallyrand to a man who wanted to upset the religion of Jesus Christ and start a new one when he said: "Go and be crucified and then raise yourself from the grave and revive the religion of Jesus Christ." These who propose to mend their nets by secular and skeptical books are like the man who has just one week for fishing, and six of the days he spends in reading Isaac Walton's "Complete Angler" and Wheatley's "Red and Line" and Scott's "Fishing in Northern Waters," and Pullman's "Vade Mecum of Fly Fishing for Trout," and then on Saturday morning, his last day out, goes to the river to ply his art. But that day the fish will not bite, and late on Saturday night he goes to his home with empty basket. Alas, alas! if when the Saturday night of our life drops on us it shall be found that we have spent our time in the libraries of worldly philosophy, trying to mend our nets, and we have only a few souls to report as brought to God through our instrumentality, while some humble fisherman, his library made up of a Bible and an almanac, shall come home laden with the results, his trophies all the souls within 15 miles of his log cabin meeting house.

In the time of great disturbance in Naples in 1649 Massaniello, a barefooted fishing boy, dropped his fishing rod and by strange magnetism took command of that city of 800,000 souls. He took off his fishing jacket and put on a robe of gold in the presence of his followers. He put his hand on his hip as a signal, and they were silent. He waved his hand away from him, and they retired to their homes. Armies passed in review before him. He became the nation's idol. The rapid rise and complete supremacy of that young fisherman, Massaniello, has no parallel in all history. But something equal to that and better than that is an everyday occurrence in Heaven. God takes some of those who in this world were fishermen of men and who toiled very humbly, but because of the way they mended their nets and employed their nets after they were mended He suddenly hoists them and robes them and makes them rulers over many cities, and He marches armies of saved ones before them in review.

But do not spend your time fishing with hook and line. Why did not James, the son of Zebedee, sit on the shore at Capra his feet lashing over the lake, and with a long pole and a worm on the hook dipped into the wave wait for some molly to swim up and be caught? Why did not Zebedee spend his afternoon trying to catch one eel? No, that work was too slow. These men were not mending a hook and line; they were mending their nets. So let the church of God not be content with having here one soul and next month another soul brought into the kingdom. Sweep all the seas with nets—seep nets, seine nets, dragnets, all encompassing nets, and take the treasures in by hundreds and thousands and millions, and nations will be born in a day and the hemispheres quake with the tread of a ransoming God. Do you know what will be the two most tremendous hours in our Heavenly existence? Among the quadrillions of ages which shall roll on what two occasions will be to us the greatest? The day of our arrival there will be to us one of the two greatest. The second greatest, I think, will be the day when we shall have put in parallel lines before us what Christ did for us and what we did for Christ, the one so great, the other so little. That will be the only embarrassment in Heaven. My Lord and my God. What will we do and what will we say when on one side are placed the Saviour's great sacrifices for us and our small sacrifices for Him; His exile, His humiliation, His agonies on one hand and our poor, weak, insufficient sacrifices on the other. To make the contrast less overwhelming let us quickly mend our nets, and, like the Galilean fishermen, may we be divinely helped to cast them on the right side of the ship.

Germany secured in the American market in 1900 over \$9,000,000 worth of mineral oil.

MR CLEVELAND'S VIEWS.

Former President "Sermonizes" to Some Effect on the Colonial System.

In his speech at the annual dinner of the Holland society of New York ex-President Cleveland expressed again the views which he has long known to hold concerning the nation's recent expansion policy. He believes now that with the definite adoption of a colonial system the country has been carried away from its traditional purposes and principles and "will never be the same again." "For woe or woe," he declares, "we have already irrevocably passed beyond the old lines." He says further:

"The republic will in some sort be saved. Shall it be only in name and semblance, with fair external appearance, but with the germs of decay fastened upon its vital, or shall it, though changed, still survive in such vigor and strength as to remain the hope and pride of free Americans? The problem is a momentous one. Its solution depends upon the extent to which the old patriotism and good sense of our countrymen can be rescued from impending danger." The warning which Mr. Cleveland thus gives with an evident sense of the gravity of the situation is not one that can be lightly dismissed or answered with sarcasms by the advocates of the present attempt to make the government exercise imperial control of the recently acquired island possessions. The question as to the nation's ability to control the Philippines is, in Mr. Cleveland's view, essential. It is probable, as he points out, that we can conquer the Philippines, and even hold them under some form of orderly government. The real question is whether this nation, in departing from the principles which have made it great and following in the old paths of the nations which have advanced to imperial power only to pass into decadence, is not consenting to a "perversion of its mission." What we may or may not succeed in doing in the Philippines is far less important than what the continued control of the Philippines may do to us.

It was scarcely necessary for Mr. Cleveland to apologize for "sermonizing" upon such a subject or for pleading with sober earnestness for a policy of caution and conservatism. The duty now resting upon the executive branch of government and upon congress is one of vital importance, and it could be wished that there were more men of the influence of the ex-president to stand out and declare what they believe to be the course of patriotism. Now more than at any other time the nation is in need of discerning, patriotic critics. (Chicago Record (Ind.).)

IN HIS OWN WAY.

Hanna's Foxy Move in His Engineering of the Ship Subsidy Grab Scheme.

Senator Hanna, although one of the most autocratic of bosses when he feels sure of his control of power, is a shrewd spoilsman who recognizes the wisdom which declares that half a loaf is better than no bread.

It is evidently on this principle that Hanna has resolved to proceed in the matter of the \$180,000,000 ship subsidy grab now awaiting the action of the national congress. The great syndicate agent in American public life is now readjusting his cards so as to play a hedging game. This is because there are stronger hands against him than he had at first allowed himself to believe.

It is this policy which has led Hanna to consent, as now reported, to the amending of the ship subsidy bill in certain respects to conform to the ideas of opposing senators. The truculent boss has discovered that he cannot compel the passage of the iniquitous measure as it now stands. He knows that both himself and the McKinley administration would be discredited by its defeat, and that the syndicate behind the bill would suffer material loss. He is assured that the amended bill will have clear majorities in the senate and house. An amended ship subsidy grab is better than no grab.

Whatever else may be said of this man Hanna, it must be confessed that he is the incarnation of commercialized politics. It is hisvered to reach out for everything in sight. Then, if he cannot get all that he wants, he will take what he can get. The amended ship subsidy bill will work grievous injury to the American people, but Hanna will finally secure its passage. And then, with the people suffering under its vast tax burden, the great boss will damn the American congress that it was not willing to make the burden even more oppressive, as he at first demanded. (St. Louis Republic.)

The president has appointed some of Justices Harlan and McKenna to positions in Porto Rico under the United States government. We have too much faith in the members of the United States supreme court to believe that their decisions in the Porto Rican question would be influenced in the least, yet that were one of the appearances of evil which might well have been avoided and adds one more to the many evidences we have had that McKinley is a tactless executive. (Rochester Herald.)

Ex-President Harrison ought not to have his offspring and friends persecuted by the administration because his conscience as an honest citizen and his knowledge as a great constitutional lawyer compelled him to protest against Hanna-McKinley imperialism. (Kansas City Times.)

If Mark Hanna smokes everybody for fuel who thinks he has a direct interest in the ship subsidy bill he can save time by consulting the nations in one suit of Marcus A. Hanna vs. The People of the United States. (Indianapolis Sentinel.)

A RECORD SMASHER.

How the Contents of the Treasury Are Being Voted Away by Republicans.

The watchdogs of the treasury in Washington are said to be considerably worried by the looseness with which the two houses are voting away the contents of the treasury.

They have been making a rough calculation which gives \$750,000,000 as the grand total likely to be appropriated during the present session, and over \$1,500,000,000 as the aggregate for the present congress. This will be a record smasher. Not so many years ago the whole country was filled with indignation and gave the republican party a terrible jolt because a congress appropriated something over \$1,000,000,000. The people made things unpleasant for the statesmen of the "billion-dollar congress."

But now comes a congress which adds one-half to this total, and no great noise is made about it. The people seem to be getting used to mountainous expenditures. They seem to have made up their minds that prodigality has come to stay and that it is idle to make any protest.

The watchdogs may growl, but who cares? They may point to the fact that even the enormous total for the present congress includes nothing for the Hanna-Payne shipping grab, and not a dollar for the Nicaragua canal, which it is now admitted will swallow up some \$200,000,000 in the construction, not to speak of quite possible losses from lack of traffic after completion nor of still vaster expenditures liable to result from international complications. But the people seem to take only a languid interest. Many of them, indeed, are urging congress on to these greater extremes of prodigality.

Well, as Sairy Gamp observes, "them as wants to be titivated must pay accord." The American people are paying roundly for the "titivation" of their vanity, and to outward appearances they are paying very cheerfully.

Their cheerfulness may be due, however, to their blind acceptance of the teaching of their prematurely wise republican schoolmasters that the money which congress appropriates is paid by stupid foreigners or rubes down from the skies or gushes up from wells.

One of these days depression and headache will come upon them again. They will discover that they have been deceived. They will perceive that they are the ones who furnish the money to pay for the "titivation" and that the investment is not remunerative. They will learn that they have been contributing more millions to the millionaires and impoverishing themselves.

It will be a sorry day for the learned republican doctors of economics when the people wake up and see realities in place of dreams. And we may think ourselves fortunate if they do not go to another extreme and punish not only those who have deceived them but those also who have accumulated wealth in legitimate ways and by the exercise of their own energies and their own genius for "causing two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before."

People who have been robbed by confidence operators may not stop to make nice distinctions when they come to themselves. With the spirit of resentment strong upon them they may flock to the standard of some "prophet" like Prof. Herron as Europeans in days gone by flocked to the standard of Peter the Hermit or as Frenchmen later threw themselves into the bloody excesses of the great revolution and the "reign of terror." (Chicago Chronicle.)

A "Colonial Army."

Now the advocates of militarism are sugar-coating the proposition by suggesting that we call it a "colonial army." The New York Herald observes that "men who have a deep seated repugnance to a permanent large standing army would not object to the enlistment of young Americans for service exclusively in the colonies." In this way an ample force could be raised to suppress the insurrection in the Philippines and effectively police them until peace and order were permanently established. "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." But what a proposition for the new twentieth century, to revert to the medieval "soldier of fortune" ways! But that seems to be one of the possible consequences of imperialism. (Utica Observer.)

Good Prospect for Democrats.

There can be no doubt about the overthrow of republicanism at an early date if democracy shall prove itself to be worthy of the confidence of the American people. With imperialism, militarism, monopoly and prodigality provoking to open resistance a very large proportion of the best elements of the republican party, the democrats have an open field for achieving triumphs. Democratic leadership in state and nation must arise above the conflicts of faction and the cupidity of spoilsmen. It must be clean in organization, resolute in purpose and earnest in effort. (Philadelphia Times.)

Let there be no mistake about the character of the opposition to the ship subsidy bill in congress. It is not the filibustering of a few cheap demagogues which has to be feared. It is the republican apprehension that there is death in the pot. In its present shape the bill means poison to the party system which years will not eradicate. (N. Y. Press (Rep.).)

Hawaiian leprosy, Cuban smallpox and Filipino berri-berri seem to be about all that we have gained from our colonial policy thus far. (St. Louis Republic.)

FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Senate.—The senate Tuesday adopted appropriate resolutions on the death of Queen Victoria, of England. During the sitting of the senate in open session the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill was completed so far as the committee amendments were concerned.

House.—Before the announcement of the death of the queen the house passed the bills to send to the court of claims temporarily to take charge of the claims of Cramp & Sons, amounting to something over \$1,000,000, for alleged damage done to the company on account of the failure of the government to promptly furnish armor plate and other material used in the construction of naval vessels. The senate bill to extend the placer mining laws to saline lands was passed after a rather spirited debate. The District of Columbia appropriation bill was taken up and some progress was made with it. Appropriate resolutions on the death of Queen Victoria were adopted, and out of respect the house adjourned.

Washington, Jan. 24.—Senate.—Consideration of the shipping bill was resumed Wednesday. At the instance of Mr. Frye (Me.), who relinquished the chair temporarily to take charge of the mess on the floor, it was made the unfinished business of the senate, thus restoring it to its privileged position.

House.—The house Wednesday passed the District of Columbia appropriation bill and entered upon consideration of the naval appropriation bill. There was some discussion of the extent to which the navy was to be increased ultimately in the course of which Mr. Wheeler (Ky.) and a member of the committee, declared himself in favor of a navy large enough to meet all corners. Several provisions of the bill were knocked out on points of order, including that to give warrant officers the continuation for quarters allowed second lieutenants of the marine corps.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Senate.—The senate devoted Thursday to the Indian appropriation bill and made only fair progress. The chief feature of the debate was a sharp attack by Mr. Pettigrew on the Daves commission. At the opening the senate adopted the reported deportation of A. Mabini, a citizen of the Philippines, to Guam.

House.—The house considered the naval appropriation bill all day and completed it, with the exception of one paragraph. The item for increase of the navy will remain as reported, namely, two battle ships and two cruisers. Some opposition was manifested to any increase of the navy, and Mr. Cannon (Ill.) sounded a note of warning as to the size of our annual appropriations, and added that, with the present appropriation, \$300,000,000 would have been spent on our new navy, and we should stop.

Washington, Jan. 26.—Senate.—Senator Depew (N. Y.) delivered in the senate Friday a characteristically forceful and eloquent address in support of the shipping bill. The address, which occupied just an hour, was in the nature of an appeal for the upbuilding of the American merchant marine by the granting of subsidies, as provided for in the pending measure.

House.—The house Friday adopted the conference report upon the army reorganization bill. The contest over it was brief. Mr. Hill, chairman of the military affairs committee, preventing prolonged debate. The consular and diplomatic appropriation bill, carrying something over \$1,700,000, was reported. It provides \$20,000 for purchasing land at Peking for the United States legation there. Minister Conger hasing advised the extension of the term of the ambassador of the United States to Russia. Other changes made by the bill are: Salary of minister to Bolivia increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500; consulate established at Nien Chwang, China, at \$3,000, and at Moscow, Russia, at \$1,500; consulate at Chung King, China, abolished; consul general at Constantinople made United States agent at Sofia, Bulgaria, and salary raised from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

Washington, Jan. 28.—Senate.—No business of importance transacted in the senate Saturday.

House.—The following bills and resolutions were introduced Saturday: By Representative Berry, directing the secretary of the treasury to pay to Margaret Kennedy, sole heir and executrix of John Kennedy, \$7,476 for her share of property destroyed by United States troops during the civil war. By Representative Smith (Ky.) authorizing the appointment of Gen. N. Jesse as a special employe of the house of representatives at a salary of \$1,000 a year. Representative Southard introduced a resolution in the house, making a special order, after the revenue cutter service bill of the Hill bill, to maintain the parity of gold and silver. The house committee on rules refused to report favorably on the resolution unless the senate should guarantee that the bill would receive attention in that body during the present session. The latter having been refused, it is likely that the Hill bill will not become a law at this session. The house passed the bill introduced by Representative Berry to pension Mrs. Mary Conery, of Fallmouth, at the rate of \$8 a month.

Anti-Cigarette Bill.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 26.—Representative Witt has introduced a bill which prohibits the manufacture, sale or giving away of cigarettes within the state.

Exportation Tax Lowered.

Havana, Jan. 28.—Gov. Gen. Wood has informed the tobacco exporters that the Washington government has allowed his petition for a 50 per cent. reduction in the exportation tax. The lowering of the export duty has been the subject of agitation among the tobacco interests in Cuba for a year.

Swearing Allegiance.

Uloa, Island of Panay, Jan. 28.—Hundreds of 30,000 Filipinos have sworn allegiance to the United States in Iloilo province. Thirty surrendered at Santa Barbara.