

ARBITRATION IS NOT A CERTAINTY

Rejection of the Treaty in Any Form Is Not Improbable.

New Senators Show a Disposition to Look Before They Leap.

Determined to Thoroughly Understand the Subject Before Casting Their Votes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 24.—The Senate spent only half an hour in open session to-day, the remainder of the time being given to the consideration of the arbitration treaty behind closed doors.

The attack upon the civil service law and its administration, which distinguished yesterday's proceedings, was followed up to-day by the introduction of bills—one by Allen (Pop.) of Nebraska for the repeal and annulment of the law and all of its executive orders issued under it, and the other by Pritchard (R.) of North Carolina, chairman of the Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment, modifying its application to the Government Printing Office.

A bill prohibiting the exhibition in the District of Columbia of kinetoscope illustrations of prize-fights, and also prohibiting the transportation of materials therefor through the mails or through the mails of States, Territories, or possessions, introduced by Hoar (R.) of Massachusetts, was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

An agreement was reached in executive session this afternoon on an hour for voting on the amendments to the general treaty of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain, but consent to an agreement for the final vote was refused. At 2 o'clock next Wednesday afternoon a vote will be taken on the amendments, and the treaty in its then shape is to be printed for the use of the Senate the next day. At 2 o'clock on the Thursday following the vote is to be taken upon all amendments that may be offered in the meantime, and this will be the last of the votes on proposed amendments. From that time on the debate will proceed on the treaty proper.

Senator Davis made a persistent effort to secure an hour for the final vote, but was confronted by the opposition of such an agreement impossible. It is thought, however, that with all of the amendments out of the way the Senate vote cannot long be postponed. What the ultimate outcome will be can hardly be foreshadowed. The opponents of the treaty are not likely to secure thirty votes necessary to compass the defeat of the treaty and say they have several of the new Senators on their list. The questions asked by these new Senators indicate lively interest in the convention and a determination to understand the subject thoroughly before casting their votes. It would not come as a surprise to the committee to have the treaty rejected.

Senator Morgan took the floor immediately after the doors were closed and spoke for an hour, and in his address to the Chilton amendment, reiterating, however, his opposition to the treaty as a whole.

The Chilton amendment, as has been stated in these dispatches, makes a very important change in the tenor of the first article of the treaty. Under the original both the contracting parties agree to submit to arbitration under this general treaty "all questions in difference between them which they fail to adjust by diplomatic negotiation."

Chilton's amendment modifies this reading so as to make it read that the United States agrees to submit all questions which the Senate (which is part of our treaty-making power) shall decide to be subjects fit for arbitration.

The members of the committee and Senators opposed to any amendments other than those made by the committee contend that this is the only construction that can be placed upon the text of the treaty, and for that reason they hold that the amendment is unnecessary.

The advocates of the Chilton amendment contend, on the other hand, that it is the construction placed upon the text by the Senate and the committee no harm can come from the adoption of an amendment that makes the text what now appears to be somewhat doubtful.

It was also stated to-day that the committee of the Senate, with respect to the committee amendments which were agreed to the other day, make it imperative the duty of the Senate to so frame the treaty that there shall be no possible doubt about the intention of the Senate.

Morgan was one of these. He thought the Chilton amendment essential and vital. If the treaty is ratified in the manner he wanted it safeguarded in every possible manner, and warned the Senate that, however it might be protected, Great Britain would find a loophole through which the Government would evade her duties under that instrument if her interests demanded that she escape them.

Morgan was followed by Lodge, who declared his belief that the treaty as reported to the Senate was amply protective for the United States Government. To further amend it would complicate the language of the convention. Lodge made a short speech in favor of arbitration as a principle and endorsement of the pending treaty as a proper expression of the extent to which this Government was ready to go in that direction.

Chairman Davis and Senator Hoar also spoke briefly in advocacy of the treaty as amended by the committee and against the amendment proposed by the Senator from Texas.

Spencer insisted that the Chilton amendment was not ill-timed, for the reason that it made clear what appeared to be the admitted intention of the Senate. Thurston was of the same view.

The debate showed that some of the best lawyers in the Senate thought that the Chilton amendment should prevail. Davis to-morrow will move another executive session at an early hour as possible for the purpose of admitting discussion on several amendments that have not yet been formally submitted.

DEPOSED OF HIS MANGING. What English Officials and Papers Say of the Treaty.

LONDON, Eng., March 24.—A high Government official to a representative of the United States Presses to-day that the United States Senate had taken all the meaning out of the arbitration treaty, and asserted his belief that the British Government would be extremely unlikely to accept it.

"We have done without an arbitration treaty heretofore," he said, "and it will

not make much difference if we continue to do so for the present." It is learned that the Foreign Office that diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Venezuela have not yet been resumed, and that the question of their resumption is not likely to be discussed until the Venezuelan arbitration tribunal has finished its work.

Dr. Juan Pizarro, the present Venezuelan Minister to Germany and Spain, the foreign officials say, has not been credited to Great Britain.

The Westminster Gazette takes the Senate's action as a very disappointing and disappointing result of all the efforts of Secretary Olney and Lord Salisbury. The anti-English feeling underlying the action of the Senate, the paper adds, is the most unpleasant aspect of the matter.

The Pall Mall Gazette says that merely to please sensational jingoism and self-importance a promising plan has been wrecked. In concluding the Gazette says: "We firmly believe the Americans will be more thoroughly ashamed of their Senate than they ordinarily are, which is saying a good deal."

SAN PEDRO'S APPROPRIATION. Secretary Alger Inclined to Delay Execution of the Act—San Francisco's Public Building.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 24.—Senator Perkins, Judge Maguire and Representative Barlow say they believe that Secretary Alger will delay the execution of the act of Congress appropriating \$3,000,000 for San Pedro harbor, but they cannot see how he can afford to do it. The reports of three different boards which have reported in favor of San Pedro or in opposition to the expressed wishes of Congress. Senator Perkins saw the War Department engineers a few days ago, and from what they told him he believes that advertisements for bids for the contract work will soon be issued. Senator Perkins will have an interview with Secretary of War Alger on the subject in a few days.

The call correspondent inquired about the progress of the San Francisco public building plans to-day. The supervising architect said: "The private engineers seem disinclined to make the tests and authorization for the Army Engineer Hunter to do the work, which they will inspect afterward. The army engineers employed Engineer Hunter to do the work."

The call correspondent understands that the War and Treasury departments are disinclined to grant his request. They issue the reports of three different boards which have reported in favor of San Pedro or in opposition to the expressed wishes of Congress. Senator Perkins saw the War Department engineers a few days ago, and from what they told him he believes that advertisements for bids for the contract work will soon be issued. Senator Perkins will have an interview with Secretary of War Alger on the subject in a few days.

TARIFF PARAGRAPHS CHANGED. Republican Committees Respond to Popular Protests.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 24.—In response to strong protests from educational centers the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee at its meeting to-day changed the paragraph in the new tariff bill relating to books and scientific instruments, so as to permit books, scientific apparatus, charts and chemicals, such as are not published or made in the United States, expressly imported in good faith, and for the use of any regularly established corporation, university, college, academy, school, seminary or public library, to be admitted free of duty.

In compliance with the protests of the fruit growers of California, the duty on pineapples, which were made dutiable at 2 cents a pound, has been changed so as to permit pineapples in barrels or other containers to be imported at 6 cents per cubic foot. When imported in bulk the duty will be \$8 a thousand. Chlorate of soda was added to schedule A and made dutiable at 3 cents a pound.

A WHITE HOUSE DINNER. Given by the President and Mrs. McKinley to Cabinet Officers.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 24.—The President and Mrs. McKinley gave a dinner to-day to the members of the Cabinet. The State dining-room and the reception-rooms on the first floor were profusely decorated with growing plants and cut flowers. Covers were laid for twenty-two. The guests were: The Secretary of State, Mr. Blaine; the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. D. C. Hoar; the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. H. C. Sherman; the Secretary of War, Mr. Alger; the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. D. C. Hoar; the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. G. B. Frazier; the Secretary of Commerce, Mr. G. B. Frazier; the Secretary of Education, Mr. G. B. Frazier; the Secretary of the Postoffice and Telegraphs, Mr. G. B. Frazier; the Secretary of the Pension Office, Mr. G. B. Frazier; the Secretary of the Land Office, Mr. G. B. Frazier; the Secretary of the Mine Land Office, Mr. G. B. Frazier; the Secretary of the Indian Affairs, Mr. G. B. 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