The Leon Reporter

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HARD AFTER THEM.

Remley Pays His Respects to Iowa Building and Loan Associations.

DES MOINES, Feb. 21.—Attorney General Remley's opinions regarding the existing evils in the laws governing the building and loan and insurance business of Iowa, and the needed remedies therefor, were presented to the Iowa senate yesterday, in reply to a request from that body made over a week ago. They are even more sweeping than has been expected. According to Mr. Remley there are many corporations which may be classed under these heads now doing business of an illegal kind in the state and swindling the poorer classes of people every day. Mr. Remley does not point directly at any particular corporation, but the elements of his charges are so sweeping and of such a nature as to assure the bringing out of many prominent men in the state who are connected with large associations of the kind, and who will undoubtedly refuse to rest under the charges which have been made. Mr. Remley expresses the opinion that neither the state executive council nor the attorney general has the power which should be given to these authorities in passing upon the business of the corporations involved. His criticisms on the building and loan business do not so much apply to the domestic associations doing business in the state as to the larger associations where stock is purchased in large amounts by capitalists who desire to obtain exorbitant interest rates on their investments and are thus crushing the poorer classes, the ones which the law was intended to benefit and protect. His criticisms on insurance organizations are aimed at the class of companies known as the farmers' mutuals, and some of the larger life insurance organizations. Many of these companies, according to Mr. Remley, are conducted in a decidedly loose manner, thus bringing all the Iowa companies into disrepute. The recommendations of Mr. Remley for changes in the laws explain largely the fault he has to find with the present methods governing these corporations.

His recommendations in brief relating to building and loan associations are as follows:

First. The law should forbid any part of the principal paid in by the stock holder to be used for expenses. Second. There should be a limit upon the expenses of the associations. Third. All guaranteed stock or preferred stock under any and all names which receives a fixed dividend, whether profits have been earned or not, should be eliminated. Fourth. Never to impose fines and forfeitures upon persons who fail to pay the installments on their stock ought to be removed. Fifth. The exemption of building and loan associations from the law of usury works a hardship which the former general assemblies could not have seen, in Mr. Remley's opinion. Sixth. The executive council ought to be given more plenary power, including the power to revoke the certificate authorizing the association to do business. Seventh. Provision should be made on which money paid on stock by the party who has borrowed thereon, in case of foreclosure, should be treated as an absolute payment on the money borrowed together with the profits, if any, credited on such stock. Eighth. Some provisions should be made to enable associations to go into voluntary liquidation, with suitable provision for the protection of the borrowing members, and might be well also to authorize the [illegible] of loans made by the liquidating [illegible] to have the amount paid on his stock credited on such loan, or to permit two or more associations to consolidate by a three-fourths vote of the stock of the respective associations, on terms which the executive council or some officer of the state should approve as equitable to all concerned. Ninth. Chapter 8 of the laws of the twenty-seventh general assembly, should be repealed. Its effect was to make new and different contracts for those affected thereby, which has worked a hardship in many instances.

In regard to the remedies needed in the insurance code, the following recommendations are made:

First.—All articles of incorporation of companies and associations incorporated under the laws of this state, as well as those incorporated in other states, should be submitted to the auditor of state and attorney general for their approval, and these officers be authorized to disapprove all plans which do not provide proper safeguards for the protection of policy holders. Second.—All companies and associations which make assessments on the members, or by a so-called safety clause reserve the right to make assessments, should by statute be prohibited from issuing so-called paid-up policies, limited payment policies and from accumulating a fund to be paid back to the members as dividends, distribution or surplus, or endowments in any form. Third.—All forms of policies should be submitted to the auditor for his approval and he should be required to disapprove all forms which do not state on the face of the policy all the terms, conditions or warranties by the breach of which the policy is voided, and to revoke the certificate of any company not complying with this provision. Fourth.—All policies which require the payment of a fixed premium should be made non-forfeitable after two annual payments. Fifth.—Any company or association which publishes its literature with false and misleading statements as to the nature of its business should forfeit its right to do business in the state. Sixth.—The section of the code requiring a medical examination of all members of associations should be made to apply to level premium companies. Seventh.—No mutual company or association should be permitted, by an amendment of articles of incorporation, to increase the premium or rate of assessments on existing policy-holders. Eighth.—No stipulated premium or assessment company incorporated under the laws of another state should be permitted to do business in Iowa if it uses a greater per cent of the premium or assessments for expenses or soliciting new business than is allowed to similar associations organized under the laws of Iowa. Ninth.—All associations which have attempted to absorb any other association, either by reinsuring or consolidation in any way, which the attorney general contends cannot be legally done under the laws of Iowa, and have made assessments on the members thus received, should be required to treat such members as their own original members and pay the same amount, in case of death, as their own original members receive.

FIX DATE FOR CONVENTION.

Populists Will Meet at Sioux Falls On May 9.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 21.—The next national convention of the populist party will be held in Sioux Falls, S. D., on May 9. Representation is based on the vote for General J. B. Weaver for president in 1892, or if any candidate for state office has since polled a larger vote that vote shall be the basis. Two delegates-at-large are given each state. This was the decision reached in a somewhat extended but harmonious meeting of the fusion wing of the national committee, which concluded yesterday.

THE FEMININE PHILOSOPHER.

Hunger is a sure cure for love.

Liars should possess good memories.

Cold weather never contracts the price of coal.

There are very few cynics found among the successful.

There is no man so reliant or independent that he doesn't like to have the woman who loves him treat him at times as though he were a great big baby.

It is so much easier to be brave when we go to the dentist's the first time than it is at the second visit, when we know what we have to go through.

If more so-called vocalists understood the distinction between singing and making a noise the concert [illegible] would undoubtedly [illegible]

THE NEWS IN IOWA

FROZEN IN A BARN.

Insane Man's Death Said to Be Due to Cruelty and Neglect.

HUMBOLDT, Feb. 22.—This city is now agitated by revelations which seem to show that extreme cruelty led to the death of an insane man. Several years ago Michael Chess, a farmer living near Bradgate, Humboldt county, became demented and was taken to the insane asylum at Independence. Shortly after this Chess's sister and her husband secured his release from the asylum and took him back to the farm in the hope, they said, that his reason might be restored through good care by loving hands. Later a deed of Chess's 200-acre farm was made out to his sister. After this the neighbors noticed that Chess was kept out of sight of the public. A week ago Chess died without having been attended by a physician. The seeming haste of the family in making funeral arrangements excited the suspicions of the neighbors, who instigated a post-mortem examination. This developed that Chess's lungs were in a state of unusual congestion, due to pneumonia. Other interior organs were terribly inflamed and distended. The man's feet had been frozen and several of the toes had sloughed off. The body was terribly emaciated. Before the coroner's jury evidence was adduced showing that Chess had been kept in a barn, had received poorer food than the stock on the farm and was barefooted and practically unclothed. He had never been in the house since his removal from the asylum until the night of his death.

FORT DODGE, Feb. 24.—The grand jury of Humboldt county has returned an indictment against Frank Michalak and wife, charging them with being responsible for the death of Michael Chess. Warrants were immediately issued and they were arrested. Their bonds were fixed at $1,500 each, which they furnished. They will be tried at the April term of court.

IS ANOTHER BLOW.

To Reduce Interest Charged by Building and Loan Associations.

DES MOINES, Feb. 25.—Another blow has been aimed at the building and loan business of the state in a bill introduced in the upper body of the legislature by Senator Lewis. The author proposes to reduce the rate of interest which may be charged by these associations. At present the building and loan business of the state is exempted by statute from the usury laws, and may lawfully charge 12 per cent upon its loans, while no other business in the state may legally collect an interest rate of more than 8 per cent. This privilege was extended to building and loan corporations when the new code went into effect in 1897. There was a fight before it was placed on the statute books. In 1898, when the [illegible] venty-seventh general assembly convened, the question was again taken [illegible]. Another fight ensued upon the [illegible] position to make the provision [illegible] ng the right to building and loan corp[illegible] large usurious rates, apply [illegible] contracts entered into by building and loan associations prior to the new code going into effect. Senator Lewis has introduced a bill proposing to repeal this last enactment, which is chapter 48 of the session laws of the twenty-seventh general assembly. He is also preparing a bill to be introduced shortly which will repeal the original law placing the interest rate at 12 per cent, which went into effect with the new code.

LEGISLATORS AT STATE UNIVERSITY

Over 100 Entertained by President MacLean.

IOWA CITY, Feb. 23.—One hundred members of the general assembly accepted the invitation of the State University to spend Washington's birthday in Iowa City and left Des Moines on the Rock Island's Hawkeye limited at 7 o'clock yesterday morning. Many of the legislators were accompanied by their families, and committee clerks and other state employes and friends of the university swelled the party to 200. Three special cars were attached to the train for the accommodation of the party. The party was given a hearty reception and was royally entertained. Addresses were delivered by President MacLean, Lieutenant-Governor Milliman, Speaker Bowen and other members of the legislature, while the chief speaker of the day was Chancellor Craig, of Drake University. The party left for home at 5:47 p. m.

Small Pox at Boone.

BOONE, Feb. 25.—Two cases of rash were examined by the physicians, who pronounced them small pox. One case is that of Wesley Hardin, aged 35 years. He is quite sick. The other cases are those of two children of William Switzer, who have been sick for some time, no physician having been called. They attended the Fifth ward school and the school in that ward has been closed by order of the health department. A strict quarantine has been placed on the afflicted families and every effort will be made to stamp out the disease. All the school children have been ordered vaccinated.

Eastburn Held for Trial.

OTTUMWA, Feb. 23.—In the preliminary trial of Leslie Eastburn at Bloomfield the defendant was held to the grand jury without bail. Eastburn is the man who is charged with murdering Jasper N. Sutton, of Bloomfield, because the latter objected to the marriage of their daughter to Eastburn.

Banker Files Bankruptcy Petition.

CLINTON, Feb. 26.—E. A. Christensen, of Calamus, Clinton county, has filed a petition in bankruptcy, with liabilities of about $20,000. For a number of years he has been a banker and leading merchant of that town, and was considered financially sound.

Suits for $1,500.

FORT DODGE, Feb. 26.—The city of Dayton is the defendant in a damage suit brought by Mrs. S. B. Watson. Mrs. Watson sustained injuries some time ago as a result of a fall and now brings suit for damages in the amount of $1,500. The case will be fought.

TO MAKE AUTOMOBILES.

Factory Will be Established to Make Invention of Des Moines Boy.

DES MOINES, Feb. 27.—Des Moines will be the first city in the west to have an automobile factory. And not only will the capital city of the foremost state in the whole federation be the first to supply the western trade with the horseless carriage, but the vehicle will be of a new and improved design and it will represent the brains and inventive genius of a Des Moines boy, R. B. Fageol. A sample carriage has been built, it has undergone the severest tests, contracts have been drawn by which capitalists agree to provide the funds for fitting up a factory in Des Moines, and the whole project only awaits the action of the patent office at Washington on claims that are now before it. That the action of the department at Washington will be favorable to the inventor is not to be questioned, for the parts of vehicle on which he asks patents are entirely different from any now in use by other makers of automobiles.

GARDNER WOMAN IS FREE.

Shown That She Shot Tom Haas, of Sioux City, in Self-Defense.

SIOUX CITY, Feb. 27.—Elsie Gardner, who on the morning of February 11 fatally stabbed her paramour, Tom Haas, was discharged from custody after a two days' preliminary hearing on the charge of murder, having successfully established a case of self-defense. In her testimony the Gardner woman told a story of horrible brutality and abuse at the hands of Haas. She lived with him as his mistress for ten years, during which time he beat her into insensibility again and again. He forced her to earn money for him in most questionable ways and twisted her arms, gouged her eyes and otherwise tortured her to get from her the little money she possessed. This is the third homicide within two months to go unpunished.

Fort Dodge's New Railroad.

FORT DODGE, Feb. 24.—At a meeting of the officers of the Fort Dodge & Southeastern road it was definitely decided to start preliminary surveys at once. Mitchell Vincent, of Onawa, was given full charge of the work, and it has already commenced. The line will be finished as rapidly as possible: President E. H. Rich stated that his trip to New York city was very satisfactory, and that the officials of the Iowa Central were deeply interested in the new road and would come to Fort Dodge in a few days for the purpose of further investigation.

Iowa Wins Butter Makers' Prize.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 24.—At the meeting of the Butter Makers' Association Iowa won the first prize in the state delegation competition. The markings were as follows; Iowa, 191 entries, average 89.675; Minnesota, nineteen entries, average 90.17; Wisconsin, seventy-two entries, average 87.60; Illinois, fifty-nine entries, average 90.52; Kansas, forty-five entries, average 88.67; Nebraska, fifty-one entries, average 89.07; South Dakota, thirty-four entries, average 85.86.

Exempt From Local Taxes.

DES MOINES, Feb. 26.—Judge Charles A. Bishop, of the district court of Polk county, has decided that mutual insurance companies are not required to pay local taxes, as there is no provision for it in the statutes and the 1 per cent state tax has been practically held unconstitutional by the supreme court. Judge Bishop holds that in this case, where the Bankers' Life Association is involved, such companies will entirely escape taxation until the law is changed.

Essex Gets a New Trial.

OTTUMWA, Feb. 24.—Charles Essex, the young man who was convicted at the present term of the district court at Chariton on the charge of attempting to wreck the Burlington fast mail on the night of November 23, has been granted a new trial.

MacVicar Renominated.

DES MOINES, Feb. 26.—The republicans of Des Moines have renominated Mayor John MacVicar for a third term.

BREVITIES.

Edward O'Neill, a leading business man of Stuart, recently committed suicide while temporarily insane, by placing a revolver to his forehead and sending a bullet into his brain. He carried $5,000 life insurance in different companies. Mr. Neill was one of Stuart's most influential citizens, and leaves a wife and four children to mourn his loss.

Ottumwa dispatch: The office and lumber yards of the W. B. Ballew Lumber Company at Albia were destroyed by an incendiary fire which broke out about 4 o'clock a. m. The damage will reach $10,000, with an insurance of $5,200. A man was seen to apply a torch to the shed at the east end of the yards and then run away. His identity is unknown.

At Hot Springs, Ark., recently the contest between Fred Gilbert and J. A. R. Elliott at 150 birds each for the E. C. cup and for the world's championship as a target shot, resulted in Gilbert's favor by a score of 133 to 125. The match was at fifty birds, unknown traps, known angles, and fifty birds known traps and unknown angles, and twenty-five doubles. Gilbert thus retains the championship and cup.

At Jefferson recently John Head, the twenty-one-year-old son of Hon. Mahlon Head, accidentally shot himself three inches below the heart. The accident occurred while handling a 32-calibre revolver. The ball penetrated the body and has not yet been located. The doctors pronounce the wound serious, but hope for his recovery. His father was in Des Moines attending the legislature. He was at once wired and is now beside his son.

Ft. Dodge dispatch: Four well defined cases of smallpox of varioloid type have been discovered by the city health physician in the east part of the city. Strict quarantine will be enforced and all school children will be required to show a certificate of vaccination before being permitted to attend school. The school in the district in which the cases were discovered has been ordered closed pending the recovery of the patients. No alarm is entertained, as the cases are not of malignant form.

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Kenney spoke against the retention by the United States of the Philippine islands and urging that the Filipinos be accorded the right to govern themselves. Consideration was resumed of the Hawaiian government bill. An amendment was adopted providing that "no proceeding shall be maintained for the specific performance of any contract heretofore or hereinafter entered into for personal labor or service, and there shall be no criminal proceedings for breach thereof."

HOUSE.

Again to-day there were but three speeches in the house upon the Porto Rican tariff bill. Five hours were consumed in their delivery. Hopkins, of Illinois, spoke in support of the bill and Newlands, of Nevada, and Swanson of Virginia in opposition to it. The speakers devoted themselves almost exclusively to the constitutional question involved and were listened to with attention.

SENATE.

Washington, Feb. 21.—During the greater part of to-day's session the Hawaiian government bill was under consideration. But little progress was made.

HOUSE

Bromwell, rep., spoke against the Porto Rican bill. He opposed it on the ground of policy and not constitutionality. His hostility, however, was not so absolute but that he announced his intention of voting for it if the substitute failed. The other speakers were Ray and Long for the bill and Henry against it.

SENATE.

Washington, Feb. 22.—In accordance with the the annual custom, Washington's farewell address was read in the senate today by Senator Foraker. A discussion as to the right of the Quay case to come before the senate occupied considerable time, but without action the senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

The debate on the Porto Rican tariff bill brought out several notable speeches in the house to-day, including one by Grosvenor, of Ohio, who answered a number of questions as to the attitude of the president; another by McCall, of Massachusetts, the republican member of the ways and means committee, who dissented from the majority report, and Moody, another Massachusetts republican, who sharply criticised the position of his colleague; McClellan, of New York, and Brantley, of Georgia, also spoke against the bill, and Parker, of New Jersey, in support of it. The debate was continued at a night session.

SENATE.

Washington, Feb. 23.—In spite of vigorous and influential opposition, Penrose, of Pennsylvania, succeeded in getting the Quay case before the senate, and during the afternoon three notable speeches were delivered. Daniel vigorously supported Quay's right to a seat. Vest and Foraker delivered notable speeches anent the Hawaiian government bill. Both were constitutional arguments, Foraker's being a reply to Vest's.

HOUSE.

An agreement was reached in the house that the vote on the Porto Rican tariff bill be taken up at 3 p. m. next Tuesday, general debate to close Monday. The speech of Littlefield, of Maine, was the feature of the day. He added to his laurels won in the Roberts debate by a speech against the bill, which for brilliancy, wit and logic rivals the best efforts of the recognized orators of the house. Among the others who spoke were Messrs. Jones (Va) and Mattox (Ga.) against the bill, and Messrs. Russell (Conn.), Barnholdt (Mo.), Gardner (Mich.), and Lacey (Iowa) for it. The debate continued at a night session.

SENATE.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Throughout the session to-day the senate had under consideration the Hawaiian government bill. The discussion took a wide range, but the basis of it was an amendment offered by Platt, of Connecticut, as to the appointment and tenure of office of the judges of the Hawaiian court. No decision was reached.

HOUSE.

The house continued the debate on the Porto Rican bill, Tawney of Minnesota paying his respects to Littlefield of Maine, who had opposed the bill.

SENATE.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Turley of Tennessee presented a constitutional argument against the seating of Quay, which was given close attention by his colleagues. Consideration of the Hawaiian government bill brought out a lively discussion between Tillman and Spooner, in which the former admitted that ballot boxes had been stuffed and negroes had been shot in the south to maintain white domination. An amendment was made to the bill striking out the property qualification of voters for members of the legislature, but little other progress was made. Frye reported the shipping subsidy bill.

HOUSE.

The general debate upon the Porto Rican tariff bill was today extended until tomorrow night and addresses were made by a dozen representatives.

BOERS MASSING AT BLOEMFONTEIN

Ready to Receive Roberts When He Gets Through With Cronje.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The Boers are assembling an army near Bloemfontein to dispute the invasion of Lord Roberts. This intelligence comes from Pretoria by way of Lorenzo Marquez. The commandoes are described as "hastening from all quarters of the two republics." No estimate is made of their numbers, but the withdrawal of the Boers from most of the places where they have been in contact with the British in the district near Ladysmith may raise the resisting force to 30,000 men. This figure assumes that the Boers have had between 60,000 and 70,000 men in the field. The gathering of this army across the path of Lord Roberts gives a significance to General Cronje's steadfast defense. He has engaged the corps of Lord Roberts for ten days now, and whether he is relieved or not, he has given time for the dispersed Boer fractions to get together and to prepare positions to receive the British advance when General Cronje is overcome and Lord Roberts moves forward.

CANNOT ESCAPE.

British Authorities Believe Cronje Will Surely Be Crushed.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Since 3:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon nothing has been received from the scene of what the London papers call General Cronje's death struggle. They stated that they believed it impossible for Cronje to escape from the grip of Lord Roberts. The report circulated in Berlin that Cronje had succeeded in making his escape came from the Boer headquarters in Brussells, where it was stated that details were still lacking. The only news from the other parts of the seat of war received during the night is a special dispatch from Colenso, under date of Feb. 24, stating that the British, in spite of strong opposition, were advancing slowly but surely and driving the Boers from the kopjes between Groblers kloof and Hlangwana.

BOER LOSSES NOT HEAVY.

Their Reports Show Determination to Hold Out.

PRETORIA, Feb. 21.—A message from Cronje is to the effect that his loss yesterday was fourteen dead and wounded. DeWet's loss was nil. Commandant Fronoman reports that from February 15 to February 20 he was almost surrounded by the British at the Modder river, when with a small number of men he broke through to the river. On Sunday there was a heavy fight. The British prepared to lay siege to the Boer laager, with fighting general. We were surrounded by 2,500 British five miles from the chief laager. At night we cut our way through with the loss of seven dead and sixteen wounded. The loss of the British was heavy. Yesterday we cut our way through to reach DeWet, who was in the neighborhood. Fifty-three prisoners, formerly taken, have been forwarded. It is reported that the British were continually attacking Koodoos Rand yesterday with infantry and lancers, but that they were driven back.

NEWS IN GENERAL

WILL FIGHT TO THE FINISH.

Gen. Cronje Evidently Has No Idea of Surrendering.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—General Cronje is seemingly making his last stand. He is dying hard, hemmed in by British and with shells from fifty guns coming into his camp. The third day of the fight General Cronje asked for an armistice to bury his dead. "Fight to the death or surrender unconditionally" was Lord Kitchener's reply. General Cronje immediately sent back word that his request for a truce had been misunderstood, and that his determination then, as before, was to fight to the death.

The battle went on. This was the situation of General Cronje Tuesday evening, as sketched in the scanty telegrams that have emerged from the semi silence of South Africa.

Officially Lord Roberts wires that he has scattered the advance commando of the reinforcements that were striving to reach General Cronje. It is regarded as singular that Lord Roberts, wiring Wednesday, should not mention the appeal for an armistice on the previous day, and also that the war office should withhold good news, if it has any.

Without trying to reconcile even the scanty materials at hand, it seems plain that General Cronje is in a bad, and even a desperate situation, and that the British are pressing their advantage.

While the attack on General Cronje proceeds, there is a race for concentration between the Boers and the British.

The engagement with General Cronje's five to eight thousand entrenched men is likely to become an incident in a battle between the masses. The separated fractions of the Boer power are rapidly drawing together to attack Lord Roberts.

General Buller, according to a dispatch from Chievely, dated Wednesday, finds the Boers in positions north of the Tugela largely reinforced. This seems strange.

MINOR OFFICERS SWORN IN.

Kentucky Election Board Sustains the Democrats.

FRANKFORT Feb. 27.—The state contest board yesterday awarded certificates of election to all of the democratic contestants for minor offices. Immediately afterward the contestants were sworn in and repaired to the state house in a body, where they made a formal demand upon the republican incumbents for possession of the offices, but the demands were not acceded to. The democratic contestants sworn in are: Secretary of State Hill, Attorney General Breckinridge, Auditor Coulter, Treasurer Hager, Superintendent of Public Instruction McChesney. Clerk of the Court of Appeals Shackelford administered the oath of office to all the contestants for offices other than governor and lieutenant-governor. The principal grounds set out in the report for the finding in favor of the democratic contestants are: Because of military interference in Louisville, on account of which the election there should be thrown out entirely; the alleged illegal action of Judge Toney in granting an injunction allowing Brown inspectors inside the polls, and also that Judge Evans of the federal court contributed to the result by a threatening charge to the United States grand jury.

WILL NOT GET ISLANDS.

Navy Department Makes Good Its Title to Disputed Possessions.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The American flag will not come down on Sibuta island or on Cagayan island. Spain has been demanding that these islands be returned to it. The war deparment was ready to make the return, and so was the state dedartment. The navy department was, however, unwilling to surrender anything it had taken, and has made its title good to the islands. The state department will inform Spain that the islands are the property of the United States and will hold them. Sibuta was saved to the United States by the discovery of an old treaty between Spain, Great Britain and Germany, which specifically says that Borneo's holding shall not extend farther than three miles from the coast of Borneo. Sibuta is on the opposite side of the channel separating Borneo from the Sulu archipelago. As to Cagayan island the records show that it was at one time used as a penal colony by Spain, and the latter is therefore stopped from denying that it was used as a part of the Philippine group.

WAR SHIPS TO AWE CHINA.

Report That United States and Germany Will Protect Missionaries.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The Berlin correspondent of the Standard says:

"The United States government purposes to send some war ships into Chinese waters shortly, as the tsung-liyamen does not heed the collective note sent by the United States minister and the other powers' ministers a fortnight ago, in which they demanded that measures be taken to insure the safety of missionaries. Germany designs to send war ships for the same reason."

Dewey's Claim Greatly Reduced.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The United States court of claims has rendered a decision on the claims of Admiral Dewey for prize money on account of the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila harbor. The court decided against the admiral's contention that the enemy's force was superior to his, and awarded him $9,570.

English Meet With Heavy Losses.

HOOF LAAGER, Ladysmith, Wednesday, Feb. 21.—There was heavy fighting all Monday and Tuesday, and it still continues since early this morning. Our officers hope to dislodge the British from their position. Last night a body of British troops tried to cross the river, but were beaten back with heavy loss. Our positions are being bombarded from Ladysmith.

NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL

THE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

Des Moines, Feb. 20.—Attorney General Remley's report on the building and loan and insurance business of the state was presented and read, after which it was ordered printed. Among bills introduced was one by Lewis for an act placing all public and private insane hospitals under charge of the board of control. House bill providing for a one-tenth mill tax for building purposes at the agricultural college passed.

HOUSE.

After a hard fight, the Clarke bill for the abolishment of the office of state printer and binder, which had been made a special order for today, was postponed for one week, and the investigating committee ordered to report at that time. The bill to amend the military code of the state passed the house without opposition. Its most important change is doing away entirely with the brigade organization in the Iowa National Guard. According to one of its provisions the salary of the adjutant general is increased from $1,500 to $2,000 in times of peace, and he is given compensation equal to that of colonel in time of war. The bill by Temple to amend the code so as to make it possible for insurance companies to receive loans upon their own policies and not wait until three years after the policy is taken out as now required, was passed.

SENATE.

Des Moines, Feb. 21.—The name of Gifford S. Robinson, of Sioux City, late supreme judge, has been sent to the senate by Governor Shaw as a member of the board of control to succeed ex-Governor Larrabee. The appointment was referred to a committee consisting of Junkin, Perrin, Clussen, Lyons and Bolter. In both houses to-day a joint report of the ways and means committees of the assembly was made, containing a detailed statement of the available revenue for the ensuing biennial period and an estimate of the amount which may be safely appropriated by this legislature for extraordinary purposes. The report shows that there is available for extraordinary appropriations $1,275,446. The senate passed the bill making it a crime for any person after marrying a woman to escape prosecution for seduction to desert her within five years thereafter. The bill giving cities of the first class authority to levy a three-mill tax for maintenance of a fire department was also passed.

HOUSE.

A bill was passed which provides that the board of examiners may at their discretion issue to graduates of higher institutions of learning certificates upon the same conditions which they do to graduates of the state normal. The bill by Wilson, of Washington, allowing members of the national guard 10 cents per hour for drill, not to exceed 20 cents per week, was passed. Overfield's bill, which makes the assessed valuation of property the basis for its assessment the following year, was also passed. A large grist of bills of minor importance was introduced.

SENATE.

Des Moines, Feb. 23.—The appointment of Judge G. S. Robinson as a member of the board of control was confirmed, 40 votes being cast in favor of confirmation and none against. Blanchard introduced a bill to repeal present law relating to assessment and taxation of telephone and telegraph companies and enact a substitute which will place the assessment on the same basis with that of railroad property. Senator Cheshire introduced two new measures relating to taxation. They are to make the same principles now applying to the assessment of sleeping and dining car companies apply to freight cars and cars of equipment companies. The senate passed the bill by Wallace repealing that section of the code which requires hedge fences to be trimmed to five feet every two years, and leaves the question discretionary with county trustees. Crossley's bill allowing $800 for traveling expenses of state superintendent was defeated.

HOUSE.

The house passed the bill by Lyman to allow savings banks to make loans on farm lands to two-thirds, instead of half the actual value of the land. Kennedy's bill to transfer Harrison county from the Fourth to the Fifteenth judicial district and to provide an additional judge for the latter, was also passed. The house killed the Elker bill, after first voting down a substitute to increase the amount of personal earnings to be exempted $8 to $10. Bill providing that road supervisors shall cut weeds along roads in their districts before August 1 each year was passed, as was also the bill requiring the redemption of unused railroad tickets.

SENATE.

Des Moines, Feb. 24.—Aside from the introduction of a number of bills of minor importance no business was transacted.

HOUSE.

There was no quorum in the house and no business of importance was transacted.

SENATE.

Des Moines, Feb. 26.—Harriman's bill providing for a department of agriculture was under consideration to-day. An amendment providing that horticulture be not looked after by the proposed department was defeated. A vote was not reached. Finch introduced a bill proposing a system of parole for criminals.

HOUSE.

Representative Head of Green introduced a resolution asking that a committee be appointed to investigate the charges that John Cownie, member of the board of control, is also holding a government position contrary to law, and asking also that the committee be empowered to institute an inquiry to ascertain if Governor Shaw, Secretary of State Dobson, Auditor Merriam or Treasurer Herriott hold any office in private corporations over which they have control for purposes of taxation as members of the executive council. Carr introduced a bill to apply the Australian ballot to school elections. A large number of bills were killed by being indefinitely postponed.

BRITISH MEET HEAVY LOSS.

Repulsed by the Boers North of the Tugela River.

BOER HEAD LAAGER, Natal, Feb. 23.—Yesterday the British crossed the Tugela in large numbers, with cannon, and over sixty wagons. They attacked the Ermelo and Middleburghers' commandoes, but were forced to retire under a heavy Mauser fire. A renewed attempt to storm the Ermelo men was made this morning, but the British were again driven off. The fighting continues. The British losses were very heavy. Eight ambulances were employed in collecting their dead and wounded. The generals report that the commandoes are fighting bravely. Ladysmith fired a few shells this morning at our outposts till silenced by "Long Tom."

MISSOURI HUSTLERS WIN OUT.

Capture the Democratic National Convention Over Milwaukee.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The next national democratic convention will be held at Kansas City, Mo., July 4. This was the decision of the democratic committee which met at the Hotel Raleigh yesterday to fix the time and place of holding the convention. Milwaukee was the only other city that competed for the honor of entertaining the convention, and the vote which decided the contest resulted 40 for Kansas City to 9 for Milwaukee.

THE WAR IN MEXICO.

Fiercest Fighting of the War Takes Place in Sonora.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—A special to the Chronicle from Potam, Sonora, Mexico, says:

The Mexican federal troops under General Torres have saved Guayamas from the Yaquis, but by dint of the fiercest fighting of the war at a sacrifice of 200 soldiers. The town here is filled with wounded and all the public buildings are utilized.

Buller Not Yet Successful.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Ladysmith had not been relieved when the latest news left Natal two days ago. The Boers had then retired half way between Ladysmith and Colenso. If only 6,000 went to the Free State, as both the Boer and British accounts assert, the 12,000 who are left may purpose to maintain the siege and to resist Gen. Buller within contracted lines, although the impression at Gen. Buller's headquarters is that the Boers are merely covering a retreat.

DES MOINES, Feb. 27. 1900

In the case of Siders vs. Clarkson, a suit against the State Register for libel, the jury returned a verdict awarding $1,500 damages.

John Wood, the boy burglar, was sentenced to the state penitentiary at Ft. Madison for a term of six years at hard labor. He is only 17 years old but received one of the strongest sentences and lectures that Judge Prouty has yet imposed upon any offender. Wood is the young man who, with Fred LaSelle, broke into Lundy's general store at Altoona and stole a quantity of merchandise valued at about $15.

The famous anti-pass bill has been reported for passage in the house by the judiciary committee. Several amendments were incorporated into the original bill. One strikes out from the classes of persons affected by the all bill, state officers, county officers, judges of the supreme, district and superior courts, all members of the general assembly, etc. In fact, only one class of persons is left, and that is delegates to political conventions. To this class is added alternates and proxies. As if the amendment already named was not sufficient, the bill changes the provision that permits all clerks, and employes of railroad companies to give evidence and prohibits all interference with them for so doing by the company, is stricken out and in its place is put a provision permitting them to testify, but merely preventing the company from bringing legal action against them for testifying.

The bill by Stewart for the establishment of a woman's reformatory has been recommended for passage by the house committee on judiciary. The bill is an important one and is in line with the recommendations made by the board of control and the state humane societies. The bill calls for the appropriation of $2,000 to open the institution and furnish it, the building being already owned by the state near the penitentiary. There will be a woman superintendent in charge at a salary of $1,000.

The senate committee on judiciary discussed the prize fight bill, originally presented by Lister, and designed to subject all boxing contests for which admission is charged, or prizes are given, to the same penalties as prize fights. The committee after quite a long debate developed unexpected sentiment. Members declared they didn't believe any new laws were needed on this subject, and some of them said that anyhow they didn't care to put a stop to all sparring exhibitions, of however innocent character, because some of them occasionally got pretty vigorous. The result was that the bill was reported for indefinite postponement by a vote of 5 to 4. The five who voted to postpone were Bolter, Lewis, Hazelton, Porter and Mullan. The four who wanted to report the measure were Hubbard, Titus, Blanchard and Eaton.

It is learned by the state auditor's department that the physicians at San Francisco have induced Auditor of State Merriam to go to New Mexico or some other higher altitude during the wet season in California, on the theory that he will be benefitted by the change.

Commandant Horton, of the Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown, has employed the Rev. Jesse Cole for chaplain of the home, permanently. The board has fixed his salary at $1,000.

Inquiry reveals the fact that 561 bills had been introduced in the assembly up to February 23. Of this number nearly sixty have been indefinitely postponed. The senate has taken this action upon twenty of the measures before it and the house on about thirty-seven. The governor has signed sixteen bills, thirteen senate files and three house files, and six measures await his signature. Among the measures which have passed both houses and reached the governor are several legalizing acts, several minor appropriations, including $3,500 for the payment of additional employes of the assembly, $1,400 to reimburse supreme court judges for contingent expenses, and $504.90 for the payment of inaugural expenses, and others pertaining to various matters of interest. Among the more important ones is the bill providing that the endowment fund of the State College of Agriculture may be loaned for at as low a rate of interest as four per cent; another in the interest of West Des Moines, giving school districts of over 5,000 population the right to fix the number of voting precints in schools elections; to allow suits against coal companies or operators to be brought in the county in which the mine is located; the measure in the interest of Clinton, giving certain cities the right to levy a tax for park improvements and to pay for park commissioners; one allowing notice in criminal cases to be served on the attorney as well as defendant; fixing the same penalty for destruction of electric light wires as attaches to the crime of destroying telegraph or telephone wires. The Hayward bill, granting privileges to the medical colleges of the state awaits the governor's signature, having passed both houses and been engrossed.

REPUBLICANS CAPITULATE.

Found Porto Rican Bill Could Not Pass, Therefore Modified It.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The conference of the Republican congressmen on the Porto Rican bill disclosed such opposition that it was evident the bill could not be passed. The republican leaders, therefore, after an hour's consultation with Speaker Henderson last night, announced emphatically that the bill would be modified, and that as modified it would pass. The changes which the leaders decided upon are a further reduction of the duties to be levied upon American goods imported into Porto Rico and upon Porto Rican goods into the United States, from 25 cent of the American tariff as provided in the bill, to 10 per cent. The bill is also to be made temporary in its character. It is only to continue in force until a general law for raising revenue for the island can be framed. Representative Tawney, of Minnesota, the republican whip, after canvassing the situation, said only five republican votes would be cast against the measure.