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Committee Reports Compulsory School Bill

The House Committee on Education has decided favorably regarding Representative A. G. Shoup's bill making attendance at school compulsory. It has been made a special order in the House for tomorrow. The text of the bill, with the committee amendments, all proposed by Mr. Shoup, himself, incorporated is as follows:

Sec. 1.—That every parent, guardian, or other person having possession or control of any white child or child of mixed blood living a civilized life in the Territory of Alaska, between the ages of eight and sixteen years, within two miles of any school outside of an incorporated town where a public school is maintained under the provision of the act of Congress approved Jan. twenty-seven, nineteen hundred and five, or within the limits of an incorporated town where a public school is maintained, shall cause such child regularly to attend such school during the entire school year, unless the physical or mental condition of such child is such as to render such attendance inexpedient or impracticable, or such child has been excused for other cause by an excuse in writing signed by a majority of the school board. Provided, That children shall not be required to attend the public schools in the following cases: (1) Any child who has a certificate from a reputable physician stating that such child is not able to attend school, or that its attendance is inadvisable; (2) Any child who produces satisfactory evidence to the school board that said child is being taught at a private or parochial school, or by private tutor, such branches as are usually taught in the primary grades of the public schools of the territory; (3) Any child who gives evidence satisfactory to the school board that such child has completed a course of study equal to that covered by the public schools of the territory.

Sec. 2.—That every parent, guardian, or other person having possession or control of any white child or child of mixed blood living a civilized life, as hereinbefore described, who shall, without legal excuse, neglect to cause such child to attend school for a total of five days on which session are held during any one school quarter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be punished by a fine of not less than five nor more than twenty dollars and the cost of the prosecution, and shall be imprisoned in the county jail until such fine and costs are paid; provided, That such person so convicted shall be imprisoned one day for every two dollars of such fine and costs; and each absence of five days shall constitute a separate offense; provided further, That the court may suspend sentence, stay or postpone the enforcement of execution, or release from custody any person found guilty in any case under this act upon such condition as shall seem to be to the best interests of the child and fair under the circumstances, but no sentence shall be suspended or final judgment or execution stayed in the case of any person guilty under this act for a period to exceed the end of the school year during which such person is convicted. If at any time prior thereto it shall appear to the satisfaction of the court that such person has complied faithfully with the conditions of any suspended sentence, judgment or execution, or is for any cause in the opinion of the court, entitled to be released therefrom, the court may suspend such sentence indefinitely, in which case such person shall be released and discharged, as he shall be in any event at the expiration of the school year from the imposition of any such fine. It shall be the duty of the principals of the schools hereinbefore described nearest the place at which offending parent, guardian, or other person resides to report such case and violation of this act to the school board, and such board shall, if it sees fit to lay the case before the United States commissioner in whose precinct such school is situated, and the said United States commissioner shall thereupon issue a warrant for the arrest of the said delinquent and have the power and jurisdiction to act upon the complaint of the school board, and take such action or impose such fine, under this act, as the circumstances justify.

Sec. 3.—That every parent, guardian, or other person having possession or control of any Eskimo, Alute, Indian, or other native child (which term shall include children of mixed blood not leading a civilized life) in the Territory of Alaska, between the ages of eight and sixteen years, who shall, without legal excuse, neglect to cause such child to attend any United States public school for Alaska natives for a total of five days on which sessions are held during any one school quarter, when the residence of such child is within one mile of such United States public school (unless the physical or mental condition of such child renders its attendance at school inexpedient or impracticable, or such child has been excused for other cause by an excuse in writing signed by the principal of such school or by the superintendent of schools of the district in which such school is located) shall be subject to the provisions and penalties of section two of this act; Provided That, the word residence in this section shall be construed to include any habitation of such child occupied for a period of thirty days or more; and, Provided further, That the complaint in the case of such child shall be made to the United States commissioner by the district superintendent or any teacher of such United States public school for Alaska natives, or any other person directly interested in the education of the natives of Alaska.

Sec. 4.—That each of the district superintendents of the United States public schools conducted under the Bureau of Education is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a truant officer, or truant officers, who shall serve without compensation as such officer, or officers, in each or any of the native school districts, whose duty it shall be to arrest during school hours, without warrant, any child who is found away from home and school, and who is known to such officer to come within the provisions of section three of this act, and shall deliver such child to the teacher, or to the parent, guardian, or other person having control of such child and shall report this action to the teacher; and any such truant officer shall have power to arrest and bring before any United States commissioner the parent, guardian, or other person having control of any child subject to the provisions of section three of this act, upon a warrant duly issued by such United States commissioner upon complaint sworn out by him."

OLD WASHINGTON PIONEER DIES
 WALLA WALAA, Wash., March 17.—Dr. N. G. Blalock, a pioneer of the State of Washington, leading Democrat and famous physician and surgeon, died at his home here Saturday. Dr. Blalock has been one of the prominent characters of this State for many years. At one time he was the owner of the largest orchard in the world. He was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor in 1892, and has held many positions of honor and responsibility. He was a native of North Carolina, a Union soldier and a Gettysburg veteran.

J. P. MORGAN IS ON VERGE OF COLLAPSE
 ROME, March 17.—John Pierpont Morgan is on the verge of a collapse. He consulted the Pope's physician, Fava, who cured Charles Morse, the New York ice king, Saturday.

PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER COMES TO PORTLAND
 PORTLAND, Ore., March 17.—Miss Eleanor Wilson, daughter of the President, has wired for hotel reservation at attend the world Christian conference to begin in this city June 29, which will be addressed by the President on the subject, "Moral Implication of the Right of Suffrage."

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GOV. JOHN BURKE GETS APPOINTMENT
 WASHINGTON, March 17.—President Woodrow Wilson appointed John Burke, former governor for three terms of North Dakota, treasurer of the United States Saturday. Gov. Burke was a leading candidate for the nomination for vice president. He was a strong supporter of the nomination of Woodrow Wilson for President. Richard Olney, formerly Secretary of State, has declined the proffered appointment as ambassador to Great Britain. Fred Dennett, commissioner of the general land office, tendered his resignation Saturday.

BUSINESS BOOMING AT TOKEEN QUARRY
 According to word received from Tokeen, the Vermont Marble Company's headquarters in Alaska, work will be pushed at the marble quarry this season. Arthur Lyman is in charge and states that his company intends to increase the crew at the quarry from forty-five to one hundred men. In addition to this, the El Capitan and Ham Island marble properties, both the properties of the Vermont people, the one situated near Tokeen, and the other south of Wrangell, will be thoroughly prospected by the use of diamond drills this year.—Ketchikan Miner.

LANE TALKS ABOUT ALASKA AFFAIRS
 WASHINGTON, March 17.—Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane gave attention to Alaska affairs Saturday. Among his callers who discussed the affairs of the territory with him were Thomas Riggs, Jr., of the Alaska boundary survey, an aspirant for the governorship, and Col. W. P. Richardson, chairman of the Board of Alaska Road Commissioners.

MONTANA PASSES BOXING LAW
 HELENA Mont., March 17.—Governor Sam V. Stewart signed the bill authorizing 12-round boxing contests under the supervision of a humane commission Saturday.

DISSOLUTION PLAN IS ABANDONED
 ST. LOUIS, March 17.—President Lovett, of the Southern Pacific, today announced in the Federal court that the modified plan for the dissolution of the Southern and Union Pacific railways has been abandoned because of the opposition of the California Railway Commission.

K.-O. BROWN AND ANDERSON DRAW
 LOS ANGELES, March 17.—Knock-out Brown and Bud Anderson, of Vancouver, Wash., fought twenty rounds to a draw here Saturday evening.

SLIDE DAMAGES CANAL
 PANAMA, March 17.—A slide in the east bank of the Culebra cut Saturday filled the cut to a depth of thirty feet for a distance of a thousand feet.

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