

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL

IMPORTANT DOINGS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE

A Few Items to Suit Our Busy Readers Who Have Not the Time to Peruse Lengthy Accounts of Space Writers.

MONDAY.

At the conclusion of Morgan's remarks these bills were passed: Appropriating \$135,000 to compensate the Old Point Comfort Development company for the destruction and removal of the Hygeia hotel from the government reservation, old Point Comfort, Va.; resolution granting to the New York and New Jersey Railroad company the right to construct and operate an underground railroad under land owned by the United States in New York. The senate at 4:10 o'clock went into executive session and at 4:40 adjourned.

Bills were passed to authorize the president to appoint and retire William McCarthy Little as a captain in the navy; to grant an American register to the steamer Beaumont; to construct a lighthouse and fog signal station at Burdette's island, Washington; to issue a patent to certain lands to Buffalo, Wyo.; to grant the Central Arizona company a right of way through the San Francisco mountain reserve and extend the coal lands laws to the district of Alaska.

A bill to open to settlement 50,000 acres in the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache reservation was defeated—35 to 32.

TUESDAY.

At a caucus of Republican senators it was decided to continue consideration of the Panama canal treaty in executive session until the measure was disposed of. This was agreed to without question by the supporters of the statehood bill, it being understood that their favorite is not to use its advantageous position in the order of business.

While Mr. Depew was continuing his speech in the senate in opposition to the statehood bill, Mr. Teller declared that himself and the country had been insulted by some of Mr. Depew's references to the unequal representation in the senate. Mr. Depew replied briefly and the matter was dropped.

The house began consideration of the naval appropriation bill under the operation of a rule which made the new legislation relative to the increase of the personnel of the navy and the naval academy in order.

Mr. Littlefield of Maine and Mr. Sulzer of New York had an interesting clash before the naval bill was taken up, the former charging the latter with having perverted the record.

WEDNESDAY.

After listening in executive session, for three hours to Mr. Morgan's continuation of his speech in opposition to the Panama canal treaty, a vote was taken on his motion for an inquiry into the credentials of Senor Herran, Colombia's representative in negotiating the treaty. The result was the motion was defeated by a vote of 13 to 39.

Amongst a batch of nominations sent to the senate were those of Inspector General Breckenridge and Quartermaster General Ludington to be major generals and at once to go on the retired list. General Breckenridge would not have retired under ordinary conditions until 1906, but he takes the sop of promotion and retires three years sooner. This officer made a determined fight against the section of the general staff bill which abolished the

inspector general's department and succeeded in defeating it. While he saved his corps, however, he will not, it seems, continue longer to direct it.

THURSDAY

After having been amended in several important particulars, the naval appropriation bill passed the house. Among other things it provides that in the event of the combination of bidders, the secretary of the navy may order vessels constructed in government yards. That official is also given discretionary power to expend \$500,000 in the construction of submarine torpedo boats. The sum of \$10,000,000 is appropriated for "domestic" armor, although it was objected to by Mr. Gaines, a Tennessee Democrat, who remarked, addressing the Republican side: "This is the foulest trust you ever pressed to your bosoms."

From what occurred in the senate executive session it would appear that Mr. Quay has joined forces with Mr. Morgan in opposing the Panama canal treaty. The Pennsylvania senator anticipates an extra session, and the president informed a number of visitors at the White House that he should call one.

The president sent the name of Judge William R. Day to the senate as associate justice of the supreme court in place of Justice Shiras, resigned. He is so nominated John K. Richards, at present solicitor general, to succeed Judge Day on the circuit bench.

FRIDAY.

Another day was spent by the senate in executive session. Discussing the Panama canal treaty. The so-called administration senators are thoroughly alarmed at the outlook for the treaty and are willing to hold out the olive branch and make almost any sort of compromise except permit a vote on the statehood bill. The friends of the latter measure keep a bold front and express confidence in their ultimate success—or an extra session. The statehood leaders appear to be perfectly willing to accept the responsibility for this outcome.

The house passed the fortifications appropriation bill, adopted the conference reports on the bill for the protection of the president and on the legislative, executive and judicial bill, and then spent three hours wrangling over the Fowler currency bill, finally adjourning without taking any definite action upon it.

Some time ago a resolution providing that Rear Admiral Schley, retired, should be given the pay and allowance of a rear admiral on the active list was passed by the senate. When it came up in the house yesterday it was tabled.

SATURDAY.

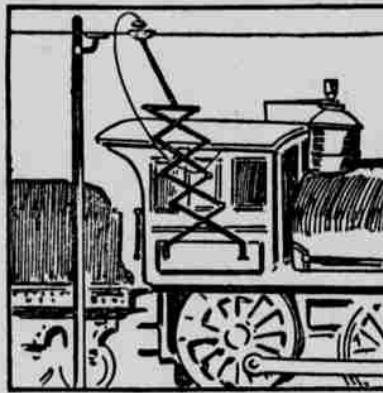
The statehood compromise, which is expected to unlock the present tangle in the senate and remove the blockade proposes to admit two states, one to be Oklahoma, according to its present boundaries, with a proviso that Indian territory shall be added to Oklahoma in 1906, when the treaty obligations with the Indians will not be in the way. The other state is to be composed of New Mexico and Arizona under the name of Montezuma, with a proviso that when the present territory of Arizona has a population of 300,000 people it shall become a separate state, provided that the people of the territory affected, vote in favor of being divided from New Mexico.

A communication from the president, transmitting a request of the anthracite coal commission, asking for permission to publish 500 copies of its report when completed, was laid before the house. The message of the president said he concurred in the request.

The less some men know about a given subject the more they try to show off.

TELEPHONE ON THE LOCOMOTIVE.

The cause of nearly all the train wrecks on the railway lines of the country is the severing of all connection between the train crew and dispatcher, while the trains are in motion, and, while the automatic signal apparatus now in operation on some of the roads has done much to insure the safety of railway travel, there is no doubt that the telephone recently patented by Alva D. Jones, of Louisville, Ky., would still further minimize the loss caused by these accidents. This inventor claims to have solved the difficulty of maintaining a contact through the trolley device running on the telephone wire which parallels the railway line, and it will be interesting to note his method of overcoming what has hitherto been considered an almost insurmountable obstacle to the use of a locomotive telephone. While the weight of the trolley is carried on the wheel in the casing, a sliding contact in the form of an absorbent pad is the intermediary



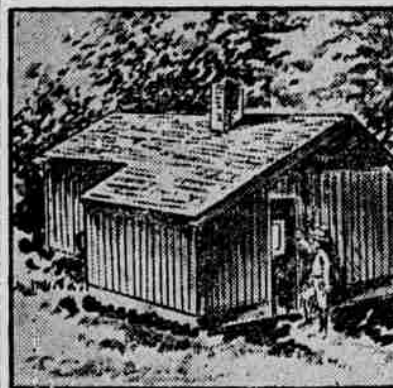
TRAVELING CONTACT OF NOVEL FORM.

through which the current reaches the receiver in the cab. This pad is kept moistened by a jet of steam derived from the boiler, which passes first through a body of soluble chemicals, such as common salt or saltpeter, of such a character as to increase the conductivity of the pad. An adjustable support pivoted to the side of the cab carries a rod, on the upper end of which the casing surrounding the contact device is mounted, and it is possible to contract the whole apparatus beneath the cab window when the engine is not out on the road.

GRANT RELIC PERISHING.

House in Which He Wrote Some of His War Orders.

The Grant cabin standing in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, which has proved a relic of interest to historians, soldiers and all visitors to the park, is rapidly falling to decay and unless active steps are taken to preserve it not only Philadelphia, but the entire country, will lose a valuable historic souvenir which can never be replaced.



THE GRANT CABIN.

In 1899 a movement was started to save the Civil War relic from destruction and the park commissioners promised several G. A. R. men that the necessary steps should be taken. As yet nothing has been done and once again the people send it a petition to save it. From this cabin, which then stood on the bluff at City Point, Va., Grant wrote his elaborate letters to Lincoln and Stanton, his orders to Sherman for his march to the sea, his order removing Butler and the one which transferred Schofield across the continent. From there he summoned Sheridan to the command of the Army of the Po-

STREET CRIES IN CAIRO.

Sounds and Voices That Travelers Hear in the Egyptian City.

Take a chair outside a busy cafe near the market place and tram center and watch street life. There are no hungry men, no starving, pinched child faces, no finger worn mothers, for this is a land of plenty, and the people's wants are few and simple. Thus sunshine and laughter spray a welcome fragrance over the novelty and romance of the gay city's streets. Here is a street melodist twanging a monster one stringed "something" and accompanied by a nose ringed girl who taps deftly on a species of tambourine, while bystanders ejaculate "Allah, Allah!"—the Arabic word for applause. If not quite in accord with your prejudices concerning music, well, maanish (never mind), it is not nearly so distracting as a street corner at home, and they will go away if you tell them to. The baboon, the donkey and boy are in evidence, with a score of performing tricks that are very original and certainly funny, and you console yourself with the hope of a minimum of cruelty in the training.

A fruit seller, basket on head, with luscious grapes and figs, saunters by, singing in a quaint minor: "O grapes, O sweet grapes, that are larger than doves' eggs and sweeter than new cream! O angels' food, delicious figs, bursting with honey, restorers of health!" There is a drink seller, bent under the weight of the odd shaped jar slung over his shoulder, a lump of ice projecting from its mouth, conjuring custom in a similar strain as he struts up and down, making the air resound with the rhythmical clap clap of two brazen saucers: "O refreshment of the weary! O quencher of parched lips! O blessing of heaven!"

Another street cry which may be heard in the main street of Abbassieh, a suburb, contains the following enticing announcement: "Tomorrow, O people, I am going to kill a camel! The doctor says, it is young and healthy. Oh, its flesh will be tender as the quail and juicy as lamb. Its price is but 14½ plasters (7 cents) a pound. Do you love the sweet flesh of the camel? Then come early and be satisfied." Not the least picturesque figures in the streets are the city police, in their neat white drill and red turbans in summer and blue serge in winter.

FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

From a twenty-year-old mulberry tree 218 pounds of leaves have been picked in a year.

String beans may be obtained during the entire summer by planting once a month for successive supplies.

Some trees are much more unfavorable to the growth of plants beneath them than are others. The worst are the yew and the ash.

Whenever water is given to pot plants enough should be used thoroughly to wet the soil around the roots. Mere sprinkling of the surface does little good.

The next time you have a bouquet of flowers to keep add a very little camphor to the water in the vase and see how much longer its freshness will be retained.

One of the most satisfactory plants for house culture is the yellow oxalis. It will blossom freely if given sun and water, and its bronze brown foliage sets off its pretty yellow bloom rarely.

Peppermint For Sleeplessness.

A physician declares that he finds peppermint water an efficient remedy for sleeplessness. This is a very simple cure, and it will not bring forth from the organs of professional opinion any declaration of unsafeness. It is added that a mixture of spirits of chloroform and peppermint water given in hot water to the victim of insomnia will produce sleep, but perhaps in the case of the admixture of chloroform water may claim a decided share in relieving the trouble. It is at least easy to try peppermint water, and the theory of its action is believed to be founded on its effect in withdrawing blood from the brain by attracting a fuller flow to the stomach.