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APPROVED BY TAFT

District Appropriation Bill as Passed by Congress.

CHANGES IN EXCISE LAW

Public Utilities Commission Created. Anti-Merger Provision Retained.

The House put the finishing touches upon the District appropriation bill yesterday afternoon, when it adopted the conference report on that measure. The report had already been approved by the Senate. As soon as the bill was in proper shape it was sent to the President for his signature, and is now a law.

The District bill conference report was adopted in the House yesterday without debate. When Mr. Burleson called up the report he asked that the statement of the conferees be read in place of the detailed report. Minority Leader Mann asked if the excise amendment and the public utilities commission amendment were included in the statement. Mr. Burleson said no. Mr. Mann said that he did not believe in passing measures in the House without having them read in full, but when Mr. Burleson explained that it would take three or four hours to have the whole report read, and that these items had been printed in the Congressional Record yesterday morning, Mr. Mann waived his objections.

Appropriation Totals \$11,395,999.

The bill as finally passed carries \$11,395,999. It also carries the excise measure, the anti-merger provision aimed at the street railways which have proposed a merger, and the clause creating a public utilities commission for the District. All of these provisions were put on as amendments to the appropriation bill when it reached the Senate. They had previously passed the Senate as separate measures, but they had never been reported out of the House District committee, though they had many friends among the membership of the House.

Public Utilities Provision.

Although the hardest fight came over the excise measure carried in the bill, it is conceded that the provision for a public utilities commission is by far

the most important to the citizens of the District.

The conferees made practically no changes in the excise law from the compromise measure which was passed by the House Saturday night. The hour of closing saloons and other places where liquor is sold was made 1 o'clock in the morning instead of 12 o'clock midnight.

TAFT'S PEN TO CLAYTON

Marks Success of His Fight for Public Utilities Commission for District.

The fact that the District appropriation bill contains the provision for the public utilities commission will obtain for William McK. Clayton, president of the Federation of Citizens' Associations, who has been active in the fight for this commission for three years, the pen with which President Taft affixes his signature to the bill making it a law.

Soon after the federation was organized in May, 1911, it instructed its president to prepare and have introduced a bill providing a public utilities commission for the District. The importance of the bill has been kept constantly before the citizens' associations; President Taft has twice recommended it to Congress in messages, and the press of the city has supported it.

Importance of Measure.

The bill is declared to be the most important and satisfactory piece of legislation which has been obtained for the District within a decade. Under it complete control is given over the service and rates of telephone, gas and electric light companies and it places outside the controversial stage many conflicts of control of various degrees heretofore attempted to be exercised by various official bodies. It is characterized to place the District on a progressive par with New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin and Iowa.

TROOPS NOT BEYOND LINE OF THE MEXICAN BORDER

Battle of Sunday, in Which 2,000 Shots Were Exchanged—Precautions Taken.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., March 4.—Four dead Mexican soldiers and unknown number of wounded were taken to Agua Prieta yesterday from the point on the international border five miles from here where two troops of the 9th United States Cavalry fought a thirty-minute battle with Mexican regulars Sunday. More than 2,000 shots were fired by the Americans, and it is estimated that fully as many were fired by the Mexicans. None of the Americans was hit. Neither side crossed the line.

Precautionary Measures.

Col. Guilfoyle, commanding the 9th Cavalry, said today he did not anticipate further trouble. As a precaution, however, the usual border patrol of the 9th Cavalry was increased. Gen. Ojeda, Mexican commander at Agua Prieta, today claimed that the American troops fired first. This is denied by United States Army officers. Lieut. Nicholson, in command of the 15th Cavalry, who first engaged the Mexicans, and Capt. Armstrong, who commanded Troop E, when they came to the relief of the patrol said that a volley came from the Mexican side before the Americans fired.

DISMISSED BY TAFT

Two General Customs Appraisers Lose Their Jobs.

URGE CHANGE IN SYSTEM

President's Commissioners Think Present Plan of Appeals Is Defective.

President Taft has summarily dismissed from office Roy H. Chamberlain and Thaddeus S. Sharretts of the board of general appraisers in New York. In a letter written last night to each of the men the President states that the special committee appointed by him to investigate charges against members of the board having reported to him "that the charges against you are sustained and advising your removal because of malfeasance in office, and such finding being approved by me, you are hereby removed from office, the removal to take effect forthwith."

Sharretts was charged with having used his official power to compel certain personal favors from the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and with bringing the board into disrepute by the practice of his son, a lawyer, before it. Chamberlain was charged with lack of the necessary qualifications for membership on the board and with having destroyed his usefulness.

Would Abolish Board.

Abolition of the board of United States general appraisers or radical changes in its structure and foundations were recommended in the report to President Taft of the commission which investigated that body. The present system under which questions of appraisals are appealed to the board—a judicial and not an investigatory tribunal—was condemned as ineffective, and as one of the chief reasons why fraudulent undervaluations "have flourished unobstructed to so wide an extent and for so long a time."

The root of the trouble, the commission declared, is the inherent disharmony between the two jurisdictions of the board—the classification questions under the tariff act and the appraisal of valuations of merchandise. These should be entirely separated, it was added.

Two Processes of Appeal.

Appeals from a collector of customs' decision on classification questions should go to a judicial tribunal, while appeals on appraising questions should go to an investigating body. To accomplish the reform the commission made several alternative suggestions, giving precedence to a recommendation that the board be reduced in number and changed into a court of customs to try all protests against classifications by collectors of customs. Or, it was added, the board of general appraisers should be abolished and the present court of customs appeals, removed to New York and increased in number, should be given original as well as appellate jurisdiction in classification cases, sitting as single judges in the first instance with appeal to the full court.

Sixty Years in One Home.

BLOOMSBURG, Pa., March 4.—Three score years of wedded life in the same house is the record of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Patterson of Rohrerburg, Columbia county, who yesterday celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage. The old couple started housekeeping the day they were married, and have never moved. Both are in good health.

COMMISSION'S REPORT IN

Senate Gets Findings of Inquiry Into Title of Lands in District.

Senator Sutherland of Utah presented to the Senate last night a report of the commission to investigate the title of the United States lands in the District of Columbia on the waterfront of the original city of Washington. Several previous reports have been made. The report shows that, as a result of the study made by the commission headed by Attorney General Wickersham, further property to the extent of about 2,708,803 square feet, and valued at \$845,161, has been found to be probably the property of the United States. A list of the property, with the present claimants of the land, is given in the report.

The commission takes occasion to point out that the value of this land will soon be much greater. Some of it is along the Anacostia river front, and the improvements of that river and the reclamation work being done along its banks is expected to greatly enhance the value of all surrounding land. Other parcels of land are expected to be improved in value by reason of the extension of the park system through the lower valley of Rock creek to connect Potomac and Rock Creek Parks and to provide a new location for the Botanic Gardens.

GROCERS MAKE PROTEST AGAINST SMALL LOAVES

Jewish Retail Association Alleges Short Weight in Bread Supplied by Bakers.

Angered at the alleged short-weight loaves of bread that have resulted because of the "bread war" between the various local bakeries, the Jewish Capital Retail Grocers' Protective Association is formulating a protest against the manufacture of loaves of bread weighing from ten to fourteen ounces, and demanding that every loaf shall weigh a full pound, no matter at what price it sells. At a meeting of the executive committee of the association a committee composed of the president, Simon Gordon, and the vice president, Adam Luber, and the treasurer, I. S. Cohen, was instructed to present to the District Commissioners a demand that the present variance in the weight of bread baked by local bakers be forbidden, and a demand that a regulation providing for only pound loaves of bread be put into effect. The bread war being waged in Washington already has resulted in "3 for 10" loaves, and "4 for 10" loaves will soon make their appearance, it is understood. The weight of the loaves varies from ten to fourteen ounces.

Commutes Banker's Sentence.

President Taft yesterday commuted, to expire March 28, the fifteen-year sentence of William Montgomery, convicted at Pittsburgh, November 28, 1908, of misapplying the funds of the Allegheny National Bank of Pittsburgh, of which he was cashier. The bank failed with a shortage of a million dollars. All losses have been repaid, and the President held that the fifteen-year sentence was out of proportion to that imposed in similar cases.

If you want work read the want columns of The Star.

SAN FRANCISCO FAIR.

VOTED HALF MILLION

House Refuses to Allow \$1,500,000 Urged by California Members.

The House yesterday refused to grant an appropriation of \$1,500,000 for a government exhibit at the San Francisco exposition in honor of the opening of the Panama canal, and when the dust of battle cleared away it was found that only \$500,000 was to be carried for this exhibit as an item in the sundry civil bill. Representative Julius Kahn of California and others struggled to have the \$1,500,000 item retained, and then tried for \$1,000,000, and when this was refused, for \$750,000. But the House would agree only to \$500,000.

Gardner Cites Promise.

Mr. Gardner of Massachusetts made a strong attack upon the proposition of appropriating for the San Francisco exposition. He said that citizens of San Francisco and members of the House from California had assured the House that if San Francisco was granted the honor of holding the exposition over New Orleans the government would not be asked to spend a penny on the exposition. To this Mr. Kahn replied that owing to unforeseen contingencies San Francisco had now to make this request. He admitted that a promise had been made not to ask the government for money for the exposition. But, he said, recently seventeen foreign nations had made an agreement in regard to international exhibitions which made it necessary to first ascertain whether the government of the country in which the exposition was to take place had appropriated for exhibits before these nations sent their exhibits.

Canal Rates a Factor.

Mr. Gardner replied that some of the nations were holding off at present, not because of this treaty agreement regarding exhibitions, but because of the fact that the United States was planning to charge lower rates to American vessels passing through the canal than would be charged the vessels of other nations.

FINAL GENERAL ORDER FROM SECRETARY WILSON

Directed Against Dealers Who Are Prone to Diluting Sausage and Lard With Water.

What was the last meat inspection order and probably the last general order of any sort issued during his administration of the Department of Agriculture was promulgated by Secretary Wilson yesterday afternoon. It was one of the periodic meat inspection orders and in this case related to the recently formed habit of dealers of diluting sausage and lard with water before putting it on the market.

The order provided that there should be no added water in any of the "lard compounds" and "lard substitutes" sold. This has been a recent and profitable practice among certain manufacturers as discovered by the inspectors of the bureau of animal industry, water being considerably cheaper by the pound than lard. As to the addition of water to sausage, the order says the amount of water shall

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not exceed 3 per cent except in the case of certain sorts of cooked and smoked sausages where there is a cereal added. The addition of "cereal" to the sausage means simply mixing as much cornmeal or similar substance with the meat as the consumer will stand. Where water is added the "cereal" is added these additional amounts must also be stated on the label.

Jumping from a second-story window at her home, near Fair Hill, Md., while temporarily insane, Mrs. Jan Janney, aged eighty-two years, received injuries which resulted in her death Thursday night.

Dr. D. C. R. Miller, former Maryland state senator from Washington county, was hurt in a runaway accident at his home near Mason and Dixon.