

GENERAL NEWS.

By Telegraph to the News.

PHILADELPHIA, March 3.—The general freight department of the Pennsylvania Railroad announces that owing to the operation of the interstate law, all existing contracts, tariff rates and special rates for transportation of all classes of freight which by their terms do not sooner end, will cease and terminate April 4th.

NEW YORK, March 3.—The traffic committee which concluded its labors on the freight classification Tuesday joined the passenger agents and other railroad magnates to-day. The subject of discussion was the interpretation of the inter-state commerce bill. Opinions in relation to the meaning of the excursion clause varied widely. The eastern men were inclined to

CONSTRUE IT LIBERALLY.

The western managers favored a strict interpretation. Owing to this the conference was unable to come to any definite conclusion until to-day when the report was agreed upon. This will be presented to-morrow.

One of the most important and largely attended conferences of transcontinental railroad managers ever held in this city, was closed to-day. It was held in the Northern Pacific office and lasted two days. The roads represented were the Central Pacific, the Union Pacific, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, the Northern Pacific, the Missouri Pacific and the Southern Pacific. They were represented by Presidents C. F. Adams, Robert Harris, C. P. Huntington, Charles F. Crocker, Wm. B. Strong and Jay Gould, and traffic managers Kimball, Towne and Callaway. The vice-presidents of some of the roads were also present, and counselors Gray, of the Northern Pacific, Sidney Dillon and T. Weed, of the Southern Pacific. The conference discussed

THE QUESTIONS:

First—As to the requirements of the inter-state commerce bill and how the transcontinental roads can get into harmony with the law and meet the demand of public sentiment. The result of their deliberations was that two tariffs for freight and passenger business should be prepared, one under the long haul clause and the other under the short haul clause, as they are understood by the roads. These tariffs are to take effect April 5th, and are to be submitted to the inter-state railroad commissioners within a reasonable time after their appointment is announced. A committee was also appointed to prepare, under the advice of counsel, a memorial to the inter-state commission setting forth the interpretation of the law as arrived at by the transcontinental companies, and soliciting the approval of tariffs if their provisions shall meet the views of the commissioners.

BERLIN, March 3.—The new German Reichstag opened to-day. The Emperor's speech was read from the throne. In it he says he is gratified at the benevolent disposition the Pope has shown toward the empire. The foreign policy of the empire is continually directed toward the maintenance of peace with all the powers, and especially with Germany's neighbors. The foreign relations of the government are the same as when the last Reichstag was opened. If the present Reichstag, without hesitation or division, gives unanimous expression to the resolve that the nation will put forth its full strength in full paucity now and at all times against any attack upon

OUR FRONTIERS.

such a resolution, even before carried out, will materially strengthen the guarantees of peace, and remove the doubts which the late parliamentary debates may have inspired. The Emperor feels assured that the Reichstag, by its resolutions, will give the federal government a national policy on a safe basis, and derives from this conviction the confident hope that God will bless his efforts to preserve the peace and the security of Germany. Some internal bills that were submitted to the previous Reichstag will again be offered. The creation of new sources of revenue, and a reform in the method of taxation are urged.

SOFIA, March 4.—The leaders of the revolt at Rustchuk have been ordered to be shot.

NICE, March 4.—Another slight shock of earthquake has been felt here.

LONDON, March 4.—An indictment has been found against George Franklin Anderson, the alleged American judge, who is accused of swindling Charles Deakin, of Susquehanna, Pa., out of large sums of money under the pretense that he was prosecuting a suit for the recovery of a large English estate to which Deakin was convinced he was heir. Anderson, upon being arraigned to-day, defended himself. He pleaded not guilty. Anderson was convicted and sentenced to five years' penal service.

PARIS, March 4.—A telegram from Glurgevo says that risings have taken place at Tirnova and other places, and that the insurgents are reported to be masters of affairs at Tirnova. Communication between Sofia and the provinces is interrupted. Anarchy is spreading in Bulgaria.

LONDON, March 4.—A dispatch to the Times from Bucharest states that several persons were killed in the fighting at Silistria between the insurgents and loyal troops; two officers and sixteen

privates who engaged in the revolt were captured and shot.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The river and harbor bill failed to receive the President's signature. It reached him several days ago, but was "pocket vetoed."

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The President and cabinet reached the Capitol at 12 o'clock, actual time; the clocks of the two houses were set back.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—The bill for the redemption of the trade dollar and the anti-polygamy bill have become laws without the President's signature, by reason of the expiration to-night of the constitutional limitation of ten days within which he should have returned the bills to Congress, in case of disapproval. Both bills were carefully considered by the President, and while they contained some provisions to which he preferred not to commit himself, he was unwilling to defeat the objects of the measure by a veto.

THE LACK OF VAULT ROOM.

In the matter of the lack of vault room in the New York sub-treasury, where it is presumed the bulk of the trade dollars will be presented for redemption, acting Secretary Fairchild has instructed the assistant treasurer at New York to forward the coins as fast as redeemed to the assay office, where they will be melted into bars of convenient size each representing about \$15,000, and stored in that office until suitable vault rooms are provided for their safe keeping.

THE PRESIDENT.

The President has decided not to go to the Capitol to-morrow for the purpose of acting on measures which may be passed by Congress during the last hours of the session. He advised the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of his decision in this respect early last evening and added that the executive office would remain open all night and up to the very hour of adjournment at noon to-morrow for the consideration of all matters requiring executive action. In accordance with this plan the President and most of the members of his Cabinet will remain on duty at the White House nearly all night for the consideration of a large number of important bills which passed the Senate yesterday.

AMONG THE BILLS APPROVED

The Senate joint resolution authorizing the printing of 2,500 extra copies of the report of the health officer of the District of Columbia; to authorize the printing of eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late John A. Logan; to authorize the purchase of a site for a public building at San Francisco, and twenty-one pensions and relief bills, including one to pension G. Speeds Fry.

PARIS, March 3.—Telegrams from Bulgaria have been received stating that the Silistria garrison occupies the defile before the city and by virtue of the position so held the passage through the defile of the garrisons from Rustchuk and Shumla on their way to attack the revolters at Silistria is now met by the opposing forces. Dispatches say they now confront each other but as yet no conflict has taken place between them.

Another insurrectionary movement is reported to have taken place near Tatar Bazardjik, in Eastern Roumelia, a short distance from Philippopolis.

Roumania is massing troops along her frontier as a measure of precaution. Turkish troops are being concentrated along the

ROUMELIAN FRONTIER.

BUCHAREST, March 3.—It is announced here that the revolt of the troops at Silistria has been suppressed.

During the absence of the garrison from Rustchuk a revolt took place there. Firing has also been heard in the direction of Glurgevo. Communication between Roumania and Bulgaria has been stopped. Leaders of the insurgents at Silistria have crossed the Danube, and have been placed in custody by the Roumanian authorities. The opinion here is that the outbreak at Silistria was merely intended as a diversion to draw the troops from Rustchuk, which is the real centre of the revolt.

BOSTON, March 3.—The Bell Telephone Company filed an important motion in the United States circuit court regarding the government's suits to break the patents. The company asks leave, in addition to filing a demurrer to the suit, to plead facts that decisions have already been given in other suits, which included the same questions as those now raised. It represents to the court that the questions which it desires to raise by such a plea are closely allied to those which would be raised by the demurrer, and that much time, expense and labor will be saved by presenting and arguing at the same time. The motion then continues: "The bill refers to and purports to state the contents of certain

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

from the commissioner of patents to Elisha Gray, dated February 19, 1876, and February 25, 1876, but does not make copies of them part of the bill. This respondent denies, and is advised that it should present copies thereof to the court by plea, because the legal effect thereof cannot be otherwise ascertained." It further represents that the voluminous records of the litigation are now before the Supreme Court on appeal and held under advisement, and that it would be indecorous and contrary to the

usages of the courts of equity to retry any question pending before the Supreme Court. There will probably be an early hearing on the motion in the circuit court.

VIENNA, March 4.—Servia, as a precautionary measure, in view of the trouble in Bulgaria, has sent troops to the frontier. It is also reported that the Servian reserves have been called out.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Congress, which ended its existence at noon to-day, has afforded a striking illustration of the constant increase in the volume of legislation demanding the attention of Congress, which has been going on for the last three or more Congresses. More bills were introduced in both Houses, more committee reports made, more bills passed, more bills became laws and more were vetoed than ever before. Most of these measures were of comparatively little importance, such as the bills granting private pensions and special reliefs, authorizing the erection of bridges, granting rights of way and the like, but many, not only of the bills and reports presented, but of the laws enacted, were of general interest and importance.

A number of bills enacted into laws were old and

FAMILIAR CLAIMANTS

for legislative favors. In this category belong the presidential succession bill, the electoral count bill, the inter-state commerce bill, and the bill for the relief of John Fitz Porter. The Forty-ninth Congress commenced its session on the 4th of December, 1885, and was in session until the 5th of August, when it adjourned until December 6th, and continued in session until its close to-day, covering a total period of ten months and twenty-six days. Of this time the Senate was in session 224 days and the House 251 days. There were introduced in the House during this time 11,253 bills and 265 joint resolutions, on which over 5,000 reports were made, being several thousand more bills and over one thousand more reports than were made in the Forty-eighth Congress, which had in its turn beaten the record.

IN THE SENATE

There were introduced 3,357 bills and 118 joint resolutions, on which 1,988 written reports were made, being upward of 500 more bills and over 400 more reports than in the Forty-eighth Congress, breaking the record. The total number of laws enacted was approximately 1,431, of which 1,093 originated in the House and 338 in the Senate. Two hundred and sixty-four of these became laws by expiration of the ten days limitation. Fifty bills failed to become laws owing to the adjournment of Congress, one of them at the close of the first session. There were 132 bills vetoed by the President, or 21 more instances of the exercise of the presidential prerogative of the veto than had occurred from the foundation of the government down to the beginning of this Congress. Of the vetoed bills, 94 originated in the House and 38 in the Senate. But

ONE PRIVATE BILL.

that granting a pension to Joseph Romeiser, and one public bill, namely, that providing for the erection of government buildings at Dayton, Ohio, succeeded in passing both houses over the President's veto, although several others obtained the requisite two-thirds vote in the Senate only to fail in the House.

The death roll of this Congress was also an extraordinary one, comprising the unprecedented number of thirteen names in the House and Senate.

But one election case was decided by the House against a sitting member, and the Congress was characterized by an absence of that acrimonious discussion which such contests usually awaken. The Rhode Island case decided was that neither Page nor Pelce was entitled to the seat, and a

NEW ELECTION

was ordered. This was the one instance of a seat being taken from a sitting member.

Of the 1033 House bills which became laws, 275 were of a more or less public nature. Of the remaining 778 bills (granting pension or relief to specially designated persons), 156 became laws without the approval of the President.

The following is a list of the more important House bills which have become laws:

To forfeit the Atlantic & Pacific land grant; to increase the pension of widows and dependent relatives from \$8 to \$12 per month; to abolish certain fees for official services to American vessels and to amend the

SHIPPING LAWS

(Dingley shipping bill); to amend the Thurman act. [It requires the Pacific roads to pay the costs of surveying and conveying their land grants, and subjects the land to taxation as soon as the companies are entitled to them, notwithstanding the fact that they may delay selection]; the increase of the naval establishment; [It was passed in the first session of the present Congress and provides for the construction of two armored vessels of 16-knots speed, one cruiser of the highest possible speed, one torpedo boat, and one dynamite gun cruiser, and completion of the monitors *Puritan*, *Monadnock*, *Amphitrite* and *Terror*]; to pension Mexican war veterans; to impose a tax and regulate the manufacture, sale, importation and exportation of ale; to authorize the transfer of the high wood tract, near Chicago, to the United States for

MILITARY PURPOSES;

to protect the homestead settlers within railroad limits; to enable national banking associations to increase their capital stock and change their name and location; for the construction of a Congressional library building; to grant a license to towing vessels to carry a limited number of persons in addition to their crews; to forfeit the New Orleans, Baton Rouge & Vicksburg Railway [the Backbone] land grant; to reduce the fees on domestic money orders for sums less than \$5; to make allowance for clerk hire to postmasters of first and second classes, to cover the cost of clerical labor in the money order business; to extend the immediate delivery system, to prohibit the passage of local or special laws in the territories; to create the judicial district of Southern California; making an appropriation for

ADDITIONAL BARRACKS

at the southern, northwestern and western branch of the National Soldiers' Home; to provide for the closing up the business of the Alabama Claims; to establish additional life-saving stations; for the construction of additional lighthouses; extending the free delivery system to towns of ten thousand inhabitants; for the construction of lighthouse supply steamers on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts; for the sale of the Cherokee reservation in Arkansas; to amend the statutes so as to require brewers to give bonds for three times their monthly tax; for the allowance of Fourth of July claims reported by the accounting officers of treasury department [one bill for each of the two sessions]; to amend an act for the muster and pay of certain officers, so that any persons duly commissioned, whether the commission was received or not, shall be considered to have

BEEN COMMISSIONED

from the date named in the commission; referring to the court of claims growing out of General Johnston's Utah expedition; to authorize the delivery to their owners of valuable boxes deposited in the treasury by the Secretary of War; for the issue of postal notes in sums less than \$5; to validate the general laws of Dakota regarding the incorporation of insurance companies; authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to extend the time for payment of the purchase money on the Otieno and Missouri Indian lands; to provide schools of instruction for cavalry and light artillery; to provide for the inspection of tobacco, cigars and snuffs, and to repeal section 3151 of the revised statutes; to permit the free entry of goods for the United States Bottler's Protective Association; to effect a rearrangement of the grades of office in the adjutant-general's department; to provide for the filling of the office of the United States Treasurer in the absence of

THE TREASURER

and assistant treasurer; to allow merchandise liable to specific rates of duty to be transported in bond, although merchandise may not appear by invoice to be consigned to the port desired; to allow underwriters to be recognized as consignees of merchandise; prohibiting the importation and immigration of foreigners under labor contracts; for an additional associate justice of the Supreme Court of Wyoming; providing for the location of a branch soldiers' home west of the Rocky Mountains; for the relief of the *Jeannette's* sufferers; relative to contested elections; for the employment of male messengers of the postal service; to regulate the jurisdiction of the United States circuit courts; for the adjustment of land grants and the forfeiture of unearned lands; to add a number of cities to the list of

NATIONAL BANK

reserve cities, and to allow a part of the reserve to be kept in cities other than New York; for the relief of settlers on the public lands in Kansas and Nebraska; to provide for bringing suits against the government; for the erection of public buildings at Los Angeles, California; Springfield, Missouri; El Paso, Texas; Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Jefferson, Texas; for the purchase of a site for federal buildings at San Francisco, California.

Forty House joint resolutions became laws, the principal ones being as follows: Directing the commissioner of labor to make an investigation as to convict labor; authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to use certain unexpended balances for the relief of the Northern Cheyennes of Wyoming; to authorize the President to protect

AMERICAN FISHING

and trading vessels and American fishermen in Canadian waters; the Senate retaliation bill; authorizing an investigation of the books, methods and accounts of the Pacific railroads.

Of the total number of bills which passed the Senate, 320 became laws, including 115 of a public and 205 of a strictly private nature.

The following is a list of the most important Senate bills placed on the statute books by the present Congress: The Presidential succession bill, devolving the heirship to the Presidency upon members of the cabinet in the event of a vacancy in the office of President and Vice-President; the Cullom-Reagan bill to regulate interstate commerce; for the retirement and reconage of the

TRADE DOLLAR

[redemption not to come out of the monthly bullion purchase]; the electoral count bill; for the allotment of lands in severalty to Indians and extending the protection of the laws to Indians on the various reservations; to bridge Arthur's Kill; to repeal the tenure of office act; to increase the annual appropriation for the militia; to establish agricultural experiment stations; for the study of the effects of narcotics and intoxicants in public schools; to legalize the incorporation of trades unions; authorizing the transmission of weather reports, through the mails free of postage; to increase the pension for the loss of an arm or leg; to indemnify the Chinese for losses sustained by the Rock Springs, Wyoming, riot; for the relief of Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, California, Kansas, Nevada, Washington Territory and Idaho; for the settlement of

ACCOUNTS FOR ARMS

between Montana and the United States; establishing a judicial district in Montana; to legalize the election of the Territorial Legislature of Wyoming; to relieve Colorado from charges on account of ordnance stores furnished the state and territory; to relinquish the interests of the United States in certain lots to the city and county of San Francisco; to remove the charge of desertion from the record of soldiers who re-enlisted without having received discharges on account of first enlistment; to establish two additional land districts in Nebraska; to amend the laws relating to patents, trademarks and copyrights; to extend the time for the completion of the records of the Court of Alabama Claims; to credit Kansas with certain money on ordnance account; to authorize the Postmaster-General to allow compensation for railroad apartment

CAR SERVICE

furnished pursuant to agreement; to establish a land office at Lamar, California; to extend the first section of the dutiable goods act to Portland, Oregon, and the first and seventh sections of the act to Port Townsend, Washington Territory; to allow the receivers of national banks to buy, in trust, property on approval of the comptroller of the currency; to grant certain seal rocks to San Francisco; to establish a military post at Denver, Colorado; to provide for the extension of Article II of the Chinese treaty of November 17th, 1880; [It prohibits the importation of opium to either country by citizens of the other]; to increase the limit of the cost for public buildings at Denver, Colorado.

Of the foregoing measures seven became laws by expiration of the constitutional ten days' limitation, viz: The Mormon

POLYGAMY BILL;

the trade dollar redemption bill; the military bill and four private bills.

The Senate bills vetoed were 39 in number, 11 being of a public and 28 of a private character. The public bills vetoed were as follows: To quiet titles of settlers on the Des Moines River lands [passed over the veto in the Senate but failed of the necessary two-thirds in the House]; for the erection of public buildings at Zanesville, Ohio; Lafayette, Indiana; Sioux City, Iowa; Dayton, Ohio [passed over the veto in both Houses]; and Lynn, Massachusetts; to extend the provisions of the immediate transportation act to Omaha, Nebraska; to grant railroads a right of way through the Indian reservation in northern Montana.

The 93 House bills vetoed include 57 private bills and six bills of a public nature. The

PUBLIC BILLS VETOED

were for the erection of Federal buildings at Springfield, Missouri; Duluth, Minnesota; Asheville, North Carolina, and Portsmouth, Ohio; to distribute \$10,000 worth of seeds among the drought-stricken people of Texas and to grant pensions to dependent soldiers and dependent relatives of deceased soldiers. [An effort made to pass the dependent pension bill over the veto failed.] The regular appropriation bills which failed of enactment were the fortification bill for both Congresses, the river and harbor bill for the present session (which was not signed by the President), and the deficiency bill, on which a conference report was not submitted in time for action. The failure of the fortification bill was due to a decided difference of opinion between the conferees of the two houses.

FIFTY BILLS

In addition to those which became laws and those vetoed were sent to the President, but were "pocket vetoed" by him on the adjournment of Congress, and therefore failed. The most important are as follows: The river and harbor bill; to prevent the employment of convict and alien labor on public works; to open to settlement the public land strip south of Kansas; the O'Neil labor arbitration bill for the settlement of controversies between inter-state railroads and their employees; the Morrison surplus resolution; to annex a part of Idaho to Washington Territory; for holding terms of court at Duluth, Minnesota, and Corinth, Mississippi; the Northern Pacific forfeiture bill.

The bill to repeal the pre-emption, homestead, timber culture and desert land laws were in conference for a long while, but the differences proved irreconcilable.