

destruction of several million dollars' worth of property, including the municipal lighting and power plant, upon which Austin was dependent for its transportation, water and sewage service. The dam, which was a quarter of a mile in width and 70 feet in height and over 18 feet across the top, formed a lake 25 miles long. When the dam broke a wave 50 feet in height rushed down the valley sweeping everything before it.

IN CONGRESS.

This report is an abstract of the Congressional Record, and closes with the last issue of that publication at hand upon going to press.

April 2-9, 1900.

Senate.

On the 2d the Porto Rican bill was under consideration, and Senators Cullom and Spooner spoke in its favor.

Consideration of the Porto Rican bill was resumed on the 3d, Senator Mason speaking in opposition. An amendment offered by Senator Davis to the effect that internal revenue laws of the United States be extended to Porto Rico, was defeated. The bill was passed by a vote of 40 to 31. Not voting, 16.

The resolution relative to the seating of M. S. Quay as senator from Pennsylvania was discussed on the 4th and consideration of the Alaska civil government bill was resumed.

Nothing of importance was done on the 5th, and on the 6th consideration of the Indian appropriation bill was begun.

Consideration of the Indian appropriation and the Alaska civil government bills was resumed on the 9th and the Quay resolution was discussed.

House.

On the 2d no important bills were considered. A resolution offered by Payne, of New York, calling on the secretary of the treasury for information as to whether the present war revenue law creates a surplus, was agreed to.

The consideration of a bill to provide a civil government for Hawaii was begun on the 3d.

Consideration of the Hawaiian bill was resumed on the 4th and continued on the 5th and 6th, to the exclusion of all other important business.

On the 7th memorial resolutions on the late Richard Parks Bland, of Missouri, were adopted, and on the 9th consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill was begun.

MISCELLANY

EASTER MORNING SONG.

For The Public.

A step upon the sea — a breath from heaven blown,

And all the waters flush like God-made wine,

While seed in darkness sown

Springs into life eternal and divine.

A tremor !' the clouds—a flood-tide from the skies,

And all the land is breaking into flower;
Love calls—Arise! Arise!

And leaf and bud obey the living power.

Awake, beloved, awake! A song is !' the air,

And Nature's heart with sweetest rapture thrills,

While without fear or care

She loyally the law of life fulfills.

Oh, endless round of life, in which there is no death,

(For so-called dying is but higher birth),

We breathe Love's vital breath,

And walk with joy to-day in the new earth.

ANNIE L. MUZZEY.

ANOTHER RISE IN PRICES.

In consequence of the recent conference held in Chicago at which it was decided to increase the prices of wagons, carriages and other road vehicles, manufacturers at Racine yesterday announced a 20 per cent. advance, effective at once. It is said the makers of materials raised their prices, necessitating the present advance.

"This will not affect our firm or any other which makes fine vehicles," said a representative of C. P. Kimball & Co. last night. "The new schedule will be adopted probably by all makers of heavy wagons and cheaper grades of carriages, buggies, etc." — Chicago Chronicle, of Mar. 27.

A RED TAPE STORY.

It is the red tape which makes the strain heavier than it would otherwise be. After we had been for weeks shut up in Kimberley—not at the best the most cheerful place in the universe—our hearts became specially fixed on our portion of the British army—the relief column. By accident we learned that it had reached the Modder river, after a sharp engagement at Belmont.

Eagerly we awaited news from Lord Methuen. Men and women scanned the horizon nights to seek the first flash from his searchlight.

All night long our three searchlights sent their long streams of fiery light past the rugged fortresses of Scholtz' nek and the rocky kopjes of Spytfontein to the two rivers, on whose banks our preservers were encamped.

"Md, Md, Md," they called, but no answer came. Only the big stars could be seen, and the southern cross seemed to whisper "patience." At last, one night far from the south came the welcome flash. "Kb, Kb," it said. High up in the tower sat Lieut. Col. Kekewich and his staff officers, with picked men from the signal corps. Anxiously they deciphered the first message from their honored chief. It was this: "Ascertain number on forefoot of mule, omitted in Cape Town return."—Kimberley Correspondent of the London Standard.

AN AUSTRALIAN VIEW OF THE AMERICANS IN MANILA.

A letter from an Australian in Manila, published in the Sydney (N. S. W.) Daily Telegraph of February 14.

As you know, the Americans are considered in other parts of the world to be rather a smart go-ahead people. What they are really like in America I do not, of course, know, but the 50,000 or 60,000 troops sent out here consist of the roughest drunken scoundrels that it would be possible to band together anywhere. They have now been here about two years altogether, and it is just a year since the native rebellion broke out, but the country remains in much the same position. It is true that they have now reopened the provincial ports which have been closed during the past year, and that business may now increase owing to fresh supplies of commercial products which support Manila, such as leaf tobacco, hemp, shells, coffee, copra, indigo, etc., but the whole country is still under military government, and the system of taxation being a continuation of the old Spanish highly protective tariff, combined with some additional duties imposed and added by the American authorities, makes everything very dear.

Rents are simply enormous. Licenses for hotels within the city boundary have been raised to 1,200 dollars mex, or £120 per annum, with £40 per annum extra for Sunday serving. You have to pay a license for any kind of shop or business. If you import you must have an importer's license, and if you export you must pay export duty. The curfew system is still maintained. Anyone found on the street after 8:30 p. m. is arrested, locked up all night, and fined 10 dollars (£1) in the morning. The police courts are run by the military, mayors, etc., who are judges pro tem., though they know nothing of law, and positively smoke cigarettes on the Bench.

The form of government here is far worse than the much-abused Transvaal. If you go on the street after 8:30 you may be shot by a sentry, one or two Spaniards and Chinamen having actually met with this fate.

PUBLIC TELEGRAPH SERVICE IN NEW ZEALAND.

Of great interest is Senator Bucklin's account of the telegraph service which he found. When he came from Tasmania to New Zealand he landed at the extreme southern point of the "south island," at a port called Bluff. He desired to inform his friends in Auckland of his arrival. Auckland