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THE WEEK AT WASHINGTON.

On May 17th, the postoffice department of the United States contracted for the northernmost regular postal service in Alaska. The contract calls for two round trips during July, August, and September, and one round trip in October, and the mail is to be delivered at intermediate points along the line. The contract was made with the Northern Commercial Steamship company at a rate of \$550 a round trip.

On May 17th Representative Mudd of Maryland offered an amendment to exclude from the naval academy and from ships and government libraries the history of Edgar S. MacLay, wherein he denounces the conduct of Admiral Schley during the fight at Santiago bay. After changing the terms of the amendment somewhat,

it was allowed, and while occasioning much debate, it was finally adopted without a dissenting vote.

Senator Hoar of Massachusetts presided and made the opening address at a largely attended mass meeting of the Irish League at Washington on May 18th. He expressed sentiments clearly in favor of Ireland. Messrs. Devline and Redmond of Ireland also took part in the meeting.

On May 19th former Corporal Richard O'Brien of North Adams, Mass., appeared as a witness before the senate Philippine committee. Mr. O'Brien served in the Philippines for eighteen months, and the story he told of the methods used in the subjugation of the Filipinos was appalling and the most sensational yet given. He asserted that cruel and barbarous things were done, that dum-dum or explosive bullets were used, and that it was "unwritten law out there to take no prisoners," the killing of prisoners being a matter that lay with the officers. During the discussion of the Philippine government bill that then ensued, Senator Dolliver of Iowa supported the measure and described opposition to it as purely malicious. On May 20th it was announced that other witnesses will be called in view of Mr. O'Brien's testimony.

The conference report on the omnibus claims bill was agreed to by the senate on May 19th. The house and senate have now agreed on the amount of \$2,618,418.

The naval appropriation bill was passed by the house on May 19th, being amended so that more warships will be built in government yards.

The senate is reported to be greatly divided on the Cuban reciprocity question. Several members of the committee favor a straight reduction of the duty on Cuban goods amounting to not less than 25 per cent. Republican members of the committee are opposed to the house provision repealing the differential provision of the Dingley law, and it is expected that this question will make serious trouble for the bill.


On May 21st President Roosevelt unveiled the memorial shaft erected at Arlington by the national society of the veterans who fell in the Spanish-American war. In his address the president referred to the United States' action in keeping its promise to the Cubans and urged the importance of the tasks of good citizenship on both civilians and soldiers.

The republican members of the house held a caucus on May 20th to ascertain whether the Fowler financial bill should be pushed at this session of congress. This measure specifically provides for the establishment of the gold standard, creates a system of branch national banks, provides for a system of asset currency and for a division of banking under a board of control in the treasury to take the place of the present comptroller of the treasury. The majority of opinion was in favor of postponing consideration of the bill until the next session of congress.

The concentration system in force in the Philippines was the subject under discussion on May 20th in the senate. Mr. Bacon of Georgia attacked the policy, likening it to the reconcentrado camps established by General Weyler in Cuba. Mr. Foraker of Ohio defended the measure as wise and proper and affording a means of protecting friendly Filipinos from assassination at the hands of roving bands of insurgents. In reply to this, Mr. Bacon read a letter from an army officer friend, describing the horrors of a reconcentrado camp. The day's debate was closed by Mr. Clapp of Minnesota, urging that the Filipinos be taught to admire and respect the United States as a nation that always stood for liberty and progress and never had broken its word to any people, great or small.

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AGENTS WANTED EVERYWHERE

On May 21st the house began consideration of the immigration bill. The principal speech was made by Mr. Shattuc of Ohio, chairman of the committee on immigration. He condemned the manner in which immigrants are introduced through Canada and by Canadian railway and steamship companies. Mr. Wood of Alabama gave notice of an amendment to provide an educational test and much of the discussion was upon that subject. The Fort Niobrara bill, authorizing the sale of the military reservation in Nebraska, was passed.

The house also decided three cases concerning the right of certain members to their seats. Charles R. Thomas from North Carolina, Mr. Tompkins of Ohio, and Mr. Rhea of Pennsylvania were all declared entitled to their places.

The house committee on rules has agreed to allow the irrigation bill to come up during the first week of June, allowing three days for its consideration. Those interested in the measure feel confident that the bill will pass.

On May 22nd, the house resumed discussion of the immigration bill. The line of debate was on the amendment offered by Mr. Underwood requiring an educational test for immigrants to this country. The amendment was finally adopted with a provision by Mr. Shattuc specifying the ports at which immigrants shall enter this country.

On May 22nd Bishop Thoburn of the Methodist church of India and Malasia was before the senate Philippine committee. He declared that the American occupation of the Philippines should be continued, in the course of his examination saying that the oc-

cupation of those islands was "an act of God." This led to a long series of questions by the senators of the committee, in the course of which Bishop Thoburn gave his opinion that no Malays are able to govern themselves in a proper manner, and he believed the Philippines should have a protectorate after the manner of the British protectorates.

On May 22nd Senator Hoar addressed the senate on the Philippine bill. He arraigned the republican methods in vogue in the islands, declared that the declaration of independence had been repealed and nothing was left of the Monroe doctrine but a principle of brutal selfishness. On the this point Mr. Hoar said, "This government has erected a republic in Cuba and a despotism in the Philippines. Six hundred millions of treasure and 10,000 American lives have been sacrificed in that endeavor. In the Philippines the American flag has been made the emblem of sacrilege and the burning of homes and of the horror of the water cure. He believed that our officers, in general, were humane, "but in some cases they have carried on our warfare with a mixture of ingenuity and Castilian cruelty."

"What have your ideals cost you?" inquired Mr. Hoar. "For the Philippine islands you have had to repeal the declaration of independence. For Cuba you have had to reaffirm and

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