

WEEK AT WASHINGTON

After having served as head of the United States army with the rank of lieutenant general for a little less than five months, S. M. B. Young retired on January 9 and relinquished his duties to his successor in office, General A. R. Chaffee, who, for some weeks past, has been acting as his chief assistant. General Young retires under the age limit, and General Chaffee's place is taken by General G. L. Gillespie. By order of the president, Secretary Root prepared and issued a eulogy of General Young and his services in the United States army.

It was reported from Washington by the Associated press on January 9 that a statement prepared at the war department shows that the recent maneuvers of the regular army and state militia at Fort Riley, Kas., and West Point, Ky., cost the general government about \$500,000. This amount includes actual disbursements for transportation and other items of expense in connection with the military organizations which participated in the maneuvers.

General Reyes, the special minister from Colombia to this country, has at last acknowledged the failure of his mission to this country and recently cabled his home government to that effect. The protest General Reyes has made against the action of the United States government on the isthmus of Panama has been of no avail, and it is not known as yet what line of action Colombia will decide on in the matter.

It was reported from Washington on January 9 that Senator Reed Smoot had filed his reply to the protests made against his retaining his seat in the senate. In this reply he denies that he is a polygamist or that he is bound by some oath or obligation which is inconsistent with the oath required of him by the constitution. The hearing in this case was set for Saturday, January 16, and John G. Carlisle of New York will appear for the prosecution, while Mr. Smoot will be represented by Messrs. Worthington of Washington, D. C., C. C. Waldeman Cott of Utah, and E. W. Fosah of Idaho.

The annual report of the postoffice department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, was made public. According to the report there are 33,447 routes of all kinds in the country, and their length is estimated at 506,268 miles. The comparison of receipts and expenditures with those of 1902 is made as follows: 1902—Ordinary postal revenue, \$119,958,229.49; receipts from money order business, \$1,889,817.86; total receipts of all sources, \$121,848,047.35; total expenditures for the year, \$124,785,697.07; excess expenditures over receipts, \$2,937,649.72. 1903—Ordinary postal revenue, \$131,984,535.00; receipts from money order business, \$2,230,908.24; total receipts of all sources, \$134,215,443.24; total expenditures for the year, 138,784,487.97; excess expenditures over receipts, \$4,560,044.73.

It was announced January 11 that the president had ordered the state department to make a thorough investigation of the United States consulates at Shanghai, Canton, and Amoy. For a year charges have been made concerning the conduct of business at those consulates, and it is believed that need exists for a complete change of consulates in the Orient.

Marked opposition to the nomination

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tion of General Leonard Wood to be a major general has developed in the senate committee on military affairs. January 11 Senator Scott of the committee submitted a review of the evidence introduced before the committee in the hearing of this case, and set out in detail his reason for opposing General Wood's nomination. These objections deal with the conduct of General Wood while he acted as governor general of Cuba, and Senator Scott declares that the insubordination of Wood to his superior officer, General Brooke, is well established.

The senate in executive session on January 11 laid on the table the motion to reconsider the confirmation of the nomination of W. I. Buchanan to be minister to Panama. By this action Mr. Buchanan has full power to act for this government in all diplomatic exchange between the United States and the new republic.

A Washington dispatch under date of January 11 says: August W. Machen, Diller B. Groff, Samuel A. Groff of Washington, D. C., and Dr. and Mrs. George A. Lorenz of Toledo, O., indicted in connection with the postoffice investigation, were placed on trial today. Justice Fritchard presiding.

January 11 Senator Morgan introduced a concurrent resolution calling upon the president to proceed, under the terms of the Spooner act, to construct an isthmian canal on the Costa Rica and Nicaragua route. The resolution went over under the rule.

The bill making appropriations for the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the government was completed on January 11 and reported to the house. The bill carries a total of \$28,258,895, which is an increase of \$94,680 over the appropriation for the present fiscal year.

It was recently reported to Washington by United States Minister Finch at Montevideo, that Uruguay, S. A., is passing through a serious crisis and that an engagement had occurred between the government forces and the revolutionists, in which several were killed and many wounded.

A resolution introduced in the senate January 11 by Senator Bacon and referring to the arbitration of Colombia's claims on account of the Panama revolution was the occasion for a warm debate in the senate. The resolution was met promptly by Mr. Lodge who made a motion to table it. This aroused the feeling of the democratic senators and the discussion proceeded through the day. Senators Bacon, Spooner, Teller, Carmack, Lodge, Aldrich, Platt of Connecticut, Hale, Foraker and Cullom speaking.

On January 11 the United States supreme court handed down a decision sustaining the validity of the New York statute relating to the adulteration of food products. This decision is in favor of the consumers, and declares for purer food products.

A conference called to frame a basis for an arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain and for the extension of arbitration throughout the world was held in Washington on January 12, with prominent citizens present. Ex-Secretary Foster was chosen president of the conference.

Senator Cullom, by request of Volney W. Foster, on January 11 introduced a bill to create a national arbitration tribunal. The bill was referred to the committee on education

and labor, with a request for early consideration. It is provided that a tribunal be appointed by the president, to consist of six members, one of whom shall be the secretary of commerce and labor. Representative Foss introduced the same bill in the house. The tribunal is to gain jurisdiction over disputes between capital and labor by the request of either or both parties to the dispute or by request made by the tribunal.

January 11 in the house Mr. Jenkins, chairman of the judiciary committee, called up the resolution requesting the attorney general to furnish information as to what money had been expended under the act providing for the enforcement of the Sherman anti-trust law, favorably reported by the committee, but amended so as to make it read "insofar as it is not incompatible with the interest of the public." It was adopted without debate and without division.

Shortly after the cabinet meeting held on January 12 Secretary Root issued a statement regarding the isthmian policy of the administration. In this statement it is declared that the administration does not expect war with Colombia and that no preparation for war is being made, but that on the contrary, every effort is being made by this government to help Colombia in the unsettled state of her affairs occasioned by the isthmian revolution.

In the senate on January 13 Panama was again the principal subject of discussion, Senator Carmack opening the debate by a speech in pointed criticism of the president's course on the isthmus. Mr. Carmack was followed by Senator Spooner, who defended the action taken as law-abiding. A sharp tilt also took place between Messrs. Patterson and Scott over the labor troubles in Colorado. A resolution was recently introduced requesting a senatorial investigation of the strike in Colorado, and this resolution occasioned much sharp debate. The entire matter was subsequently referred to the committee on the judiciary.

About forty members of the senate and house of representatives became members of a society organized on January 13 to be affiliated with the inter-parliamentary union for international arbitration. The international union is to hold its twelfth annual session in St. Louis next September.

Ratifications of the American-Chinese commercial treaty were exchanged on January 13 at the state department by Secretary Hay and Sir Chentung Liang Cheng, the Chinese minister to this country. The treaty provides for the opening of the ports of Mukden and Antung, in Manchuria, to the world's commerce. The ratifications of this treaty is regarded with much interest abroad, London newspapers declaring that the ratification of the treaty by China implies an act of sovereignty by China, equivalent to a declaration that Russia's occupation of Manchuria is only temporary and for specific purposes.

By a vote of 78 to 65, the house on January 13 struck out of the executive and judicial appropriation bill the paragraph providing for the salaries and expenses of the civil service commission and clerks employed under the commission. This action was taken on motion of Mr. Hepburn of Iowa.

A Washington dispatch dated January 13 says: The war department has issued the following statement of the result of yesterday's bidding for the Philippine land purchase bonds: "Total subscription bidders, \$40,237,000, over-subscribed very nearly five

times. The joint 'whole or none' bid of the National City bank of New York, Harvey Fiske & Sons and Fisk & Robinson at \$107,577, successful bidders, is \$75,747 more than could be realized through the acceptance of other bids. This bid will place the bonds at about 3 1-10, or practically a 3 per cent basis for ten years. Total premium received will be \$53,390."

The Japanese minister at Washington on January 13 made public the text of the treaty ratified on January 12 at Peking between Japan and China. The treaty consists of thirteen articles and covers much the same ground as does the treaty between the United States and China, recently ratified by both countries.

On January 14 the house passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, carrying an aggregate of \$29,711,711. This is the second large supply measure to pass the house. By a vote of 88 to 172 the house acting as a committee of the whole, refused to sustain the amendment striking out the paragraph providing for salaries, etc., for the civil service commission, which amendment was pushed through January 13. Amendments to increase the official pay of territorial officers in New Mexico and Arizona were voted down.

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