

## WEEK AT WASHINGTON

February 23 Justice White of the supreme court delivered an opinion in the case of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railway company against C. S. Osborne, commissioner of railroads for the state of Michigan. This case involved the right of the railroad commissioner of Michigan to enforce the state law in regard to railroad fares. The Associated press report says: "The railroad company was sold to its bondholders under a foreclosure proceeding and at the time of its organization and time of sale a statute was passed providing for the regulation of fares. With this law the company refused to comply, claiming exemption under its original charter, which it claimed was a contract. The court held that position to be unsound. Justice White said that in granting the charter the state had not parted with its right to amend the provisions of that document."

The United States supreme court has decided that a railroad company is not liable for damages to a passenger riding on a pass. This decision was given in the case of Louise H. Adams, et al., vs. Northern Pacific Railroad Co.

The supreme court has confirmed a decision of the court of claims holding that the Chickasaw Freedmen in Indian Territory had no right to lands and a fund of \$300,000 which the government had paid to the Choctaws and Chickasaw tribes.

Senator Kittredge of South Dakota has introduced a bill to provide for the temporary government of the Panama canal territory and the protection of the canal works. Referring to this bill the Associated press correspondent says: "The first section creates 'the Panama board of governors,' consisting of three citizens of the United States, not all of whom shall be of the same political party, to be appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate. Until congress shall otherwise provide, according to the second section, the legislative, administrative and executive powers possessed by congress and the privileges of the United States on the isthmus of Panama shall be invested in the board of governors. The powers so vested shall include the power to raise revenue. None of the taxes levied and collected shall be converted into the treasury of the United States, but shall be retained and disbursed by the board for proper purposes. Senator Kittredge says some modification of the provision for the board of

### ONE-WAY RATES

Every day from March 1 to April 30, 1904, the Union Pacific will sell One-way Colonist tickets at the following rates from Lincoln:

\$20.00 to Ogden and Salt Lake City.  
\$20.00 to Butte, Anaconda and Helena.

\$22.50 to Spokane and Wenatchee, Wash.

\$25.00 to Everett, Fairhaven, Whatcom, Vancouver and Astoria, via Huntington and Spokane.

\$25.00 to Portland and Astoria; or to Tacoma and Seattle, via Huntington and Portland or via Huntington and Spokane.

\$25.00 to Ashland, Roseburg, Eugene, Albany and Salem, via Portland.

\$25.00 to San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and many other California points.

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governors may be necessary when the duties of the isthmian canal commission shall have been determined. If the commission is to have charge of the works of constructing the canal, and is to be sometimes on the isthmus and sometimes in the United States, the board will be necessary, but in case it shall be determined that a sufficient number of commissioners shall be residents of the canal strip to constitute a government, the board of governors may be dispensed with and the duties of the board devolved upon the commission."

On February 23 Senators Hoar and Foraker engaged in a bitter debate with respect to Senator Hoar's position on the Panama question. Mr. Hoar denied that he had assailed Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Foraker contended that the Massachusetts senator had very bitterly criticized the administration.

The United States supreme court in an Alabama case involving the right of negroes to register declined to take the case under consideration on the ground that no federal question was involved. As a result of this decision the Alabama constitution with its provision against the negro stands undisputed.

James G. Payne, auditor of the district supreme court, has reported that Admiral Dewey's force is entitled to \$29,700 as the value of prize property by reason of the vessels captured and sunk in Manila bay.

It is announced that there is in circulation a new counterfeit \$5 national bank note on the National City Bank of New York, series 1882, check letter U, Rosencrans, register, Jordan treasurer. This counterfeit is a photograph of the original. The treasury and bank numbers are brown instead of blue.

Mrs. Caroline E. Hill, widow of the late Senator Benjamin H. Hill, died February 12 at Washington.

Senator Heyburn has introduced an amendment to the army appropriation bill appropriating \$500,000 for the purchase of 20,000 acres of land in Spokane county, Washington, and Kootenai county, Idaho, for the establishment of a permanent campground for the regular army and naval militia.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of Washington, February 20, says: Representative Crumpacker of Indiana today introduced bill amending the Philippine civil government. One repeals the provision requiring the approval of congress to propose municipal improvements; raises the amount of the debt that can be incurred for this purpose from 5 to 8 per cent of the taxation and authorizes the issuance of bonds for municipal improvements up to \$5,000,000. Another bill makes such bonds non-taxable. Another bill increases the amount of land that can be acquired and held by corporations from 2,500 to 25,000 acres.

The state department has received from Minister Powell a dispatch dated San Domingo, February 16, saying: A decisive battle has been fought between the government forces and the insurgents. It extended over two days and resulted in a victory for the government. The siege has been raised and the insurgents are in retreat.

The bureau of insular affairs has issued a special bulletin dealing with the commercial situation in the Philippines. In this bulletin it is shown that both in imports and exports

there was an increase compared with a corresponding period in the preceding year. Heavy exports of hemp and copra, offsetting heavy imports of rice, explained the increase. During the period named the imports were \$26,103,601, against \$24,358,322 for 1902. The exports amounted to \$23,563,128, an increase of nearly \$4,500,000. The rice imports were the only ones that increased and there was a falling off in general trade, the United States losing 10 per cent and the United Kingdom 16 per cent, while Spain has only two-thirds of the amount of her trade in 1902. United States exports increased from \$7,232,411 to \$9,386,036, and the trade with Spain was practically the same. But a small part of the United States' business is carried under the American flag and all but 5 per cent of the general trade of the islands is done in foreign bottoms.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of Washington, February 24, says: A mortgage has been executed by the Louisiana Purchase Exposition company to the United States government to cover the loan of \$4,600,000 authorized by congress to be made to the company. Secretary Shaw now has the mortgage in his possession. One million dollars will be paid over to the company in a few days \$2,000,000 will be paid in March, \$1,000,000 in April, and \$600,000 in May. The mortgage covers the gate receipts of the fair and repayment of the amount loaned will be made in June. The mortgage provides that in the event of failure of the exposition company to pay promptly the amount loaned, the government shall take charge of the fair and run it. The government agent in the collection of the money is Robert A. Fullerton of Iowa. He will look after the receipts of the fair and see that the government gets its quota of the sum taken in at the gates. He will receive one-tenth of 1 per cent of the sum collected for his services.

### ADDITIONAL NEWS NOTES.

The populist committee in session at St. Louis issued a declaration of principles in which it is said:

In both of the great political parties of the nation are to be found two irreconcilable factions, one in favor of governmental usurpation, tending to the establishment of a new feudalism, and the other standing for industrial and political liberty.

In the people's party of the nation lies the only hope of the perpetuation of popular institutions.

We ratify and reaffirm the fundamental principles of the platform of the people's party adopted at its national convention in Omaha in 1892.

The platform of the people's party made at Omaha in 1892 was originally made in a conference called and held by the labor organizations February 22, 1892. We therefore invite the

wealth-producers to take part in the primaries that shall choose delegates to our convention, guaranteeing that the influence of this party shall be given to advance the interests of organized labor by the recognition of the union label on manufactured products, as well as in legislation, which at last is the only hope of just conditions for labor.

We criticize as unfair, illegal and unjust, those decisions of the courts declaring the labor law unconstitutional, and we demand a constitutional amendment authorizing legislation requiring the state, municipalities and public franchise-owning corporations, their contractors and subcontractors, to pay workmen the prevailing rates of wages, and that upon public works, eight hours shall constitute a day's work, and we demand the abolition of the contract system upon public work.

We invite the co-operation of all

reform forces believing in the above principles.

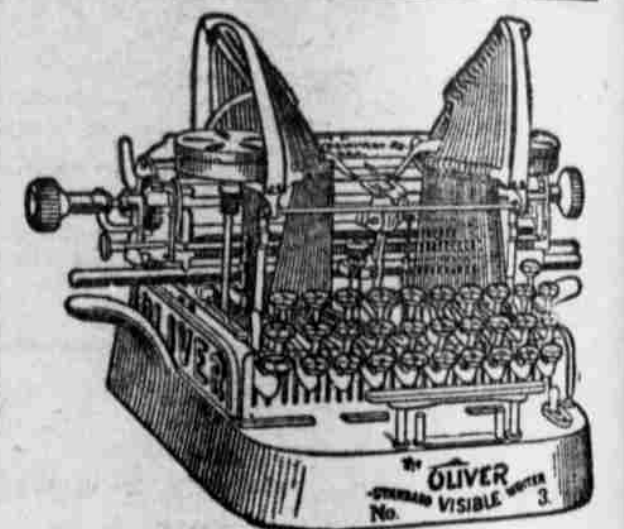
Brainard, Minn., was visited by a fire in the heart of the business center entailing a loss approximating \$75,000.

Charles L. Russie, chancellor of the French legation at Mexico City, who left his post after, it is alleged, having embezzled \$8,000, has been arrested.

Cyrus McCrady, cashier of the First National bank at Seymour, Ind., is charged with embezzlement of \$12,000.

An outbreak of diphtheria has occurred on the United States training ship Monongahela at San Juan, P. R. The entire crew has been ordered ashore. Twenty-two apprentices suffering from sore throats are under observance.

The navy department has been informed by Rear Admiral Evans that Paymaster Harry E. Biscoe of the battleship Oregon has been placed under arrest pending his appearance be-



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