

## WEEK AT WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Hay is sick with the grip.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of February 29, says: In the United States court of claims the chief justice announced in the case of the state of South Carolina against the United States, to recover various sums paid by the state of South Carolina as special taxes for the sale of liquors in the state at the various dispensaries by the officials in charge of these dispensaries that the petition of the state of South Carolina was dismissed and that the opinion would be handed down tomorrow. This is one of the most important cases that has yet come before the commissioner of internal revenue for decision since he has been in office. The state of South Carolina made claim before him for the refund of these taxes on the ground that the state dispensary law was unconstitutional, as decided by the supreme court of the United States and that the collection of these taxes was in reality a tax levied upon state officials, and therefore upon the exercise of a governmental function and power. The commissioner rejected the claims and suit was then brought in the court of claims, and by its decision Mr. Yerkes is sustained.

Postmaster General Payne has recommended that cancelling machines for the postoffices be rented instead of purchased. He suggested an appropriation of \$200,000 for this purpose.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of Washington, February 29, says: The supreme court today set the case of Pettit against Walshe for hearing on April 4. Walshe is a British subject and the proceeding in his case is in the nature of an action to secure extradition. The charge against him is that while going under the name of Lynchehaun in Ireland the man committed the crime of arson and also that he murderously assaulted the woman landlord. The warrant for his arrest was issued in New York and was served in Indiana. Walshe resisted this arrest and was released by Judge Baker of the United States district court for the district of Indiana. United States Marshal Pettit then presented the case to this court. It is claimed on Walshe's behalf that the charge against him is a political offense and therefore is not extraditable.

Secretary Moody has signed the order for the equipping of the eighteen battleships and armored cruisers now being built, with submarine torpedo tubes.

Agnes French, the white maid who recently stole a quantity of jewelry from the apartment of Postmaster General Payne, and who was later captured in Brooklyn, was sentenced to six years in the penitentiary.

A special dispatch to the Omaha World-Herald, under date of Washington, February 29, says: President Roosevelt has an idea that the auction plan will be the best for the government in the sale of lands that are hereafter opened for settlement, and he is talking with other senators and representatives that he may procure their views on the subject. His ideas are original, and if carried out would mean a complete revolution of methods heretofore in existence relative to the settlement of newly opened public lands. Congressman Martin of

### Garrh Cured Quickly

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South Dakota talked with the president on the subject today, giving his opinion that the sale of lots to the highest bidder would prove impracticable and unwise. Purely from the financial point of view, Mr. Martin believed that in a case where several thousand tracts were opened to settlement the government would lose money by the loss of interest before the sale. His belief that the first few lots would go at high prices, and after that the sale would drag, the prices being below values. Inasmuch as there will probably be an opening of a large part of the Rosebud Indian reservation in Gregory county, South Dakota, in which 416,000 acres will be free to settlement, the South Dakota delegation in congress is in favor of the old method of fixing what is regarded as a fair price for the lots and letting them go in that manner. The government has never had any regular method of procedure in such cases, but that of fixing the price on lands to be opened has been the one most generally adopted.

The house has passed a bill providing for the opening of a portion of the Rosebud reservation. It is understood that the measure will be passed by the senate.

Congress has authorized the opening to settlement of about 250,000 acres of land in the Indian reservation in Red Lake county, Minnesota.

On February 29 the supreme court issued an order for the release on bail of John Turner, a British subject, who was taken into custody upon arrival in New York last October on the charge of being an anarchist. The federal circuit court in New York denied his petition for a writ, but this was overruled by the supreme court.

The Philippine bill, as prepared by Secretary Taft and introduced by Secretary Cooper, authorizes the appropriation of \$10,000,000 for improvement work in the islands.

Representative Lovering, a Massachusetts republican, in a speech delivered in the house, attacked the tariff policy of his party and declared the "stand pat" idea is injurious to business.

Count Cassini complains that the tone of American newspapers is distinctly hostile to Russia and that this idea is being generally understood throughout the czar's government.

Representative McDermott of New Jersey introduced a resolution in the house amending the constitution by limiting the number of representatives in congress after 1911 to 200, each state to have at least one.

Senate committee has made a favorable report on the nomination of H. Smith Woolley, nominated for the assay office at Boise, Idaho. Woolley is a Mormon bishop. There is considerable opposition to his appointment.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of Washington, March 1, says: President Morales of the Dominican republic has been refused permission to blockade his own ports to keep out the revolutionists, as shown by the following report of the navy department by Captain Miller, commanding the cruiser Columbia: "This morning (February 18) the American three-masted schooner W. R. Perkins came in from the eastward and our boarding boat went alongside. The captain informed me that he had been warned off Macoris and not allowed to enter by the gunboat Presidente, and was told that he must proceed to this

port. Immediately upon receipt of this information I communicated with the minister, requesting him to communicate with President Morales and inform him that I would not recognize his right to blockade Macoris and refuse entrance to vessels flying the United States flag. The minister informs me that the president demurred at first, but finally yielded."

The investigation of the charges against Senator Smoot have taken a rather sensational turn. An Associated press dispatch, under date of Washington, March 3, says: Attorneys for the protestants in the Smoot investigation said they intended to prove that the defendant is associated with a hierarchy which practices polygamy and connives at violations of the law and that his very vote as a senator of the United States is subject to the wish and command of the Mormon church. President Joseph F. Smith confessed that he himself had continued to cohabit with his plural family since the manifesto of 1890 and that he realized fully that he was violating state laws. President Smith also testified that Reed Smoot had to get the consent of his associate apostles in the church before he could become a candidate for senator. The confession of President Smith was the sensation of the proceedings today before the senate committee on privileges and elections. Mr. Smith said that the manifesto of 1890 had left him and others with plural families in the unfortunate situation of being compelled to defy the law or desert their families. For himself he had preferred to "take chances with the law" rather than to disgrace himself and degrade his family by abandoning his wives and the children they had borne him. He admitted that he had had children by all of his wives since the manifesto and said he had acknowledged them openly without interference or disturbance from the people of Utah, whom he characterized as liberal and broadminded. The defense will take the witness stand tomorrow.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of Washington, March 3, says: The secretary of the treasury today will call on the depository banks of New York city to deposit 20 per cent of their government holdings in the sub-treasury, the money to be turned over today to J. P. Morgan & Co., as the financial representatives of the republic of Panama, on account of the Panama canal purchase. This 20 per cent will aggregate about \$8,000,000 and the remaining \$2,000,000 will be taken from the sub-treasury. The secretary also will call on the special depository banks to forward to designatory depository banks in New York 20 per cent of their holdings on or before March 25. This will amount in all to about \$30,000,000. The remaining \$20,000,000 will be supplied by the treasury itself.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of Washington, March 3, says: Robert Manning, a messenger in the war department, today was attacked by a crank, in his room in the department, and shot in the back. The assailant was quickly overpowered and disarmed. Manning's wound is believed to be serious. The shooting occurred in the mail and record division of the adjutant general's office. The name of the man, as shown by papers taken from him, is William J. O'Brien, an inmate of St. Elizabeth's hospital. He entered the room and, flourishing a revolver, fired at random. In addition to shooting Mr. Manning, a shot also took effect in the left arm of Arthur Wicker, a clerk.

### Urging No One.

William Jennings Bryan, who addressed the Virginia legislature here

yesterday and delivered a lecture, was asked whether the report that he was backing William Randolph Hearst for the presidential nomination was true.

"I have said over and over again," he replied, "that I am not backing any one or urging any one as a nominee. While Hearst is among the many worthy to be mentioned, I have not discussed his availability as compared with the availability of others. The only reason that I know of for the connection of my name with his candidacy is that those who have been fighting me are nearly all of them fighting him, and they probably think they can hurt him by accusing him of having my support. But I have neither said nor done anything that justifies anybody in regarding me as the champion of the cause of any particular man.

"I have said that I did not consider anybody as available who opposed the ticket in either campaign, and I have also insisted that the candidate should not only be selected from those who have supported our recent platform, but should be selected by those who have supported the ticket rather than by those who deserted the party.

"In saying this I am not reflecting upon the honor or the conscientiousness of those who left us. It would be as unreasonable to allow a preacher to be selected by those who had left the church, as to expect a democratic candidate to be selected by those who have left the party."—Richmond (Va.) News.

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