

## Week at Washington

The senate committee on commerce completed the river and harbor bill and it now carries appropriations aggregating \$38,018,367, a three million dollar increase over the bill as it was passed by the house.

Chairman Payne of the house committee on ways and means has filed a report favoring the passage of the Curtis bill. This bill provides for the free entry of products from the Philippines, except sugar and tobacco on which products 25 per cent of the Dingley tariff is to be collected. Chairman Payne's report declares that "the logical result of our possession of these islands is free trade, and it further says: 'At present, according to the whim of congress or the executive, they are considered as American or foreign, or as neither American nor foreign. In justice to both the Filipinos and ourselves they should be considered as altogether American or altogether foreign. So long as we retain them we favor the establishment and maintenance of free trade betwixt them and the United States.'

President Roosevelt has transmitted to congress a statement of the expenditures for quarters for troops in the Philippines. It is said that the amount of the appropriation was \$1,500,000 and previous reports covered the expenditures of \$1,183,720. The present report includes the expenditure of \$67,106 for material in the United States, \$183,849 for construction, \$57,834 for repairs and \$105,746 for rent. This total includes \$98,256, subsequently appropriated, on which no report is required.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Washington, D. C., Feb. 25, says: "The supreme court of the United States today decided the tax cases of the National bank of San Francisco favorably to the bank. The case involved the state law directing the assessment of the stock of national banks in California, while assessment on state banks was made on their property. The opinion was by Justice White, who held that the effect of the law in this case was to work discrimination. The finding of the state court was reversed. The chief justice and Justices Brewer, Brown and Peckham dissented. In the course of his opinion

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Justice White called attention to the fact that in assessing bank stocks much property of an intangible character must be taken into consideration, which is not true in cases in which the assessment is made on visible property, as is required in the case of state banks. Justice Brewer delivered the dissenting opinion, in the course of which he said: 'Whatever may be the effect of the statute creating or opening the door to discrimination, no one can read it and say that there was an intent on the part of the legislature of California to discriminate injuriously against national banks. The statute is positive in its language that national bank shares shall be taxed and assessed as is other property, and there was beyond doubt an attempt on the part of the California legislature to cast only an equal burden of taxation on such shares. Of course there can not be imputed to this court an intention to favor national bank property in the matter of taxation and to lay down one rule for its benefit which is denied to all other property.'

Admiral Dewey, who had intended to go to the naval station at Guantanamo, Cuba, to inspect and review the vessels of the North Atlantic fleet, has abandoned his idea owing probably to the state of his health.

The senate has passed the bill amending the laws for the government of Hawaii, relative to the election and appointment of local officers.

Judge Charles Swayne, acquitted Monday by the senate on the impeachment charges, has been granted a leave of absence for two months. Judge Swayne expects in that time to undergo a surgical operation.

The monthly statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business February 28, 1905, the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$989,574,143, which is a decrease for the month of \$365,461.

The following nominations have been sent to the senate by the president: Consul General at Panama—Joseph W. J. Lee, Maryland. Second Lieutenant of Infantry—William L. Patterson, Maryland. Postmasters—Iowa, Roscoe C. Saunders, Manilla; Norman D. Anthony, Ruthven.

A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald, under date of Washington, Feb. 28, says: "An increase of the president's salary to \$100,000 a year was the plea made in congress today by Representative Longworth of Ohio. He urged also that diplomats be given more remuneration and declared that an absolute necessity existed for the immediate increase of salaries of ministers in foreign capitals. In emphasizing his argument Mr. Longworth related what he said was an authentic case where an American minister received and entertained diplomats in a three-room flat filled with the odors of cooking. He received in his shirt-sleeves, and when his visitors arose to go he would present his card and say, 'Consider your call returned.'"

The general deficiency appropriation bill, the last of the annual supply measures, was completed by the house committee on appropriations February 27. This bill is made of estimates from the various government departments, aggregating \$33,886,267 and the

amount of the appropriation is \$31,022,597.

President Roosevelt has received an invitation to attend the national campfire of the Spanish war veterans to be held March 6 at Washington. He will try to make it possible to be present on the occasion.

The homestead bill, introduced by Representative Martin, extending the area of a homestead in South Dakota from 160 to 640 acres, has passed the house after a hard fight. It is believed that the bill will be killed in the senate.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Washington, D. C., March 1, says: "The house committee on interstate and foreign commerce today unanimously authorized a favorable report on a resolution prepared by Mr. Lovering of Massachusetts, providing for a continued inquiry into Panama canal matters. The resolution recites that: 'Whereas, It is necessary to the speedy and economical construction of the isthmian canal that the fifty-ninth congress shall have an early and accurate report of the construction of the canal and the operation of the Panama railroad as soon as possible in order that it may legislate promptly and intelligently; that the committee have authority to sit, by sub-committee or otherwise, as it may designate, at any time or place in the United States or at the isthmus of Panama, March 4, 1905, and the assembling of the fifty-ninth congress.'"

Secretary Hay and Minister Coreia of Nicaragua have signed an extradition treaty between this government and that of Nicaragua.

The interesting facts brought to light in the Swayne impeachment case, just closed, have caused some concern about the expenses of judges and the Associated Press says: "The temper of the house regarding the Swayne impeachment verdict was shown when amendments were attached to the bill restricting the \$10 a day limit for expenses of United States judges, so that expenditures above \$5 a day shall be certified on vouchers, with the further proviso that a judge who presents a false claim for expenses shall be fined not less than \$100 and imprisoned for not less than ten days. In committee of the whole an appropriation of \$190,000 was voted for mileage of senators and members for attending the second session of the present congress, about the legality of which some question was raised. The committee's action was sustained after the bill had been reported to the house and after Mr. Underwood of Alabama had forced a separate vote on the provision."

The Jamestown exposition has been voted an appropriation of \$250,000 by the house of representatives, as a result of hard work on the part of the Virginia delegation and General Fitzhugh Lee.

A concurrent resolution was introduced by Representative Kehoe of Kentucky, to annex the republic of Panama to the United States.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Washington, D. C., March 2, says: "At a final meeting of the conferees on the Panama canal bill today after the senate conferees had reported verbally the inability of the representatives of the two houses to get together and were sent back to try again the futility of compromise was admitted and the conferees decided to ask for their discharge. If this decision is accepted by the two houses, and it is the gen-

eral impression that it will be, the effect will be to kill the canal bill entirely."

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