

save Paul Morton from coming to trial."

It is reported that the president will send to congress a special message advising the creation of an office to be known as federal commissioner of insurance. A dispatch to the Kansas City Journal says that the president has agreed to do this at the request of insurance magnates who are anxious to restore public confidence in the insurance business.

The house committee has reported favorably on the Philippine tariff bill. The republicans split on the question and the vote stood 7 to 5.

In the debate in the senate December 20 Senator Spooner made what the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says was intended to be a pointed thrust at President Roosevelt and Governor Higgins of New York. He said that he had read in the morning paper that a governor had determined who should be the next speaker of the house of representatives of his state, and he said that "such a course is treason to our constitutional system."

The democrats of the house ways and means committee reported in favor of the Philippine tariff bill. They offered a substitute, declaring for absolute free trade between the Philippines and the United States, including Hawaii and Porto Rico. They say that if their substitute is voted down they will support the republican bill

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as it is "a long step in the logical and right direction."

In the minority report it is said: "The members of the minority of the committee on ways and means believe that the anomalous and preposterous status of the Philippine islands by which they are treated as American territory for certain other purposes can not long be maintained and should be immediately terminated. At present, according to the whim of congress, or the executive, they are considered as American or foreign, or as both American and 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 between them and the United States. The party, which we in part represent, desires to get rid of them at the earliest practical moment, and we welcome the dissatisfaction of the hitherto legislatively favored classes, growing out of the competition of the products of Philippine labor with our own products, in our own market as a possible moving cause to governmental divorce between the Philippine archipelago and the balance of the United States."

The house and senate adjourned for the holidays December 21.

Senator Gearin, who succeeds the late Senator Mitchell from Oregon, took the oath December 21.

D. E. Thompson, now ambassador to Brazil, has been appointed minister to Mexico—a position Mr. Thompson has long coveted. It was generally believed in political circles that Mr. Thompson would be retired from the diplomatic service because of his letter boosting the New York Life Insurance company, and it was a general surprise when, instead of being retired, Mr. Thompson was promoted.

William G. Crawford, former deputy auditor for the postoffice department was convicted on the charge of conspiring to defraud the government.

United States District Attorney Irving R. Baxter, at Omaha, has been requested by the president to resign on account of the farcical sentence imposed by Federal Judge Munger upon two land monopolists.

It is said that the majority report of the senate committee in the case of Senator Reed Smoot will favor his removal from the senate. The Associated Press says that one declaration in this report is as follows: "The said Reed Smoot as a polygamous Mormon is a member of a criminal organization which defies and endeavors to subvert the laws of the United States."

William P. Warner of Dakota county, Neb., has been appointed United States marshal to succeed Mr. Matthews, who was removed by the president.

The house has agreed to the conference report on the Panama canal appropriation bill.

President Roosevelt has appointed Joseph B. Bishop as a member of the Isthmian canal commission. Mr. Bishop has been the secretary and press agent of the commission. He will receive \$7,500 a year as commissioner and an additional \$2,500 per year as secretary.

Secretary of State D. E. Storms of Indiana has been forced to turn his property over to a trustee and call on his bondsmen and friends to raise \$77,000 for the state of Indiana. He is the third Indiana official to get into trouble.



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