

# The Commoner.

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

The president has nominated to be a member of the Philippine commission and secretary of public instruction in the Philippine Islands, W. Morgan Shuster of the District of Columbia.

Supreme Court Justice Harlan is being urged by republican leaders to become the republican nominee for governor of Kentucky. He has declined.

Senators Depew and Platt were in their seats when congress assembled Monday, December 3. Newspaper dispatches say that while Platt "leaned heavily on the arm of an assistant, his face was good natured and smiling." Also Senator Depew was "smiling and sprightly" and that both senators were cordially greeted by their associates.

The president is negotiating a new treaty covering the clause of sovereignty over the Island of Pines.

President Roosevelt has received a cane made of black palm wood of Panama, and an ink-stand made of the native wood from the Isthmus. These were gifts from the employes of the government on canal work. While there was some question as to whether the president could accept these gifts, it was solved to the effect that they were not gifts but souvenirs.

Some senators complain that President Roosevelt upset traditions when he sent in nominations before waiting to be formally told that the senate was in session.

On the first day of the session Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania offered a resolution calling upon the president for information relating to the discharge of the negro troops. Senator Foraker immediately offered a substitute calling upon the secretary of war to furnish all correspondence and data bearing upon the dismissal of the negro troops with the record of each man and all detailed information with respect to the record of the Twenty-fifth infantry, which is made up of negro troops. It is the understanding that Penrose introduced his resolution at the suggestion of the administration. Foraker's resolution was understood to be hostile, and this idea is upheld by the fact that in various sections of the country negroes are organizing Foraker clubs, such organizations to be used for the purpose of pushing Mr. Foraker's boom for the republican nomination in 1908.

Referring to his resolution Senator Foraker said: "I have no purpose of raising the race question. The question involved is broader. It would be unfortunate to have it narrowed by drawing a color line. It concerns white as well as colored soldiers. It is a question of constitutional power on the one hand and constitutional and statutory rights on the other. Until we have a complete record I do not know just what questions will arise, but we may have to consider whether or not a man can be convicted of felony by order, and whether, following such a conviction, sentence may be imposed and punishment inflicted by order. Discharges without honor may be made where they are not based on an offense against the law of the land, the commission of which is denied, and where no punishment follows; but where there is conviction, sentence, punishment, I would have always supposed that there would also have to be trial in a civil court or in a court-martial, or before some other tribunal thereunto duly appointed by the law."

Senator Raynor of Maryland has offered to the senate a resolution declaring that the public educational institutions of the state are not subject to the federal government and that there is no provision in the treaty with Japan relating to public schools.

Representative Slayden of Texas has introduced in the house a bill providing that negroes are not to be made United States soldiers.

The New York World's Washington correspondent says: "The controversy as to who was the youngest soldier of the civil war probably has been settled in favor of Perry Byan, of Seattle, Wash. He enlisted as a drummer boy in company D, Twenty-fourth Iowa volunteers, on August 22, 1862, at the age of nine years and ten months.

Byan was born October 22, 1852, in Kane county, Ill., but enlisted from Mount Vernon, Ia. After serving nearly a year he was honorably discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability. The pension office has investigated Byan's papers and finds his representations are correct. He will receive a tidy sum as back pension."

The Washington correspondent for the New York World is authority for the statement that President Roosevelt has determined that before he retires from office the \$148,000 contributed to his campaign by the three insurance companies shall be refunded. The World's correspondent says that when the president suggested this plan to Messrs. Cortelyou and Bliss they bluntly refused to have anything to do with the proposition. They insisted that the money should not be returned. The president made inquiry and discovered that the republican national committee has a balance on hand of \$400,000, and he is anxious that out of this sum the committee's officers shall repay the \$148,000 to the policy-holders.

A Washington dispatch to the New York World says: "President Roosevelt today directed the department of state to call on Harry B. Miller, the American consul general at Yokohama, Japan, to explain whether or not he is correctly quoted in an interview published in which he predicts war between the United States and Japan on account of Japanese children being excluded from the white schools of San Francisco. President Roosevelt is indignant over the publication of this story, especially when credited to an official from the consular service whose duty is to promote good feeling between this country and Japan instead of causing friction."

A statement issued by the comptroller of the currency shows that at the close of business November 30, 1906, the total circulation of bank notes was \$593,380,549, which is an increase for the year of \$60,051,291, an increase for the month of \$10,208,564. The circulation based on United States bonds amounted to \$546,981,447, an increase for the year of \$49,665,143, an increase for the month of \$10,048,278. The circulation secured by lawful money aggregates \$46,399,102, an increase for the year of \$10,686,148, and an increase for the month of \$160,286. The amount of bonds on deposit to secure circulation notes was \$549,750,830, and to secure public deposits, \$150,486,800.

On the fourth day of the session the senate adopted the Penrose resolution asking the president for information regarding the discharge of the negro troops. It also adopted the Foraker resolution, directing the secretary of war to give similar information. Senator Culberson of Texas amended each resolution by asking specifically for the order of a major commanding the troops, which order directed that certain of the troops demanded by the Texas authorities be not surrendered. The Culberson amendment was adopted. A heated discussion took place in the senate while these resolutions were pending. Senator Foraker denied that the negro troops were guilty of murder and produced copies of the testimony which he said was "unsatisfactory, incomplete and of a flimsy character." Senator Foraker said that the race question was not involved; that the right of the president to dismiss a man from the army was involved and if he could dismiss one man he could dismiss a company, a regiment, or in fact the whole army.

An Associated Press dispatch under date of Washington, December 6, follows: "The government today resumed the purchase of silver, accepting bids for two thousand ounces at 68.669 cents per fine ounce. This is more than 3½ cents an ounce lower than the offerings which were made at the time purchases were suspended nearly four weeks ago. This fact and the large and increasing public demand for subsidiary coins which could not be met without additional purchases are the controlling reasons given by the treasury officials for the resumption. It is stated by the treasury officials that purchases will continue for an indefinite time, the amount to depend largely upon the prices asked."

In his annual report Secretary of the Navy Bonaparte, advises an increase in the number of fighting ships.

The committee on appropriations in the house

in its appropriation bill for 1906 reported: "Hereafter, in printing documents authorized by law or ordered by congress or either branch thereof, the government printing office shall follow the rules of orthography established by Webster's or other generally accepted dictionaries of the English language." The bill carries an appropriation of \$31,215,525.

Justice Harlan has definitely declined to become a candidate for governor of Kentucky.

In his annual report Secretary Shaw urges currency reform, favoring emergency notes guaranteed by the government.

It is reported that President Roosevelt favors putting in the treaty with Japan a provision providing for excluding the coolie Japanese.

Negro leaders in Washington are very much interested in the Japanese question. They say that if it should be demonstrated that citizens of other nations must be treated alike in this country the same rule ought to apply to American citizens in their own land. In that event the negro would want to know with what reason the school authorities in the District of Columbia prohibit negroes from attending school with white children. They say that if Mr. Roosevelt wins his Japanese case in San Francisco a negro case will be instituted in the District of Columbia.

Senator Cullom has introduced "by request" a bill declaring against simplified spelling.

A desperate effort will be made at this session to pass the ship subsidy bill. Advocates of the measure are willing to compromise along the lines of the president's message by paying subsidy to ships running between this country and South America. This will be an entering wedge.

Senator Kittredge of South Dakota is quoted as saying that if an investigation such as he proposes is undertaken, it will be shown that the lumber combine surpasses all the trusts in monopoly.

Bellamy Storer, formerly ambassador to Austria, sent to President Roosevelt, to members of the cabinet and to members of the senate committee on foreign relations a pamphlet containing copies of letters which passed between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. and Mrs. Storer. Mr. Storer claimed that Mr. Roosevelt was striving to have Archbishop Ireland promoted to cardinal, and that Mr. and Mrs. Storer were the president's instruments to that end. Storer claimed that when the scheme became known in diplomatic circles Mr. Roosevelt wrote to Storer and his wife letters indicating that he was very much opposed to any interference with church affairs and in those letters the president severely criticised Mr. and Mrs. Storer. The Chicago Tribune gave Storer's pamphlet to the public and it created a sensation. On the following day the president wrote a letter to Secretary Root, which letter was made public. In this letter Mr. Roosevelt denies the material allegations made by Storer, and says that while he has a deep affection for Archbishop Ireland he took no part in the effort to make him a cardinal, but on the contrary was in earnest when he rebuked Mr. and Mrs. Storer for their efforts in that line.

### INFORMATION WANTED

R. G. Blair, Joplin, Mo., desires to learn the whereabouts of Hugh N. Blair. Hugh N. Blair was last seen in November, 1901, around and about Magalia and Oroville, Butte county, California. He was then forty years old; weight about 185 pounds, five feet ten inches high; black hair, sandy mustache, light blue eyes and a prominent scar over left eye.

If any Commoner reader can give any information on this point he will confer a favor by addressing R. G. Blair, Joplin, Mo.

Former Senator Burton is writing a book, and a lot of eminent gentlemen in top hats and Prince Albert coats who walk the streets of Washington with solemn mein when the senate is about to convene, are preparing to affect indifference when the truth begins to leak out.