

WASHINGTON NEWS

Isador Rayner of Maryland is sick in his apartments at Washington.

President Taft issued a proclamation prescribing the rate of toll to be paid by vessels using the Panama canal. The provisions of the proclamation follow:

1. On merchant vessels carrying passengers or cargo, \$1.20 a net ton—each 100 cubic feet—of actual earning capacity.
2. On vessels in ballast without passengers or cargo, 40 per cent less than the rate of tolls for vessels with passengers or cargo.
3. On naval vessels, other than transports, colliers, hospital ships and supply ships, 50 cents a displacement ton.
4. On army and navy transports, colliers, hospital ships and supply ships, \$1.20 a net ton, the vessels to be measured by the same rules as are employed in determining the net tonnage of merchant vessels.

The secretary of war will prepare and prescribe rules for the measurement of vessels. The rates may be changed on six months' notice.

There is a growing suspicion that Mr. Taft is inclined to provide, as one Washington correspondent says, "storm cellars for his friends." The Washington correspondent for the Louisville Courier-Journal says: The president defined his policy in regard to political appointments to be made between now and March 4. He said bluntly, when asked the direct question, that he certainly will fill all vacant offices with republicans until he has ceased to be president. Mr. Taft added that he believed "in his heart Mr. Wilson will thank me for it."

This puts the patronage matter up to the democrats. The surest way to prevent republicans from holding such places as surveyor of Louisville port for the next four years, as they have for the last sixteen years, is to arrange with the democratic minority in the senate to hold up the appointments. Without confirmations, Surveyor J. Frank Taylor and others in similar plight would go out of office as soon as their democratic successors were appointed. The president's mind is made up and nothing can be done to change him, according to the views he expressed to one or two newspaper men. He will make such appointments for four years instead of taking no action at all, and thus permit the incumbents to hold on until the new president makes his slate in forming this decision. Mr. Taft is following the precedent set by President Roosevelt, but disregarding that of President Cleveland. Before Roosevelt left office he took care to reappoint all his friends whose commissions had expired, but the fact that he was to be succeeded by a president of the same party affiliation may have determined his action. Mr. Cleveland, on the contrary, in 1896 and 1897 took no action on expired commissions, but left them to Mr. McKinley, his successor.

The correspondent for the Louisville Courier-Journal says: President-elect Wilson proposes to keep

the door to his private office at the White House always open and accessible to the public, he announced recently. He said he would maintain, as far as possible, the "open door" policy inaugurated as governor of New Jersey.

Lee McClung will resign soon as treasurer of the United States.

Discussions of the probable make-up of the cabinet under the new administration have been renewed with the arrival of democratic statesmen at Washington. Meanwhile Governor Wilson is keeping quiet on the subject.

George M. Rommel, chief of the division of animal husbandry, explained the plan of the government to supply the army with horses, which provides sending groups of stallions to Kentucky and other states.

Notification of the fact that Ohio had approved the income tax amendment to the United States constitution was received by the state department. Two more states must approve the amendment.

The Washington correspondent for the New York American says: The democratic legislative program for the extra session of congress, which, it is now generally expected, will be convened by Woodrow Wilson soon after his inauguration, was outlined for the New York American by Chairman Robert L. Henry, of the house committee on rules. It includes:

Repeal of the protective tariffs and the framing of new duties along democratic lines.

Enactment of a law putting into effect a general income tax which will be ratified by the requisite three-fourths of all the states in January.

Strengthening of the Sherman anti-trust law by supplemental legislation defining definitely what is a trust and making more severe the criminal penalties for violation.

Revision of the financial system and laws along democratic lines.

Judge Henry is most influential in the house. He is close to President-elect Wilson and was one of Dr. Wilson's earliest supporters. As chairman of the committee on rules, it falls on him finally to put through a rule that enables the democrats to get a vote on party legislation.

"I do not know what Governor Wilson will do about the special session of congress," said Judge Henry. "I do not know what are his ideas with respect to immediate and pressing legislation. I have not discussed either question with him, and I can give my views only."

"I believe there will be a special session because of the demand to have placed on the statute books at the earliest possible moment the reforms pledged by the platform adopted by the Baltimore convention."

"I think we can make changes in the reduced-tariff program represented in the bills brought out by the democratic ways and means committee and passed by the house dur-

ing the special Canadian reciprocity session and again at the last session of congress.

"I would like to see free iron ore, free pig iron, and free sugar. I think we could get the democratic senators to agree to these changes."

"I favor the presentation of the tariff legislation in one general bill. Such a plan would facilitate tariff legislation and prevent a succession of attacks which will come on special schedule bills."

"It is certain the new tariff legislation will sound the death knell of all protection for special interests and a return to the tariff principles of the old democratic party."

"Little new investigation by the ways and means committee is required to enable that committee to draft an equitable and well-balanced tariff law. I know that Mr. Underwood is to have hearings on some of the schedules."

It is the opinion of Judge Henry that supplemental legislation to the Sherman anti-trust law is necessary to make it effective and to clear up the confusion that has arisen since the supreme court read into the statute the difference between reasonable and unreasonable restraint of trade. He said:

"We must define what is a trust so clearly that there can be no quibble on the subject in the courts. We must make the criminal penalties more severe, that those who may be tempted to violate the law will hesitate. They do not seem to mind the fines. In Texas we fined the Waters-Pierce Oil company \$2,000,000. They paid the fine and raised the price of oil."

Judge Henry thinks it is the plan of the republicans and of those democrats who have approved the Aldrich-Vreeland plan of reform of the monetary system to press it to passage at the approaching session of congress. He says it will be defeated. The democrats will reform the financial system along their own plans to be developed from the information now in their possession and to be gathered during the pending trust investigations.

An Associated Press correspondent says: An agreement between the United States and Russia, to take the place of the commercial treaty of 1832, the abrogation of which becomes effective January 1, next, has been virtually reached, according to information from high officials. Nothing as to the exact nature of the agreement is announced. It is declared probable, however, that it will be worked out satisfactorily to both countries before the day when the old treaty expires. This advanced stage in the negotiations has been reached only after a number of conversations between Secretary Knox and Russian Ambassador Bakhmeteff, beginning last summer and continuing at frequent intervals, the last occurring recently.

This course was adopted rather than the usual method of exchange of formal notes as better calculated to secure a speedy disclosure of the existing conditions in the United States and Russia likely to affect the two governments in their efforts to prevent a complete rupture of their vast commercial relations. Only in a general way can it be said that an understanding exists that such a breach shall not take place, for the details of the arrangement remain to be worked out.

Charles Page Bryan, of Illinois, United States ambassador to Japan, tendered his resignation, giving ill health as his reason.

Senator Thomas S. Martin of Virginia, democratic leader in the senate has issued a statement declaring that the democratic party will redeem its

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