

## WASHINGTON NEWS

An Associated Press report says: The lower the rate charged to consumers by electric power companies, the lower will be the tax which such power companies must pay to the government.

Secretary Lane of the interior department announced this as "the heart of the policy adopted as to the disposition of water rights of the government."

Mr. Lane has pending before him several applications for rights to use the public lands and the waters of

navigable streams for the development of electrical power. He is opposed to making use of the waters as a source of revenue to the government, but is in favor of requiring the fullest use of them for the benefit of the public.

After carefully considering a power project on the Pend d'Oreille river in northern Washington, the secretary has laid down five conditions as an "ideal standard toward which to work in the making of the contract between the government

and the applicants for use of the power."

The conditions are:

"1—The greater the development of horsepower the lower the charge per horsepower to be made on the part of the government. This is intended to secure the full use of the stream.

"2—The lower the rate to consumers the lower the charge on the part of the government.

"3—No charge whatever for a period of five or ten years, during which the power company is finding its market.

"4—Acceptance as a public utility of the states' jurisdiction over intrastate rates and services, and of federal jurisdiction over interstate rates and service.

"5—Absolute prohibition of combination or monopoly and the right of revocation on the part of the government in the event it is established to the satisfaction of the secretary of the interior that such combination has been made or that prices have been fixed by agreement with competing plants."

"It is my purpose," said Secretary Lane, "closely to follow these conditions in the making of all future contracts with power companies. They are just alike to seller and consumer of the power. They are fair to the government and they will make for the conservation and development of natural resources now going to waste."

A press dispatch says: Secretary Bryan discussed with Dr. Lauro Muller, Brazilian minister of foreign affairs, on special mission here, the reason for the abandonment by the Wilson administration of the so-called "dollar diplomacy" policy.

There is no lack of desire to encourage increase of commercial relations between the United States and Brazil and other nations, Mr. Bryan told his visitor. This is to be done, however, he said, without having the government backed by American capital in foreign countries.

The administration, he added, desires to see American business secured abroad through the establishment of friendly relations with those countries and their people and by the use of absolutely honorable commercial methods. Dr. Muller agreed that this was the wisest policy and he asserted that he would do what he could to encourage Brazil's indorsement of it.

Mr. Bryan suggested that the state departments of the countries could do much to prevent improper business from gaining a foothold by reporting promptly any cases they discovered. Dr. Muller promised to do this.

An Associated Press dispatch says: President Wilson gave his approval to a plan for immediate legislation authorizing the construction of government railroads in Alaska. In a conference with Senator Pitman, chairman of the senate territories committee, the president in general terms approved a bill that had been agreed upon by the committee earlier in the day, and expressed his willingness that the measure should be urged upon the immediate attention of congress if any measures outside of tariff and currency reform are to be considered. The revised Alaskan bill as it will be introduced in the senate by Senator Chamberlain leaves the entire control of the constructive work to the president.

The committee eliminated the provision for a special commission to construct roads and also the provision which would have authorized the government to develop and control the coal fields in the territory. A bond issue of \$40,000,000 would be authorized for the railroad de-

velopment and provision would be made for the use of Panama canal machinery in the construction work.

According to a report submitted to the war department, fourteen American soldiers were killed in the recent four days' fighting on Jolo Island, when General Pershing's command finally subdued and disarmed the rebellious Moros. On the list of the dead were Captain Taylor A. Nichols of the Philippine scouts and two privates of the regular army. Captain Nichols, who is thirty-four years old, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Philippine scouts in 1905 and received his captain's commission in March, 1912. He was the son of John Nichols, of Durham, Cal. The two regulars, both of whom were killed in the first day's action were Oliver Villiard, Company M, Eighth infantry, whose sister, Miss Anna Villiard lives in Artic, R. I., and Luther Gerhart, of the same company whose father is Henry R. Gerhart, of Reading, Pa.

The belated Indian appropriation act for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1913, was passed by the senate. It carried an appropriation of \$11,000,000.

President Wilson sent to the senate the nomination of Meredith Nicholson of Indiana, as minister to Portugal.

Senator O'Gorman recommended Former Governor John A. Dix, of New York, as governor-general of the Philippines.

The bill changing the United States legation in Spain to an embassy, was passed without opposition in the senate.

Senator Owen's resolution directing the secretary of commerce to investigate whether oil prices in Oklahoma are being artificially fixed and by whom, was adopted by the senate.

Treasury officials have practically abandoned hope of securing from congress a postponement of the customs service reorganization until January, 1914, and are preparing to effectuate this sweeping reform on July 1. By reducing the customs districts from 165 to forty-nine more than 100 collectors of customs will be legislated out of office.

Under date of June 18, an Associated Press dispatch says: The senate lobby investigation reached out into new fields when the senate, acting on a resolution presented by Senator Norris and adopted by unanimous consent by the senate, ordered the Overman committee to subpoena Robert S. Lovett, chairman of the board of directors of the Union Pacific railroad, to explain a published statement credited to him in New York that lobbyists had sought to secure employment from the Union Pacific on the ground that they would be able to influence a settlement of the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific dissolution case in Washington.

Victor H. Olmstead, chief of the bureau of statistics in the department of agriculture, has been suspended by Secretary Houston pending an inquiry into charges of lack of discipline and poor administration of the bureau. A press dispatch says: It was officially stated that there was no suspicion of leaks in crop reports, similar to the famous "cotton leak" a few years ago, which resulted in a complete overhauling of the office. Numerous complaints of favoritism, resulting in disaffection and inability to maintain proper discipline led to the charges, it was said. The solicitor of the department already has started an investi-

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