

# WASHINGTON NEWS

The United States army board of engineers recommended to congress a \$20,000,000 lock canal between Delaware bay and New York harbor and further development to a sea-level basis. The object of this project is the development of coastwise trade between New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore by means of intercoastal canals. The preliminary report of the board was submitted to congress last year. On the basis of it congress has already appropriated funds for the purchase of the Albe-marle and Chesapeake canal connecting Norfolk and New York by an inland waterway route to the North Carolina sounds, and giving a safe inside route beyond Cape Hatteras. The board recommends the ultimate development of this canal into a 25-foot deep sea-level canal in co-operation with New Jersey and other benefited states.

As a part of a campaign to eliminate red tape in his department, Postmaster-General Burleson issued an order directing all employees of the postoffice department to stop using unnecessary words in correspondence on official matters. Mr. Burleson wants all communications to be as brief as possible. For example, he has directed that the names of the officers of the department be not used and that the assistant postmasters-general be addressed merely as "first assistant," "second-assistant," etc. The postmaster-general believes that by just such attention to details along the lines of business efficiency the government will be saved thousands of dollars annually.

The inspection of the sanitary arrangements and safeguards in railroad stations and trains has been ordered on a sweeping scale by Acting Secretary of the Treasury Allen. The investigation will be made by the inspectors of public buildings under orders from the supervising architect of the treasury, and their reports will be turned over to the public health service. The treasury agents have been cautioned to go about their task, which will extend from coast to coast, with care and tact and not to suggest nor attempt any changes in sanitary methods or apparatus.

Isaac Heidenheimer, a Washington pawnbroker, told the house "lobby" committee he had contributed 1,500 to a fund of \$3,750 used against the "loan shark" bill, and cashed advance pay warrants for Representative McDermott and McMichael, an ex-page.

President Wilson's programme for free sugar in 1916 carried the day in the senate August 19, when democrats rallied to the support of the tariff bill and defeated all amendments to the sugar schedule. With all democrats but Senators Ransdell and Thornton of Louisiana, standing firmly for the measure, the Bristow amendment for a compromise duty was defeated, as were also the Norris amendment against free sugar and the Gallanger amendment against free maple sugar.

Representative Francis Burton Harrison of New York was nominated for governor-general of the Philippine islands by President Wilson, August 19. The appointment was later confirmed by the senate. Mr. Harrison made a trip to the

Philippine islands with ex-President Taft when the latter was secretary of war. He has a deep interest in the Philippine problem. At the time of his appointment to this post, Representative Harrison was serving his fifth term in congress. He was born in 1873, and was less than twenty-nine years old when elected for his first term. He is a graduate of Yale and the New York law school. At the beginning of the war with Spain he enlisted as a private in Troop A,



THE DOCTOR

(The President, having given Uncle Sam the tariff bitters, is now administering to him the currency pill, while Secretary Bryan stands approvingly by.—From Truth, Boston.)

New York volunteer cavalry, and became a captain and adjutant-general of United States volunteers. In 1904 he was the democratic candidate for lieutenant-governor of New York. Mr. Harrison's father was private secretary to President Jefferson Davis, of the confederate states, during the civil war.

Representative Ben Johnson of Kentucky told the house lobby investigating committee that the passage of the federal loan shark law was marked with daily threats against his life. He introduced an affidavit by a former capitol policeman who swore that another former policeman claimed to have followed Johnson three nights to kill him. Testimony was also given that the loan sharks fought this bill with a slush fund of \$10,000.

The government is working on two plans to check the shortage of beef, but is thus far unable to tell whether either will succeed. Dr. A. R. Melvin, chief of the bureau of animal industry, department of agriculture, made a trip to South America with assistants to attempt to have regulations adopted that would permit of the admission from there of beef in full compliance with the United States inspection laws. Even if admitted, however, it is stated that it will take a long time to fix regulations that will allow that meat to pass our inspection. This action was brought about by the seriousness of the scarcity of the beef supply in the United States. The population of this country is increasing by leaps and bounds, but according to figures obtained from the department of agriculture, the number of beef cattle in the United States has decreased more than 16,000,000 from

1907 to 1913, a period of six years. The increase in population from 1900 to 1910 was 15,977,691. The threatened famine, together with the unprecedented drouth of the past summer in the west and southwest, are expected to make meat prices soar in the near future.

After October 1, when the new federal laws for the protection of migratory birds go into effect, all shooting during those hours just after sunset and before sunrise, the best of the day from the hunters' point of view, is forbidden. Already bills are being introduced to repeal the law giving the department of agriculture the right to make regulations in such matters. Possibly the

would prohibit the general interstate movement of campaign funds.

Henry T. Towne, of New York, told the senate "lobby" committee that the national tariff association has expended \$39,000 on Washington work.

The arbitration treaty with Japan expired by limitation August 23, and the senate failed to act upon a supplementary convention intended to furnish means for the peaceable adjustment of disputes.

The commission on industrial relations has been confirmed by the senate. On the commission is Frank

Walsh of Missouri, John R. Commons of Wisconsin, Mrs. J. Borden Harriman of New York, Frederick A. Delano of Illinois, Harris Weinstock of California, S. Thurston Ballard of Kentucky, John B. Lennon of Illinois, James O'Connell of Washington, D. C., and Austin B. Garretson of Iowa.

The senate passed the house resolution appropriating \$100,000 to meet the expense of bringing destitute Americans out of Mexico.

A United Press dispatch, under date of September 13, says: President Wilson's charge that an "insidious lobby" has been operating at the national capital will be sustained by the reports of the senate

and house investigating committees. A canvass of the members indicates that the democrats, at least, are a unit in the belief that evidence developed so far backs up the president. The house committee planned to close its hearings and begin preparation of its report. Only two more witnesses remain to be heard, Former Representatives Littlefield of Maine and Cole of Ohio. The senatorial investigators have enough witnesses summoned to keep them busy for possibly two weeks more. Then their report will be submitted. "All angles of the lobbies discovered have not been 'insidious' in every degree," said a member of one of the investigating committees, "but in general the term exactly fits the case." Former Representative Watson's charge that the senate democratic investigators were pre-judging the case when they gave interviews holding that the lobby charge by Colonel Mulhall had been proven, caused all members to refuse to be quoted on the case.

The democratic caucus of the house unanimously adopted an amendment to the Owen-Glass currency bill, August 25, placing agricultural securities on a parity with commercial paper for banking purposes. It also extends the maturity of notes and bills admitted to discount under the amendment to ninety days, instead of the originally proposed forty-five days. This action disposed of the last of the main controversial issues of the administration currency bill. It closed the consideration of the rediscount section of the bill in a manner that was endorsed by Chairman Glass, of the banking and currency committee, and Floor Leader Underwood, and finally proved acceptable to Repre-

Senator Clapp's bill to stop the flooding of doubtful states with money for national elections or pre-convention campaigns was reported to the senate, August 23, with a recommendation for passage by the elections committee. This measure would permit a national committee to pay expenses of speaking campaigns, advertisements marked "paid for" and other specified items, but