

WASHINGTON NEWS

An Associated Press dispatch, under date of September 16, says: "Secretary Bryan's peace plan for the settlement of international difficulties through the force of sober second thought and the good offices of an impartial commission was received with acclaim at the recent meeting of the inter-parliamentary union at The Hague, according to Senator Burton, one of the American delegates who has just returned to Washington. 'The Bryan plan,' said the senator, 'was received better than almost anything that was talked over. The only objection to the proposal seemed to be that during the period provided for an investigation of grievances by a commission, the countries involved shall make no addition to their war department. Several nations did not seem to like that provision, but it is not a vital part of the plan.' The Bryan plan only was talked over at The Hague. Its adoption depends upon the countries of the world invited to enter into it by the secretary."

Byron R. Newton, private secretary to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, was named by President Wilson as assistant secretary of the treasury. Mr. Newton succeeds Sherman Allen and will have charge of the revenue cutter, internal revenue and life saving services and of public buildings. Mr. Newton has long been an active newspaper man, beginning as a reporter in Buffalo. During the Spanish-American war he was correspondent for a New York paper in Cuba.

The postoffice department has announced that merchants who ship goods that have not been ordered by parcel post "C. O. D." will be investigated by the department. All charges on such packages must be prepaid. John C. Koons, chairman of Postmaster-General Burleson's committee on the parcel post, says that easy money operators and confidence men can not use the C. O. D. feature of the parcel post.

The railroads of the United States had the greatest twelve months in their history in the fiscal year ending June 30, last, as shown by a summary issued September 25 by the interstate commerce commission. The figures are for all companies reporting \$1,000,000 or more gross and cover the operating results of 221,749 miles of line. Taking the railroads as if one system, their gross receipts from operation passed for the first time the three billion dollar point, or \$3,057,163,763, an increase of \$288,139,910 over the previous fiscal year. Earnings per mile were \$13,787 against \$12,605. Operating costs did increase, but to a very small degree. For the fiscal year, the proportion of operating and maintenance

expenses to gross earnings was 69.30 per cent, against 69.16 per cent the year before. Net operating revenue was \$938,577,866, an increase of \$84,574,363. The tax bill amounted to \$124,356,024 against \$116,119,026 for the previous year. The operating profit equaled \$3,673 per mile of line to compare with a similar profit of \$3,360 per mile the previous fiscal year. After deducting taxes and adding in the net revenue of outside operations the final result was a clear profit of \$815,600,972, a gain of \$77,541,332 over the previous fiscal year. With the large operating profit, the country system of railroads earned 6 per cent on a capitalization of nearly \$13,600,000,000.

A cablegram received by the department of agriculture from the international institute of agriculture at Rome gives the following preliminary estimates on the world's grain crop from the coming harvest: Wheat, 3,300,000,000 bushels; corn, 2,766,000,000 bushels; oats, 3,426,000,000 bushels.

Representative Britten of Illinois, introduced a bill in the house appropriating \$400,000 to enlarge the naval torpedo plant at Newport, R. I., so that a sufficient number of torpedoes could be manufactured to meet the needs of the navy in time of war.

Dean Henry Wade Rogers, for the last ten years the head of Yale law school, has been selected by President Wilson and Attorney-General McReynolds as United States judge of the second federal circuit, comprising the states of New York, Vermont and Connecticut. Dean Rogers is a democrat.

The administration currency bill passed the house of representatives September 18 in virtually its original form, by a vote of 286 to 84. Twenty-four republicans and fourteen progressives joined with the democrats in voting for the bill. Only three democrats voted against it. With this overwhelming indorsement behind it the measure was sent to the senate. There it was referred to the banking and currency committee. The three democrats who voted against the bill on its passage were Calloway (Texas), Witherspoon (Miss.), and Elder (La.) The republicans voting for the bill were, Baltz, Brown, Jary, Cooper, Crampton, Dillon, Esch, Farre, Fess, Frear, Haugen, Helgesen Kent, Lenroot, Linquist, Mapes, McLaughlin, Nelson, Porter, Samuel Smith, J. M. C. Smith, Smith (Minn.), Stafford, Young (N. D.) Two progressives—Representatives Temple and Walters—voted against the bill. The fourteen progressives who voted for the

bill were: Bell (Cal.), Hinebaugh, Woodruff, Kelly, Lafferty, Lindbergh, MacDonald, Manahan, Murdock, Nolan, Norton, Rupley, Thomson (Ill.), Stephens (Cal.). A final fight on an amendment reaffirming the present financial policy of a gold standard caused some defections from the democratic side. Representative Wingo of Arkansas demanded a record vote on the so-called gold standard amendment, and on a division 165 democrats and republicans voted for it and forty-five democrats voted against it. A roll call was ordered and the vote was changed to 298 in favor of the amendment to sixty-nine against it. All voting "no" were democrats. The progressives offered a motion to recommit the bill to the committee with instructions to incorporate a provision to prohibit interlocking directorates in national banks. After much parliamentary jockeying the progressive leader, Mr. Murdock, forced a roll call on this motion, disclosing a vote of 266 to 100 against it.

A tentative plan for restoring to the status of recruits those enlisted men of the army who are prisoners at military prisons has received the approval of Secretary of War Garrison. The aim is to segregate felons and misdemeanants from prisoners who are under sentence on purely technical offenses, to organize the latter into companies and battalions and place them under military training and discipline. Those who are eligible will not be compelled to work with prisoners found guilty of felonies, they will be housed in separate buildings and have a separate mess, besides other privileges. This movement is in line with the advanced ideas of prison reform. It is stated that at the Ft. Leavenworth, Kans., prison there will probably be two battalions of four companies each of such prisoners.

A press dispatch says that Representative Hinebaugh of Illinois, chairman of the progressive congressional committee, brought to the conference of progressive members of the house a message from Colonel Roosevelt, indorsing the plans of the house progressives for the next congressional campaign and renewing his declaration that no amalgamation of the progressives with the republican party would be considered.

The senate confirmed the nomination of Preston M. Goodwin of Oklahoma to be minister to Venezuela.

Postmaster General Burleson has announced the purchase by the postoffice department of 41 automobiles to be used in the collection and delivery of parcel post matter. Twenty of these machines are powerful trucks, designed and constructed especially for the needs of the parcel post service in the large cities.

The Mann bill for the creation of a bureau of labor safety—to serve as a great federal clearing house for the dissemination of safety plans and devices of all kinds—will be reported favorably by the house committee on labor early next winter, it is stated. The bill contemplates the creation of this new bureau as part of the new department of labor. Secretary of Labor Wilson recommended the passage of the bill.

President Wilson has named Joseph W. Folk, former governor of Missouri, as solicitor of the state department, succeeding J. Ruben Clark, resigned. The solicitorship pays a salary of \$5,000 a year. Secretary Bryan, in announcing the nomination on September 18, gave out this statement: "The president has offered



DISSOLVING THE PARTNERSHIP
—Macauley in the New York World.

the position of solicitor for the department of state to former Governor Joseph W. Folk of Missouri and it has been accepted by him. He was not an aspirant for the place, but the office was tendered him because of his fitness for the position. The position is of special importance at this time, when the administration is dealing with questions affecting the Latin-American republics."

Representative William A. Jones of Virginia issued a statement in which he challenged the charges of wholesale slavery in the Philippines, made by Dean Conant Worcester, secretary of the interior for the insular government of the Philippines, and also reiterated in a report from W. M. Phipps, auditor of the islands, sent to the war department. As

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