

WASHINGTON NEWS

The republican national committee adopted a reorganization plan to be submitted to the republican states providing for a change of representation in the national convention. The southern quota is reduced from 33 per cent to 16 per cent of the convention's total.

Speaker Champ Clark took the floor of the house December 18 to reply to a speech by Representative Mann, the republican leader in the house, in which Mr. Mann asserted that the new tariff act had precipitated a financial and industrial panic. The speaker spoke half an hour, ridiculing the charge of depression. The new tariff law had collected almost as much duty as had the Payne law during a similar period, said Mr. Clark, while he characterized Mr. Mann's speeches as part of a "republican conspiracy against the prosperity of the country." Speaker Clark was loudly cheered.

The report of the interstate commerce commission was submitted to congress December 19. It urged the necessity of action by the government to provide greater safety for travelers and asked that additional powers be given the commission in the matter of the construction and operation of railroads, with supervision over the issues of securities and a measure of control over capitalization.

Postmaster General Burleson has asked the house postoffice committee for an immediate emergency appropriation of \$1,000,000 to operate the parcel post until June 30. Of \$1,000,000 appropriated to begin the new system, Mr. Burleson reported that all but \$22,000 had been spent by December 6, 1913.

Representative Sherley of Kentucky introduced a bill in the house authorizing an appropriation of \$500,000 for the erection at Gettysburg of a memorial commemorating the reunion of the union and confederate veterans last July.

A complete return to the system of giving away public lands in order to encourage settlement and development has been proposed to congress. Senator Sterling of South Dakota is the author of a bill to return to the free homestead system. He would wipe out, except in the case of a commutation of a claim, the question of appraised value, and in case of commutation fixes the maximum price to be exacted from the homesteader at \$3.25 per acre. The return to the system of free homesteads is pro-

posed as an incentive to further settlement of inferior lands, and to give future homesteaders compensations that will tend to place them on a more even basis as compared with the earlier settlers who obtained good lands.

The nominations of George Fred Williams of Massachusetts, as minister to Greece, and Mayor Brand Whitlock of Toledo, O., as minister to Belgium, were confirmed by the senate.

According to statistics made public by the department of commerce, the Chicago district in 1909 had 10,202 manufacturing establishments, which gave employment to an average of 393,859 persons, and paid \$226,626,915 in wages. The Chicago district ranked second in 1909 among all the metropolitan districts of the United States in the value of manufactured products. It far exceeded any of them in value of products of slaughtering and meat packing, which was 23.1 per cent of the value of products of all industries in the district.

Receipt at the treasury department of scores of informal applications from all parts of the country has led Mr. McAdoo to believe that there can be no question now that a large part of the national banks intend to come into the system created by the new currency law. There are about 7,500 national banks in the United States, and a rush of applications followed the signing of the bill by President Wilson. Among the first of the national banks to advise Secretary McAdoo of their intention to accept the new law and enter the new system was the National Shawmut bank of Boston, the largest institution in New England.

Postmaster General Burleson has taken a stand against the proposal to take assistant postmasters from the protection of civil service, which is embodied in the annual appropriation bill now in the hands of the house postoffice committee. Mr. Burleson in a letter to Chairman Moon characterized such a plan as detrimental to the public service.

A joint resolution to conditionally suspend the operation of the provision of the Panama canal act granting free passage to American coastwise vessels was introduced December 23 by Chairman Adamson of Georgia, of the house commerce committee. The free toll provision is now under diplomatic protest. It was stated that Representative Adam-

son introduced the resolution on his own responsibility, and that it will not go to congress as an administration measure.

Every American warship will hereafter be a school ship, according to an order promulgated by Secretary of the Navy Daniels, December 23. Beginning January 1, 1914, and thereafter, for an hour and a quarter each day, every enlisted man on the warships will be engaged in self-improvement under the watchful eyes of his commanding officer. Commissioned, warrant and petty officials will be designated to act as pedagogues. Every detail of the plan has been worked out and the order expresses the hope that the men will fully appreciate the zealous interest of their officers so that there will be increased efficiency in all practical directions. The needs of the navy will not be lost sight of in this attempt to give the men academic instruction, for the order gives attention to every possible detail of the training of the enlisted men in matters which will render them more efficient in the military direction.

By a vote of 624 to 3, constituent members of the chamber of commerce of the United States in a referendum endorsed in the main the plans of Secretary Redfield of the department of commerce for more direct stimulation of commerce through the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce in his department. Secretary Redfield has asked congress for \$759,630 for use during the coming year, about half of which will be expended on the work of the commercial attaches and commercial agents of the United States in foreign countries.

An increase of the corps of chaplains in the navy to not less than one for every 1,000 men is proposed in a bill introduced in the house by Representative Farr of Pennsylvania. Mr. Farr said that while the navy had increased sixfold since 1841 the corps of chaplains had not been increased.

Mrs. Pattie Lyle Collins, 65 years old, the expert decipherer of the dead letter office, was run down and killed by a motor car. Because of her special work in handling Christmas mail with incorrect addresses Mrs. Collins was known in the postoffice department as "Mother Santa Claus." She had also been called "the blind reader" from her ability to ascertain the correct destination of letters and packages incorrectly or illegibly addressed. She was a native of Mississippi and had been in the government service since 1879.

Dr. Romulo S. Naon, Argentine minister to the United States, notified the state and treasury departments that his country had just passed a law which would allow free importation of wheat and wheat products from Argentine. Under the new tariff law, Argentine was barred from this duty-free importation because of a duty of 2 cents a pound, which Argentine imposed on American semolina. This has been removed by the Argentine congress.

Secretary of the Interior Lane urged the immediate passage of a law giving the president the right to reserve to the United States government radium-bearing ores found anywhere on the public lands.

Wireless New Year's greetings from the naval towers at Arlington were flashed to Europe, Panama and the Pacific coast.

Further regulations for the payment of the income tax provide that husband and wife, living together,

should be entitled to an exemption of \$4,000 from the aggregate net income of both.

The United States army got through 1913 with only two cases of typhoid fever in the enlisted strength of more than 80,000 officers and men. One was that of a man who had not been immunized with typhoid vaccine and was believed to have contracted the fever before he enlisted. The navy, which adopted the vaccine later than the army and did not make its use compulsory, had among its 50,000 jacks only seven authentic cases of typhoid in the year ending last June. Four of these were treated at a remote tropical station where the vaccine had deteriorated. Before the resort of immunization typhoid cases in the army averaged about 3 per 1,000 enlisted strength, or in the neighborhood of 250 cases per annum.

Secretary of State and Mrs. Bryan, following the example of their predecessors, invited the entire diplomatic corps to breakfast at noon on New Year's day. The occasion brought together representatives of some 30 different nations.

The world's production of gold fell off \$11,000,000 during the year 1913, according to estimates made public by George E. Roberts, director of the mint. Most of this loss was due to war and strikes, though about one-tenth of the decline may be attributed to the decline in the Australian gold output that has been continuing for several years. The production of gold in the world in 1913 was worth \$455,000,000. The United States fell off about \$5,000,000 in its production.

Alaska's mineral output decreased \$3,500,000 during 1913 as compared with 1912 figures. The territory's total production was valued at \$18,900,000 as against \$22,537,381 in 1912.

Representative Church of California introduced a bill which would declare it to be an offense against the government for any person to make or circulate false statements either verbally or in writing in regard to the financial condition of the people and business interests of the United States for the purpose of bringing on a stringency in the money market of the country, generally known as a "money panic." The bill would provide punishment for each offense by a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for not less than ten years.

The republican congressmen from Wisconsin—Representatives Lenroot, Cooper, Nelson, Stafford, Frear and Esch—voted for the passage of the currency bill.

Congress will be asked to create four vice-admirals in the United States navy immediately after the

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