



A GENERAL SURRENDER

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other false promises is the weapon to be employed. An effort to stop this swindling by reliance upon a criminal court has proved ineffective. In some instances the penalty being merely a fine, there was nothing to prevent the parties from continuing to conduct their schemes except fear of subsequent fines. These they could easily afford to pay from the large revenues derived from the business.

The Panama canal will be in condition to pass vessels all the way across the isthmus within the next 70 days unless some unexpected obstacle is encountered, according to the judgment of a high canal official. The only remaining obstacles to prevent the passage of vessels at the present time are the Cucaracha slide, which

holiday recess. Secretary Daniels said he had determined on this course to avoid the possibility of embarrassment to the American navy in foreign service. Frequently, Mr. Daniels explained, in a field which reasonably should be dominated by American influence, a foreign officer might take first rank because of the failure of the United States to provide a grade above that of rear admiral. The subject has been much discussed in connection with the situation in the Gulf of Mexico, where an English naval officer, Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Craddock, outranks Rear Admiral Fletcher, commanding the American squadron of seven first-class battleships, and in the event of the necessity of one officer to assume command of the forces in the Mexican gulf, the Englishman would be expected, in view of the special responsibility of the United States, to waive his claim to preference. Secretary Daniels, however, is anxious to obviate the possibility of so delicate a situation by obtaining legislation creating a new grade.

The parcel post made \$36,000,000 during the first twelve months of its operation, according to the estimates of the postoffice department experts. The first year of its operation ended December 31, 1913. During the first six months of the service, notwithstanding its high rates and restricted business, the parcel post made \$14,000,000. During the following six months the parcel post traffic has more than doubled in volume. Its success from a financial standpoint and as a retail package vehicle has exceeded the expectations of the postoffice department officials and of Representative David J. Lewis of Maryland, the author of the parcel post act.

Treasury officials believe that the new tariff act will produce several millions more annually than had been estimated by the tariff experts. The treasury expected to see revenues fall off about \$45,000,000 a year, but reports for the first two months under the new law now lead to the belief that this was excessive. Some officials predicted the falling off would not amount to over \$36,000,000, which would give the government

\$9,000,000 more than was counted upon for 1914. The net balance in the United States treasury general fund December 31 was \$11,854,317 and the grand total of assets in the treasury \$2,038,864,977.

Investigation of the "cold storage trust" by the department of justice has progressed so far officials are confident they have found trails which will eventually lead to prosecutions in the courts under the Sherman anti-trust act.

The foreign commerce of the United States in the calendar year 1913 approximated one and three-quarter billion of imports and two and one-half billion of exports. The exports for the first 11 months were \$2,251,000,000 and the estimates for the full year \$2,497,000,000. These estimates would make the excess of exports over imports approximately \$740,000,000, which is about \$100,000,000 in excess of the previous year.

Congressman I. S. Pepper, of the Second Iowa district, died at Clinton, Iowa, after an illness of several months. Representative Pepper was secretary of the democratic national committee at Washington. He was serving his second term in congress, but previously had been for many years secretary to Former Congressman Martin J. Wade of Iowa.

Congressman David J. Lewis of Maryland introduced a resolution on December 20 directing the house postoffice committee to report a bill for government ownership of telegraph and telephone lines.

President Wilson signed the Hetch-Hetchy bill on December 19. In signing this bill the president issued a statement in which he said that the usefulness of the public domain was not impaired by the bill, and the public needs of the region were served.

President Wilson and family left Washington immediately after the signing of the currency law, December 23, on a vacation trip to Pass Christian, Miss. During his vaca-

tion the president has kept in touch with official business and has devoted some time to the consideration of the question of selecting the men who will head the new bank reserve board, as well as the preparation of a special message to congress on the subject of the regulation of "big business." A notable event of his trip was the meeting with Envoy John Lind on board a United States warship in the Gulf of Mexico for the purpose of conferring on the Mexican situation.

The loss of \$129,000,000 in two years by the unsuspecting public through swindling operations carried on by the use of the United States mails has stirred the postal authorities to a drastic campaign against fraudulent schemers. The wholesale right of the government's right to deny the mailing privilege to persons or firms whose operations may be tainted with "get rich quick" and

blocks the cut at Culebra, and a few additional slides of minor importance.

The woman's national democratic league met in convention at Washington January 7. More than 500 delegates representing every woman's organization affiliated with the democratic party in the United States were in attendance. Speaker Clark

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