

# WASHINGTON NEWS

A warning was issued by the treasury department to American investors to beware of offerings of an interest in the estate of Former Senator Durkee of Wisconsin, who is alleged to have deposited \$64,000,000 worth of bonds with the treasury, which has never been paid. "It will be money thrown away," declared the department in a statement explaining that Durkee had no claim against the government. The claim is said to have arisen at the time of the construction of several of the Pacific railroads, when he—Durkee—is supposed to have deposited bonds with the department.

President and Mrs. Wilson, who arrived from the south the morning of January 13, received the members of the diplomatic corps and 1,200 other guests in the blue room of the White House in the evening of the same day.

Ten out of 37 candidates for admission to the diplomatic service of the United States passed the recent entrance examinations. Their names will be placed on the list of eligibles, to receive appointments as vacancies occur.

The "Kodak" trust is one of the latest of the great corporations sued under the Sherman anti-trust act to seek a peaceful settlement of its troubles with the department of justice. Suit was begun against the Eastman Kodak company, of New Jersey, and the Eastman Kodak company of New York at Buffalo last June. In the bill filed in Buffalo the two Eastman concerns were charged with controlling 72 per cent of the trade of the United States in photographic supplies, and with fixing the resale price of cameras, films and other patented supplies.

Dr. Eusebio A. Morales, minister here from Panama, announced that King Alfonso of Spain had contributed \$10,000 to the fund for the statute of Balboa which Panama proposes to erect near the Pacific entrance of the canal in commemoration of the discovery of that ocean by the Spanish explorer.

Representative Stanley of Kentucky introduced an amendment to the Sherman law which would make illegal the "monopolization or restraint of trade" in any degree. It is designed to eliminate the "rule of reason," laid down by the supreme court in the Standard Oil case. The amendment would also invest the circuit courts of the United States with jurisdiction to restrain and prevent violations of the act, irrespective of the attorney general. The amendment is drawn to reduce the debatable area surrounding the Sherman act.

President Wilson named Colonel William C. Gorgas as surgeon general of the army, with the rank of brigadier general. This appointment is regarded as a recognition of the achievements of Colonel Gorgas in sanitation in Cuba and in the Panama canal zone, the latter having made the building of the canal possible.

The nomination of John Skelton Williams, assistant secretary of the treasury, to be comptroller of the currency, and as such ex-officio member of the federal reserve bank board, was confirmed by the senate in executive session, January 19. The

only opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Williams was voiced by Senators Bristow of Kansas, and Senator William Alden Smith of Michigan. There was no roll call on the confirmation and the only voice heard against it was that of Senator Bristow when the viva voce vote was taken.

It was announced that Postmaster General Burleson had obtained data showing how the government can take over the telegraph and telephone lines at an initial cost of \$250,000,000 and operate them at a saving of one-third to the public.

The agricultural extension bill, providing for federal aid in the dissemination of scientific farm information by practical experiments and through publications, was passed by the house January 19 by a vote of 177 to 9. Under the measure the various state agricultural colleges will receive federal funds to finance plans for acquainting the farmers with facts established by the department of agriculture. As it passed the house, the bill provides for an immediate appropriation of \$480,000, of which \$10,000 will go to each state complying with the requirements of the law. This appropriation will be increased by \$300,000 each year for nine years, and after a ten-year period will become a permanent annual appropriation of \$3,000,000.

Representative Shackelford's road bill was reported to congress and provides \$25,987,500 toward the cost of rural post highways in all the states. Under the terms of the bill the federal government will contribute to the states one-half of the cost of the rural post roads.

President Wilson announced that he would not appoint as a member of the federal reserve board any man who sought the position, either personally or through friends. The president hopes to appoint the members of the federal reserve board by the end of this month.

Drop letter one-cent postage on local mail and a rate of 1 cent instead of 2 cents for additional ounces on letters weighing more than one ounce which require transportation from one postoffice to another was proposed in a bill introduced into congress by Representative Griest.

A majority report of the senate committee on privileges and elections, submitted by Senator Walsh of Montana, January 22, holds that Frank P. Glass is not entitled to a seat in the senate of the United States as a senator from the state of Alabama. Mr. Glass was appointed by Governor O'Neal of Alabama, to fill the unexpired term of Senator Johnston, who died last August. The committee explains that the new amendment, requiring United States senators to be elected by the people became valid as a part of the constitution May 31, 1913; that Senator Johnston died August 8, 1913, and that his successor should be elected by the people. The new amendment declares that "this amendment shall not be construed as to affect the election or term of any senator chosen before it becomes valid as a part of this constitution." It also provides that the legislature of any state may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until



THE PARTY OF OPPOSITION —St. Louis Republic.

the people fill the vacancy by election as the legislature may direct." The committee held that "in its opinion the governor of Alabama had no authority under the constitution of the United States to make the appointment." By a majority of one vote—32 to 31—the senate sustained the recommendation of the committee denying a seat to Mr. Glass.

As a result of an investigation disclosing the advantages of oil-equipped battleships, Secretaries Daniels and Lane, Chairman Padgett of the house naval committee, and others, have been conferring over a project for governorship of oil lands and pipe lines for furnishing fuel to the navy. A bill introduced by Senator Gore proposes a pipe line from Oklahoma to the Gulf of Mexico for the use of the navy. A statement says that if the government should produce its own oil it could save \$1,000,000 and upward annually. The navy during the last fiscal year used 400,000 barrels of oil and all new destroyers, submarines and battleships are to use oil only.

By executive order President Wilson promulgated what is practically an anti-tipping law for the Panama canal zone. Aside from prohibiting employees of the canal organization from receiving rebates or commissions on supplies, it prohibits gifts intended to influence any employee on the isthmus without the knowledge of the employer. It is entitled an order "To prevent the corrupt influencing of agents or servants," and provides a year's imprisonment and fines ranging from \$10 to \$100 for violations.

Representative Stephens of Nebraska has introduced a bill to increase the salary of rural carriers to \$1,400 a year.

The postoffice appropriation bill, carrying a record breaking total of \$305,000,000, was passed by the

house January 24. It includes an amendment which extends to postoffice clerks, letter carriers, rural free delivery carriers, mounted carriers and postoffice messengers for injuries received on duty full salary for one year, after injury, with an additional half salary for another year if necessary and a \$2,000 lump sum in case of death.

The house rules committee, by tie vote, failed to report a resolution for the appointment of a standing suffrage committee.

President Wilson, in defining the purpose and power of his proposed trade commission, said it was designed to investigate the business situation with regard to competition and would have no administrative function.

Constructive child labor legislation is the object of a bill introduced in the house January 26 by Representative Palmer of Pennsylvania. The measure seeks to prevent interstate commerce in the products of child labor. The administration of the proposed law is put in the hands of a board consisting of the secretary of labor, the secretary of commerce and the attorney general.

Senator Works of California addressed the senate January 26 on his bill to provide for a commission appointed by the president to receive and pass upon all applications and recommendations for appointments to federal offices. The measure would forbid members of congress to recommend applicants or aid in obtaining positions.

The proposal of a federal guaranty of bank deposits, which was inserted in the federal reserve banking law by the senate and eliminated in conference just before the measure became statute law, is to be revived in accordance with the understanding reached by the conferees that if the