

# WASHINGTON NEWS

Ground was broken in Potomac park, February 12, for the erection of the \$2,000,000 marble memorial to Abraham Lincoln. A small group gathered to witness the significant event. Joseph C. S. Blackburn, ex-senator from Kentucky, was the first to sink a spade in the ground, and then he spoke in high praise of the president against whom he had fought half a century ago, saying: "This memorial will show that Lincoln is now regarded as the greatest of all Americans, and that he is so held by the south as well as the north." The site for the Lincoln memorial is on an "axis," planned more than a century ago, at one end of which is the capitol, and at the other, more than a mile to the west, the Washington monument. The design of the memorial is the work of Henry Bacon, a New York architect.

Cablegrams exchanged by President Wilson and Secretary Garrison with Governor General Harrison upon the passage of the new Philippine assembly of the first general appropriation bill in three years were made public February 15. Governor Harrison announced the action as a demonstration of harmony in the government at Manila. He said the saving of \$1,000,000 effected by the bill, with other planned economies, would avert the treasury deficit impending when he reached the islands. He said the salaries of 100 of the higher officials, including the governor-general, were cut from 5 to 10 per cent. Manuel L. Quezon, resident commissioner of the Philippines at Washington, said the action by the unanimous vote of the assembly "demonstrated conclusively that President Wilson's confidence in Filipino capacity is fully justified."

The interstate commerce commission issued an order, February 16, further suspending until September 12, the general 5 per cent advance in the freight rates, application for which was filed by the fifty-seven eastern railroads. It was explained at the offices of the commission that the order was of the most routine character and did not mean that the commission would defer its decision on the advanced rate application until September 12. There has been no change in the commission's intention to render its decision at the earliest practical date.

Representative Cordell Hull, of Tennessee, the member of the house and means committee of the house who originated the income tax section of the tariff act in 1913, issued a statement indicating his opposition to repealing or altering the "collection at the source" feature of the income tax law until after a practical test. Congressmen are receiving many circulars from bankers suggesting that a system of "information at the source" be substituted for the present method.

The house of representatives passed the Alaskan railroad bill February 18 by a vote of 230 to 87. It provides for the construction by the United States government of a railroad in Alaska at a cost of \$35,000,000. The road is to be owned and operated by the government and will tap the Bering and Matanuska coal fields. The political complexion of the final vote was as follows: For: Democrats, 152; republicans, 78. Against: Democrats, 67; republicans, 20. The measure as it came from the senate was amended by striking

out the provision for a bond issue and also fixing the limit of cost at \$35,000,000.

A bill to authorize pensions of \$12 a month for widows and \$2 a month for children of dead Spanish war veterans was favorably reported by the house pensions committee. Widows or children with incomes of \$250 a year or more would not be eligible.

President Wilson has designated Jerry B. Sullivan of Iowa to be president of the federal board of general appraisers at New York, to succeed H. M. Summerville, who retired from the chairmanship but remains a member of the board. Mr. Sullivan was appointed a commissioner shortly after President Wilson's inauguration.

According to a report of George E. Roberts, director of the mint, and covering the fiscal year 1913, there was \$1,866,619,157 in gold coin and bullion, of which amount \$1,250,000 was in possession of the government and the rest in the banks. The stock of gold reported by the banks and treasuries of the world was greater by \$240,000,000 than the preceding year. The present stock of coin and bullion in the United States is \$1,866,619,157 in gold and \$745,585,964 in silver. The total metallic per capita in the United States is \$26.83: gold, \$19.17; silver, 7.66. The present metallic per capita in the United States is greater than it has been since 1873.

The war department recommended to congress the development of a deeper waterway from Lockport,

Illinois, to the mouth of the Mississippi river, to cost \$4,760,000.

The interstate commerce commission issued a circular warning railroads that the practice of granting free passes, even if granted under a state law for use inside a state, may be given a decided weight as a consideration against permitting a railroad to raise its freight rates.

Forty-four and a half million dollars' increase in American exports of products of the soil, principally due to the high price of cotton, for the first seven months of the fiscal year, compared with that period last year, was reported by the department of commerce. The total was \$738,607,719; last year's, \$694,905,980.

The supreme court of the United States handed down a number of decisions February 24. It was held in bleached flour case that the court below erred in instructing the jury that the use of any poison whatever constituted adulteration in violation of the pure food law. The case was sent back for another jury trial. The supreme court decided that the adulteration of food products to be punishable under the food and drugs act must be carried to a point where adulteration actually disguised defects in food or where the use of poisons made the product actually deleterious to the consumer.

The constitutionality of the federal white slave law was again upheld by the United States supreme court in the Wilson cases from Chicago. The point whether the law is limited to commercial vice was not involved.

The right of the federal government to make "dry" territory of 400,000 acres of the old Yankton Indian reservation recently opened for settlement in South Dakota was upheld by the United States supreme court, in upholding the conviction of



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