

# WASHINGTON NEWS

## SENATE PASSES TOLLS REPEAL

The administration bill for repeal of the Panama tolls extension law was passed by the senate June 11, 50 to 35.

Eleven democrats voted against the measure and thirteen republicans voted for it, the defection from the administration thus being more than offset by the number of recruits from the opposition.

The vote in favor of the bill follows:

Democrats—Bankhead, Bryan, Chilton, Clarke (Ark.), Culberson, Fletcher, Gore, Hitchcock, Hughes, James, Johnson, Kern, Lea, Lee, Lewis, Martin, Myers, Overman, Owens, Pittman, Pomerene, Saulsbury, Shafroth, Sheppard, Shively, Simmons, Smith (Ark.), Smith (Ga.), Smith (M. D.), Smith (S. C.), Stone, Swanson, Thompson, Thornton, West, White, Williams—37.

Republicans—Brandegge, Burton, Colt, Crawford, Gronna, Kenyon, McCumber, McLean, Nelson, Norris, Root, Sterling, Sherman—13.

Total—50.

The vote against the bill:

Democrats—Ashurst, Chamberlain, Lane, Martine, Newlands, O'Gorman, Ransdell, Reed, Vardaman, Thomas, Shields—11.

Republicans—Borah, Brady, Bristow, Burleigh, Catron, Clapp, Clark (Wyo.), Cummins, Dillingham, Du Pont, Goff, Jones, La Follette, Lippitt, Page, Perkins, Smith (Mich.), Smoot, Sutherland, Townsend, Warren, Weeks, Works—23.

Progressive—Poindexter.

Total 35.

By a much larger margin than when the original measure was passed March 31 the house on June 12 accepted, by a vote of 216 to 71, the Panama "free tolls" repeal bill as it was amended June 11 in the senate. The bill originally passed the house by 247 to 162. Later the bill was sent to the White House and signed by President Wilson.

## Federal Authority in Rates

The United States supreme court decided the last of the great rate contests by holding, in the Shreveport case, that rates fixed by a state, even for traffic wholly within the state, must give way to orders of the interstate commerce commission when the commission finds that the local regulations effect a real discrimination in interstate commerce.

## Trust Program Passes House

The house on June 5 passed and sent to the senate the three bills which comprise what is properly known as the administration's anti-trust program. Consideration of the legislation consumed just 12 days on the floor with the house sitting as a committee of the whole, while the actual passing of the bills required less than an hour. Separate votes were taken on each bill and, as anticipated, the majorities were overwhelming.

The Covington interstate trade commission bill went through with no demand for a record vote, and there were only a few faint "noes."

The Clayton omnibus anti-trust bill passed by a vote of 275 to 54.

The railroad capitalization bill, a substitute offered by the interstate commerce committee for the original Rayburn bill, was passed by a vote of 325 to 12.

Forty-one republicans and 15 progressives joined with the democrats

in passing the Clayton bill. It is this measure that carries the provision that labor unions and agricultural, fraternal and consumers' organizations shall not be construed to be illegal combinations in restraint of trade. Only one democrat, George White, of Ohio, cast his vote against the bill. One progressive also voted in the negative—Representative Walter M. Chandler, of New York.

## Greatest Wheat Crop in History

Nine hundred million bushels of wheat, almost half of the average world's wheat production, and a new record for the United States is the prospective total yield of the farms of the country this year, the department of agriculture announced in its June crop report. The enormous crop will be 137,000,000 bushels more than ever was grown before in the United States in any one year. Excellent weather for the growing crop and an increase of 6.4 per cent in the acreage planted to wheat are responsible.

There also will be large yields of oats and barley, probably second in size in the history of the nation.

## Trust Law Upheld

Missouri's anti-trust laws, attacked as unconstitutional because they exempt labor combinations, were upheld by the supreme court. At the same time the Kentucky anti-trust statutes were annulled because of the endeavor of the commonwealth to exempt tobacco pools from their operation.

## Panama Canal Commission

President Wilson signed an executive order placing the Panama canal commission in charge of the ceremonies for the opening of the canal January 1, next.

The committee is to be headed by Colonel George Goethals, governor of the canal zone, with Richard L. Metcalfe as vice chairman. The other members of the committee are Colonels Sibert, Gorgas, Rousseau and Hodges.

The headquarters of the committee will be located in Washington, with Mr. Metcalfe in active charge.

## Income to Exceed Expenses

Estimates by Secretary McAdoo June 12, indicated that the government income for the fiscal year ending June 30 will exceed ordinary expenses by about \$30,000,000. That is about \$10,000,000 less than last year's surplus. Income tax returns have fallen far below original estimates and failed to offset the expected decrease in tariff receipts under the new law, but the custom house turned in about \$21,000,000 more than it was figured they would.

Whatever surplus there is for the year will be absorbed by Panama canal payments, as it was last year.

Secretary McAdoo estimated that this year's ordinary receipts would aggregate \$733,000,000 and the total ordinary disbursements \$703,000,000. Total receipts for the last fiscal year were \$723,082,921, with ordinary disbursements of 683,699,692.

## Cost of Mexican Crisis

Although the United States has not been at "war" with Mexico, the army has been forced to spend nearly \$5,000,000 on military operations due entirely to the Mexican situation. This does not take into account the

money spent for the same purpose under the Taft administration, which inaugurated a large movement of troops to the Rio Grande border, so that it is a conservative estimate to say that if the Mexican crisis goes no further, and a solution of the trouble is reached without further military demonstrations, it will have cost the United States not less than \$10,000,000 for the expenses of the army alone. Congress has just put through a second deficiency bill, carrying additional money for the war department.

## Choose Reserve Board Electors

Electors to represent them in the selection of Class A and Class B directors for the federal reserve system are being chosen by banks throughout the country, and it is believed by the treasury department that all the directors of the classes will have been selected at the end of three weeks, and certainly within a month. The duty of selecting Class C directors for the bank will then devolve upon the federal reserve board.

## Indorsed President's Stand

Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, has received answers from 856 delegates to the Baltimore convention to his question asking their present attitude toward tolls repeal. In the ratio of 6 to 1 they have indorsed the president's policy. To be exact, 711 declared for repeal.

In only two states—Louisiana and Rhode Island—did a majority of the delegates express their disapproval of repeal. Seven delegates from Louisiana declared against repeal, while three favored the pending legislation. In Rhode Island the vote was four against and three for.

The Pennsylvania delegates voted 57 for and 3 against; Illinois, 41 for and 3 against; New York, 27 for and 8 against; Ohio, 30 for and 3 against; Iowa, 28 in favor, and Minnesota, 19 in favor of repeal.

## Democratic Women Meet

The annual spring breakfast by the women of the democratic faith was given in Washington, May 28, under direction of the Woman's National Democratic League. The entire ballroom floor was reserved for the occasion, which brought together nearly 200 women prominent in both official and residential circles of the national capital. This company was welcomed by Mrs. William A. Cullop, of Illinois, president of the league; Mrs. Champ Clark, wife of the speaker; Mrs. Francois Berger Moran, of Virginia, an officer of the league, and Miss Margaret Woodrow Wilson.

## New Minister to France

President Wilson chose Representative Wm. Graves Sharp, of Elyria, O., to be ambassador to France and sent his nomination to the senate. Mr. Sharp, a democrat, will succeed Myron T. Herrick, of Cleveland, a former republican governor of Ohio, and the last of the ambassadors holding over from the Taft administration.

## Plenty of Money to Move Crops

Treasury department officials are still of the opinion that it will be possible to have twelve federal reserve banks in operation by August 1, although they say the demand for money to move crops has not been such as would suggest any great strain.

Oklahoma and Kansas are now harvesting their wheat. Indications are that it will be a bumper crop, but the banks in the section are not hard pressed for money, and this condition is attributed by Secretary McAdoo to

the passage of the federal reserve act, which will make it possible to rediscount commercial paper.

## Organized Labor Wins Fight

With a single exception every one of the 208 members of the house who were present at the session June 1 voted to insert in the Clayton anti-trust bill the amendment, agreed upon by the administration and organized labor leaders, providing that no labor or farmers' organizations shall be held a combination or conspiracy in restraint of trade, unless specific acts stamp them illegal. The exception was Representative Charles M. Thomson, a progressive, of Chicago, who failed to vote on either side.

Although it is designed only to clarify existing laws, organized labor leaders, led by Mr. Gompers, say that the final passage of this amendment will mark the culmination of a fight waged by them for 14 years—since the passage of the Sherman anti-trust law—for exemption from prosecution under the laws against monopolies and restraint of trade.

As adopted the provision declares that "nothing in the anti-trust law shall be construed to forbid the existence or operations" of labor unions or farmers' cooperative associations, or to forbid or restrain members of such organizations from "carrying out the legitimate objects thereof."

Supplemental to this provision, the house adopted an amendment proposed by Representative Webb, in charge of the bill, and agreed on by organized labor representatives and the administration, which would provide that such organization and their members shall not be "held or construed to be illegal combinations or conspiracies in restraint of trade under the anti-trust laws."

## Federal Reserve Board

Organization of the new national banking and currency system entered its last stages on June 5 when President Wilson nominated the five men who, serving with the secretary of the treasury and the comptroller of the currency, ex-officio, will constitute the federal reserve board.

Charles S. Hamlin of Boston, now assistant secretary of the treasury, was nominated for the two-year term; Paul Warburg of New York for four years; Thomas D. Jones of Chicago, for six years; W. P. G. Harding of Birmingham, Ala., for eight years, and A. C. Miller of San Francisco for ten years.

Eventually all appointments to the board will be for ten-year terms, the term of one member expiring every two years.

## ADLAI STEVENSON DEAD

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Chicago, June 14, says:

Adlai E. Stevenson, vice president of the United States through the second Cleveland administration, died here late tonight at a hospital after an illness of several months. His three children were at his bedside when death came.

Mr. Stevenson was 78 years old. His last illness followed a five months' vigil at the bedside of his wife, who died about six months ago.

Adlai Ewing Stevenson, once vice president of the United States, had a long and honorable public career. He was vice president from 1893 to 1897, under President Cleveland. In 1900 he again was nominated by the democratic party for vice president, and ran with William J. Bryan, the party's candidate for president, but was defeated. He served as a member of the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth congresses. From 1885 to 1889 he served as first assistant postmaster general under President Cleveland.