

# THE FIGHT BEGUN

HOUSE GETS AFTER THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

## MAY CUT THE APPROPRIATION

No Definite Action, However, Was Agreed Upon—Five Hours Given Up to Discussion of the Legislative Appropriation Bill.

WASHINGTON—The annual fight on the Civil Service commission was begun in the house Thursday during consideration of the legislative appropriation bill. The opposition came from Messrs. Bartlett of Georgia, Hepburn of Iowa and Grosvenor of Ohio.

Mr. Hepburn moved to strike out the entire appropriation for the commission and its force of clerks, at the same time denouncing the civil service as not having improved since the days of the spoils system, but on the contrary, growing less and less efficient.

The discussion brought out some semi-humorous comment on the last presidential election. It related to the lack of votes which were cast for Judge Parker. Mr. Williams of Mississippi and Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio participated in this feature of the debate.

The session lasted five hours and fifteen minutes. The legislative bill was scrutinized carefully in consonance with the president's recommendation against extravagance. Mr. Bingham, in charge of the bill, requested constantly to explain some appropriation. The pay of the committee stenographers of the house was reduced from \$5,000 per annum to \$3,000 and the house refused to accept the provision increasing the pay of the secretary to the Civil Service commission. But little progress was made on the bill.

The senate held only a short session Thursday and adjourned until Monday.

An attempt to secure consideration of the pure food bill was defeated by a demand of Mr. Aldrich that the bill be read at length, which brought an objection from Mr. Tillman, who did not want the time consumed. Mr. Tillman brought the case of William D. Crum, the colored man nominated for collector at Charleston, S. C., into prominence by asking for a report from the committee on judiciary as to the status of recess appointments.

BY THE JAPANESE.

AKASAKA HILL Falls Into the Hands of the Yellow Men.

TOKIO—Imperial headquarters has made the following announcement: "The result of the bombardment of Port Arthur by our large calibre guns on the 7th instant was very good. Many effective hits were made against the battleships Pervaiski and Pobieda and the protected cruiser Pallada. In consequence the Pervaiski caught fire and at 3:15 o'clock the Pobieda listed to starboard."

ST. PETERSBURG—Foreign telegrams received here stating that the Japanese have succeeded in mounting heavy guns on 203-Meter hill are regarded as seriously significant and have created a deep depression at the war office. If the reports of the sinking of the Russian warships in the harbor of Port Arthur are confirmed it destroys the last hope of sortie, and when the end comes nothing remains but to sink those that remain in deep water to prevent them falling into the hands of the enemy. The war office is unable to identify Akasaka hill. Evidently it is a Japanese name.

The importance of 203-Meter hill to the garrison is evidenced by General Stoessel's desperate efforts to recapture it.

BERLIN—According to a dispatch from Tokio to the Lokal Anzeiger, the placing of heavy cannon on 203-Meter hill will enable the Japanese to fire on and sink junks and other craft bringing supplies for Port Arthur from Chefoo.

TOKIO—The Japanese troops occupied Akasaka hill, fronting on Port Arthur, yesterday afternoon.

The Russian armored cruiser Bayan is reported to be aground.

The commander of the Japanese naval guns in front of Port Arthur, telegraphing on December 6, says: "An observation taken from 203-Meter hill shows that the turret ship Poltava is sunk and that the battleship Retvizan is listing heavily to port."

Observations taken December 6 covered the results of the bombardment of December 5. Are now taking observations from a hill near Shushiyang.

Since December 2 we have daily bombarded the enemy's fleet lying south of Palyu mountain. From that point only the masts and funnel tops of the battleships Pobieda, Retvizan or the cruiser Pallada could be seen, but it was impossible to count the number of our shells taking effect.

On other ships explosions resulting from our shells could be seen, but owing to their positions behind hills it was difficult exactly to identify them.

Russians Win Fight.

MUKDEN—There is a rumor that the force of Japanese sent to turn General Rennenkampf's flank has been repulsed with great loss. The story is not yet officially confirmed, but details are given with great circumstantiality. It is stated that General Rennenkampf, who knew the movement was maturing, awaited the Japanese at the mouth of one of the captured passes, and that the Japanese turning force threw themselves unsuspectingly into the ambush, 500 Japanese corpses being collected.

# RUSSIANS ARE REPULSED.

Tokio Hears that Effort to Retake Hill Results in Failure.

TOKIO—The Russians are nightly attacking 203-Meter hill in a determined endeavor to retake the summit of the ground in contention.

The Japanese are increasing their defenses on the position and have succeeded so far in repelling all the assaults. The Russians have suffered the heaviest losses and it is estimated that they have sacrificed 3,000 men in an effort to recapture the ground, which the Japanese are confident of their ability to hold.

Observations indicate that the garrison is feeling the shortage of men. The works against Sengshu mountain and the forts to the eastward are progressing speedily and all indications point to an early general assault, although the date when it will begin is kept secret.

It is expected that the next general assault will prove successful.

The effective bombardment of the Russian battleships in Port Arthur, which began on Saturday last, was one of the results of the capture of 203-Meter hill. Up to that time the warships had been able to seek shelter from the Japanese fire under Pelyu mountain, but the capture of 203-Meter hill November 29-30 enabled the Japanese to train their guns on the Russian vessels, with the result that a number of them have been set on fire and the others must either put to sea or suffer irreparable damage.

## SOME SENATE MEASURES.

National Campaign Funds and Good Roads.

WASHINGTON—Senator Carmack introduced a joint resolution providing for the appointment of a commission composed of members of the senate and the house, to investigate the collection and expenditures of money by national committees in the interest of presidential candidates.

The resolution declares that the commission shall provide for publicity of these collections and expenditures and it unlawful to make collections for corporations engaged in interstate commerce. The committee is directed to make special investigations into the elections of 1896, 1900 and 1904 and to go into the subject as to whence the money used in them was received and how it was used.

Senator Lattimer, from the committee on agriculture and forestry, reported favorably the bill known as the "Lattimer good roads bill." It carries an appropriation of \$24,000,000 to be available in three annual installments of \$8,000,000 for road building in the states. Under the provisions of the bill the states are to do the work of construction and pay one-half of the cost, the national government paying the other half.

## PROGRAM FOR INAUGURATION

Committee Decides That the Ball Will Be Held Saturday Night.

WASHINGTON—The inaugural committee which has charge of the arrangements for President Roosevelt's inauguration March 4 held its first meeting Wednesday and unanimously declared to hold the inaugural ball on Saturday night, March 3.

This action was preceded by a discussion of a suggestion that that function, always a feature of the inaugural ceremonies, should be held on the Monday night following; that Sunday would not necessitate the early closing of the ball and interception of the promenade concert program. It was pointed out, however, that thousands of visitors would leave immediately after the formal inauguration and that if the ball was deferred until Monday evening the attendance necessarily would be comparatively small. The inaugural parade, it is said, will be an unusually large one, both in point of civic, as well as military representation.

An effort will be made by the committee to secure legislation from congress permitting the use of the pension office building for the inaugural ball.

## MAY PAY KENTUCKY A VISIT.

President Conditionally Accepts an Invitation.

WASHINGTON.—President Roosevelt received an invitation to visit Louisville, Ky., next spring, and he gave a conditional acceptance.

The president told his visitors that unless there should be an extraordinary session of congress next spring—a subject on which, he added, his own mind was not quite clear—he probably would go to San Antonio, Tex., to attend the annual reunion of his old regiment of rough riders. The president said he expected to visit, on his way to San Antonio, Roswell, Ga., which was the home of his mother. It is likely that other stops may be made on the trip to Texas. From San Antonio the president may take a trip into the mountains of Colorado to get some shooting. The hunting expedition may consume two or three weeks.

## Decide Money Was Stolen.

SAN FRANCISCO—The detectives of Wells, Fargo & Co., are in search of the man or men guilty of stealing the \$15,000 which mysteriously disappeared a week ago from the forwarding department of the express company. All hope that the missing money eventually might be found in one of the eastbound coin safes, where it was thought it might have been placed by mistake, has been abandoned. Reports have been received from all points to which coin safes were shipped the day of disappearance.

# WORK THIS WEEK

WHAT CONGRESS WILL BUSY ITSELF ABOUT.

## THE PHILIPPINE CIVIL BILL

It Will Be Discussed in the Upper House With a Vote on Friday.—House Will Give Consideration to Pension Bills.

WASHINGTON—The principal event scheduled for the senate the present week is the taking of the vote on the Philippine civil bill which is set down for next Friday at 3 o'clock. Under the agreement to vote, the bill remains the unfinished business of the senate until that date and it will have preference over all other questions each day after 2 o'clock. Many democratic senators are opposed to the bill, but the best information obtainable is that there will be no debate on the Philippine question. They will devote their efforts to securing a modification of some of the provisions of the bill as especially obnoxious, giving special attention to the bond and Chinese immigration clause. After the vote on the Philippine bill Friday the senate will adjourn until the following Monday and it is considered doubtful whether much more business of general importance will be then undertaken until after Christmas, as many senators have announced their intention of leaving for home immediately after the vote on the Philippine question. It had been the original intention to press for adjournment as early as the 19th inst., but there is now manifest a disposition to allow the house to have its way in fixing the date for the 21st, even though the senate remains technically in session, as will be the case, according to the present outlook.

It is the intention not to transact much business other than the Philippine legislation during the present week. Senator Hepburn on Monday will make an effort to secure consideration of the pure food bill, but if he succeeds in getting it before the senate it would not be seriously proceeded with before the holidays. It is believed that the statehood bill will not be reported from committee before the holidays.

The house will begin the second week of the session with consideration of private pension bills, Monday having been made pension day.

On Tuesday the resolution reported by the judiciary committee to impeach Charles Swayne, judge of the northern district of Florida, comes before the house as a special order, its consideration having been deferred by resolution at the last session to that day, and authority given the judiciary committee to take further testimony. All the evidence taken, including that heard since the last session, has been printed for the use of members of the house. A supplemental report has been submitted to the house by the judiciary committee advising the house of additional testimony. It is probable that the appropriations committee may report a short urgent deficiency bill during the week, and it is barely possible that the District of Columbia appropriation bill may be reported by the end of the week.

COUNT MADE OF STRAW MEN.

Second Batch of Contempt Cases at Denver.

DENVER.—The state supreme court took up the contempt charges against Thomas Culp and M. L. Devanny, judge in precinct ten, ward seven, at the late election. Attorney Thomas Ward announced that the prosecution would prove that only 238 persons entered the booths to vote, while the returns showed that 417 ballots had been counted.

After hearing testimony of the watchers and others in support of the charges the court ordered that the ballot box shall be opened tomorrow and its contents submitted for examination to two experts in penmanship. A warrant has been issued for James Riley, the third judge in this precinct, but he has not been found.

## ROOSEVELT IS CRITICISED.

Civil Service Reform League's Objections.

WASHINGTON.—At the final session of the National Civil Service Reform league President Roosevelt was severely criticised for the exemptions in the service through executive order made by him during the last three years. Nelson S. Spencer, formerly member of the municipal civil service commission of New York City, made a direct attack on the course pursued by the president, which was loudly applauded by many of the civil service reformers present. The president was defended by former Civil Service Commissioner Foulke, who declared the country was to be congratulated on having a president who was actuated by considerations of justice, as well as of law.

## TALK OF SPECIAL SESSION.

WASHINGTON—Leading members of the senate finance committee, while not willing at this time to discuss for publication the likelihood of a special session of congress to revise the tariff, feel that the subject is one which should receive consideration between the president and members of congress. The impression prevails in both houses that the question will not be decided hastily, despite the fact that a majority is believed to be opposed to revision.

# MORE MONEY FOR DIPLOMATS.

Secretary Hay Recommends Increase in Salaries.

WASHINGTON.—In the estimates for the diplomatic and consular service forwarded to congress by Secretary Hay through the treasury department recommendation is made for increasing the salaries of a large number of officers in the service. It is recommended that Argentina be increased \$2,000, that of the minister resident to Liberia \$3,500, and that provision be made for a minister to Roumania and Serbia and one for Greece and Montenegro and for a consular agent at Bulgaria. Increased salaries are recommended for the secretaries of legation to Turkey and Switzerland. A third secretary is proposed for the legations to Italy and Austria and new consulates at the following places at the salaries named: Alexandria, \$2,500; Belgrade, Serbia \$3,000; Bucharest, Roumania, \$3,000; Carlsbad, Austria, \$2,000; Sandakan, British North Borneo, \$3,000; and a consulate general at Teheran, Persia at \$3,000.

An increased allowance of \$2,000 for bringing home criminals is asked, also \$50,000 for carrying on the work of delimiting the boundary line between the United States and Canada.

Increases were recommended in the salaries of a large number of consuls. Increases of \$20,000 in the aggregate in allowances for clerk hire is recommended for thirty-nine consular offices.

## BATTALION OF PHILIPPINES

Scouts Who Served at World's Fair Organized.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—On orders received from the war department at Washington, the following officers, who have been on duty at the Louisiana Purchase exposition, are relieved and ordered to their proper stations: First Lieutenant Frank W. Rowell, Eleventh infantry; First Lieutenant Kirwin T. Smith, Sixth infantry; Second Lieutenant James A. Higgins, Thirtieth infantry.

By direction of the president and under provisions of a congressional enactment the Fourth, Twenty-fourth, Thirtieth and Forty-seventh companies of Philippine scouts are organized into a battalion, with the following officers: One major, one first lieutenant, battalion adjutant to be selected from the officers of the Philippine scouts, one second lieutenant to be battalion quartermaster and commissary, to be selected in the same manner, and one battalion sergeant major. Captain William H. Johnston, Sixteenth United States infantry, has been detailed as major of the Philippine scouts and assigned to the command of the battalion.

Profits of British Cotton Mills.

LONDON.—Eighty-seven cotton spinning mills, employing capital amounting to over \$15,000,000, made a profit of only \$150,000 for the year ended November 30. The same mills last year cleared \$220,000.

## USE OF MONEY IN CAMPAIGNS.

Senator Carmack Offers Bill to Regulate It.

WASHINGTON.—Senator Carmack introduced a joint resolution providing for the appointment of a commission composed of members of the senate and the house to investigate collection and expenditures of money by national committees in the interests of presidential candidates.

The resolution declares that the commission shall provide for publicity of these collections and expenditures and make it unlawful to make collections from corporations engaged in interstate commerce. The committee is directed to make a special investigation into the elections of 1896, 1900 and 1904, and to go into the subject as to whence the money used in them was received and how it was used.

The resolution was referred to the committee on privileges and elections.

## CABLE TO CANAL ZONE.

Purpose of a Bill Introduced in the House.

WASHINGTON.—To connect the canal zone on the Isthmus of Panama with the United States by cable is the purpose of a bill introduced today by Representative Wanger of Pennsylvania. The bill provides for the construction and operation of such a cable under control and direction of the Panama government, secretary of war and the secretary of the navy, provided the cost of an American made cable will not exceed by more than 10 per cent the cost of a foreign made cable. The total cost of the cable is fixed at \$2,000,000 and \$300,000 is made immediately available for its construction.

A maximum rate of 25 cents a word is fixed for commercial messages between the canal zone and the mainland of the United States. Governmental and press dispatches are to be sent at reduced rates.

## A Green Goods Man.

NEW YORK.—Grover L. Collins, known to the police as the "Lone Green Goods Man," was arrested by a postoffice inspector, though he was supposed to have been killed in a Canadian train wreck several months ago. He is wanted by federal officers in New Jersey. Collins' method was to advertise in western newspapers. Correspondents received from him green goods circulars and also paper with silken threads in it similar to government paper. Money sent to him for samples he pocketed.

# ARE IN RETREAT

RUSSIAN GARRISON AT PORT ARTHUR FLEES TO MOUNTAIN.

## RUSSIAN SHIPS ARE SINKING

Details of the Capture of Meter Hill.—Mikado's Men Unable to Understand Why the Russians Do Not Fight.

LONDON—According to the Morning Post's Shanghai dispatches, the Port Arthur forces, with the exception of those manning the forts, have already retreated to Laote mountain.

Details continue to filter in of the capture of 203-Meter hill. The Daily Telegraph's correspondent explains that the capture was due to a strong and sustained Japanese feint against the eastern fortifications on the night of December 5, and the position of 203-Meter hill, being an enfilading one, forced the Russians to evacuate without a contest, a parallel line of semi-permanent fortifications extending east and west and irregularly over the slope half a mile west of Else mountain. The Japanese casualties at 203-Meter hill alone exceed the total of the battle of Nan Shan, according to the Daily Mail's Tokio dispatches.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon of November 29 a Tomaysu detachment, with a battalion of infantry and a company of engineers, received orders that they must capture 203-Meter hill, while a Yoldi detachment of the same strength had similar orders to capture Akasaka hill. On November 30 it became necessary to reinforce the attackers with a detachment under Major Shiruta. During the operation the cold was so intense that many of the men were frost-bitten, as it was necessary to pass the night without shelter. The Japanese, after the capture of 203-Meter hill, anticipated a terrible bombardment from the Russian forts and made preparations accordingly, but the Russians remained strangely quiet.

The Daily Telegraph's Tien Tsin correspondent reports that General Oku, after a three days' artillery engagement, drove the Russians on Thursday out of the small lofty island of Gushan. In the river, ten miles north of Liao Yang, the Russians, it is added, abandoned a quantity of supplies and several guns and retired to a position eight miles northwest, whence they heavily bombarded the Japanese, setting fire on Tuesday to kerosene depots and causing a great conflagration, which did not cease until Wednesday. The Japanese are still gallantly holding the island with a handful of men. Their casualties, it is alleged, number 5,000.

LONDON—A dispatch to the Japanese legation from Tokio, dated today, says: "The naval staff at Port Arthur reports that on Thursday evening the Pallada was set on fire and heeled to port with its stern sunk. Eleven shots hit the Giliak (gunboat). The Bayan took fire at 11:30 and is still ablaze at 4:15 p. m. The Amur (transport) was hit fourteen times and sunk. Many shots greatly damaged the warehouses and other buildings near Pelyu mountain and the arsenal."

CHINESE EXCLUSION TREATY.

Tedious and Difficult Task Presented Negotiators.

WASHINGTON.—The new Chinese exclusion treaty, which Secretary Hay and Sir Chenung Liang Cheng, the Chinese minister, are negotiating, presents a tedious and difficult task. When the negotiations were begun some time ago it was with the hope, though hardly with the expectation, that the treaty could be signed in time to be sent to the senate at the opening of congress. If the treaty reaches congress before the close of the present session the negotiators will feel that their work progressed rapidly.

To safeguard the country even more adequately than does the present treaty against the immigration of Chinese laborers of any class, and to alleviate as far as can safely be done the alleged hardships which even the best people of China are forced to undergo at the gateways of this country, are two results, which it is hoped may be obtained by the new treaty. It is stated on authority that there is no foundation that the new treaty is designed to let down the bars against indiscriminate Chinese immigration.

## Famine in Central Russia.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The following official statement was made today in regard to reports of famine in Central Russia: "No famines have occurred. There is a bad harvest in Southern Bessarabia, and also, but not so bad, in two districts of Kherson, two of Poltava and three of Nizhni Novgorod. The government is aiding the peasants in these districts with loans to purchase food and seed grain. The times are hard, but the people are not starving."

## Philippinos Start For Home.

ST. LOUIS.—One hundred and forty-five Negritos, Bagabos, Samal Moros and Lanao Moros, tribes that were on exhibition in the Philippine reservation at the World's fair, left Wednesday on a through train over the Burlington and Northern Pacific railroads for Seattle, where they will take ship for Manila. Fred Lewis has charge of the party and with him are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hopping, Rice McSle and Valentine Semilla. The Philippine board presented each tribe with a large American flag.

# LAND FRAUD CASES.

Purpose of the Government to Punish Guilty Parties.

WASHINGTON.—An official statement was given out by the interior department announcing the government's purpose to prosecute every guilty man in the public land frauds to the full extent of the law and regardless of position in life. The statement follows:

"The conviction in Portland, Ore., yesterday of five persons for land frauds, which will be followed next week by the trial of several others indicted for the same offense, is but another step towards the consummation of the policy entered upon by the secretary of the interior, when it became known, nearly three years ago, that frauds were being perpetrated in connection with the public lands, to run down and prosecute the guilty ones to the full extent of the law, without regard to their position in life. The department has encountered many obstacles while engaged in this work, but has moved steadily onward and has had the hearty co-operation of the Department of Justice in bringing these land criminals to justice."

"These land frauds have been far more extensive than the public realize, and the work of securing the necessary proofs has been a difficult one, but there is no abatement of the intention to secure the conviction of the land thieves. No one will be shielded, whether high or low, and the work of prosecution will be vigorously carried on."

## REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

Matter That Gives Roosevelt Much Concern.

WASHINGTON.—President Roosevelt is conferring daily with members of both the senate and the house of representatives on the subject of tariff revision and how the work shall be accomplished. He has found that strong opposition exists to consideration of the subject by congress at an extraordinary session to be held next spring, and it can be said that the idea of calling an extraordinary session for next spring practically has been abandoned. It has been pointed out to the president that it would be nearly impossible for the committee of congress to prepare a tariff measure for presentation to the house before July 1, next.

Representative Watson (Ind.) had a conference with the president. While no decision yet has been reached regarding the revision of the tariff, it is pretty well understood now that if revision should be decided upon, an extraordinary session of congress will be called, to meet next fall.

The subject will be taken up at that session, and its consideration probably be taken up and concluded at the regular session next December. This arrangement, it is believed, will enable congress to dispose of the tariff question at a comparatively early date in the regular session.

## MONEY TO PAY ALL BILLS.

Iowa Exposition Commission Keeps Within Appropriation.

DES MOINES.—Ex-Governor Larrabee, president of the Iowa commission on the Louisiana Purchase exposition, with Secretary Freeman Conaway of the same commission, arrived home from St. Louis, where they have attended the exposition and closed up affairs for Iowa. An executive committee meeting was held to go over the accounts and arrange for a settlement. Secretary Conaway will take an office at the state capitol and devote his time for two or three months to closing up affairs. The commission will be able to pay all bills and settle everything without making use of any of the \$25,000 additional appropriated for specific purposes, but it was provided that none of it could be used until all the other appropriation was used. While some departments needed the additional sums it was not needed in all departments and none of it was touched. The commission turned over all the Iowa property to the State Board of Control and that board is now in charge. It has already started the work of dismantling the Iowa building and it is probable that building will be the first to be torn down. The furniture and materials are being shipped to various places in the state.

## GENERAL NOGI IS CHILDLESS

Both of His Sons Have Been Killed in Battle.

Headquarters of the Third Japanese Army, via Fusan.—On the morning of December 2, the Russians granted permission to the Japanese to gather their dead and wounded from the eastern fort on account of the night fight of November 26.

Yesterday the same concession was asked for by the Russians concerning 203 Meter hill. The request was granted, but the privilege was withdrawn today.

In the fighting of November 30, the second son of General Nogi was killed on 203-Meter hill. General Nogi's oldest son was killed in the battle of Nanshan and he is now childless.

## Big Horse Breeding Scheme.

DENVER.—John W. Springer, ex-president of the National Live Stock association, is at the head of a project to establish near this city what is believed will be the largest colony in America for breeding fine horses. Each breeder will be a specialist in his line. The colony will include nearly ten thousand acres of land, and within the boundaries will be raised American coach horses, Belgian heavy draft horses, heavy harness colts, thoroughbred Kentucky saddlers and trotters.