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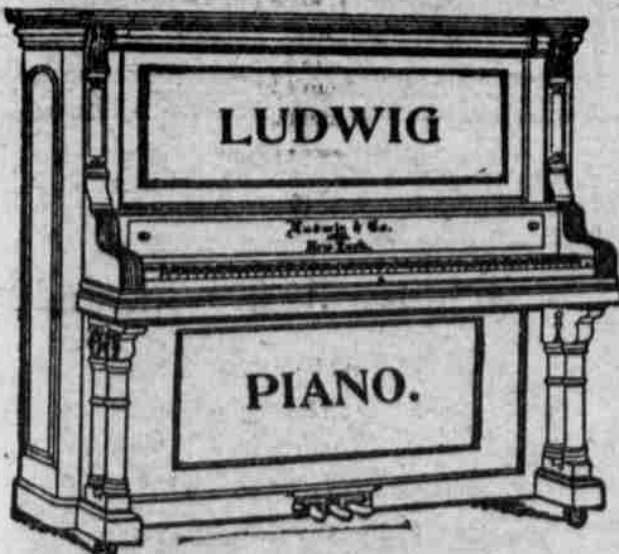
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It is reported from Washington that so far as the administration is concerned, the Waller court-martial case recently tried in Manila, is a closed incident, but the Smith case will not be legally closed until it has been acted on by the president. An Associated press dispatch says: "The significance of this statement is that it is still within the power of the president to return the case to the court for reconsideration of the evidence adduced, even though the officer was acquitted by the court, as the press dispatches from Manila have indicated. The court could not be legally compelled to change its findings, however, against its own judgment and its adherence to a verdict of 'not guilty' would stand despite the disapproval of the president, which in that case would be simply as a rebuke to the court without affecting the legal status of the accused."

On June 10 the naval bill, carrying an appropriation of more than \$78,000,000, was passed. It includes provisions for two first class battleships, two first class armored cruisers and two gunboats, but strikes out the house provision that one of each shall be built at government yards.

The bill to transfer certain forest reserves to the agricultural department and to authorize the president to establish game and fish reserves, was defeated by the house on June 10. A motion made by Mr. Cannon to strike out the enacting clause was carried by 100 votes, and this killed the bill.

F. B. Thurber, president of the United States exporters' association, appeared as a witness before the senate committee on Cuban relations on June 11. A sensation was produced when he acknowledged that his company had received money from the military government of Cuba, by authority of Governor Wood, for the purpose of booming reciprocity. He also said he had received \$2,500 from Mr. Havemeyer of the sugar refining company, to be used for the same purpose.

On June 11 the senate committee on foreign relations decided to recommend to the senate the ratification of the protocol extending for one year the time for the ratification of the Danish treaty for purchase of the Dan-

ish West Indies. This action is made necessary by the failure of the Danish parliament to act on the treaty.

A cablegram received on June 11 by Secretary Hay from Minister Conger at Pekin, confirms the report that the European nations have decided to scale down their indemnities as suggested by this government on the claims on account of the Boxer uprising in China. It is understood, however, that England and Japan do not share in the cutting down process.

Five of the members of the ways and means committee filed a minority report on the bill proposing the killing of the fur seals unless a modus vivendi for their permanent protection is negotiated. These members severely condemn the proposed practice, contending that it is contrary to the universal custom of mankind. Russell, McCall, and Metcalf, republicans, and McClellan and Newlands, democrats, are the members signing the report.

Just before adjournment on June 11 the senate agreed to vote finally on the Nicaraguan canal bill and all pending amendments on Thursday, June 19, the voting to begin at 2 p. m.

In his speech on the measure Mr. Fairbanks of Indiana said he favored construction of the canal by the Panama route. Originally he had favored the Nicaraguan route, but an examination of the subject had determined him to change his mind in favor of the Panama route, and he argued that not only would it be cheaper in the first instance, but cheaper in operation after the canal was constructed.

Representative Shallenberger of Nebraska made a speech on the irrigation question. His speech is characterized as the best speech made on the measure, and one that will have much to do with the final determination of the bill. Mr. Shallenberger is heartily in favor of irrigating the arid lands of the west, and alleged that the opposition to the bill was made for purely selfish motives.

During the consideration of the Isthmian canal question on June 12, Senator Morgan of Alabama discussed particularly the diplomatic phases of the question. An amendment introduced by Mr. Fairbanks of Indiana providing for the issue of bonds for the construction of the canal met with Mr. Morgan's vigorous opposition, he contending that the expense of the canal should be paid out of the treasury's current receipts. Mr. Morgan is greatly opposed to the Panama route. The disclosures made by former Governor Wood of Cuba was the theme of a conference at the White house on June 12. The administration is undecided as to whether it shall answer the charges or utterly ignore them. A close watch will be kept on the proceedings in the Cuban reciprocity question.

On June 12 Representative McCall of Massachusetts presented to the house

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