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THE WEEK AT WASHINGTON



to the house amendments to the Elkins' anti-trust bill and the bill was sent to the president.

On the same day President Roosevelt signed the bill providing for a department of commerce and this bill has now become a law. On February 16 the president sent to the senate the nomination of George B. Cortelyou of New York to be secretary of this new cabinet position; also the nomination of James A. Garfield of Ohio to be commissioner of corporations in the new department.

On February 16 the senate passed the Philippine currency bill in which is prescribed a new coinage standard for those islands. It is provided that not less than 5,000,000 of the silver coins provided for shall be put into circulation.

On the same day the senate met in executive session to ratify the treaty of friendship recently negotiated between the United States and Greece, a slight amendment being made in regard to consular trials.

The Littlefield anti-trust bill recently passed by the house and reported to the senate committee on judiciary has been considered by that body and on February 16 it was decided to report the same to the senate with amendments of sections 6 and 7 which will have substitutes provided in the senate.

Secretary of State Hay recently notified the Dominician government that all claims against that country held by the United States must be paid in full and it is believed that this action will be taken by the government of San Domingo immediately.

The naval coaling station agreement between this country and Cuba 5,000,000 of the silver pesos provided was signed by President Palma on for in the bill. The gold coins of the February 16 and the document is now in the hands of President Roosevelt lar for two pesos, shall be legal tenfor signature. It is regarded as certain that no delay will occur in the ratification of the treaty covering the sovereignty of the Isle of Pines and incorporating the Platt amendment into the permanent government of Cuba.

On February 17 the republican senators held a caucus and decided to have the senate resume consideration of the Panama canal treaty until it is disposed of. As there are only two weeks of the present session left, this course was taken in order to facilitate business. It is also announced that the government has formally accepted the offer of the Panama Canal company to sell to the United States the canal property for \$40,000,000, subject only to the ratification of the pending treaty with the republic of Colombia.

The conferees on the army appropriation bill reached an agreement on February 17. A few changes were made, one being that citizens of Porto Rico may enlist in the regular army and the Porto Rican regiment may be ordered for service outside of Porto Rico. An appropriation of \$2,000,000 was agreed to for equipping the hational guard.

The house of representatives passed the naval appropriation bill February 19 with several amendments to the provisions relating to the increase of the personnel and the authorization of the new ships to be built. One import- to conference.

On February 14 the senate agreed | ant provision is the permission to the secretary of the navy to contract for or purchase submarine torpedo boats and an appropriation of \$500,000 was made for this purpose.

> On February 18 President Roosevelt sent to the senate the nominations of Brigadier Generals M. r. Ludington and James F. Wade to be major generals. It is announced that both officers will retire at once.

> A strong effort is being made by Senator Cullom to have the senate meet in night sessions until the Panama canal treaty shall be ratified. On February 18 the senate listened to Senator Morgan's speech on the sub-

> The nomination of George B. Cortelyou to be secretary of the department of commerce having been confirmed by the senate, he took the oath of office on February 18. At the same time William Loeb, jr., was sworn in as secretary to the president, to succeed Mr. Cortelyou.

> It was recently reported from Washington that the president has announced the names of the three United States commissioners to serve in the settlement of the Alaskan boundary dispute. These men were Secretary of War Root, and Senators Lodge and Turner.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of Washington, Feb. 16, says: The Philippine currency bill passed by the senate today prescribes that the unit of value in the Philippines shall be the gold peso of twelve and nine-tenths grains of gold, nine-tenths fine, the gold peso to become the unit of value when the government in the Philippines shall have coined and have ready for circulation not less than United States, at the rate of one dolder in the islands. The bill also provides for an additional coinage of 75,-000,000 silver coins of the denomination of one peso, which shall be legal tender except where provided by contracts. Coins of the denomination of fifty centavos, twenty centavos and ten centavos also are provided for, all such coinage to be under the authority of the government of the Philippine islands in such amounts as it may determine, with the approval of the secretary of war. The bill also provides for the issue of certificates of indebtedness to maintain the parity of the silver and gold pesos, such certificates at any time to be limited to 10.000,000 or 20,000,000 pesos. Mexican dollar and the Spanish coins heretofore used shall be receivable for public dues at a rate to be fixed from time to time by the civil governor of the islands, preference, however, being given to the Philippine coins and certificates. The option is given for the coinage of the silver pesos either in Manila or any mint in the United States, which coins shall have inscriptions or devices expressing the sovereignty of the United States. The act making any form of money legal tender after December 31, 1903, is repealed. The Patterson amendment providing for an international conference to fix a commercial exchange was adopted by the senate. Chairman Cooper of the house committee on insular affairs says that as soon as the bill is received from the senate by the house it will be sent

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