

The Week at Washington.

It was announced on March 19 that Quartermaster General Ludington will be promoted to the rank of major general, on the retirement of Gen. R. P. Hughes, who will reach the age limit on April 11.

On March 19 the senate, in special session, ratified the Cuban reciprocity treaty by a decisive vote of 50 to 16. Two amendments in addition to those already adopted by the committee were adopted. The first of these was the amendment increasing the rate of reduction on flour, corn meal, and corn imported into Cuba from the United States. As offered it provided for a reduction of 40 per cent, but the committee modified the amendment so as to provide for a reduction of 30 cents. The other amendment fixed a uniform reduction of 30 per cent on American cotton goods imported into Cuba. Immediately after the ratification of the treaty, the senate adjourned sine die.

Another chapter in the Venezuelan question developed on March 19 when Minister Bowen made an effort to obtain positive information from the allies as to the cause of the delay in the peace negotiations. The question of the payment of claims is proving a perplexing one, as is also the provision as to the customs receipts. Mr. Bowen has made an appeal to the representatives of the allies in regard to this matter.

After a consultation between the state department and the Cuban minister, it was decided on March 20 to cable President Palma to call the Cuban congress into extraordinary session to ratify the provisions of the recently enacted Cuban treaty. This action was taken because the ordinary session of the Cuban congress would not take place until April 7, seven days after the expiration of the legal time limit for the exchange of ratifications. The state authorities seem to have some doubts as to the validity of the treaty, it being stated that as ratified it cannot take effect until approved by the congress and this will lead to complications. Efforts are under way, however, to dispose of these difficulties and it is hoped that the treaty will soon go into effect.

The text of the response of Secretary Hay to the Argentine note proposing combined action of American states to resist the collection of debts by naval force was made public on March 20. The government's position on this point is clearly stated, the United States maintaining that the South American republics must discharge their just obligations and they need expect no protection from this country in their attempts to escape punishment in case of failure to meet these obligations. Secretary Hay shows that this position was clearly defined in the president's message to congress last December.

It is now regarded as certain that the president will start on his western trip on April 1, and will be gone about two months. Mr. Roosevelt will visit the Pacific coast and will also participate in the exercises incident to the dedication of the exposition grounds in St. Louis on April 30.

Representative Lacey, chairman of the house committee on public lands, in speaking of the work accomplished during the recent session of congress, made the announcement that the only reservation to be opened is the Red Lake reservation consisting of 100,000 acres.

It was reported on March 15 that the state department has received

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from the Mexican government \$43,508, being the first installment of interest which is to be paid in perpetuity on account of the Pius fund claims, under the award made by The Hague arbitration in October last. On July 8, there will fall due the sum of \$1,420,682, which represents the interest which has accrued from the date of the Mexican claims commission down to the date of award.

The democratic senators held a caucus on March 16 at which it was decided to stand together in support of two amendments to the Panama canal treaty. One of these is designed to insure the control of the canal zone by

the United States and the other enlarges the provision in the fourth article of the treaty which is a disavowal of any intention on the part of the United States "to increase its territory at the expense of Colombia or of the sister republics in Central or South America," so as to include Mexico.

For some time past the health authorities at New York particularly have been excluding all the emigrants who show the least sign of eye trouble which might be contagious. As this disease is very common in southern countries, Italian emigrants particularly have suffered by this rigid

order. It now seems that the Italian government means to turn the tables on the United States government in preventing some American tourists who have been visiting in Italy from returning to this country on account of the discovery among them of a few cases of this same disease. A lively correspondence is in progress between Italian authorities and those of this country in regard to the matter.

On March 17 Commissioner Carroll D. Wright, recorder of the coal strike commission, said that the work of the commission was nearly concluded and that the report will be placed in the hands of the printer in a few days.