

## THE WEEK AT WASHINGTON

The governors of Tennessee and Arkansas have appealed to the war department for aid in the matter of tents, etc., in consequence of the destitution produced by the river floods and on March 21 Secretary Root ordered immediate compliance with these requests.

On March 21 Secretary of War Root ordered to be made public the report recently prepared by the war college board on the workings of the new militia law. According to this report, the aim of the new statute is to secure the same organization, armament and discipline as of the regular army in the militia, and this result is to be accomplished in five years. No state is to be coerced to comply with the

provisions of the new law, but in case of its failure to do so, it is to be ignored in the allotment of the annual appropriation. The minimum organization is to be fixed at infantry, 65; cavalry, 65; field artillery, 120; coast artillery, 120; engineers, 100. It is also provided that no officer of the regular army will be detailed to any state or territory having an organized militia of less than 2,000 men.

Sensational charges as to the conduct of General Wood while he was on duty in Cuba were recently brought by Estes G. Rathbone, who will be remembered for his connection with the Cuban postal frauds. When the matter was brought to the attention of the war department, Secretary Root refused to take any action on the charges, which he declares are without foundation.

Urgent appeals have been made to the war department on behalf of the Eskimo and Indian inhabitants of northern Alaska, who are represented to be in an extremely destitute condition as a consequence of the strict enforcement of the laws prohibiting the taking or killing of fur-bearing animals in that territory. Instructions have been sent to the department commander to investigate the situation and in his discretion to distribute rations in cases of emergency.

William Miller Collier of New York was appointed by the president on March 24 to be special assistant to the attorney general and has been assigned to duty as solicitor of the department of commerce and labor in connection with the enforcement of the anti-trust laws.

The government is engaged in the purchase of silver bullion to be used in coining pesos under the Philippine coinage act to the amount of \$2,000,000 worth. This amount of bullion will produce 5,000,000 pesos which are to be delivered in the Philippine islands within four months. It is also announced that arrangements have been completed for the issue of the Philippine certificates, which will bear the portrait of Washington. A suggestion has been made that the small notes for the Philippines shall bear the portraits of McKinley, General Lawton and Jose Rizal.

Under a revision of the civil service rules to take effect April 15, the classified service is tendered to all positions which are subjected to classification under the civil service act. The number of places excepted from examination has been reduced, omitting a large number of private secretaries and confidential clerks, although two private secretaries are allowed to all heads of departments. Shipping commissioners, various superintendents, engineers, examiners and miscellaneous positions also have been made subject to examination. Temporary appointments will be restricted both in number and duration.

On March 25 Brigadier General Wood left Washington on his way to the Philippines to assume command of the military department of Mindanao. General Wood will visit many points in the far east for the purpose of studying the management of forces in various colonial possessions.

It was reported on March 26 that Ambassador Choate has informed the

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THE COMMONER BUREAU.

state department that a sanitary congress, which will consider matters of international importance, will be held at Bradford, England, from July 7 to 11, and United States representatives are invited.

On March 27 Secretary Hay sent to the Cuban congress a warning that the slightest amendment by that body of the provisions of the Cuban reciprocity treaty would certainly defeat the treaty itself, since any amendment must be submitted to the United States senate, and before that can be done the date fixed for the final exchange of ratifications, March 31, will have been passed.

#### Concerning the Philippines.

Simultaneously with the announcement of another battle within seven miles of Manila, between the so-called "ladrones" and our alleged "constabulary," we hear that the editor, manager and one of the reporters of a Manila newspaper, the American, have been arrested for publishing criticisms of General Davis, the com-

manding officer at the capital of the Philippines.

Of course, the country is at peace—just as it has been for the past three years, according to official proclamation. The civil government is in perfect working order. Its authority is undisputed throughout Luzon, at least, and Governor Taft's functionaries go about from place to place—whenever they can get a strong military escort for their protection. Law and order have been securely established everywhere, and the Filipinos have learned to love our kindly and benevolent rule. Nevertheless, uninformed persons continue to wonder why a revered and competent civil government keeps so many soldiers hanging about, and how these beggarly and insignificant "ladrones" manage to give battle to our thoroughly armed and equipped "constabulary" within sight of Manila two or three times a week. To some benighted minds it looks as though the capital were in a state of siege and that the civil government could not maintain itself, even there, without the strong support and constant vigilance of the army.—Washington Post.

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