



The fourth session of the trans-Mississippi congress is to be held at Seattle, Wash., on August 18 and will extend to the 21st, inclusive, according to the official call recently issued. The Associated press says that among the topics to be discussed are irrigation, railroad rates, improvements of harbors and waterways, mines and mining, good roads, commercial relations with Central and South American republics, beet sugar, home manufactures, preservation of forests, postal service, legislation to be recommended for Alaska, the Isthmian canal, the merchant marine and the consular service.

It was recently predicted that the supply of petroleum would soon be exhausted and it is admitted that with all the new discoveries of oil the production of refinable oil is decreasing. The Standard Oil company on July 18 advanced the price of oil at the rate of 3 cents a barrel for Pennsylvania oil and 2 cents for Ohio.

After an almost continuous session since the inauguration of the Cuban republic on May 20, 1902, the congress adjourned on July 18. The postal treaty with the United States was ratified and an act was passed providing for the adherence of the republic to the universal postal union. What is considered the most important legislation during the session is that for the loan of \$35,000,000 and the process of auditing and paying the claims of the revolutionary soldiers, all of which has been carefully provided for.

A report from Manila recently to the marine hospital service says that cholera is again raging in the Philippines, being mostly confined to the vicinity of the Pasig river. Very few whites are affected, the disease being confined mostly to the Filipinos.

Hayti is again engaged in revolution. A dispatch from Port au Prince under date of July 15 says that the conflict between President Nord and the chambers continues and a proclamation has been issued that a state of siege exists and the national guard has been called out.

Labor troubles are agitating Sweden, it being announced on July 18 that most of the mechanical workshops in the country and at least 30,000 men are involved. The employees demand the establishment of a recognized minimum wage and the abolition of piece work. This the employers flatly refuse to concede and it is feared that a long conflict is at hand.

The sixth international convention of the Epworth league, in session at Detroit, Mich., came to a close on July 19. It was decided that the next place of meeting should be Denver, Colo. More than 20,000 delegates were present at the Detroit meeting, representing about 2,000,000 members of the league.

A Manila cablegram of July 19 says that the circulation of the new currency authorized by the United States congress at its last session is to be immediately commenced, although the coins now in circulation are to be legal tender until December. General Leonard Wood arrived in Manila on July 19 and is to leave shortly for Zamboanga to organize the government of the Moro province.

A report from Panama, Colombia,

under date of July 19, says: Reliable information received here from Bogota says that it appears probable that the canal treaty will be ratified with an amendment making the sum to be paid to Colombia by the United States \$25,000,000 instead of \$10,000,000, as proposed by the treaty. Cable communication with the capital has been interrupted since Friday.

It was reported from Soledad, Venezuela, on July 19 that the engagement between the government forces and the revolutionists occupying Ciudad Bolivar had begun in two different directions and the battle was a fierce one. The revolutionists lost over 200 soldiers, and many wounded.

It was announced from Denver, Colo., on July 20 that the legislature of that state reconvened on that day under special call from the governor to pass an appropriation bill, the one passed in the closing hours of the regular session having been declared illegal.

Suit was instituted in the United States circuit court at Trenton, N. J., on July 20 by the Mercantile Trust company of New York for the foreclosure of the \$15,000,000 mortgage on the property of the United States Shipbuilding company. The suit is brought because of the default of the payment of \$400,000 interest on July 1, and the failure of the company to establish a sinking fund.

A new cabinet has been made up in Madrid, Spain, with Marquis Villaverde as its head. Several other changes have been made in the ministry.

With reference to the department of interior's attitude to the official charges in the Indian territory, Acting Secretary Ryan on July 21 issued a statement to the effect that a searching investigation of the acts of government officials in this section will be immediately made by the grand jury.

The Irish land bill passed its third reading in the house of commons at London on July 21 by 317 to 20. The king has made it known that he has placed his interest at the disposal of parliament.

The annual reunion of the order of Elks held at Baltimore, Md., recently was attended by thousands of the members of the order, the meeting being described as the most enthusiastic and successful in the history of the organization. Joseph T. Fanning of Indianapolis was elected as grand exalted ruler for the coming year.

King Edward, accompanied by the queen and a large suite, arrived at Kingston, Ireland, on July 21 and were heartily welcomed. These demonstrations were repeated at Dublin where the entry of the party was made the occasion of a general holiday.

A cablegram from London, under date of July 22, says that a report is in circulation in Odessa that 128,000 troops are being mobilized from central and northern garrisons in Russia for immediate dispatch to the far east in case of necessity. This is regarded as significant in view of the trouble in Manchuria.

A project is on foot to consolidate several of the large railroads of the

west into one large concern under a new name. It is reported that the new concern will control about 1,800 miles of road and will include some of the important lines west of the Mississippi river.

Gen. Cassius M. Clay, ambassador to Russia under President Lincoln, and a noted abolitionist and author, died at his home at Whitehall, Madison county, Ky., on July 22 in his 93rd year.

The lower house of the general assembly of Georgia recently by a vote of 88 to 73 killed the bill which provided that convicts should be worked on the public roads. This bill was the principal issue of the present session of the Georgia legislature.

On July 22 it was announced from Washington that the war department had directed Governor Taft to accept the highest bid, amounting to \$131,582 for the subsidiary Spanish coin which was found in the treasury at Manila when the place fell into the hands of the Americans. This is about half the face value of the coin and it is reported that the purchasers intend to ship the coin to some of the South American countries where the same is current. This action may be prevented by the claim set up to this currency by the Spanish government, however.

A London cablegram under date of July 22 declares that in spite of the growing opposition against Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policies in England, he is pursuing his campaign with more determination than ever. The issue is to be free trade and protection and it is conceded that even if an appeal to the country does not come in the autumn it will be sure to be made in the spring.

An interesting plan is on foot in Cleveland, O., where President Dickinson of the Cuyahoga Telephone company has announced that as an experiment one-fifth of the surplus earn-

ings of the company will be set aside and distributed among its employes in proportion to their salaries dating from July 1. The plan affects several hundred employes.

Members of the international arbitration group of the French chamber of deputies arrived in London on July 21 and were entertained by members of the house of commons. The visitors were known as the arbitration group of the French parliament and constitute a general partisan organization formed a year and a half ago to further the principles of international arbitration. It started with a dozen members and has grown rapidly since. The visit which is made to meet British parliamentarians with similar inclinations was decided upon at the time of King Edward's visit to Paris.

On July 21 it was made public that Russia had notified China that she would withdraw all opposition to the opening of Manchurian ports. This news came through the representations of Prince Ching, the president of the foreign office, and has not been as yet officially confirmed.

Notwithstanding the publication of dispatches from various foreign cities questioning the promises made to the American government by China and Russia respecting Manchuria, government officials at Washington decline to alter the statement recently issued to the effect that two or more Manchurian ports will be opened to the world's trade.

The situation in regard to Russian acceptance of the petition recently forwarded from the Jews of this country in behalf of the sufferers in the Kishineff massacre, remains about the same, it being understood in official quarters that Russia will not accept the petition and Secretary of State Hay has announced that the incident is closed. It was reported from St. Petersburg on July 18 that the Jews

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