

CURRENT TOPICS

PRESIDENT MARROQUIN OF COLOMBIA has sent to Senator Frye, president pro tem of the United States senate, the following communication: "To His Excellency, the President of the Senate, Washington: 'Excellency,' the government and people of Colombia have been painfully surprised at the notification given by the minister of the United States to the effect that the government at Washington had hastened to recognize the government consequent upon a barracks coup in the department of Panama. The bonds of sincere and uninterrupted friendship which unite the two governments and the two peoples; the solemn obligation undertaken by the American union in a public treaty to guarantee the sovereignty and property of Colombia in the isthmus of Panama; the protection which the citizens of that country enjoy and will continue to enjoy among us; the traditional principles of the American government in opposition to secession movements; the good faith which has characterized that great people in its international relations; the manner in which the revolution was brought about and the precipitancy of its recognition made the government and people of Colombia hope that the senate of the people of the United States will admit their obligation to assist us in maintaining the integrity of our territory and in repressing that insurrection which is not even the result of a popular feeling. In thus demanding justice Colombia appeals to the dignity and honor of the American senate and people.—Marroquin." "It is to be hoped that the petition for justice which Colombia makes to the American people will be favorably received by a sound public opinion among the sons of that country.—Esterban Jaramillo, minister of government." The communication was not read to the senate but was delivered by Senator Frye to the state department on the ground that being diplomatic correspondence, it should properly have been addressed to the secretary of state.

THE DEMOCRATIC SENATORIAL CAUCUS held on November 16 showed considerable difference of opinion as to the course to be pursued by democratic senators. Senator Carmack of Tennessee offered a resolution declaring it the sense of the minority that the Spooner act should be enforced and demanding that the president, having been unable to negotiate a treaty with Colombia, comply with the Spooner law by turning to the Nicaraguan route. Senator Gorman spoke in favor of the Carmack resolution. Senator Bacon of Georgia offered a resolution censuring the administration for its hasty recognition of the Panama republic and its failure to adhere to the terms of the Spooner act. Senator Gorman asked Senator Bacon if, in the event his resolution of censure were voted down, would he vote for a Panama treaty should the president send it to the senate. Senator Bacon replied that he was in favor of a canal treaty by some route and that he would vote for a treaty with Panama. Senator Berry of Arkansas moved to refer the entire matter to the steering committee. Senator Newlands of Nevada proposed to name a special committee to confer with a like committee of the democrats from the house for the purpose of taking up the questions of Panama, the tariff, etc., in the formulation of party policies. Senator Teller of Colorado and Dubois of Idaho spoke in condemnation of Mr. Roosevelt's Panama policy. Newspaper dispatches say that while no result was reached at this conference, enough has developed to make it plain that Senators Bacon and Clay of Georgia, Senator Martin of Virginia and Senator Simmons of North Carolina are ready to vote in favor of a canal treaty with the Panama republic. With these four votes, republicans would be able to ratify the treaty.

REPLYING TO THE RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Hitt, the president on November 16 transmitted to the house of representatives the official documents relating to the Panama revolution. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says that the papers transmitted were: 1. Cablegram sent to United States consuls at Panama and Colon November 13 saying press reports had announced the uprising and requesting them to keep the state department informed. 2. Dispatches to and from the consuls and orders to naval officers. 3. The

notice of recognition. 4. The notification by Panama that it had appointed Minister Bunau-Varilla. All correspondence regarding Panama by the navy department also is included. This embraces the orders cabled to the commander of the Nashville at Colon, under date of November 2, which reads as follows: "Maintain free and uninterrupted transit. If interruption threatened by armed force occupy the line of railroad, prevent landing of any armed force with hostile intent, either government or insurgent, either at Colon, Porto Bello or other points." The same orders were sent to the commanders of the Boston and Dixie.

IT IS FURTHER SHOWN THAT ON NOVEMBER 2 the following order was sent to Rear Admiral Glass at Acapulco: "Proceed with all possible dispatch to Panama. Telegraph in cipher your departure. Maintain free and uninterrupted transit. If interruption is threatened by armed force occupy the line. Prevent landing of any armed force, either government or insurgent, with hostile intent, at any point within fifty miles of Panama. If doubtful as to the intent of any armed force occupy Ancon Hill strongly with artillery. If the Wyoming would delay Concord and Marblehead, her disposition must be left to your discretion. Government force reported approaching the isthmus in vessels. Prevent their landing if in your judgment landing would precipitate a conflict." November 4 Acting Secretary Darling sent this dispatch to the commander of the Nashville: "Gunboat of Colombia shelling Panama. Send immediately battery of 3-inch field gun and 6-pounder with force of men to Panama to compel cessation of bombardment. Railroad must furnish transportation immediately." Secretary Moody sent this dispatch to the commander of the Boston November 9: "Upon the arrival of the Marblehead sufficient force must be sent to watch movements closely of the British steamers seized at Buena Ventura, and to prevent the landing of men with hostile intent within the limits of the state of Panama. Protect the British steamers if necessary." On the following day the secretary sent a dispatch to Admiral Glass saying the British steamers had not been detained and asking if they left with Colombian troops aboard.

THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY AT OMAHA on November 16 returned indictments against United States Senator Charles H. Dietrich and Postmaster Jacob Fisher of Hastings, Neb. Senator Dietrich and Postmaster Fisher are charged with conspiracy and bribery in connection with Fisher's appointment as postmaster. It is charged that Senator Dietrich accepted money and property in consideration of his recommending Fisher for appointment, and Fisher is indicted on the charge of making an agreement with the United States senator by which Fisher was to pay in property and money, \$1,300. Senator Dietrich was elected in 1901 to fill out the unexpired term of the late Senator M. L. Hayward. Senator Allen, a populist, had been appointed by Governor Poynter to succeed Mr. Hayward, and when the legislature met Dietrich was chosen to complete the Hayward term. Mr. Dietrich insists that there is nothing in the charges and that his indictment was brought about because of the enmity of United States District Attorney Summers who is seeking reappointment, but to whose reappointment Dietrich is opposed.

AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE ILLINOIS legislature, a bill was passed prohibiting judges of Illinois state courts from acting as attorneys in any of the courts of the state. Governor Yates vetoed the bill on the ground that it was a reflection on the circuit judges of Illinois. On November 16 Judge George W. Brown, who is an Illinois circuit judge, appeared in the United States court before Judge Kohlsaat as attorney for the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railway company. Judge Kohlsaat made it very clear that he did not look with favor upon a judge appearing in court as practicing attorney. Judge Kohlsaat said: "It is a remarkable thing for a judge of a court of records to appear in another court as trial lawyer, and I do not approve of such conduct."

NEW YORK DISPATCHES, UNDER DATE OF November 16, announced that the 24,000 holders of preferred stock of the United States steel corporation received the tenth quarterly dividend of \$1.75 a share today. This makes the total amount that the steel corporation has paid out for preferred stock dividends since January 1 of this year \$23,921,913. The undivided profits of the corporation for the nine months ending September 30 were \$29,348,742, or \$3,260,000 per month. Within a few days it is expected that J. P. Morgan & Co. will issue a call for \$5,000,000 from the members of the bond conversion syndicate, who are pledged to take \$20,000,000 of the bonds at par for cash. So far only \$5,000,000 has been called for. The new call will make the total \$10,000,000.

A LONDON DISPATCH ANNOUNCES THAT J. Pierpont Morgan has purchased Aldenham House at Aldenham Herts, with a view to using it as a residence during the greater part of the year. Commenting upon this dispatch the Baltimore Herald says: "This news is supplemented by the rumor that Mr. Morgan expects to live in England a great deal in the future. It is sad the way our millionaires abandon us after gathering up all the spare currency in the country. Carnegie is already established in Castle Skibo and Astor—well, everyone is familiar with his history. Next Mr. Charles M. Schwab and Mr. John D. Rockefeller will decide that they have the lemon well squeezed and will be thinking of retiring to the little island."

MR. HANNA'S WAR UPON GENERAL LEONARD Wood, President Roosevelt's personal friend, has reached an interesting stage. It will be remembered that Senator Hanna and Major E. G. Rathbone, former director of posts in Cuba, are warm friends. Hanna holds Wood responsible for Rathbone's disgrace and a desperate fight is now being made to persuade the senate committee on military affairs to reject Wood's nomination to be a major general. Some interesting testimony will be presented to the military committee.

THE ENEMIES OF GENERAL WOOD AP-pear to have equipped themselves thoroughly for the contest. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle says that one of the most interesting documents to be offered is an affidavit touching the military governor's relations with the notorious Jai Alai gambling establishment in Havana. Following is the text of this affidavit: "In the city of Havana on May 25, 1903, the undersigned, with those present, certify that it is certain and they know that M. Rafael Alfonso y Munoz, resident in Cuba street, No. 98, and Anto Lopez y Monte, who lives in Monseratte, No. 77, are owners, the first of four and the second of two shares in Fronton Jai Alai, which they hold and from which they collect the regular dividends. We also certify that of the dividends due for the last three seasons of play there was retained by the treasurer of the company \$10 for each share from the dividend of 1902, and that instead of \$260 dividend per share there was paid only \$250 for each share, and that we know that the \$10 for each share was held to make a present to the wife of the military governor, General Wood, to all of which we swear and sign on the date above mentioned. Antonio Lopez y Monte. Rafael Alfonso y Munoz."

IT IS POINTED OUT BY GENERAL WOOD'S enemies that the making of presents to the military governor was not entirely voluntary on the part of the shareholders in the big gambling company, each share of stock being assessed \$10. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle says: "The presents consisted of a magnificent silver service bought from Tiffany & Co. in New York for \$5,000. This was given to the governor at a breakfast given in his honor in Havana May 18, 1902, the president of the Jai Alai company making the presentation in the name of his company. Mrs. Wood was given jewelry that cost \$2,500. The fact that the Jai Alai gave the present to General Wood and that he admitted it to Havana free of duty is not denied by General Wood and Secretary Root. The latter says