

THE WEEK AT WASHINGTON

On December 7 the house of representatives convened in regular session and listened to the reading of the president's annual message to congress. The house having organized four weeks ago the ceremony of the opening day comprised merely a roll call to develop the presence of a quorum and the customary notification to the president and the senate.

The senate closed the extraordinary session on December 7 and entered upon the duties of the regular session. After the reading of the president's message, the Cuban reciprocity bill was read, Mr. Cullom, who has charge of the measure, making a speech advocating its passage.

By the failure of the extraordinary session of congress to adjourn sine die, thus eliminating the possibility of a recess between the two sessions and the opportunity for President Roosevelt to renew his civil and military recess appointments, it was believed that many of the appointments made by the president would fail of confirmation by the senate; but on December 7 the president sent to the senate the nomination of General Leonard Wood to be a major general of the army and also the nominations of 167 other army officers whose promotions depend on that of General Wood. The senate committee investigating into the official conduct of General Wood while he was serving as governor of Cuba is being continued, and the committee has announced that it must have all the witnesses in the case before December 16.

The secretary of the treasury transmitted to the congress on December 7 the estimates of appropriations required by the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905. The appropriations asked for aggregate \$624,505,146, as against \$589,189,112 asked for the year 1904, and \$605,286,990 the amount of the appropriations for that year. The present estimates and the appropriations under each head for 1904 are recapitulated as follows: Appropriations for 1904: Legislative \$12,863,806; executive \$363,008; state department \$3,835,046; treasury department \$174,643,184; war department \$132,763,515; navy department \$87,284,137; interior department \$165,708,855; postoffice department \$2,201,513. Estimated for 1905: Legislative \$11,687,255; executive \$320,000; state department \$3,133,966; treasury department \$168,659,064; war department \$131,259,033; navy department \$105,825,470; interior department \$163,093,386; postoffice department \$10,824,759.

A bill was recently introduced establishing a postal currency, providing for notes in the denomination of five, ten, twenty-five and fifty cents to be issued by the postmaster general and kept on sale by all postmasters.

On December 7, Representative Prince of Illinois, a member of the banking and currency committee, introduced a bill providing that \$100,000,000 of the public moneys now deposited with national bank depositories shall be invested by the secretary of the treasury at the rate of \$5,000,000 a month in state, county and municipal bonds, which pay interest at not less than 2 per cent. The bonds which may be acquired are the same as those designated in the Ald-

rich bill of the last congress. A provision is included in the bill authorizing the secretary of the treasury to sell these bonds, but not more than \$10,000,000 may be sold in any one month.

A sharp discussion took place in the senate on December 8 between Senators Gorman and Lodge, in regard to the recent investigations into the postoffice frauds. Mr. Gorman intimated that the investigation by the department had been partisan in character. Mr. Lodge defended the department's work in the investigation, and the resolution introduced by Mr. Penrose in regard to the investigation being referred to the committee on postoffices went over without action.

The house of representatives has authorized the committee on postoffices and post roads to request the postmaster general to supply the committee with information in connection with the recent investigation of the department.

On December 8 Senator Nelson of Minnesota introduced a bill on the same lines as the Aldrich financial bill that was introduced in the Fifty-seventh congress. On the same day Senator Frye introduced a bill to regulate commerce between the United States and the Philippines, providing that on and after June 1, 1904, all merchandise to and fro between the Philippines and this country shall be carried in American ships.

The first annual report of the secretary of commerce and labor was given out on December 9. In this report the duty of this department is set forth in detail, and the personnel of the department is given as comprising 1,289 employes in Washington and 8,836 in the country at large. The appropriation to be expended under the direction of the department is given at \$9,796,847.

On December 9 Representative Gardner of Massachusetts introduced a bill creating a commission to consider and recommend legislation for the development of the American merchant marine. The commission is to be composed of the secretary of the navy, postmaster general, the secretary of commerce and labor and three members each of the senate and house. The commission is to investigate and to report to congress at its next session what legislation is desired for the development of the merchant marine, and incidentally for a national ocean mail service of adequate auxiliary naval cruisers and naval reserves. The investigation is to be conducted by hearings.

The opening session of the American Forestry association met at Washington on December 9, and Secretary of Agriculture Wilson presided. The reports submitted indicated a substantial advance in the forestry movement. The membership of the association numbers 2,107.

A Washington dispatch under date of December 9 says: James K. Jones, chairman of the democratic national committee, today issued a call for the committee to meet at the Shoreham hotel in this city Tuesday, January 12, for the purpose of deciding upon the time and place for holding the democratic national convention.

The American Red Cross society in annual meeting at Washington on December 9 decided to grant the request of the opposition for an investigation of the condition of the work of the society. Miss Clara Barton was re-

-elected president of the society for life, and the board of trustees elected is as follows: Senator Hoar, John G. Carlisle, Richard Olney, George B. McClelland, General Miles, Messrs. Eugene D. Fiske, Samuel M. Jarvis, S. B. Hayes, Charles A. Baker, P. V. DeGraw, S. W. Briggs, Miss Clara Barton and Mrs. John A. Logan.

On December 10 a brief was filed in the United States supreme court by the counsel for the Northern Securities company in the proceeding of the United States against that company for violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. According to the terms of this brief, it is contended that the company organization is perfectly legal and it is declared that the right of the company to acquire stock of other concerns is a natural one.

The house adopted a resolution on December 10 directing the judiciary committee to inquire into the official conduct of Charles Swayne, judge of the United States district court for the northern district of Florida, who is charged with misconduct.

The territory of New Mexico is again applying for statehood and hearings on the bill to the effect were recently given in the house by the committee on territories.

A spirited debate concerning the new Panama republic took place in the house on December 11, the debate being participated in by Mr. Dinsmore of Arkansas, Mr. Hitt of Illinois, Mr. Williams of Mississippi and others.

The war department has prepared a bill to be submitted to congress providing a method of award for distinguished services, in the military in which the president shall have the power to grant to officers of distinguished service commissions of promotions which are not, however, to interfere with the regular commission held by the officer so far as the privileges of rank and command are concerned.

The republican national committee, presided over by Senator Hanna, met in Washington on December 11 for the purpose of deciding the time and place for the next republican convention. The committee will be in session for some days. Perry S. Heath still acts as secretary for the committee, in spite of some opposition to him on account of his connection with the postal scandals.

A resolution was introduced by Senator Patterson on December 11 directing the committee on judiciary to investigate the strike among the miners of Cripple Creek and Telluride, Colo. In the preamble to this resolution, among other things, the action of Governor Peabody in establishing military control is termed an outrage and misrule.

On December 11 Senator Bacon introduced a resolution calling for information as regards the operation of the tariff law on exports and imports in the United States, and as to American manufactures sold in Europe.

Books Received.

History of the Thirty-first Regiment Illinois Volunteers, organized by John A. Logan; Keller Printing & Publishing Co., Evansville, Ind.

Usury: a scriptural, ethical and economic view, by Calvin Elliott; booklet; published by The Anti-Tory League, Millersburg, O.

Maxmillian: a play, by Edgar Lee Masters; the Gorham Press, Boston, Mass.

Brickbats and Bouquets, by Col. John A. Joyce; published by F. Tenny-

son Neely, 114 Fifth ave., New York. The Ragged Edge, a novel, by John T. McIntyre; a tale of ward life and politics; McClure, Phillips & Co., New York.

The Trust Problem and a Solution; pamphlet; by Charles James Fox, Ph. D., Suffern, N. Y.

Freaks and Fancies, poems, by Victor Hammond, Lima, O.

The Bible as I See It, by Charles E. Jones, Pedlar Mills, Va.

Pete's Devil, by Charles A. Adams; Scroll Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill.

Martin Van Buren, by Edward M. Shepard; published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., The Riverside Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Rules and Reasons or Practical Rules for the Measurement of Surfaces and Solids, pamphlet, by Josephine Jarvis and J. R. Jarvis; published by the authors, Cobden, Ill. Price, 40 cents.

THE UNION PACIFIC

will sell Holiday tickets on December 24, 25, 31, and January 1, to points within 200 miles at reduced rates, good to return until January 4, 1904. City office 1044 O Street, Lincoln, Neb.

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