

WEEK AT WASHINGTON

February 8 Senator Hopkins of Illinois, republican, and Senator Clay of Georgia, democrat, spoke in support of the Panama canal treaty.

The senate has passed the bill granting assistance to the proposed Lewis and Clarke exposition at Portland, Ore. The bill was amended so as to provide for closing the exposition on the Sabbath day.

In a speech delivered to the senate in support of the Panama canal treaty, Mr. Clay of Georgia criticised the conduct of the administration in dealing with the Panama situation. He declared that there had been a flagrant violation of international law, but said that in the face of the president's disclaimer he could not believe the United States had prompted the secession. The great anxiety, however, to have the canal built prompted him to support the treaty.

The house has passed the bill providing for the loan of \$4,600,000 to the St. Louis exposition.

Cameron Forbes has been tendered the position of Philippine commissioner of commerce and police.

The interstate commerce commission on February 8 decided the question of the transportation of immigrants from New York and other Atlantic ports to western points. Referring to this the Associated press says: "After stating that investigation showed that this immigrant traffic is divided between the carriers in agreed proportions, based on the proportion of the domestic passenger traffic done by each line, and finding that such a practice cannot be made effective in respect to any other class of passenger business and that the arrangements adopted by the carriers in connection with the immigration authorities for handling immigrant business have efficiently promoted the protection and greatly improved the treatment and comfort of the immigrants, the commission holds that it appears to be doubtful whether the act prohibiting carriers from entering into any contract, agreement or combination for the pooling of freights by different and competing roads or to divide between the aggregate or net proceeds of the earnings of the special roads, applies to such a division of passengers as has been shown to exist. The commission also holds that there is no discrimination as against individuals, classes or localities resulting from the handling by carriers of this immigrant business at domestic published rates, and that there is no justification at this time for the issuance of any order in the premises."

The special committee appointed by the senate to inquire into the Dietrich charges has postponed their work for ten days. Former Senator Charles F. Manderson of Omaha, who is now attorney for the Burlington railroad, will have charge of Senator Dietrich's side of the case before the senate committee. It is also said that Senator Manderson is making a desperate effort to persuade the president to remove Mr. Summers, the district attorney, who prosecuted Senator Dietrich.

On February 9 the senate held an executive session, the Panama treaty being under consideration. Senator Cullom, chairman of the committee

on foreign relations, made a formal statement in explanation of the terms of the Panama treaty. The Associated press says that Senator Cullom explained in some detail the points in which this treaty differs from the Hay-Herran treaty with Colombia, contending that the present agreement was far superior to the former one, in that it practically places the United States in absolute control of the canal and the canal strip. He said that there need be no fear of complications on account of claims made by Colombia to an interest in the canal, the Panama railroad or other property interests on the isthmus, because all these naturally pass to the new government of Panama. Mr. Cullom expressed the hope that there would be no insistence on the amendments to the treaty, which were originally recommended by the committee on foreign relations. To adopt amendments he said would cause delay, which he said it was desirable to avoid, while if the treaty should be ratified as it now stands it would be a comparatively easy matter to secure supplemental treaties covering defects in the pending convention, which may be discovered in the future.

On February 9 Senators Carmack and Overman spoke in opposition to the Panama treaty. Mr. Carmack said that he was greatly interested in the construction of the canal, but did not believe that the fate of the canal was involved in the treaty. He said that if the president could not get a canal by way of the Panama route, he would follow the Spooner law and accept the Nicaragua route. Mr. Overman said that he opposed the canal treaty on the ground that the United States had violated the obligations of the treaty of 1846.

On February 9 Senator Fulton of Oregon spoke in favor of the Panama canal treaty. He said it was the greatest enterprise that the world was ever engaged in.

On February 10 the house decided the Connell-Howell election contest from the Tenth Pennsylvania district in favor of Mr. Connell, a republican. Three republicans, Lanning of New Jersey, Shiras of Pennsylvania and Parker of New Jersey, voted against ousting Mr. Howell, the democrat.

On February 10 Senator McCumber spoke in defense of the Panama canal treaty.

An Associated press dispatch says that on February 10 Secretary of War Taft reviewed conditions in the Philippine islands before the house committee on insular affairs. The secretary at first turned his attention to the Patterson bill, to abolish slavery in the islands. He stated that there was not the slightest objection to the passage of the bill, although, in his judgment, there was no use for the measure, as slavery had already been abolished legislatively by the terms of the Philippine act. The Bates treaty, he said, had been abrogated by the sultan of Sulu and his dattos, and he had forwarded a recommendation to the secretary of war for its abrogation officially by the United States. Secretary Taft reviewed the friar land negotiations, which had been successfully concluded. While the Philippine government might lose perhaps \$1,500,000 or \$2,000,000 by the purchase of the friar lands and their subsequent sale to the Filipinos, he thought the beneficial effects from a political standpoint amply justified the transaction. Secretary Taft will continue his account of Philippine matters before the committee at an-

other time and will also be heard later by the house committee on merchant marine and fisheries on the Philippine shipping bill.

Mr. Buchanan, the Panama minister, had a long conference with Secretary Hay on February 10. Mr. Buchanan reported that matters in Panama were in good shape. He will not return to Panama.

On February 10 Senator Daniel of Virginia spoke in opposition to the Panama canal treaty. Senators Fairbanks and Spooner spoke in favor of the treaty. Senator Daniel said that the Nicaraguan route was the only one for which title could be secured without national dishonor.

An Associated press dispatch says that on February 10 in the case of the city of Wichita, Kas., against the Missouri Pacific and other railroads involving a 5-cent higher rate on flour to Texas points than on wheat, the interstate commerce commission reiterated its former decision that the differential was not unlawful. The commission holds that it has no more authority to place competing millers in different states upon precisely the same footing than it has to equalize the conditions in all localities and in every industry.

Among the speakers at the Lincoln banquet held at Grand Rapids, Mich., Friday, was Thomas F. Pendel. For forty years Pendel has been an usher in the White house. He is now 80 years old, and the Associated press says that it was he who last escorted President Lincoln from the White house to his carriage on the night of the assassination.

Representative Emerich of Chicago has introduced in the house a resolution appropriating \$1,000,000 for the relief of the suffering in Baltimore.

The Associated press says that President Roosevelt has taken up with Secretary Shaw the arrangements necessary to be made by this government for the payment of the \$40,000,000 for the canal property and the \$10,000,000 to the republic of Panama; and that Attorney General Knox is examining the Spooner act with the view of determining whether it affords the president authority to issue bonds to raise the money needed.

On February 10 Senator Gamble reported favorably from the committee on public lands the 5 per cent bill for the regulation of accounts between the United States and the several states relative to the disposition of public lands. The aggregate amount involved at the present time under this bill is estimated at \$8,182,000, while the amounts already deposited with the states under the land act aggregate \$28,101,644. The bill has been reported favorably to several congresses, but it now has the full approval of the public lands committee and earnest effort will be made to secure its passage.

The Ohio League of Republican clubs met at Cleveland, February 12, and after a spirited fight adopted a resolution indorsing the candidacy of Mr. Roosevelt.

Judge Franklin C. Platt of the Iowa state court at Waterloo on February 12 declared the Iowa anti-trust law unconstitutional. Certain railroad companies were indicted under the clause which prohibits conspiracy to fix the charge of any article of merchandise or commodity, and provides a punishment of a fine of not less than one per cent, or more than twenty per cent of the capital of the offending company or persons. Judge Platt held that this section was in

conflict with the 14th amendment to the federal constitution. Under this section the defendant companies could not be fined less than \$2,800,000, of which the county attorney would receive \$456,000. In his opinion Judge Platt said: "A law which requires a man possessed of \$1,000,000 to pay a fine of \$100,000, while for the same offense a man possessed of \$1,000 is subject to a penalty of \$10 would be destructive of the very foundation of justice upon which constitutional law must rest."

Mrs. Martha J. Lorenz, charged with complicity in the postoffice frauds at Washington February 12, the court holding that there was not sufficient evidence to convict her, and directing the jury to find the verdict of not guilty.

Playing Government.

A tiny Lancashire hamlet elects a mock mayor each year. The residents of the village find great entertainment in masquerading as "the ancient borough of Worston." With splendid seriousness the candidates issue addresses, and all the residents of the neighborhood are supplied with voting papers, the women voting as well as the men. The duly elected mayor always assumes the style of a privy councillor and the rank of a knight. The holder of the office for several years has been "the Right Hon. Sir William Bullock," a laborer. He has his robes of office, a gorgeous cocked hat and huge brass chain and badge. The corporation meets at the village inn, and there ponderously discusses such moving questions as the repainting of finger posts. At the coronation of Edward this mock borough had its civic rejoicings, and forwarded an address to the king, who acknowledged it as courteously as he did the congratulations of London or Edinburgh. —New York Tribune.

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