

## The Week In Washington

The name of Major Warner has been mentioned as a probable successor to the office of commissioner of pensions, and it is understood that the president is anxious to appoint him.

Charles F. Larabee of Maine to be assistant commissioner of Indian affairs.

J. Pierpont Morgan was a visitor December 11.

An Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, D. C., Dec. 11, says: "No hope is held out in administration circles of a revival of the French-American reciprocity treaty, efforts to encourage which are being made by the Bourse, according to an interview with President Chard of that body, as cabled by the Associated Press yesterday. The French treaty and a number of others have been pigeon-holed in the senate for some time and there is no expectation that they will be seriously considered at this session of congress."

President Roosevelt has abandoned the idea of calling congress into special session in the spring to revise the tariff. He is not certain, however, that a special session will not be called next fall.

Secretary Hay has made recommendations for increasing the salaries of a great number of officers in the service of the government.

The Washington correspondent for the New York Herald, under date of Dec. 14, says: "Final agreement on a ship subsidy bill has been reached by the commission of senators and representatives investigating this question during the recess of congress. The report of the commission is also nearing completion, and both bill and report will probably be presented before adjournment for the holidays. In spite of the stamp of disapproval put on this measure by Speaker Cannon and other house leaders who were urging economy, friends of the measure are planning to make a vigorous campaign in its behalf, and declare that the democratic opposition in the senate and house has very largely disappeared. The principal features of the bill include mail subventions of tonnage taxes. The new bill is drawn up along lines eliminating the question of preferential or differential duties. The commission, after investigation of this feature, decided that it was not practicable. It plans a direct subsidy drawn up that would not conflict with from thirty to forty commercial treaties, which would be likely to arouse retaliatory legislation. It is on new mail routes, with a very generous speed maximum and an alternative subvention, that the new bill is founded. The vessels which do not care to undertake the mail contracts are allowed the alternative of the employment of a certain percentage of American sailors belonging to the naval reserve, about one-eighth. It is not certain yet just what will be the amount of money involved. It is estimated that the rebate on the tonnage tax may reach \$5,000,000, while in the case of the Pacific lines running to the Orient and Panama the mail subventions may amount to between one and one-half and two million dollars. No estimates have yet been made for the Atlantic. It is expected

that the Pacific Mail, in its lines running to China and Japan, would get about \$50,000, and probably \$250,000 on lines to the Isthmus. It is proposed to raise the rate of tonnage tax. That now being charged by the United States is lower than any other country charges on foreign bottoms. This sum which is now turned into the treasury service, the lighthouse service, and so forth, will thus be greatly increased and will be equally distributed among American ships.

The bureau of immigration held a conference Dec. 12 to consider plans for the distribution of immigrants. No definite conclusion was reached but many valuable suggestions are being considered.

Although it was understood upon his appointment to office that Secretary of the Navy Morton would remain for only nine months at the post, President Roosevelt has prevailed upon him to remain for a greater length of time. Secretary Morton has begun a number of reforms in the navy which will require his attention for a considerable length of time.

In accordance with the suggestion of President Roosevelt the forest reserves will be put under the department of agriculture.

The arbitration treaty between Great Britain and the United States was signed Dec. 12.

The inaugural ball will be held in the pension building.

An Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, D. C., Dec. 13, says: "Senator Galinger today introduced a bill providing that vessels of the United States and no others shall be used in the transportation of supplies, machinery and other material of the Panama railroad and for the construction of the canal and for naval supplies to Guantanamo, Cuba. A penalty of forfeiture of goods is provided."

The president has denied executive clemency to Mrs. Phillips Dodge in the matter of returning her jewels which were seized by government officials upon her arrival at the port of New York. They were valued at \$39,000.

An Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, D. C., Dec. 14, says: "In order that actual settlers should have the public lands Representative Reeder of Kansas urged the president today to use his influence to secure a change in the public land laws. He told the president the laws ought to be changed at once in the interest of the government and of genuine settlers, so as to prevent the lands from being taken up by people who merely desired to dispose of them at the earliest possible moment. No decision regarding the matter was reached, but it will be considered by the president."

Mr. Beveridge, on behalf of the committee on territories, reported the statehood bill and he will make a motion on the first day that the senate convenes in January that a consideration of the bill shall be entered on at once.

Mr. Dubois has presented an amendment providing for enforcing the Chi-

nese exclusion law in the Philippine islands. He says that if the demands for coolie labor are granted, the sugar making industry of the United States would be destroyed.

The state of Kansas will erect a statue of John J. Ingalls in statuary hall of the capitol in January, 1905.

Representative Hearst of New York has reintroduced in the house the resolution presented by him a few days ago. The resolution is amended so as to include the names of Warren Tumber and H. W. Aldrich who were dismissed from the postal department. The resolution calls on the president for information concerning dismissed postal employees.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Washington, D. C., Dec. 16, says: "The house committee on interstate and foreign commerce today authorized a favorable report on the Vreeland bill, making it unlawful to stamp the words 'United States Assay' on gold or silver used in the arts. The purpose of the bill is to prevent the practice of stamping spurious articles with the words quoted, in order to make it appear that the government in some manner had passed on the quality of the metal."

Mr. Baker, representative from New York, has introduced a resolution requesting the attorney general to report to this house, whether he has ascertained that the so-called 'beef trust' is in restraint of trade; and, if so, what steps he has taken under the provisions of law to cause a forfeiture of the property (in course of transportation from one state to another) of those constituting the so-called 'beef trust.'

Secretary Hay has sent to the American ambassadors and ministers accredited to the powers signatory to The Hague convention for presentation to several foreign offices a circular note giving a summary of the replies to his note of last October suggesting a second conference at The Hague to complete the work begun by the first conference.

Secretary Taft is doing his utmost to secure from the present congress tariff legislation for the Philippines. He will have a conference with Chairman Payne of the committee on ways and means as to what course he will pursue in the matter.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Washington, D. C., Dec. 16, says: "The house committee on elections of president and vice president authorized a favorable report on a bill introduced by Representative Cark (Mo.) providing that the secretary of agriculture and the secretary of commerce and labor shall follow the other cabinet officers in the line of succession to the presidency in the event of a vacancy in that office, caused by death or resigning. The bill amends the present law on the subject by adding the two cabinet positions named."

Plans are under way for the establishment of an American commercial center in the heart of the city of Paris. Some well-known officials have talked to the president, Secretary Hay and Secretary Taft about the project and it has been encouraged.

### A Great Benefactor

The Lincoln, (Neb.) Journal prints an interesting story relating to the farm implement trust. Editorially, the Journal says:

"The story of the rapid encroachments of the International Harvester company upon the farm implement trade contains the thrilling interest

of a good novel but too many people have a personal stake in the outcome of the story to enjoy its contemplation."

Then the Journal points out that Mr. Rockefeller has considerable to do with this trust, saying: "In many respects the last three years of the implement business has embodied the elements of the forty years' struggle in the oil business, with which all America is familiar through the work of Miss Tarbell. The fact that Mr. Rockefeller and his colleagues have been able to accomplish in the implement business in three years what required several times as long in the oil trade shows graphically with what skill, cunning and long practice have enabled these men to take hold of a disorganized line of industry, gather together the nucleus for an organization, throttle competition by any of the thousand ways with which they are familiar and emerge in an incredibly short time in control of the industry. The implement dealers, who are the first to feel the heavy hand of the implement monopoly, may be able to save themselves by close organization. For the farmer, who must ultimately pay the price for the whole business, the remedy is not so clear. A long step toward the solution of the problem will doubtless have been taken when congress gives the interstate commerce commission some real power in dealing with discriminations in the matter of freight rates."

And yet, the authorities of our state university, with, as we remember it, the cordial approval of the Lincoln Journal, purpose to erect on the state university campus a memorial to the man through whose cunning organizations are effected having for their purpose the throttling of competition, the monopoly of industries and the placing of outrageous impositions on the people.—Omaha World-Herald.

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