

## Week at Washington

Important disclosures have been made by the state department as to the results of a tour of investigation made by Dr. Thomas Norton, American consul at Harput, Turkey. The report says that 5,000 Armenians have been killed by the Kurds and other elements of the Moslem population.

The department of the interior has made public the contents of a report from the commissioner of education at Porto Rico, which shows that there are school accommodations for only one-fifth of the children.

An Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, D. C., Jan. 21, says: "The petition of Edward H. Harriman and Winslow S. Pierce, the Oregon Short Line railroad company and the Equitable Trust company, for a writ of certiorari to the circuit court of appeals for the third circuit in their proceeding against the Northern Securities company, was presented to the supreme court of the United States today by Attorney W. D. Guthrie of New York. If the petition is granted the effect will be to cause a review of the entire case by the supreme court.

White House authorities have issued the following statement regarding the nomination of the wife of the former governor of Mississippi to be postmaster at Iuka, Miss: "Mrs. Mary G. Stone, whose nomination as postmaster at Iuka, Miss., has been sent to the senate, is the widow of the late J. M. Stone, one of the most popular chief executives Mississippi ever had. He served as governor for twelve years, a longer term than that of any other occupant of the office. He personally confronted mobs wherever they appeared in his state and was firm in upholding the majesty of the law. As governor he offered a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension of the miscreants who fired into a postal car and publicly stated that while he was governor United States postal cars should not be made the targets of assassins. He was a brave soldier and officer, carrying to his grave the scars from wounds he received in battle. He was a gold democrat and refused to accept a seat in the United States senate because the tender had coupled with it the condition that he should obey the will of the legislature on the money issue. Mrs. Stone is a worthy woman and will fill creditably the position to which she has been appointed."

Representative Baker of New York has introduced another resolution requesting the president to bring suit against Paul Morton, the secretary of the navy, and J. C. Stubbs, for entering into a contract in restraint of trade.

The state department is attending to the details of the agreement affecting the administration of finances of San Domingo. A commission will be named to consider the subject of reform in Dominican affairs. An effort will be made to purify the present system, and to regulate expenditures and receipts. The total debt of San Domingo, foreign and domestic, is placed at about \$35,000,000.

An Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, D. C., Jan. 32, says: "None of the impending measures

touch on the main question," said A. C. Bird, vice president of a number of railroads composing the Gould system, at a hearing today before the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce on the question of giving the interstate commerce commission greater powers. Among the roads represented by Mr. Bird are the Washash, Iron Mountain, Missouri Pacific and Texas Pacific. Unreasonable rates per se, he said, have disappeared. The trend of affairs, remarked Mr. Bird, is of a revolutionary character, but he explained that he used the term in opposition to the word evolution. All that has been proposed is in opposition to what has been done, he continued, and he added that the mistake was made in dealing with the railroad question of assuming that the railroads are controlled by one mind."

Representative Bacon has introduced a resolution which quotes from newspaper dispatches that the United States has established a receivership for the republic of Santo Domingo and asks that the president be respectfully requested, if in his judgment not incompatible with public interest, to inform the senate whether any agreement has been made between the United States and the republic of Santo Domingo, and if so, the nature of the terms of the said agreement, and particularly whether any agreement has been made whereby this government undertakes to guarantee the integrity of the government of the republic of Santo Domingo, and whether under said agreement this government assumes any responsibility or obligation to the republic of Santo Domingo, or to any other government on behalf of Santo Domingo."

At 2 o'clock Jan. 24, the senate organized as a court of impeachment on the case of Judge Swayne. Chief Justice Fuller, in his official gown, was escorted to the presiding officer's desk and swore in the senators. Process was issued for Judge Swayne and the court then adjourned until Jan. 27 at 1 o'clock.

The senate has confirmed the nominations of Henry E. Cutting, as receiver and Albert Wheelon, register of the land office at Pierre, S. D.

About 135 members of the house of representatives attended a caucus and by a unanimous vote a resolution was adopted to support the Davey bill, extending authority to the interstate commerce commission to fix railroad rates. The resolution is as follows: "Resolved, That we hereby express our approval of the provisions of house roll No. 17786" (the Davey bill.) The Davey bill was agreed on by the minority members of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce. It is very short, providing only that when the commission shall find, after due hearing, a rate to be unreasonable it shall name a reasonable rate in its place; that this rate shall go into effect after twenty days' notice and shall remain in effect until set aside by a competent court of review, and that the case may be tried in any court taking jurisdiction upon the facts and testimony adduced before the commission.

Two sensational occurrences marked the session of the house on Jan. 23. Representative Baker of New York moved that an adjournment be taken out of respect for the Russian people in order to express "our indescribable horror at the wanton massacre that 'It has come to our knowledge that

has taken place in Russia." Speaker Cannon put the question to the house and Mr. Baker's was the only vote recorded. Seeing that his motion was lost, Mr. Baker rose in his seat and shaking his finger at the republican side of the house said: "That is the interest you people have in humanity, and in an undertone said that if it had been a king or an emperor who had been shot down the house immediately would have adjourned. The house had hardly resumed its composition before intense excitement was occasioned by representative Pearre of Maryland being stricken with nervous convulsions. Dr. Hunter, the Kentucky member, attended the stricken Mr. Pearre, the speaker meanwhile announcing that a ten-minute recess would be taken.

The president has sent to the senate the nomination of Charles Richardson of Massachusetts to the office of secretary of embassy, at Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

The monthly report of the collections of internal revenue shows that the total receipts for the month of December were \$20,745,019. This is an increase of \$163,228 over the receipts of the month of December 1903; but the receipts of the last six months show a decrease of \$639,641 compared with the corresponding period of 1903.

A resolution was introduced in the senate by Mr. Spooner, appropriating \$7,000 to pay the necessary expenses of the inaugural ceremonies. The resolution was passed.

It is reported that while President Roosevelt cordially approves of the senate's disposition to reduce appropriations, he feels that the naval estimates ought not to be reduced so low as to interfere with the carrying into effect of the government's naval program. The present estimate is \$103,000,000.

An Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, Jan. 24, says: "At a hearing before the house committee on ways and means, Secretary Palmer of the American Beet Sugar association opposed the pending bill reducing the duty on sugar and tobacco from the Philippine islands. Mr. Palmer said that just prior to the tariff agitation regarding Cuban sugar in 1901, eighty-six new sugar factories had been projected in this country. Not one of these was built. Since that time Europe had curtailed her sugar crop under the terms of the Brussels agreement and the price had gone up to the point where American capital was on the point of again enlarging the industry in this country. Now to open the Philippine market in competition with the American beet sugar industry would again discourage this movement. In replying to a question by Mr. Curtis, whose bill was under consideration, Mr. Palmer said that the total sugar product of the Philippines was 145,000 tons annually, and if the United States took it all there would still have to be imported 1,500,000 tons to supply the demand.

A bill appropriating \$5,000 for the erection of a monument to the memory of Captain C. V. Gridley, who commanded Admiral Dewey's flagship Olympia at the battle of Manila bay, has been introduced in the senate. His widow, aged 60 years, is working as a clerk in one of the executive departments at Washington. Her only son, Captain Gridley, met death by accident on board the Missouri, recently.

Secretary Hay's letter to the powers, dated Jan. 13, with regard to the violation of neutrality on the part of the Chinese government, is as follows:

apprehension exists on the part of some of the powers, that in the eventual negotiations for peace between Russia and Japan, claim may be made for the concession of Chinese territory to neutral powers. The president would be loath to share this apprehension, believing that the introduction of extraneous interests would seriously embarrass and postpone the settlement of the issues involved in the present contest in the far east, thus making more remote the attainment of that peace which is so earnestly to be desired. For its part the United States has repeatedly made its position well known and has been gratified at the cordial welcome accorded to its efforts to strengthen and perpetuate the broad policy of maintaining the integrity of China and the 'open door' in the Orient, whereby equality of commercial opportunity and access shall be enjoyed by all nations. Holding these views the United States disclaims any thought of reserved territorial rights or control in the Chinese empire, and it is deemed fitting to make this purpose frankly known and to remove all apprehension on this score so far as concerns the policy of this nation, which maintains so considerable a share of the pacific commerce of China, and which holds such important possessions in the Western Pacific, almost at the gateway of China. You will bring this matter to the notice of the government to which you are accredited and you will invite the expression of views thereon.—John Hay."

### Subscribers' Advertising Department

A little thought will convince that this department of The Commoner offers superior advantages to those who desire to secure publicity. Only Commoner subscribers are allowed to use it, and only responsible articles are allowed to be advertised. Confidence in the advertising management will explain in large measure why advertising in The Commoner is profitable. The manager is in receipt of many letters from advertisers who have used this department with profit. The rate is the lowest made in this publication—6 cents per word per insertion, payable in advance. Address all orders to The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**AMERICAN CITIZENS, MEN OR WOMEN,** are entitled to 160 acres each (no more) of finest timber in the world. Timber is Oregon pine. For sale by United States Government for \$2.50 per acre. Each claim contains two to four million feet of lumber. Write for circular. George E. Dickson, 2146 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.

**I OWN AND WILL SELL ALL OR PART OF** Patent No. 675695. It is a Practical Swimming Device and will prove a Life Saver when on hand in cases of Ships or Steamboats being wrecked. L. C. Whitcomb, Spring Ranch, Clay Co., Nebraska.

**WE SELL THE BEST WATERPROOF PAINT** on earth for leaky tin, felt, shingle or canvas roofs, houses, barns, fences or any outside painting. A coat of this paint is guaranteed to last five years. It has stood the test for 12 years. Price 50c per gallon, or 5 gallons for \$2.00. Discount in barrel lots. Booklet and color card with instructions how to make a cheap, serviceable roof will be mailed free to any one. American Roofing Co., 665-67 N. 15th St. Philadelphia, Pa.

**FOR SALE. THE MOST PRODUCTIVE 160** acre farm in Oklahoma. All level bottom land, no sand. Good soft water. Half mile of county seat. For full particulars write to R. Krider, Taloga, Okla.

**FOR SALE. A FEW ROSE COMBED WHITE** Wyandotte Cockerels. Address W. J. Bryan Fairview Poultry Yards, Lincoln, Neb.

**LEARN TO MAKE WIRE, BEAD AND SEA** shell jewelry (samples free). Large profits. Catalogue and Book of instructions 4c. Address O. L. Coleman & Bro. Dept 36, Dallas, Texas

**FOR SALE 500 ACRES OF VALLEY LAND.** Geo W Young, Batesville, Ark., Box 243.

**YOU COULD SELL OLD LINE LIFE INSUR-** ance if you knew how. We teach the art free of charge and pay you for your time. Desirable contracts awaiting special and general agents for the states of Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. Address L. care of Commoner

**INFALLIBLE TEST OF FERTILE EGGS** before setting. Directions 35c. M. T. Lane, Mt. Healthy, Ohio, Box 93.

