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**Week at Washington**

By a vote of 29 to 45 the senate on Feb. 18, decided not to admit the statements of Judge Swayne as testimony.

Secretary Metcalfe of the department of commerce and labor has asked the house to furnish money with which to carry on the investigation of the methods of the Standard Oil company in Kansas.

By order of congress, Col. William Michael, chief clerk of the state department, has published a book giving an illustrated history of the Declaration of Independence, with the biographies and portraits of the signers and the secretary of congress. Because of the historic value of the book which Colonel Michael has compiled, congress has ordered it to be printed as a government publication.

The senate committee on post office and post roads has added \$1,000,000 to the original provision.

An Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, Feb. 18, says: "President Roosevelt has not abandoned his idea of obtaining with the leading powers of the world definite, comprehensive and effective agreements as to a scheme of international arbitration. It will be his effort to have the matter so presented to the attention of the second Hague conference which is to be held at the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese war, as to insure favorable action of a character that will be binding upon all the powers signatory to the proposed new convention. Instructions will be given to the representatives of the United States at the conference to press for such an agreement. The details of the instructions have not been worked out yet, of course, as the time of holding the conference has not been determined, but it is understood that the effort of this country will be to have specified with some definiteness the subjects which under the proposed agreement, may be submitted to arbitration. Such an agreement according to this view, would be more effective than the general treaties entered into between the United States and other countries individually. Notwithstanding the action of the senate, therefore, in so amending the treaties as to prevent the exchange of ratifications, the president will endeavor to obtain even more tangible results through the plan he now has in mind. He discussed the subject of international arbitration today with Hayne Davis of New York, who has made a study of the subject, and Representative Bartholdi of Missouri, president of the Inter-Parliamentary union. Mr. Roosevelt's callers found him confident that much would be accomplished in the cause of arbitration at the proposed conference at The Hague, where, he believed, an arrangement could be made for the arbitration of certain specified subjects to the exclusion of such others as might cause either international friction in the countries affected by the terms of the agreement or strained relations between any two of the powers signatory to the results of the conference.

The naval appropriation bill, carrying with it the sum of \$99,914,395, passed the house Feb. 20. The provision for two battleships was retained.

Several times during the session of the house on Feb. 20, Mr. Baker, of New York, referred to the assassination of Grand Duke Sergius. He condemned the action of President Roosevelt in sending a message of condolence to Russia, expressing the sentiment that the government and American

people viewed the act with abhorrence. The people, he declared, did view with abhorrence the massacre in St. Petersburg on January 22, but the president, he said, had not seen fit to send a message of condolence on that occasion. He was replied to by Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio, who took the ground that regardless of the character of the duke or the question of the right or wrong of Russia's policy toward the subjects, the president, in sending the message he did, had done exactly what civilization considered his duty. The climax came later in the day, when Mr. Baker read a resolution on the subject which he subsequently introduced and which, in effect, was a reiteration of his remarks previously made. He explained that it has been suggested that in the event of his offering such a resolution, a motion would be made to expel him. He shouted defiance to any member of the house to make the motion, as he deposited the resolution and took his seat, amid the confusion of which the incident had created.

An Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, D. C., Feb. 19, says: "In spite of warnings, congress is rushing headlong and blind to an \$80,000,000 deficit and a possible bond issue. This was pointed out on the floor of the house in a remarkable speech by Representative Littlefield of Maine. The naval bill was under consideration, and following the custom which Mr. Littlefield has pursued during the debate on every other appropriation bill during the present session, he called the attention of the house and country to the fact that there must be a retrenchment at once, or a provision for more revenue or possibly a bond issue, for which he would never vote. He said that from estimates furnished to him he had figured out that at the present rate congress was appropriating money the excess of expenditures over receipts at the end of the year would be between \$80,000,000 and \$90,000,000. A large part of the increase of expenditures, he said, was due to the enormous military estimates of the country. While the increase of expenses in other departments in the last eight years over the previous eight years had been only 22 per cent the increase for the army and navy had been 341 per cent. In money it amounted to \$988,000,000. 'I shall probably vote for the army and navy appropriation bills,' said he. 'They are undoubtedly necessary, but I wish to inquire if this house and its committee if it is wise to incur these expenditures when the rivers and harbors of the country and public buildings, the real monuments of peace, must suffer. We spend millions upon millions for a navy, and nothing for the merchant marine, which might be the basis of the naval estimate. What boots it to carry the American flag at the mast-head of a battleship into foreign ports if the flag of American commerce cannot go with it?' Mr. Littlefield then pointed out that these enormous expenditures must stop, or more revenue be provided. He asked the house which method it proposed to adopt in order to increase importations, a duty on articles that are now imported free or an increase in internal revenue taxation. Representative Foss, in charge of the naval appropriation bill, in reply to a question, said that this year's measure had been considered more carefully than any other in the history of the naval legislation. Already it had been reduced \$20,000,000 below the estimates, more than all the other appropriation bills put together and not a single item could be cut without destroying the efficiency of the naval estimate. Deficiencies estimated by Secretary Shaw

in each department for fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, are as follows:

Legislative .....	\$ 20,000.00
State department.....	105,462.39
Treasury department ....	3,757,780.61
District of Columbia ....	122,088.06
War department .....	1,916,969.39
Navy department .....	15,071,284.13
Interior department.....	4,734,058.76
Department of agriculture	3,567.60
Department of commerce and labor .....	57,742.84
Department of justice....	575,819.32
Postoffice department ....	23,000,000.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$49,364,773.10</b>

Ambassador Jusserand, of France, has presented to congress the bronze replica of the marble bust of George Washington which was destroyed by fire in the congressional library in 1851. The ceremonies took place in the rotunda of the capitol where the bust was unveiled.

Congressman Hitchcock proposed an amendment to tariff bill in the house, providing that the importation of opium to the Philippines shall be prohibited. In support of his amendment, Mr. Hitchcock said: "It seems to me that if the duty of a civilized nation to a helpless ward of this sort ever required the exercise of paternal care it is required in this particular case. We should not for a few thousand dollars of revenue spread opium depravity."

An Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, D. C., Feb. 21, says: "Secretary Morton has reconsidered his decision to reject the recent bids for armor plate made by the Midvale Steel company of Pennsylvania and he will award to that company, which was the lowest bidder, a contract for 1,000 tons of the 8,000 tons wanted.

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