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Washington News

The house of representatives, by a viva voca vote, passed a bill granting separate statehood to the territories of New Mexico and Arizona.

Senor Joaquim Nabuco, Brazilian ambassador to Washington, died suddenly, aged sixty years.

The United States supreme court has held as unconstitutional the North Dakota statute of 1907 requiring liquor dealers to pay to the state a fee of \$10 upon receipts issued to them by the federal government for the payment of internal revenue tax.

One Washington dispatch says it is suggested that Theodore Roosevelt be a candidate for the lower house of congress and be elected speaker in place of Joseph G. Cannon.

A conference of the governors of the states was held at Washington.

Objection to the New Mexico and Arizona statehood bill that passed the house, was shown in the senate. Mr. Taft and other republican leaders will not consent to the admission of these territories earlier than the summer of 1911.

An Associated Press dispatch says: "Steps were taken by the senate committee on military affairs to have Noah Webster's famous dictionary adjudged obsolete. The definition given to 'hazing' by that authority is not satisfactory to congress. After a long discussion Senator Dupont was authorized to introduce a bill prescribing regulations governing the dismissal of cadets from West Point military academy on charges of hazing. It is provided that a cadet dismissed shall not be reinstated and shall not be eligible for appointment as an officer of the army for two years after the class of which he was a member shall have been graduated."

Attorney General Wickersham has held that national banks holding government bonds valued at more than \$5,000 will be required to pay a tax to the federal government under the provisions of the corporation tax law. The United States supreme court will pass on the legality of the corporation tax law, imposed by the Payne tariff act. A test case has been filed.

The petition of the American Federation of Labor asking for an investigation of the operations of the United States steel corporation has been referred by President Taft to the department of justice. The charges in the petition were general in character. Pending further action Attorney General Wickersham has addressed a letter to President Gompers asking for positive information on which the allegations are based.

Senator Carter has introduced a bill authorizing the issuance of patents to states for public lands chiefly valuable for the development of water power. This bill, it is said, will turn over to the states the whole question of developing water power.

The production of both gold and silver by the mines of the United States increased during the calendar year 1909 according to the preliminary estimates made by A. Platt Andrew, the director of the mint. These show the gold product to have been \$99,232,200, as against \$94,560,000 for 1908; silver 53,849,000 fine ounces, an increase over the pre-

vious year of 1,408,200 fine ounces. At the average price of silver \$.52016 per fine ounce for the year, the commercial value of the silver product of 1909 would amount to \$28,010,100. Nevada shows an apparent increase in her gold product of \$3,219,000, California \$1,941,600 and Alaska \$1,088,800. Colorado shows a decrease of \$916,300 and South Dakota \$892,300. The decrease in the latter state is attributed to the closing down of the works of the Homestake mine on account of labor troubles. Montana shows an increase in her silver product of 1,643,800 fine ounces, Utah 1,082,100 fine ounces and Arizona 732,200 fine ounces. The greatest decreases in the silver product were: Colorado 1,056,600 fine ounces, Nevada 555,-

500 fine ounces and Idaho 503,800 fine ounces. The estimates made by the director are based on deposits of gold and silver at the mints and assay offices of the United States and reports from private refiners and smelters.

Representative Cox of New York, who represents the Oyster Bay district in the house, said that he had talked with Theodore Roosevelt about running for congress and had offered to give way to the former president. He said, however, he did not think Mr. Roosevelt had yet made up his mind what to do.

Judge R. S. Lovett, president of the Union Pacific railroad, has been given leave to file with the attorney general a written memorandum of his views on the request made of the government to dismiss the suit instituted by it to dissolve the merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railroads.

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