

# WASHINGTON NEWS

The following is a dispatch to the Denver News: Senator Reed of Missouri does not believe the Rucker campaign publicity bill, now before the house with the senate amendments, goes far enough. He would make the purchasing of a seat in congress by any sort of hook or crook a felony. "I hold," he said, "that if every political committee had to expose to the public the source and disposition of its contributions to the last dollar, it would have three good effects. First, it would make committeemen careful not to go to

bad sources for contributions, and would deter them, in effect, from selling their candidates for money to carry their elections. Money given to elect a man may be as real a bribe and may as completely control his vote as money paid for his vote after he is elected. This does not follow, but it often happens. Second, a disclosure of the names of those who received the money tends to force the proper use and deter the improper use of money. It also has a tendency to limit the use of money. One may use money, but he does not

like to have it published. Third, publicity of the use of large sums of money tends to arouse public sentiment feelingly against the candidate who uses large sums and creates sympathy for the man of limited means. The Rucker bill, so far as it provides for publicity is all right and it has my support. What I desire is to have the law so framed that if a man spends more than permitted by the law, he is guilty of a violation of the statute, and on these grounds can be expelled from congress. I put that provision in my amendment, but I could not obtain a roll call on it and withdrew it and added a clause to prohibit more than a certain amount."

The house of representatives voted down, 181 to 25, the senate amendment to the deficiency appropriation bill providing for one month's extra pay to employes of congress to supplement their regular salaries.

Secretary Wilson, of the department of agriculture, and Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, of the board of food and drug inspection, listened to the answers of brewers to the question, "What is beer?"

Charles A. White, the former member of the Illinois legislature, who confessed to receiving a bribe to vote for Senator Lorimer, retold his story to the senate investigation committee.

Representative Berger, of Wisconsin, the only socialist member of congress, introduced a bill in the house to pension, under certain conditions, all persons in the United States over sixty years old.

Democratic members of the national house in caucus decided to send the campaign publicity bill to conference. It is probable the house will accept many of the senate amendments.

The campaign publicity bill was sent to conference, the house refusing to concur in the senate amendments to the house bill.

That the ore and coal holdings acquired by the United States steel corporation in the absorption of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company in 1907 have a valuation of \$200,000,000 was the estimate of experts testifying before the Stanley investigating committee.

A Washington dispatch, carried by the Associated Press, Aug. 3, says: President Taft will send to the senate tomorrow the general arbitration treaties between the United States and Great Britain and the United States and France, signed for the government and Great Britain here today and signed in Paris for the government of France. The brief messages of transmittal to the senate were written by the president today and tomorrow it will lie with the United States to ratify what has been termed the greatest step toward the abolition of warfare that the world thus far has taken. Already there have been mutterings from the senate over these treaties. President Taft is non-committal, but was anxious to put them before that body before the adjournment of the special session. The ceremony of signing the treaties took place in the president's library at the white house, only less historic than the east room. Numerous treaties, including that between Spain and the United States have been signed in that room, and the messages of presidents and many important state documents were written within its walls. The general features of the new treaties are: All differences internationally justifiable shall be submitted to The Hague un-

less by special agreement some other tribunal is created. Differences that either country thinks are not justifiable shall be referred to a commission of inquiry, composed of representatives to make recommendations for their settlement. Should the commission decide that the dispute should be arbitrated such decision will be binding. Before arbitration is resorted to, even in cases where both countries agree that the difference is susceptible of arbitration. The commission of inquiry shall investigate the dispute with a view of recommending a settlement without arbitration. The commission, at the request of either government, will delay its findings one year to give an opportunity for permanent settlement. The conventions grew directly out of President Taft's speech in Washington, D. C., December 18, last, before the American society for the judicial settlement for international disputes, in which he said: "If now we can negotiate and put through a positive agreement with some great nation to abide the adjudication of an international arbitrary court in every issue, which cannot be settled by negotiation, no matter what it involves, whether honor, territory or money, we shall have made a long step forward by demonstrating that it is possible for two nations at least to establish as between them the same system of due process of law that exists between individuals under a government."

The senate has passed the house bill fixing the number of members of the lower house at 433 as against 391 as at present. Under the bill, twenty-one states retain their present representation. Those whose representation is increased are: Alabama, 1; California, 3; Colorado, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Idaho, 1; Illinois, 2; Louisiana, 1; Massachusetts, 2; Michigan, 1; Minnesota, 1; Montana, 1; New Jersey, 2; New York, 6; North Dakota, 1; Ohio, 1; Oklahoma, 3; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 4; Rhode Island, 1; South Dakota, 1; Utah, 1; West Virginia, 1; Texas, 2; Washington, 2. Allowance is made for one representative each for New Mexico and Arizona.

Tacked on to the bill increasing the number of members of the house of representatives is an initiative and referendum feature suggested by Senator Burton of Ohio. Referring to this feature the Associated Press report says: It provided that in case of an increase in the representation of any state, the redistricting, instead of being done by the state legislature, as provided by the house bill, should be "in the manner provided by the laws" of the state, thus leaving the redistricting subject to the initiative and referendum laws wherever they have been placed in a state's statute books. These states have adopted the initiative and referendum in the form of constitutional amendments: Oregon, Oklahoma, Nevada, Missouri, Montana, South Dakota, Colorado, Arkansas and Maine. Utah had adopted a similar amendment, but the provision is inoperative, because of the failure of the legislature to enact the necessary accompanying legislation. Besides these in the following states such an amendment has been submitted by the legislature, but has not yet been voted upon: California, Washington, Wyoming, North Dakota, Nebraska, Florida and Idaho. This amendment was agreed to by a strict party vote, 39 to 29, the republican senators voting for it and the democrats against it.

An Associated Press dispatch says: Supported by all the democrats and by thirty insurgent republicans the democratic cotton tariff bill, the third of the big revision meas-

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