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# WASHINGTON NEWS

President George S. Dearborne, of the American-Hawaiian Steamship company, before the house committee on interstate commerce, proposed the establishment of a government-owned line of steamships through the Panama canal, or the admission of foreign ships to the American coastwise trade under the American flag.

The sub-committee of the senate committee on foreign relations agreed to recommend ratification of the general treaty negotiated by the United States with other nations for the protection of trademark and other property rights of American citizens.

The first provincial committee in the Philippines has instructed the delegates of Pangasinan province to vote against the indorsement of President Taft.

Senator Sutherland of Utah proposed a bill for a memorial amphitheater in Arlington national cemetery.

Senator Kenyon of Iowa has declared in favor of Senator Cummins for republican nomination for president. He said that the Iowa vote will eventually be thrown to Mr. Taft and that Cummins will probably be the nominee for vice president.

Representative Cary of Wisconsin, a republican, has introduced a bill providing for government ownership of the telegraph lines.

The fourth assistant postmaster general has made a report showing that the receipts from the rural mail routes for last year were \$7,570,000 while the expenditures run up to \$37,130,000, making a deficit of about \$30,000,000. There are at present more than a million miles of rural mail routes and the average mileage per day for each carrier is 24.19 miles. During the past year 577 routes were added, making the present total 41,656.

The senate adopted a resolution offered by Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska asking by what authority of law or treaty troops were recently sent to China.

A petition to dissolve the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., on the ground that it is a monopoly in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, was presented to Attorney General Wickersham.

The census bureau's cotton ginning report shows that up to January 16 more than 14,000,000 bales had been ginned, which is nearly 3,000,000 more bales than at the same period a year ago.

President Farrell, of the United States Steel corporation, stated before the Stanley investigating committee that the steel corporation had severed all relations with the International Harvester company five or six years ago.

Senator Bradley has introduced a bill providing for tolls on foreign ships passing through the Panama canal.

A special dispatch to the Louisville Courier-Journal says: Harmony reigned at the caucus of the house democrats, which unanimously indorsed the Underwood metal schedule, providing for a reduction of the

tariff on steel, iron, lead, zinc and other metallic products from 30 to 50 per cent, and placing many of the most useful products of these metals and the ores on the free list. The discussion lasted from 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon until nearly 8 o'clock, most of the time being consumed by Representative Oscar W. Underwood and other members of the ways and means committee who explained the bill.

One amendment of a minor character was ordered by the caucus. This adds balling wire to the free list. Mr. Underwood believed that the measure as originally drawn included this sort of wire, but he did not object to making sure. Representative William R. Smith, of Texas, wanted to put pig lead on the free list, and Representative William A. Cullop, of Indiana, wanted to do the same with steel rails, which in the Underwood bill are reduced from about 15 to 10 per cent ad valorem. Both of these amendments were defeated overwhelmingly.

Representative John J. Fitzgerald, of New York, chairman of the appropriations committee, offered his resolution against the public buildings bill, but the fight that was due on this subject was postponed by a recess of the caucus. It was stated by several prominent members that Mr. Fitzgerald, who is backed in his desire for economy by Speaker Clark and the other democratic leaders, including Representative Swager Sherley, will probably win out.

Representative Jefferson Levy, of New York, tried to get consideration for a resolution to refer the Lindbergh resolution for an investigation of the money trust to the committee on banking and currency, taking it away from the rules committee, which is now considering it. He failed.

The iron and steel schedule was explained by Representative Underwood in an extended speech. Though it was apparent that many members favored placing steel rails on the free list, it was argued that, pending the investigation of the steel trust by a house committee, such action might be misconstrued.

Representatives Rucker, Taylor and Martin, of Colorado, made a vigorous effort to have the proposed duties on lead and zinc increased. All of them declared they were pledged to their constituents for higher tariffs than those proposed on these items, but their efforts were unavailing. The proposed duty on lead in the bill is 25 per cent, zinc in blocks 15 per cent, and zinc ore is placed on the free list. Representatives Rucker and Taylor asked to be absolved from their caucus pledge.

The bill making general reductions of from 30 to 50 per cent from the Payne-Aldrich bill will be introduced in the house and brought up for discussion within a few days.

An Associated Press dispatch follows: Demanding an investigation into campaign expenditures in 1904 and 1908, Senator Culberson, of Texas, in the senate made sweeping charges of corruption against the republican committee for those and other years. Indirectly he charged that foreign ambassadorships were bestowed as a reward for campaign contributions, and inferentially he charged that former President Roosevelt had condoned the use of money in politics.

Mr. Culberson's address was made in anticipation of an unfavorable re-

port by the committee on contingent expenses on his resolution providing for an investigation. He said that the limitations of the proposed inquiry to 1904 should not be construed as a confession that there had not been improper practices before that period.

Referring especially to the campaign of 1908, Mr. Culberson said that the contributions to the democratic fund had been made by 74,000 persons with \$5,000 as the largest, while those of the republican fund were made by 123,330 persons, with Charles P. Taft, brother of the republican presidential candidate, at their head with a donation of \$110,000. Among the contributors mentioned were Ambassadors Reid and Kerens and Minister Larz Anderson.

In the course of his speech Mr. Culberson referred to the fact that George B. Cortelyou in the 1904 campaign had held the position of chairman of the republican national committee while he was secretary of commerce and labor, and intimated that Mr. Cortelyou had taken advantage of the secrets of corporations whose affairs might be investigated under the federal law, to procure money for the campaign.

"It has been estimated," he said, "that the enormous and unconscionable sum of \$11,000,000 was raised and probably expended that year by the committee of which Cortelyou was chairman. The very size and audacity of this fund, if approximately correct, smacks of extortion, profligacy and corruption. Who contributed, and where did it come from?"

Mr. Culberson declared there should be an inquiry to answer these questions.

He went into some detail regarding the newspaper charges that the late E. H. Harriman had raised the fund of \$260,000 to which he himself had contributed \$50,000 in support of the republican ticket in the campaign of 1904. He declared that within the past few weeks an effort had been made to clear up this charge and added: "This attempt to unload upon the dead the obloquy of this disgraceful transaction which is said to have changed 50,000 votes in the city of New York alone, may be significant in several ways. It may be the common and ordinary case of malefactors waiting for the absconding or death of witnesses, or it may presage a political movement of national consequence and magnitude."

Contending that his resolution did not go back of 1904, Mr. Culberson said this was due to the necessity of fixing a limit and was not because of the fact that money had not been corruptly used prior to that time. In this connection he said:

"Men high in party councils, one of them afterwards attaining the vice presidency and then the presidency, laughed and rejoiced in 1880 around the banquet board that 'soap' was potential to elections. It is well remembered how James B. Foster, president of the republican league in 1888, would have fried the fat out of special and protected interests to force campaign contributions. Honest and patriotic men will never cease to recall the shame and mortification that with the \$2 notes, Dudley floaters were organized into blocks of five in the election in Indiana in that year. Nor have campaign ambassadors been only recently measured by fat contributions, for the public revolt against Von Alen and Hyde is fresh in the memory of the well informed."

In response to questions from Senator Gallinger, Mr. Culberson said that the figures regarding campaign contributions had been taken entirely from newspaper reports. He added his conviction that they were fairly well authenticated, but ex-