

## WASHINGTON NEWS

"Boss" Barnes of New York, will fight the proposition to reorganize the republican party on the line of the "get together." He is a stand-patter on this as on other propositions.

Representative Britten of Chicago has introduced a constitutional amendment providing for the election of president and vice president by the people.

A conciliatory committee has been chosen among the republican senators and representatives for the purpose of bringing about harmony among standpat republicans and progressives. The conciliatory committee is as follows: Senators Cummins, Crawford and Jones; Representatives Crampton, Michigan; Rogers, Massachusetts; Anderson, Minnesota, and Former Governor Hadley of Missouri.

An Associated Press dispatch says: No amendment to the income tax section of the Underwood tariff bill is likely to be proposed by the senate finance committee or democratic caucus, according to an announcement by leaders who have consideration of that part of the bill in hand. The committee room occupied by Senators Williams, Shively and Gore, who have charge of the income tax section, is piled high with protests and suggestions from many sources, but the measure is believed to have been well handled in the house and the objections made to it in its original form are thought to have been sufficiently met by the amendments passed by the house. Among the loudest protests coming now are those from mutual insurance companies conducted for profit, but the house amended the original bill as relating to insurance companies and insurance policies and the senators of the finance committee after a study of the bill believe that it is sound. Complaints from railroad and other holding companies, that the law will tax them twice on dividends paid, are reported to have been held unsound by members of the committee.

A dispatch to the New York Herald says: Mr. Daniels, the secretary of the navy, may recommend to congress in his annual report next winter the establishment of a government armor plate plant. Mr. Daniels is now studying the armor question. He said recently that while his inquiry was not finished, he thought that the only relief from the present high non-competitive bids for armor plate is for the government to make all or a part of the armor it needs. Mr. Daniels believes that the establishment of an armor plate plant would tend to compel the manufacturers of armor in this country to reduce their bids and that the government plant would operate as a check upon the manufacturers.

At present Mr. Daniels' inquiry into the armor situation is in its preliminary stages. He believes that the government is compelled to pay too much for the armor it uses in its battleships. He referred to the armor prices as "a holdup." He is studying the investigations of this subject by William C. Whitney and Hilary A. Herbert, formerly secretaries of the navy, and the report of the board of officers which in 1905 studied this question.

Mr. Daniels intends to supplement his data by going to several armor

plants to gain first hand information as to the cost and method of production. The present price for class A armor is \$454 a ton, according to the last armor bids. The only three companies in this country engaging in the manufacture of armor for naval use are the Midvale Steel company, the Bethlehem Steel company and the Carnegie Steel company. Their bids are very similar and in some cases are almost identical.

The emperor of Japan is seriously ill. President Wilson sent to the emperor the following cablegram: "Reports received through press agencies are current to the effect that your majesty is indisposed. I have heard these reports with sorrow and with great concern. Should they prove to be true, I desire to offer to your majesty for myself and for the government and people of the United States the assurance of my sincere sympathy, and to express the ardent hope that your illness may prove to be of brief duration, and your recovery rapid and complete."

An Annapolis dispatch says: Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels made an aeroplane flight here with Lieutenant Towers, U. S. N., as aviator of a big army biplane. The secretary remained aloft about five minutes, circling about the harbor at an average height of 500 feet.

To make the acquisition of homesteads as easy as possible in strict conformity with the law for bona fide settlers and genuine homemakers, and as difficult as possible for mere dummy entrymen or speculators is the announced purpose of Secretary Lane in beginning an investigation of the rules and regulations of the land office.

The senate banking and currency committee has begun its investigation of what is the matter with the nation's currency system and how its defects should be remedied, when a list of questions to be sent to bankers and financial experts was approved and prepared for immediate distribution.

An Associated Press dispatch says: Fraud orders issued by the postmaster general are not subject to review by the courts as a general rule, according to a decision by the supreme court of the United States in the case of W. G. Degee, of Boulder, Colo., and several companies in which he was interested, against all of which fraud orders had been issued. Justice Lamar announced the decision holding that for any arbitrary act on the part of the postmaster general action could be taken against him in the courts. He added, however, that the courts were not to set up their judgment for his in mere administrative matters.

A press dispatch, dated May 26, says: The so-called "patent monopoly," which threatened to prevent cut rates by retailers in all patented articles on the market, was destroyed today by a decision of the supreme court of the United States. The court held that owners of patents are not given the right by the patent law to control the price at which retailers must sell to consumers. The decision in words applied only to a nerve tonic for which patent had been issued, but will control all patented articles sold under restrictions not to sell at cut rates.

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