

## WASHINGTON NOTES

Various Treaties Under Consideration—  
The Statehood Struggle—No Anti-Trust Legislation

Washington, D. C., Feb. 2, 1903.—(Special Correspondence.)—Although the republican leaders in the senate continue to use every means of filibuster and obstruction known to modern parliamentary procedure, they are finding in Senator Quay, backed up by the democrats, a worthy competitor. Quay's latest ruse to force a vote on the omnibus statehood bill is to introduce it as an amendment to the agricultural and sundry civil appropriation bills. If these fail, he proposes to attempt to tack it onto other appropriation bills. The fact that the territories in question are fully equipped for statehood is not considered by the administration. The fear is ever present that two and possibly three of the new states might elect democratic United States senators. The claim made that New Mexico and Arizona lack the necessary qualifications to become parts of the union is idle, in view of the apparent lack of Nevada's qualifications when, in order to ratify certain amendments to the constitution, she was admitted.

Carrying out a promise made by the late President McKinley, Judge Day of Ohio, formerly secretary of state, has been appointed to the supreme bench of the United States to succeed Judge Shiras. Governor Taft, who was slated for the vacancy, has been induced to remain in the Philippines.

Secretary Hay and Sir Michael Herbert, the British ambassador to this country, have signed a treaty providing for the settlement of the Alaskan boundary question, which, for some years, has been a source of trouble and contention. Efforts in this direction have been put forth for years, the Canadian miners being anxious to get through the Klondike to the sea without passing through American territory and the Americans insisting upon their right to the coast line and control of the ports. The treaty has been submitted to the United States senate and an effort will be made to ratify it at an early date as possible.

The treaty provides for the reference of all these boundary questions to a mixed tribunal of jurists, three on each side, to determine the interpretation to be placed on the treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Russia defining the boundaries between British America and Russia. This proposition, which is virtually the same as that brought forward by the American members of the high joint commission at the meeting in Washington three years ago, but which was then rejected by the British and Canadian representatives. It has taken three years to obtain the consent of the British and Canadian governments to adjust the boundary dispute on this basis. It is understood that the treaty has been drawn up after thorough consultation with the leading members of the senate of both political parties, the administration desiring to do everything possible in advance to secure its ratification.

The commission proposed is curious in composition, consisting of an equal number of members upon each side, without an umpire or odd man to cast the deciding vote. No other terms of arbitration would have been acceptable to the people of the northwest, who see in this arrangement a practical extinction of any chance of a decision hostile to their plans. On the other hand, to get a verdict favorable to the American claim our case must be so strongly presented as to win the support of at least one of the Canadian contingent.

As to the Cuban reciprocity treaty, about which there has been so much discussion and which is responsible for a considerable breach in the g. o. p., Secretary Hay and the Cuban minister have extended to March 31 the time limit for an exchange of ratifications between the two countries. Under the original agreement, the time limit expired on Saturday, the 31st. The measure just taken was in the nature of a precaution to prevent the loss of the treaty because of the senate's failure to ratify same last week.

The house last week passed the appropriation bill for the military academy and the Indian appropriation bill, debate being limited in each case. Also the senate bill increasing the salaries of United States judges.

A rather sharp debate was precipitated in the senate Wednesday, when Senator Rawlins called up his resolution directing the secretary of war to furnish the proceedings of a number of court-martials in the Philippines. He referred to the fact that Father Augustine, a Catholic priest, had been murdered in cold blood by American

officers, and that others had met a like fate, and yet the offenders had been set free by the findings of court-martial trials. Senator McLaurin of Mississippi also called attention to brutalities in the Philippines. In replying, Beveridge of Indiana, the "wasp of the Wabash," reiterated his old charge that the "democrats were slandering the army."

This brought Carmack of Tennessee to his feet who remarked with some heat and vigor that "of all the miserable, dull, mean lies that crawled through the last campaign the meanest, lowest, and dirtiest was the charge that we were assailing the army. That is the very vermin of this debate and I am a little surprised to see it crawling in the hair of the Senator from Indiana. Jake Smith is no more the American army than the senator from Indiana is the American senate, and not half as much as he thinks he is."

If there is a greedy place upon the face of God's eternal footstool, it is the District of Columbia. It is a truth, so well established as to be axiomatic, that "the people of Washington live off strangers and Potomac river shad." Last winter in a speech opposing an increase in the salary of members of congress, Senator Bailey declared he would "appreciate a raise in salary as well as any one, but the hotel and boarding house keepers of Washington will get it all, anyway, and I am paying them enough as it is. They charge you as long as they can hold their breath."

The senator failed to add, however, that the people here were the longest-winded on record. Not content with absorbing your salary, leaving just enough for you to get home; not content with many and varied kinds of piracy, for the stores and shops are higher-priced than in any other city in the country, they continually are appealing to congress for appropriations of one kind and another "for the improvement of the city." Millions upon millions of dollars are spent here every year for parks, drive-ways, bridges, and one thing and another, and all of it is wrung from the taxpayers of the rest of the country. Already this year about \$10,000,000 has been appropriated for the district, and now a committee of business men is urging \$10,000,000 more "as a loan." Of course, the city is becoming a wonder in beauty and a desirable place to live, but so could a number of other cities be made if the United States treasury was annually raided for the purpose. "Our Dave" Mercer is in a large measure responsible for the useless squandering of large sums of money in this city. A halt ought to be called somewhere and that right soon.

The republicans are preparing to drag the Fowler currency bill into next week's proceedings in the house—that is, the asset currency scheme, exactly the same as was under discussion in the last session. On account of protests, the branch banking feature has been eliminated for the present, but in all other respects the bill is the same as that which called forth such a storm of protest in the late congressional campaign. The people are apt to get what they voted for, so it is late in the day to squeal about it now.

An unprecedented number of letters, petitions and telegrams are pouring in upon congress protesting against any anti-trust legislation being enacted at this session. One senator declares he has a bunch three feet high, and the end is not yet. If the entire number that have been received at the capital, were consolidated, the entire building could be papered and enough left to start a wall-paper establishment. Every trust and combination in the country is represented in these protests against legislation of any sort and declare well enough should be let alone. The belief is gaining ground that the trusts have nothing to fear. It is hardly probable that any legislation will be enacted, and if there be, so mild as to curtail none of their present prerogatives.

Congressman Shallenberger delivered an address at Baltimore Thursday night, on the subject, "Business and Politics," before the annual banquet of the Merchants' and Manufacturers' association. The other speakers and distinguished guests were: Governor Smith and Senator Gorman of Maryland, Speaker Henderson of Iowa, Congressman Landis of Indiana and Williams of Mississippi. The guests numbered 690, and the occasion was the most successful of any yet held by the association. Mr. Shallenberger took advantage of the opportunity offered to pay a high tribute to the enterprise and thrift of Nebraska business men and farmers and invited the investment of eastern capital in the great commercial center of the west, where so large returns were sure. The Baltimore papers speak very highly of Shallenberger's

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speech, which they reprint in full, the comment of the American being typical of all:

"Hon. A. C. Shallenberger, member of congress from Nebraska, delivered a notable address, which proved one of the oratorical treats of the occasion."

Senator Scott has introduced a joint resolution to create a commission to investigate the pension laws and "the desirability of pensioning all soldiers who served ninety days during the war of the rebellion, were honorably discharged, have reached the age of sixty-two, and made application for same at the rate of \$12 per month."

In discussing the resolution he said: "Mr. President, this resolution provides that the soldier be paid \$12 per month after reaching the age of sixty-two and making application for same. This will be a scanty living; even then the wolf will howl close by. After the age of sixty-two few men, especially those who have undergone the hardships of war, are able to do manual labor. Many of these are today worthy; many of these are at this hour suffering for the necessities of life.

"Let us dispense with that large roll of pension agents whose salaries amount to \$72,000 a year; with clerks who are paid \$415,164.31; rent for the different agencies, \$9,480; contingent

expenses, \$29,769, and close the door upon the army of examining surgeons, paid \$191,123.85, together with traveling expenses aggregating \$502,442.11; this costly paraphernalia of examining soldiers, \$1,808,856.

"This vast sum is multiplied many times over by the salaries of clerks and other employees. All these could be dispensed with, or the greater part of them. Many a soldier files his claim, and long before it is reached he has passed over the river and filed a claim elsewhere. Nearly forty years have come and gone; 861,076 applications are on file; of these 470,850 have been allowed, leaving nearly 400,000 not acted on."

It is not probable favorable action will be taken on the resolution, yet the contention of the senator is just and well founded that the money that is now spent for salaries of clerk-pension agents and experts, and red tape, had better be paid to those who, in the nation's supremest crisis, proved themselves worthy to be called American citizens.

About fifty men, representing leaders in the business and political life of the nation from all sections, met this week in this city, and adopted strong resolutions demanding that the attorney general of the United States cease his inactivity and begin permanent remedial action to alleviate con-