

CONGRESS EXTRA

NOT LIKELY THAT A SESSION WILL BE CALLED.

THE TARIFF TO BE POSTPONED

A Disposition to Let Matters Rest Until Fall—Congress May Be Called Together in October if Conditions Necessitate It.

WASHINGTON—The talk of an extra session of congress in the spring is gradually dying out. The leaders of the senate and house, after careful consideration with the president, of those questions which are very uppermost in the minds of the people, tariff revision and railroad rates, are almost a unit in opposition to a spring session of congress. In fact, the opposition has crystallized through the efforts of Speaker Cannon and Senator Aldrich and there is a disposition now to postpone tariff revision until the extra session, which seems very likely to be called about the 15th or 20th of October. But while tariff revision talk is very perceptibly diminishing, the talk of rate readjustments is on the increase, and so vast is the agitation now going on that traffic managers, railroad presidents, general managers and railroad attorneys are coming into Washington almost in droves to ascertain at first hand what the scheme of railroad rate readjustments is. There are those in congress who enjoy the confidence of the president who are of the opinion that a bill giving larger powers to the interstate commerce commission could be passed at this session of congress if the leaders would so order, and if a conservative measure could be agreed upon. The passage of such a bill would do away with any extra session of congress and tariff revision, or at least a modification of schedules could be taken up in the regular session of congress, which convenes the first Monday in next December. It is admitted that the president does not advocate radical action that would bring disaster to the railroads. On the other hand, it is conceded that there is ground for complaint and room for reform. It is not a work that can be done in a day. The question is big and broad, with far-reaching effect, and must needs be handled with wisdom and deliberation. It is, therefore, believed that if an extra session is called at all it will be next fall, and not this spring.

On the 3d of March next William M. Stewart of Nevada will retire from the senate. Following the precedent set by Thomas Benton of Missouri, James G. Blaine of Maine, John Sherman of Ohio and George F. Hoar of Massachusetts, Senator Stewart will devote his attention to editing and revising for publication his "reminiscences," which will be published next fall. Senator Stewart took his seat in the United States senate in February, 1865, as one of the first two senators from the newly admitted state of Nevada. There are only two other men alive today who served with him in 1865, namely, George F. Edmunds of Philadelphia and John B. Henderson of this city.

CUT OFF BY 8,000 JAPANESE.

Reported Fate of Mistchenko's Raiding Party.

LONDON—A dispatch to Lloyds from Yinkow, dated January 15, gives a report that General Mistchenko's raiding party was cut off on its way back by 8,000 Japanese, dispatched from Saniho by General Oku. This report, however, is not confirmed from any other source.

The Daily Telegraph's Che Foo correspondent says the raid was only a divergence from a mass of cavalry now moving along the banks of the Liao river, and the exceptional mildness of the season affords the chance for the repetition of such operations.

QUITS WITH SOME REGRET.

Bristow Talks of Trials in Postal Department.

WASHINGTON—Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow, who has been appointed special commissioner to investigate Panama railroad and steamship companies, said:

"I suppose I have made some enemies since I undertook the duties of fourth assistant postmaster general, but I also believe I have made some friends. At any rate I know there are many men who have had business with this office who have said that notwithstanding their opposing opinion in some of the action I have taken, that I have tried to do my duty and have acted as I thought was for the best interests of the service and according to what I felt to be the right thing. It has been in many respects a hard office to fill, and in many other respects a pleasant one. I leave the office with regret, but feel that the appointment which the president has made will be a pleasant one to fill. I am going to try my best to meet the expectations of the president and Secretary Taft."

Mr. Bristow has not formulated any plans for his new work as yet, and will devote the remainder of the time between now and the date when his resignation becomes effective in closing up the affairs of his present office.

BUILDINGS FOR NEBRASKA.

York and Grand Island Likely to Be Thus Favored.

WASHINGTON—It is almost certain that York and Grand Island will get public buildings at the hands of this congress. Sites may be provided in North Platte, Columbus and Kearney, but the present session will not provide for buildings in the last named towns. Congressman Hinshaw has been indefatigable in his labors to secure for York one hundred thousand dollars for a building, but the chances are he will get but seventy-five thousand. However, that amount may be increased at a later session. No definite assurance has as yet been given by the committee that York will be included in the list, but Congressman Norris, who is a member of the committee, is making a hard fight for both Grand Island and York. Members of the committee intimate that inasmuch as Grand Island has the largest population and that congress is likely to pass a law providing for the holding of sessions of the federal court in Grand Island, the government building there should be a large one. Hence the committee is likely to appropriate \$125,000 for Grand Island.

PROGRAM OF JAPS.

Naval Station Will Be Established at Port Arthur.

TOKIO—The Japanese intend to establish a naval station at Port Arthur. Vice Admiral Y. Shibayama will probably be placed in charge of it.

The military administration will only retain a small garrison as soon as the prisoners are withdrawn and order is restored. The fleet is busily engaged in clearing mines, but owing to their great number navigation will be unsafe for a long time. Only government craft will be allowed to enter the harbor. It is probable that Dalny will soon be opened up to neutrals. Japanese companies are preparing to establish weekly services to that port. It is proposed shortly to float a fourth domestic war loan under the same conditions as the third was negotiated.

The transfer of prisoners was completed yesterday afternoon. The total number of officers transferred was 878; men, 23,491.

Would Leave Arizona Out.

WASHINGTON—Senator Teller has introduced an amendment to the statehood bill providing for the admission of Oklahoma and the Indian territory as one state and New Mexico as another. This amendment would leave Arizona a territory.

HAS OTHER WORK

MR. BRISTOW TO INQUIRE INTO FREIGHT RATES.

IS A SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

To Accept the Place He Resigns Fourth Assistant Postmaster Generalship—Will Investigate Railroad Traffic Matters.

WASHINGTON—Joseph L. Bristow, fourth assistant postmaster general, tendered to the president his resignation as an officer of the postal service, to take effect on January 20. By an executive order President Roosevelt designated Mr. Bristow as a special commissioner to make an investigation into the present trade conditions and freight rates between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and between the west coast of South America and the east coasts of the United States and of Europe, to determine the best policy of managing the Panama railroad.

The announcement came at the conclusion of an extended conference Friday of the president, Secretary Taft, Mr. Bristow and Senator Long of Kansas. The order issued by the president says, in addition to the foregoing:

"He is authorized to employ for this purpose a stenographer at not exceeding \$5 a day, and his actual and necessary expenses, and to take evidence of all persons whose knowledge of trade conditions or rates will assist in reaching the necessary conclusion.

"The secretary of war will furnish to the special commissioner a letter of instructions, in detail, as to the course and extent of his investigation and as to the time when he shall report his conclusions.

"Until his report is forthcoming the commissioner will be allowed his actual expenses and \$15 a day. The president will finally fix his entire compensation. The isthmian canal commission is directed to provide the funds needed in the execution of the order."

After the conference at the White House Senator Long said that the transfer of Mr. Bristow from the post-office department to work in connection with the proposed isthmian canal had been under consideration for a long time.

"Secretary Taft," said the senator, "desired to utilize Mr. Bristow's services in connection with the work of constructing the canal and has had the idea in mind of appointing him a commissioner to investigate trade and freight conditions ever since he returned from the isthmus of Panama. The president readily acceded to Secretary Taft's suggestion, and as the work will be entirely congenial, Mr. Bristow has accepted the new position."

Mr. Bristow has had interviews with the president and Secretary Taft regarding the affair, but his final determination was not reached until Friday. His decision to accept the special commissionership was hastened, it is said, by the transfer Thursday of the division of postoffice inspectors from the bureau of the fourth assistant postmaster general to the direct control of the postmaster general himself. Mr. Bristow regarded the issuance of the order of transfer of the division as a reflection on him. That the order as to the inspectors' division was not issued with the idea of humiliating Mr. Bristow is evidenced by the president's action of Friday.

Mr. Bristow will continue as fourth assistant until January 20.

Provided for Plain Living.

A Newark (N. J.) man left his son \$100 in his will, but was evidently afraid that the youth would use it all at once for riotous living, so he fixed it so that he would get \$1 a week.

MUST BE ACTION.

President Again Confers With Members of Congress.

WASHINGTON—President Roosevelt continued his conferences with members of congress on the subject of tariff revision and of legislation providing for an increase of the interstate commerce commission. One statement, which stands out almost with the pre-eminence of an official announcement, is that, unless congress at the present session shall enact legislation looking to a regulation of railroad freight rates, an extraordinary session of the Fifty-ninth congress will be called by the president to deal with that problem.

It can be said that the president regards the interstate commerce question as the paramount issue now before the American people.

At the conference last Saturday he informed those whom he had summoned into consultation that, in his judgment, the question of railroad freight rates was far more important than that of the tariff and that, while he desired a readjustment of the existing customs duties, he would not expect any radical differences in the republican party on that question. He said definitely that he would call an extraordinary session of congress to consider interstate legislation unless definite action was taken by congress on the subject at the present. At that session he hoped tariff revision to the extent he had indicated might be accomplished, but he made it perfectly clear that, in his mind, the overshadowing issue was that of railroad freight rates.

In a talk with Speaker Cannon who is recognized as being opposed at this time to any revision of the tariff, the president reiterated his statement made at Saturday's conference that, while he desired action on the question, he was willing to abide by the judgment of the republican leaders in congress, as he regarded the tariff matter as one which the chosen representatives of the American people should determine.

He indicated, in so many words, that, while fifty years hence practically nobody would be able to say whether the tariff duties on any given article at this time were 50 per cent ad valorem or 5 per cent ad valorem, and nobody would care anything about that what the duties were, the interstate commerce question involved a principle dear to every right thinking and right minded American, precisely as the whole matter of dealing with corporations involves a principle, and he would fight for that principle with all the power that in him lies.

The president corroborated the statement attributed to him that the tariff question was one merely of expediency, which would be solved without friction between him and the congress. Any serious differences, he is known to have said, between him and the congress on the tariff revision matter are quite impossible.

MAY ATTACK ROJESTVENSKY

Japanese Fleet Is Off Chagos Archipelago.

LONDON—Japanese correspondents of the Morning Post consider it is not incredible that Japanese men-of-war have reached Diego Garcia (Chagos archipelago), and point out that although Admiral Togo is at Tokio, other admirals are not idle. Vice Admiral Uria, it is stated, has been cruising in the vicinity of the equator for some time past. The number of vessels he has is kept secret, but doubtless he is ready to do battle with the Russian Baltic squadron whenever it appears east of the 17th meridian.

Vice Admiral Kamimura's whereabouts is somewhat of a mystery, the correspondent says, but possibly he is in the China sea, within easy distance of either the Malacca or Sunda straits, but, anyway, they declare, if Admiral Rojestvensky purposes to spend the ensuing weeks in cruising in the vicinity that he will find himself assailed by a torpedo fleet.