

MAPPING OUT LEGISLATION

Members of the House Try to Plan a Legislative Program.

APPROPRIATIONS HAVE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Bankruptcy Measure Scheduled for Action in the House After the Holiday Prospect of Financial Bills.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Although no formal action has been taken a pretty general understanding has been reached by the leaders in the house of representatives as to the course of legislation in the near future. This contemplates the disposal of appropriation bills as fast as they are ready for consideration. After these the bankruptcy bill will be reported by Chairman Henderson of the judiciary committee before the holiday recess, but it will not be taken up by the house until after the recess. It is understood that Speaker Reed and the committee on rules will be disposed to give this bill every advantage in the way of securing early time for debate. It is equally well understood that for the present there will be no effort to pass financial legislation on the floor of the house. This is due mainly to the fact that a strong sentiment prevails among members of the house that the committee on banking and currency will not be able to reconcile the many conflicting interests inside the committee. This represents all shades of opinion on financial subjects, and is so much at variance that it is not expected a majority can be rallied for any one proposition. Under such circumstances the purpose is to avoid the action or the deadlock in that committee.

The ways and means committee will do nothing at present in the way of framing financial legislation. If, however, it becomes necessary to act on the subject of banking and currency at a standstill, then the ways and means committee will enter the field of financial legislation and will frame a bill on broad lines, subject to the provisions of the subject will be kept in the background as much as possible.

Aside from the bankruptcy and appropriation bills, some emergency measures such as that relating to the Berne convention, introduced by Mr. Hitt, will have a hearing, as they involve no question of principle, and are not likely to meet with opposition. With these exceptions the disposition of the leaders will be to keep radical legislation to the rear.

HOUSE ALSO CONSIDERS PENSIONS.

Debate Stirred Up Which May Last Several Days.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The house today entered upon the consideration of the pension appropriation bill and stirred up a debate that promises to continue for several days. Mr. Stone, in charge of the bill, yielded to Mr. Cannon, chairman of the committee on appropriations, who took occasion to make a general statement of the estimates submitted by the secretary of the treasury for the public debt for 1898. He said that the estimate of discharging the minds of members and the country of the false impression made by a comparison of these estimates with those of preceding years, and the revenues for 1898 were \$482,000,000, the expenditures \$504,000,000, showing an estimated deficit of \$22,000,000.

Under the last annual civil act the secretary of the treasury, he pointed out, was compelled to estimate this year for \$48,000,000 of river and harbor work, \$33,000,000 of which had not been authorized by law. If this sum not heretofore included in the estimates were deducted, there would be an estimated surplus of \$3,000,000, instead of a deficit.

In conclusion Mr. Cannon solemnly warned the house that the large appropriation impounding would result in the present law down to the minimum, and that he appealed to his colleagues to see to it "that while the public service was sufficiently supplied with money not one dollar be appropriated which is not absolutely necessary to the best interests of the public service."

This statement of Mr. Cannon was warmly applauded on the republican side of the chamber. Mr. Allen, democrat of Mississippi, attacked Mr. Cannon's statement in a speech in which there were flashes of inimitable humor that set the house into a roar of laughter.

When Mr. Lay concluded Mr. Allen again got the floor and disclaimed any intention of attacking the pension bill, but he said he could not pass up the opportunity to say that he had been told by several members of the rolls and that there were 600,000 applications in the pension office, there had been 2,500,000 men in the federal army and he was reminded of a meeting between an ex-confederate and an ex-federal at a blue and gray reunion, which were gratifying themselves on the disappearance of all hostility.

"If there should be another war," said the ex-federal, "they will be standing shoulder to shoulder under one flag."

"We will, but you won't," retorted the ex-confederate.

"What do you mean?" asked the ex-federal.

"Legally you are disabled," (laughter.) Mr. Allen gave notice that he would offer amendments to prohibit the granting of pensions to a widow whose application was not filed during her widowhood, to prohibit the pension of widows who had not married prior to the passage of the act and to strike from the rolls the names of all permanently insane or helpless children who had reached their majority.

Mr. Hepburn, republican of Iowa, replied to some criticisms of the pension roll which came from the other side. He was especially severe in his condemnation of a remark by Mr. Norton, who said which he characterized as "monstrous." The statement was to the effect that the regulations of the pension office compelled most soldiers to stand on the rejected list, to commit moral and legal perjury to reach those rolls.

Mr. Norton disclaimed having used the word "monstrous." With a change of that word to "many," he said, he stood by that statement. The pension office required testimony which was not in existence. He stood ready, Mr. Norton said to aid in sweeping away these senseless regulations.

"While your party had the presidency and the senate and house," asked Mr. Stone, republican of Pennsylvania, "why did you not remedy some of the evils?"

"When God or the country had the misfortune to give us the only democratic president we have had since the civil war," replied Mr. Norton, "we found it too late. He belonged to you and you owned him." (Democratic applause.)

"Remedies do not begin with the president," said Mr. Stone, "but with congress. Why did a democratic congress do nothing but reduce the pension roll? It does not lie

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR ARIZONA.

Bill by Delegate Smith Proposes New Terms.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Delegate Smith of Arizona introduced a bill today which provides for a rather radical change in the conditions now existing in that territory. It provides for the election on the first Monday in November, 1898, the following territorial officers, who shall hold office for four years unless otherwise provided by the legislative assembly of the territory: Governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, one chief justice and three associate justices of the supreme court.

These officers are to have the same powers as such officers now hold. All other territorial officers are to be appointed by the governor, by and with the consent of the territorial council. The salary and compensation of these officers shall be paid at the time and in the manner prescribed by law. At present the governor and secretary are appointed by the president of the United States and confirmed by the senate. The other officers named by the territorial council, Mr. Smith's bill would give local self-government to Arizona.

SENATE INTERFERES WITH PLANS.

Postponement of Kansas Pacific Sale Will Be Asked.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—With the exception of the offer of \$2,500,000 received some time ago from the Union Pacific reorganization committee for the government's interest in the Kansas Pacific, which was promptly declined, the government has received no intimation as to the purposes of the committee with respect to the sale of December 12. The government is now in a position to bid at the sale, and but for the resolution adopted by the senate today asking the president to apply to the court for a postponement, there is no doubt that the sale would have taken place today. The senate resolution, however, changes the situation.

The general consent resolution, which began the preparation of the necessary papers in the case, and will at once ask the court to set a day for hearing argument in support of the motion for the postponement of the sale. The general has no doubt that the motion will be granted upon the showing he will be able to make.

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E. J. Sinclair, United States postoffice inspector, is stopping at the Millard.

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