

WORK AHEAD FOR CONGRESS

Plenty to Keep the Short Session Active Until Its Close.

APPROPRIATION AND REVENUE BILLS LEAD

Nicaraguan Canal and Ship Subsidy Measures to Receive Consideration and Army and Navy Establishments Are There.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—(Special.)—When the Fifty-sixth congress meets on Monday, December 2, next, for its final session it will find enough to do to occupy its working hours in the short span of legislative life remaining to it. Of vital importance are the regular appropriation bills, which carry the money necessary to keep in operation the various departments, legislative, executive and judicial, of the government. Besides the regular appropriation bills there will probably be a river and harbor bill passed at this session, the last session having let this measure go over.

One of the questions of most general interest which congress will be called upon to decide at the coming session is what reduction can be made in internal revenue taxation. Chairman Payne has called the committee on ways and means to meet for November 20 to begin the work of framing a bill to reduce the rate of taxes. The brewers and the proprietary medicine men are insistent in their demands for a reduction of taxation on their products, but before their wishes will be complied with the committee will prefer to give relief to the public in general by reducing the stamp taxes on telegraphic dispatches, express packages, commercial paper, deeds, mortgages and bank checks and drafts. It will probably be found necessary to let the rest of the taxation remain as it is for a season, until the great expense entailed by the government by the troubles in China and other abnormal conditions.

Canal Bill in Senate

The Hepburn bill will provide for the construction of a canal connecting the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans (the Nicaragua bill), which passed the house at the last session; it will come up for consideration in the senate under a special order on Monday, December 10, at 2 o'clock p. m. It will come before the senate every day at that hour until it is disposed of. Its passage is assured if it can reach a vote. A bill to provide for the construction of the great waterway would have passed long ago had it not been for the delay caused by the sending of one commission after another to examine and report upon routes. The house acted without waiting upon the report of the latest of these commissions and the senate will not delay action on it. Therefore it is understood that the report of the Walker commission, as the latest is called, will be forthcoming promptly upon the assembling of congress.

In the house the first measure to be taken up under special order is the Groat bill to tax oleomargarine 19 cents a pound, while the uncolored article escapes with the existing tax of 2 cents a pound. It is not proposed to tax colored butter. Chairman Wadsworth of the committee on agriculture is opposed to the Groat bill. Mr. Wadsworth proposes to let the tax on oleomargarine and other butter substitutes remain where it is now, 2 cents a pound, but to require those articles to be put up for sale in packages not less than a pound, or half-pound, each package bearing its appropriate weight and to be sold only in such original stamped packages, exactly as smoking tobacco is sold, the covering of each package to bear the correct description of the article it contains.

The Groat bill is a special order for Thursday. The present under which it is disposed of in the house that week, the first of the session. A very stiff fight will be made against the Groat bill, which will find its greatest strength probably in an effort to substitute for it the Wadsworth bill. If the Groat bill passes in the senate, the fight against it will be kept up in the senate, where the shortness of the session will militate against its final enactment.

Payne-Hanna Ship Subsidy

In both houses favorable reports have been made upon a bill to promote the commerce and increase the foreign trade of the United States, and to provide auxiliary cruisers, transport and ocean for government use when necessary. This bill, now known as the shipping subsidy bill, was originally introduced in the senate by Senator Payne and in the house by Representative Payne, then chairman of the committee on merchant marine and fisheries, now chairman of the committee on commerce, and in the house by General Hanna, who succeeded Mr. Payne as chairman of the merchant marine and fisheries. The friends of this measure urge upon the ground that only by granting reasonable subsidies to American vessels can this country restore its merchant marine, step up at home the millions now paid out for the purchase of goods and passengers and provide a supply of seamen and transports in time of war. They declare that the merchant marine of every other maritime country has been built up and is maintained by a similar system of subsidies, and that unless the United States proposes deliberately to lag in the race it must adopt the same methods. The measure will take several millions annually from the treasury and divide it between the United States and foreign countries on a basis of tonnage and under conditions that will enable the government in the event of war to take possession of the vessels, profiting from the subsidies.

There are a number of bills reported favorably to the senate that aim to secure to the people pure food, water, and milk. Senator Mason has reported one to prevent the manufacture of adulterated food. Senator Proctor has reported one to prevent the false branding or making of food or dairy products as to the state or territory in which they are made or produced. Representative Sherman has reported the same bill favorably to the house. Senator Gallinger has reported favorably to the senate a bill to regulate the production and sale of milk and cream in and for the District of Columbia. Senator Vest has favorably reported a bill for the investigation of pollution of water supplies. In the house Representative Barham has reported favorably a bill to prevent the adulteration, misbranding, and imitation of foods, beverages, candies, drugs and condiments in the District of Columbia and the territories and for regulating interstate trade therein. These bills all and singular will have to take chances that are not the best for consideration and passage in what remains of this congress.

Army and Navy Establishments

Legislation of some sort will have to be enacted for the army and the navy. The army law numbers about 100,000 men, about 65,000 regulars and 35,000 volunteers, but as the law stands the whole force will be reduced to the number in service prior to the Spanish war, about 25,000 men. Any general legislation of the army will involve the whole question of reorganization and congress may not want to go into it at the coming session. In that event it is intended to tide matters over by the adoption of a resolution continuing the existing army law for a year, which would carry it over until June 30, 1902.

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In some instances, relates the New York Sun, the chains of circumstances which led up to the discovery of these fortunes, both small and great, have been so full of the romance of accident as it is possible to imagine. Nuggets worth thousands of dollars have literally been kicked about and trampled over for years until by some curious coincidence persons utterly inappreciative of the mystery of mining have stumbled upon them, picked them up and reaped the some cases bewildering rewards. There are instances even of men being absolutely kicked into fortune, men who but for the weaknesses and indiscretions which generally lead to failure would have gone on plodding and toiling in the routine of work from which nothing more than a bare subsistence could have resulted. By the fact of their own perversity, by the fact that they were discharged from employment and turned loose to wander as semi-tramps through the gold mining regions, they have been guided to wealth which was beyond their utmost dreams. This applies not merely to the discovery of great lumps of gold which have realized large sums, but to the discovery of pockets and mines which resulted in princely fortunes.

Rich in Nuggets

"No part of the world has so prolific in the yield of nuggets as Victoria. Of many discovered in the early days no record has been preserved, but prior to 1859 a list of finds was compiled by the late Dr. Blake, an Australian assayer of high standing. Among the most valuable finds recorded is that of the Welcome Stranger, which occurred about a mile west of the village of Mollagui, in the neighborhood of Dunolly, on the Victorian coast. It measured four feet three inches in length, three feet three inches in width and averaged four inches in thickness. It sold for \$148,000. At the time of finding it Messrs. Byer and Haltman had exhausted their capital and were practically bankrupt. They had a placer claim in Nevada county, Old miners laughed in their sleeves when they heard of the deal. The claim had never yielded more than colors and promises and they regarded it as a moribund proposition.

"The new firm took hold with all the energy and industry that they could bring to their judgment and fortune. Six weeks later the hunt for gold instituted with great vigor. Among the employes was the young halfbreed Indian. One evening when the men had gone to their tents for supper he went down to the creek to wash his overalls. He had never seen so clearly beneath the surface. After spreading his overalls on the sluice boards to dry the Indian's eyes were attracted by a big yellow rock in the muddy stream. He got down into the water and heaved the rock over several times. He had never seen so clearly beneath the surface. After spreading his overalls on the sluice boards to dry the Indian's eyes were attracted by a big yellow rock in the muddy stream.

Kicked into a Fortune

"Two years ago a man was literally kicked into a fortune. Louis Rodriguez was discharged by the superintendent of the Mistle Shaft mine. Every day for weeks he hung around the mine imploring to be taken back. Finally he was kicked off the mine. He procured a pick and shovel and grub enough to last him for a week or two and started off prospecting in Bear Creek, on the Pine Ridge, some seventy-five miles northwest of Frisco. Three weeks later he returned with \$9,000 in gold, so that the mine was not in less than a fortnight's actual work.

"Among the mining exhibits in the mining department of the World's fair at Chicago was a nugget of pure gold found in Alpine county by a young man. The history of the discovery of this chunk of gold is related by every woman in the gold mining regions of California. Harry E. Ellis and his wife went to the state in 1874 from Philadelphia because of Ellis' serious lung trouble. They went to live up in the mountains of Alpine county, from a neighborly hunting and cultivating a few acres of land about their lonely cabin. Grizzled old gold miners, with their jackknives laden with primers, camp outfits and blankets, came by the Ellis cabin frequently. One of the men lay ill there for several weeks, when he was nursed to health and vigor by the Ellises. The miner told them how they might find recreation and profit in hunting through the canyons and foothills in that region for pay dirt, and showed them where to go. There were indications of gold-bearing gravel.

"For days at a time the young husband and wife tramped up and down the gulches in Alpine county looking for specks of gold, but all without avail. They abandoned their riches in the place and confined their attention to their little ranch. One afternoon Mrs. Ellis was driving home the family cow she was seeking stones to throw for the amusement of the dog. She saw in the coarse gravel a dark, dull yellow stone and picked it up.

"I know from the moment I picked it up," says she, "that I had found gold, because it was so heavy; but as I had never seen a real nugget I was afraid my husband would laugh at me."

"The nugget has never been utilized for gold working and is now kept for exhibition purposes. It is phenomenally clear and the size of a croquet ball, but very rough and battered by rolling and tumbling in water for ages. Mrs. Ellis got \$2,500 for this find.

A California Find

"There is an exciting incident connected with the finding of the Oliver Martin nugget, the largest ever found in California, which sold for \$2,750 after it had earned \$10,000 from exhibition. The nugget was found in the county. Although a young man Oliver Martin was little better than a tramp. He spent his time in doing odd jobs and drinking whiskey around the mining camps of Yuba, Tuolumne, El Dorado and Calaveras counties. He didn't even own a pair, much less a rock. One day his two companions were John Fowler, who was equally shiftless and dissipated.

BIG SPECIAL