

A Pertinent Query.

"More of this republican prosperity," shouts the National Republican Editorial association. How about the "perpetuity of the nation" that is imperiled, according to the president? How about the "vicious system of finance" that Senator Aldrich says gives us alternate inflation and contraction, "deleterious to settled business?" How about the evil that "entails perpetual antagonism between capital and labor?" Must we continue all these merely that we may have the glory of republican rule, which gives famine in the islands and discontent at home? —Florida Times-Union and Citizen.

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THE WEEK AT WASHINGTON

On March 2 the president issued a proclamation calling for a special session of the senate to convene on March 5. It is expected that this special session will proceed to ratify the several treaties, most important among which are the Panama and the Cuban reciprocity treaties.

The senate met on March 1 and listened to eulogies of four congressmen, namely, the late Peter J. Otey of Virginia, James Moody of North Carolina, John N. W. Rumble of Iowa and Thomas H. Tongue of Oregon.

On March 2 it was announced that the conferees on the sundry civil appropriation bill have agreed to strike out the senate amendment for the appropriation of \$200,000 for the payment of the claims of ex-Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii and also the appropriation of \$350,000 for the extension of the immigrant station at Ellis island.

The ratification by the senate of the Cuban reciprocity treaty seems to be opposed by the European powers, although so far only one protest has been filed at the state department. It is learned that on account of the provision regarding the duty on beet sugar, France and other beet sugar countries of Europe are against the treaty and this attitude added to the difficulty with the treaty in the Cuban congress is taken as an indication that some trouble will be experienced in its ratification.

The Aldrich financial bill met its final defeat in the senate on March 3 when it was supplanted by the Philippine tariff bill, which on that day was discussed at length, but no definite action taken.

It was recently announced that at least one point of the protocol made between the European powers and Venezuela in regard to the arbitration of the claims against the latter country will have to be changed. This refers to the use of the English language in the proceedings at The Hague, the powers insisting that the official proceedings of the court be in French. It is thought that Mr. Bowen will not insist upon the use of the English language in the face of this opposition.

The Fifty-seventh congress expired at noon on March 4 by limitation. As before stated the senate will continue in special session, but the house of representatives adjourned on that date. A great demonstration occurred when the house closed its session, owing to the fact that the retirement of Mr. Henderson as speaker of the house took place. The bitter partisan feeling apparent recently prevented the speaker from receiving a unanimous vote of approval.

The number of bills introduced in the recent session of congress aggregated 17,500, of which 3,918 were reported and more than 2,000 passed. The house calendar shows only 78 bills undisposed of, and this is considered a remarkable record. It is also said that the number of private bills passed by this congress have been exceedingly large. Fifteen members of the house died during the congress just closed, an unusually large number.

From Washington comes the information that the new Chinese minister who is expected to arrive in this country early in April and assume his

duties will bring important information concerning the internal disturbances in China. It is said that beside Sir Liang, the new minister, there are sixty members in his party, including new charges d'affaires and secretaries for the Chinese legations in Spain, Peru and Cuba; consuls general for San Francisco and New York, and a consul and vice consul for Honolulu; also a first secretary, Mr. Cheny, to succeed Mr. Shen, who will return to China.

William R. Merriam has resigned his post as director of the census bureau and will accept the presidency of a mercantile company of New York city. Ex-Representative Mercer of Nebraska is being mentioned as his successor.

On March 5 a solid gold invitation was presented to President Roosevelt to attend the Black Hill mining congress which is to meet at Deadwood and Lead, S. D., next September. The invitation was inscribed on a gold plate, three by six inches and an eighth of an inch in thickness, and was presented to the president by Representative Martin of South Dakota.

The coal strike commission in session at Washington has called for more light on the situation and representatives of both sides of the question appeared before the commission on March 5. The main question in doubt was as to the payment of coal mined according to weight or measure and it is believed that as soon as this point is settled an early report of the findings of the commission will be made.

Two important appointments were made by the president in the department of justice on March 5. These were the appointment of William A. Day of the District of Columbia to be assistant attorney general; also Milton D. Purdy as assistant attorney general. These places were created by a recent act of congress.

The special session of the United States senate called by the president met at noon on March 5. The oath was administered to twenty-six senators who take office for six years. Of these fourteen were re-elected. Ten new senators took the oath, these being Fulton, Oregon; Gorman, Maryland; Heyburn, Idaho; Hopkins, Illinois; Latimer, South Carolina; Long, Kansas; McCreary, Kentucky; Newlands, Nevada; Overman, North Carolina; Smoot, Utah. Ankeny of Washington, Clark of Arkansas and Stone of Missouri did not take the oath.

The president has urged upon this special session the advisability of ratification of the treaties in course of discussion and it has been agreed that this suggestion will be followed. In regard to the treaties it is said that the Cuban treaty, under the extension provided for in the agreement between this country and Cuba, expires at the end of this month. The Panama treaty, however, will be the first of the two to be taken up.

Under the provisions of the naval appropriation bill recently passed by congress, the number of midshipmen in the United States navy will be increased about 320 for the coming term. \$60,000 is available to defray the expense of constructing temporary quarters at the academy. Secretary of the Navy Moody is hard at work on the law and hopes to have its provisions in operation shortly.

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