

The Week at Washington

Col. Henry L. Thomas, for thirty-four years translator in the state department, died in Washington on December 28 at the age of 68 years. Mr. Thomas was a man of exceptional ability. He spoke and translated French, Spanish, Italian, German, Norwegian, Danish, Dutch, Portuguese, Hebrew, Arabic and Greek, besides having a general knowledge of other tongues.

Senator Hale, chairman of the committee on naval affairs, speaking to a Washington correspondent for the Associated press on December 28, said that it is proposed to make liberal provision for additions to the navy during the present session of congress and that when these additions are completed, the United States will have a more powerful navy than any other nation except Great Britain.

At the instance of President Roosevelt, the state department is making inquiries as to the exact situation of the Jews in Kishineff. It will be remembered that it was recently reported that these unfortunate people fear a repetition of the massacres in the near future and that they had appealed to this country and England for aid. The state department therefore is pushing inquiries into the situation through its consular officers in the Kishineff district.

Rear Admiral G. W. Sumner retired from the navy on account of having reached the age limit on December 31. This retirement resulted in the promotion of Captain Charles O'Neal, chief of the bureau of ordnance, to be rear admiral, and Commanders John A. Rodgers, A. V. Wadhams and John D. Adams will become captains.

Owing to the illness of Secretary of State Hay, Secretary of War Root will conduct the negotiations of this government with General Reyes and the Colombian government. Up to December 29, no reply had been made by this government to the note submitted by Colombia, through General Reyes. It is believed, however, that the United States will insist upon the ratification of the treaty with the republic of Panama as the first step to be taken in the matter.

With three revolutions raging on the island of San Domingo, and much excitement prevailing, United States Minister Powell recently demanded the presence of an additional warship, and the state department has ordered Rear Admiral Lamberton, commanding the South Atlantic squadron, to send one of his vessels to San Domingo at full speed. Rear Admiral Lamberton's squadron is now at Trinidad.

It has just been made known to the state department, through a dispatch from Minister Lyon at Monrovia, Liberia, that a white missionary named John G. Tate, with all of his following, eighteen in number, were massacred on March 15, 1901, by the native Doo tribesmen in Africa. The news of the massacre has just come to light after these years, and it is believed that the state department will demand the punishment of the perpetrators of the deed.

Information has reached Washington that Germany is making a quiet, but determined effort to secure possession of a coaling station at St. Thomas, one of the Danish West Indian islands.

On December 31, E. F. Ware, commissioner of pensions, issued a New Year's greeting which shows that 130,828 pension certificates were issued for the calendar year 1903, which

is 250,000 more than were issued in 1902 and nearly 50,000 more than were issued in 1901. Mr. Ware expressed the hope that the work of the bureau will be brought up to date before the close of the fiscal year.

It was recently announced from Washington that the Colombian legation was making ready to close their headquarters in that city and would withdraw their representatives to this country. Although this radical course has not yet been taken, it is by no means certain that all trouble between this country and Colombia is at an end, as is evidenced by the quiet preparations going on in both quarters to make ready for a conflict if it cannot be avoided. The auxiliary cruiser Dixie with 600 marines on board is reported ready to leave the League Island navy yard for Colon, equipped to maintain 1,000 men for a period of five months. In the meantime, the new republic of Panama has been recognized by Nicaragua and Italy also has added her recognition. Some comment has been caused by a report from Colon to the effect that Colombian troops had landed at Carti, in Panama territory, and conferred with the Indian chief Inanunquina, who afterwards was taken aboard a vessel and it is thought conveyed to Cartagena. It is said that thousands of the Indians in the adjacent territory to Panama favor the republic, and so it is not believed that they will make any trouble.

A dispatch from Washington under date of January 1, and carried by the Associated press says: Colonel Clarence Edwards, chief of the insular bureau of the war bureau, yesterday made public circulars calling for subscriptions for seven million dollars Philippine land purchase bonds, the proceeds of which are to be applied to the purchase of the friars' lands. The bonds will be registered in denominations of from \$1,000 to \$10,000 dated February 1, 1904, bearing 4 per cent interest payable at the United States treasury in United States gold coin. The bonds will run from ten to thirty years and be free from all forms of taxation either in the Philippines or in the United States. Subscriptions will be payable at the New York sub-treasury where the bonds also will be delivered. The circular recites that these bonds will be accepted by the secretary of the treasury at par as security for the deposit of public money, should further deposits be made; and may be substituted for United States gold bonds now held as security for additional circulation whenever in the judgment of the secretary of the treasury it is desirable to stimulate an increase in national bank circulation. Bids will be received until 3 p. m., January 11. They must be accompanied by certified checks for 2 per cent of the bid. They will be delivered February 1. The bids will be received at the insular bureau.

Brief News Items.

The full death list of those who lost their lives in the fire in the Iroquois theatre in Chicago is some over six hundred, and some are still missing. Twelve employes of the theatre have been arrested on the charge of being accessory to manslaughter, and they will be held pending the verdict of the coroner's jury. Expressions of sympathy have been received in Chicago from all portions of Europe and throughout this country, the terrible disaster stirring the emotions of people generally. The strike of livery drivers recently instituted in the city has been temporarily suspended out of sympathy with the disaster.

A plan for reforming the currency

system of Mexico has been prepared by a sub-committee of the national monetary commission. The new plan is similar to the one now in force in the Philippine islands and it is recommended that the ratio of the new dollar to gold shall be established on the basis of the average gold price of the Mexican pesos in foreign markets during the past ten years, with an increase not exceeding 10 per cent.

A dispatch from Canton, O., under date of January 1, says: The time limit for the submission of designs for the McKinley memorial expired today. Over 100 designs have been offered, six of which are the work of foreign artists and sculptors.

New Year's day death list included the names of former Congressman James J. Belden of Syracuse, N. Y., at the age of 78 years. Mr. Belden served in congress from 1887 to 1895. He also served as mayor of the city of Syracuse for two terms. Judge John P. Newton of Dayton, Ky., a prominent democratic leader, and who was to have taken his seat on the bench at Newport, Ky., on January 4, died at Cincinnati, O., on January 1. Captain Frederick Pabst, president of the Pabst Brewing company, died at his home in Milwaukee, Wis., on January 1, at the age of 67 years.

It is hoped that the threatened strike of cab and carriage drivers in St. Louis may be averted, as the board of arbitration for the state will convene shortly in the hope of settling the controversy.

A cablegram dated London, January 1, and carried by the Associated press, says: General Weyler will shortly publish a book entitled, "My Military and Political Campaign in Cuba," according to a special dispatch from Madrid. Two interesting chapters will be headed, "My Project for Landing in United States Territory," and "Reasons Why I Was Obligated to Abandon the Project."

"Welcome" Does Not Mean Surrender.

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promise to the ear to break it to the hope; it will not take a backward step in its battle for the greatest good to the greatest number; it will not do this with the consent of the rank and file of the party who have not grown so weary of 'the husks of defeat' as to be willing to turn to the husks of a victory that could mean no more progress to the democratic party than did the victory of 1892.

"It must be plain to intelligent men that a crisis is coming on. The democratic party has nothing to gain by a backward step. It is today, just as it was in 1896 and in 1900, the conservative party. So far as public interests are concerned, democratic principles and policies, as set forth in the Chicago platform and in the Kansas City platform, represent the real conservatism of the country.

"Call it 'Bryanism,' if you please, and yet let it be understood now, as it will yet be learned by the doubting Thomases of this country, by the wiseacres who imagine that great principles are crushed by a single or a dozen defeats, that the so-called 'Bryanism' stands between the radicalism of the republican party on the one hand and the radicalism of the socialistic element on the other hand; that 'Bryanism' stands for pure and simple democratic government, along the foundations laid by the fathers; that 'Bryanism,' hated and despised as it is by the representatives of selfish interests, ignored and misunderstood by the ignorant, must yet be turned to by the people of this American government if the constitutional

form is to be adhered to, if property rights are to be respected and if the government is to thwart the machinations of the plutocrat and reject the dreams of the socialist.

Writing by Telegraph.

Ernst Karl Gruhn, a young German electrician, has patented what he calls the "teleschirograph," an instrument that reproduces over a wire a written message.

It differs from all other similar inventions in that the actual writing of the message sets up electric currents which reproduce it at the other end. It has already been tried with success over a line 200 miles long, and there seems to be no limit to its action up to the distance over which telephone messages may be sent.

In fact, it is more nearly related in its action to the telephone than to the telegraph, and the electric current ordinarily used in telephoning is employed in this new device. It is intended to supplement the telephone rather than to supplant the telegraph.

The transmitting apparatus is contained in a case about as large as a typewriter cover. To a pencil holder are attached two wires, each being part of a circuit. When not in use the pencil lies in a rest that breaks both circuits, much as a telephone re-

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