

WASHINGTON NEWS

ity of maintaining a press bureau, paying the head thereof \$10,000 per year. Senator Hale, republican, of Maine, while generally defending the administration agreed with Mr. Tillman that there was no excuse for a press bureau. Senator Culberson proposed an amendment providing that no part of the money appropriated should be used for a literary bureau or anything of that nature. During the course of the debate Senator Tillman asked if any republican senator could say that Mr. Shonts, of the canal commission had resigned as president of the Clover Leaf railroad. None of the senators could give Mr. Tillman this information.

In the house December 15, Representative Cockran of New York made a speech criticising the life insurance magnates, declaring that they were as bad as robber barons. He said that congress through its taxing power should confine all insurance companies to the state in which they are organized. Representative Williams, the minority leader, held that control was possible, but not through the taxing power.

The senate on December 15 sent word to the house that it had passed a bill removing disabilities from the canal bonds. Representative Payne offered a resolution to the effect that this senate bill controvenes the con-

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stitutional clause that revenue legislation must originate in the house. Payne's resolution was unanimously adopted.

Representative Shipley of Kentucky said that all of the startling disclosures regarding life insurance had been made by state agencies, and he favored emphasizing the importance of state supervision in preference to national supervision. The Associated Press report says that "this defense of state sovereignty was cheered on both sides of the chamber."

Referring to Bourke Cockran's speech in the house on the insurance question, the Associated Press report says: "Mr. Cockran's remedy was to confine insurance companies to the state in which they were organized, the same as savings banks are confined. It was an awful spectacle, he said, to see these men mount the witness stand and boldly confess their misuse of the people's funds. There is now the spectacle in New York, he said, of the district attorney working day and night to prosecute those guilty of violating the purity of the ballot box, which was commendable. But at the same time the insurance officers did not go to jail but back to their offices after their confessions. He said it was a deplorable confession to make, but he would assert that it would be absolutely impossible to put the possessor of \$10,000,000 in any jail in this country. Mr. Cockran criticized Mr. Ryan, who purchased control of the Equitable, and characterized his action as being the result of his philanthropic ambition. He also remarked at length on the trustees who were named to care for the company's interest, and continued: 'And in order to make effective this reform a gentleman is selected who may have been a good railroad man—I believe he was—and we have the authority of the president for it that he was an excellent cabinet officer, too good, in fact, to remain (laughter) and this gentleman, who in the walks of life where he had proven his efficiency I do not believe could command over \$25,000 or \$30,000 a year, gets \$80,000 in a calling for which he has had no qualifications or preparation whatever. In the Mutual we have the very same board of trustees who had themselves either been active agents of these frauds or been privy to them, choosing a new head, and that selection is generally attributed to the influence of a gentleman who had leaped into a peculiar fame through magazine articles and which seem to describe him as the triumphant and successful hero of a hundred larcenies. (Laughter). In the New York Life, the third, we find the vice president, after avowal of crime, after swearing on his own oath that he had purchased bonds one day and sold them the next day, to the same company, at an advance of 2 per cent, driven out by the indignation of the community, finds himself followed by the adulation of this board and complimentary resolutions—complimentary to his efficiency in plunder—have been spread through the public press as advertisements paid out of the funds of the policyholders whom he robbed.' Mr. Cockran paid his respects to Mr. Perkins and Mr. McCurdy, saying they doubtless were surprised at their own modesty. 'Rockefeller's fortune is a monument to crime,' declared Mr. Cockran, 'and he does not deny it.' 'It is time we should consider the awful effect of criminals still holding offices they have abused,' Mr. Cockran added. 'Mr. Cockran, in conclusion, declared congress was bound to take action.'

NO PLACE FOR STRANGERS

J. Edward Addicks was condemning a certain politician. "The man has no experience," he said, according to

the New York Tribune, "and he has not sense enough to conceal his lack of it. He reminds me of an incident that took place in a barber shop the other day.

"In this quiet, busy shop a man who was getting shaved suddenly uttered a loud oath.

"Hang on!" he exclaimed. "You've

cut my chin twice now. If you can't shave better than this every regular customer will leave you.'

"But the young barber pushed the man's head back on the velvet rest and laughed.

"Oh, no," he said. "No fear of that. I'm not allowed to shave regular customers yet. I only shave strangers."



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