

PROSPECTS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION AT ALBANY.

MANY CANAL MEASURES—OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS—SHORT SESSION NOT PROBABLE.

Albany, Jan. 1 (Special).—The importance of the approaching session of the legislature has been a matter of some difference of opinion. In the past the history of sessions during a Presidential year has been that of a short session, with little actual legislation. Such a programme had been expected this year, until Governor Odell made the emphatic declaration that he expected a long and history making session. In the matter of legislation it is apparent at the outset that the present session will be dominated by canal measures. The overwhelming majority given to the canal project at the last election imposes upon this year's legislature the task of providing the machinery beginning the work. Various kinds of excise bills, including that prepared by District Attorney Jerome with the support of the Citizens Union, and possibly one drawn along the lines suggested by General F. V. Greene recently, are to be expected. The usual variety of labor bills, possible and impossible, will appear, and it is expected that the Merchants' Association will present some measure looking to the abolition of the Aqueduct Commission as well as to the increase of the number of members of the Railroad Commission. There is reason to believe that bills on the subject of taxation will be of less importance than in the last session, although there are those who look for the reappearance of the mortgage tax measure in some form or other.

But that the present session will be known as a canal legislature, because of the extent and importance of its canal legislation, seems entirely probable. Of the magnitude and importance of this branch of legislation some idea may be gained when it is realized that in one single phase measures are contemplated providing for the saving of \$40,000,000. In explaining his reasons for attaching so much importance to the present session, Governor Odell declared that measures contemplating this saving would be introduced, and it is expected on all sides that this saving will be made through the canal bonds, over \$100,000,000 of which are to be issued to cover the expense of the canal. Two different methods aimed to accomplish this saving have been forecasted, the one providing for the issue of short term bonds for twenty years instead of long term bonds for fifty years, and it has been figured that if by indirect taxation the canal could be paid for in that time, \$40,000,000 in interest would be saved over the fifty year plan. Still another method which may appear is that of securing for the State the taking up of \$50,000,000 of the bonds without interest by the counties. This latter plan is generally regarded as unlikely, because of the heavy burden it lays on the counties and the possibility that it might prove unconstitutional.

PROPERTY FOR NEW CANAL ROUTE. Another important piece of canal legislation that is expected is a bill authorizing the appointment by the Governor of a board of appraisers to view the property which will be taken by the new route of the canal, and in some measure, at least, to avoid a long and expensive condemnation proceeding following the taking of the land by the State. A bill is also expected providing for a long term for the members of the advisory board, whom the Governor will appoint, as directed by the canal law, to assist the State Engineer and Surveyor in determining the various engineering questions attending the construction of the canal. The Governor will not appoint the members of this board until the session convenes.

Still another important phase of the canal legislation is that governing the conditions of labor. The present legislators will in all probability be asked to enact laws providing that workmen on the canal shall be paid the prevailing rate of wages, that the eight hour law shall be enforced and that only citizens shall be employed. In addition to these general measures there will probably be endless local bills affecting the disposition of the present canal bed in various cities and towns along its route. For example, the people of Syracuse favor a measure that will permit the present canal bottom to be used as a railway line, the tracks which now cross the city at the street level being depressed to the level of the canal bed, thus avoiding many grade crossings. But while it appears that much important legislation growing out of the new canal will arise, there is also a decided impression that there will be a marked diminution in the number of measures passed, if not of those introduced, providing for new bridges and improvements of various sorts on the present canal lines.

In the legislation affecting New-York City the most important single measure will doubtless be the excise legislation District Attorney Jerome will endeavor to secure. Mr. Jerome's measure, which was defeated last session, is to be reintroduced, with the added support of the Citizens Union and of the Citizens' Committee, and the union, the committee and various other organizations will be expected to appear for and against Mr. Jerome's local option of his own devising.

BIGGER CIGARS LIKELY.

Little Immediate Effect of Cuban Reciprocity, However.

The Cuban Reciprocity bill, which became operative at 12:31 a. m. on Sunday has, apparently, had little immediate effect on either the sugar or tobacco commodities in this city. The bill was apparently fully anticipated in the case of sugar, which was discounted several weeks ago. Commenting on the bill's effect on sugar in this city, James H. Post, of B. H. Howell, Son & Co., who represent the National Sugar Refining Company, said to a Tribune reporter yesterday: "Several weeks ago, in anticipation of the bill's ratification, sugar was discounted about one-third of a cent a pound. This will mean that the New-York householder who consumes seventy pounds of sugar a year will now save something like 25 cents annually. Owing to the keen competition, it is the consumer, and not the refiner, who gets the benefit of this reduction."

FRENCH COLLIER NOT LOST.

The Vienne Reaches Oran—Damaged Engines Caused Delay. Oran, Algeria, Jan. 1.—The French naval collier Vienne, bound from Rochefort for Toulon, fears for whose safety had been felt owing to the vessel having been twenty-two days out and not having been heard of since leaving the former port, arrived here to-day with her engines disabled.

FARGO SQUIERS'S BODY IN HAVANA.

Funeral To Be Held To-day—The Burial to Take Place Here. Havana, Jan. 1.—The body of Fargo Squiers, son of United States Minister Squiers, who was accidentally killed yesterday by Gaston Michaud, while shooting at a target, was brought to Havana to-day from Mariano and taken to the Church of St. Angelo. The funeral will be held to-morrow, and after the services the body will be taken aboard the steamer Morro Castle, to be conveyed to New-York. Captain Hanna, military attaché at the United States Legation, was to have accompanied the body, but no order having been received by the War Department, it is probable that G. L. Lorillard, second secretary of legation, will have charge of the coffin.

A Silent Foe

to coughs and colds is Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar. It is pleasant to take, and when used early in the attack quickly cures. Sold by all druggists. 25c, 50c, and \$1 per bottle. Pike's Toothache Drops cure in one minute.

PLEASE MENTION THE TRIBUNE WHEN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS.

THESE MEANS YOU. Please mention The Tribune when answering advertisements.

A Typical Day of a Busy Pastor in Boston. In tomorrow's Tribune.

RUSSIA REJECTS OFFERS.

Continued from first page.

Nelidoff, and the Japanese Minister, M. Montono, were among the listeners to the President's remarks, and consequently the report that Russia had decided not to grant Japan's proposals was somewhat inexplicable at the Japanese Legation. To-night Minister Montono received a number of his countrymen and officials. The entrance of the legation was decorated with large Japanese flags. When asked regarding the utterances of Baron Hayashi, Minister Montono said that certainly no such report emanated from him, and that he was the usual medium for advices of that character to his colleague in London. He remarked that, on the contrary, the day had passed without advices having been received, and that the status of the situation continued to be the awaiting of Russia's reply.

When asked for his views on the outlook for the maintenance of peace, Minister Montono asked to be excused from replying, saying that the situation was too delicate to permit him to express his views on possible results. It is said in a well informed quarter here that France would have no right officially to communicate Russia's reply to Japan, and it is added that the reply has not yet been framed and that it is expected it will be presented to the Japanese government through Baron de Rosen, the Russian Minister at Tokio.

At the same time it has been known here for the last few days that Russia's attitude has been changing, as a result of the bellicose policy which Japan is pursuing, and that Russia is disinclined to make the concessions which would have been possible, it is asserted, had Japan adopted a more conciliatory course.

It is reiterated that if there is any breaking off of relations Japan, not Russia, will take the initial step. The information of the Japanese Minister in London, therefore, is in line generally with that which the diplomatic corps here has been in possession of for several days.

What is regarded here as a significant exchange of telegrams occurred to-day between General Kouroussin, War Minister, and General André, the French Minister of War. The Russian Minister telegraphed to General André his wishes for the happiness and prosperity of himself and the French army for the new year. In reply General André referred to the friendship which united the two armies, "and which strikingly shows itself in all circumstances, and concluded with extending cordial wishes for the prosperity and greatness of the Russian army."

ALARM IN ENGLAND.

Belief General That War Is Imminent—Japan's Censorship.

London, Jan. 2.—The Far Eastern situation is regarded as most gloomy. No further news has come to light, but the fact that not a single telegram from Japan has been received by any London newspaper since Thursday night in itself creates alarm. The telegraph company is not aware of any delay in the transit of messages, and it therefore is supposed that the Japanese government is stopping dispatches. The feeling of apprehension was reflected at Lloyd's yesterday, underwriters demanding additional premium to cover a war risk on all vessels, no matter of what nationality, proceeding east of Singapore.

The London morning papers print alarming statements. "The Daily Telegraph" in leaded type says: "Even in diplomatic circles hitherto sanguine of peace there is a recognition that a rupture is all but inevitable. Neither Japan nor Russia will abate anything of their claims, and there is no disposition on either side to invite the mediation of friendly powers. It is believed that Japan will take decisive steps within the next few days unless a conciliatory message is dispatched from St. Petersburg, a contingency which those best able to form judgment do not anticipate."

"The Daily Mail" deals similarly with the situation, and says that it understands that Russia has reached a decision, which, when communicated to Japan, must precipitate hostilities. The sailing of the Nippon mail boat Inaba, which was fixed for yesterday, from England, has been postponed. Among unconfirmed rumors in steamship circles is one that the Peninsula and Oriental Steamship Company has sold four of its liners through a French firm to Russia.

"The Daily Mail's" Malta correspondent reports that five Russian torpedo boat destroyers which are undergoing repairs there have suddenly been ordered to sea in an unfinished condition.

The British Minister to Japan, urged the purchase by England of Chilean battleships Constitution and Libertad.

WAR SONGS IN JAPAN.

New Year's Day Marked by Revival of Feudal Hymns.

Tokio, Jan. 1.—A significant and curious feature of the New Year's festivities, now at their height, is the revival of the old feudal battle songs by the people here. It is stated that Sir Claude M. McDonald, the British Minister to Japan, urged the purchase by England of Chilean battleships Constitution and Libertad.

PEACE NEWS IN BERLIN.

Russia's Answer Conciliatory—Von Bilow's Opinion.

Berlin, Jan. 1.—The German government has been informed that Russia's reply to Japan is not provocative, and that it is sincerely intended to satisfy Japan. The aroused state of Japanese public opinion is fully recognized here, but Chancellor von Bilow and the Foreign Office do not believe that war is within the probabilities, and this view has been communicated to the representatives of the powers in Berlin. Russia's reply, it is unofficially announced, was sent to Japan yesterday.

ADVICES HERE LACKING.

General Staff Intends To Be Ready for Any Possible Call.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Baron Hayashi's statement from London was communicated to the Japanese Minister, Mr. Takahira, just as he was starting to the New Year's reception at the White House. Although it was what the minister has been expecting for days, it was naturally somewhat of a shock. The legation here had had nothing yet from Tokio.

The Russian embassy was equally lacking advices from its home office, and the State Department has not been able to secure any indication of the outcome of the negotiations between Russia and Japan, although it has sent special instructions to its agents in both countries to report developments.

The news of the likelihood of war was communicated to the General Staff of the army and navy, the members of both being gathered in their respective departments preparatory to marching to the President. There was a good deal of speculation as to how the United States would be affected by the outbreak of the war. The attitude of the government was of course, one of neutrality, but there is always danger in case of war that the combatants by unwarranted interference with the rights of neutral commerce, or by ill treatment of neutral citizens, may require the assistance of the United States. The exhibition of stern admonition, and perhaps the exhibition of force, The General Staff officers feel called upon to put their respective arms of the service into a state of preparation to respond powerfully and

TRUBLE AT CASSIDY DINNER.

There was an uncomfortable five minutes at a breakfast dinner which Borough President Cassidy gave for the district leaders and officers in Astoria on Thursday night. Almost all of the Democratic district workers in Queens were present, including the election officers in the various districts. Toward the close of the dinner one of the professional entertainers began to sing a song relative to somebody's immediate chances of being in Sing Sing. As the Democratic election officials in President Cassidy's home district stand as it were, in the shadow of the Hudson River institution, and all present except the entertainers knew it, the situation was embarrassing. To make matters worse some officious person stopped the singer when he was half way through, and thus called attention to the "break."

RUSSIAN FORCES MOVING EAST.

Two Destroyers at Gibraltar—Two Thousand Men Leave Port Said. Gibraltar, Jan. 1.—Two Russian torpedo boat destroyers have arrived here on their way to the Far East.

Port Said, Jan. 1.—A Russian transport, with two thousand troops on board, entered the Suez Canal yesterday, bound for Port Arthur.

BRITISH WARSHIP FOR CHINA.

The Cruiser King Alfred Leaves Portsmouth—Admiralty Denies a Report. Portsmouth, Jan. 1.—The British armored cruiser King Alfred (14,000 tons) left Portsmouth to-day for China.

The King Alfred is taking new crews for the battleship Guro, Admiral Noel's flagship, and the river gunboat Klusha. She is provisioned for six months, and will remain on the China station in case of war. The cruiser was ordered to make full speed on the trip if war breaks out while she is on the way.

It is stated on good authority at Portsmouth that warships are being held in readiness to be immediately dispatched to the Mediterranean, to replace vessels which may be sent there in case of war.

London, Jan. 1.—The Admiralty denied a report from Portsmouth that the battleships Forth and Irresistible, and the cruiser Vindictive had been ordered to China.

GERMANY NOT AFTER ST. THOMAS.

Denial of Reported Intention to Establish Coaling Station There. Berlin, Jan. 1.—The report that Germany contemplates the acquisition of a coaling station at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, is semi-officially denied to be as unfounded as similar previous reports.

HANNA TO NAME COMMITTEES SOON.

Selection of Conciliation Members More Difficult Than at First Expected. The executive officers of the National Civic Federation said yesterday that the announcement of the conciliation committees for the four subdivisions into which the work is to be arranged will be made by Senator Hanna late next week. The announcement was to have been made yesterday, but it was found that it was more difficult to make the selection of names than was at first expected. The four subdivisions are the building trades, the metal trades, public service corporations and textile work.

Ralph M. Easley, secretary of the National Civic Federation, said yesterday that it had been decided to appoint twenty-five large contractors in sixteen cities employed on construction work, and twenty-five heads of national unions in the building trades, for the building trades committee. The committees for the other subdivisions were not yet completed. The metal trades take in such branches as the machinists, pattern makers, boiler makers and iron molders. The public corporations division takes in among others, the employees of street railway companies, gas, electric and water plants and telegraph and telephone companies.

While the New-York Metal Trades Association is in touch with the Civic Federation, the latter association will have nothing to do with it, on the ground that employers and their employees should alone conduct negotiations. The same condition applies to the local metal trades associations of Chicago, St. Louis and several other cities.

EXPECTS PARKER AT DINNER.

M. Warley Platzek Says He Thinks the Judge Will Be Among the Guests Monday. Judge Parker of the committee in charge of the McClellan dinner at Sherry's on Monday night, when ex-President Cleveland, ex-Senator Hill, Senator Arthur P. Gorman, of Maryland; Judge Gray, of Delaware, and other Democrats will speak, said last night at the Democratic Club that he fully expected Alton B. Parker, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals, at the dinner.

"Judge Parker opens the Court of Appeals on Monday as I am informed," said Mr. Platzek. "For that reason he is reluctant about cutting short the session in order to leave Albany to get here for the dinner. The session closes at 5. Even if he cannot get started away before that time he would have time to get here. I fully expect that he will be one of the guests."

SUNK BY U. S. WARSHIPS!

Rumors at Colon of the General Pinzon's Destruction.

Colon, Jan. 1.—There were persistent rumors here yesterday, and again to-day, that the Colombian gunboat General Pinzon had been sunk by American warships. There is no confirmation of the report.

The Mayflower, to which Admiral Coghlan transferred his flag yesterday, steamed out of the harbor this morning. There are now no ships of war here.

It is not known here whether the Indian chief Inaniquina left his territory of his own accord, or was forced to do so by the Colombians. Much importance is attached to that point. The cruiser Olympia and the gunboat Castine have not returned from the direction of Cart, where they went to investigate the situation.

PANAMA REPORTS QUIET.

No Signs of Colombian Activity—Nicaraguan Recognition. Panama, Jan. 1.—The situation on this side of the isthmus is quiet and satisfactory to the naval authorities. Reports from Darien up to last night give no evidence of Colombian activity or the presence of Colombians in Panamanian territory. Darien miners who came here a fortnight ago have returned there to resume work.

The thirty American marines and bluejackets who remain at Yaviza have artillery and two armed launches with which they are patrolling the rivers. Panamanian soldiers continue scouting from Yaviza through the Darien district. The United States cruiser Boston is in San Miguel Bay supporting the Yaviza outpost. The Wyoming is having target practice, and the Concord and Marblehead are both at Panama.

The Yaviza and Real Santa Maria outposts were materially reduced because there was no necessity to keep large forces there. They are simply observation outposts and thirty men can do the work.

Persons best informed concerning the military situation along the Darien frontier do not expect any Colombian aggression for the present. They are of the opinion that the situation is likely to remain as it is at present until the canal treaty is approved by the Congress of the United States, or until General Reyes returns from Washington. This opinion prevails, notwithstanding reports of concentration of Colombian troops at Barranquilla and the fact that Colombia doubtless is moving troops toward the Atrato River.

The disturbed internal conditions of Colombia are thought to give a sufficient reason for these movements of Colombian troops, but the naval authorities are in no wise remitting their activity.

President Zelaya of Nicaragua sent a dispatch to the Junta of this morning, saying that it gave him pleasure to recognize Panama on the New-Year's Day. The recognition by Nicaragua has caused much satisfaction.

TROUBLE AT CASSIDY DINNER.

There was an uncomfortable five minutes at a breakfast dinner which Borough President Cassidy gave for the district leaders and officers in Astoria on Thursday night. Almost all of the Democratic district workers in Queens were present, including the election officers in the various districts. Toward the close of the dinner one of the professional entertainers began to sing a song relative to somebody's immediate chances of being in Sing Sing. As the Democratic election officials in President Cassidy's home district stand as it were, in the shadow of the Hudson River institution, and all present except the entertainers knew it, the situation was embarrassing. To make matters worse some officious person stopped the singer when he was half way through, and thus called attention to the "break."



The Equitable Life Assurance Society

Of the United States.

HENRY B. HYDE, FOUNDER. 120 Broadway, New York.

Preliminary Statement, Jan. 1st, 1904.

Table with financial data: Outstanding Assurance, \$1,400,000,000; Income, 72,000,000; Assets, 380,000,000; Assurance Fund and all other liabilities, 307,000,000; Surplus, 73,000,000; Paid to Policyholders, 32,000,000.

The New Assurance during 1903 was over \$40,000,000 larger than during any previous year in the Society's history.

The Amount paid in Dividends to Policyholders was larger than during any previous year in the Society's history, and also larger than the amount ever paid in any year by any other company.

James W. Alexander, President. James H. Hyde, Vice-President.

Opportunities for men of energy and character to act as representatives. Apply to GAGE E. TARBELL, 2nd Vice-President.

SUNK BY U. S. WARSHIPS!

Rumors at Colon of the General Pinzon's Destruction.

Colon, Jan. 1.—There were persistent rumors here yesterday, and again to-day, that the Colombian gunboat General Pinzon had been sunk by American warships. There is no confirmation of the report.

The Mayflower, to which Admiral Coghlan transferred his flag yesterday, steamed out of the harbor this morning. There are now no ships of war here.

It is not known here whether the Indian chief Inaniquina left his territory of his own accord, or was forced to do so by the Colombians. Much importance is attached to that point. The cruiser Olympia and the gunboat Castine have not returned from the direction of Cart, where they went to investigate the situation.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Assistant Secretary Darling of the Navy Department said to-night that he had received no news with reference to the rumored sinking of a Colombian vessel by an American warship, and that he believed the rumor was without foundation.

PANAMA REPORTS QUIET.

No Signs of Colombian Activity—Nicaraguan Recognition. Panama, Jan. 1.—The situation on this side of the isthmus is quiet and satisfactory to the naval authorities. Reports from Darien up to last night give no evidence of Colombian activity or the presence of Colombians in Panamanian territory. Darien miners who came here a fortnight ago have returned there to resume work.

The thirty American marines and bluejackets who remain at Yaviza have artillery and two armed launches with which they are patrolling the rivers. Panamanian soldiers continue scouting from Yaviza through the Darien district. The United States cruiser Boston is in San Miguel Bay supporting the Yaviza outpost. The Wyoming is having target practice, and the Concord and Marblehead are both at Panama.

The Yaviza and Real Santa Maria outposts were materially reduced because there was no necessity to keep large forces there. They are simply observation outposts and thirty men can do the work.

Persons best informed concerning the military situation along the Darien frontier do not expect any Colombian aggression for the present. They are of the opinion that the situation is likely to remain as it is at present until the canal treaty is approved by the Congress of the United States, or until General Reyes returns from Washington. This opinion prevails, notwithstanding reports of concentration of Colombian troops at Barranquilla and the fact that Colombia doubtless is moving troops toward the Atrato River.

The disturbed internal conditions of Colombia are thought to give a sufficient reason for these movements of Colombian troops, but the naval authorities are in no wise remitting their activity.

President Zelaya of Nicaragua sent a dispatch to the Junta of this morning, saying that it gave him pleasure to recognize Panama on the New-Year's Day. The recognition by Nicaragua has caused much satisfaction.



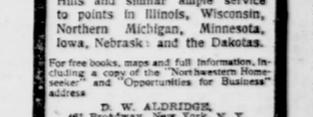
Home-seekers Tickets

West and Northwest. Low round-trip rates to points in Wisconsin, Northern Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and other points west, are in effect via the

Chicago & North-Western

Railway on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, with liberal limits and with stop-over privileges en route. Excellent through train service to all points west includes four trains a day Chicago to Omaha; three trains a day to Denver, Salt Lake, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Portland; four per day to St. Paul, Minneapolis; four per day to Sioux City; one per day to the Black Hills and similar ample service to points in Illinois, Wisconsin, Northern Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska; and the Dakotas.

For free books, maps and full information, including a copy of the "North-Western Home-seeker" and "Opportunities for Business" address: D. W. ALDRIDGE, 461 Broadway, New York, N. Y.



ASK YOUR DEALER. ELKTON 15c EACH. EMIGH & STRAUB, MAKERS.

IMPROVED CROUP KETTLE

Constructed according to directions of an eminent physician. Made and For Sale by LEWIS & CONGER, 123 West 41st Street, New York.

TO GET GOOD TREATMENT.

Readers are assured of good treatment if they mention to advertisers they saw their advt. in The Tribune.

The largely increased circulation of The Sunday Tribune necessitates our going to press early Saturday night. Advertisers will confer a favor by sending in their copy at the earliest possible moment.