

CONGRESS FOR ECONOMY.

WILL CUT EXPENSES.

All Appropriations To Be Kept at Lowest Possible Limits.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.] Washington, Dec. 7.—Economy is the watchword of Congress. The platform of the Republican party declared emphatically against extravagance in government expenditures, and in authorizing the annual appropriations it is the purpose of the Senate and House to make the dollar square with the word. The great supply bill will be held down to the lowest amount consistent with a proper, although economical administration of the government, and to this end every estimate will be subjected to the keenest scrutiny and unhesitatingly cut where it can be demonstrated that the expenditure can be dispensed with.

In a number of conferences to-day Speaker Cannon expressed the hope that the appropriations would, so far as compatible with the public interests, be governed by the income of the government. He believes that Congress should be informed of the financial condition of the country, and for this purpose it is probable that Secretary Shaw will be asked to prepare a statement giving the information desired. He will be asked in regard to the money available in the Treasury for the continuation of projects already authorized by Congress, with special reference to river and harbor and public buildings. The Secretary will also be requested to estimate the income of the government for the next fiscal year, and give such other information regarding the condition of the Treasury as may be of importance in guiding Congress.

Speaker Cannon and the House leaders are emphatically opposed to appropriations of a size that will make it necessary to borrow money to provide for the expenditures, and for this reason they will exercise the greatest caution in their recommendations as to the amount to be appropriated. There is no disposition to discriminate, but all bills carrying an appropriation will be subjected to the pruning process where it is found necessary.

The Postoffice Appropriation bill, on which hearings are now being had, will be scaled down so far as possible without positive injury to the service. Postmaster General Wynne appeared before the House Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads and explained the needs of his department, and the questions asked by the members of the committee indicated their intention of reducing the amount estimated wherever practicable. One item in which there will be a large reduction from the amount requested is that providing for promotions. Members of the committee are outspoken in their opposition to a substantial increase in the salaries of postoffice clerks, and it is probable that only about 25 per cent, or one in four of the promotions asked for, will be allowed. It is expected that the bill, as reported out of the committee, will make proportionate reductions in the amounts asked throughout the postal service, but not to the extent of crippling the efficiency of the department.

FOREIGN COMMENT ON MESSAGE.

German and French Papers Forecast New Policies Toward South America.

Berlin, Dec. 7.—President Roosevelt's statements in his message to Congress concerning the increase of the United States navy, the preservation of order in the Latin-American republics and insistence upon the "peace of justice" are considered by the newspapers as defining the American aims in relation to other countries more clearly than ever before. Those portions of the message are treated as indicating the development of the United States as a first class naval power, with all-inclusive ambitions regarding the Western Hemisphere. "Although," one paper remarks, "it is not easy to harmonize cannon and ethics, the President tries hard to do so." Contrasts are drawn between the arbitration treaties being negotiated between the principal powers, while the ship-building works and gun foundries were never so busy. The prevailing tone of the editorials is a recognition of the fact that the United States is entering upon serious work in Central and South America, with an occasional cynical remark.

Paris, Dec. 7.—President Roosevelt's message to Congress is widely commented upon here. The "Temps" and the "Journal des Debats" devote to it leading articles of a rather critical tone. Both newspapers point out the extension of the Monroe Doctrine and the increasing role of the United States in international affairs.

Rome, Dec. 7.—The newspapers of this city print long comments on the Message of President Roosevelt, and particularly upon his discussion of the subject of regulation of immigration. The "Giornale d'Italia" says the Message has the merit of coherence, and that Italians, as a whole, have nothing to fear from any measure of legislation that aims merely to restrict immigration to those who are industrious and honest. The paper asserts, however, that there is a tendency on the part of the majority of the American people to demand restrictions that go beyond the points indicated.

The "Italia" says no Message gives clear and frank notice to Italian immigrants, who are generally industrious, but among whom there are sometimes dangerous elements.

TO REDUCE SOUTH'S POWER

PLATT BILL IN SENATE.

Under It Southern States Would Lose Nineteen Representatives.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.] Washington, Dec. 7.—Senator Platt started a sensation to-day when he introduced his bill cutting down Southern representation, which was briefly described in these dispatches last night. When he arose in the Senate to present the measure, which was prepared by the New-York City Republican Club's committee on national affairs, there was a marked departure from the usual inattention of the Senate, and on a demand from the Democratic side the bill was read at length from the clerk's desk. When the reading was completed, Senator Bailey caused some amusement by references to what he termed the New-York method of choosing Senators. The bill was referred to the Committee on Census, whence it is not likely to be reported at this session.

The bill provides for the reduction of representation in the House, as follows: Alabama, from 9 to 7; Arkansas, 7 to 6; Florida, 3 to 2; Georgia, 11 to 8; Louisiana, 7 to 5; Mississippi, 8 to 6; North Carolina, 10 to 8; South Carolina, 7 to 5; Tennessee, 10 to 9; Texas, 16 to 15; and Virginia, 10 to 8. It amends the act "making an apportionment of Representatives in Congress among the several States under the Twelfth Census" by adding new sections. The first is a preamble, as follows:

Section 6. Whereas, the Constitution of the United States prescribes in Article XIV, Section 2, that when the right to vote at any election specified in said article is "denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridges, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State"; and further prescribes in Article XV that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude"; and

Whereas, the Congress is satisfied that the right of male inhabitants of the United States, being twenty-one years of age and citizens of the United States, to vote at some of said specified elections since the passage of the act hereby amended has in fact been denied or in some way abridged for causes not permitted by the Constitution of the United States, and that the representation of the States hereinafter specified should be reduced pursuant to the Constitution.

It then provides that after March 3 the representation of certain States shall be as given above. The bill also provides:

That whenever hereafter it shall appear to the satisfaction of the Congress that the right to vote at the elections specified in Section 2, Article IV of the Constitution in any of the States last specified is no longer denied or in any way abridged for causes not permitted by the Constitution of the United States, then the number of members apportioned to such State in the House of Representatives by Section 1 of the aforesaid act of 1901, hereby amended, may be restored to said State by a further amendment to the aforesaid act. This reduction shall apply to the next election for members of the House of Representatives from said last mentioned States in the 60th Congress.

It provides in Section 7 for election at large of the Representatives of any State whose representation is reduced, provided the State prior to election is not restricted on the reduced basis.

Senator Platt submitted the following statement with the bill:

This bill is framed upon the lowest limitation possible, and treats as excluded from the suffrage only the male negro citizen over twenty years of age classed by the twelfth census as illiterates under the 1900 census tables published since the apportionment act of January 16, 1901. The aggregate actually excluded from the suffrage of the States mentioned are in truth larger than those used as the basis for this act. If all negro voters—i. e., male citizens over twenty-one—regardless of illiteracy, should be deemed to be excluded, the reduction in representation or abridgment of the suffrage would be nearly twice as great as stated in this bill.

It requires no evidence beyond the notorious historical fact for Congress to adjudge that it is not denied—that the class of negro illiterates to the extent stated is practically excluded from the suffrage in the States mentioned in the bill, no matter what may be the nominal provisions of their respective constitutions or election laws. The bill, therefore, presents the smallest reduction practicable, and is very conservative.

How much further, unfortunately considered, the reduction should extend can readily be ascertained by more specifically regarding the actual facts of total exclusion in respect to each State. In treating fractions of representation, the benefit has been given in favor of the representation, according to the size of the fractions. The "apportionment" remains as fixed in 1901, and the "reduction" is to cease when the facts shall warrant it.

The bill has been prepared under the direction of the committee on national affairs of the Republican Club of the City of New-York, the club having at its first meeting after the President's election unanimously voted to request Congress to take immediate action, pursuant to the representation plank in the Republican national platform.

Mr. Bailey was the only Senator who made any comment on the bill. He asked in a sarcastic tone if there was "anything in the bill affecting the representation in the Senate from States wherein it is charged the Governor and not the legislature selects Senators?"

Mr. Platt replied that the bill contained no such provision.

With this the incident closed.

The Senate reached a decision to vote on the Philippine bill, providing for the construction of railroads in the islands, on December 16, and transacted considerable other business. Mr. Scott started an exceptionally early debate by attempting to secure the passage of a bill granting pensions to the telegraph operators of the Civil War. No action was taken on it. The discussion of the time for voting on the Philippine bill showed a general understanding that the Christmas holiday recess will begin on December 19 and extend until January 3.

The report contains a discussion of the power of Congress to make appropriations for roads, and cites numerous authorities and precedents in support of the proposition. It also deals with the duty of the government to aid in road building.

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THE SENATE PROGRAMME. PHILIPPINE BILL FIRST.

Vote on December 16—Statehood, Crum Case and Committees.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.] Washington, Dec. 7.—The Senate steering committee met this afternoon and agreed on a programme for the present session. Senator Lodge secured unanimous consent to an order providing that the vote on the Philippine Public Improvement bill shall be taken on Friday, December 16. The steering committee decided that immediately after the passage of the Philippine Statehood bill should be made the unfinished business. The committee also determined to press the nomination of Dr. Crum for Collector of the Port of Charleston, S. C., for confirmation, and decided that the immediate reorganization of the Senate committees was necessary. It is expected that on Friday, the 16th, adjournment will be taken until Monday, the 19th, and that on that day the Christmas recess will be taken, ending on January 3.

The action of the steering committee in deciding on the consideration of the Statehood bill, and on no other legislative measure, is generally regarded as indicating that the Senate leaders do not expect to pass much other important legislation at this session. There will probably be some opposition to the Statehood measure, and somewhat extended debate is expected, so that, with the appropriation bills, it will serve as a stop gap to fend off legislation which, for any reason, may prove undesirable.

While the difficulties which confronted the Committee on Committees in filling the assignments made vacant by the death of Senator Hanna impelled that committee to postpone action at the last session, it is now felt that further postponement would prove a grave injustice to Senators Dick, Knox and Crane, all of whom would lose a year's seniority on the committees were their assignments put off until next fall, when a number of new Senators will enter the chamber. For that reason the Committee on Committees will now face the problems before it and attempt to solve them.

The chairmanship of the Judiciary is already provided for by the succession of Senator Platt, of Connecticut, and the vacancy will probably be filled by the addition of Senator Spooner, who was once a member of this committee, but resigned. Mr. Spooner now desires the assignment, and his seniority entitles him to it over Senator Knox, who had hoped to secure the place. Senator Platt, of Connecticut, will be succeeded as chairman of Cuban Relations by Senator Burnham.

The most difficult place to fill is that of chairman of Inter-oceanic Canals, made vacant by the death of Senator Hanna. Senator Platt, of New-York, is the ranking member, but has signified a desire to retain the chairmanship of Printing, which he has long held. The next ranking member is Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, and his interest in the coming Portland exposition may make it impossible for him to serve, while his long championship of the Nicaragua route is regarded as rendering him out of sympathy with the Panama project. It is possible, however, that he may succeed to the chairmanship.

Among the more desirable committees in which vacancies exist, in addition to the Judiciary, are Appropriations, Commerce, Indian Affairs, Finance and Elections, Public Buildings and Grounds, and Rules. All of these the Committee on Committees will fill. It is probable that Senator Lodge will yield his place on Postoffices and Post Roads to his colleague, Senator Crane, and it is regarded as likely that Senator Knox will find a place on Indian Affairs.

NEW SENATORS HUMBLER.

Knox and Crane Begin Service in the "Primer Class."

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.] Washington, Dec. 7.—Two men of ample means, scholarly attainments and national reputation have become members of the highest legislative body in the land. Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania, after an exceptionally successful career as Attorney General, and Winthrop Murray Crane, of Massachusetts, after a notable career as Governor of his State, were sworn in as members of the United States Senate immediately after that body met yesterday.

To-day both men, whose abilities and means have always in the past procured for them the good things of life, are sadly contemplating the text "Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased." The process of initiation began yesterday when both Senators were assigned to seats in the extreme rear of the "Cherokee Strip," the name given to that small section on the Democratic side of the Senate occupied by Republicans. To-day the process proceeded with expedition. The close of the day's session found the two eminent statesmen ruefully contemplating the 6 by 9 committee rooms, three stories below the level of the Senate floor, which had just been assigned to them. The lowest tier of offices in the Capitol is technically known as "The Terrace," and popularly called the "sub-cellar." There the interested visitor from Pennsylvania or Massachusetts will find the favorite son of his State from now until the new Senate office building is completed, unless vacancies in the Senate may sooner release more desirable rooms.

"New wine is always stored there to age," was the only explanation vouchsafed by one of the new Senators, who suggested that the location was "not exactly healthful."

Early next week the process of humbling new men will be completed by the Committee on Committees. After it has done its work Senators Knox and Crane will find themselves assigned to seats at the foot of the tables in a few of the less important committees and chairmen of committees of which few outside of the Capitol ever heard.

In explanation of all this it should be said that the rule of seniority is inviolable in the Senate, and each Senator must take his place at the foot of the ladder, both as to committee memberships and the room assigned to him. Having begun at the bottom, some men climb faster than others. That all depends on the men themselves, and no one will hesitate to predict that Senators Knox and Crane will advance with exceptional speed. But for the present they must take their places in the primer class and learn the rudiments of "being a Senator."

ALASKA GOVERNMENT.

President Considering a System Resembling That in Philippines.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.] Washington, Dec. 7.—President Roosevelt is considering a plan for the creation of a commission, part elected and part appointed, for the government of Alaska, to supersede the court system at present in control. The scheme will, if carried into effect, somewhat resemble the manner of administration of the Philippines, with the modification that the people of the Territory will have a voice in selecting half of their commissioners.

SCRIBNER BOOKS GREAT ENGLISHMEN OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY By SIDNEY LEE. "This is quite the best work that Mr. Sidney Lee has given us."—Academy, London. "An admirable synopsis of this radiant epoch of English history."—London Morning Post. "Mr. Lee walks clear-eyed and serene the broad highway, faithfully and critically recording his observations."—New York Globe. "The essays are admirable and should appeal to a large class of readers, for they are not only learned and scholarly, as might be expected, but sufficiently general in aim to interest all."—New York Evening Sun. "The book, like all of its author's writings, is learned and well weighed, so that its opinions carry authority; while its sober enthusiasm and dignified manner of writing cannot but recommend it highly to general readers who wish seriously to instruct themselves as to the achievements of the great Englishmen whom it commemorates."—Scotsman.

Holiday books for boys and girls Mr. S. R. Crockett's Red-Cap Tales Stolen from the Treasure Chest of the Wizard of the North by the Author of "Sweetheart Travellers"—Waverley Tales retold by a born story teller. Mr. Edwyn Sandys's Sportsman Joe is the best book for a boy's gift—full of the woods and the love of them. "A good book for fathers and uncles and the right kind of maidenaunts to give to their boys."—Cleveland Leader. Mrs. Shafer's The Day Before Yesterday "It is not so much a child's book—though the right sort of a child would revel in it—as a book about children—a family chronicle, humorous, yet relevant, written in sweetest English and with flawless taste. . . infinitely amusing, infinitely affecting."—The Atlantic Monthly. Mr. Jacob A. Riis's Is There a Santa Claus? "Nothing more appealing will be offered young readers this Fall—and fewer things that will be read with more tender regard by grown ups—than this exquisite booklet!"—St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Miss Georgiana Goddard King's Comedies and Legends for Marionettes "Clever young folks can easily learn to manage the puppets, and with the aid of this book can give a unique entertainment!"—Chicago Tribune.

CONTROL OF RED CROSS. Bill Providing for Reincorporation Introduced by Senator Proctor. Washington, Dec. 7.—In accordance with the recent reorganization of the American National Red Cross, Senator Proctor introduced a bill to-day providing for the repeal of the present charter and a reincorporation. The measure authorizes the creation in the District of Columbia of a body corporate and politic by a committee of fifty or more persons, headed by Clara Barton, and including nearly all of those who opposed Miss Barton's course as president. It is provided that this body corporate shall include five other persons, to be named by the President of the United States, from the departments of State, War, Navy, Treasury and Justice, in order to insure government supervision. The governing body shall consist of a central committee numbering eighteen persons, to be appointed as follows: Six by the incorporators, and twelve by the President of the United States, one of whom shall be designated by the President as chairman. When six or more State or territorial societies have been formed they will be permitted to name six members of the central committee and the President six instead of twelve members. The first meeting of the society, if the bill is enacted, will be held on the first Tuesday in December, 1905. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed. Fifteen members of the central committee will constitute a quorum.

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