

PROMPT IN DEFENSE OF SECRET SERVICE

Treasury Heads Resent Proposed Restrictions Urged by Representatives.

Somewhat nettled, but at the same time amazed, by the recent outpourings against Secret Service methods by members of Congress, officials of the Treasury Department, who are in close touch with the peculiar work done by the Secret Service, are inclined to grow rather sarcastic over the matter, and as a contribution to the lively situation, suggest that Secret Service men should wear uniforms. Such a regulation, say Treasury officials, could not be more out of place than some of the restrictions others would impose upon the service.

In defense of the Secret Service, one of the officials said today:

"The element of mystery is always a potent factor in dealing with criminal classes. The Secret Service is divided into twenty-seven administrative districts, each in charge of a chief. It is necessary that this head district official should be known, as he often appears in court, but, on the other hand, the men should be given every assistance to move about freely and unobserved.

"Secret Service methods are not what one might imagine from recent references to operations in the service. They use the same methods as would be applied to a business proposition. The operations of the service resemble those of a trained newspaper force, differing only because there is no necessity for hustling to meet the first edition.

"Principally, the service deals with violators of the currency laws. The suppression of counterfeiting is one of the chief aims of the service, and in view of the recent financial depression there seems to be widespread activity among the counterfeiters. The service brings to justice from 250 to 600 of this class each year.

"It has been difficult to destroy the idea that there is much romance connected with the work. This idea is wrong; the operations of the service are confined entirely within the borders of the United States, and deal only with violations of the Federal laws.

PLANNING REFORM IN CIVIL SERVICE

Prospects Are Bright for Committee Report on the Retirement Bill.

After years of vigorous agitation by the Government employees throughout the country, there is at least a bright prospect for a civil service retirement bill. In the present session of Congress a bill is almost certain to be reported to the House, for the House Committee on Reform in the Civil Service has practically agreed to try to report some measure.

Chairman F. H. Gillett, of this committee, will call a meeting immediately after the present recess, and will continue to call meetings until the committee has come to some general understanding.

Meanwhile members of the committee are studying new statistics on the subject which have just been received by the Census Bureau although the bureau's investigation of the subject is still continuing and will not be published as a Census Bureau document for some days yet.

This material furnished by the Census Bureau ends the long investigation of the subject which has been made by the committee, so that the committee has already agreed it is unnecessary to hold any more hearings on the problem.

GRANGER TO CONTEST FOR CONGRESS SEAT

Notice Served on Opponent—Precedents to Be Established.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 20.—Notice has been served upon Representative-elect William P. Sheffield that his election as Representative from the First District will be contested by Daniel L. D. Granger, the present incumbent.

Mr. Granger has placed his case in the hands of Attorneys P. H. Quinn and Richard W. Comstock, of Comstock and Canning. The matter will be fought vigorously by Mr. Granger and his attorneys. The fight is expected to establish a precedent on many points concerning elections in general.

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PRESIDENT MAY YET INVESTIGATE NAVY

Likely to Again Take Up Plan of Appointing Commission Whose Report Is Expected to Arouse People—Congress a Snag.

By J. C. WELLIVER.

President Roosevelt may decide, after the holidays, to return to his first plan of promoting naval reform and name a commission of civilians and naval and military authorities to dissect the Navy Department, decide what reforms it needs, and make a report which will be given to the country to arouse public opinion in support of driving out politics and the bureau system.

The President at one time was determined to name such a commission, with Secretary Root at its head. Then it became uncertain whether the Secretary could serve; other difficulties arose, and the plan was dropped. It was announced that when Mr. Newberry became Secretary he would try to carry out some reforms without waiting for new laws.

But since that time the Congress has shown a strong disposition to go on a strike against the President in the whole matter of navy development, administration, and reform. The leaders on Capitol Hill are credited with the firm purpose of snubbing Mr. Roosevelt with unprecedented violence as to his naval recommendations. For one thing, he aroused the wrath of some of them by removing the marines from the fighting ships, and report is that they may be restored by an item in the naval appropriation bill. This would sneak past the President, because he couldn't veto it without vetoing the entire bill.

Congress a Snag. Senator Hale, long chairman of the Naval Committee, is also acting chairman of Appropriations, and therefore has a peculiarly effective bulge on the situation. He doesn't want any reforms that can be prevented by a general staff. Instead of doing so, it is more likely that the general board will be abolished by Congress. Chairman Hale tried to insert in the appropriation bill last winter a provision that would have served to abolish it, and it only went out because Senator Lodge insisted on a point of order against it, which was unusual in all the circumstances.

But it is strongly suspected that once the proposal of turning the general board into a general staff and making it the real head of the administration scheme, is seriously pressed, then the Naval Committee will get busy with their little hatchets, and the era of reform will come to sad, but glorious end.

Wants Big Navy. The President wants a vigorous advance made this winter in the policy of naval expansion; the Senate powers are determined to defeat him at it. President-elect Taft is, if anything, ever more devoted to the notions of naval expansion and naval reform than is Mr. Roosevelt. As a specialist in the far Eastern situation, he has long felt that the cheapest and surest peace possible is that which would be guaranteed by a showing of power on the Pacific.

President Roosevelt wants to leave a clean slate for his successor if possible. He is looking after some of the disagreeable tasks which his successor might take on, just for the express purpose of bringing as much as possible of the odium on himself, and thus saving Taft from it. He wants Taft to get started on as good terms as possible with Congress; and this is one of the reasons why he is very likely to appoint a navy investigation commission. It would have Taft from the necessity of doing it later and thus "rill" up Congress.

There is still a lingering notion among the navy reformers that Secretary Root may serve as head of the commission; but it is not a strong chance. He is wanted, because he made the army's general staff organization, and knows the business. Other men who have been discussed in connection with positions on such a commission are Paul Morton and Supreme Justice Moody, who have both been Secretaries of the Navy and strongly urged reform; Wayne MacVeagh, Gen. Horace Porter, Judge George Gray of Delaware, Capt. Alfred T. Mahan, probably the world's foremost naval tactician; Admiral Chadwick, and several other men of high rank and distinction in the navy. Justice Moody or Mr. Morton is considered most likely to be the head of the commission, by reason of the fact that they have been executives of the navy, and Assistant Secretary Herbert L. Satterlee will have an important part of the work to do, having been picked a long time ago for a place on and probably the secretaryship of the body.

MARYLAND WORKING FOR NATIONAL ROAD

Congressman Will Caucus to Decide Upon Gettysburg Route.

In an effort to decide upon the best route for the proposed Lincoln memorial national highway from Washington to the Gettysburg battlefield, Representative Gill of Maryland announced today that he probably will ask for a caucus of the Maryland delegation in Congress soon after the holidays.

There have been two routes suggested. One is by way of Baltimore; the other is known as the Frederick route. Both have their supporters who are bringing influences to bear upon the Maryland Representatives in favor of the respective plans. Representative Gill, who is confident that Congress will pass at this session a bill appropriating from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 for the project, wants the Maryland men in both Senate and House to present a solid front when the matter is brought up for consideration.

Marylanders Should Agree. "We should agree upon either one route or the other," he says. "The passage of the bill will be doubly assured should the entire delegation hold a caucus, and decide upon which is the better plan. When this compromise agreement is reached the entire Maryland membership can go before Congress and bend their united energies toward securing the highway. I believe that such an understanding can be reached."

There are in the hands of the Committee on Appropriations of both houses bills asking for the laying out of a Lincoln Memorial Boulevard. One of these bills, introduced by Senator Knox of Pennsylvania carries an appropriation of \$2,000,000. A similar bill has been introduced into the House by Representative Lafae. Representative Pearro of the Sixth Maryland district has also introduced a like resolution asking for \$4,000,000.

STRICTER DUENNAS FOR COLLEGE GIRLS

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 20.—A new set of iron-clad rules concerning the chaperoning system for the fair young students of Wellesley College are to go into effect with the new year.

The old rules have been in vogue for over ten years and were not so strict as are the new ones. The list of man-tronny chaperons has been carefully revised and a number of the favorites, who were not so very grim toward the advances of young Cupid in the form of some young Viking from Harvard are not on the lists, it is rumored.

ASKED BY SISTER OF GENERAL MILES

FITCHBURG, Mass., Dec. 20.—The new Legislature will receive a petition from Mrs. Ann Maria Sprague and others asking that about 100 acres of land in the town of Westminster be annexed to this city, the object being to straighten the boundary line.

PHILADELPHIA PORT WILL BE UP TO DATE

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 20.—Port Captain W. S. Samuel, of Philadelphia, and G. F. Sproule, secretary of the Philadelphia board of navigation, are in Boston viewing the water front for suggestions toward making an up-to-date harbor for their home city. While in the city they called on the pilot commissioners and Secretary Mors, of the chamber of commerce and shipping.

SERIES OF LECTURES WILL BEGIN TONIGHT

"Socialism," the first of a series of free lectures under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus, will be given tonight at 8 o'clock in the lodge hall by the Very Rev. William Joseph Kirby, of the Catholic University. A lecture will be given on the third Sunday of each month until May, 1909.

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5c Comic Figures	25c	7c Bisque Jointed Dolls	49c
7c Mechanical Auto	49c	2.00 Flexible Flyer Sled	2.19
1.50 Train and Track complete	98c	7c Automobile, Special	4.98
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5.00 Fine Cut Glass Bowl, extra quality, absolutely perfect, a great bargain. To-morrow	2.87	12.00 dozen fine Cut Glass Tumblers in the latest pattern and of the richest American cut glass shape and design copy	7.50

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