

NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

President Outlines Mexican Policy to House and Senate Committees.

Washington.—The policy of the United States was outlined to the members of two congressional committees of foreign relations at a conference at the white house by President Wilson and Secretary Bryan.

The message prepared by the president on the Mexican situation received practically universal support. The course of this government will be one of non-interference, in the hope that the effect of its present efforts and the pressure of foreign governments will constitute a moral suasion that ultimately will bring about peace in Mexico.

The message makes it plain that there will be no lifting of the embargo on arms; that no faction or government in Mexico will be allowed to receive munitions of war from the United States. If necessary the president proposes to increase the American border patrol to enforce this policy.

It is a message of friendship, not hostility, and precedes a policy of absolute non-interference. It proclaims to the world the sympathetic feeling that the United States government and the American people have for their neighbors in the rebellious republic south of the Rio Grande. It records the views of the United States on constitutional government, its unalterable opposition to government set up by the irregular and arbitrary acts of ambitious individuals and formally announces that the government of Victoriano Huerta shall not be recognized.

The United States had proposed that a constitutional election be held and that Huerta should not be a candidate. To these suggestions, through which the United States believes peace could be restored, Huerta replied in the negative. Foreign governments generally since that rejection have been active in support of the American policy to persuade Huerta to yield.

Work on Tariff Bill Progressing

Republican senators are giving evidence of tiring over continued fruitless opposition to the tariff schedule and rapid progress is being made in consideration of the bill.

The wool schedule has been disposed of so far as it will be considered by the senate in committee of the whole.

Though no vote was taken on free raw wool, the decisive showing on that having been deferred until the bill comes from the committee of the whole, the finance committee rates on wool manufactures were agreed to without amendment and there was every indication that raw wool would remain free.

With only a part of the free list, a portion of the paper schedule and the sundries schedule remaining to be considered in committee, democratic leaders expressed confidence that the income tax would be disposed of before the end of the coming week.

Among the articles on the free list ratified were agricultural implements, beet and sugar cane, machinery, alcohol, horses and mules and animals for breeding, bibles, breads, biscuits and many others.

Amendment Made to Currency Bill.

The agricultural currency amendment to the administration currency bill was adopted by the house Democratic caucus. After several preliminary skirmishes, in which other amendments were beaten, the caucus, without a dissenting vote, adopted an amendment agreed to both by the "insurgent" contingent and the banking and currency committee, to put paper based on agricultural products on the same basis as commercial paper for banking purposes. It also would extend the maturity of notes and bills admitted to discount, under the amendment, to 90 days, instead of the originally proposed 60 days. This action disposed of the last of the big controversial issues in the administration currency bill.

National Capital Brevities

Figures gathered by the federal quarantine board of the department of agriculture show that during the past fiscal years 2,779,041 growing trees and 15,040 pounds of tree seeds were imported into the United States.

That the work of installing democrats in federal offices in place of republicans is proceeding at a rapid rate is shown by the nominations which have been sent to the senate since President Wilson took office. These nominations number approximately 3900 and of these about 2000

Not one solitary amendment to the currency bill proposed at the Chicago bankers' conference will be accepted by the administration. This was most emphatically declared by Chairman Glass, of the house banking committee, coauthor of the "administration" measure.

FIRST WARSHIP TO PASS CANAL

Selection of the Oregon Is Most Appropriate.

HER HURRY TRIP RECALLED

Necessity of Transferring the Vessel From Pacific to Atlantic in Short Time During Spanish War Pointed Out Great Need of Panama Canal.

Washington.—The Oregon, on which Secretary of the Navy Daniels plans to confer the honor of being the first battleship to go through the Panama canal, is now in Puget sound getting the finishing touches on her \$1,000,000 modernization treatment. She is being fitted with every convenience and improvement.

The Oregon is one of the three oldest battleships in the navy, the two others being the Indiana and the Massachusetts. All three are sister ships. Their keels were laid in 1891. The Oregon



BATTLESHIP OREGON.

was built at the Union Iron works, San Francisco, and was launched in 1893.

The blowing up of the Maine in Havana harbor on March 15 rendered it imperative for the government to assemble the strongest naval force possible in the West Indies, in anticipation of war with Spain.

It was that emergency—with the battleship Oregon so near and yet so far—that caused Uncle Sam to determine to build the Panama canal. As it was, there was nothing to do but to order the Oregon around Cape Horn.

Involved a journey of over 13,000 miles. Captain Clark got on March 15 the order to make the voyage, and on March 19 he started from San Francisco. He made the run to Callao, Peru, 4,400 miles, at thirteen knots average speed. Coming there, he hastened on down the west coast of South America and steamed at full speed through the strait of Magellan, sleekening not for rocks nor darkness nor wind nor ice in that stormy, treacherous passage.

When the Oregon reached Rio he received a cable from Washington saying war between Spain and the United States had been declared. The department advised him to linger awhile at Rio, but he pushed on to Bahia, where Washington wired suggesting disabling his engines if necessary in order to avoid being deeded shelter at a neutral port. It was feared at that time that the Spanish fleet, then on its way west across the Atlantic, would pounce on the Oregon and destroy it.

"Come on; we believe you can do it," finally cabled the navy department to Captain Clark. He assembled his officers and crew on deck, read them the message and told them he believed the Oregon could lick the whole Spanish fleet. Anyway, he'd take a chance at it, and away he went, right on up the east coast of South America, with every gun and every officer and every man ready for instant action.

At Barbados Captain Clark got word from Washington that the Spanish fleet had arrived somewhere in those waters and was lying in wait. The captain adopted the ruse of pretending to scurry back to Brazil. He steamed south, then west, and by making a wide detour in the Atlantic he passed around the Spanish fleet and on May 23, sixty-five days after leaving San Francisco, the Oregon, gray as an old seagull, appeared at Jupiter Inlet, Florida.

COUNTESS, A NUN, IS DEAD.

Sister Mary Alexandrine, Aged Eighty-one, Attached to Bavarian Court.

Wilmington, Del.—Sister Mary Alexandrine, in the Order of the Visitation for forty-five years and in the Convent of the Visitation here for twenty-one years, died at the institution. Sister Mary Alexandrine was eighty-one years old and had been mother superior of the convent for twelve years.

The fact that a woman of high birth had long been a sister in the convent was not known outside the institution. She was born in Bavaria, April 19, 1832. She was a daughter of Count Theobald De Butler and Countess Victoria Ruedorffer De Butler Von Haimhausen of Munich. In her youth she was maid of honor at one of the Bavarian courts.

NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST IN IDAHO

Important Occurrences Of The Past Week From Cities In Our State

Bridge Opening Interest Grows

Lewiston.—The celebration of the purchase of the Lewiston-Clarkston bridge, about September 1, may assume greater proportions. Towns in the Palouse country feel as keen an interest as Lewiston, Clarkston and Asotin. Pullman, Moscow, Genesee, and Unlontown are anxious to take part in the festivities.

The outside Washington towns see in the purchase of the bridge a possible linking of these districts with the proposed Washington state highway which may serve the important towns in the southeastern part of the state with the main trunk line which has already been constructed. The favor with which the Idaho officials have looked upon the proposed highway makes the desire of great cooperation with the Palouse towns even more potent.

LANE HANGS OVER CANYON

Braves Dangers of Perilous Trip In Skiff, Hanging by Cables.

Boise.—Swinging over the great gap in the canyon of Boise river 300 feet above the construction work on the Arrow Rock dam, Secretary Franklin K. Lane, of the interior department, braved all the dangers of this perilous trip in a skiff dangling by cables to inspect the wonderful engineering feat the reclamation service is executing in the erection of the highest impounding concrete irrigation dam in the world. The act of the secretary when he volunteered to make the ride in the skiff with Chief Engineer A. P. Davis is taken by reclamation engineers to be conclusive of his desire to get first hand at the inside facts of work executed under his department.

Attempts Life of Wife and Kills Self

Emmett.—Edward Dewalt is dead with a bullet in his brain and his wife is suffering from a wound on the head inflicted with a large steel file as the result of a family quarrel. About 10 o'clock the neighbors in the vicinity of the Dewalt home were aroused by the sound of a shot. They ran in the direction of the sound and found Dewalt weltering in his own blood in front of his own home. Rumors flew through the town to the effect that he had first shot his wife and then killed himself. This report proved erroneous so far as the woman is concerned. It was found that Dewalt had struck his wife on the head with a large file and the supposition is that he passed out and shot himself dead under the impression that he had first killed his wife.

TROOPS PLAY AT WAR GAME

Idaho National Guard Holds Comparative Record Shoot.

Boise.—A sample of what a regiment of infantry might expect if in a real war was given to the Second Infantry, Idaho National guard, when that body of soldiers in encampment here was aroused from its slumber and rushed toward Harberton in the foothills to destroy a large bridge and bar a supposed enemy from crossing the Boise river.

An advance guard with signal corps ran across the camp of the enemy and found a brigade on this side of the river. The signal corps then climbed one of the high hills and signaled the regiment, stopping its advance a safe distance away. The regiment carefully covered its retreat. Competitive record shooting is now in progress on the range.

Reclaim St. Joe Land

Coeur d'Alene.—The plan to form a new drainage district in the vicinity of Medimont, Kootenai county, on the St. Joe river, all in township 48, north range 2 west, was recommended by district No. 1 commissioners and Engineer J. V. Phinney, together with the preliminary report which was filed with the county clerk. The report says the benefits to the land contained would be large and the proposed dike would in no way injure the adjacent lands. The report gives the approximate cost \$55,000 and the annual maintenance about \$500. The improvement would put many hundreds of acres of lands in excellent condition for cultivation. The residents along the river in a radius of 10 miles are anxious for the district to be completed.

Wallace School Bonds Approved.

Wallace.—The trustees of local independent school district received word that the issuing of \$55,000 of bonds for the new high school building and gymnasium has been passed on and approved by attorneys of C. H. Coffin of Chicago, the successful bidder for the bonds at a premium of \$801, and that as soon as the bonds can be lithographed and signed by the local officials the money will be forthcoming.



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