

Reciprocity

For Cuba

THE PANAMA TIBROGLIO THE LEADING SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN CONGRESS.

Senator Newlands Wants Cuba Invited to Join the Union of States.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 26, 1903. Speaker Cannon remains firm in his determination that Congress shall not adjourn without accomplishing the object for which the special session was called, and as a result the Senate will be forced to remain in session, unless it revises the date of voting on the Cuban bill.

The reciprocity bill came from the

House and was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. There is no doubt that it will be passed by the Senate, but for some reason the Senators postponed the day for voting on it until December 16. The regular session begins December 7. When the Senate made known its desire of taking a vacation, before the regular session, the House declared that Congress would not adjourn until the Cuban bill had been acted upon. As neither branch of Congress can adjourn longer than three days without the consent of the other, the House was able to dictate to the Senate. Speaker Cannon's determination was a surprise, but he is supported by the President.

In order that the House may take up its regular business at once, the Speaker will announce the committee appointments, without waiting for the regular session, as was his first intention. Several thousand bills have been introduced and are waiting to be sent to the differ-

ent committees. By starting to work at once, the House will advance the business of the regular session by at least one week.

Those interested in the progress of the army are glad to hear that plans are being considered to hold army maneuvers next year which will bring together under one command the largest military force since the Civil War. Fifty thousand troops are to take part in the war games, which will make the maneuvers similar to those held each year in France and Germany. Negotiations are in progress with the railroad companies to transport the troops and to give the military the right of way during the exercises. The base of operations will be somewhere about 150 miles from New York City, and the national guard of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut and perhaps other states will take part.

Events in Panama are progressing rapidly. The canal treaty has been sent to the isthmus for ratification by the people of the new republic, and their approval, as well as the approval of the United States Senate, is practically assured. China, France and Germany have recognized the republic of Panama and as soon as the question of the division of Colombia's debt is settled, the other powers will also recognize the new government. General Reyes, of Colombia is on his way to Washington, with the former hope of reaching agreement whereby Panama may be saved to Colombia, even if it is necessary to annex the latter government to the new republic, with the capital on the isthmus. The people of Panama would not agree to this as they could be outvoted by the Colombians on every question. Colombia seconds her proposals by threats to raise 100,000 men and declare a "Boer War."

Panama affairs were discussed in the

Senate. When the announcement by the Committee on Committee was made, that Senator Morgan was to be succeeded by Senator Hanna as chairman of the Committee on Inter-oceanic Canals, Senator Morgan rose and delivered a bitter attack upon the administration of President Roosevelt. The speech took up greater part of two sessions of the Senate and before it was over the Senator had requested the privilege of finishing from his seat. In declaring that President McKinley favored the Nicaraguan route, the Alabama Senator became involved in a dispute with his rival, in canal affairs, Senator Hanna, in which the latter denied that President McKinley had any preference between the routes. Senator Morgan was very sarcastic in his speech, using many times the President's favorite words "clean" and "decent," and referring to the new Panama as "whore only authority" was contained in a telegram received from a revolutionary junta. He accused the Pres-

ident of disobeying the orders of the Senate, contained in the Spooner act; of breaking faith with his pledge to carry out the policy of McKinley; of aiding the revolution in Panama; and of a perennial ambition to get all the credit of the building of the canal.

"Has the President any excuse" he asks for his failure to carry into effect the agreement with Nicaragua and Costa Rica, unless it is the resentment toward Colombia and gratification of personal ambition which the law deprives him of further power to indulge? Whatever the incentive, he will fail to carry the people with him in his wild inexcusable raid."

Cuban affairs were the subject of an interesting debate in the senate, brought about by a resolution, introduced by Senator Newlands, Democrat of Nevada in which Cuba was invited to enter the American Union as a state with Port Rico annexed to it as a country. Senators Lodge Hale and O. H. Platt opposed the resolution, chiefly on the ground that it would arouse the suspicion that this country was trying to annex Latin American territory and that an invitation under the circumstances, would seem equivalent to a command.

Mr. Newland supported his resolution by declaring that Cuba would gain greatly by free trade with the United States and that the loan which she was about to make could be raised easier and cheaper if her bonds were guaranteed by the United States. In Porto Rico the resolution was discussed and it appears that the inhabitants of the island have no desire to be joined to Cuba as a country. No doubt they aspire to become a state themselves some day, and believe their prospects would be lessened by becoming a province of Cuba.

The speeches of the three Republican senators indicated a concerted attempt to oppose the resolution, and it is said that the object was to allay the suspicions of the South American countries at the present moment when affairs in Panama are so critical. Senator Platt, who was the author of the famous amendment which was incorporated in the Cuban constitution, declared, "I think that our relations with Cuba have been misunderstood. I do not think we are exercising any protective power over Cuba. I do not think that we have even constituted ourselves the guardian of Cuba and made Cuba our ward." Senator Lodge said he was opposed to island states and that we had all the control of Cuba in a military and political point of view that we could desire. In the course of his remarks he said that he hoped that all the European flags on this continent would follow that of Spain to Europe.

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