

## Our Washington Letter

Special to the News from our regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 17.—Financial topics have been much discussed at the Capitol this week, but it was not on the floor of the House or Senate, but in the committee rooms and between individual Senators and Representatives. Early in the week Senator Chandler started the ball rolling, as it were, by declaring in the most emphatic language that he had just had a talk with President McKinley on the subject, and that the President was just as good a bimetalist as he (Chandler) was, and that he had not given up international bimetalism, but intended to send the commission to Europe again at the first favorable opportunity. Then there was a breezy little talk in the room of the Senate Finance committee on the resolution offered by Senator Teller, declaring U. S. bonds to be payable in silver dollars, at the option of the government. Consideration of the resolution was postponed a week. Then there were long financial talks by ex-Senator Edmonds and ex-Secretary Fairchild, members of the monetary commission, before the House committee on Banking, and Currency, in favor of the bill prepared and recommended by that commission.

If those who favor a retention of the present civil service status really believe, as they say they do, that the members of the House who said so many bitter things during the debate on the Legislative, Executive and Judicial appropriation bill, which was passed this week, are satisfied now that they have gotten their speeches in the Record which can be distributed among their constituents, they are likely to get a rude awakening later on. The antis are working harder than ever to make converts and are expressing confidence in their ability to get their bill providing for a modified civil service law before the House, and to pass it, before the present session closes. Some of them now express hope that the President will not modify the present rules, because that would weaken them, by satisfying some who would otherwise vote for their bill.

If the revenues of the government should show a comfortable surplus by next winter, there is likely to be a big boom in public building legislation. It isn't likely that any public building bills will be passed by the House at the present session, owing to the attitude of the administration, the speaker, and the chairman of the committee on Appropriations towards keeping the appropriations down to the lowest amount possible. But so far as public buildings are concerned, this poli-

cy isn't playing a leading part in the Senate, which has already passed a number of public building bills and is likely to pass many more before adjournment. These bills will be on the House calendar at the opening of the last session of the Fifty-fifth Congress and, if the revenues show a surplus, the most of them are likely to be passed. If there is a continued deficit, that will be an unanswerable argument for a continuation of the present anti-appropriation policy in the House, and many building-hungry towns will be disappointed.

The postal authorities have decided upon the designs to be used upon the series of stamps to be issued in commemoration of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition to be held at Omaha next summer. They are as follows: One cent—Discovery of the Mississippi River by Marquette; 2 cent—Indian Chief; 4-cent—Buffalo hunt; 5-cent—Pathfinder, Fremont raising the flag on the Rockies; 8-cent—Emigrant wagon train; 10 cent—Mining scene; 50-cent—Cowboy and cattle; \$1—Harvesting, or a big flouring mill; \$2—Rock Island Bridge, showing portion of Omaha.

Among the politicians, who always look beneath the surface of things, the apparently narrow escape of Senator Hanna from defeat at the hands of the Ohio legislature is not regarded as anything more than a little game of politics whereby Senator Foraker took some of the conceit out of his colleague by giving him a good fright, and after having accomplished his purpose, made his election sure. It is worthy of note, too, in this connection, that as a rule all of the politicians, regardless of party, are disposed to think that Senator Foraker's tactics were justified by the circumstances. They say that Senator Hanna had from the day of President McKinley's election virtually ignored Senator Foraker in the politics of their state and ruthlessly walked over his friends, and that this was the first opportunity that Senator Foraker had had to show that he wielded some power in his party and that in using it to force Senator Hanna to recognize him and his friends, both now and in the future, he only did what any other shrewd politician would have done under the same circumstances. It is needless to say that they are other men who take an entirely different view of the matter, and who regard recent happenings at Columbus as a blot upon the good name of the great state of Ohio, but they are not in politics.

The outlook for the annexation of Hawaii through the treaty, which is now under discussion by the Senate, is not as good as it was a week ago, although the friends of the treaty are still claiming that the

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necessary two thirds vote will be obtained for it. Senators Thurston, of Nebraska, and Gear, of Iowa, who had been put down as favoring the treaty, this week announced their intention to vote against its ratification; and Wellington, of Md., Mason, of Ill., and Spooner, of Wis., are in doubt as to how they will vote. Guesses as to how long the Senate will debate the treaty before taking a vote run all the way from two weeks to three months.

Judge W. S. Crowell was in the city Saturday evening enjoying himself as only one can in Gold Hill, especially on an occasion of this kind.

Our city was "full" of Orientals last Saturday night. There were in the neighborhood of 50 visiting members and about 60 local members at the banquet.

The Postal Telegraph Linemen outfit was in the city Tuesday. There are 12 men in the gang and they are pushing the work on the new line right along.

The county commissioners' court will hold a special session January 25th to levy a tax for the ensuing year and transact other important business, says the Times.

Elder S. W. P. Richards of Myrtle creek, who has been holding a series of meetings at Central Point arrived in the city Monday evening and started a series of meetings in the school house Tuesday.

Two street fakers claiming to be man and wife gave an entertainment on our muddy streets Sunday in the rain, assisted by two or three trained dogs. The collection was small and the entertainment was cut short.

The fare from Portland to San Francisco was raised yesterday on the S. P. Ry., to \$17 first-class and \$11 second-class including berths. On the O. R. & N. steamers the rates were raised to \$12 cabin and \$8 steerage.

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