

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

[SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.]

WASHINGTON, D. C. Jan. 8.—Congress hasn't done anything at all exciting since it reassembled. Resolutions have been offered in both House and Senate calling upon the Secretary of the treasury for all correspondence with national banks since March 4, 1897. These resolutions are intended to bring out the facts connected with the depositing of internal revenue collections in national banks and demonstrate the truth or falsity of the allegations of favoritism. Senator Hoar gave the majority a fatherly sort of lecture on their propensity to oppose resolutions offered by the minority asking for information concerning Philippine affairs. Senator Chandler offered an amendment to Financial bill, which now has the right of way after the morning hour, providing for a continuance of the efforts to secure international bimetalism.

As none of the House committees had got down to work, the House was practically without business when Congress reassembled and has done little of anything. Among the bills and resolutions were the following: By Cooney, of Mo., a constitutional amendment prohibiting the admission to the Union of any state, the territory of which is not contiguous to the U. S.; By Snodgrass, of Tenn., constitutional amendment authorizing an income tax; By Shaffroth, of Colo., to return to Mexico flags and guns captured during the Mexican war; By Bromwell, of Ohio, a constitutional amendment authorizing Congress to regulate or prohibit trusts; By McRae of Ark., a resolution declaring for the freedom of the Philippines, under American protection.

Subscriptions to the Lawton fund closed tonight. The total amount received will be in the neighborhood of \$60,000, which makes it certain that the widow and children of the gallant officer will be well provided for.

So many conflicting claims have been made by the friends of Admirals Schley and Sampson about the destruction of Cervera's fleet, off Santiago, that the President ordered the captians of all the vessels connected with the battle to Washington, for the purpose of getting information at first hands. It was a notable conference. Each captain was, as it were, put on the stand and asked to tell just what part his ship played, and was then thoroughly cross-questioned by the President. This information will be made the basis of a special message to Congress, in which the President will ask that the officers and men of the North Atlantic Squadron be properly rewarded for their good work in the battle which practically ended the war with Spain.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Election held a meeting today which was given up entirely to consideration of the Quay case. The belief that a majority of the committee will vote against the seating of Mr. Quay is still prevalent, but there is a division of opinion as to how the Senate will vote, the majority believing that Quay will be seated by a narrow margin. Senator Chandler, chair of the committee, says the report will be made inside of two weeks.

Advocates of government ownership of transportation lines are saying the government is furnishing an object lesson of how easy it can be done. For some time the government has run a regular line of steamers from New York to Cuban and Porto Rican ports, and this week Secretary Root ordered the establishment of a government

line of steamers in the Pacific, to run regularly between San Francisco, Honolulu and Manila. Of course, these lines are the result of military necessity, and were not established to accommodate ordinary traffic, but they will nevertheless furnish texts for able speakers and writers.

It is natural that any American should feel pleased at such an American diplomatic triumph as that by which we have secured the guarantee of the European nations concerned that American commerce with Chinese ports shall have all the privileges enjoyed by the most favored nation. In other words that what has become known as the "open door" commercial policy shall be maintained at all ports of China, regardless of the nation in control of the port. While success has been expected ever since this government made what was practically a demand for the guarantee upon the European governments, it was only during the present week that success was officially assured. There are numerous Senators and Representatives, not in accord with the administration, who are pleased, not only because the guarantee makes it certain we will get our share of Chinese trade but because it removes what might have made an excuse by this government to grab a slice of China, including a port, as England, Russia, Germany and France have done in the interest of their commerce. With all Chinese ports open to us we can have no reason justification for entering the grab game, and the European nations will have no reason to add to their grabs of Chinese territory.

HAVING A GREAT RUN ON CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY.

Manager Martin, of the Pierson drug store, informs us that he is having a great run on Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. He sells five bottles of that medicine to one of any other kind, and it gives great satisfaction. In these days of the grippe there is nothing like Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to stop the cough, heal up the sore throat and lungs and give relief within a very short time. The sales are growing, and all who try it are pleased with its prompt action.—South Chicago Daily Calumet. For sale by Emery J. Eastman, Gold Hill or Ben Haymon, Rock Point.

The Chicago Canal, which has been under construction for several years, has been completed and water turned in Jan. 1st. This canal connects the Great Lakes with the Mississippi river and the Gulf of Mexico. The project was first conceived to dispose of Chicago's sewerage but later developed to the greater scope of admitting traffic up the Mississippi and through the canal to the great lakes to Chicago. The construction of the canal cost \$33,000,000.

Independence issued warrants last year to the amount of \$2049.02 which was \$767.78 less than its income.

At Dallas, the manufacture of a new patent burial vault, said to be absolutely water-tight, is soon to be commenced. When the wooden box decays, the casket is left imbedded in a solid cement case, with walls 3 inches thick.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wells celebrated their golden wedding at their home near Buena Vista on Wednesday, January 3, 1900. All their children were present but one. All the living grandchildren—19 in number—were also present.

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