

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

(SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.)

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 8.—Although congress will not actually assemble until Monday, there has been more congressional work accomplished in Washington this week than is done in many weeks when congress is in session. It has been the very necessary committee work of getting bills in shape so there will be no delay in getting them reported to the house and keeping that body busy. The ways and means committee has completed the bill to reduce the war taxes, but has not made it public and probably will not do so until it is reported to the house; the committee on military affairs has about agreed to report the bill prepared by the war department, which provides for a regular army the maximum strength of which shall be 96,000 men and the minimum strength 58,000 men; the committee on rivers and harbors is considering the items which shall be included in the river and harbor bill, but has not yet got far enough advanced to make an intelligent estimate of the total, although it is expected that the bill will carry somewhere in the neighborhood of \$40,000,000, and the committee on appropriations has almost completed the legislative, judicial and executive bill, which will carry about \$30,000,000.

The ship subsidy bill is not to have plain sailing, if it gets through this session of congress. Representative Burton of Ohio, chairman of the house committee on rivers and harbors is out flatfooted against it, and other republicans, including several members of the Indiana delegation, are expressing opposition to the bill as it stands. If endorsed by the party caucus, the bill can be put through the house easy enough, but if there is determined opposition in the senate it can be hung up just as easily there. Representative Hull of Iowa, chairman of the house committee on military affairs, is also enrolled among the opponents of the bill.

Although the administration is pledged to the absolute independence of Cuba, powerful influences are working with the hope that Cuba will be annexed instead of being made free. Inasmuch as this government will surely keep its pledges, Cuba would seem to be the place for these influences to work, and not Washington, as the only honorable way that annexation can be brought about will be for the Cubans, through a government of their own, to ask for it. That annexation would be a good thing for Cuba is generally admitted, but it is by no means so certain that it would be a good thing for the United States, unless emigration results in Americanizing the island, as many believe it will in the near future.

The old, old fight for a cloture rule in the senate is again to be made, and the result is likely to be the same—failure. It is always irritating to the majority when rules stand in the way of their doing just as they please, but it is just what those rules of the senate were adopted for, and there has always been a majority in the senate who believed that it was a good thing to have one legislative branch of the government through which legislation could not be railroaded as long as there was a desire to discuss it, and more than once the long discussions have convinced the country that the measure discussed ought not to pass, even though it could get a majority if voted upon by the senate.

It is among the legislative possibilities that the reduction to be

made in internal revenue taxation by the bill which is now being prepared by the house ways and means committee will be about doubled when the bill goes to the senate. The amount of the reduction aimed at by the house committee is about \$30,000,000 a year, but a number of senators have expressed the opinion that it should be at least twice as much, and they will try to put their opinions into effect.

The brewers are fighting hard to get a reduction in the tax on beer. Representatives of their association sought to get the President committee to help them, but he was too wary for them. He listened to all their reasons in the shape of figures showing why the tax ought to be reduced and then told them that he would see that the figures were brought to the attention of the members of the committee now considering the subject. The brewers have about abandoned hope of getting anything from the committee and are preparing to carry the fight into Congress, where they believe they can concentrate enough "pull" to get the reduction they are after.

Senator Davis' death, although expected for several days, was a shock to most persons in Washington, including the President and his colleagues in the Senate. Few men in public life have had more or warmer personal friends. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations he has had much to do with shaping the foreign policy of the present administration, both through legislation and advice. As Senator Martin, of Virginia, a political opponent, said of him: "While a strict party man, he was never a partisan." It can be truly said of Senator Davis that he will be missed.

Although it is not certain it is probable that Senator Frye, who is the ranking majority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will act as chairman of that Committee during this session of Congress, leaving the place to be permanently filled at the first session of the next Congress, when numerous other vacancies which will be left by retiring Senators will have to be filled.

Brave Men Fall

Victims to stomach, liver and kidney troubles, as well as women, and all feel the results in loss of appetite, poisons in the blood, backache, nervousness, headache and tired, listless, run-down feeling. But there's no need to feel like that. J. W. Gardner, of Idaville, Ind., says: "Electric Bitters are just the thing for a man when he don't care whether he lives or dies. It gave me new strength and good appetite. I can now eat anything and have a new lease on life." Only 50 cents, at Eastman's Drug Store. Every bottle guaranteed.

Obituary.

Robert Washington Kinkade was born in the state of Kentucky, April 8, 1820, moving to Illinois with his parents at 4 years of age, where he resided until 1850, when he was married to Miss Angeline Jump. He crossed the plains by team in the year 1864. He has been a resident of Oregon ever since. To them seven children were born, five of which survive him. His wife died in the year 1865, leaving him five children. He has made his home in Medford for the past fourteen years, until lately moved to this city with his daughter, Mrs. Perdue. At the time of his death he was 79 years, 8 months and 20 days old.

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The Nicaragua Canal.

The President takes strong ground in favor of the construction of a canal to connect the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific, but delegates to Congress the investigation of the comparative merits of the various routes. In respect to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty he commands to the early attention of the Senate the convention with Great Britain to facilitate the construction of the canal and to remove any objection that might arise out of the convention commonly called the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. This may be considered a recommendation that the Hay-Pauncefote treaty be ratified. It will be admitted that the existence of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty requires some recognition of the rights acquired by that treaty to participation in the construction and control of the canal, but it will be left for the Senate to determine if the Hay-Pauncefote convention is the best possible recognition. Might not Great Britain be induced to abrogate the Clayton-Bulwer treaty and take compensation in some other form? The President simply recognizes the existence of British rights under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty and leaves to Congress to task of devising methods by which that treaty may be satisfied without violation of international law and usage.—Bulletin.

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