

NEWS OF THE WEEK

From All Parts of the New World and the Old.

OF INTEREST TO OUR MANY READERS

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week in a Condensed Form.

The ministers at Peking have reached an agreement. The new war revenue bill will reduce taxation \$40,000,848. The pension roll for the coming year will call for \$142,000,000.

The governor of Shanghai publicly executed 80 Boxer leaders. Secretary Gage's estimate for government expense is \$626,741,762.

George von L. Meyer, of Boston, will be appointed ambassador to Italy. Charles A. Towne accepted the appointment of senator from Minnesota.

McCull made a sensational speech in the house against holding the Philippines. A small American force routed a band of rebels at Santo Domingo, Luzon.

Contract for erection of Salem, Or., postoffice has been awarded to a Chicago firm. In a street duel in a West Virginia town a minister was killed by a prominent lawyer.

It is estimated that taxable valuation of Oregon for 1900 will be about \$2,000,000 less than in 1899. Fire in the Cambridge, Ohio, works of the American Tinplate Company, caused a loss on finished tin alone of between \$175,000 and \$200,000.

John Luke Hely-Hutchinson, fifth earl of Donoughmore, ex-assistant commissioner in Eastern Rumania, died of paralysis, in London. Robbers raided the office of the Western Lumber Company in Portland, Or., just before the employees were ready to receive their November wages in coin, and secured \$4,700.

At New York, the Esig-Tipton Company closed the most successful auction sale of trotting and pacing horses in its history. The proceeds of the sale were \$852,180 for 702 horses, an average of about \$600 a head.

A serious cave-in occurred at the Ray Aug. mine, near Dunmore, Pa. Fifty-one men were entombed. The rescuing party, after nearly three hours' hard work, succeeded in digging into the chamber in which the men were entombed. All were rescued, not one being seriously injured.

Consul-General Stows says the Boer war is nearly ended. Kruger's mission to Europe was frustrated by the Kaiser.

Nine men were killed in a train wreck near Suisun, Cal. The Isthmian canal commission recommends the Nicaragua route.

Senator Fairbanks, of Indiana, introduced a bill to admit Oklahoma as a state, with two representatives. A report comes from Queen Charlotte island that the Indians there are short of food. Their wants will be attended to.

It is asserted in Tien Tsin that the Germans lost 20 killed and many wounded west of Pao Ting Fu, where they were attacked by 2,500 Boxers. Congressman Driggs introduced a resolution in the house requiring the secretary of war to investigate the practice of "hazing" at West Point.

Senator Pettigrew introduced a resolution in the senate calling upon the postmaster-general to send to the senate any information he may have in his possession concerning postal frauds in Cuba. Tang Wang Huang, author of the outrages upon the Pao Ting Fu missionaries, was paraded through the streets of Tien Tsin in a cart under a strong German guard, previous to being handed over to the provisional government for decapitation.

Frank Hawley, an American electric promoter, is now in London in the interest of an American syndicate. Mr. Hawley says the capitalists he represents are ready to spend no less than \$4,000,000 in the construction of electric surface roads in London and to the suburbs to a radius of 30 miles. Not a penny of British capital will be asked. He expresses himself as confident that the undertaking will be a financial success.

Major Wood, commanding the Canadian mounted police in the Yukon territory, who collects the royalties on gold, reports the collections this year on the Klondike output as amounting to nearly \$900,000, about \$100,000 more than was received last year. Ten per cent of the gold mined is supposed to be paid to the government, which would indicate the Klondike output for the season to have been only \$9,000,000, but the general estimate has placed it at nearly \$20,000,000.

A correspondent of Santiago de Cuba says the natives there are becoming adepts in the American game of baseball. Havana may yet bid for a place in the National league.

A celebrated English physician says that he has found that warts can be cured by revaccination. He revaccinated a girl of 15 who had 94 warts on one hand, and seven weeks after the operation the warts had all disappeared. Many other remedies had been tried in vain.

LATER NEWS.

Hay may resign if the canal treaty is amended.

Lord Roberts was given an ovation at Cape Town.

The United States wants Chiriqui for a coaling station.

There is little change in the Santa Fe strike situation.

Charles A. Towne was sworn in as senator from Minnesota.

The house passed the legislative, executive and judicial bill.

The tension between Holland and Portugal is increasing.

Benjamin Wise was held at Salem, Or., for arson at Silverton.

A house Republican caucus decided to stand by the war-tax bill.

The sultan of Turkey dined officers of the battle-ship Kentucky.

Von Bulow explained why Emperor William would not receive Kruger.

Erection of poles and wires for another lighting system began in Salem, Or.

Four men were killed by an explosion in the Union Pacific tunnel at Aspen.

Attacks on Salisbury and Chamberlain were made in the British house of commons.

Only \$600,000 can be obtained from this session of congress for the Columbia jetty.

The Oregon supreme court upholds the street improvement section of the Portland city charter.

Cases of smallpox have been found frequently in Lima, Peru, and the public is alarmed, fearing a spread of the disease.

The Idaho supreme court decides that patented mining property is to be regarded the same as other realty for purposes of taxation.

The Austrian corvette Donau has arrived at Lima, Peru, bringing Bela Bakoweghy, commissioner of the Austrian government, who is visiting the consulates of South America.

A special from Shanghai announces that Li Hung Chang's Manchou secretary, Yoko, has been arrested by order of Field Marshal Count von Waldersee, on the charge of communicating with the Boxers.

The third annual cowboy and Indian carnival opened in Phoenix, Arizona, with a great parade of vaqueros, red men and Chinese. After the parade, an Indian was thrown from his horse and fatally trampled under foot.

Germans are still excited over the Kruger incident.

Japan is much disturbed by Tokio municipal scandals.

The Oregon school fund loses an average of \$40,000 a year.

The river and harbor committee is cutting down all estimates.

The Philippines commission has prepared a tariff for the islands.

The execution of Yu Hsien is certain whenever envoys demand it.

The Chinese question is again said to be approaching a settlement.

Fifty-two Filipino prisoners have been taken by American troops.

Eulogies were pronounced in the house on the late Representative Harmer.

Russia says all credit for securing existing entente belongs to United States.

Johannesburg will be fenced around with barb wire to cut off Boers' food supply.

United States Consul Goodnow, at Shanghai, will return home on leave of absence.

Netherlands disavows responsibility for sympathetic letter of minister to Kruger.

Senate will devote the present week to Hay-Panncote treaty and ship subsidy bill.

The naval appropriation bill will provide for two more battleships and two cruisers.

Delegate Wilcox, of Hawaii, strongly opposes importation of negro labor into the islands.

Envoys take removal of General Tung Fu Hsiang to mean that government desires peace.

Establishment of ship subsidy bill as regular order will displace Nicaragua canal measure.

Bills for the reduction of war revenue tax and legislative appropriations will likely pass the house this week.

Robert W. Wilcox, Hawaii's delegate-elect to congress, has arrived in San Francisco, enroute to Washington.

Kruger was officially received by Queen Wilhelmina. The queen has promised to show her friendship when the proper moment arrives.

A railway bridge collapsed in Germany, letting an express train plunge into the stream below. Five persons were killed and eight badly injured.

Six hundred telegraph operators on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, have walked out in sympathy with the operators on the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe road.

The last enumeration shows a large falling off in the number of book agents, which in itself is a good argument in favor of taking the census every five instead of every 10 years.

The Connecticut woman who has sued a physician because he changed her complexion from that of a blond to a brunette really ought to have a little patience. The brunette will be in fashion again before long, and then she will be glad of the change. But woman always was an impulsive creature.

ARMY BILL PASSED

The House Disposed of It by a Party Vote.

MANY AMENDMENTS WERE ADOPTED

The Liveliest Fight Was Made on a Substitute Offered by Littlefield, of Maine, for the Canteen Provision.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The house today, at the end of a long session, passed the army reorganization bill by a vote of 167 to 133. Three Democrats, Hall (Pa.) and Underhill and Slayton (N. Y.), voted with the Republicans for the bill, and McCull (Rep. Mass.) with the Democrats against it. Otherwise it was a strict party vote. The proposition to which some of the Democrats attempted to commit their side in caucus, an extension of the present temporary army until July 1, 1903, which was voted upon indirectly on a motion to recommit, commanded the votes of only about half the opposition and two Republicans, McCull and Mann (Ill.). Many of the Democrats, however, voted against the motion because they were opposed not only to the reorganization bill, but also continuing the temporary army at its present strength.

Quite a number of amendments were placed upon the bill before it was passed. The liveliest fight was made upon a substitute offered by Littlefield (Rep.), for the canteen section. The substitute absolutely prohibited the sale of intoxicants at military posts. Large delegations from the W. C. T. U., which is in session in this city, watched the fight from the gallery. When the vote was taken, the prohibition amendment was carried by an overwhelming majority—159 to 51. Barthold attempted to secure a record vote in the house, but the peculiar parliamentary statutes shut him out.

Among the amendments adopted were those providing for 50 volunteer surgeons and 150 assistant surgeons for service in the Philippines; for 30 dental surgeons and for a veterinary corps with actual rank. The officers of the pay corps were increased 11, and of the signal corps 23. The age limit was removed from volunteer officers eligible to appointment as first and second lieutenants, and the provision for retiring officers who served in the civil war on the next higher grade was stricken out.

In the Senate. Washington, Dec. 8.—The ways and means committee voted to report the revenue reduction bill as introduced with an amendment making the act take effect on its passage instead of 30 days thereafter. There were but two absentees—Babcock (Rep.), and Robinson (Dem.). When the beer section was reached, fixing the rebate at 20 per cent instead of 7 1/2 per cent, which makes the rate \$1.60 instead of \$1.40, ranking member of the minority, moved a further reduction of all the increase made by the revenue act. The effect of this motion, if carried, would have been to make the rate \$1 per barrel. The motion was defeated by a party vote.

NOT A PEACE TREATY.

The Peking Agreement Only a Statement of the Powers' Terms.

Washington, Dec. 8.—All the ambassadors and nearly a majority of the ministers resident in Washington called upon Secretary Hay today, this being diplomatic day. In the case of the representatives of those powers interested in the Chinese question, it is understood there was some exchange of talk about subject respecting the latest developments in Peking. There has been no word from Mr. Conger since the dispatch to him of his instructions to sign the agreement. It is assumed here that next for days must elapse before the formal signatures of all the powers can be obtained to the agreement. Then it will be laid before Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang, who probably will be supplemented by the viceroys of Nankin and Han Kow, the latter, acting by telegraph, constituting the board of commissioners to represent the Chinese government.

This agreement in no way a peace treaty in any sense of the term. It is nothing but a statement of the terms on which the powers will negotiate with China for a final settlement. It will be laid before the Chinese officials rather as a matter of form, for there is not the least doubt entertained that they will be obliged to accept its provisions. Still they may require a week or two for its consideration, and then the way will be cleared for the initiation of fresh negotiations at Peking between the ministers and the Chinese commissioners for a final settlement.

Henry Russell, Song Writer, Dead. London, Dec. 8.—Henry Russell, composer of over 800 songs, including "A Life on the Ocean Wave," and "Cheer, Boys, Cheer," died yesterday, aged 87 years.

Saw Twenty-two Beheaded. Youngtown, O., Dec. 8.—Walter Kennedy, contractor and expert engineer, who has just returned from completing some contracts in China, said that he saw 22 Chinamen beheaded for no reason other than that they were in his employ. During the time he was erecting extensive machinery he was practically a prisoner, and did not know what moment he would be taken from his work and executed.

KRUGER IN HOLLAND.

Enthusiastic Greeting to the Ex-President by the People of The Hague.

The Hague, Dec. 10.—At the opening of the second chamber today, the president, J. G. Glichman, said: "President Kruger arrives here today. He will take up his residence here. I take the occasion to propose that the chamber authorize me to welcome, in its name, the ex-president to our country and offer him an expression of our cordial sympathy." The proposal was adopted amid cheers and bravos.

Mr. Kruger arrived here today and was greeted at the station by the burgomaster and councillor. A choir of 600 men and girls chanted Psalm 72, verses 6, 7 and 11. The ex-president and his suite then retired to the royal waiting-room, where the burgomaster warmly welcomed them in a brief speech. Then followed Dr. Spink, president of the local South African Association, assuring Mr. Kruger of the deep sympathy of the entire Dutch nation, "who had," he said, "so greatly though vainly hoped that the great powers who recently assembled at the peace conference would not have permitted that in South Africa the rights of our nation, the right of war and civil law should be trampled under foot, or a little nation be sacrificed in an unequal combat in defense of its existence."

The address, after a long eulogy of the heroism of the Boers, proceeded to liken Mr. Kruger to William the Silent, who sacrificed everything for the welfare of his people, and concluded: "May your reliance on the Almighty, similar to that of the Prince of Orange, support you, Mr. President, in the arduous fight for right and liberty, and may the liberty of your nation crown your courage. Then will Great Britain have learned the lesson of how dangerous it is to attempt to throttle the independence of a free nation."

KENTUCKY FIEND CAPTURED

Man Who Tortured His Stepdughter Safe in Jail—No Indications of Violence.

Mayeville, Ky., Dec. 10.—William Gibson, the man who is charged with fiendishly torturing to death with a red-hot iron his helpless 2-year-old stepdaughter, at Castlettsburg, Ky., two weeks ago, is safely in jail here. In an interview tonight he denied everything as to his guilt. At different times during his interview he would laugh idiotically. When asked why he fed, if true, he replied: "Well, you see, this thing was hollered about and made so much over that the people got excited, and you know how the people are when they get excited."

He said he had slept in ravines and in brush for the last two weeks. His intellect seems somewhat blurred and at times his stupidity was very perceptible. Everything is quiet here tonight and there are no indications of mob violence.

TELEGRAPHERS' STRIKE.

A Walk-Out on the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Road—Ten Hours Rest Wanted.

Houston, Tex., Dec. 10.—The telegraphers belonging to the Order of Railway Telegraphers on the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe road, extending from Galveston to Purcell, I. T., left their desks at 11 o'clock today. Passenger trains are being operated on running orders from junction points, and through freights are also being handled, although there is considerable delay. The strike has been expected for some time. A committee of the telegraphers went to Galveston to hold a conference with General Manager Polk, to whom they represented their grievances. The latter was in communication with President Ripley, and it is believed by the men that the latter official will yield on the point of 10 consecutive hours of rest for the operators. The operators say they expect to gain the active co-operation of other railroad organizations.

Chinese Hold Mountain Passes. Berlin, Dec. 10.—A dispatch from Field Marshal von Alwalder dates the Pekin December 8, says strong detachments of Chinese regulars, under General Ma, are reported from Shan Si to be holding the mountain passes on the frontier of Chi Li. An explosion at Pao Ting Fu during the clearing out of a powder magazine killed one man and wounded five others.

Given Up for Lost. Provincetown, Mass., Dec. 10.—The Provincetown fishing schooner Cora S. McKay, with 30 men, has been given up for lost. Every circumstance points to her destruction at Virgin rocks on the Grand banks of Newfoundland in the storm of September 12 to 14, known as the Galveston hurricane.

Movement of Porto Ricans. El Paso, Tex., Dec. 10.—Two cars passed through here today containing 114 Porto Ricans who are going as contract laborers to the Hawaiian islands to work in the sugar industry for Glans Spreckels. They said that 7,000 Porto Ricans are preparing to emigrate to the islands for the same purpose.

South Dakota's Vote. Pierre, S. D., Dec. 10.—The total vote of the state, as shown by the official canvass, is as follows: McKinley, 54,580; Bryan, 33,544; Woolley, 1,342; Parker, 839; Debs, 189.

The Nansen Fund. Christiania, Dec. 8.—The Nansen fund, which was started after the return of Dr. Nansen from the Arctic, to promote scientific explorations, now amounts to 1,000,000 kroner, and no further contributions will be made.

Oxnard Married a Maid. New York, Dec. 10.—The World says: "On the Deutschland, which arrived here yesterday, was Henry T. Oxnard, of San Francisco, president of the two American beet-sugar associations, and his bride, formerly Miss Marie Pichon, maid of Mr. Oxnard's sister-in-law, Mrs. Robert Oxnard. They were married in Paris November 15, but the marriage was not announced until the Deutschland's arrival."

AT THE POINT OF WAR

Strained Relations Between Holland and Portugal

THEY HAVE RECALLED THEIR MINISTERS

The Trouble Was Caused by Withdrawal of the Exequatur of the Dutch Consul at Lourenco Marques.

Lisbon, Dec. 10.—The minister of the Netherlands to Portugal and the Portuguese minister to The Hague have left their respective posts. It is believed that a difference has arisen on the subject of the exequatur to the Dutch consul at Lourenco Marques, which the Portuguese government has withdrawn. The tension between Portugal and Holland appears to have been emphasized, perhaps not altogether unintentionally, by the peculiar warmth of King Charles' toast to Queen Victoria at the banquet given yesterday evening at the Royal Palace to Vice-Admiral Sir Harry Boddsworth Rawson, and the officers of the British fleet, now in the River Tagus, and by the telegram which the king afterwards dispatched to Queen Victoria, thanking her majesty for sending the fleet, and for the friendship thus demonstrated.

"I beg to record," telegraphed the king, "my great satisfaction at the frank and loyal alliance uniting England and Portugal." In the course of his speech, when he toasted Queen Victoria, the king said among other things: "England has often shared the efforts and glories of Portugal. Our mutual friendship and close alliance are strengthened by history and the blood shed together in causes which have always been just."

SPAINIARDS ACCUSE ENGLAND.

Madrid, Dec. 10.—The impartial says it considers the rupture of relations between Holland and Portugal to be very serious. It adds that it was due to the intrigues of Great Britain, further asserting that Portugal is now under the tutelage of Lord Salisbury. Observers think that the speech and telegram constitute an intimation to the world that Portugal can count on strong support if necessary.

THE CORONER'S VERDICT.

Holds No One Responsible for San Francisco's Thanksgiving Day Accident.

San Francisco, Dec. 10.—The coroner's jury, inquiring into the cause of the Thanksgiving day disaster, in which 22 lives were lost by the collapse of the San Francisco & Pacific Glass Works during the progress of the Stanford-Berkeley football game, has returned the following verdict in the case of each victim of the accident: "That the accident was caused by the breaking of the ventilator of the roof over the furnace in the house of the San Francisco & Pacific Glass Works at the corner of Fifteenth and Folsom streets on the afternoon of November 29; further, that he had no business there and was there against the orders and temporary resistance on the part of the superintendent or said works, and further, that no one can be held responsible for his death other than himself and that death was accidental."

Territory for the Canal. Chicago, Dec. 10.—A special to the Record from Washington says: Nicaragua and Costa Rica have announced their willingness to grant a lease to the United States for a period of 200 years of the territory necessary for the construction of the projected Nicaragua canal. The terms are regarded as moderate. It is understood that Nicaragua and Costa Rica will accept bonds, the value of those to be accepted by the former government to be less than \$6,000,000 and by the latter to be less than \$1,500,000.

Pleased With Americans. Pekin, Dec. 10.—Li Hung Chang has informed General Chaffee that he and all the people of the province of Chi Li are extremely pleased and gratified at the behavior of the American troops toward the Chinese. This is considered no light matter. From all sections of the portion of the city under American supervision come words of praise, thankfulness and commendation regarding the behavior of the Americans.

Incident at Silverton, Or. Fire at Silverton caused a loss of \$12,000. Incendiarism is suspected, two men being under arrest. A fire engine was sent from Portland to the relief of the town.

The British Show Little Interest in Nicaragua Affairs. Argument in the Neely case was begun before the United States supreme court.

Steel Company Resumes Work. Lorain, O., Dec. 12.—The Lorain Steel Company resumed work today at its blooming, converting, finishing and shape mills, with more than 8,000 men employed in the entire plant.

Crashed Into a Handcar. An engine on the Grand Trunk road, near Inglewood Junction, Ont., crashed into a handcar on which five section men going to work. All five were killed instantly.

WOULD NOT HONOR IT.

Requisition For an Indiana Man Turned Down By the Governor of Colorado.

Indianapolis, Dec. 12.—Governor Mount today received word that Governor Thomas, of Colorado, has refused to honor a requisition from Indiana for the return of Clifton Oxman, of Princeton, Ind., accused of defrauding, in a real estate deal, J. Mayer Green, of Chicago. A special from Denver says the Indiana sheriff had Attorney-General Campbell, of Colorado, inspect the papers and they were declared legal. Afterward, it is stated, Governor Thomas had a consultation with Mr. Campbell, and then announced that the papers were not made out in technical form, and this, taken in connection with the attitude of Governor Mount, of Indiana, in refusing to honor Governor Beckham's requisition for the return to Kentucky of W. S. Taylor, who is now living in Indiana, and who was wanted in Kentucky, he said would cause him to refuse the requisition. Governor Thomas, it is stated, at the same time, said that several other governors had, he believed, decided to take similar steps regarding Governor Mount. The matter has created considerable comment.

Governor Mount, when told tonight of Governor Thomas' action, said he was surprised at it. "There may be something political in this matter," he said, "but I am surprised that Governor Thomas resorts to any so-called precedent in his action on the requisition. He cites my action in the Kentucky case as a precedent, which he says he is inclined to follow. I considered no precedent when I refused the Kentucky requisition. I did so because I did not believe the men could get a fair trial in their own state. Governors do not as a rule resort to precedents in acting on such questions. Each stands on its own merits."

EIGHT PERSONS DROWNED.

Iron Ore Barge Went to the Bottom During a Storm on Lake Erie.

Erie, Pa., Dec. 12.—In the midst of one of the most bitter gales that ever swept Lake Erie the iron ore barge S. H. Foster, in tow of the Iron Duke, went to the bottom at 4 o'clock this morning 10 miles off Erie, and eight persons were drowned. The barge was one of the fleet of James Corrigan, of Cleveland, and for two months has been running from Duluth to Erie with iron ore. Her cargo consisted of 1,500 tons of ore. Captain Ashley, of the Iron Duke, made Erie in safety.

GOVERNMENT COTTON CROP.

New York, Dec. 12.—A story to the effect that the government cotton crop, which will be made public tomorrow, has been offered to certain cotton brokers in this city in advance, received corroboration today. Frank B. Guest, head of a cotton commission house, said tonight that advance information was offered to him Saturday. He immediately notified President Hubbard, of the cotton exchange. The latter asked for a detailed statement, which was given, and this is to be used as a basis for federal investigation. President Hubbard said tonight that he would go to Washington without delay and place the entire matter before the proper authorities.

TO AMEND LAWS.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Representative Jones, of Washington, is seeking to amend the pension laws by lifting from the soldiers the necessity of proving the disability for which they seek pensions did not exist prior to their enlistment. His bill on this subject provides that in all cases where the services of a soldier were accepted, and he was mustered into the army, no further questions should be asked concerning his physical condition prior to enlistment. In many cases the soldier of the Civil war has been prevented from securing a pension because of his inability to prove that his disability did not exist prior to his enlistment.

HOSPITAL FOR LUMBERMEN.

Eugene, Or., Dec. 12.—Arrangements have been made whereby the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company will provide a hospital in Eugene for the benefit of the workmen who may at any time be taken sick or injured. The employees will pay monthly dues for the support of the institution, and when any of them requires medical or surgical treatment he will receive it without further cost. A contract has been made with Drs. Paine and Kuykendall for professional services and medicines for a year. They will select a suitable building and have the hospital ready to receive patients by the first of January.

ALL CREDIT DUE AMERICA.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 12.—The Novoe Vremya, in an article evidently inspired, referring to the recent dispatches from Dr. Morrison, in Pekin, to the London Times, saying all the credit for securing softened terms is given by the Chinese to the Russians, remarks: "The credit for the existing entente really belongs to America. England begrudges President McKinley his just prestige because he has emphasized America's friendship for Russia."

FIRE AT SILVERTON, OR.

Incendiarism is suspected, two men being under arrest. A fire engine was sent from Portland to the relief of the town.

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FIRST SUPPLY BILL

It Was Passed by the House in Record Time.

WAS NOT TEN MINUTES OF DEBATE

Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation Bill, Carrying Over \$24,000,000, Went Through Unchallenged

Washington, Dec. 12.—The first of the great supply bills, the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, was passed by the house in record time. The bill carries \$24,498,908, and has 181 pages, but there was less than 10 minutes debate upon it. It required about three hours for the clerk to read the bill. No other business was transacted.

Today under the rules belonged to the District of Columbia committee, but, owing to the desire of the leaders to proceed with the appropriation bill, district day was postponed until a week from tomorrow. Bingham (Rep. Pa.), who was in charge of the measure, made a preliminary statement of its contents. Both parties in the recent campaign, Bingham said, pledged themselves to economy and retrenchment. The pending bill—the first of big money bills—was a step in that direction.

Robinson (Dem. Ind.) expressed the opinion that if retrenchment were desired, a provision be inserted in the bill to cut off the 30 days' sick leave in addition to the 30 days' leave now allowed to clerks in the executive departments. Bingham explained that such legislation did not come within the purview of the pending bill. The law left the question of leave within the discretion of the various heads of departments. Robinson protested that clerks in the government service outside of Washington did not receive the same leave privileges received by those here, and he thought the unjust discrimination against the former should cease.

An amendment providing for 12 additional temporary clerks to dispose of the accumulated business in the office of the controller of the treasury was adopted. At the conclusion of the reading of the bill, Bingham thanked the house for the confidence shown in the appropriation committee in allowing the bill to go through unchallenged, and the bill was then passed.

CHIRIQUI COALING STATION.

United States May Purchase the Port From Colombia.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The gunboat Bancroft sailed today from Colon for Almirante bay. It is understood that her mission is to look into the advantages offered by the port of Chiriqui as a coaling station. The harbor is capable of floating the entire fleet of a nation, and the water is deep enough for the heaviest battleship. Approaches were made to the Colombian government with a view to learning whether it would entertain a proposition to grant Chiriqui as a coaling station. At that time, Colombia was not in a position to make a definite answer, as the territory, including this harbor, had been in dispute between Colombia and Costa Rica. The answer, therefore, was to the effect that the grant could not be made while the question of sovereignty remained open between the two countries. Since then, however, Colombia and Costa Rica have agreed to arbitrate the differences, and there is a prospect of an early settlement of sovereignty. With this point removed, it is believed that there will be no serious objections from Colombia or Costa Rica to granting a coaling