

HOUSE ON CANAL QUESTION.

TOLL EXEMPTION CLAUSE TO BE CONSIDERED.

This Week Will See Decision on Much Discussed Problem—Vote by Saturday—Other Legislation.

Washington, March 15.—Open debate on repeal of the toll exemption clause of the Panama canal act will begin late this week in the house and a vote in that body on the Sims bill to carry out the recommendations of President Wilson is expected by Saturday night. In the senate an earnest effort will be made by administration leaders to pave the way for early action on the issue by bringing it squarely before the committee on inter-oceanic canals for consideration and report by the time the house has disposed of the subject.

Opposing forces in both houses are arrayed for the fight, the prospect being that the champions of toll exemption for American coastwise ships will lose when the roll calls have been taken in both houses. Representatives Adamson and Sims, in charge of the repeal forces in the house, are only doubtful as to the size of the majority their cause will have. They predict that it will be large, while Majority Leader Underwood and some of the Democrats who agree with him that it is an economic mistake to reverse the nation's policy regarding canal tolls, insist that the vote will be close.

In the senate the return of Senator O'Gorman of New York, chairman of the committee on inter-oceanic canals, is awaited with interest in view of the fact that Senator Owen, a majority member of the committee, has introduced a bill similar to the Sims bill for the purpose of expediting settlement of the controversy as soon as possible. Senator Owen seeks to have the committee take the repeal bill up at once and pass upon it. Senator O'Gorman, who will lead the opposition, took the position before leaving Washington last week that his committee should do nothing with the repeal until the house had acted. Administration senators, after conferring with the president, determined that the issue is so clearly drawn that there is no reason for delay, and that the senate should be ready to discuss the subject immediately after the house acts, or even before, should the Sims bill meet unexpected delay in the lower branch.

Aiding Senator Owen in leading the administration forces will be Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia and James of Kentucky. Various polls of the senate on the repeal question have indicated that the president will be sustained by a majority of from 10 to 20 votes.

Another matter included in the foreign relations of the government which it is planned to undertake this week for consideration is the pending treaty with Nicaragua, negotiated in the Taft administration, which the present administration wishes to have amended and ratified as soon as possible.

The foreign relations committee of the senate expects Secretary Bryan to appear Wednesday in explanation of the administration's desire relating to the treaty, which is designed primarily for acquisition by the United States of the Nicaraguan canal rights and rights to naval station sites in the Bay of Fonseca in exchange for a payment of \$3,000,000 in gold.

By the terms of the treaty as originally framed Nicaragua would grant in perpetuity to the United States the exclusive rights for an inter-oceanic canal through the San Juan river and through the great Lake of Nicaragua, or by way of any other route over Nicaraguan territory. Article two of the treaty proposes that "in order to facilitate the protection of the Panama canal," and the right is contemplated in Nicaragua, Nicaragua shall lease to the United States for 99 years the Great Corn and Little Corn islands in the Caribbean sea and rights to a naval base on the Gulf of Fonseca.

Early in the present administration Secretary Bryan proposed to the senate committee that the treaty be amended in such a way that the United States would procure virtual control of Nicaragua through a protectorate similar to that exercised over Cuba. He would add to the treaty features similar to the "Platt amendment" relating to Cuba. To this proposal there was considerable opposition in the committee and it is expected to be revived now.

Under the proposed plan of amending the treaty Nicaragua, besides granting the canal and naval station rights, would agree:

That war should not be declared without consent of the United States. That no treaties be made with foreign governments that would tend to destroy her independence or give foreign governments a foothold in the republic.

That no public debt would be contracted beyond the ordinary resources of government.

That the United States should have

the right to intervene at any time to preserve Nicaraguan independence, or to protect life or property.

The administration, it is understood, wishes the Nicaraguan treaty matter settled as soon as possible in line with its general policy to clear up the foreign situation, and Senator Shively of Indiana, acting chairman of the foreign relations committee, who has conferred with President Wilson, expects the committee to take the treaty up this week and to keep it under consideration until a report can be made to the senate.

In the senate during the week the lobby investigating committee plans to resume its examination of Clarence W. DeKnight with regard to charges of lobbying in the interest of increased pay bills for army and navy officers and other legislative matters. Appropriation bills also will be taken up in both branches, the house planning to take up the naval appropriation bill over which will occur a spirited contest between the so-called "big navy" and "little navy" adherents.

TO AID JAPANESE BAND.

Will Help Passage of Distressed Asiatics.

Washington, March 12.—Secretary Bryan has promised the Japanese ambassador, Viscount Chinda, to obtain permission for the passage of about 150 Japanese through American territory from El Paso, Texas, to Calexico, on the extreme northwest corner of the Mexican State of Sonora. The Japanese, reduced to an extremity by lack of work owing to military operations in Mexico, will seek employment as cotton pickers on the west coast. The ambassador made it plain no colonization scheme was involved.

Consular reports today gave warning of a threatened general engagement near Torreón, where small preliminary skirmishes already have taken place. On the gulf coast the threatened battle near Tampico has not materialized. Admiral Howard reported today that all was quiet at Mazatlan, as well as Guaymas and Topolobampo.

The W. S. Benton commission still remains in statu quo at El Paso, apparently waiting results from the commission named by Gen. Carranza. The war department is watching with much interest the outcome of efforts of Mexican military prisoners near Fort Bliss to get their liberty through habeas corpus writs and Gen. Scott is fully sustained in his determination to resist these efforts as far as he legally can.

The department late today decided to abandon the plan to send the Seventeenth infantry by transport from Savannah to Galveston, and instead the regiment will entrain from Fort McPherson and make the trip by rail to the Mexican border.

AIDED IN TOLLS FIGHT.

Million Copies of Pamphlet Printed Urging Repeal of Tolls Exemption.

Washington, March 13.—How the Carnegie endowment for international peace has aided in the fight for repeal of Panama tolls exemptions was revealed today before the senate lobby committee. Dr. Jas Brown Scott, secretary and a member of the board of directors of the endowment, appearing under subpoena, told the committee that more than \$30,000 had been appropriated for "circulation of Panama canal literature."

Detailing the endowment's efforts, Dr. Scott said a million copies of a pamphlet urging repeal of the exemption clause, and signed by virtually the entire directorate, had been sent throughout the country and 700,000 copies of Senator Root's speech in the senate urging the repeal had been mailed under the senate's frank.

INSPECTION SHOWS IMPROVEMENT.

Adjutant General Finds Evidences of Progress in Mills—Columbia Companies Tuesday.

Columbia, March 15.—"I find some improvement in the condition of the majority of the companies inspected," said Adj. Gen. Moore, who returned to Columbia yesterday, after inspecting the companies of the National Guard of South Carolina at Barnwell, Elleree, Conway, Darlington, Bennettsville and Cheraw.

Monday and Tuesday Gen. Moore and Col. D. C. Shanks, U. S. A., will inspect Companies B and C, Second Infantry, in Columbia.

Companies at Liberty Hill, Lancaster and Woodruff will also be inspected next week.

BRYAN ORDERS INVESTIGATION.

Will Spare no Effort to Apprehend Punish Murderers of Postmaster.

Washington, March 16.—An immediate investigation of the murder of Frank Johnson, postmaster at Teacarte, Cal., by a band of Mexicans Saturday was ordered by Secretary of State Bryan today. He will use every effort to have the murderers punished.

PYTHIANS TO CELEBRATE.

GAME COCK LODGE TO OBSERVE ITS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Golden Jubilee of Order To Be Celebrated at Same Time—Many High Pythian Officers From Local Lodge—Largest in Membership in State.

Gamecock Lodge No. 17, Knights of Pythias, of Sumter, will tonight, celebrate its silver jubilee, or twenty-fifth anniversary in connection with the exercises incidental to the celebration of the golden jubilee or fiftieth anniversary of the great order of Knights of Pythias of the world, which will be fittingly celebrated at the same time by nearly every Pythian lodge in the universe.

A special ritualistic service will be held by order of the Supreme Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, and Gamecock Lodge, will also put on a few extra touches of local color for the occasion.

Refreshments will be served after the exercises. Past Chancellor Commander, Hartwell M. Ayer, of Florence lodge, South Carolina, prominent in Pythian circles and a popular jolly good fellow, will be over to give a talk to local Knights. Brother Ayer is very much loved by all of his brother Knights who know him and he will be given a royal welcome.

It is expected that Grand Chancellor Commander of the Pythian Domain of South Carolina, George W. Dick of Sumter, will honor the local lodge by an official visit. District Deputy Grand Chancellor, Bartow Walsh, of Sumter, will also be present.

Gamecock Lodge No. 17, of Sumter, has had pythian honors bestowed upon it in great measure. Four grand chancellor commanders of this State were elected from the Sumter lodge. The late lamented, honored, and much loved Altamont Moses, H. Frank Wilson, and John M. Knight, and the present distinguished and popular Grand Chancellor Commander George W. Dick.

Donald J. Auld, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, like other three distinguished Carolinians, was also from Gamecock Lodge No. 17, of Sumter. Hon. Altamont Moses and H. F. Wilson were also Supreme Representatives to the Supreme Lodge, from South Carolina.

Sumter has had the honor of entertaining the grand lodge three times, and two Grand Chancellors, D. C. Heyward, and H. Frank Wilson, were elected in Sumter during the grand lodge meetings.

Dr. George W. Dick was District Deputy Second Chancellor Commander.

Gov. D. C. Heyward was elected and installed as Grand Chancellor at Sumter. The writer who has been a member of Gamecock Lodge for twenty years, remembers well how frightened "Brother Clinch" was the night he was elected Grand Chancellor and was called on for a speech. He had never made a speech. He was so scared that Dr. G. W. Dick, and several other brothers had to threaten to put a blind bridle on him and back him into the castle hall. Finally he was pushed up to the Chancellor Commander's desk and as he was about to talk the electric lights went out and "Old Brother Clinch" was the happiest man in town at that time. He has since developed into one of the smoothest hot air, spell-binding, and eloquent speakers of this old State. He has reflected honor on Pythianians and South Carolina, like all of her Grand Chancellors.

Gamecock Lodge of Sumter is the largest, in point of membership, of any Pythian lodge in South Carolina, and has consistently held this lead for many years. The present membership is said to be three hundred and fifty. The lodge meets twice a month. Many of the prominent men of Sumter and other counties of South Carolina were and are members of this lodge. The best, most public spirited, and leading men of Sumter County constitute its membership. Brother C. C. Beck is the present Chancellor Commander.

It is hoped that Past Grand Chancellor Commander M. L. Bonham, and other distinguished out-of-town Pythianians will honor the local lodge by their presence tonight, which will be a memorable event in local Pythian circles.

All visiting Knights who may be in Sumter are cordially invited to attend the jubilee exercises. Twenty-five years of unselfish usefulness with records of hundreds of good deeds performed by the lodge will be celebrated, and the history of Pythianism will be told by those well qualified to do so.

The local Knights are looking forward with very pleasant anticipation to a delightful evening. E. I. R.

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BOYS' CORN CLUB MEETING.

Furman Beall Elected President of Organization.

The Boys' Corn Club held its semi-annual meeting at the court house Saturday with thirty-two members enrolled as a beginning for club work. The annual election of officers resulted in the selection of the following boys: President, Furman Beall; vice president, Robert Durant; secretary, Frank White.

It was determined to hold various experiments in the contest this year about which more will be stated later. It was determined to limit the cost of stable manure and commercial fertilizer which a member might use on his acre to twenty dollars, thus insuring the growth of a crop with less cost to the producer.

Mr. J. Frank Williams, county demonstration agent who is at the head of the corn club work, announced to the boys that the chief prizes this year were to be two four weeks' scholarships to Clemson College, where the young farmers might learn much about agriculture and stock raising and other matters of importance to a farmer.

ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

Strange Disease Follows on Heels of Smallpox.

Douglas, Ariz., March 14.—A strange disease, resembling cholera in the speedy death of its victims, is reported at Jecori, Chihuahua, a district just freed from an epidemic of smallpox. Persons arriving here from territory adjacent to Chihuahua said that recently a collection was taken up in the city of Bacanora, Sonora, to purchase medicine for residents of the affected area.

POSTMASTER TOOK MONEY.

Negro Appears Before United States Commissioner.

Orangeburg, March 14.—Porter W. Anderson, a negro, former postmaster at Prioleau, was brought before United States Commissioner J. Leroy Dukes, this city, today for a preliminary hearing on a charge of converting moneys from the money order department to his own use. The charge was made by Postoffice Inspector W. E. Willimon, who checked up Anderson's books and found them short in amount of \$506.73. Anderson refunded the shortage yesterday, after he was arrested.

Anderson confessed to the charge of appropriating funds to his own use. In default of bond, Anderson was committed to jail to await trial at the United States district court.

Prioleau postoffice is situated in a negro settlement of Berkeley county.

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Tickets on sale for all trains of March 17th, with final limit to reach original starting point returning prior to midnight of April 6th. Extension privilege until April 11th upon payment of \$1.00. Stopovers at Florida East Coast points.

For further information see Ticket Agent, or write

W. J. CRAIG, Pass. Traffic Manager.
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