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WASHINGTON.

From our Regular Correspondent.
Washington D. C. Dec. 21, 1905.

There is going to be a fight on the Panama Canal as soon as Congress gets to work after the holidays. The trouble has come from the President's determination to retain Mr. J. B. Bishop, the much discussed "press agent," not in the service of the Commission, but as a member of that body. Worse even than his appointment on the commission in place of the late and unmentioned engineer Wallace, is the fact that his salary is to be \$7,500 a year, plus an extra \$2,500 for some special secretarial work, thus making his salary \$10,000, just what he was getting as "press agent."

The scheme for federal control of insurance which was going forward with such a vim in Congress has been brought to a sudden halt by some of the older members who become suspicious of the alacrity with which the insurance companies themselves have been agreeing to the plan. It is said that they would not be so willing to be controlled if they did not see some distinct advantages in it for themselves. The senators and representatives who recently were foremost in advancing the plan, are now stopping to take another look at it. It is pointed out that federal control would put the companies much in the same relation to the government as the National Banks and while the banks are supposed to be under the strictest governmental supervision, it does not prevent their failing for large sums with alarming frequency. Federal control would certainly be an advantage to the companies in their interstate business and it would give them a national standing very beneficial abroad, which they do not now have, though they really almost control the life insurance business both in Great Britain and in Germany. Federal control is likely to come in the end. Some sort of control is very necessary in the light of the recent disclosures in New York. But it is a safe guess that any bill to this end will be carefully scanned before it passes Congress to see that there is not a joker concealed in it somewhere that will play into the hands of the insurance managers.

The Secretary of the Navy says that he can control the hazing and fighting tendencies of the Naval Academy if he is given the power of summary dismissal over the cadets which according to strict interpretation of the law he does not now have. Cadets are rated as line officers of the Navy and as such they cannot be dismissed except by court martial. But Secretary Bonaparte is a rude person with little respect for "brass clothes" and none whatever for the so called "code of honor" that has been unearthed in the Academy. His fingers are itching to get hold of a cadet who dares defy the power of

the authorities and if he does, with the authority to carry out his wishes, Secretary Bonaparte will in all probability make such an example of him as will materially discourage the ambitious young men who are now living up to the sacred traditions of black eyes and missing teeth inculcated at the Naval school. The Foss bill, if it is passed, will give the Secretary such power, and it looks now as though the bill would be passed, the disciplining of cadets left to the Secretary instead of turning the purging of the Academy over to a congressional investigating committee.

The American residents of the Isle of Pines have been severely criticised by one of their number now in Washington for their attempt to organize a territorial government and to send a delegate to Congress. The critic, Col. T. J. Keenan, President of the American Society of the Isle of Pines says that while he is in general sympathy with the residents in their distaste for Cuban rule, he thinks they have acted very unwisely in the way they have forced the issue and run the risk of embroiling this government with Cuba without any ultimate good to themselves.

There are indications that Congress, through the Senate is disposed to practice canal building itself for a little while and take the matter out of the hands of the President. The literary secretary or press agent of the Canal as Mr. Bishop has been called, appears to have been the straw that has tipped the scale and changed the Canal status. Mr. Bishop, it will be remembered, as a journalist on the editorial staff of a Republican paper had given the Canal question much study, had written much about it, and was considered by the President mainly on account of his thorough acquaintance with the Canal enterprise. His salary was \$10,000, much more than that of any Senator or Member of Congress, but not more than Mr. Bishop had been getting in New York. Doubtless a number of Senators are more or less angry with the President for reasons or prejudices quite unrelated to the Canal, as for example Railroad Rate Legislation, and for various requests and favors never granted. Senators are only human and when one of them going from an executive committee of the Senate said, "The President will find that he cannot build the Panama Canal by reciting the Ten Commandments," it is not impossible that he may have found the President's too strict adherence to these Commandments in the way of his own schemes and those of his clients.

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MUST VOTE IN FEBRUARY.
Fleitz Shows How Townships Can Acquire Their Road Tax From State

Deputy Attorney General Fleitz decides, in an official opinion delivered to State Commissioner Hunter that all townships in Pennsylvania desiring to receive 15 per cent. of the amount of their road tax from the state next year must vote affirmatively on this proposition at the coming February election. Mr. Fleitz decides also that under the general supervisor act, passed by the last legislature, the supervisors must serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for traveling expenses; that no supervisor can act as road master, and that the act is general in its terms, applies to all second class townships in the state, and all local or special laws relating to the management and control of township roads in conflict with this act are repealed by it.

The Deputy Attorney General has also advised Commissioner Hunter that, in building roads with state money, he need not confine himself to using any one county's appropriation for the year only. The money appropriated by the legislature was for a period of four years, and Deputy Fleitz says that to facilitate matters, Commissioner Hunter may use a county's entire appropriation at once, in his discretion, but that he must allow no county more than its pro rata share of all the money. It will be recalled that Dauphin county lost its share because of objections to proposed improvements in Swatara, and Lower Paxton townships.

COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

Benton, R. F. D. No. 1, Dec. 21, 1905.
We have been asked the question several times since we have taken such a pronounced stand against compulsory vaccination, whether "we believe that vaccination is wrong." By no means is vaccination wrong. But compulsory vaccination is. We were vaccinated when a boy. My wife was vaccinated when a girl, but not successfully. She was again vaccinated when we had our children vaccinated years ago, and got a very sore arm. We were brought up under the principle that self preservation is the first law of nature; and that it is just as necessary to take precautionary measures to protect ourselves against contagious epidemics, as against accidents, or any other dangers. That all such precautions are a part and parcel of the general household economy, as in providing fuel, clothing and all other necessary things, for the comfort, health and happiness of the home. All these are things that enter into the economy of reason and common sense and should be left free for every person, or home circle to deal with as his, or their best judgment may dictate. The idea of compulsory and despotic measures is so repugnant that if people submit to it at all, it is under great protest. We also believe that if a campaign of persuasion had been waged in every community and the people brought to see the desirability and necessity of such a measure for the public need before the schools commenced in the fall, that nearly all the children would have been vaccinated without protest. There is a right way of doing things as well as a wrong way. The people always protest when forced under the yoke of tyranny.
JOHN C. WENNER.

The February Election.

Speaking generally, the spring elections, in Pennsylvania, are of far more immediate importance to the people than the general election in November. As President Roosevelt said in his Little Rock speech last summer, "It makes very little difference in the end whether the president of the United States is a Republican or a Democrat," but it makes every difference that all public officials shall be clean and honest.

As a rule, votes cast at the February election are much fewer than those polled in November. There should be equal interest in the election next February when we are to choose borough and township officers. It is of far greater moment to the citizens of Bloomsburg that they shall send the right kind of men to council and to school board to fix our tax rates and to expend the money raised by taxation, than that this or that man shall be selected to represent them in congress.

It is up to every good citizen who wants the business of the public conducted in the interest of all the people, to see that his right to vote is assured by the entry of his name on the assessor's list.

CASTORIA.
Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co.

"CORRUPT AND CONTENTED"

In the January Lippincott's there is an arrestive paper on present-day Finance by a well-known capitalist who hides under the nom de guerre "W. L." In this the author speaks as follows:

The investigation of several great Life Insurance Companies has become matter of universal interest, for the revelations point to germane conditions in other financial organizations as well. The public is manifestly amazed by the, to them, astounding abuses of the resources of these great corporations to the advantage of those in positions of trust connected therewith; but do the financiers of the age share this surprise? Probably not, for their intimate association with the sources from which large sums of money are constantly derived has familiarized them with the abuses that pervade the financial management of many of our great corporations. This does not imply necessarily that funds are stolen, or that the courses adopted must be construed as criminal, but, as evinced in the development incidental to the investigation of the affairs of the Insurance Companies referred to, the interests of the real owners of these great properties have been disregarded in a shameful manner.

With a full knowledge of such facts, the average stockholder does not make the least effort to rectify the evil. Recently the writer had a discussion with a friend regarding the relative merits of the management of two great Railroad Companies, and contended that the company in which he was interested was managed with scrupulous honesty, while the company in which his friend had a holding of thousands of shares was conducted notoriously to the advantage of the chiefs of its departments. The friend admitted the facts, but said: "You have your company managed honestly and have not had a dividend for years, while we have never failed to receive dividends annually. Now I should rather be robbed and get a dividend, than have your honest management and get nothing."

This one sentence presents the view of very many stockholders; they are satisfied so long as they receive a fair return for their investment, and do not bother themselves about details of management—forgetting that some day their neglect may result in loss or even ruin. This "so long-as-I-get-a-share" feeling of contentment on the part of the stockholders helps largely to encourage carelessness in the conduct of the affairs of all companies.

Weeding Out Unfit Senators

One wholesome result of the campaign against graft, which seems to run like an infection from state to state throughout the union, is a prospective improvement in the quality of the membership of the United States Senate. Knox has already taken the seat of Quay from Pennsylvania, and Penrose has made himself a future impossibility. Platt and Depew, of New York, and Dryden, of New Jersey, by a curious turn of events, have been made to stand up and under oath testify to their own unfitness. They may not resign, but their day of influence and usefulness is past. Other and better men are sure to succeed them.

Death and the process of the courts have removed Mitchell, of Oregon and Burton, of Kansas. There are 30 senators whose terms expire in 1907. This gives to the awakened conscience of the country an immediate opportunity of making itself felt, both in the reward of faithful service and the rebuke of demerit. Senator Allee, of Delaware, is in this list, as well as Dryden, of New Jersey.

There is a sting of truth in the declaration that the United States Senate has become "a club of millionaires." Of late years the senatorial millionaires have steadily legislated in the interest of millionaires and monopolies. It is time that the states—not the corporations—shall have representatives to speak for them on the floor of the United States Senate. The weeding out process already so effectively begun, should be pushed until the Senate is restored to its old-time vigor and repute.—E.A.

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