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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1909

TAFT HAS PENSION PLAN.

Wants to Provide for Retirement of Worn Out Employees.

Pensions for superannuated persons in the Government service have been practically agreed upon by President Taft and the members of his Cabinet. They will use every effort to prevail on Congress to adopt some sort of a measure which will permit the retirement on part pay of the employees who have been found useless.

About 2,000 of the 170,000 persons in the classified service are eligible for retirement. An appropriation from Congress is necessary to retire these employees. Following this, a certain sum is to be deducted annually from the pay of people in the Government service.

The Democratic Program.

Champ Clark, of Mississippi, the Democratic leader of the House of Representatives has defined the stand to be taken by the party at this session. He says: "The program of the Democrats in the House is to keep down the amount of the appropriation bills and to vote against ship subsidy."

"The House leaders are rushing everything to get the appropriation measures through and that subject and the ship subsidy proposition seem to be about the only two things that are to be taken up. We are opposed to the ship subsidy bill. I favor a river and harbor bill. I look for adjournment of Congress in April, certainly by May 1."

Nicaragua.

The embarrassment in Nicaragua has practically terminated as far as this government is concerned. Jose Santos Zelaya has left the country and is now in Mexico. His acts have been repudiated by his successor, and the insurgents, though still restless, have practically ceased hostilities.

It has been reported that Zelaya has made the statement that he now considers it advisable for the United States and Mexico to take a hand in matters and assist in the federation of all of the Central American republics.

WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27, 1909

Congress has adjourned for a Christmas vacation after a brief and uneventful pre-holiday session. But little legislation has been enacted and only one appropriation bill, that for the District of Columbia, has been passed. This appropriation is considerably less than that for the past year and there is promise that the other appropriations will show a proportionate reduction. There is much talk of economy at the White House, at the Capitol and in the departments, but in the national, as in family affairs, an economical program is difficult and it will generally be found in the end that both the family and the nation have lived up to their income and all they can borrow.

As was expected, there will be a congressional investigation of what is now known as the Ballinger-Pinchot feud. Mr. Ballinger has requested such an investigation in a formal letter to Senator Jones of the State of Washington, stating in his letter that the investigation should embrace the forest service, meaning Pinchot, inasmuch as he (Ballinger) believes that the pernicious activity of certain of its officers has been the source of inspiration of these charges.

In an executive session of Senate, Senator Gore, the blind Senator from Oklahoma, offered a resolution providing for an investigation and directing that a committee of eight senators, whom he named, with a like number of members of the House, should conduct an investigation of the general Land Office and the Forest Service with respect to stone, timber, coal and mineral lands and water power sites. The Senators named by Mr. Gore were Nelson of Minnesota; Dooliver of Iowa; Lodge of Massachusetts; Bristow of Kansas; Root of New York; Tillman of South Carolina; Stone of Missouri; and Owen of Oklahoma. If these senators shall be appointed and a comparatively strong committee of the House shall be named to act with them, there can be no doubt of an investigation that will go to the bottom of this question, a question of great interest to all the people of the United States, concerning as it does all that remains of the splendid natural resources of the best endowed country on this planet.

There is important significance in the news that became public this morning that the President will in a special message, after Christmas, indicate that no necessity exists for changing the Sherman Anti-trust law dealing with combinations in restraint of trade. The President is counter-marching on this proposition and taking a view of the question opposed to that of his predecessor. It is said that the President has been influenced in arriving at his new conclusion by the attitude manifested toward the law courts by Gompers, Mitchell and others, since their conviction for contempt of court.

During the past few weeks the New York Custom House has attracted almost as much attention as the Congress of the United States. Mr. Loeb, Roosevelt's late secretary, as Commissioner of Customs, has been a veritable bull in that china shop, overturning the scales of the sugar trust and ripping up steamer trunks and scattering the landing piers of the great steamers with Parisian hats, lingerie, gowns, jewelry, hosiery, and other sacred stuff with his sacrilegious horns. It is believed that the general public regards smuggling by private persons, especially if they are ladies, with complacency. There is a general feeling that every woman has a right to buy what she likes any where and that it is an interference with a natural right to make her pay for it a second time when she attempts to introduce it into her own so-called free country, but Mr. Loeb, no doubt, has the law and the dots on thousands of elegant globe trotters, who have long been in the habit of outfitting themselves in Paris and London instead of patriotically paying the higher prices in their home shops. There is no doubt that the custom House is the greatest of all monopolies in restraint of trade. If all countries would abolish their custom houses, their war navies might not rust to the water's edge.

The hundreds of thousands who have used them will be glad to know that the combined pocket diary 1910-memorandum book and calendar for 1910 & 1911, with other handy information issued by C. A. Snow & Co. of Washington, D. C., is ready and will be sent to any address on receipt of two cents postage. Write to C. A. Snow & Co., Washington, D. C.

BIG RED CROSS STAMP SALE.

Pennsylvania Next to New York With Total Output of 3,250,000.

A total distribution of 3,250,000 Red Cross Christmas stamps in the State of Pennsylvania was reported by J. Byron Deacon, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

Out of this total, which places Pennsylvania second in rank of all the States in the Union in the number of stamps distributed, only being surpassed by New York. Orders from Philadelphia aggregated 1,250,000. The sale will be continued until New Year's.

State Owns Many Trees.

The policy of the State growing its own trees to carry out the conservation work on State forestry reservations has been the means of saving considerable money to the Forestry Commission this year and the good effects will be noticed next year as well.

Some years ago the State established a nursery for experimental purposes at Mont Alto and it worked so well that additional nurseries were established at Greenwood Furnace, Huntingdon County; Asaph, Tioga County, and at points in Bedford, Centre and Franklin Counties.

As a result of the care given to nursery work the Forestry Commission will have 1,800,000 young trees of its own growing to set out in the Spring. The planting will be done in various areas where trees are needed and it is reckoned by Commissioner Conklin that about 2700 pines will be required per acre to 1800 of the hardwoods. The trees are one, two and three years old and are now being selected for planting.

Some idea of the extent of the State nurseries can be gained from the statement that 2,294,000 are at Mont Alto; 2,012,000 at Asaph; 1,362,000, at Greenwood, and about 70,000 at the rest. They include all varieties indigenous to Pennsylvania.

May Have Big Aerial Surprise.

One night last week the wires were busy reporting an airship sighted in various New England cities, including Boston, Willimantic, and Worcester. It cruised about over the towns, carrying a searchlight forward, and red tail lights astern. It was later found to be the aeroplane of Wallace E. Tillinghast, of Worcester, concerning which there has been so much mystery, never having been seen in daylight.

Some time ago he claimed to have flown from Worcester to New York and Boston during the night.

He now asserts that when the public sees his demonstrations, his statement will be credited. It is possible that he may make the other aviators open their eyes widely when he decides to bring out his machine in daylight.

Fake Bank Examiners at Work.

Fake bank examiners are operating in different parts of the United States to an extent which has brought them to the official notice of the Comptroller of the Currency. It is held by Comptroller Lawrence L. Murry that the men attempt to play the part of an examiner for the purpose of obtaining information as to the location and strength of bank vaults preparatory to forcing them. Until Friday the reports of men impersonating examiners of banks have been hazy, when there came intelligence of operations so bold that the case will be reported to the Secret Service division for investigation.

Army Canteens for Guardsmen.

A general order has been issued from the Adjutant General's Department for the National Guard of Pennsylvania to be equipped before the Spring inspection with the United States Army style of canteen. The order states that the canteens will be shipped within a short time and that the canteens now in use should be returned on the State Arsenal. This issue is to line with the previous orders to equip the Guard similar to the regular army.

New Railway for State.

A charter has been issued to the Pittsburg and Great Lakes Connecting Railway, of Pittsburg, to build a line between Portersville and Ellwood City, in the western part of the State. The company has a capital of \$120,000.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

CHRISTMAS Shopping is Under Way!

Foresighted people are doing their Christmas shopping NOW--before the rush begins and when the best selections are to be had. You will benefit by following their example. Make out your list TODAY--bring it here, and later on you'll be thankful that you acted on this suggestion.

We are ready to solve each of your gift-problems with rare satisfaction and economy. This store has become a veritable wonderland of toys, dolls and beautiful gift things for folk of all ages. Our Christmas displays this year surpass anything ever attempted in this city before.

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