

WHAT ALL THE WORLD IS DOING

Trend of Civilization in All Lines From Week to Week

POLITICS and GOVERNMENT

Executive.

The New Canal Commission.

As President Roosevelt was about to start from Washington on his western vacation trip April 3 the war department announced his plan for the reorganization of the Panama canal commission. In his order the president referred to the unsatisfactory work of the old commission, and in its place named the following:

Theodore P. Shonts of Illinois, president of the "Clover Leaf" railroad, chairman of the commission; Charles E. Magoon of Nebraska, who in addition to his duties as commissioner will be governor of the canal zone; John F. Wallace of Illinois, who will retain his place as chief engineer of the canal; Rear Admiral Mordecai T. Endicott, U. S. N., now chief of the naval bureau of yards and docks; Brigadier General Peter C. Haines, U. S. A., retired; Colonel Oswald H. Ernst, corps of engineers, U. S. A.; Benjamin M. Harrod of Louisiana. Mr. Harrod is the only former member to be retained. Two of the former members, Burr and Parsons, were made members of the consulting board of engineers, which will include seven others.

Salaries of the new commissioners is fixed at \$7,500 each, which is \$4,500 less than that received by the former commission, but Chairman Shonts is to receive additional compensation of \$22,500, bringing his salary up to \$30,000. Mr. Wallace is to receive an additional \$17,500, making his salary \$25,000, and Governor Magoon an additional \$10,000, bringing his salary up to \$17,500. In addition to salaries each commissioner is to receive traveling expenses and the use of a furnished house on the Isthmus. The new commissioners were promptly sworn in and met to perfect its organization. The headquarters will be on the Isthmus. Shonts, Magoon and Wallace were elected as an executive committee, and they will virtually do the work.

For carrying on the work three departments are created—first, headed by Chairman Shonts, to have charge of the fiscal affairs; second, for the administration of laws and sanitation, headed by Magoon, and, third, for the actual construction, headed by Wallace.

Dominican Collectors Chosen.
The force of American agents and collectors for the Santo Domingo duties was completed at Washington, the chief collector being Major G. R. Colton, formerly collector in the Philippines. He will be in charge of the port of Santo Domingo, and collectors at other ports will report to him daily. The National City Bank of New York city has been made the depository for these collections with the approval of President Morales. The chief collector's salary is to be \$500 a month, and all are to have their expenses paid by Santo Domingo. The president has appointed Jacob H. Hollander to go to Santo Domingo for the purpose of investigating all claims against the Dominican government. Later it is his intention to appoint an international commission representing the creditor nations to adjudicate these claims. Already the objection of the Belgian creditors to the plan of American collection of duties has been reported.

Civil Service Changes.
Before leaving Washington the president authorized several changes in the civil service rules so that hereafter immigrant officials in contiguous territory, cashiers in postoffices and laborers engaged in clerical work in the department are brought within the classification.

Shaw to Call in Deposits.
Secretary of the Treasury Shaw announced that he would call on national bank deposits for about \$27,000,000 or about 50 per cent of the government funds now held by them in two installments, May 15 and July 1.

General.

Roosevelt Third Term Boom.

At a dinner given by the Republican club of New York city Edward Lauterbach created tremendous cheering by saying that President Roosevelt, who "has never made a promise or undertaken an obligation without keeping that promise and fulfilling that obligation," had made "one promise in all sincerity that he shall not keep if the future holds anything of the expected." Mr. Lauterbach went on to explain that he believed the nation would demand that Mr. Roosevelt again occupy the highest office in his gift.

A City Ownership Setback.

Significantly coincident with Chicago's big vote for municipal ownership was the defeat of the rapid transit bill for New York city in the state senate by a vote of 40 to 8 in spite of the fact that all the civic organizations

of the city, the press and people generally, had united in seeking its passage. Senators of both political parties lined up against the bill which would make the city independent of the Belmont syndicate and would be a step toward municipal ownership.

Nebraska's Blow at Beef Trust.
The state of Nebraska has enacted the Junkin antitrust law, which seeks to make it impossible for the beef packers to force prices down in order to kill competition.

Democrats Carry St. Louis.
Mayor Rolla Wells of St. Louis was re-elected as a Democrat April 4 by a plurality of over 6,000, although the bond issue of \$9,000,000 proposed by his administration was beaten. Jefferson City went Democratic for the first time in twenty-five years, and all the Missouri towns showed Democratic gains.

New York's New Tax Laws.

Following action of the Republican party caucus, both branches of the New York legislature have now passed the stock transfer bill and the mortgage tax bill, and it was known that Governor Higgins would sign them in spite of the organized opposition of wealthy residents of New York city. In explaining his position Governor Higgins told a delegation of New Yorkers that the general property tax failed to reach personal property and was an incentive to dishonesty.

The mortgage tax law substitutes a tax of one-half of 1 per cent for the general property tax on mortgages. The stock transfer law imposes a tax upon those who escape the burden of direct taxation. Governor Higgins says that the rich are constantly demanding exemption and special privileges, which breeds righteous discontent.

New City Ownership Candidate.

Bird S. Coler, formerly Democratic comptroller of New York, has announced his determination to run for mayor on a municipal ownership platform.

Legal and Criminal.

Inspector in Pay of Swindlers.

The investigation into the affairs of the collapsed Storey Cotton company which has proceeded at Philadelphia by order of Postmaster General Croteau brought out the fact that a postal inspector attached to the Philadelphia division, George C. Holden, who was specially detailed to investigate concerns suspected of fraudulent use of the mails, had received a large cash payment from the Storey Cotton company, the record of which was found on the private cashbook of the defunct concern. On this account inspector Mayer of the New York division was promptly detailed to take command of the Philadelphia investigation.

Harriman to Lose N. P.

The opinion of the supreme court in the case against Harriman and the Northern Securities company deprives E. H. Harriman and his associates of the majority control of the Northern Pacific railroad which they had when their shares were turned over to the Northern Securities company Nov. 13, 1901. The date for issuance of the court's mandate was fixed for April 17, this being regarded as the final step in the litigation.

Philippine Duties Not Recovered.

The supreme court has decided against the United States in its effort to recover duties from the firms of Henry W. Peabody and Warner Barns & Co. of New York on merchandise shipped by them from New York to Manila after the date of the treaty with Spain by which the Philippines became American territory. The opinion holds that

after this was ratified the Philippine insurrection was not of sufficient gravity to give the islands the character of foreign countries within the meaning of the tariff act.

Stay For Mrs. Chadwick.

The United States supreme court of appeals at Cincinnati, April 5, granted a stay of execution to Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick until further order, as a writ of error had been sued out within the required sixty days. Consequently Mrs. Chadwick may be released on bail pending the appeal.

Iowa Officials Hold Over.

By a decision of the Iowa supreme court Governor Cummins and other state officials have their official terms extended one year. This is the result of a suit brought to test the validity of the biennial elections amendment to the state constitution which was adopted by a majority vote last November. The court sustained the amendment.

Foreign.

Venezuela's Latest Moves.

The supreme court of Venezuela has decided that the government's contract with the French Cable company had been forfeited because the engagements had not been fulfilled, but action for damages was not sustained. President Castro complained against the French company and said that it had given aid to the insurgents in the recent rebellion.

The federal district superior court of Venezuela has charged General Francis V. Greene, president of the New York and Bermuda Asphalt company, with having given aid to the revolutionists, citing a specific occasion when this American citizen had given General Matos in Paris a draft for \$100,000 for the purchase of a warship in Europe.

French Army Service Curtailed.

The new military service law in France cuts down from three to two years the time during which conscripts must serve in the army, thus lessening by one-third the military burden imposed upon French industries. Another feature is that all able-bodied males will have to serve these two years, there being no exemptions. This law is extremely popular.

Cuba's Seventh Congress.

The seventh session of the Cuban congress began at Havana April 3 with a message of congratulation from President Palma on the republic's progress and increase in trade. The message reports an increase of \$15,764,000 in imports and of \$11,492,000 in exports. This increase is especially due to the reciprocal trade with the United States. The annual death rate was 14.9 per 1,000. The decrease in attendance in public schools is regretted.

Kaiser's Moroccan Address.

According to the London Times' version of Emperor William's address to the representatives of the sultan of Morocco while at Tangier, he said that he had come to assert his intention to maintain the absolute equality of German commercial rights against all comers and reminded the sultan that he was a free sovereign of a free country. The Kaiser also said that the present was not a good time to introduce European reforms. All this was regarded as distinctly offensive to the French government, although outwardly the diplomats of France remained impassive. Indeed, the French foreign minister took occasion last week to reassure other powers that France had no intention of monopolizing the trade of Morocco. It is said that Germany is now getting even for not having been consulted when France entered upon her Moroccan policy.

On April 5 the German emperor arrived at Naples, Italy, where he was received in person by King Victor Emmanuel.

Chicago Champions Municipal Ownership

Shall the people of American cities own and operate their public utilities, beginning with their street railway systems? Chicago, the second city in size, led off in the affirmative when on April 4 Edward F. Dunne, the Democratic candidate for mayor, was elected by approximately 25,000 plurality over John M. Harlan, Republican, after one of the hottest campaigns ever experienced by an American city.

It is true that all candidates had declared for municipal ownership in one way or another, but Mr. Harlan had favored the plan of a short time franchise to the traction companies. Judge Dunne proposed immediate action by taking over the property of the Chicago Passenger Railway company and negotiating with the other companies for the purchase of their plants or, failing in this, to condemn or confiscate. The fact that Morgan and Wall street interests in Chicago traction were known to be working for Harlan's election contributed powerfully toward the election of Dunne.

Dunne's vote of 161,650 was the largest ever received by a candidate for mayor in Chicago. The Democratic plurality was all the more notable because Roosevelt carried the city by over 100,000 last November. Collins, the Socialist candidate, polled 20,323 votes, and Stewart, the Prohibitionist, 2,980. The Republicans re-elected City Attorney Smulski. A picturesque figure among the Democratic victors is Adrian C. Anson, affectionately known all over the country for years as "Pop" Anson, the captain of the Chicago baseball team. Mayor Elect Dunne was born at Waterville, Conn., in 1853. For many years he practiced law in Chicago prior to being elected to the bench. He has a family of thirteen children.

Mayor Elect Dunne made a flying trip to New York April 7 to address a meeting at Cooper Union in the cause of city ownership for other cities.



Edward F. Dunne.

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