

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Confronted by Currency Legislation



WASHINGTON.—Recently there has been a distinct revival here of interest in banking and currency legislation. There are at least three reasons for this, which may be enumerated as follows:

1. The announcement that an organization to be known as the National Citizens' league is being formed to advocate some sort of federal reserve association.
2. The organization in New York City of the National City company, with capital stock of \$10,000,000, as an adjunct of the National City bank, and for the purpose of acquiring and holding stock in other banks.
3. The movement on the part of the insurgent Republicans in the senate, and supported by some of the Democrats, to compel the national monetary commission to close its affairs and report to congress not later than January 1, 1912.

The activities mentioned would indicate that banking and currency legislation will become a live topic in the autumn, and probably will receive much attention at the next long session of congress. It is not believed, however, there will be any legislation

soon. The prevailing view is that it will take congress several years to decide what it wishes to do about the creation of a national reserve association.

It is evident that the conservative Republicans in congress will have a plan of their own; that the insurgent Republicans will have views which they will wish to embody in a bill, and that the Democrats also will desire to present a measure. So it would seem that there is likely to be much discussion of various plans during the next 12 months. Neither political party will, it is assumed, be ready to proceed with this subject on the eve of a presidential campaign.

Persons who have been here recently representing the bankers that are particularly interested in the formation of the citizens' league, say the league hopes to be able to establish branches in every city of consequence in the country by December 1. A particular effort is to be made to interest business men, merchants, manufacturers, and others. The promoters of this organization seem to have an impression that if they can bring about the formation of branches of the league in the cities of the country, they will be able to wage a campaign in favor of legislation that will impress itself on senators and representatives in congress. At any rate, large plans are being made. This league also intends to work with the view of keeping the subject out of politics, as much as possible.

Plans for the Canal Fortifications

GIBRALTAR may be robbed of the distinction of being the most impregnable fortress in the world if the plans of the fortification board in the Panama canal zone are adopted. As a preliminary, looking toward this end, the war department has ordered the 16-inch gun now stored at Sandy Hook proving ground to the canal zone. Although the gun was constructed ten years ago, no more powerful weapon has been produced in the world. Its range is beyond 16 miles and its projectiles, aero-torpedoes, weigh 2,400 pounds, and could easily destroy a battleship before it reached a point near enough to do damage to the canal locks or other portions of the waterway. Later on more guns of this caliber will be placed there.

Super-dreadnaughts, according to the calculations of ordinance experts, can be sunk easily by the 16-inch gun at distances of 16 miles from the mouth of the canal. This is not the limit of the range of the great gun, but it is about as far as "hits" can be made.

The projectile of the gun is virtually an aero-torpedo. It will weigh 2,400 pounds and will carry about 150 pounds of high explosives. There is not the least doubt that even at an extreme



range of 15 or 16 miles the projectile will penetrate the heaviest armor plate on the largest battleship. After the projectile has passed through the armor plate the 150 pounds of high explosives which it contains will be discharged. The detonation would create a miniature earthquake and destroy a city.

What is sought by the war department and the joint board is to equip the fortifications with such powerful guns that the enemy's feet can be kept so far from the canal that it cannot drop shells or projectiles into the waterway. A large projectile fired over the fortifications dropped into one of the locks or dams might close up the canal for a year or so. The forces on the canal must not only keep the enemy from reducing the fortifications but from doing damage to the waterway.

Many Inquiries are Left Unfinished



THE special session of congress came to an end with many investigations unfinished, leaving many of the committees that were conducting inquiries to report next winter.

When the senate voted to conduct a second investigation into the election of Senator Lorimer, the expectation was that the inquiry could be finished in time for a report from the committee at the special session, but the best this committee hopes for is to be prepared to make its report when congress reassembles on the first Monday in December.

The senate special committee on the "third degree" also made headway slowly. A joint committee of the senate and house that has been investigating the question of employers' liability and workmen's compensation

has taken a great deal of testimony, which is being printed for distribution among persons who are particularly interested in this subject.

The Democrats of the house have laid out enough investigation work to keep many committees busy until mid-summer next year. The Democratic leaders intimate that it is their intention to keep up the investigation business until the next session of congress gets out of the way of the national convention of the political parties.

The inquiries into the affairs of the steel trust and the sugar trust have attracted wide attention, and have developed valuable information—information to which not only congress is entitled, but which the people ought to possess. These two major investigations have, it is said, only begun. Each of the inquiries is to continue for months. The committees will get down to work again in the fall, and if they continue to find "pay dirt" they will continue their researches far into the session that is to begin in December.

Pacific Coast Has a Customs Scandal

AN investigation of alleged undervaluation frauds involving several millions of dollars has been instituted by the customs authorities at the port of San Francisco, Cal. Disclosures which, it is said, will eclipse in magnitude the recent customs frauds exposed in New York, are promised by the federal officials. The investigation centers around some of the biggest importers of Oriental wares in the United States, and it is alleged that some government officials are involved.

The government activity includes the principal seaports of the entire Pacific coast and extends to Japan, where secret service agents have been busy for the last few months amassing evidence of the alleged frauds. Held at the custom house in San Francisco there are at present 500 cases of Oriental wares consigned to a single firm. The goods, which consist principally of crockery, alleged to be vastly undervalued, are being held pending the determination as to exact-

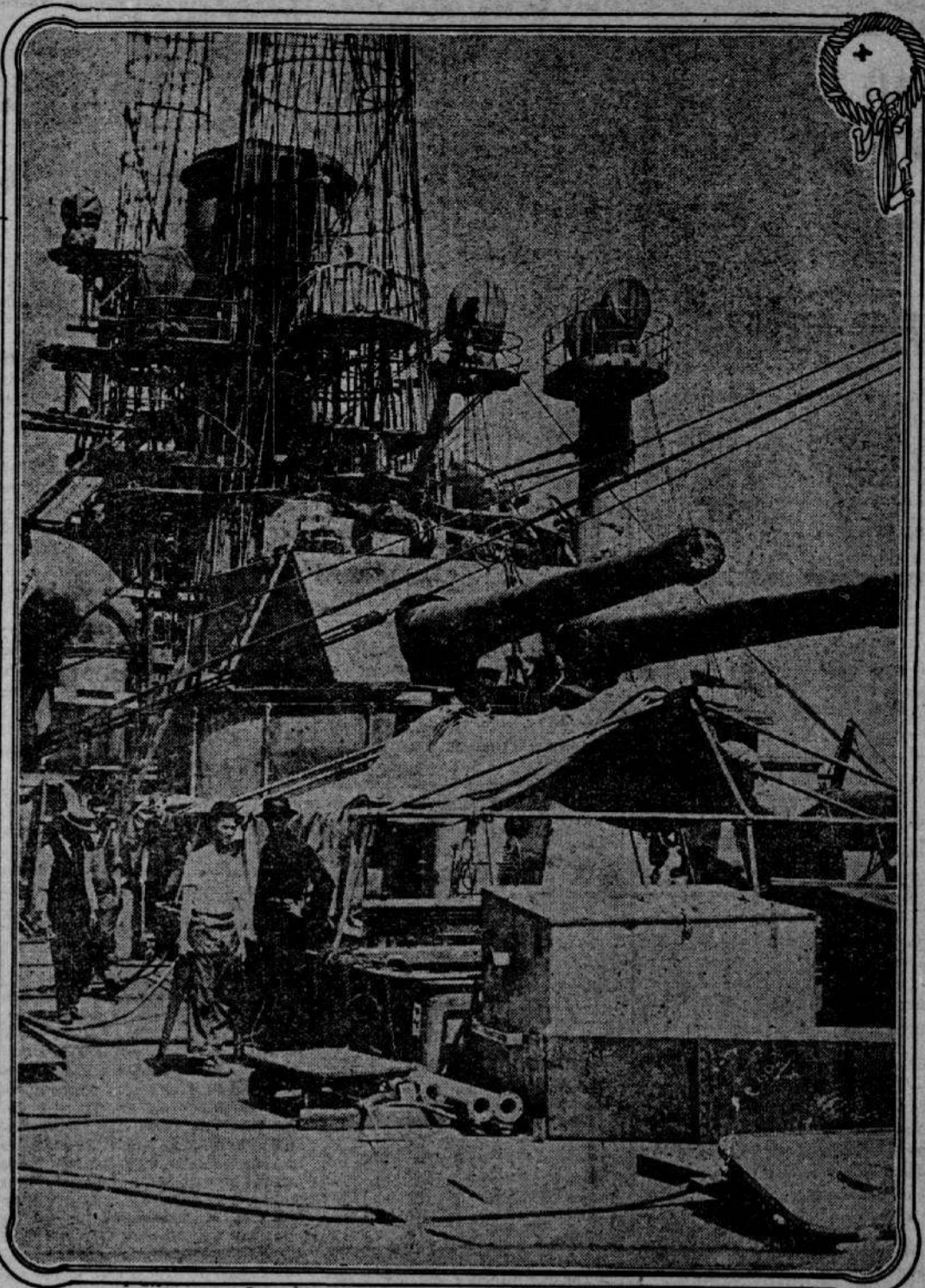


ly what course shall be pursued by the government. A similar consignment billed to the same firm is being held at Seattle.

The government authorities first received information of the alleged undervaluation of wares imported by the firm involved from other importers. They complained that they were unable to compete with the firm in the sale of a certain class of goods. They further complained that the firm was driving chinaware offered from Germany from the market of this country.

Acting on information received, the customs authorities were ordered to detain shipments en route from Japan and consigned to the firm in question. Similar action was taken at Seattle.

BATTLESHIP FLORIDA NEARLY COMPLETED



PUTTING ON THE FINISHING TOUCHES

THIS photograph, made recently in the Brooklyn navy yard, shows the battleship Florida nearly completed. The great war vessel is as powerful as any in the American navy and before long will be ready to be put into commission.

ELECTRICITY TO KILL PESTS

Washington Man Demonstrates Value of New Method of Exterminating Many Injurious Insects.

Spokane, Wash.—Electricity as an agency to destroy the codling moth and other bug pests is the latest innovation introduced in modern apple orcharding in the Spokane valley, where W. M. Frost of Opportunity, Wash., and J. C. Lawrence, a grower of Spokane, the other night gave what is declared to have been the first demonstration of its kind in the world.

The test was made in a six-year-old orchard, and more than a score of second-brood moths and many green aphids were killed in a few moments.

The apparatus consists of a storage battery to charge the incandescent light globes, each of six candle power, which are netted with fine steel wire, coated with copper and tin, alternately. Attracted by the bright lights in

the trees, to which the globes are carried at the ends of a covered wire, the moths fly against the netting, complete the electric circuit and are instantly killed, the bodies falling into a receptacle placed beneath the globe.

Mr. Frost estimates that one battery to an acre of trees will keep the moths under control, thus eliminating the usual spraying and saving many dollars annually for help, equipment and fuel.

He is now preparing to wire his orchard of ten acres, containing 700 trees, and several neighbors who witnessed the initial test are doing likewise. It is reported that several thousand acres of bearing apple trees will be equipped with exterminators by next spring.

If commercial electric light wires are extended to the orchard tracts, as they are in many of the valleys in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana, the expense of batteries may be

saved by making direct connection. The cost of covering the globes with wire nets is a small item, and any electrician can do the work.

Apple to Court Girl.

Boston.—A Greek folk custom by which young men of that country were wont to propose to the blushing maidens of their choice by handing them a shining apple and, if their affections were reciprocated, receive in return a rose, is to be revived for the first time in America at a big Greek picnic here. So hopeful of success are the churchmen that a staff of Greek pastors is to be on hand to tie matrimonial knots.

Elm Fed on Bricks.

Springfield, Mass.—In removing an elm tree to prepare for the foundations of the new municipal building workmen discovered a bulging root about four feet in the ground. The root was cut open and inside were found two bricks, which the root completely enveloped. The specimen will probably be given to the Science museum.

BLACK CROW IS A BIG RIVER

Tributary of Yukon Found to Be Hundreds of Miles Long—New Outlet to Northern Canada.

Ottawa, Ontario.—A big river has been discovered in Canada. It is new in the sense that no one had any conception of its extent.

The Porcupine river is a tributary of the Yukon. It has a tributary known as the Black Crow. Until a month or so ago no one believed that the Black Crow was more than twenty or thirty miles long. It is now known to be hundreds of miles long. The discoverers are the surveyors delineating the international boundary in the far north. The last word received from them was that they had traversed three hundred miles of the Black Crow. Access to the Arctic ocean will be rendered much easier from the northern portion of Canadian territory.

Church Makes Pastor Sick.

New York.—All Saints church at Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island, is in difficulties because its new pastor becomes seasick with the slightest pitching or tossing of the church edifice. All Saints is a floating church, for many years called the Church for Seamen. It is moored in the harbor of a little Staten Island community whose citizens are largely seafarers. The anchorage is an exposed one, and frequently has brisk winds kicking up a lively sea, so that the church-boat pitches and rolls. The pastor, Dr. William Mix, is a landsman, and on at least one occasion recently he has found it necessary to cut the service short.

"BIG ANNIE" IS A MOTHER

Largest Snake in the Zoo Gives Birth to Fifty-Seven Offspring and All but Nine Are Living.

New York.—Perhaps it was because there were only a few visitors at the zoo the other afternoon and only a few discreet attendants in the reptile house. Or maybe that had nothing to do with it. Anyway, at about three o'clock there was a portentous thrashing and writhing in the cage Big Annie, the prize 19-foot anaconda, shares with Rex, a royal python. Assistant Curator Ditmars heard the noise and looked in. Then he ran out and gathered up 14 keepers.

"I want you to come with me," he told them. "Big Annie is—or rather she will—Never mind, come on quick and get her out of the cage."

It took only a few minutes to untangle Big Annie's 19 feet—length—and get her in another cage. And then, before the legendary Jack Robinson could earn mention, there were 57 new little anacondas at the zoo. Dr. W. Reed Blair, who was hurried over, said he'd be gosh dinged, or something like that, if he'd ever seen the like before. Nine of the 57 didn't seem to appreciate the breathing world and left it. The others perked right up, and now they are crawling all over each other as lively as flame. Blair said they were "doing fine."

R. H. Mole, a newspaper editor in Port of Spain, Trinidad, who sent Big Annie to the zoo, got on the cable almost at the moment of Annie's good fortune, and sent word that he had found the 19 foot mate of Annie, and

should be sent him along. Mr. Ditmars cabled "Sure." But if things keep on the curator fears the zoo may have more anacondas than it really needs.

Old-Time Consumption Cure.

London.—The publication of the final report of the royal commission on tuberculosis recalls the elaborate "cure" for consumption in the past. There is the French "cure," for instance, which Sterne survived. Sterne was taken ill in Paris and the best medical advice was sought. The verdict was consumption. And the prescription proved worse than the malady. First of all, a cockerel had to be procured to be flayed alive and pounded in a mortar. This executed, the result was boiled together with poppy seeds, and to the broth thus spoiled a crawfish was added. Moreover, it was absolutely necessary that it should be a male crawfish, otherwise the doctor would not guarantee the "cure." And Sterne took his gruel like an Englishman and still lived on!

Whistles to Replace Bells.

New York.—The clang of the bells on fire apparatus soon will be missing among the street noises of New York. Fire Commissioner Johnson announced the other day that the bells gradually would be replaced by whistles, as it has been found that the shriek of the automobile horn carries its warning for many blocks, while the fire bell usually can be heard in a noisy section of the city during the day only for a city block.

AFTER 7 YEARS SUFFERING

I Was Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Waurika, Okla.—"I had female troubles for seven years, was all run down, and so nervous I could not do anything. The doctors treated me for different things but did me no good. I got so bad that I could not sleep day or night. While in this condition I read of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and began its use and wrote to Mrs. Pinkham for advice. In a short time I had gained my average weight and am now strong and well."—Mrs. SALLIE STEVENS, R. F. D., No. 8, Box 81, Waurika, Okla.

Another Grateful Woman. Huntington, Mass.—"I was in a nervous, run down condition and for three years could find no help. I owe my present good health to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Blood Purifier which I believe saved my life. My doctor knows what helped me and does not say one word against it."—Mrs. MARI JANETTE BATES, Box 134, Huntington, Mass. Because your case is a difficult one, doctors having done you no good, do not continue to suffer without giving Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial. It surely has cured many cases of female ills, such as inflammation, ulceration, displacements, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, that bearing-down feeling, and nervous prostration.

A feeling of superiority is about all the satisfaction some people get out of being good.

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Two things operate to rid us of a friend—pleasure in which we do not need them, and trouble in which we do need them.—Pettit-Senn.

TO DRIVE OUT MALARIA AND BUILD UP THE SYSTEM Take the Old Standard GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILLI TONIC. You know what you are taking. The formula is plainly printed on every bottle, showing it is simply Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form, and the most efficient form. For grown people and children, 25 cents.

Twice Convicted. Another lawyer's story arrives. We are told that a man was charged with picking a pocket the other day and that when arraigned he pleaded "guilty." The case went to the jury, hoggery, and the verdict was "not guilty." And the court spake as follows: "You don't leave this court without a stain on your character. By your own confession you are a thief. By the verdict of the jury, you are a liar."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

MEAN MAN.



"Now, John, if I were to die you would weep over me and tell everybody what a good wife I was." "No, I wouldn't, believe me." "Well, I would for you, just for decency's sake. And that shows I'm not half as mean as you are."

Try For Breakfast—

Scramble two eggs. When nearly cooked, mix in about a half a cup of

Post Toasties

and serve at once—seasoning to taste.

It's immense!

"The Memory Lingers"

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