

AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON!

Senator Quay Finally Secures Test Vote on Statehood Bill.

Anti-Trust Legislation Receiving Much Attention—Other News and Gossip of the Capitol.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., JAN. 29, 1903.—Senator Quay has finally succeeded in securing the test vote in the Senate for which he has long been striving and has thus demonstrated that the Statehood bill has a clear majority of ten votes, 25 democrats and 12 republicans outvoting 27 republicans, with eleven pairs and two absentees recorded. The test vote came on a motion to go into executive session for the consideration of the Cuban treaty. After the vote, Mr. Quay consented to the introduction of a number of bills and then demanded the regular order. The significance of the test vote lies in the fact that the opponents of the Statehood bill are now placed in the position of filibusterers opposing the will of a majority of the Senate, thus proving a charge long made by Mr. Quay and utterly refuting the charge of Senator Beveridge that the Senator from Pennsylvania was "bluffing"

In view of the difficulties attending the displacement of the Statehood bill the republican leaders are seriously contemplating a compromise proposition which so far as framed, provides for the admission of Oklahoma as one state, Congress reserving the right to attach thereto the Indian Territory when the Dawes Commission shall have concluded its work of allotting the Indian lands; and, the admission of Arizona and New Mexico as one state. Just how Mr. Quay would regard this proposition is not known. He has said that he would accept any reasonable compromise which would meet with the approval of the people of the territory but it is claimed that it would be most repugnant to Arizona and New Mexico to be combined under one state government. As the situation now stands all legislation in the Senate is blocked although it is held that the advocates of Statehood will not prevent the consideration of the regular appropriation bills.

The sub-committee of the House appointed to draft an anti-trust measure has concluded its labors and will today report to the Judiciary Committee a measure which has received the sanction of the President and the Attorney-General. The bill provides that power of supervision over corporations doing an interstate business, shall be vested in the Interstate Commerce Commission and there is likely to occur conflict with the Senate which desires to place such powers in the hands of the Bureau of Corporations of the proposed Department of Commerce and Labor. The House sub-committee anticipates that a favorable report on its measure will be submitted. The committee on Rules has already drawn up a special order which will facilitate the passage of the bill in the House.

In the Senate the subject of anti-trust legislation is receiving an amount of attention most remarkable in view of the fact that early in the session the leaders predicted that there would be none such during the short term. Three bills are in course of preparation. Ever since the Senate determined that some anti-trust measure must be enacted there has been strong rivalry among the Senators as to who should reap the glory of dealing with the octopus. Senator Hoar, by tactics unprecedented in the procedure of the Senate, secured the reference to his committee—Judiciary—his anti-trust bill notwithstanding the fact that it dealt largely with interstate commerce. This was accomplished by having his bill entered on the record and securing leave to print with the statement that the bill had been "read twice in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee" before the measure was even drafted.

Senator Elkins, chairman, and other members of the committee on interstate commerce, regarded themselves as particularly slighted by the reference of the trust bills to Mr. Hoar's committee and a short time ago they met in secret session and appointed a sub-committee to draft a trust bill which would meet with the recommendations of the Attorney General in so far as they affected interstate commerce, rebates on transportation charges, etc. This bill was introduced and referred to the committee and will shortly make its appearance on the floor of the Senate.

Just after the holiday recess Senator Hoar appointed a sub-committee to draft a trust bill but determined to wait the arrival of the House measure with a view to using that as the basis for the committee bill. Learning, however, of the plans of the Elkins committee the Judiciary sub-committee has gotten to work and is now preparing its own bill. The committee on Commerce has also determined that it ought to take a hand and accordingly when the bill creating a Department of Commerce was sent over from the House it was referred to that committee with the expectation that the powers of the proposed Bureau of Corporations would be defined in an amendment along such lines as to meet the recommendations of the Attorney-General that a commission be appointed to exercise supervision over all corporations doing an interstate business. With this wealth of trust bills, however, it is not certain that any but the latter will pass and that will meet with serious objection in the House.

Minister Bowen has arrived in Washington from Venezuela, with plenipotentiary powers to conduct a settlement. Unfortunately the conditions he finds here are not as encouraging as he had hoped they would be. The Powers still insist that the claims of each shall be settled separately and ad referendum; that is that the home governments must be consulted with regard to every move. The first and most earnest effort of Mr. Bowen will be to secure the removal of the blockade, but even that promises to be a tedious undertaking unless the attitude of the Powers changes materially. The hope is expressed in official circles that the belligerency of Germany may so disgust Great Britain as to prompt the latter to seek an early escape from the compromising attitude in which Germany has succeeded in placing her.



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