

## The World of Moving Events

On last Monday President Wilson for the second time presented himself before a joint session

### President's Wilson's Currency Message.

of both Houses of Congress assembled in the hall of the House of Representatives and delivered a message urging currency reform. The same marked and earnest attention was given the President at this reading as when he first appeared before Congress and read his tariff message. Mr. Wilson began his speech by gracefully suggesting that Congressmen should subordinate personal comfort to the public good. Some of the most significant parts of the message are the following:

"It is absolutely imperative that we should give the business men of this country a banking and currency system by means of which they can make use of the freedom of enterprise and of individual initiative which we are about to bestow upon them.

"We are about to set them free; we must not leave them without the tools of action when they are free. We are about to set them free by removing the trammels of the protective tariff. It is perfectly clear that it is our duty to supply the new banking and currency system the country needs, and that it will immediately need it more than ever.

"The only question is, When shall we supply it?—now, or later, after the demands shall have become reproaches that we were so dull and so slow? Shall we hasten to change the tariff laws and then be laggards about making it possible and easy for the country to take advantage of the change? There can be only one answer to that question. We must act now, at whatever sacrifice to ourselves. It is a duty which the circumstances forbid us to postpone.

"The principles upon which we should act are also clear. The country has sought and seen its path in this matter within the last few years—sees it more clearly now than it ever saw it before—much more clearly than when the last legislative proposals on the subject were made. We must have a currency, not rigid as now, but readily, elastically responsive to sound credit, the expanding and contracting credits of every-day transactions, the normal ebb and flow of personal and corporate dealings. Our banking laws must mobilize reserves; must not permit the concentration anywhere in a few hands of the monetary resources of the country or their use for speculative purposes in such volume as to hinder or impede or stand in the way of other more legitimate, more fruitful uses. And the control of the system of banking and of issue which our new laws are to set up must be public, not private, must be vested in the government itself, so that the banks may be the instruments, not the masters, of business and of individual enterprise and initiative."

Bills which incorporate the ideas of the President are in preparation and will be presented in each House of Congress this week.

On last Sunday representatives of the American Bankers' Association were in conference in

### Bankers on New York with the Bill.

Senator Owen with Senator Owen, who is Chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee. According to Senator Owen the chief objection of the bankers is to the Government control of the new banking and currency system but he insists that such control is a government function and that no change

will be made in this respect. Another objection of the bankers is that they want the new currency issued by the proposed Federal Reserve Board and not by the Treasury. Here again Senator Owen is able to show that business will be on a safer basis by following the plan proposed in the bill. It seems that the bankers thought much better of the bill after the conference.

On last Friday the Senate Finance Committee laid the Underwood Tariff Bill as revised by the

### The Tariff. Senate Committee before a caucus of the Democratic Senators. Important reductions in the Underwood Tariff Bill rates on iron, steel, and other metal products; the addition of cattle, wheat, pig iron, Angora wool and many other articles to the free list and an increase in rates on many classes of cotton goods and some silk products were the chief features of the revised tariff bill. The Democratic Senators will, with the exception of those the Louisiana support the Senate. The sugar schedule has now been reached, and over it a strenuous battle is in progress. With regard to the other schedules there seems to be practical agreement. It is probable that the bill will be reported to the Senate about July 1. Last week "a joker" was found in the tariff bill which would have operated to keep all sugars, both raw and refined, highly taxed.

The sensation of the week was caused last Saturday by the resignation of District Attorney McNab, of California, which he telegraphed to President Wilson, and at the same time made public. The most significant part of the telegram is as follows:

"I am ordered by the Attorney-General, over my protest, to postpone until autumn the trials of Maury Diggs and Drew Caminetti, indicted for a hideous crime, which has ruined two girls and shocked the moral sense of the people of California, and this after I have advised the Department of Justice that attempts had been made to corrupt the Government witnesses and friends of the defendants are publicly boasting that the wealth and political prominence of the defendants' relatives will procure my hand to be stayed through influence at Washington. In these cases two girls were taken from cultured homes, bullied and frightened into going to a foreign State and were ruined and debauched by the defendants, who abandoned their wives and infants to commit the crime."

Both Caminetti and Diggs belong to very prominent families, and the father of Caminetti has been appointed Commissioner-General of Immigration by President Wilson. McNab also declares that unless ordered by the Department at Washington he was told not to prosecute the directors of the Western Fuel Company who are charged with having cheated the Government out of hundreds of thousands of dollars on imported coal. In Washington Secretary Wilson of the Department of Labor took full responsibility. To an outsider his action in securing postponement seems a piece of unjustifiable official interference. Attorney-General McReynolds had only this to say:

"There is every intention of prosecuting all these cases. They will be taken care of in due time by capable officials. No interest will suffer by their postponement."

Mr. McNob is a Republican whose term of office would soon have expired. In resigning now he has made his exit dramatic, but has perhaps done the cause of justice a service. At the request of President Wilson Attorney-General McReynolds will prepare a full report. On Monday the President received a telegram from Clayton Harrington, special agent of the Department of Justice in California, demanding that Attorney-General McReynolds be removed from office.

On June 23 President Wilson signed the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill which contains a provision forbidding the

### President Wilson Signs Bill Exempting Labor.

use of any part of a specified appropriation for prosecution of unions of labor and farmers for violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. For this reason President Wilson had been strongly urged by a large and influential part of the press to veto this bill as President Taft had vetoed a similar bill. President Wilson makes a statement in which he says that if he could have separated the item in question from the other items of the bill, he would have vetoed it. He also states: "I have signed this bill because I can do so without in fact limiting the opportunity or the power of the Department of Justice to prosecute violations of the law, by whomsoever committed."

The dirt is still flying at Panama. According to official figures the quantity of earth excavated in May was 2,779,532 cubic yards, a daily average of 106,985 cubic yards, which is equivalent to removing daily enough earth to fill a ditch sixty miles long, three feet wide and three feet deep.

But all is not going so well at Panama. The latest mishap reported is that a crack has appeared in one of the big lock dams that will cost \$1,500,000 to repair. The canal engineers, however, hope that the crack is only a minor one. They say that it was due to a slight settling of the masonry.—The most discouraging thing about the digging of the canal is that water disintegrates the rock through which the canal is cut. Owing to this no solid foundation can be gained for any structure. To the same reason have been due the enormous slides of earth that have repeatedly filled the canal, and the upheavals of earth in its bottom. The banks have been given more and more slope, but even now no security is felt against a repetition of the landslides. The canal will be a success if engineering skill can make it so, but it may be necessary after all to dig a canal at Nicaragua, and this is probably the reason our Government has been so careful to obtain paramount rights in that country.

At Annapolis, on June 20, Ensign William D. Billingsley was hurled 1,600 feet from a disabled flying machine

### Aviation Notes.

into Chesapeake bay, meeting instant death. Lieutenant John A. Towers, chief of the navy aviators, who was making the flight with Billingsley, clung to a piece of the disabled machine and escaped with his life.—In St. Louis, on June 18, an aviator named Jamus with another man aboard flew twenty-four miles in eighteen minutes, averaging more than seventy-nine miles an hour, the fastest time ever made in America by a machine carrying two passengers.—On June 17 a French aviator, named Maulvais, completed his 1,600 mile flight from Paris to Saint Petersburg, one

of the longest and most daring flights on record. He covered the last three hundred miles in three and one-half hours in the face of a strong head wind.—Nearly all nations are busy with providing flying machines for purposes of warfare. It is said that Austria has ordered six large balloons of the Zeppelin type.—At Vienna, Austria, on June 22, two aeroplanes collided when about one hundred feet above the ground. The three occupants of the machines fell but escaped death. Later in the day a woman aviator fell with her machine but was not hurt.

Attorney-General McReynolds has declared the Webb law regarding interstate shipments of liquor not a criminal statute, and has sent

instructions to all United States attorneys to begin no prosecutions under it. "Its purpose," says the Attorney-General, "is to permit State laws to operate in respect of intoxicating liquors moving in interstate commerce." In this connection it may be noted that the destruction of blockade stills goes on at a lively pace in North Carolina. On one day last week seven were destroyed in one section of the State.

Senator Overman's committee which was investigating lobbying in Washington has ad-

Result of  
Lobby  
Investigation. President Wilson was entirely justified in his

characterization of the lobbies as dangerous and insidious. Many agents of the sugar interest receive from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year for their part in influencing legislation. They have got their matter printed at Government expense and franked through the mails. They have also kept up a campaign to make the press of the country friendly to their interests.

On June 19, Chief Justice White, of the United States Supreme Court, granted a rehearing to Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell, and Frank Morrison, who had been adjudged guilty of contempt of court and sentenced to terms in jail, because in defiance of an injunction of the court they had ordered a boycott of the Bucks Stove and Range Company. Mr. Gompers has been very ill for several weeks.

The reunion of Union and Confederate soldiers at Gettysburg on the fiftieth anniversary of the battle promises to be largely attended and of much interest.

The number of old soldiers present is expected to exceed \$50,000. The National Government has made an appropriation of \$150,000. The State of Pennsylvania is also making an appropriation, while many States are providing funds to pay the railroad fare of the veterans.

On last Sunday two boys, aged eleven and nine years, were carried over Niagara rapids in an old scow in which they ventured a few

yards from shore. Hundreds of men and women were on the bank looking helplessly on.—In an excursion wreck on the same day near Rochester, N. Y., one person was killed and thirty-seven injured.—Nine were drowned on last Monday when a Government survey steamer capsized and went to the bottom of the Mississippi River at Madrid, Mo.—On June 19, fourteen persons met their death by a collision of electric cars at Vallejo, California. Confusion of orders is said to have been the cause of the wreck.