

Comas, Penrose, Perkins, Platt of Connecticut, Proctor, Ross, Scott, Sewall, Shoup, Simon, Warren, Wetmore, Wolcott (republicans), Jones of Nevada (silver), and Stewart (independent).

This significant vote on the trust question had been preceded only the day before by one on the South African war. On the 30th Senator Pettigrew, of South Dakota, called up his resolution on this subject and moved its immediate consideration; but his motion was defeated, the vote being 20 in the affirmative and 29 in the negative. Those voting for the motion were Bate, Berry, Clay, Jones of Arkansas, Kenney, McEnnery, Martin, Vest (democrats), Allen, Harris, Heitfeld, Turner (populists), Chandler, Hale, Hoar, McCumber, Mason, Pettigrew, Ross (republicans), and Teller (independent). The senators voting against the motion to consider the resolution were Aldrich, Allison, Bard, Carter, Clark of Wyoming, Davis, Fairbanks, Foster, Frye, Gallinger, Gear, Hawley, Kean, Lodge, McComas, Nelson, Penrose, Perkins, Platt of Connecticut, Platt of New York, Sewell, Shoup, Warren, Wolcott (republicans), Jones of Nevada (silver), Stewart (independent), Morgan, Pettus and Sullivan (democrats). The resolution so pigeon-holed was as follows:

Whereas, from the hour of achieving their own independence the people of the United States have regarded with sympathy the struggles of other peoples to free themselves from European domination; therefore be it resolved, that we watch with deep and abiding interest the heroic battle of the South African republics against cruelty and oppression, and our best hopes go out for the full success of their determined contest for liberty.

Another subject of general interest which has come under the consideration of congress during the week is the question of an interoceanic ship canal. The long story of this agitation, extending from early in the 16th century, was summarized in these columns some 15 months ago. The summary will be found in No. 43 at page 8. There is a question between a sea level canal through the isthmus of Panama, and one with locks across the mountains of Nicaragua. On the 21st of January, 1899, the senate passed a bill for a government canal by the Nicaragua route, and during the present week a bill authorizing the

building of a canal by that route to be controlled by the United States came before the lower house. A great deal of opposition was developed, not to the idea of a canal but to this particular project. Mr. Hepburn, chairman of the interstate commerce committee, was the principal advocate of the bill. He conceded that it would disregard the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 50 years ago, which stipulates that neither England nor the United States exclusively shall control any ship canal between the two oceans, and also the recent Hay-Pauncefote treaty, which is not yet ratified; but his idea seemed to be that congress may with impunity disregard the old Clayton-Bulwer treaty as obsolete, and he assumed that if this bill were passed by an overwhelming vote in the lower house the senate would regard it as a popular mandate and refuse to confirm the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. The strongest opposition was to the purpose of the bill to Americanize the canal, it being insisted that the canal ought to be neutral. The bill came to a vote on the 2nd, and was passed by 225 to 35.

A joint resolution regarding the Puerto Rican government bill was also an important congressional matter of the week. The conferees of the two houses, which were in disagreement over the subject, came to terms on the 30th, and on the same day both houses adopted their report. The necessity for this resolution was caused by an oversight in the government act, whereby the present officials in Puerto Rico were legislated out of office from May 1, though in many cases they could not be replaced for months to come. The president, therefore, addressed a special message to congress, and the resolution noted above was the result. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the republicans of the house, who had reluctantly voted for the Puerto Rican bill, proposed an amendment, one calculated to draw the fangs of the franchise clause of the act. It was over this that the conferees fought, Senators Foraker and Perkins insisting upon retaining the original franchise provisions. They were obliged to yield, however, when the house conferees threatened to defeat the joint resolution altogether if their franchise amendment were not accepted. It was accordingly adopted. Under this amendment all

railroad, street railway, telegraph and telephone franchises, privileges or concessions in Puerto Rico must be approved by the president of the United States before becoming operative; and all franchises, privileges or concessions must provide that they shall be subject to amendment, alteration or repeal. Moreover, the issue of stock or bonds except for cash at par or its equivalent is forbidden, as is the declaring of stock dividends; and in the case of public service corporations their charges are to be subject to regulation, and their property to purchase "by the public authorities at a fair valuation." There are clauses, also, which are intended to prevent the acquisition by corporations of large landed estates in Puerto Rico; and the restrictions of the amendment are made applicable to corporations not organized in Puerto Rico as well as to those that may be.

The American civil governor of Puerto Rico, Charles N. Allen, arrived there on the 27th, and on the 1st he was inaugurated. The Associated Press describes the ceremonies as impressive and the enthusiasm of the people as "greater than expected," while the staff correspondent of the Chicago Record says that "a lack of enthusiasm was noticeable."

May day was celebrated by labor organizations in the United States, especially by the socialists. In Chicago it was made the occasion of ratifying the fusion of the socialist labor party with the social democratic party and the nomination of Debs and Harriman for president and vice president. The New York papers report 30,000 workers in the parade in that city. Many of the banners bore the names of Debs and Harriman. On the other side of the ocean, a good deal of relief was expressed by the press at being able to report orderly conduct in the cities in which police interference has usually excited disorder in connection with these May day demonstrations. On this occasion the European police everywhere appear for the first time to have refrained from all irritating interference.

NEWS NOTES.

—President McKinley on the 30th signed the Hawaiian territorial bill.

—An explosion in a coal mine near Scofield, Utah, on the 1st caused the death of more than 260 miners.

—Michael Munkacsy, the Hungarian artist, whose fame is identified with