

New Mexico as states, which only passed the House, but have been made a special order in the Senate for the early days of the next session; and the bill for reducing the tariff on imports from Cuba, which passed the House but was pigeon-holed in the Senate. Another bill to pass the House, but which met a temporary check in the Senate, was the Fowler banking measure, to be taken up next winter; while the anti-anarchy bills, of which there was an avalanche early in the session, were all lost in a dispute between the two houses. The proposed amendment to the constitution providing for the election of senators directly by the people passed the House but received no attention in the Senate; and a Senate measure for the creation of a department of commerce with its chief in the President's cabinet, was stalled in committee in the House.

The enactment of the Isthmian canal bill, noted above, had not been accomplished at our last report upon this subject (p. 187), although it was then understood that the conference committee of the two Houses had agreed to accept the Senate measure. This proves to have been true, and on the 26th of June the House adopted the conference report by a vote of 255 to 8. It was of course adopted by the Senate, and on the 29th the President signed the bill. As explained last week, this measure authorizes the President to acquire for the United States all the rights of the "New Panama Canal Co." of France, including the Panama Railroad Co., or at least 68,863 of its shares, for not more than \$40,000,000; also to acquire from the Republic of Colombia perpetual control of a strip of land 6 miles wide across the Isthmus of Panama for such sum as may be agreed upon; and, also, thereupon, to construct a canal across the Isthmus of Panama for vessels of the largest tonnage and greatest draft now in use. If the President should be unable to acquire the rights mentioned above within a reasonable time, then he is to adopt the Nicaragua route.

Another of the important bills the passage of which is mentioned above in connection with the work of the congressional session just terminated, was a subject of heated debate up to the close. It is the Lodge bill for the government of the Philippine islands. At the time of our last report (p. 187)

this bill had come down to the House, and that body was proposing to amend by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting a bill of its own. On the 27th the question came to a vote and the amendment was adopted—141 to 97. It was a strict party vote except that Mr. McCall, a Republican of Massachusetts, voted with the Democrats. Mr. McCall had offered an amendment indicating that the United States does not intend to retain permanent sovereignty over the islands; but, although this was solidly supported by the Democrats and by one Republican besides himself, Mr. Littlefield, of Maine, it was voted down. The Senate refusing to concur in the substitute adopted by the House, a conference committee of the two Houses was appointed and on the 30th its report came before the lower house, where it was adopted, again by a strict party vote, with the exception of Mr. McCall, who once more voted with the Democrats, the vote being 149 to 92. The Senate adopted the conference report on the 1st of July and the President immediately signed the bill. As thus enacted, the bill allows appeals from the island courts to the Supreme Court of the United States in cases involving \$25,000 or more. The President is required to call an election for a popular assembly within two years after the completion of a census, to be taken in his discretion, provided general peace and good order shall have prevailed meanwhile. Public lands are to be open to homesteaders as in the United States, and the amount of land to be held by a corporation is not to exceed 2,500 acres, while restrictions are imposed upon corporate interests in mining and agricultural lands. The intent and effect of these regulatory provisions of the law are, as explained upon the floor of the House by Mr. Cooper, of Wisconsin, as chairman of the committee on insular affairs, to make it "absolutely impossible to exploit the islands." Provisions are inserted for bonding in order to buy out the friars. On the subject of coinage both Houses receded, the Senate abandoning its silver coinage clause and the House its gold standard clause, provision being made, instead, for minor silver coinage.

Prior to adjournment on the 1st, Senator Carmack endeavored to secure the adoption of a resolution authorizing the Philippine committee

to sit during the recess and to visit the Philippine islands in prosecution of its inquiries. This resolution was in furtherance of the purposes of the Adams memorial (p. 191); but no action was taken.

The question of buying the friars' lands, with which the Philippine government act also deals, is in its present stages in the hands of Gov. Taft and a papal commission in Rome. The commission was appointed by the pope on the 13th, and consists of Cardinals Rampolla, Vanutelli, Vives y Tuto, Gotti and Steinhuber. They met on the 17th to consider Gov. Taft's proposals, which are in substance as follows:

1. United States to purchase the lands belonging to the friars, the price to be fixed by arbitration.
2. Arbiters to decide the indemnity United States is to pay for the occupation of ecclesiastical buildings.
3. Above propositions absolutely conditional on the withdrawal of the friars.
4. If accepted United States is to give a deed or by law grant a patent for ecclesiastical buildings on public lands.
5. To settle by compromise or arbitration the several trusts for schools, hospitals, etc., claimed on the one hand by the civil, and on the other by the church, authorities.

The commission delivered its reply to Gov. Taft on the 21st, but the document has not yet been made public, and negotiations are still in progress.

The most important European news of the week is the renewal of the famous compact between Austria, Germany and Italy, known as the "Dreibund" or triple alliance. This alliance was originally between Austria and Germany, Italy being sympathetic but not a party. It was made in 1879, by way of defense on the part of Austria against the threatening attitude of Russia toward the Balkan region and on the part of Germany against the unconcealed enmity of France, and is regarded as the cause of what is believed to be a dual alliance between France and Russia. Strained relations between France and Italy caused Italy to join the "Dreibund" actively when it was renewed in 1882. It was renewed again in 1891 and again in 1896, and would have expired in 1903 but for the renewal of last week, which was signed at Berlin on the 28th in secret conference between the imperial chancellor, Count von Buelow in behalf of Germany;