



NATIONAL.

The most important event of the past week was the sending of the President's message to Congress, on Monday, Dec. 7. About one-fourth of the message deals with a compact and powerful justification of his action on the Panama Canal matter. He shows that revolutionary proceedings had occurred often and that the government of the Columbia had been unable to put them down. "Under such circumstances," he says, "the government of the United States would have been guilty of folly and weakness amounting in their sum to a crime if it had acted otherwise than it did." Other recommendations in the message are, an appropriation for the enforcement of the anti-trust laws, and for the prosecution of offenders against the government, especially in postal and land frauds. The President declares that labor and capital should be kept within bounds and expresses his belief in the right of a worker to dispose of his labor in any lawful way that he may choose. He recommends the establishment of a commission to investigate the decline of merchant marine, and says that naturalization abuses must be stamped out.

The first regular session of the Fifty-eighth Congress began at noon Monday, the extraordinary session merging directly into it. The result of this are some complications as to the effect on appointments, as to whether or not they are recess appointments. Most interest is taken in the appointments of Wood and Crum.

The President has appointed a commission to consider all the land laws of the United States, with the object of the codification of the statutes now on the books and a general rearrangement to fit the conditions. Great power has been given to the board.

Governor Odell appears to be the leader of the Republican party in New York and Senator Platt no longer leads the organization. This is shown by

the fact that Bruce, the senator's president of the Republican County Committee has been forced out, and that Dunn, his chairman of the State Committee, will probably go next spring.

Governor Peabody of Colorado has issued a proclamation declaring Cripple Creek under martial law and suspending the writ of habeas corpus. He declares that the gold camp is in a state of insurrection and rebellion, and that the civil authorities are powerless. A censorship of the press has been established.

Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, the successor of Sir Michael Henry Herbert as the ambassador of Great Britain to the United States, has presented his credentials and has been formally received by President Roosevelt.

FOREIGN.

The Canal Treaty has been ratified by the Panama Junta and has been transmitted to the United States Senate. The new Republic has been recognized by Germany and by Russia, and Denmark is about to follow.

Minister Powell in San Domingo has informed General Morales, president of the provisional government, that the United States could only recognize the provisional government when it agreed strictly to observe all the engagements with it entered into by former governments.

The Spanish cabinet has resigned, owing to the Republican opposition to the passage of the budget bill.

The growth of population in Germany for 1902, was 902,312 or 15.61 per 1,000—the greatest known.

GENERAL.

Owing to financial difficulties Zion City, Ill., has been placed in the hands of receivers. These difficulties have increased rapidly since the failure of Dowie's New York crusade. His factories were not doing well and his followers did not respond to his appeal for aid. Zion City was founded about two years ago as the headquarters for Dowie's Church, and has a population of about 10,000. Dowie is taking steps to settle with all immediate creditors, arrange with others on a time basis and end the receivership.