PROGRAM FOR THE SENATE.

With Only Twelve More Days of the Session There.

ARE MANY IMPORTANT BILLS

Army Reorganization Bill Is the One Most Important Measure Upon Which to Act.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The week will be a busy one in the Senate. With only twelve days of the session left, all senators appreciate the necessity of very strict and close attention to business in order to get through the bills which all admit must become laws, in order to prevent an extra session of Congress.

Very rarely has it occurred that there have been so many important measures on the Senate calendar so short a time before the final adjournment of the last session of a Congress. There are, however, only comparatively few of these bills, outside of the appropriation bills, which must necessarily be acted upon before adjournment, and if the money amount of these with the same facility that it was used in getting rid of other important bills during the past week the senate will be cleared up in good order and with time to spare.

The army reorganization bill and the canal bill are, in reality, the only two measures, aside from the appropriation bills, upon which Senate action which could soon be absolutely necessary. The census bill has passed both houses and it now is in conference, and is reasonably sure of enactment in some shape. The army bill is yet to receive the attention of the Senate. Other bills, some of which will be pressed, to a certain extent, are the Alaskan code bill, the Hawaiian Territorial organization bill, and various other bills pertaining to Hawaii.

ARMY BILL STRUGGLE.

A contest over the army bill, which was promised for last week, was postponed until the present week, largely because the senate, at the first days of the week prevented consideration of the bill by the military committee. Senator Hawley, chairman of the committee on military affairs, has given notice that he will seek to have the bill taken up for consideration immediately after the disposal of the routine business Monday morning. He will first ask for unanimous consent to take up the bill, and if this is refused will make a motion to that effect.

There is no probability that the bill will not be taken up, as the Democrats, as well as the Republicans, concede the necessity for some legislation increasing the army to cover the present emergency. With the bill once before the senate, Senator Cockrell will proceed to give the reasons of the opposition to a permanent increase in the army, and he will be followed by other senators in the opposition as long as no disposition is evinced to bring the matter to a vote. There are some portions of the House bill.

The vital point of difference between the two sides of the chamber is the duration of time for which the increase of the army is made. Republicans desire that it shall be permanent and the Democrats refuse to make it more than temporary. The latter declare that they will not abandon their position, and say that whatever is done must be done with this understanding.

Some of the friends of the bill have suggested the acceptance of the House bill, with an amendment making the increase for only a specified time, but the Democrats generally manifest a disposition not to accept this change, as they say it would pave the way open for the Republicans to get the legislation they want in the next Congress by enrolling it with other provisions. So far no tangible basis for a compromise has been suggested on either side, but some of the more influential members of the Senate are working to that end, and the prediction is freely made that they will succeed before the close of the session.

LOCK HORNS TODAY.

It has never been supposed that any common ground would be found until the close of the session on the two sides here an opportunity to test the metal of each others weapons. This opportunity will come Monday, and it is expected that on Tuesday a chance will be found for a conference looking to an agreement. This opportunity will be afforded by taking up the river and harbor bill, if present plans are carried into effect.

Of the supply bills, the Senate now has before it only the postoffice appropriation bill and the river and harbor bill. Of these the postoffice bill has received earlier attention, and the river and harbor bill some. It is expected that the sundry civil bill will be reached in the week. The river and harbor bill will probably occupy considerable discussion, and there will be an effort to defeat the Nicaragua canal amendment as a point of order.

There are still four important appropriation bills, namely, the army, sundry civil, fortifications and deficiency, which have not yet been received from the House and Senate committees.

Senator Cullom says he will make an effort to get up the general bill providing for a form of "Statury" for Hawaii, the chances of success are very slim. Senator Pettibone will also undertake to get up a bill abolishing the alien interest land laws in Hawaii. There may be an effort to amend this measure, so as to allow the Senate Committee will continue to press the Alaskan code, if the opportunity offends. The Samoan-Sulloy controversy will remain quiet up to executive session. The anti-washing bill will be slaughtered.

For the rest, there are many minor bills on the calendar which will give the Senate plenty to do when it is not engaged with the more momentous legislation. Wednesday will be devoted to the reading of Washington's Farewell Address and to eulogies on the late Senator Morrill.

IN THE HOUSE.

The House enters into the last two weeks of the session tomorrow with the three appropriation bills, the army, fortifications and general deficiency, unreported from the naval bill but half completed. The army bill must be held back until the Senate decides upon its action, whether to the reorganization bill, but it is not anticipated that either of the other bills will cause trouble.

The position in the House has, however, been greatly complicated by the action of the Senate in placing the Nicaragua canal bill upon the river and harbor bill as a rider. This will doubtless provoke a bitter fight in the House and may result in the loss of the bill.

While the failure of the river and harbor bill will not make an extra session incumbent, the contest over it will doubtless lead to bad blood and produce friction which may make it all the more difficult with the other measures which must be necessarily pass, to avoid an extraordinary session. The conference reports on all the big appropriation bills are yet to be adopted, and if the Senate insists some of them down as it has the river and harbor bill, stormy times in the House are inevitable during the closing days.

The last six days of the session, fortunately, are suspension days, under which any proposition can be forced to a vote after twenty minutes' debate on a side. Tomorrow is also suspension day under the rule, and advantage will be taken of it to pass the bill for the payment of $75,000.00 to Spain to carry out the terms of the Paris treaty.

Under suspension of the rules motions are not in order, so that the House will have no opportunity to vote upon any of the numerous expressions of future policy with which various members threatened it. Mr. Griffin of Massachusetts and others gave notice of amendments they would ask the House to vote on as an expression with the appropriation before it was withdrawn from the sundry civil bill, yet they must now wait for an opportunity on appropriations, or repeals. When adjourned only with the alternative of voting against the appropriation, it is not likely that half a dozen votes will be recorded against it, although a declaration against the permanent annexation of the Philippines would undoubtedly command well high the entire strength of the Democratic and Populistic representatives, as well as some Republican votes.

The members interested in the public buildings bill favorably acted upon last week in the committee of the whole have persuaded Speaker Reed to give them an opportunity to pass them in the House, and he will tomorrow recognize Mr. Meriam, chairman of the committee on public buildings and grounds, to move the passage, under suspension of rules, of the bill. He will make a day later in the week for their consideration.

Chairman Knox of the committee on territories, together with Mr. Gillespie, chairman of the committee on foreign affairs, who was on the Hawaiian commission, are meeting strenuously on the legislation necessary for the passage of the bill for the government of Hawaii at this session, and Speaker Reed said the committee on rules will give this matter consideration early in the week.

MILLER WINS THE RACE.

Chicago Optimate Maintains His Title of Champion Long Distance Rider.

San Francisco, Feb. 19.—The greatest six-day bicycle race ever run ended tonight at the Mechanics' pavilion, and Charles W. Miller, the Chicago gentleman, maintains his position as the long-distance champion of the world. Contrary to general expectation, there was no sprinting among the leaders during the evening, and the finish of the contest, which has caused much excitement in athletic circles, was comparatively tame.

Men took their six of the riders best all previous records, and more miles might have been rolled off had there been any incentive to do so. But as all the men, excepting Guinn and Hale, were separated by distances too great to be overcome, the leaders, by mutual agreement decided to end the race ahead of the schedule time, which, however, was two hours longer than that of any previous six-day contest. The famous events in Madison Square garden, New York, only lasted 142 hours, while the riders at the Mechanics' pavilion continued their struggle for supremacy for 144 hours and 2 minutes.

There were no incidents during the evening to arouse the 7,000 spectators to outbursts of enthusiasm, though much sympathy was expressed for Guinn, the one-time leader, who fell and was removed from the track, but to again return. Teddy Hale, who has been his close friend, for a time refused to ride further, but later on was induced to come on, and finished a little ahead of Guinn's mark.

Fredericks, who was a third position, quit the track and did not respond to the call for the second time, and the Democrats refuse to make it more than temporary. The latter declare that they will not abandon their position, and say that whatever is done must be done with this understanding.

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NOW COMES THE ARMY BILL.

War Department Makes a Plea Regarding the Service.

TWO BILLS CONSIDERED.

Bill and Cockrell Bills—Latter is Unsatisfactory Owing to There Being Not Enough Officers.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The following statement from the war department on pending army legislation and the needs of the service was issued today, with a request for its publication:

On Monday the senate will take up what is now conceded to be the most important subject before Congress—the reorganization of the regular army. The military committee of the senate and of the House have each prepared a bill for its consideration. One of these, the House (known as the Hull) bill, is reported with but few amendments by its chairman, Senator Hawley, an expert in matters relating to military organization. It has been performed by the unanimous consent of the committee, including the Democratic members, in several particulars, the most noteworthy and valuable being, perhaps, the authority for increasing the corps of cadets by 100, and insuring an adequate source of supply for vacant second lieutenancies.

The measure preserves the present organization and slightly strengthens it by adding a second battalion to the cavalry, augments the artillery and creates that arm as a scientific basis exists for such addition, gives to the infantry the much-needed three-battalion organization, and makes only such additions to the staff as are absolutely indispensable.

Under its provisions, entrance to any branch of the military service (except staff) after the candidate for a commission has demonstrated his fitness for it by the satisfactory completion of a competent examining board. There is a clause empowering the President to extend so much of the civil service law according to the necessities of the country, providing for the first time, a scheme which has long since for all modern European military systems.

COCKRELL'S SCHEME.

The other bill is brought forward by Senator Cockrell. Its first section directs the disbandment of the regular army within a specified period after the peace treaty shall have been ratified by Spain. Sections 2 and 3 contain its principal provisions. By the former, authority is conferred for volunteer regiments and companies to be raised until July 1, 1901, while the third section authorizes the President to raise military forces to the number of 35,000 in Cuba, Porto Rico and the islands of the Pacific, to be known, respectively, as the army of Cuba, the army of Porto Rico and the army of the islands of the Pacific, to be composed of the identical volunteers now in the service. Sections 4 and 5 contain no material provisions. By the former, authority is conferred for volunteers to be mustered out in such numbers as may be necessary to keep the strength until July 1, 1901, while the third section authorizes the President to raise military forces to the number of 35,000 in Cuba, Porto Rico and the islands of the Pacific, to be known, respectively, as the army of Cuba, the army of Porto Rico and the army of the islands of the Pacific, to be composed of the identical volunteers now in the service. Sections 4 and 5 contain no material provisions.

No organization is provided in the bill for this force, nor does it determine what relation it should bear to the permanent military establishment of the United States, and no provisions, either military or other, are provided for the person who are to be officers.

The bill does not provide for any additional general officers, greatly needed in the administration of affairs in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines. It would leave the army as now organized, with but three major generals and six brigadier generals, which allows but one general officer for each of the military departments in the United States and one for each of the fighting armies of the nation.

TRAINED STAFF OFFICERS.

Cuba now constitutes a military department, commanded by a major general, and moreover, constitutes six military departments, commanded by general officers of volunteers. In Porto Rico there is a necessity for at least one general officer, and in the Philippines for the general officers already for an army corps, so that if Senator Cockrell's bill should become a law it would leave the army deficient not only in enlisted force, but without any general officers to administer the important duties now devolving upon the government. Moreover, the bill fails to make any provision for the increase in the general staff which is absolutely called for by the necessities of the situation in our new possessions.

The criticism that has been passed upon the department has been the absence of sufficiently trained staff officers. The Cockrell amendment would perpetuate this alleged inadequate.

Besides his staff the president has the adjutant, inspector, quartermaster, subsistence, medical and pay departments would be left with only the exception of the staff organizations that we have had for the administering of affairs in the United States since previous to the declaration of war with Spain.

ARMY NUMBERS 60,000.

The returns of the war department show the strength of the regular army at this time, to be only a few less than 60,000 enlisted men. Of these nearly 15,000 are in Cuba and a little more than or in route to the Philippines, and in Porto Rico 1,700, leaving the total enlisted force in the regular army in the United States 24,000. Of these 6000 are held in readiness for detachments to Cuba and the Philippines, which leaves the total enlisted strength of the army within the United States less than 18,000, or nearly 4,000 less than necessary to furnish a single relief to man the guns now in our seacoast fortifications. It would subject the abandonment of all our posts in the interior, would strip the Indian country of troops and leave none to supply the requirements of an expedition.

The Hawley bill fixes the permanent military establishment at the minimum of 100,000 men that, in the opinion of prevention and wealth of country, is less than fixed by any other act of Congress.

As shown by the last census there was one soldier for every 1,000,000 of population, and there was one soldier for every 41,000,000 in 1890 there was one soldier for every 41,000,000. In 1890 there was one soldier for every 1,000,000.

At the time there is not an officer on duty with any soldier in the United States, notwithstanding the law enactment that there shall be 100 detailed for the instruction of the young men of the country, but the absence of officers from their regiments, the scarcity of recruits and deficiency and of the performance of the regular service in connection with the maintenance of volunteer regiments, compelled the department to detail officers from the regular army to national institutions. Service has been able to attach officers to our volunteer regiments, but the demand for officers for the fighting forces of the nation should be one at every European capital, that there are now but three in all, and that the number of officers participate in the war cannot be reduced.

WHAT HAWLEY PROVIDES.

The passage of the Hawley bill would enable the department to send the necessary number of officers to establish the schools at Fort Leavenworth, the artillery school at Fort Hiley, all of which have been ready for the opening of schools. The passage of the Cockrell bill would discharge at once the employed officers, and would leave the department without officers, commissioned, some of whom are officers of the regular army and some, the department of 1898 and 1899, of staff officers which indispensable for the increased demands put on the department by the war.

The bill reported by senator Hawley provides only for the absolute needs of the service, on the basis of the peace establishment, and the bill reported by Senator Cockrell will compel discharge at once of the employed commissioned officers,