

sugar. A reduction of twenty per cent. was finally passed, though opposed by the beet-sugar interests.

Congress defeated a bill to exclude the Chinese from the United States. The present law will be continued, restricting Chinese immigration by head tax.

A complete system of civil government has been framed for the Philippines, to take effect when the war is at an end.

The purchase by the United States of the Danish West Indies is under final discussion by the Denmark legislature.

The American navy will number, when those now building are completed, 138 ships. Six new ships were determined upon last month, two of which will be the largest in the navy and among the largest afloat.

Wireless telegraphy will be adopted in Alaska. Competitive trials will be made of the Marconi and Slaby-Arco systems.

A combination of the leading Atlantic steamship lines, financed by American capitalists with J. Pierpont Morgan at their head, for the immediate purpose of steadying ocean rates and regulating competition, has given rise to a widespread satisfaction in the United States and a corresponding alarm in England over the increasing influence of American enterprise. Several British lines have been purchased and options secured on others, whose future business will be managed under the general combine. For the present and until existing contracts with the British Admiralty shall have expired, the ships will continue to fly the British flag, it being con-

trary to the United States law to fly the American flag on foreign ships. The promoters of the merger claim to have no ulterior purpose, such as the Americanization of Britain's sea trade, and assert that the combine will have rather a beneficial international effect, but the British people are fearing a general transfer of their commercial and naval auxiliary fleet when the Admiralty contracts have expired, within three or four years, believing that Congress will change the existing law to provide for the expansion of American interests. Germany is equally alarmed at the sudden enterprise being shown by United States capitalists.

The prospects for the wheat crop west of the Missouri are not encouraging. The spring has been a dry one, and it is feared that not more than fifty per cent. of last year's crop will be realized.

Irrigation is one of the great questions in the West. It is estimated that an expenditure of \$40,000,000 would provide support for 30,000,000 people by opening up arid lands. It is not yet settled whether this work properly belongs to the state or federal government.

Preparations are beginning for the Congressional elections next November. The chief grounds of the Democrats *versus* the Republicans will be the conduct of affairs in and concerning Cuba and the Philippines, and the ship subsidies. Generally speaking, the people seem to be satisfied with President Roosevelt and his Government.

OUR OWN COUNTRY

THE WIDE DOMINION

THAT the prosperity of Canada is no delusion is shown by the figures of the Dominion revenue for the nine months ending March 31, which reached \$41,351,818, an increase of nearly three and a half millions over the same period last year. Another evidence of commercial

activity is the recent development of the stock market. The two leading cities, Montreal and Toronto, have become strong stock centres, and the transactions of the past three months have exceeded those of previous years both in volume and enthusiasm. Among the deals have been a large number of native enterprises, while Canadian capital is finding its way also to