

INSURANCE THAT DON'T GO

Auditor Cornell Speaks in Language Most Plain to Mr. Armstrong.

"OVERHEAD INSURANCE."

It Will Not Be Permitted to Be Written in Nebraska—The President of the Manhattan Company Roundly Roasted by the Auditor of Nebraska.

Auditor Cornell is after P. B. Armstrong, president of the Manhattan Fire Insurance company of New York city. In a letter, which is herewith given, he intimates that the company of which Mr. Armstrong is president may just as well retire from business in Nebraska as not and the sooner the better as far as the auditor is concerned.

The difficulty arose over the writing of the "overhead" insurance on large properties by which the home office of the company saved commissions to local agents and also evaded paying a tax on the premiums to the state. Auditor Cornell has for some time been in correspondence with several companies in regard to the matter and they have almost to a one agreed to dispense writing insurance in that manner. The auditor in writing to Mr. Armstrong says that in securing a license for 1898, his company agreed to suspend writing that kind of policies and from correspondence which he has had he rather thinks this was not done. While Nebraska has no resident agency law, the auditor intimates that an agreement should be lived up to. He explains things in the following manner:

P. B. Armstrong, President Manhattan Fire Insurance Co., New York City—Dear Sir: Citizens of this state have frequently called my attention to the practices of eastern insurance companies doing business in Nebraska, in having insurance on property here written through Chicago and New York brokers and agents, entirely disregarding their legally licensed agents in this state. Our statute provides that "insurance agents shall render the list of net premiums for taxation; it is therefore urged that when Nebraska agents do not receive the premiums, our assessors do not meet with the men who receive them, and these premiums for that reason generally escape taxation in this state. This caused me to send a circular letter to eastern companies early this year, requesting that before I re-licensed them for 1898, they should agree to stop this overhead writing, and have all the Nebraska insurance written by Nebraska agents, who could under the law, "be personally held for taxes on the premiums." All but two companies agreed to stop the practice and many of the companies spoke of it as a bad practice, which they were very happy to see discontinued. If Nebraska had a "resident agency law" there would have been no need of trying to effect this agreement between the state and the companies.

Mr. H. F. Neefee, secretary of your company, answered my letter under date of April 12, 1898, as follows: "It is not our intention, now that we have a commissioned and duly authorized agent in your state, to write business there, other than through such agent." I regarded this as all in good faith on your part and accepted it as a contract between your company and the state. I then sent you your license for 1898.

On July 22, 1898, I called attention to your violation of this agreement by insuring property in this state through New York agents. I asked if you would have the kindness to cancel this insurance and have it re-written through your Nebraska agents, so this state could tax the premium. Your reply to me under date of August 9, to say the least, is rude and in several respects it is false. You intimate that "companies pay into your treasury, taxes upon all such premiums received for this overhead insurance." You had our law in hand when you wrote this and knew its falsity quite well. Neither your company nor any eastern company you may mention, pays taxes on premiums into our state treasury.

You convey the idea that you "sent the bulk of our insurance covering the Cudahy plant, to our Omaha agents to be written," and they refused to write it because you placed the rates too low to please them. The truth of the matter is that the New York brokers controlling the line of insurance in question, placed the insurance with your New York office and your office then sent same to your Omaha agents to have the policies written; but they refused to write the policies for the reason that by doing so they would materially help the New York brokers to continue to keep the enormous line of insurance carried by the Cudahy Packing company away from the Omaha local agents, who are as justly entitled to the business, as the state is to the taxes on the premiums.

Your remarks that I have joined an insurance trust to assist in oppressing the people of this state are very silly and unworthy of the president of any great corporation. The people of Nebraska do not need the assistance of outside corporations to keep their present state officers from oppressing them. I stand enjoined by the federal courts now and have been so enjoined for many months because I was considered too active in enforcing anti-trust and anti-combine laws relating to insurance agents.

You intimate that you will withdraw from the state if I insist that you live up to your agreement of April 12. The quicker all persons and corporations that do not regard the sanctity of a contract withdraw from the state, the better for the people of Nebraska. It is plain you obtained your license for 1898 under false pretenses. It cannot be returned any too soon. Parties at South Omaha and New York can manage their own affairs, but they must also manage to pay the taxes due this state so long as I am insurance commissioner.

To this date Nebraska has been an exceptionally fine field for eastern insurance companies. If the next legislative session enacts a strict "resident agency law" and imposes a severe tax upon premiums, imprudent men, like the president of the Manhattan Fire Insurance company, can feel that they

are to blame for it all. The Spectator, the ablest insurance journal in the world, in its issue of August 18, speaks as follows: "Our sympathy for President Armstrong is very much weakened by the unwarranted statements in his letter to Auditor Cornell. Armstrong is by nature and education an iconoclast, more successful in tearing down than in building up, still he might refrain from attempting to prejudice the business that he relies upon for a livelihood."

You believe "there are forty other companies doing overhead insurance" in this state, and defrauding Nebraska of her just revenue. If I can secure a list of such companies I will show you that I treat all alike. If your statements are true in this regard, the quicker Nebraska puts laws on her books to compel insurance companies to deal fairly, the better it will be for all concerned.

When I wrote you July 29, I made a similar request of the Traders' Fire Insurance company of New York. Their answer is worthy of honorable men, quite different from yours. They agree the state has rights which they will respect. Such a spirit of fairness is appreciated.

You have the bad grace to give private correspondence to the press and take special pains to send it to the western papers. I will save you the trouble this time by giving this letter out myself.

Very truly yours,
JOHN F. CORNELL,
Auditor of Public Accounts.
Per SAMUEL LIGHTY.

Bartley in the Laundry.

Ex-State Treasurer J. S. Bartley, says the Lincoln Journal, has been assigned to laundry work in the penitentiary by Warden Leigh. Bartley was suffering from a bad case of granular eyelids when he entered the prison to serve a twenty-year term. He had been receiving treatment long before his trial, but after his sentence was affirmed by the supreme court his eyes became worse and it was reported that he would be unable to perform hard labor. The warden did not make the assignment until the prison physician examined Bartley and gave him a physical rating. Recently Bartley's eyes began to improve. The change was so marked that some ventured the opinion that his eyes had not been given proper treatment while he was in the Douglas county jail. It is said this is the belief of the penitentiary physician. While some believe the story and pretend to assign a motive, others are satisfied to give their opinion of Bartley in general and assert that many of them would dislike to cure a patient too speedily when the patient evinced a desire to pay good round fees for treatment.

Bartley's department is much the same as it was while he was in the Douglas county jail. He continues to attend strictly to his own business. He has no cell mate, has received no visitors and seldom communicates with others. His work in the laundry is said to be satisfactory. He helps wash and iron. The washing is done by machinery and it is a part of his duty to place the garments in the machine and remove them at the proper time. The ironing is done after the old-fashioned manner, by big, heavy flat irons. Some skill and muscle is required in the operation. Garments belonging to convicts and guards go through the laundry and Bartley handles his share of them, whether they be coarse striped goods or fine white shirts. He still wears glasses to protect his eyes, but his poor sight does not appear to interfere with his work. He has never made a complaint to the warden and he observes the rules of the penitentiary strictly.

Nebraska Medals for Fruit.

Superintendent Youngers of the Nebraska fruit exhibit, says the Omaha Bee, is furnishing some conclusive evidence that this is not the first exhibition where the state has been in the lead in the way of showing first-class fruit. The evidence is in the form of bronze and silver medals, all of which are in a case close to the fruit tables and under lock and key.

The first medal Nebraska won on its fruit was at a horticultural exhibit in Baltimore in 1871. This was on a general exhibit. The next was in Boston in 1873, and was given on account of the largest variety of pears being shown by any one state. At that time Nebraska had forty-three varieties on exhibition. The first prize was awarded in 1876, at the Centennial, when the state was given a medal for the best collection of grapes. Prior to this time the state had won medals at Boston and Philadelphia, where it had shown its fruits.

Hot and Dry.

The weather of the past week, says the last Nebraska crop bulletin, has been much like that of the week which preceded it and the results have been much the same. In the northern counties the week has been very favorable. Corn has matured rapidly and has not suffered from the hot, dry weather. The yield will be reduced somewhat in most other counties as a result of the heat and lack of moisture. Threshing from shock is about finished. The weather has been so favorable that very little or no grain has been damaged in the shock. Fall plowing is well advanced, but the ground is now getting too dry and plowing has about stopped. A very little wheat and rye have been sown, but generally seeding will be delayed till after a rain.

Killed at Manila.

Oseola dispatch: There have been so many reports in relation to the death of William Lewis and people here were so anxious to know the truth that a telegram was sent to the war department to have the mystery cleared up, and yesterday Postmaster Campbell received a reply from Secretary of War Meikeljohn saying that William P. Lewis was killed while in the trenches before Manila on the night of August 2 by the bursting of a shell thrown by the Spaniards into the trenches.

Dennis Grimes of Saunders county, stopped to care for his horse, when the animal, presumably maddened by the flies, gave a vicious kick, the blow grazing the right side of Mr. Grimes' head, severing one ear. The blow had it struck Grimes squarely, would have caused instant death.

Buffalo county is harvesting an unusually large crop.

ONE-THIRD MUSTERED OUT.

Eighty-Three Volunteer Organizations Ordered Discharged.

THIRTEEN REGIMENTS TO STAY

They Will Probably Be Retained in the Service Until Next Spring—No Western Troops in the List—Mostly Eastern and Southern Regiments for Garrison Duty.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.—A statement prepared at the War department shows that including to-day eighty-three of the organizations in the volunteer army have received orders looking to their being mustered out of the service. This number includes fifty-three regiments and a number of minor organizations, such as batteries of artillery, independent companies of cavalry, etc., and probably represents almost one-third of the approximated 220,000 men called for by the President in the two proclamations issued by him.

The appended bulletin was issued by the War department to-day announcing the additional regiments to be mustered out of the service. Adjutant General Corbin said that in all probability few if any other troops would be ordered relieved from duty at this time. The bulletin of the organizations to be mustered out follows:

First United States volunteer cavalry, "Rough Riders," at Galveston, Texas; Ninth Massachusetts infantry; Batteries B, C and D, First Maine artillery; Companies A, B, C and D, Second Washington volunteer infantry; District of Columbia infantry; First battalion, Nevada infantry; Third, Ninth and Fourteenth New York infantry; Second New Jersey infantry; First Massachusetts heavy artillery.

In connection with the orders mustering out the above named regiments it is significant of the government's intention to retain many of the volunteer troops in the service that orders were issued transferring thirteen regiments from their state camps to the various camps of mobilization throughout the country. It is understood that the orders were issued with a view to the retention in the service, perhaps, until next spring, of the organizations named in the orders. The regiments included in the orders are as follows:

Third Georgia, from Griffin, Ga., to Jacksonville; Fifteenth Minnesota from St. Paul to Camp Meade, Middle town, Pa.; Fourth New Jersey from Seagirt, to Camp Meade; Eighth infantry (regulars) from Fort Thomas, Wash., to Lexington; Fifth Massachusetts from South Framington, to Camp Meade; Thirty-fifth Michigan from Island Haven, to Camp Meade; Third Mississippi from Jackson, Miss., to Lexington; Two Hundred and First New York from Hamstead, to Camp Meade; Third North Carolina from Fort Macon, to Knoxville; Fourth Kentucky from Lexington, to Knoxville; Third Alabama from Mobile, to Jacksonville; Third regiment United States engineers from Jefferson Barracks, to Lexington; and First Territorial regiment from Tucson, Ariz., to Lexington.

TO ABANDON CAMP WIKOFF.

Regulars to Be Ordered to Garrisons—The Twentieth to Fort Leavenworth.

NEW YORK, Sept. 5.—A dispatch to the New York Tribune from Washington says: Orders were prepared at the War department to-day for the practical abandonment of Camp Wikoff at Montauk Point. All the volunteer regiments now there will soon start for their homes and will receive furloughs as they are mustered out, while most of the regulars, as soon as they have recuperated sufficiently, will resume duty at the posts which they garrisoned before the war began. The orders for the regulars may be issued to-morrow. The Twentieth infantry will go to Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

PANDO FLED WITH MILLIONS.

A Vast Sum Taken by the General in His Secret Departure From Havana.

NEW YORK, Sept. 5.—A dispatch to the New York Herald from Havana says: Having successfully done everything in his power to convey the impression he was sailing for Spain by way of New York on the steamship Philadelphia, Thursday, General Pando, instead, secretly started for his native land about ten hours later on the French steamer Notre Dame du Salut, it is said, with \$2,400,000. The secret was so effectually kept that very few persons here have any knowledge of it, and all the Havana newspapers announce Pando's departure on the Philadelphia.

The Only "Official Case" on Record.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.—The alleged overcharging by stewards on board transports as stated at the quartermaster general's office, is said to be one single instance where a steward charged a soldier twenty-five cents for a sandwich. No other complaints of the kind have been made at the quartermaster's department.

A Young Girl in Trouble.

St. JOSEPH, Mo., Sept. 5.—Ira Totman, a Cameron girl 17 years of age, was arraigned before Commissioner Pollock to-day, charged with opening and destroying mail not her own. Mrs. Linda Totman, the girl's mother, entered a plea of guilty for her daughter, and the young defendant was bound over to the federal grand jury.

Mrs. Mary Totman of Cameron, an aunt of the defendant, is the one whose letter was tampered with. A check for \$50 was taken from the letter, the signature forged and money obtained and spent by the girl in having a good time. Bail for \$1,000 was furnished.

SPANISH ARMS CAPTURED.

25,139 Rifles and 3,500,000 Cartridges Surrendered at Santiago.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.—Colonel H. D. Borup, the chief ordnance officer of Santiago, has forwarded to the war department a complete list of the ordnance captured from the Spaniards. The number of rifles and carbines captured far exceeds the expectations of the authorities in Washington. The list as received by General Flagler, chief of ordnance, is as follows:

Rifles:	
Spanish Mausers.....	16,000
Argent.....	872
Remington.....	6,119
Carbines:	
Mausers.....	813
Argent.....	81
Remington.....	336
Revolvers.....	75
Ammunition for small arms:	
Mausser rifle cartridges.....	1,500,000
Argent rifle cartridges.....	471,200
Remington rifle cartridges.....	1,630,000

The worthless small-arm ammunition amounts to 973,000 cartridges. Forty-four smooth-bore siege guns and five mortars were also captured, together with the following rifled guns: Bronze, 30; cast-iron, 10; steel, 8.

Projectiles captured: Solid shot, spherical, 3,551; shell, spherical, 678; shell, cylindrical, 1,879; shrapnel, cylindrical, 437.

NAVY TO KEEP 20,000 MEN.

No Great Falling Off From the War Quota to Be Allowed.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.—The enlisted force of the navy is to be maintained at its full strength and as fast as vacancies occur through discharges and the expiration of enlistment periods they will be filled. The number of men enrolled in the navy during the war with Spain reached 24,000, including about 4,000 naval militia.

The return North of the Santiago fleet, and that on patrol service, resulted in the mustering out of over 400 regular seamen, whose terms had expired, and who had no desire for further active service. Many ships have on their list sailors who will also leave the government service in the next month for the same reason.

To keep the strength approximately up to 20,000 enlistments have been directed to begin again at recruiting stations, and so anxious are hundreds of well-equipped men to join the navy that no difficulty will be experienced in soon having the quota filled.

NO PARADE OF MILES' ARMY.

The Volunteers From Porto Rico to Be Sent to Their Homes at Once.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.—General Miles and his army of between 4,000 and 5,000 volunteers, now on the way to this country from Porto Rico, will not parade in New York city or elsewhere as a body upon their arrival. The official announcement of this fact was made at the War department to-day.

When the transports arrive in New York harbor they will be met by officers with orders for the troops to proceed directly from their ships to the trains, to be sent immediately to their state camps, preparatory to being mustered out of the service.

MAINE WRECK STILL THERE.

Havana Authorities Establish a Patrol About the Hulk in the Harbor.

NEW YORK, Sept. 5.—A dispatch to the New York Herald from Havana says: Within the last few days the authorities have reinstated the system of patrol boats about the Maine wreck as maintained before the war, intending to show the commission their determination that American property shall be fully protected and, incidentally, that they do not regard the cause of the disaster as determined and intend to give no opportunity for the manufacture of evidence.

For the New Naval Hospital.

CHICAGO, Sept. 5.—A dispatch to the Chicago Record from Washington says: The surgeon general of the navy has asked for proposals, to be opened October 12, for the construction of a model naval hospital at Mars Island, Cal., under a congressional appropriation of \$100,000. The plans are of the most modern type, conforming to the latest hospital practices at home and abroad, and provide for indefinite expansion.

The Negro Had Killed Four Women.

DALLAS, TEXAS, Sept. 5.—From the confessions of "Dobie" Joe Malone, the negro hanged here yesterday, it is believed that he participated in four or five murders. Two years ago he killed Mrs. Durham near Dallas, and he and another negro killed three white women at Eagle Lake, near Houston, about three years ago.

Governor Black Wants His Men Relieved.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.—Governor Black was an early caller at the War department this morning. As a result of his personal inspection and observations, the governor recommended the mustering out of the Third, Ninth and Fourteenth regiments of New York volunteers in addition to those previously ordered out of the service.

A Kansas Hotel Man Kills Himself.

OSAWATOMIE, Kan., Sept. 5.—C. A. Furr, proprietor of the Central hotel at this place, shot himself last night. He recently came here from Lane, Kan., and had just recovered from a severe sickness. His mind has been affected at times since coming here.

Missouri Day Probably Given Up.

OMAHA, Sept. 5.—Missouri day at the exposition will probably have to be given up. The commissioners have been unable to secure the desired rates from railways.

SHAFTER TALKS ABOUT CUBA

Heat and Rain to Blame for Fever and Starvation at Santiago.

DOCTORS SICK LIKE THE REST.

He Says the Wounded Were Well Cared For—Muddy Roads Kept Back Rations—Had Too Little Time to Equip Hospital Ships Properly.

NEW YORK, Sept. 3.—The New York World prints an interview with General Shafter, in which the general is represented as saying: "At Santiago we had to deal with things as they are, not as they should be. Of course there was sickness. It was inevitable in a summer campaign. But nobody was neglected. The doctors were scarce at first, but we had boat loads of them as soon as they could get there. Doctors got sick like the rest. They were overworked and exhausted. But their ability is unquestionable. Look at the low per centage of deaths from wounds. It was never lower in any war. Why, in the civil war I lay on the battlefield myself until my wounds were in a horrible condition, and that was right near by, not down in a malarious, sub-tropical country, far away.

"The men who ordered a summer campaign in a fever-infested country are responsible for the natural and unavoidable consequences. None of our wounded was allowed to lie on the battle field as I was in the civil war. Nothing of the kind happened. Anesthetics were plentiful.

"It was the heat that was so deadly, and the rains. Right in the midst of the most torrid heat a shower would fall. It would drench everybody without cooling the air. In a few minutes, under the sun again, every man would be steaming. Men of the strongest constitutions succumbed.

"Our first case of yellow fever developed at El Caney. But the army was ripe for it and it spread like a prairie fire. Many a man had yellow fever who will never know it. And to tell the truth it is not so dangerous as the calentura or heat attacks that unacclimated men have in the malarial regions of Cuba. Why, it is a common thing for a man's temperature to rise from normal to 105 in a few hours. That means death in most cases. It can give cards and spades to yellow fever in the game of death. I'd rather have yellow fever.

NOT FIT FOR FIGHTING IN HEAT.

"Our men were all unacclimated; they never had faced such constant heat. Many of them had never slept out doors before they went into camp. How could they be moulded into proper material for such a climate and such a campaign? It couldn't be done. These men you see coming back with the thin bodies and the yellow faces are suffering from the parasite of the low fever of the Santiago plateaus.

"We at the front did not wait to let the fever have its run. We wanted to save life. Now the problem was to save the most lives possible. We had never had a foreign war since 1812-14. The United States has no hospital ships. It was not a question of using what was best, but what we had. We used the transports that brought the troops down.

"If I could have had a few more weeks to equip hospital ships the condition would have been better. If we had continued we would have stayed right there, fever or no fever. The sudden ending of the war was unexpected. I made it an invariable rule to send home twenty-five less men on a transport than she had brought south. That was a fair view to take.

"I am satisfied with the Santiago campaign. When it is fully understood, all its difficulties, it will receive just place in military history. We were hurried off to Cuba. We landed and could not have got our stores back on board ship if we had wanted to. When the invasion was planned it was obvious that it must be a rush. Such it was.

"And it was a success—complete and unequivocal. Many things were done, it is true, that were forced upon us by the exigencies of the hour, but the means employed, even under such stress, proved to be wisely chosen. I was compelled to do a great many things that under different circumstances would not have been considered.

HE SIZED THEM UP RIGHT.

"I sized up the Spaniards correctly. For example, at San Juan I was sure they would not come out from their works and attack us. The El Caney fight I had hoped would be finished at 10 a. m., but it took until 5 o'clock, and I rather feel now that it was for the best. Had we taken the city of Santiago that night only the garrison then there would have surrendered to us. Whereas, later, all the troops in the region surrounding were included. The men outside of Santiago, July 2, could have gone to General Pando. I knew that the war was over as soon as Toral spoke to me about surrendering the troops in the Eastern province. I almost fell over.

"We never had on the fighting line at any one time more than 13,000 men. And with these we captured 27,000.

"Nine thousand Spaniards were fortified in the best entrenched position I ever saw. Indeed, the intrenchments were of such a character that shelling with the guns we had did not do them serious damage. Where a 13-inch shell from our ships dropped into a house in the town it demolished the dwelling; but all the occupants were gone."

"Did Cervera's men help in the San Juan fight?" was asked, to clear up a mooted point.

"Yes, indeed. He had 1,000 men

ashore from his fleet in the battle of July 1. His chief of staff, Busamante, was killed. His marines and sailors suffered severely. Cervera put them all back on board July 2, and the next day tried to get to sea.

"The Spaniards were down to their last bit of rice when they surrendered, but they declined on the first day to accept rations offered them. They said that American charity humiliated them; but I noticed that they came around the second day.

A MUDDY ROAD TO BLAME.

"Why was your food supply short before San Juan?"

"I had to act quickly and shove my men right into the field, because I knew they were growing weaker and weaker every hour. We had plenty of rations, unloaded at the shore, but there was only a single road hub deep in mud, over which they could be brought to the front, and if we had a thousand army wagons we could not have got the provisions where they were needed. The pack trains saved us. They were invaluable."

"What is the condition of Santiago to-day?" was asked.

"It is in a fair state of health," replied General Shafter. "Under the military governorship now in existence it will soon be cleaned and made thoroughly healthy. It is a pretty town, but the surrounding country is in a state of wreck. You can't imagine the destitution of the island of Cuba."

"Did you see any reconcentrados?"

"Only a few. I fear that most of them are dead. But the death rate in Santiago had dropped from eighty a day to thirty-five, and most of the deaths are of old people or children who had not recovered from the starvation which they had endured."

CAVALRY MAY BE NEEDED.

"You asked me about the use of cavalry in Cuba, and I reply that if we have to go down there and fight the Cuban guerrillas, we shall want the cavalry beyond question. Otherwise not. I hope that small garrisons of infantry scattered over the country will suffice."

"How about the western part of the island?" was the next inquiry.

"Havana will certainly be guarded and everything possible will be done to render the city healthy and revive its prosperity. The Western provinces are ready for agriculture and crops can be put in any time."

General Shafter was fully informed regarding the controversy between General Miles and Secretary Alger. He was surprised and said it was the first hint he had of anything of the kind. He knew nothing about the causes or the merits of the controversy.

"What troops are left to garrison Santiago?"

"The only troops of the Fifth corps that were left were the Twenty-fourth infantry, the remainder of the Ninth Massachusetts, about 100 recruits and the last of the sick and wounded. These were to have left on the day after the Mexico sailed and are to reach here to-morrow or next day. This completes the withdrawal of the army of invasion, which was composed of the Fifth corps. The garrison duty is in other hands. The Fifth army corps' flag will fly over Camp Wikoff to-morrow."

WON BY AMERICAN ROADS.

Differential Passenger Rates Refused to the Canadian Pacific.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3.—The interstate commerce commission, by a decision to-day in the matter of the passenger rate disturbances of the Canadian Pacific railroad, involving the propriety of differential passenger rates between Eastern points and the Pacific coast, held that the Canadian Pacific is not entitled to the differential contended for. The case is one of the most important that has been before the commission for a long time, the American railroad lines and the Canadian Pacific having been engaged six months or more in a war in passenger tariff between the East and the West.

Cubans Not at Work.

HAVANA, Sept. 3.—Advises from Guines, this province, say that the work of the field is not being resumed. On the contrary, there is great indifference shown by the inhabitants of the interior. It is almost too late now to prepare the ground for the sowing season. Thus, instead of an improvement, this section will show a continued poverty, giving rise to the inevitable thefts and robberies in the town proper, where many houses have recently been built.

Our Imports From Porto Rico.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3.—A complete report on the importation of sugar and molasses from Porto Rico in the fiscal year 1897-98, as well as the quantities for 1895-96, has been forwarded to the Treasury department from New York by Supervising Examiner of Sugar Jacobs. He shows that for the past fiscal year the importations from Porto Rico were: Sugar, 90,584,414 pounds; duty, \$1,393,765; value, \$1,854,015. Molasses, 1,371,823 gallons; duty, \$41,221; value, \$289,183. For the year 1895-96, the imports of raw sugar were 34,397,473 pounds.

Austria's Reichstag to Meet.

VIENNA, Sept. 3.—An imperial decree has been issued summoning the Reichstag to meet September 26. This will lead to the resumption of constitutional rule in the empire which was suspended a few months ago because of the riots in the Reichstag. The question of the union of Austria and Hungary is still to be settled.

Can't Agree on Commission.

MADRID, Sept. 3.—The deadlock over the appointment of the peace commission continues.