

NOT READY TO REPORT.

Wolcott Defers Telling What Monetary Commission Did.

NEGOTIATIONS STILL PENDING.

Colorado Senator Says the Commission Will Continue to Work So Long as There is Prospect of Securing an International Conference—Senate and House Agree to Send Relief to Klondike Miners.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Wolcott (Colo.), chairman of the committee appointed by President McKinley to secure, if possible, the co-operation of foreign countries in an international conference on the silver question, said in the senate yesterday that the committee had not made a report to the president and it was uncertain when a report would be made.

Mr. Pettigrew secured the adoption of a resolution directing the secretary of the interior to furnish the senate an itemized account of the receipts and expenditures of the Central Pacific railroad for each year from 1871 to 1897, the statement to show the subsidies paid to steamboat companies.

Mr. Cannon (Utah) offered and had passed a resolution directing the secretary of the treasury to furnish the senate the names of the revenue cutters employed on the coast of Florida to prevent filibustering expeditions; how many expeditions were thwarted, what vessels were captured, what armed expeditions taken, and by what authority of law the secretary of the treasury acted in the matter.

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GAGE'S CURRENCY MEASURE.

Secretary of the Treasury Submits His Financial Suggestions. WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Secretary Gage appeared today before the committee on banking and currency of the house of representatives to present a bill embodying his views for a revision of the currency, to explain and urge its provisions and to meet any objections raised by the committee.

Mr. Gage said in the opening: The objects I have in mind in the series of provisions offered by me are four in number:

First—To commit the country more thoroughly to the gold standard; remove so far as possible doubts and fears on that point and thus strengthen the condition of the United States at home and abroad.

Second—To strengthen the treasury in relation to its demand liabilities, in which are included greenbacks, treasury notes, the incidental obligation to maintain on a parity, through interchangeability with gold, so far as may be necessary, the present large volume of silver certificates and silver dollars.

Third—To do this in such a way as not to contract the volume of circulation in the hands of the people.

Fourth—To take an initial step toward a system of bank note issues without the conditional deposit of public bonds as security therefor.

If we prosper as a people the revenue of the government ought to be somewhat in advance of its expenditures, and the public debt of the United States gradually reduced, and finally extinguished. Looking at the question widely, from my best point of knowledge and experience, I feel that if these could be secured the condition of the government in its relation to the currency would be much safer and stronger than now, and that through the operation of national bank note currency the commercial and industrial interests of the United States would be greatly advantaged.

Mr. Gage's bill provides for establishing a separate division of issue and redemption and for the issue of low rate gold bonds, with which the greenbacks are gradually to be retired and national bank notes to be put in their place, and a provision for asset circulation within certain limits, amounting to about 75 per cent of the capital stock; the reduction to \$25,000 of the minimum capital of national banks; a reduction of one-half in the tax on bank note circulation, and the provision that circulation secured by government bonds shall be permitted up to the par value of the securities deposited.

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FUTURE OF MAY WHEAT.

Agent of the Leiter Interest Predicts It Will Be \$1.50.

EXPECTS A SHORTAGE IN SPRING.

At That Time the Highest Price in the Country Will Be at Minneapolis, Where Wheat Will Be Shipped on Actual Demand For Grinding—Leiter Interest Bought at Seventy Cents.

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—George B. French, the recognized agent of the Leiter interest in wheat, imparted a bit of information today which wheat speculators for many months have been anxious to know. He also ventured a prediction on the future of May wheat.

"Our wheat cost us very near 70 cents," said Mr. French, "and at that price we think we can afford to take it in, pay for it and see what it looks like. Our position, as we have said right along, is simply that of merchandisers. The line was bought including the transfers, at the price I name and our position is not that of the speculator. It is as if a straight line was drawn from 70 cents up to, say, \$1.10 as against the position of the speculator, who has bought and sold at the same prices, but who had bought and sold at so many intermediate points as to entirely change his position.

"In regard to the wheat situation at present, I will say that I think speculators are watching the local conditions and entirely ignoring the legitimate position. As soon as the deficiency of supplies and the urgency of the demand become more apparent, I will not be a bit surprised to see May wheat at \$1.50. At that time the highest price in the country will be at Minneapolis—the millers' market. Wheat will be going to Minneapolis in the spring on actual demand for grinding, just as it has recently been coming to Chicago on an alleged corner. It is not improbable that many northwestern farmers will be coming here for seed wheat."

While Mr. French would give no information as to the size of the line of wheat which he represents, he said: "We expect that all the wheat we have bought will be delivered to us."

MENACE TO FRUIT GROWING.

San Jose Pest Invades Iowa Orchards. Horticulturists Elect Officers.

DES MOINES, Dec. 17.—Iowa's standing as a fruit producing state is threatened with almost total destruction within the next few years, together with an immense property loss, according to reports made at yesterday's meeting of the State Horticultural society. The forenoon was devoted largely to consideration of reports on the San Jose scale. It is found that the insect is well established in Iowa, and spreading fast. Already it has done immense damage to orchards, and the society concluded that unless its spread is checked at once, it will destroy the orcharding industry. Hon. Silas Wilson of Atlantic, president of the National Nurserymen's association, was made chairman of a committee to secure legislative aid in exterminating the pest. Steps will be taken by the society to have every tree owner informed about the insect and means for its extermination.

The officers were elected as follows: President, C. F. Gardner, Osage; vice president, M. J. Wragg, Waukeo; secretary and librarian, George H. Van Houten, Lenox; treasurer, W. M. Bomberger, Harlan.

THREE DIE IN A WRECK.

Collision on the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Road Near Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 17.—Train No. 4 on the Chicago and Eastern Illinois road, which left Chicago at 8:40 last night, ran into an extra train near here at 5 o'clock this morning. Three employes were killed and a half dozen others injured, but none of the passengers were hurt. The dead: ENGINEER J. D. RAUTSCH. FIREMAN O. L. BREMER. FIREMAN C. E. DESLER. The injured: Engineer G. Foster. Mail Clerk W. F. Robb. Mail Clerk H. Cadwallader. Express Messenger C. E. Atchley. Both engines were badly wrecked; the baggage car was thrown down an embankment, and the mail car smashed.

Fire Chiefs Meet.

SHENANDOAH, Ia., Dec. 17.—The chiefs of the various departments of the Southwestern Iowa Firemen's association met in this city today and completed arrangements for holding the firemen's tournament in this place next August. The association comprises the departments in the following towns: Atlantic, Bedford, Clarinda, Creston, Corning, Hamburg, Malvern, Red Oak, Shenandoah and Valverde.

Enormous Grain Receipts.

BUFFALO, Dec. 17.—The grain receipts at this port for the year will reach the enormous total of nearly 200,000,000 bushels, as against 154,000,000 in 1896 and 105,500,000 in 1895. The movement of ores and lumber have been heavier than last year and of the total of 89,137,511 feet of lumber that was cleared from the Saginaw river, over 40,000,000 feet came to Tonawanda and Buffalo.

Coal Operators Fall to Sign.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 17.—Only 40 per cent of the operators of the Pittsburgh district signed the uniformity agreement instead of the 95 per cent necessary to make the document binding, and it does not look as if the agreement will be enforced before the first of the year under existing conditions.

Anthracite Producers Control Output.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The anthracite producers have informally agreed to stand by the percentages of output for the various mining and railway companies which have been in force, with a few exceptions, since Jan. 31, 1896.

Publicly Excommunicated.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 12.—A special from St. Joseph, Mo., says: Religious circles in this city were stirred up today by the public excommunication of Mrs. Charles Miller, formerly Miss Katherine Moriarity, her mother and all her relatives and Catholics who participated in her marriage ceremonies and the reception which followed, because the young woman was married by a Protestant minister.

The letter of excommunication from the Right Rev. Bishop Burke, and addressed to Rev. Father Newman, pastor of the cathedral congregation, was read at all the services in the cathedral today.

On Thursday of last week Miss Katherine Moriarity was married to Charles A. Miller at the First Presbyterian church.

Bishop Burke spoke of the publicity given to the wedding, and for that reason placed the bride's mother and all Catholics participating in the wedding under the ban of the church.

The Noteworthy Point.

The only noteworthy point in the whole recent affair of Satelli being made a Cardinal is the fact that every such officer in the Roman church is known as a Cardinal-Prince. The assumption of the Pope is that he is a temporal sovereign, and each cardinal is one of his princes claiming temporal authority. Why such officials should be permitted in our republic is beyond the comprehension of all patriotic citizens. Chief Justice Taney took this position, and rightfully. Patriotic America will take it, as a whole, sooner or later. Roman Catholic religion, had enough though it be, is one thing. Plotting and treasonable practices of a Roman temporal sovereignty are another.—Herald and Presbyter.

House of Good Shepherd Case Continued.

By mutual consent the case of Selina Clewett against the House of the Good Shepherd was continued until next month, when the case will be tried. This is the case wherein Miss Clewett sued this institution for \$