

SENSATION.

CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF CUBA.

OFFICIALS TREMBLING.

The Customs Service Supposed To Be More Corrupt Than the Postal Service.

Washington, D. C., May 29.—That congress must make a thorough investigation of every department of the government of Cuba is the conclusion being gradually forced upon administration leaders in both houses. Nothing short of a searching inquiry by a committee containing representatives of the minority party will be accepted.

It is probable that the Bacon resolution will be adopted by the senate. This resolution was referred to the committee on contingent expenses Thursday.

An explosion in the Cuban customs service is threatened, which promises revelations as sensational as the disclosures in connection with the postal service.

An official of the customs service, who has just returned from Havana, brings information that the customs service there is honeycombed with fraud and corruption, and the officials interested are trembling in fear of investigation.

Thus far no steps have been taken officially to investigate the Cuban customs service, but it is asserted that several officials in the service are contemplating resignation, while others who are away on leave of absence will not return to duty, because they do not wish to become involved in the investigation which seems unavoidable.

It is declared that investigation will show that through lax business methods and incompetent and unscrupulous officials thousands of dollars have been diverted from legitimate channels into the pockets of dishonest officials and their accomplices. Disbursements of sums ranging from \$100 to \$10,000 have been made to persons who have not performed any service whatever, it is said, and in many instances without the formality of presenting vouchers. Gross extravagance in expenditures for furniture, supplies and other expenses in connection with the customs service is also charged.

In view of the disclosures in the postal service and the cloud of suspicion hanging over the customs service, an investigation of the latter seems to be inevitable.

Senator Bacon called attention in the senate to intimations that Robert P. Porter, who revised the Cuban tariff, had made reductions in duties for the benefit of special interests.

One of the specific allegations is that Mr. Porter reduced the rates of duty on everything required for the equipment and operation of railways from 40 per cent to 20 per cent ad valorem—the reduction to remain in effect one year.

It is alleged that Mr. Porter, after severing his relations with the government, connected himself with a syndicate of railway capitalists who propose to avail themselves of the low tariff rates to build up railroad properties in Cuba.

It is also said that as the tariff taxes on petroleum were originally arranged the Standard Oil company would have been given a practical monopoly of the sale of refined oil in Cuba. Mr. Porter is said to have proposed to admit crude petroleum at a low rate of duty, while a high rate was prescribed for the refined oil.

The only oil refinery in the island, it is asserted, is controlled by the Standard Oil company, and it would have been impossible to have imported refined oil into the island in competition with the Standard. Before the revised tariff was discovered, and the duty on refined oil was reduced.

COMES TO PURCHASE SHIP.

Turkish Admiral is Pleasured With What He Sees.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—Admiral Ahmed Pasha of the Turkish navy arrived in Washington last night. He confirmed the report that his visit is for the purpose of making arrangements for the purchase of a cruiser in the United States for the Turkish government. The admiral expressed himself as being surprised at the statements which have appeared in the press that his mission here was a diplomatic, as well as a business one, and added that the Turkish government has a minister here who attends to all diplomatic matters. His mission here, he declared, was a technical and professional one, and was for the purpose of obtaining information regarding the construction of a vessel for his government. He already has visited the National Armory works at Springfield, Mass., and engineering works at Hartford, Conn., and expressed himself as highly pleased at what he saw at those places. Our facilities in those lines he regarded as equal, if not superior, to any in existence in England or on the continent.

An effort was made to obtain from the admiral information as to whether the intention of the Turkish government in negotiating for the cruiser in America was to settle in an indirect manner the American indemnity claims against Turkey, but he simply replied that his mission was entirely a business one.

TRAVELERS DENOUNCE TRUSTS.

Many Members Have Felt Result of the Different Combinations.

New Orleans, La.—(Special).—The National Travelers' Protective association's business convention opened at the Athenaeum today. The committee on credentials reported 123 delegates present from twenty-four states, Illinois, Louisiana, Nebraska, Tennessee and Virginia asked for additional delegates, owing to increased membership.

The report of the executive committee was devoted largely to trusts and their evil effort on trade. Concerning trusts, the report, which was unanimously adopted, says in part:

"The dark clouds of monopolies and trusts still hover over us and since our last convention many commercial travelers have lost their positions, and to use the language of an authorized agent of trusts, who has boasted in a New York paper that 350,000 commercial travelers have been thrown out of employment by the concentration of mercantile and commercial industries in the trust, that \$3,000,000 daily are saved to the trusts by the consequent withholding of advertising patronage from country newspapers—in other words the trusts in these two items alone save to themselves \$6,000,000 daily, all of which is withdrawn directly from the people, with the farcical argument that it will enable the trusts to advance wages, cheapen products and make the people stockholders and owners of the companies.

"With such conditions realized a great and essential step will have to be taken in the warfare upon trusts, which has now become inevitable. No mere declaration of courts, legislatures or administrative officers, no mere exposition of party policy as embodied in present platforms will be effective in ridding the business of this country of the awful incubus which has fastened itself upon it. There must exist an aggressive sentiment. Without it nothing can be done."

Tonight the delegates were entertained at a banquet.

AN INDIANA MURDER MYSTERY.

Woman's Body is Found Buried in Sands of a Creek.

Evansville, Ind.—(Special).—A murder that resembles the Pearl Bryan affair was brought to light here today. The body of a young woman was found in a stream near here, and though the evidence of murder is conclusive, there is not the slightest clue as to her identity or that of the murderer. No one has disappeared from the city and no one is able to recognize the little clothing found on the body. The police are searching in the neighboring towns, and so far have found but one girl missing, Nora Kifer, aged 19, left Elberfeld, fifteen miles from here, five weeks ago. The description of the girl does not fit the body found, but on this slight thread it is hoped to get a start on the solution of the mystery.

The body was found in Pigeon creek, which empties into the Ohio river just outside the city. Farmers driving into town in crossing the stream saw a woman's foot protruding from the sand. Investigation showed the corpse of a woman almost nude, her face battered beyond any possible recognition. Her underclothing had been torn away and made into a rope for weighing the body in the stream. A heavy stone taken from the buttress of a bridge had been used.

The body had evidently been in the creek for more than a week. The face was crushed in on either side, nearly separating the lower part of the face from the skull. The blows could not have been delivered by a hatchet; either a sledge or a large stone must have been used. No distinguishing mark could be found.

There is no laundry mark or store mark on the clothes, and the shoes, which led to the unraveling of the Pearl Bryan mystery, will be of no assistance in this case. For these, with the stockings, skirt and dress were missing. There is no indication of a struggle in the vicinity and late rains have washed away any traces that might have been left to show how the body was brought there or whether the woman was dead or alive when she was carried to the spot.

TURNING OVER THE OFFICES.

Republican Officials in Kentucky Give Up Offices.

Frankfort, Ky.—(Special).—Republican Auditor Sweeney sent for Democratic Auditor Coulter this morning and notified him he was ready to turn over the state records and possession of the office in the state house without waiting for action by the court of appeals. The transfer will be made today. It is understood the other republican officials will do likewise in the next day or two and that by next week the state house will be officered exclusively by the democrats.

The democratic state executive committee meeting here at 1 o'clock this afternoon has drawn a big gathering of democratic leaders here. The convention to nominate delegates to Kansas City will be held the last week in June, and the committee is said to be nearly evenly divided on the proposition to hold a separate convention later to nominate a candidate for governor.

BOND DEALS GROWING.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The amount of bonds so far exchanged at the treasury for the new 2 per cent consols of 1900 is \$250,216,500, of which \$40,271,000 were received from individuals and institutions other than national banks.

TRANSVAAL.

LORD ROBERTS IS ADVANCING TOWARDS CAPITAL.

MARCH TO PRETORIA.

The Boer Army is Voting Whether To Keep On Fighting Or To Surrender To Bobs.

London.—(Special).—Lord Roberts' infantry advance is delayed at the Rhenoster river for a day or two by the depth of the stream, which is not fordable. The banks, which are precipitous, are forty feet high. A pontoon and temporary bridge constructions are under way.

A dispatch, dated Rhenoster, Wednesday, May 23, at 7:45 p. m., says: The general opinion is that we will arrive at Pretoria as fast as we can march, though the Boers announced to all the countryside that they intended to fight to the death.

The railway has not been damaged to an great extent between Kroonstad and Rhenoster. The Transvaalers have offended the Free Staters by destroying their splendid bridges when retiring to Kroonstad. They refrained from doing this on the retreat to Rhenoster, but now they are destroying the railroad and bridges almost completely north of the Rhenoster.

The British troops are in the form of a crescent with horns thirty miles apart, with General French's cavalry on the west within twenty-three miles of the Vaal and General Hamilton's men on the right within thirty miles of the Vaal. The center of the crescent is about forty miles from the Vaal. Boer telegrams say that 2,000 British with ten guns are near Vredefort, close to the Vaal and close to Pary's.

One correspondent refers to the advance as a "promenade." Another describes it as a "Boer hunt."

The Free Staters are pictured as "bolting like hares," at the first sight of the British. The latter, according to one writer, do not even find women and children, as the fleeing farmers take their families with them in consequence of reports current among the Transvaalers that the British kidnap all children over 12 years of age.

The Boer rearguard was composed of Russians, to whom was committed the task of destroying the bridges. They also looted freely.

What the Boers are doing is an absolute mystery. The embargo on news out of Pretoria for the last twenty-four hours has been complete. Such scraps of information as the correspondents at Lourenza Marquez have picked up do not illuminate the Boer designs further than that the movement toward Leydenburg continues and that a referendum vote on the question of continuing the war is going on among the Boer fighting men. It may be a fortnight before the results of this singular vote are fully before the Transvaal government. If the English view of Boer discouragement is one-half right the Boers will vote to quit.

In Natal General Dartnell's volunteers occupied Mount Prospect Monday, Lord Dundonald's cavalry is at Firmstones, near Inezoo. His infantry rests at Shoenshoote. The names are all of fateful memory in the first Boer war. The British face Laing's Nek, where the Boers are, through the range glasses of the British, occasionally visible. In the march from Winburg all the farms except one are vacant. A temporary bridge has been finished at Washoonk. Trains now go to Dundee.

General Buller said the best way to celebrate the queen's birthday was to repair the railway to Newcastle, and every man was put to work.

HOW AN EARL ESCAPED.

Earl de la Warr, who was supposed to have been captured at the time of the disaster to the squadron of Bethune's horse, lay all night with a wounded leg behind an ant heap, reaching camp next day.

As the railway is now open north of Mafeking, an abundance of provisions is entering the town. The telegraph messages will probably come from Mafeking direct over the northern route in a day or two.

South Africa has another affliction. An extra issue of the Gazette at Durban announced the death of an East Indian from the bubonic plague. The government has put into force the most stringent preventive measures, but fears are expressed that the pestilence may get among the troops.

The Transvaal National bank has suspended gold payments, under authorization from the government requiring the acceptance of bank notes. The institution has large assets, apparently, in London. One hundred and fifty thousand pounds was seized at Cape-town and twenty-five thousand at Durban. Lucan, chairman of the London committee of the bank, says:

"The Transvaal government is laying hands on every ounce of gold it can find in the country. The government has nothing to lose and everything to gain thereby. Financial circles here are interested in many indirect ways especially as to whether the Transvaal I. O. U.'s will be redeemed."

The report of the anti-canteen bill has been filed in the house. It submits the voluminous correspondence from the war department opposing the abolition of the canteen and without comment submits a favorable recommendation on the bill.

SMALL COBA DE FREE.

Mr. Hale Startles the Senate With Startling Charges.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—Perhaps no greater sensation has been created in the senate or in the galleries this season than this afternoon when Senator Hale, in a colloquy of great warmth with Senator Spooner, said, with ringing emphasis: "I think there are very powerful influences in this country—largely located in New York City, largely speculative, and connected with money-making enterprises—that are determined that we shall never give up Cuba. I think that the time will never come, unless something earnest and drastic is done by congress, when the last soldier of the United States will be withdrawn from Cuban soil."

The day was one of rasping political controversy, with which the democratic side of the chamber had little to do. What by far-seeing senators is regarded as likely to be the paramount issue of the approaching national campaign was the subject of two notable speeches, one by Mr. Platt of Connecticut and the other by Mr. Spooner of Wisconsin. The former was an answer to the speech delivered a few days ago by Mr. Bacon of Georgia on his resolution demanding an investigation of financial affairs in Cuba.

TO MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL.

Mr. Platt favored the adoption of the resolution, but deprecated what he declared was a cheap effort to make political capital out of a shameful condition of affairs which the republican party needed no prodding to induce it to probe to the bottom.

The speech of Mr. Spooner was a continuation of his address of yesterday on the Philippine question. His sensational colloquy with Mr. Hale of Maine over the government's conduct of affairs in our "insular possessions" was a remarkable controversy between two of the best-equipped debaters in the senate and was listened to with profound attention by senators.

SCHEME SPOILED BY ARREST.

Neely and Others Would Buy the Isle of Pines.

New York, May 29.—A dispatch to the Herald from Havana says: "One of Charles F. W. Neely's most important schemes was the contemplated purchase of the Isle of Pines, south of Cuba, which is considered by many to be a part of the United States territory according to the treaty of Paris. Neely started a company here last fall to obtain control of the valuable part of the island, with the object of colonizing it as a United States possession."

Interested with him were Major Ladd, treasurer of the island of Cuba; Brigadier General Claflee, Major Tucker, Mr. Hake of Chicago and it is said many prominent politicians in the United States. Options were obtained on 10,000 acres of land and agents were engaged to make the negotiations for the majority of the remaining 400,000 acres. Neely's arrest has killed the scheme, the options expired last week and \$2,000 was forfeited.

Governor General Wood has placed two inspectors in Major Ladd's office for the examination of the treasurer's accounts.

Director General of Posts Bristow appointed George R. Buchanan as disbursing officer for the department at a salary of \$2,000 and discontinued the office of superintendent, held by Mr. Carter, whose salary was \$2,500 a year. Disbursements will be made the same as in the military system.

Only 144 in exchange stamps have been found in the office here. There is no trace of Neely's ledger. It was probably burned. The inspectors discover a shortage in Neely's accounts outside of the amount supposed to have been taken in stamps, but probably it will not raise the estimated defalcation of \$100,000. Evidence is accumulating. There will probably be several counts against him if he is brought back for trial.

AGAINST NEW YORK ICE TRUST.

Attorney General Decides Against the Ice Combine.

New York.—(Special).—Attorney General J. C. Davies has announced his decision in the proceedings against the American Ice company. He decides that the American Ice company is an unlawful combination, its business is in restraint of trade, in violation of law and against public policy and he will commence proceedings against the ice company to prohibit it from doing business in this state. The attorney general, when asked as to whether the governor will order a special grand jury to investigate the connection of the New York city officials with the company, said he had not the slightest idea what the governor intended doing.

ESCAPING SOLDIERS ARE SHOT.

Fort Riley, Kan.—(Special).—Two military prisoners, John Arnold and Geo. A. Fryman, serving sentences of one year each, were shot at by a sentry while attempting to escape. The prisoners made a daring rush upon the sentry and disarmed him, taking his Krag-Jorgensen with them and ran for the hills. A sergeant of artillery heard the disturbance and shot the fleeing prisoners. Arnold is shot through the abdomen, his injury being critical. Fryman was shot in the arm.

STANDING OF N. Y. DELEGATES.

New York.—(Special).—The following are statistics concerning the delegates to the New York democratic state convention: Total number of delegates, 450; necessary to instruct, 224; elected to date, 209; for Bryan, 171; unopposed, 139; to be elected, 150.

NO EMPIRE.

GREAT MASS MEETING IN NEW YORK CITY.

REPUBLIC, NOT EMPIRE

Some Noted American Speakers Denounce Imperialism of the McKinley Regime.

New York.—(Special).—A mass meeting to advocate an American policy in the Philippines was held in Cooper union, under the auspices of the Anti-Imperialist League of New York. Ernest H. Crosby presided. The speakers were George S. Boutwell of Massachusetts, Carl Schurz and Captain Patrick O'Farrell of Washington.

Mr. Crosby said in opening the meeting: "In Cuba one of our fellow citizens from Indiana is accused of taking all the postal funds he could lay his hands upon. Better the island be robbed by Spain than by an American and a friend of Senator Beveridge. Were Washington alive today he would find himself more at home in the camp of Aguinaldo than in the camp of Otis. We cannot but admire the course of Aguinaldo and his men, who have been fighting for over a year against tremendous odds."

EX-SECRETARY BOUTWELL SAID:

"There are indications that attempts are making to construe the constitution of the United States so as to justify the policy of seizing through war foreign lands and alien people, and governing them as they might be governed if the constitution of the United States did not exist. It is the manifest purpose of the administration to seize and hold countries and to govern races and countries outside of the jurisdiction of the constitution. Thus is the administration creating a power in the president and congress, independent of the constitution and over which the people can have no control. It is with that usurpation that I am now dealing."

REPUBLIC OR EMPIRE.

"The question before the country is this: Republic or empire? It was announced in January that the war in the Philippines was ended and that civil rule was to be established. In the first three months of the year there were 124 skirmishes on the islands, in which 2,809 Filipinos were slain, wounded or captured."

"In April the war department re-established the recruiting system for the reinforcement of the Philippine army."

"There are supporters of the president, not content with the possession of the Philippines, but who advocate a warlike undertaking, ostensibly for the extension of our trade in China. China and Russia are combined and nothing of trade facilities with China can be secured by force or threats of force. The recent speeches of the Chinese minister should be accepted as evidence that trade with China is to depend on friendships, reciprocal relations, etc., and nothing will be conceded to force. Russia has gained more in five years by peaceful means than England in a quarter of a century by war."

"At a cost of \$500,000,000 and the sacrifice of many thousands of young lives a great lesson has been taught, that this government cannot be perverted either through the follies or the crimes of its rulers.

"Of all modern history the most disgraceful chapter is that which the American nation is now writing. At the opening of the last third of this century we abolished slavery in America, and at the end of the century we are making a war for the establishment of a system of slavery in Asia.

CARL SCHURZ' ADDRESS.

Carl Schurz said: "It is not high time that the American people, sobered from the debauching intoxication of victory, should rise again to a just appreciation of the true responsibility of this great republic, that true responsibility is its responsibility for the maintenance of the great principles on which it was founded. It is its responsibility for the great lesson it is to administer to mankind that true democracy means not only the assertion of our own rights, but also a just respect for the rights of others and that this democracy of ours is able to resist the temptations which might seduce it from its fidelity to that high obligation. It is its responsibility proposed by Abraham Lincoln on the battlefield of Gettysburg, that 'the government by the people, of the people, for the people, may not perish from the earth.'"

"The main difficulty—the only real difficulty—is in ourselves. It is in baffling the greed of some persons who want to rule that country for exploitation, it is in our vanity and false pride, which would persevere in an ambitious course however wicked, because we have once entered upon it."

NEELY HEARING DEFERRED.

New York.—(Special).—The examination in the case of Charles F. W. Neely, charged with misappropriating \$26,000 of Cuban postal funds, which was to have come before Commissioner Shields today, has been adjourned until Monday next pending action in the requisition proceedings before Governor Roosevelt, which are to take place at Oyster Bay.

EDISON AS AN OPERATOR.

He Looked Green But He Surprised the Natives by His Skill.

In the March Success a hitherto unpublished incident is given of the way Thomas A. Edison introduced himself to a telegraph manager in New York: A tall young countryman, looking as green as a suit of "butternut" clothes and a slouch hat could make him, applied for work in the Broad street (New York) office of Maury Smith, in 1871. Mr. Smith was manager of the consolidated telegraph lines then in opposition to the Western Union. Like all other managers, he could make room for an expert operator and told the young rustic that an engagement depended altogether upon his skill.

"Try me; I can keep up with the best of 'em," said the stranger.

Mr. Smith noticed that the applicant appeared to be quite deaf; but, out of curiosity, and possibly with the idea of having some fun with him, he gave him a table and told him to "receive" a message then due from Washington.

"You will have to work pretty fast," he warned him, "for our Washington man is in the habit of rushing things." As a matter of fact, there was no message expected from Washington, nor did the wire lead there. Mr. Smith connected the receiver with a "sampler" in another part of the same operating room and put his fastest operator, "Dick" Hutchinson, at work sending a 2,000 word message, Edison, for it was he, grasped a pen and as soon as the instrument began to click dashed off the copy in a large, round, legible hand. While deaf to all other sounds, he could catch the faintest metallic click.

On came the message, faster and faster, twenty, thirty, forty words a minute. A crowd of operators gathered around, curiosity and then amazement depicted on their faces. Page after page was reeled off, with never a break and with the last click of the instrument the forty-minute message had been received perfectly and lay in a heap of manuscript on the table. The young man's triumph was complete. Hutchinson rushed up and shook hands with him and Mr. Smith gave him a job on the spot.

PECuliarities of the Chinese.

The reason that the Chinese so intensely dislike anything foreign, says a writer in Leslie's Weekly, is because among the eastern nations they always felt their own superiority, and they have an idea now that anything not Chinese must necessarily be inferior and wrong. This is a trait not peculiar to the Chinese, for it is not undeveloped in John Bull. The very anti-foreign feeling, which is encouraged mostly by the literal of China, is probably due more to the fact that John Chinaman cannot understand John Bull, as the points of view of both parties are absolutely opposed to each other. A Chinaman will not take the trouble to explain his complicated code of manners to the "foreign devil," and if the unfortunate "devil" does not grasp the situation (which is quite strange to him) by instinct, as well as the Chinaman does (who has been placed in similar positions since he could talk) the latter thinks it is only another sign of the inferiority of any and every race to that of the celestial empire. A coolie will address you in Chinese and if you don't understand he metaphorically shrugs his shoulders and remarks in a compassionate tone to his neighbor, "Look at the inferiority of these yellow-haired sons of Satan—they do not even understand as much as I, a common coolie." No matter whether you are versed in every language under the sun, you don't know as much as he does of Chinese manners, customs or language; therefore of course you are inferior. Our manners and customs are in so many respects so totally different, not only to theirs, but to their idea of propriety and common decency, that they entirely misconstrue them and put them down as evil. Take for instance their manner of dress. To their idea, in order to dress in decency the clothes must be so arranged as to hide all contours of the figure. To them the idea of wearing an ordinary coat such as our men wear, which shows the figure, and above all the accentuating of the chest by a white shirt, is bordering on impropriety.

The Shark's Mouth.

No doubt the shark's mouth is placed so much beneath the projecting muzzle, under which also the nostrils lie, that it may serve its proper purpose in the best way. In all records of the habits of this fish we are told that it can and does bite out large chunks of flesh from the dead bodies of whales, and even from living victims of its attack; and it is easily seen that if its mouth was like those of other fishes the necessary leverage would be lacking. A further reason seems to be that the shark by its peculiar position of its mouth is compelled to turn upon its back to strike, and is thus able to deliver its onset from below with more deadly effect. This formidable strength of jaw is backed up by a most terrible array of teeth, of which in some species there are as many as six rows all round. Each tooth is saw edged and pointed, and some of the largest are as much as two inches in breadth at their base. These lie flat against the jaws, and can be raised by separate muscles at will, so that, as the shark darts upon its prey, they spring out end, as a cat's claws are stuck out from its paws. This arrangement will not allow anything once bolted to return, so that a shark's mouth is a veritable death-trap.

Let but a little but be mine, Where at the hearthstone I may hear The cricket sing; And have the shine Of one glad woman's eyes to make, For my poor sake, Our simple home a place divine.

—James Whitcomb Riley.