

WILL WEAR ENGLAND OUT.

Transvaal State Secretary Prediction Is for Ten Years War.

Cattle Captured Sold Three or Four Times Over to the Government, Price Increased Each Time.

London, Feb. 12.—A copy of a letter was recently discovered in Pretoria, addressed by Transvaal State Secretary Keitz, at President Kruger's request, when war became inevitable, to certain members of the Volksraad (congress) whose determination was doubted. This letter advised them that if they entered into the war at all it should be with a stout resolution to see it through, as it would last ten years. The letter stated that the officials of the republic did not hope to defeat England in the field, but their plans and resources would enable them to wear England out in that decade.

One prediction has a particularly ominous significance just now, in view of the discouraging dispatches this week from the Pretoria correspondent of the Times, who reflects Kitchener's views. These dispatches warn the government that the war cannot be ended by the blockhouse system in the face of an enemy so mobile as the Boers are. Provisioning and garrisoning the blockhouses is straining the British transport and relief resources to the breaking point, although it is admitted that Hotentots are being employed largely in connection with the blockhouse system.

The waste of the army from disease in January, the worst month for enteric fever, included ten officers and 526 men dead, while eleven officers and 144 men were killed in action, the total casualties being eighty-seven officers and 2,665 men.

The war department remnant scandal, the treasury having been swindled out of many millions of dollars, betrays only one of the many directions in which incompetence and corruption have conspired to bleed the British taxpayer in connection with this awful war.

From South Africa comes the positive statement that the bulk of the vast herds of cattle captured from the Boers were sold by the military authorities to the South African Cold Storage company at from 4 to 6 cents a pound, the cattle selling the cattle back again to the military after a few weeks at from 14 to 18 cents a pound.

In some districts in Cape Colony, it is alleged, loyal colonial farmers, acting in collusion with certain military officials, contrived to sell horses and cattle to the British military authorities three or four times over.

These scandals were discovered some months ago, but the war department quietly cashiered the officers implicated, instead of imprisoning them, hoping by that means to escape exposure. The government's present policy is to postpone all inquiry till the war ends, trusting that it may find some further pretext to evade it altogether, or, at the worst, by one huge chaotic investigation, to confuse the issues and dissipate the responsibility. These moves are recognized and feared by the government's own supporters, but their hands are tied by dread of encouraging the Boers if the government is embarrassed.

FLOODED BY MANITOBA WHEAT.

Minneapolis, Minn., Feb. 12.—The immense crop of wheat raised in Manitoba last year has caused a demoralization in the market and had severe effects on the milling interests of the northwest. Foreigners are able to buy certain grades of Manitoba wheat at 3 cents a bushel cheaper than American wheat, with the result that it is being purchased, made into flour in Europe and sold in competition with the American flour at prices that the Minneapolis millers cannot reach.

As a way to put an end to this competition the Minneapolis mills have considered the possibility of bringing Manitoba wheat to Minneapolis in bond, grinding in local mills and re-shipping to Canada. Inquiries recently made of the revenue department develop the possibility of importing by paying a duty of 3 cents a bushel, which will be refunded when the manufactured product has been returned to Canada.

IMMENSE GLOUCESTER TRUST TO FORM.

New York, Feb. 12.—An official statement regarding the formation of a new Gloucester trust, is expected from the banking house of J. P. Morgan & Co., this afternoon. The new company, which is to merge all the Gloucester and starch manufacturing interests in the United States, secured its Jersey charter today. It will be known as the Corn Product company, and is to have a capital of \$50,000,000.

It is understood that John D. and William Rockefeller, Marshall Field and Norman R. Beam have joined hands with Morgan in financing the new trust.

Carnegie Library For Grand Island.

Grand Island, Neb., Feb. 12.—A letter has been received from Andrew Carnegie of library fame by the authorities of the Grand Island city library to the effect that a city of this size should have at least a \$20,000 library, and it is taken that if the city can assure \$2,000 a year for maintenance a gift from Mr. Carnegie will be secured. According to the present rate of assessment, the levy would provide but \$1,400, and an effort will no doubt be made to secure guarantees.

A REBELLION CONSPIRACY IN IRELAND.

London, Feb. 11.—The government is preparing to strengthen the troops in Ireland, and as soon as the Boer war comes to a close the present military forces in that island will be at least doubled. The government is convinced from secret investigation in certain districts of Connaught, there is a conspiracy at work to incite a rebellion in Ireland, and that leading Boers in Europe have done much to foment the Irish hatred of England, and to urge the discontented Irish to rise against the crown.

The conspirators are working with system and deliberation and are organizing companies, to be ready when the time comes to strike a blow. The young men especially are pledging themselves to the movement, and war between England and some other power is looked forward to as the opportunity for Irishmen to rise.

The leader of the movement is reported to be an Irish-American, who goes from one part of Ireland to another, appealing quietly to those whom he thinks he can trust to join the ranks of the patriots. The government has been successful in getting at the facts of the conspirators, and will be in readiness for any developments.

KNOWS NOT OF PARAMOUNT ISSUE.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—Senator Jones, chairman of the democratic national committee in a discussion relative to the future policy of his party, declared that while anti-imperialism might not be the paramount issue of the next national campaign, he believed it would be a most prominent one. The senator would not concede that the party leaders were perfecting plans for the entire elimination from that campaign of those policies that have been indelibly stamped with the imprint of Bryanism.

"No one can at this time," he remarked, "predict absolutely what the future policy of any party will be. It may be that the democratic party will find it advisable to eliminate certain policies of the past. If so, it will be done. I have authorized no one to defile my belief as to what action will be taken."

This assertion was in response to an interview given out in Boston by Irving Winslow, president of the New England Anti-Imperialistic league. Mr. Winslow gives Mr. Jones as his authority for the assertion that Bryanism will be dropped, and imperialism made the paramount issue.

MR. HAY IS SEEKING AN ANSWER.

Denver, Colo., Jan. 12.—The News says that a demand has not been made upon Governor Orman by Secretary of State Hay at Washington for an investigation of the destruction last summer of the buildings of William Radcliffe, an Englishman, located on Grand Mesa lakes in this state, by a mob. Radcliffe appealed to British Ambassador Pauncefote for redress, demanding \$55,000 damages of the state of Colorado. The trouble grew out of a dispute between ranchmen and Radcliffe over fishing privileges and culminated in the killing of a ranchman named Womack by one of Radcliffe's guards. A few days later the buildings on the lakes were destroyed by fire, it is claimed, started by friends of Womack in revenge for his death. The matter was originally referred to Governor Orman early in January, and, according to the News, communication from Secretary Hay has just been received, asking what had become of it.

THE SCHWABS LEAVE FOR HOME.

London, Feb. 12.—Charles M. Schwab and Mrs. Schwab left London for Southampton on their way to New York. Mr. Schwab said concerning his reception by King Edward:

"I was honored by being received by King Edward. Beyond that I cannot say anything on the subject, nor have I said a word more to anybody."

"Have you enjoyed your trip to Europe, Mr. Schwab?" the correspondent inquired.

"Never in all the years I have been coming have I enjoyed it more."

"You do not appear to have had much of a rest," it was suggested.

"You have had a busy time."

"Oh, I could not sit still and do nothing," Mr. Schwab replied. "That would not be rest to me. I find rest in change of scene and occupation. I have found it and never felt better."

Mr. Schwab certainly looked well and was in high spirits.

A MILLION SUBJECTS ARE IN PRISON.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 12.—Russian prison statistics lately published reveal some startling facts. Four years ago the number of prisoners in Russia was 764,373. Now it has risen to 842,729. If the inmates of the military prisons, the peasants in houses of correction and the prisoners in trans-Caspian jails were counted, it would be found that 1,000,000 of the subjects of the czar are incarcerated, not including the Siberian exiles, who number 7,160, nor the 3,328 convicts in the Saghalin prison. The budget appropriates about \$6 per prisoner a year, the expenditure aggregating \$7,500,000, of which amount \$35.25 is squandered on books and papers for a million prisoners.

To Merge the Salt Interests.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 12.—The International Salt company, with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, was incorporated at Springfield today.

The new company will take in the National Salt company and the refining Salt company of New York, Joy Morton & Co. of Chicago and several other companies not yet named.

Besides Mark Morton, Daniel Oltman and Daniel Perkin of Chicago are named as incorporators.

GOOD FOR STRATEGY.

Danish Islands Offer Strength to Commercial Interests.

By the Cession United States Does Not Assume Obligations of the Larger Sugar Companies.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The recent favorable report by the senate committee on foreign relations of the treaty for the cession of the islands of the Danish West Indies was accompanied by a written statement made by the committee to the senate. This report contains a small diagram showing the location of the three islands and the positions relative to Porto Rico and gives numerous interesting facts relative to the islands.

It shows that during the year 1900 the islands exported to the United States sugar, molasses and distilled spirits amounting to \$38,954, and that during the same period the exportations from the United States amounted to \$624,524. The annexation of the islands was sought by the United States years ago, but Denmark declined to sell the islands for \$5,000,000, but asked \$15,000,000. Secretary Seward offered \$7,000,000, which was declined. He afterward agreed to pay that amount for the islands of St. Thomas and St. John, but the trade fell through because of complications which arose. At that time Denmark insisted that the consent of the people of the islands should be formally given before the sale should be consummated and when the vote was taken there was only twenty-three out of a total of over 1,200 ballots against the cession. When the treaty was returned to the senate of the United States it was tied up there for two years and ultimately failed of ratification.

Continuing the report says: "These islands together with Porto Rico are of great importance in a strategic way, whether the strategic be military or commercial. St. Thomas is the natural point of call for all European trade bound to the West Indies, Central America or northern South America. These islands, together with Porto Rico, form the northeastern corner of the Caribbean sea and are of great importance in connection with the American isthmus, where a canal will be constructed between the Atlantic and the Pacific. They are of first importance in connection with our relations with the region of the Amazon and with our control of the Windward Passage.

"In view of the isthmian canal and European settlements in South America every additional acquisition by the United States is of value. Porto Rico is densely populated. Its roads are poor. It has a long coast line, without ports for large vessels. It is consequently very difficult of defence. San Juan is the only harbor capable of fortifications and this is only suitable for vessels of light draught."

Explaining the provision in the treaty for continuing the pensions to retired local functionaries, it is stated that the total amount required annually for this purpose would not exceed \$25,000. Explanation is also made of the pledges of the Danish government to the St. Thomas Floating Dock company, the West Indian Panama Telegraph company and the St. Croix Sugar company, mentioned in the treaty as the Fallesuukkerfabrik. With reference to the floating dock company it is stated that the effect of the treaty provisions to secure the company in the enjoyment of its franchise until 1916, and it is further explained that the company is not subsidized by the Danish or the insular treasury, but that services are rendered by the company to the government and paid for according to the approved schedule.

The explanation is added that the Department of State is advised by the Navy department that the floating dock is equipped to perform all required services and that the use of its facilities will be of practicable use to the navy.

Explanation is made of the relationship of Denmark to the sugar company to the effect that Denmark originally made a loan of 1,414,734 crowns at a stipulated interest to this company. The interest not having been paid after twenty years the Danish government took possession of the property and assumed all obligations growing out of this relationship. The object of the closing provision of article 1 of the treaty is to discharge the insular treasury and government of the United States from all liability by reason of the non-payment of the guaranteed interest. It is understood to be the purpose of the Danish government to put itself in position to wind up the affairs of this company as soon as possible. An explicit assurance is given that "no responsibility or obligation of any kind rests on the government of the United States or the insular treasury in connection with the St. Croix Sugar company."

To Honor Lincoln's Memory.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 12.—Prince Henry of Prussia has expressed a desire to honor the memory of President Lincoln during his stay in Chicago by formally placing a wreath on the monument of the martyred president in Lincoln Park. An expression of this wish was conveyed today to Dr. H. A. Weaver, the imperial German consul in this city, and was reported by him to the committee having in charge arrangements for the prince's reception.

FIVE SHIPS ARE TO BE FILLED.

New York, Feb. 12.—Five ship loads of American agricultural machinery will be forwarded from New York and Philadelphia to the Black Sea within the next six weeks. These shipments will represent not less than 36,000 tons, which is an excess of about 80 per cent over the entire direct consignments made last year to the same part of the world.

Wilson liners will carry the machinery. The first steamer, the Othello, will sail from Philadelphia next week. This vessel will carry more than 10,000 tons of reapers, mowers, harvesters, rakes, etc., to Odessa for the South Russian markets. The McCormick company of Chicago will ship by the Othello nearly 9,000 tons of its harvesters. This firm's shipment will make the largest cargo of machinery of any description that has ever been forwarded from this country to a foreign port, the record shipment to date being 7,000 tons, which was made to the Black Sea by the Castello last February. The remainder of the Othello's cargo will be made up of machinery turned out by the Deering Harvester company of Chicago and the Johnson Harvester company of Batavia, New York.

Freight engagements have already been made with the Plano Manufacturing company of Chicago for 3,000 tons. The Aultman Miller company of Akron, Ohio, will send 2,000 tons, and 1,200 tons will be forwarded by the Deering Harvester company of Chicago.

BAD FIRE IN A KANSAS TOWN.

Horton, Kan., Feb. 12.—The great car works of the Rock Island Railroad located in this city were swept by fire today. Two lives were lost and property worth \$250,000 was destroyed.

The flames were first discovered in the hair sorting room of the cabinet department and spread with alarming rapidity. Employees on the second floor leaped through the windows, clambered down fire escapes and there were many narrow escapes. W. H. Davis, the oldest employe of the factory, was penned up and unable to get out. P. H. McKeon, superintendent of the board of education, plunged into the burning building and endeavored to rescue his old friend, but both perished together.

Several of the employes in Superintendent Studer's office were injured in their efforts to escape. The walls of the car shops fell twenty minutes after the fire was discovered. The loss on the building is \$50,000, machinery \$100,000, material \$100,000. The engine-house was destroyed, but the new \$75,000 boiler plant was saved. The fire is still raging in the lumber yard, which contains 5,000,000 feet of lumber. The buildings, machinery and material that escaped are valued at \$2,000,000. The company will rebuild the car shops at once.

CAPITAL IS TWO HUNDRED MILLION.

New York, Feb. 12.—George Rice of Morietta, O., the foe of the oil trust, in a letter declares that the actual capitalization of the Standard Oil company is over \$200,000,000, and not \$100,000,000, as generally supposed. Rice says:

"John D. Rockefeller, president of the Standard Oil trust, in 1899 swore that there were only twenty corporations in the trust, with an aggregate capitalization of \$102,233,000. On June 14, 1899, one of the five companies belonging to the Standard Oil trust—the New Jersey Standard Oil company—increased its capitalization from \$10,000,000 to \$110,000,000, which increased the capitalization of the Standard Oil trust by \$100,000,000—1,000,000 more shares, par value \$100 each, making the trust's present capitalization not less than \$202,233,000, and at the average market price of \$763 a share, this is equivalent to an investment value of \$1,543,043,000."

"It follows that the 20 per cent dividend just declared amounted to \$40,000,000, instead of \$20,000,000, as stated in all the newspapers."

Rice points out that at the average market price the steel combine aggregates an investment of \$757,500,000—less than half that of the oil trust. He alleges that the public has been deceived when it was indirectly given to understand that the total capitalization of the Standard Oil company was to be transferred into the New Jersey Standard Oil company.

HOUSE AND SENATE PLANS.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Oleomargarine is on the bill of fare for this week, and unless appropriation bills interfere the much discussed measure will reach a vote before Saturday. The Indian appropriation bill will also come up for consideration and a big batch of war claims will be passed.

At 1 o'clock Saturday the house will listen to eulogies in memory of the late Representative Burke of Texas. The consideration of the Philippine tariff bill will be resumed in the senate and will probably occupy all of the week. Turner will finish his speech and will be followed by Teller, Bailey, Mitchell, Dubois, Culbertson and Patterson. It is confidently expected that the bill will be passed toward the close of the week.

Fireman Lose Control.

New York, Feb. 12.—Fire broke out shortly after midnight in the carsheds at Paterson, N. J., and the flames, driven by a brisk wind, spread to surrounding buildings. The First Baptist church has been completely gutted. The office of the Paterson Guardian is burning and that of the Call is threatened. The electric lighting system is disabled and the town is in darkness. The damage will amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. The firemen have no control of the fire.

CONDITION OF CUBA.

Sugar Is Now Selling Below Cost on the Island

General Wood Declares that Low Price of Sugar is Responsible For Island's Condition.

Chicago, Feb. 12.—Some time ago a Chicago commercial house addressed a letter to General Leonard Wood, military governor of Cuba, asking these questions:

"Why is it that Cuba is not much more fortunate now with freedom from Spain and from Spanish enormous exactions, than ever before? Has she not a free field for the sale of her goods as before, and is she not relieved from a corrupt administration and from the necessity of paying large tribute to support it?"

"What is the commercial reason that Cuba cannot prosper better now than prior to 1898, even if we give no tariff concessions to her?"

General Wood's response was as follows: "LOWER THAN EVER BEFORE. "The great difficulty with Cuba at the present time is that the principal product, sugar, is now at a lower price than ever before known. The enormous output of European bounty-fed sugar has brought the price of sugar down to a very low figure—in fact below the cost of production.

"If we can get a moderate reduction in duty (not less than 33 1-3 per cent) Cuban sugar can be marketed at a profit. Today, as a matter of fact, most plantations are selling their sugar, because they have no reserve funds, and cannot afford to hold it, taking prices below the cost of production.

"Sugar which used to be 5 reals per arroba (a real is 12 1/2 cents, and an arroba 25 pounds) is now selling as low as 3 1-4 reals. This is the gist of the whole matter."

HE DECLINES TO HONOR HIMSELF.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—The president has approved, with one notable exception, all the recommendations made by the army brevet board, of which General MacArthur was president, for the bestowal of brevet rank on all the officers of the army who rendered especially meritorious services during the war with Spain and in the subsequent campaigns in the Philippines and Cuba.

The exception noted is in the case of Theodore Roosevelt, who was awarded the brevets of colonel and brigadier general for distinguished services at San Juan and Santiago. Under the law these brevets require the confirmation of the senate, and the nominations have been made out for transmission to that body, but as already stated, the list will not contain the name of the president.

It is expected that the medals of honor and certificates of merit recommended by the board for individual gallantry, which also have been approved by the president, will be announced at the war department next week. These awards do not require the sanction of the senate.

SWEDEN TO FIGHT MINING TRUST.

London, Feb. 12.—News comes from Stockholm that an exciting legal contest is imminent between the Swedish government and international trust which has managed to secure temporary control of the Lapland iron fields, the most valuable mines of the kind in Europe.

While the government was negotiating to take over the deposits, the owners disposed for the next ten years, of the output of the mines for 150,000,000 francs (\$28,950,000). The securities the government sought to obtain were hurried off to a bank in Paris.

Mr. Odolger, the minister of agriculture, proposes to attempt to get control of all the mines, on the ground that the conditions laid down for the concession of crown lands, the mining rights have been violated. If the action succeeds, the shareholders will be at the mercy of parliament for compensation for their holdings.

DES MOINES MAIL IS FUMIGATED.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 12.—The aid of the federal government has been invoked by the health department to compel the authorities of Des Moines to suppress smallpox, and to protect Chicago from the ravages of the disease, which is said to have 400 victims in the Iowa capital.

Chief Medical Inspector Spalding has written to Postmaster Coyne, suggesting the advisability of fumigating the mail from Des Moines. The fumigation when done by the United States government involves a delay of not less than twelve hours, according to Secretary Pritchard.

Postmaster Coyne may at once communicate with the postoffice department and urge the necessity for intercepting the dangerous germs.

Says He Has Lived Two Centuries.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Half a dozen members of the Kaw tribe of Indians called at the White house this morning to shake hands with the president. They were introduced by Representative Curtis of Kansas who, himself, is of Indian forefathers. The red men were led by Chief Washuna, dressed in full costume, from feathers to moccasins.

Washuna told the correspondents in the president's ante room that he was 107 years old.

THE CENSUS GROWTH IS GENERAL.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—The director of the census has made the following statement of the increase of population of places of less than 4,000 inhabitants east and west of the Mississippi river and the counties which have decreased in population:

The increase of population in the states east of the Mississippi river was 18.7 per cent between 1880 and 1890 and 18.2 between 1890 and 1900.

In the same area the increase in population, meaning thereby all places of more than 4,000 inhabitants, was 53.1 per cent between 1880 and 1890 and only 37.2 per cent between 1890 and 1900. Both of these statements could not be true unless the population of places having less than 4,000 inhabitants had been growing more rapidly in the last ten years than in the preceding decade. Such is the fact. Between 1880 and 1890 the population east of the Mississippi and excluding places of more than 4,000 increased 4.9 per cent, but between 1890 and 1900 8.7 per cent.

To throw further light on this increased prosperity of the small towns during the last ten years a study has been made by the census office of those counties which actually decreased in population during either decade, after making allowance for changes in county boundaries. Counties of this class are predominantly agricultural, and usually have lost through migration to more favored localities of the natural increase of their population by births over deaths.

CENSUS BUREAU BILL IS INTACT.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—The house bill making the census bureau permanent, has received final consideration at the hands of the committee on census. Senator Quarles was authorized to report the bill and to make an effort to secure immediate consideration of it.

The bill was not materially changed. The amendment was made looking to the requirement that the present clerical force of the census office should take an examination before being placed within the classified service, but on the contrary the committee recommends that there shall be an explicit declaration that all the members of this force who are on the rolls at the passage of the act shall be included in the classified service, "without further examination."

The section of the bill relating to the civil service also exempts supervisors, enumerators and special agents from its requirements, but there is an explicit provision that in the future all new appointments to the clerical force of the office shall undergo civil service examination.

As amended the bill provides for four instead of three chief statisticians, and for four instead of three chiefs of divisions. The director's salary is raised from \$5,000 to \$7,500 per annum.

The fact was brought out in the hearings on the bill that there are now about 1,000 persons employed in the clerical force of the office who would be legislated into the classified service if the bill should immediately become a law.

MR. WU, EXPLAINS HIS POSITION.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—The Chinese minister, Mr. Wu, made a statement intended to correct what he regarded as a misinterpretation of his attitude toward the laboringman in the United States in regard to the Chinese exclusion act. The minister said: "There seems to be some misunderstanding with regard to the letter I wrote to the state department concerning the Chinese exclusion act now before congress. I am told that the impression prevails that I antagonize the laboringmen of this country. That is not true. I have never said anything to cast the slightest reflection upon the laborers of America, who are useful members of the community. Why, even in China, according to our classification, the workingman ranks higher than the merchant and tradesman. This shows how China appreciates him, and nothing was further from my thoughts than to say anything that could be construed as reflecting upon this class."

TO TAX THE JOHANNESBURG MINES.

London, Feb. 12.—The terms which the government is willing to grant the Boers are substantially confirmed by the official explanations of the correspondence with the Dutch government. They are a surrender, and a representative government, whenever England is ready to grant it.

Meanwhile, the Johannesburg adventurers, including a number of Americans who brought about the war, are striving to get into their possession the mining properties of the Boers not already in the hands of foreigners. The British taxpayers will probably demand that the mines be made to bear a part of the burden.

They are immensely rich, and could doubtless meet a large share of the interest on the Boer war debt.

Mining interests of the west are evincing great interest in the bill recently introduced in congress by Wood of California, providing for a cabinet minister of mining.

Young Girl Is Murdered.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 12.—Late this afternoon the body of a young girl was found on a bed in a vacant house on Suter street, where it had evidently laid for several weeks. A man who rented the house from a real estate agent is suspected of being the murderer. It is believed he killed the girl to hush up and secure the body for the purpose of concealing the body. It was only by accident that the corpse of the victim was discovered.