

DIAZ MAY SONN GIVE UP OFFICE.

Financial Circles in the United States are Disturbed by What May Befall.

Present Executive Dies or Retires Either Bernardo Reyes or Jose Limatour Will Succeed.

Mexico City, Mar. 12.—Recent telegrams from points on the American frontier to journals of weight and prominence in the United States deal with the important matter of the succession to the presidency of this republic in case of the retirement of President Diaz, or at the expiration of his present constitutional period, and it was stated that he would in such case be succeeded by the present minister of war, Bernardo Reyes.

American papers have widely commented on this dispatch, praising the minister of war as a valiant soldier and as governor of the important state of Nuevo Leon, where his administration gave satisfaction not only to the Mexican people, but to resident Americans, and it was properly argued that as capable an administrator would be certain to carry on the wise policy of President Diaz, who has created what is now generally called "Modern Mexico."

REYES LIKED BY AMERICANS. American editors also noted the fact of sympathy existing between Americans and General Reyes, who, it is said, would be certain to maintain the peace of Mexico unaltered.

It is known on unimpeachable authority that General Reyes, in case of the presidential succession being for the causes named, would give his cordial support to the candidacy of Minister of Finance Jose Ives Limatour, a statesman of demonstrated aptitude for the highest administration of the government and a strong and able man.

People unacquainted with Mexican affairs have sometimes regarded Senor Limatour as being merely a financier, which is an error, and it is believed, apparently in the United States, that only a soldier can maintain the present most satisfactory state of things in this country and thus it has come about that the American press has spoken enthusiastically of General Reyes as the successor of President Diaz, but it is known here that General Reyes is himself one of the elements of strength behind General Limatour, as General Reyes has publicly on various occasions expressed himself. That it is believed that Minister Limatour, supported by General Reyes and other leading personages here, will meet completely the needs of Mexico, who a peace with progress, and once occupying the chair the president would pass his acts on the firm foundation laid by President Diaz.

FINANCIERS REASSURED. This statement of the situation in high politics of Mexico will make clear how harmonious are the relations of high personages for the present administration and will assure investors in all forms of Mexican securities of the continuance of those conditions of peace and progressive enterprise so superbly established by President Diaz, who has harmonized all parties and factions and created an era of political good feeling unparalleled except during the presidential term of James Monroe in the United States.

LEGISLATION FAVORS SAVINGS BANKS. Des Moines, Ia., Mar. 12.—Members of the legislature and others who have watched the course of special legislation were considerably surprised that the bankers succeeded in getting a bill through both houses. This was the bill passed by the senate, providing that savings banks may accept deposits amounting to twenty times their capital stock instead of ten times, as the present law provides. It met with strong opposition in the house on the ground that it would impair the stability of the savings banks and thus place the small accumulations of the laboring classes at the mercy of the operators of banks. It passed by a good majority, however, and will now become a law unless vetoed by Governor Cummins, which is not probable.

The subcommittee of the house mines and mining committee appointed to draft a bill in conformity with the report made by the Kendall commission appointed to investigate the cause of mine explosions, has made a rough draft of the bill which will be presented. It embodies the suggestions made in the majority and minority reports of the commission, and it is regarded as probable that the bill will pass this session, although doubtless some opposition will be made to it by the operators. Representative Kendall has submitted the measure to the miners who have been assembled here in convention, and it meets with their approval. The operators will not object to it seriously, although they may desire one or two minor modifications in the measure.

Liquor Law Violated. Topeka, Kan., Mar. 12.—The supreme court has decided that the section of the liquor law which gives cities the right to pass ordinances to suppress nuisance and providing for search and seizure is valid. The opinion is rendered in a case from Ellsworth county, in which John Kenrick was convicted under an ordinance passed by the city of Wilson and based upon the Hurrel law. He appealed the case on the ground that the title of the law is defective.

IOWA CANDIDATE CRIES FRAUD.

Des Moines, Ia., Mar. 12.—The contest in Polk county for control of the congressional delegation was so close that despite the fact that Congressman Hull has a clear majority of the delegations from the precincts, the Prouty people threaten to make a contest in the county convention and to carry it to the congressional convention, with a view of causing a division in the party. In a number of the precincts, particularly in Des Moines, the vote was very close and one or the other of the candidates secured the delegation by a mere handful of votes.

It is admitted that desperate means were resorted to by both sides for control of the precincts. There is no doubt that a great many democrats were voted in many of the precincts. But in view of the fact that Hull's friends controlled the county committee and named the judges of election, fixed the time of closing the polls and prescribed the rules, Judge Prouty claims there was fraud in a few of the precincts sufficient to make the change in the result as shown on the face of the returns.

The Hull people have no fear of the threatened bolt in the convention and say that it will be impossible now for Prouty to get the other counties of the district outside of Polk county. They believe Hull will be nominated by acclamation.

The total vote at the republican primary was nearly 13,000, and the latest returns show that Hull had 6,845 and Prouty 6,225, but of the delegates Hull has 133 and but 108 are for Prouty.

DEWEY IS FULL OF SHREWDNESS.

Paris, Mar. 12.—A French army officer who fought with the Boers in South Africa, who was captured and is now in exile in Portuguese territory, in a letter to a friend gives this description of General Dewey, the Boer leader:

"Compared with Louis Botha, or almost any other of our generals, Dewey presented but a sorry plight. His manners are uncouth and his dress careless to a degree.

"But Dewey, if he lacks culture, certainly has an abundance of shrewdness, and is not without some dignity at times; and I must confess that it is chiefly owing to Dewey and Steyn that the war did not end with the fall of Pretoria.

"What is the secret of his success? This: He has but one idea, the independence of his country. Say to him: 'If the English win—' and he breaks in: 'If the heavens fall.'

"Beside he has men to aid him whose names have never been heard of, but who, if Dewey were captured tomorrow, would be both willing and able to take his place."

THE IRON HAND OF THE CZAR.

London, Mar. 12.—A St. Petersburg dispatch states that the czar is about to adopt a policy of repression towards nihilists and conspirators. Under the military rule of the present czar conspiracies against the government have spread throughout the empire, both in Europe and Asia, and the plotters only await a favorable moment to attack the throne.

Evidence enough has been gathered to convince the czar that mildness fosters revolutionary plots against his government, and he has resolved to follow in the footsteps of his father and be a terror to secret enemies. Instructions have been sent to Siberia to put in the mines again all political prisoners suspected of plotting with their former assistants in Russia.

Several military officers found guilty of being implicated in nihilism, and whose sentences have been suspended, have suffered death, and all Russia is beginning to learn that Nicholas II can rule with an iron hand.

NO DELAY IN MOVING THE TROOPS.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 8.—It is said at the war department that there will be little or no delay in the execution of the orders recently issued by the secretary of war for the return to the United States of all the regiments sent to the Philippines in 1899, aggregating about 13,500 men. According to the paper prepared at the department, there will be a sufficient number of transports leaving Manila between now and that date to move 8,740 troops and by May 15 to move the entire number of 13,500.

Including fresh troops in the United States now under orders for service in the Philippines, General Chaffee will have a standing army of 32,000 men, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the 13,500 already under orders to come home.

Refuses to Help Boers.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 12.—Heinrich Mueller, representing the Orange Free State, called upon Secretary Hay and asked whether the United States could do anything to alleviate the condition of the Boers in the British reconcentration camps of South Africa. Owing to this government's position of neutrality, the secretary said he was unable to offer his visitor any encouragement.

New Trial For Miss Morrison.

Topeka, Kan., Mar. 12.—Jessie Morrison, who was convicted of second degree murder for the killing of Mrs. Clara W. Castle of Eldorado about a year ago, has been granted a new trial by the supreme court. The court held that there was error in the empanelling of the jury which tried Miss Morrison. Miss Morrison was a rival of Mrs. Castle in a love affair. She was invited by her victim to her home and in a quarrel that ensued cut her throat with a razor.

LURID WORDS FROM FUNSTON.

At a Dinner in His Honor Kansas General Uses Violent Language.

Rather Than Have One Soldier Killed He Would Have All Anti-Imperialists Hanged.

New York, Mar. 12.—Brigadier General Frederick Funston was the guest of honor at a dinner given at the Lotus club. More than 300 members of the club were present. The guest's table was presided over by Frank Lawrence, president of the club. At his right sat General Funston.

When the dinner was over President Lawrence arose and introducing General Funston said:

"There are some things which do not enter into the realms of controversy and among them are the bravery and the intrepidity of the armies we have sent there. I have the pleasure of introducing to you one whose single act almost brought to a close the war in the Philippines. We greet him most heartily."

General Funston said that judging from the remarks of the president he was expected to talk about the war in the Philippines.

NOT AN AGREEABLE SUBJECT.

"To talk about the war over there is not an agreeable subject," he said, "but what I may say may aid some of you in forming opinions. The army has been doing as well as it could under the circumstances."

"When Manila was surrendered to Dewey and Merritt some thousands of Spaniards were in the city. In the eyes of the world these people looked to us for protection, and to have turned them over to the uncontrollable mob known as Aguinaldo's army would have been the blackest page of American history, one that a thousand years of repentance and restitution would not have satisfied."

General Funston then told in minute detail of the circumstances which led to the warfare between the American army and the insurgents, and during the narrative told of the shooting of several sentries by Filipino scouts, who had passed the lines. He said that on the opening of the battle between the army and the insurgents Major Metcalf of the First Kansas regiment had come to his quarters and said:

"The dance has begun."

"What dance?" I asked, and Major Metcalf replied: 'Go out and hear it,' and I went out and heard the pattering of rifle balls, and that was the beginning of the war over there." General Funston then said:

"All sorts of men get into the army. They are good, bad and indifferent, but I believe that ninety-five per cent of the American soldiers are a brave and humane lot of men. The other five per cent, who have been writing letters to newspapers, have ornamented the insides of grog houses for a longer time than they have distinguished themselves in the field."

RECOUNTS GALLANT DEEDS.

General Funston then mentioned several instances of personal bravery on the part of the men in the army which resulted in their death, including those of Captain Godfrey and Sergeant O'Brien. He was present when Sergeant O'Brien was shot and said it was "one of those wild moments that are worth ten years of humdrum existence." His listeners cheered the remark. General Funston then said:

"All of those men who have fallen since December, 1899, have been victims of a lot of misinformed and misguided people here in the United States. It is perfectly proper for us to have all sorts of opinions as to what we should do with the Philippine islands, but for heaven's sake, let us keep them to ourselves until every square inch of that territory recognizes the sovereignty of the United States."

General Funston then gave many examples to show that the Filipino leaders were not true patriots. He mentioned the slaying of Antonio Luna, who was ordered slain by Aguinaldo. General Funston related that Aguinaldo had told him in regard to Luna's death: "I had him killed simply because he would have been dictator instead of myself."

The general said there was not one of the so-called Filipino patriots who could not be convicted of murder if he was tried by a jury. He declared that there had never been a war in the world's history where the soldiers had shown such humanity as had the American troops in the Philippine islands. He then told of twenty-four American soldiers who had joined the Filipino army and were afterwards captured and executed as traitors, and then said:

"There are as many men in the United States who did more with their mouths and minds to aid the insurgents than did these poor men with the Krag-Jorgensen rifles. I would rather see these men hanged for treason than to see one of our soldiers dead on the field of battle."

Squadron at Colon.

Colon, Colombia, Mar. 12.—The United States squadron comprising the battleships Kearsarge, Indiana, Massachusetts and Alabama under command of Rear Admiral Higginson, commander in chief of the North Atlantic squadron, has entered the harbor here. The squadron will remain here three days. United States Consul Oscar Malmros boarded the flagship immediately on the arrival of the squadron and paid his respects to Admiral Higginson.

VICTIMS MAY APPEAL TO CONGRESS.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 8.—It was learned from what seemed to be a reliable source, that the counsel for the claimants in the disputed cases growing out of the destruction of the Maine, are considering, in view of the difficulty they might have proving that Spain destroyed the Maine, the expediency of going direct to congress, with the hope of law getting a law directing the Spanish claims commission to allow reasonable damages without such proof.

Section 12 of the act creating the Spanish treaty claims commission, directs that all awards of the commission shall be final, unless a new trial or hearing shall be granted by the commission upon motion made within sixty days of the award. Counsel have said that they would apply for a rehearing.

Section 1 provides that when the commission is in doubt as to any case before them, they may submit the same to the supreme court for its decision.

The counsel for the claimants have applied under Section 13 and there are to be briefs filed by March 17. The attorney general's brief will be ready by March 21 and the question will be taken up by the commission on the latter date.

SPAIN IS QUAKING WITH REVOLUTION.

London, Mar. 8.—Weyler's sanguinary methods, while effective in putting down the insurrection in Catalonia, excite unfavorable comment in other parts of Spain. The wretched condition of the toilers, both in town and field, and disgust with the dynasty which has witnessed the defeat of Spain, are exciting disorder and plotting against the government.

When Alfonso XIII becomes king in fact, he will find the whole peninsula quaking with the premonition of revolution. Alfonso will be 16 years of age on May 17, when he can rule without his mother. He is a pale, sharp-featured boy, lacking physical strength. He is good in his habits, so far as they are developed, and is devoted to the clergy and religion.

He is far his mother's inferior in mental ability, and the only hope for him in the early part of his reign is that he will continue to be guided by her.

REED A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT.

Chicago, Ill., Mar. 12.—A special to the Chicago American from New York says:

"Tom Reed is a candidate for the presidential nomination of 1904 by his own inclination and the wish of Wall street, and when Roosevelt enters the jousting place he will find the brilliant ex-speaker ready to give him battle."

The news that Reed has become a candidate will not be a surprise, for when he settled in New York it was felt that his removal from Maine was due not so much to the salary attached to the new position as to his wish to become identified with a state whose place in a national campaign was both uncertain and of sufficient size to make a fight for its electoral vote worth while.

THE PARTY WHIP IS TO BE PLIED.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 12.—There were rumors of proffered compromises in the fight on Cuban reciprocity, wagging among the republicans of the house. The situation has not been changed, however.

The ways and means republicans sent a feeler to the "rebate republicans," promising that nothing further would be done if they would accept the 20 per cent reduction proposition. It was rejected with scorn. There was talk of a proposed compromise on a 12 per cent basis, but this could not be traced to its source.

Speaker Henderson and Chairman Payne of the ways and means committee again conferred with President Roosevelt, but gave out no details. A conference of republicans on the subject will be held.

INCREASE OF NEBRASKA'S MILITIA.

Lincoln, Neb., Mar. 12.—The numerical strength of the Nebraska National guard will soon be increased to approximately 2,000 officers and enlisted men. The last roster shows an aggregate number of 1,541, but this does not include the independent companies recently formed in West Point and Stanton, nor the South Omaha company of cavalry.

There are three additional companies in course of preparation. One is a battery of light artillery in this city, another is a medical corps and the third is an engineer corps. Dr. Birkner of Lincoln has been authorized by the adjutant general to organize the medical corps and as soon as completed will be mustered in and made an independent company. The engineer and signal corps are being organized in Fremont. Each independent company will comprise approximately sixty-five officers and men.

Adjutant General Colby hopes soon to form the proposed Third regiment. To do this it may be necessary to have each regiment consist of only nine companies.

Cuban Message May Come.

Denver, Mar. 12.—Rev. John F. Spalding, bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church of the diocese of Colorado, is reported dangerously ill from heart disease at the home of his son, Rev. Frank S. Spalding, at Erie, Pa. A telegram to that effect was received today by William Spalding, another son of the bishop, and he at once left for Erie. Bishop Spalding is well advanced in years and has been in poor health for some time.

TALK ABOUT IRRIGATION.

Congressman Mondell Tries to Answer Critics of Irrigation.

Expects Subterranean Rivers and Storage Basins to Produce Uniform Flow in Surface Streams.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 12.—Representative Mondell reported favorably the bill for the reclamation of arid lands, as introduced by Representative Newlands. The report covers twenty-five pages of typewritten matter and is exhaustive in character. Of the states named in the bill, Kansas and Nebraska, according to the report, contain no lands, which strictly speaking, are arid, and a considerable portion of the semi-arid lands are susceptible to irrigation. The amount of land remaining in public ownership in these states is comparatively small, in Nebraska about one-tenth and in Kansas a considerably smaller portion.

Mr. Mondell says the American pioneer has irrigated in the region included in the bill, about 75,000,000 acres of land, and has expended thereon a sum estimated at \$200,000,000. The acreage under irrigation in Nebraska is given at 148,538; South Dakota, 42,019; Wyoming, 608,942.

The report of the irrigation committee says that the territory affected by the bill is nearly one-half of the area of the United States, and that in the sixteen arid land states there are over 535,000,000 acres, or more than one-sixteenth of the area of the country, of public land subject to entry. Of this vast tract only 10,000,000 acres will produce crops without irrigation, showing the wide extent of the arid districts.

Mr. Mondell points out that with such a vast domain no other than the government can deal adequately with the problem of irrigation. He also shows that irrigation long ago passed the experimental stage and that its great advantages have been established in this country and abroad. The bill, he says, proposes no taxation to carry out the irrigation project, the entire expense being derived from the sale of public lands in the states to be irrigated.

In reply to the objections made against the measure by the Nebraska representatives in congress; that as the bill stood it would have the effect, if passed, of considerably reducing the volume of water in the Platte river flowing through Nebraska, Mr. Mondell says: "The bill provides for the sinking of artesian wells. It is hoped that these test wells will demonstrate the existence of an extensive artesian basin throughout Western Nebraska, and Kansas, as well as elsewhere in the region. In semi-arid states which receive their waters from the arid mountain states will not only have the benefit of all the storage and the diversion undertaken with a view of reclaiming the semi-arid lands within their borders, but will also be benefited by every storage and diversion work undertaken and accomplished at the headwaters and along the upper course of the streams."

"The storage work will hold back the flood waters which would otherwise go to waste or cause destruction, and these waters, utilized in connection with the larger proportion of natural flow of stream, could without flood conservation be utilized for the irrigation of large tracts of land and in a short time would convert these tracts now absolutely dry, into water-soaked areas, seepage from which, returning to the stream, would produce a largely increased and uniform flow in the lower course of the rivers, at a time when most needed, and when under present conditions the streams are lowest."

PASSES THE SCHOOL TAX BILL.

Des Moines, Ia., Mar. 12.—The senate has passed the bills to give to the state university and to the state college, each a special tax of five years of 1-10 mill for the benefit of the building fund. The discussion of the matter was taken up where it was left off on the previous days and Senator Trewin made a plea for the amendment to the bill to give the tax to the university. The amendment was lost and then the bill was passed 39 to 15. As soon as this was done the bill to give the state college at Ames the same tax was passed 39 to 7.

Much of the long controversy over the tax question was due to a desire to gain time for the consideration of the railway assessments measure, which was on the calendar for a special order. As soon as the tax matter was out of the way, Senator Hazelton renewed his motion to postpone consideration of the railway assessment bill which had been reported by the committee on ways and means, and to make it a special order for next Tuesday morning at 10:30.

Demands Refused.

Fall River, Mass., Mar. 12.—The manufacturers' association has notified the Weavers' union and Textile council that their demand that operatives' wages be advanced 10 per cent by March 17 is refused, and adhering to the previous determination to voluntarily advance wages 6 per cent on April 7. Calls will immediately be issued for special meetings next week. If a strike follows, 25,000 operatives will be idle.

CAPTAIN HULL IS RENOMINATED.

Des Moines, Ia., Mar. 12.—The most interesting primary election ever held here was the chief attraction in Des Moines and Polk county last week. The election was to choose a candidate for Congress in the Seventh district, four candidates for judges in the judicial district, a full county ticket, township tickets in the several townships in the county and a full city ticket for the spring election.

The matter of greatest interest was in the congressional fight, where the present congressman, Captain J. A. T. Hull, was opposed by Judge S. F. Prouty. The winner in this county will be conceded the election by the other counties of the district.

The next thing of great interest was the judicial election, where there were four candidates to be elected, all of whom will be elected in this county and sit on the district bench in Des Moines. One of the candidates alone sought renomination and was practically conceded the nomination, which narrowed the fight down to three places.

About 6,000 votes were cast in the primaries in Des Moines and a large vote in the county.

Captain Hull was renominated for congress and will have a comfortable majority of the total vote over Judge Prouty. The late returns give him 137 delegates from the city and a few precincts near town, or twenty-six more than enough to nominate. He estimates his total vote in the convention at 145. James Brenton was nominated for mayor, having nearly twice as large a vote as Patrick, his opponent.

WILL NOT ATTEND CORONATION.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 12.—Miss Alice Roosevelt, daughter of the president, will not attend the coronation of King Edward. While the White House officials decline to discuss the matter it was stated by those in a position to know that the president had decided that she should not go.

It was learned tonight that the reason why Miss Roosevelt will not attend the coronation is because it has been found practically impossible for her to go, simply as a young American girl, traveling privately in the household of Special Ambassador Reid.

Notwithstanding it was stated she would not go to London as daughter of the president, but simply as Miss Roosevelt, it was learned that London court circles were seriously considering the status she would occupy in court affairs. When Miss Roosevelt's status became a matter of international discussion, the president first considered the advisability of canceling the visit, but not until it was found that an invitation to visit the emperor and empress of Germany was on the way to America, was it decided that in view of the extreme youth of Miss Roosevelt and the international courtesies she would be called upon to meet, the English visit and all its delights, would have to be relinquished.

ALLOWS HOUSE BILL TO STAND.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 12.—A subcommittee of the senate committee of finance was in session considering the war revenue repeal bill. It has been decided to report the bill practically as it came from the house with some changes in phraseology, but with no amendment making any change in the reduction of the entire tax. When the bill was under consideration in the full committee there was some talk about reaching an understanding between the two parties that no amendments should be made to the bill in committee or in the senate. There was a general acquiescence in the proposition, although Mr. Platt of Connecticut said there might be a disposition to offer a Cuban reciprocity amendment.

Senator Burrows and others said that if this was done the whole subject of tariff revision might be opened up and no one could tell where it would end. While no agreement has been made, there seems to be a general impression that no amendments will be made to the war revenue repeal measure, although some may be offered in the senate.

MUELLER PLEADS THE BOER CAUSE.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 12.—Dr. Heinrich Mueller, one of the European diplomatic representatives of the Orange Free State, called upon Secretary Hay at the state department and held half an hour's interview with him. As in the case of the other Boer representatives, Dr. Mueller was received on the distinct understanding that he came in a private character and not in a diplomatic way. Like the preceding callers he did not address himself to the subject of intervention or mediation. Nor did he broach the question of the mule shipments to South Africa. He sole concern was with the concentration camps in South Africa. He told the secretary a pitiful tale of the sufferings and of frightful mortality of the reconcentrated, the death rate of the children in the communities running as high as 50 per cent, according to his statement. Secretary Hay gave his caller a sympathetic reception, but was unable to make any promise that the United States government would change the attitude toward this subject that it has constantly assumed.

Re-Annexion to Spain is Urged.

Madrid, Mar. 12.—The difficulties of the United States in Cuba have been eagerly followed here. Several Spanish refugees here, recently wrote to friends in Cuba, urging them to start an agitation for re-annexion of the island to Spain. One of these letters contained the following sentiment: "This would be a fitting climax, showing the Cuban belief in the mother country's faithfulness and the realization of the bad faith of the interloping Americans."