

HIGHER TAX FOR BUTTERINE.

Congress to Be Asked to Raise It to Ten Cents a Pound.

PRESENT RATE IS TWO CENTS.

Dairyman Have Been at Work With Members and They Expect the Bill to Pass With Little Opposition—Would Be Prohibitive.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—A member of Congress said today that an effort would be made to effect an organization of members of the House representing agricultural districts to secure legislation at the next session of Congress which will raise the tax on oleomargarine from 2 cents a pound, the present rate, to 10 cents a pound. The intention, he said, was, if possible, to tax oleomargarine out of existence. Strong pressure was brought to bear upon rural members during the last campaign by the dairy interests and the demands thus made will be heeded when Congress meets. As soon as the session opens a bill raising the tax to 10 cents will be introduced and it will be pressed with vigor.

According to statistics at the Agricultural department the census of 1899 gave the production of butter in the United States at about 1,205,000,000 pounds annually. The census of 1890 made the total only 897,000,000 pounds. It is pointed out that if the increase during the present decade has been as great relatively as it was during the preceding one, the next census will show the production to be about 1,900,000,000 pounds a year. The production of oleomargarine, as shown by statistics at the internal revenue bureau, was 55,384,000 pounds during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, an increase of 12,800,000 over the year preceding. The production for the nine months of the current fiscal year was 63,000,000 pounds which indicates a total production for the year ending June 30 next of 85,000,000 pounds.

The contention of the dairy butter men is that the substitute butter which, they assert, costs less than the current market price of lard, is in competition with their product and brings the price of genuine butter down to an unremunerative figure. They insist that the oleomargarine trade should be destroyed, but if this can not be accomplished a tax which will make the competition more even should be imposed. Another important feature of the situation from the standpoint of the dairyman is the effect the oleomargarine is having on the foreign trade. It is asserted that conditions have become such that the substitute butter threatens to monopolize the foreign trade.

Commissioner Wilson of the Internal revenue bureau said today that the government revenue from oleomargarine during the present fiscal year would aggregate \$1,600,000. With the tax at ten cents a pound and the production where it is now, the revenue from this source would foot up \$2,095,000 a year. Mr. Wilson said Kansas City, Chicago, Omaha, St. Louis and Cincinnati would pay 99 per cent of this tax.

WILL BE NO DISARMAMENT.

The Peace Conference Will Do Nothing Along That Line.

LONDON, May 15.—There is no longer the least doubt that the original object of the czar in summoning the peace conference, which meets next Friday at The Hague, will not be secured. No European state entertains any illusions on the subject of either a reduction or limitation of armaments. After confidential exchanges of opinion the program of the conference has been modified with the approval of the Russian government.

Any question affecting armaments will be discussed, if at all, merely in an academic way. This is the result of not only mutual suspicions among the great powers, but particularly of the mistrust they all feel as to Russia. So far as questions affecting military and naval organization come before the conference they will be discussed only in general terms, which in practice would place no restrictions upon any power.

Singularly enough, the armaments of the powers, instead of diminishing since the rescript of the czar, have continuously increased. Almost simultaneously with the opening of the conference the Russian government will begin to rearm the artillery with the new quick-firing gun. There could be no better commentary upon the uselessness of the conference, so far as the main feature of the czar's proposal is concerned.

Something must be done, however, to save the prestige of Nicholas, as an absolute collapse would be an affront that would seriously diminish his prestige. Under such conditions the various foreign offices have cast about for questions, in dealing with which some practical results might be attained, and the program to be considered will deal chiefly with international arbitration and the provisions of the Geneva convention. In the settlement of both the United States will undoubtedly take the leading role, closely seconded by Great Britain.

Disaster on Lake Superior. SAULT STE MARIE, Mich., May 15.—The schooner Nelson, deeply laden with a cargo of coal, foundered in Lake Superior off Grand Marais last evening and carried down all hands. So far as known here, only one man, Captain Haghey, escaped from this, the first disaster of the season. The crew consisted of nine men.

"Tom Paul" Still Fortifying. JOHANNESBURG, May 15.—The work of fortifying the redoubt and the hill tops at points of strategic importance is progressing rapidly.

DRIVES OUT ALL UNION MEN.

General Merriam's Stringent Methods in the Idaho Mines.

WARDNER, Idaho, May 15.—The crisis in the labor troubles here will arrive Thursday of this week. Thursday is the last day allowed under the recent proclamation for working miners to apply for permits to remain in underground employment. On that day the inspection of the mines all over the Coeur d'Alene will begin. It will be conducted by both the military and civil authorities. Every mine which on that day is employing men without permits will be summarily closed, its pumps drawn and a guard placed over it. Up Canyon creek, where none except union miners are employed, they still sullenly refuse to make application for the cards. In order to secure a permit the miner must renounce membership in the "society which has favored or encouraged" the recent lawlessness in the district. The union is not named outright in the printed forms to which the applicant must subscribe. Only about a dozen from all the Canyon creek district have secured their cards. Of those who remain many are determined to stick doggedly to the union to the last. Others are afraid to take out cards until after the end of the week.

New York, May 15.—The Central Federated Labor union unanimously adopted resolutions denouncing General Merriam for ordering the disbandment of the miners' unions in Idaho, and instructing the secretary to ask the war department whether it is responsible for General Merriam's conduct.

Delegate Harris of the International Cigarmakers' union said that through General Merriam's edict the miners' trades unions have been placed outside the pale of the law and the union should demand the withdrawal of the edict and the investigation and court-martial of General Merriam.

"President McKinley should be called upon to order an investigation," he said.

Delegate Rubin of the Waiters' union, said: "All this is the outcome of imperialism."

A voice: "Shoulder a gun!"

HELENA, Mont., May 15.—Governor Smith has addressed a letter to General Merriam, commanding general of the military forces in the Coeur d'Alene, while that district is under martial law, to the effect that no more arrests of persons suspected to have been implicated in the Wardner riot may be made in Montana without proper authority from the state. It has been represented to the governor by a committee from the Butte labor unions, which waited on him four days ago, that steps were being taken by General Merriam to arrest all miners in Montana suspected of having left the Coeur d'Alene and that if the military was permitted to do so many men innocent of any offense would be deprived of their liberty without process of law.

CHINA REFUSES IT.

Russia's Latest Demand Is Turned Down—Chinese Greatly Excited.

SHANGHAI, May 15.—The tsung li yamen (Chinese foreign office) has replied to the Russian minister at Peking, M. de Geirs, that the government is unable to accede to the Russian demand, made last Wednesday, for a new railway concession connecting Peking with Russia's present system in Manchuria.

Not since the taking of Port Arthur by Russia have the Chinese been so agitated as over this demand. Whether M. de Geirs named a specific route is not yet ascertainable, some officials stating that only a preliminary notice was given by Russia, and others that she is asking for a line direct from Peking to Shan-Hai-Kwen.

Certainly the British legation in Peking had no previous knowledge that such proposal was coming from St. Petersburg. The concession asked for would ruin the existing Northern railways, in which British capital to the amount of \$10,000,000 is invested, but there seems to be no alternative route, without interfering with plans for railway extension which the Chinese themselves have in mind.

It is believed that Russia's action in this matter is intended to demonstrate to the world that the recent convention with Great Britain respecting spheres of interest in China, which was notified to the Chinese government almost before this latest convention was demanded, has not fettered the action of Russia at the court of Peking, and also to strengthen Russia's prestige with the Chinese, which was unfavorably affected by her withdrawal of her late protest respecting the Northern railways.

No Street Cars in Wichita.

WICHITA, Kan., May 15.—In accordance with a decision rendered by Judge Dale Saturday, adjudging the street cars to be a public nuisance, the cars quit running this morning. The lease of the present company expired some time ago, but they continued to run despite the city's protest. It is expected that a new line will be built soon.

Missouri State Fair.

COLUMBIA, Mo., May 15.—The Missouri state board of agriculture has fixed May 29 as the date of meeting, when the bids of the various cities asking for the state fair location will be considered. There are seven competing cities—Centralia, Marshall, Higginville, Chillicothe, Moberly, Mexico and Sedalia.

Spencer Not a Candidate.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., May 15.—Judge O. M. Spencer, general solicitor for the Burlington, said today that he would not be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor.

NO PEACE SAYS THE JUNTA.

A Cablegram Purporting to Come From Aguinaldo.

IT IS CABLED FROM HONG KONG

To Continue the War Until Independence Is Secured—In Washington It Is Thought Present Negotiations May Be Final.

LONDON, May 15.—The Filipino Junta here has received the following message from Aguinaldo, cabled from Hong Kong, under date of May 12:

"The Filipino government, in accordance with the general feeling of the country, has decided to continue the war at all costs until independence is secured.

"The Filipinos energetically refuse the American peace overtures, based on restricted autonomy, coupled with promises of subsequent self-government.

"The Filipinos demand a strict fulfillment of the articles of the American constitution and treaties contracted by the American representatives when imporing a Filipino alliance in combatting the Spaniards.

"All the Filipino generals support Aguinaldo. General Luna's reported overtures for peace are untrue. Our army is near Manila, simultaneously attacking the whole American line. The heat and rains are causing many casualties in the American army. All their hospitals are crowded with sick and wounded. Four hundred of the Cincinnati regiment have been imprisoned by General Otis for insubordination in refusing to fight.

"The regular troops quartered in Manila and other towns are quiet. The volunteers are abused and are always at the front with scanty rations.

"The discontent between the Americans and Europeans is general."

WASHINGTON, May 15.—A satisfactory conclusion is expected by the administration from the conference which will be held by the American Philippine commission with the commission which Aguinaldo proposes to send to Manila.

In his dispatch to the war department yesterday, General Otis announced that Aguinaldo had sent a messenger to him expressing a wish to send the commission "to arrange terms of peace." The administration officials express the opinion that this commission will submit to President Schurman and his associates the answer of Aguinaldo to the proposition made by the American commission to Colonel Arguense, Aguinaldo's emissary, regarding the character of government which would be given to the Filipinos and which Arguense declared was satisfactory.

It is probably apparent to the Filipinos that there is nothing to be gained by conducting negotiations for the purpose of obtaining a temporary cessation of hostilities. General Otis will not grant an armistice, and he has shown that he does not propose to stop fighting, no matter how many peace emissaries Aguinaldo may send to Manila unless they agree to unconditionally surrender.

In his dispatch General Otis shows, despite the fact that Aguinaldo states his purpose to send a commission to arrange peace, that he is making preparations to continue military operations. It is evident to the officials from this dispatch that General Otis has found it necessary to change his plans. He has been making preparations to attack Bacolor, where 9,000 insurgents are believed to be encamped, and it is presumed that the movements reported today still have that point as the objective.

General Lawton is making excellent progress in his northward march, and the dispatch of Major Kobbé with 1,500 men up the Rio Grande, supported by gunboats and caesoes, is for the purpose of enabling General Lawton to cross the Rio Grande without molestation by the enemy.

The plan apparently contemplates the rapid swinging of Lawton to the west. General MacArthur to remain at San Fernando, between the insurgents at Bacolor and those at Mexico, and Kobbé is to take a station so as to prevent them from crossing the Rio Grande. MacArthur is also needed at his present point to protect communication with Manila.

ONE WAR PRIZE IS LOST.

The Supreme Court Rules in Favor of a French Vessel.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—The United States supreme court today decided the prize money case of the French steamer Olinda Rodriguez, the first of the naval prize money cases growing out of the Spanish war to reach the court. The decision directed that the vessel, which was captured off San Juan, Porto Rico, July 17, and has been held since by this government, shall be returned to its owners upon the ground that it was not proven that the steamer's officers intended to enter the blockaded port. The court held incidentally that the blockade of San Juan was effective.

Will Fight Tammany.

NEW YORK, May 15.—Acting under orders from the national Democratic committee, it is said, a hundred Chicago platform Democrats met in this city and took steps thoroughly to organize the city at once, and later the state of New York, to defy Tammany Hall. A committee of twenty was appointed to arrange the five boroughs for systematic work. James R. Brown presided at the meeting and after the meeting said that a contesting delegation of Bryan and Chicago platform men will be sent from this state to the next national convention.

GOMEZ WITHDRAWS HIS AID.

Brooks Informed That the General Will Not Distribute the \$3,000,000.

HAVANA, May 15.—General Maximo Gomez informed Governor General Brooke today that he could no longer act as representative of the Cuban army in the distribution of the \$3,000,000 appropriated for the payment of the Cuban troops.

General Gomez said that he had arrived at this decision with great reluctance and with the most friendly feelings toward General Brooke personally and officially, but he felt he could no longer represent the Cuban army because a cabal, which is composed of many of the subordinate commanders, existed to oppose, and, if possible, defeat the plans for partitioning the money. He explained that former members of the Cuban Military assembly, led by Mayal Rodriguez, Manuel Sangulily, Juan Gauderberts, and other malcontents, had organized a majority of the officers against him apparently, and though Gomez might persist and carry the payment to a successful conclusion, he was disgusted and wished to wash his hands of the whole business. Therefore, he thought that if he left General Brooke free the latter would be able to act with equal effectiveness alone.

General Brooke expressed sympathy with General Gomez, and said he regretted the position he had taken, but the American commander added, if his decision was unchangeable he would proceed to deal with the question alone. He has the rolls of the privates and non-commissioned officers who were willing to accept \$5 each, and this amount will be offered upon the conditions previously laid down. A forcible disarmament of the Cuban troops will be the ultimate procedure, provided the events of the next two or three weeks show that such action is necessary.

TO RELIEVE SPANISH FORCE.

General Otis Expected to Send American Soldiers to Garrison Zamboanga.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—It is expected at the war department that General Otis will take steps at once to replace the Spanish garrison at Zamboanga with United States troops. The indications are that a comparatively small force will suffice, provided that it is supported by one or two gunboats. Zamboanga is of great strategic importance, being the capital of the island of Mindanao, the second largest in the Philippine group and a good seaport. It was to this point that the Spanish forces retreated from Iloilo when that town was evacuated without notice to the American forces. The town is easily defensible with a small artillery force.

The fact that the insurgents are in possession of rapid fire guns makes the situation at Zamboanga more serious, but it is not believed here that they have a large supply of the ammunition necessary to operate the weapons, which will consequently soon become useless to them.

INTO A NEST OF INSURGENTS.

Go Boats Meet the Rebels at Close Quarters—Two Americans Killed.

MANILA, May 15.—The "tin clad" gun boats Laguna de Bay and Cavendish and a launch under Captain Grant ran into a nest of insurgents concealed in the bushes on both sides of the Rio Grande river, three miles above Calumpit, yesterday afternoon and were received with heavy volleys at short range. A sergeant in the Utah battery was killed and one private was wounded. Opening with their rapid fire guns the Americans killed twenty of the natives and wounded several others. They fled the jungle with a hail of shot for half an hour until the enemy fled.

WE MAY ACQUIRE A SULTAN.

Natives of the Sulu Are Mohammedans—The Ruler May Have to Be Fled.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—Through official agents the government has been quietly making investigation into the state of affairs in the Sulu group, just to the south of the Visayas islands, with a view to determining whether by good management the inhabitants cannot be brought into allegiance to the United States without insurrection. The natives are generally Mohammedans and owe allegiance to a sultan whom the Spaniards have never been able to bring into more than nominal submission. He maintains a harem and lives in state, and it is probable that an annuity will have to be provided for him out of the revenues of the islands after the United States takes possession.

They Swindle Ex-Slaves.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—Admiral Dewey's home-coming by way of the Mediterranean is likely to give occasion for distinguished honors from the navies of Europe, most of them being represented by extensive squadrons in those waters, and some of them having their chief naval stations in Mediterranean ports. Already Ambassador Cambon, of France, has called the attention of the authorities at Paris to the return of Admiral Dewey by way of the Mediterranean and the probable sailing of his flagship Olympia past the French naval ports in Algiers.

AFFAIRS OF STATE

EVENTS OF INTEREST TO AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Timely Mention of the Doings of the National Congress, Departmental and Executive Official Actions, and Movements of Army and Navy.

Wednesday, May 10.

The fifth immune regiment which arrived from Cuba a few days ago, has reached Camp Meade, Pa., where they will be mustered out soon.

Nebraska patents issued yesterday: Clarence A. Bradley, Beatrice, anti-septic wire fence tool; Joseph H. Acker, Julian, sulky attachment for harrows.

The president has commuted to fifteen years the life sentence of Ellsworth de France convicted in Nebraska in 1893 of highway robbery of a mail messenger.

Postmaster Bushnell of Lincoln is in consultation with the federal postoffice officials in the effort to secure additional postoffice facilities for the Lincoln postoffice.

Senator Thurston called upon the land commissioner yesterday and received the promise of an additional clerk at the Sidney land office. Business at Sidney has increased threefold within the last year.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has gone to New Orleans to examine into the sugar interests. He will also investigate the agricultural situation in the lower Mississippi valley states.

All the hope of reconvening the joint American-Canadian commission in August has been abandoned. The conference will adjourn, after having made good headway towards the drafting of an agreement, owing to an unexpected and insurmountable obstacle in the shape of the lumber and boundary questions.

Admiral Dewey, upon his return to the United States, is to be presented a monster testimonial, consisting of autograph letters from nearly every member of President McKinley's cabinet, governor's of states and prominent United States senators.

Thursday, May 11.

Spanish papers advise Spaniards in Cuba to avoid Cuban politics.

The French government is figuring on using American coal on its warships.

The United States naval transport Badger, with the Samoan commission aboard, is due at Apia.

Everyone of the eighty or more post-offices in Puerto Rico will soon be flying the United States flag.

Secretary Alger has gone to Harrisburg, Pa., to be present at the unveiling of the equestrian statue of General Hartran.

Many of the school houses in Puerto Rico have been supplied with United States flags through private enterprise.

Captain Coghlan has informed the navy department that an examination of the Raleigh shows her to have sustained no damage in grounding.

The talk of an extra session of congress has more behind it than idle gossip. It is said the president is anxious that the Philippine and finance questions be settled before the opening of the 1900 campaign.

Reports received from Manila are to the effect that the Filipino congress will undoubtedly declare for peace. A recent meeting of that body was held, and while a quorum was not present the sentiment of the members who were on hand was pronounced in favor of peace.

The result of Postmaster Bushnell's visit to the federal postoffice department is that Lincoln, Neb., will have two additional carriers, besides several other facilities which will serve to expedite the distribution of mail.

The United States transport Burnside, in distributing the \$3,000,000 allotted by the congress of the United States government for the payment of the Cuban troops, will circumnavigate the island, the paymaster, under escort, going into the interior from the various ports where she touches.

Friday, May 12.

The secretary of the treasury has forwarded a warrant for \$91,483 to the governor of Iowa on account of reimbursement for expenses in raising troops for the war with Spain.

The remains of General H. C. Egbert were interred at Arlington cemetery yesterday afternoon, with full military honors. All the available troops in the vicinity of Washington and many distinguished army officers were in attendance.

The war department will not send any more troops to Manila by way of New York and the Suez canal. All troops now under orders for Manila or to be ordered there during the next few months will be sent by the way of San Francisco. Neither will any of the returning troops to the United States come by the way of Suez, as Secretary Alger believes their health would be endangered by going through the Indian ocean and along equatorial latitudes during the summer.

Saturday, May 13.

Postmaster General Emory Smith has issued the following order: "Postmaster at presidential postoffices are required to give their personal attention to the business of the their office and must not absent themselves therefrom for a longer period than one or two days without authority granted upon written application to the department. A violation of this order will be deemed sufficient cause for removal."

Charles C. Clark will appear before the industrial commission as a witness in the investigating of trusts. He is a distiller at Peoria, Ill., and was a member of the old whisky trust, but declined to enter the present organization, and will appear before the commission in opposition to trusts.

The First Regiment Nebraska volunteer infantry is taking the unusual step of respectfully petitioning the division commander, Major General McArthur, to temporarily relieve them from duty at the front. The regiment is badly exhausted by the campaign in which it has taken an active part, and not many more than 300 men of the organization are at present fit for duty.

Senator Thurston has received assurance that Wallace Bronch of Omaha would be appointed to the marine corps.

A telegram was received at the Japanese legation announcing the death of General Viscount Kawakami, chief of the headquarters staff of the imperial army of Japan.

Monday, May 15.

The United States steamer Resolute, which has arrived at Portsmouth, N. H., from Havana, will go out of commission at the crew of 325 men will be discharged or transferred.

Admiral Dewey's home coming by way of the Mediterranean is likely to give occasion for distinguished honors from foreign powers, most of them being represented by extensive squadrons in those waters, and some of them having their chief naval stations at Mediterranean ports.

The following dispatch from Major General Otis, giving the status of the situation as it now exists in the operations against the insurgents, has been received at the war department. The date is Manila, May 14: "Lawton from Baling has taken Ido Fonso and San Mig. To the northwest; loss light and driving considerable force of enemy. Gunboats and canoes accompanying 1,500 men under Kobbé up Rio Grande river from Calumpit depart 16. MacArthur remains at San Fernando, covering country. * * * Yesterday messenger from Aguinaldo expressing wish to send commission to Manila for conference with United States commission to arrange terms of peace. Directions given to pass representative insurgents to Manila should it present itself. Otis."

Tuesday, May 16.

Secretary Gage has returned from his outing at Hot Springs, W. Va.

A member of the administration denies there will be an extra session of congress in October.

Admiral Farragut's famous old flagship the Hartford, for many years stationed on the Pacific coast, is to come east and will be used as a training ship.

The fourth and last of the \$5,000,000 treasury warrants paid to Spain for the Philippines was placed at the National City bank at New York by a representative of the French embassy.

Naval officers are protesting against the proposed change of uniform in the navy. They urge that the expense will be great, and that it is the result of caprice on the part of a few. Secretary Long has deferred action.

It is expected at the war department that General Otis will replace the Spanish garrison at Zamboanga with U. S. troops. The place is one of great strategic importance, being the capital of the island of Mindanao, the second largest in the Philippine group, and a good seaport.

There is an unwritten law in Princeton, New Jersey, that no circus parade must pass through the street. Pawnee Bills Wild West show disregarded it, and a battle between the showmen and 700 university students ensued. Rocks, eggs, cannon crackers, etc., were weapons. No damage.

High officials in the war department express the belief that the situation in Cuba is serious, and that careful and diplomatic management will be needed.

The United States supreme court has held that the steamer Olinda Rodriguez, the first navy prize captured, shall be returned to its owner on the ground that it was not proven that the steamer's officers intended to enter a blockaded port. The court held incidentally that the blockade of San Juan was effective.

THE JURY HELD HER INSANE.

Bertha Heilstein Acquitted of the Charge of Murdering Her Mother.

PITTSBURG, Pa., May 15.—Bertha Heilstein, who has been on trial for the murder of her mother, was acquitted at the opening of court today, the jury rendering a verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity. Miss Heilstein displayed no emotion when the verdict was announced, and was remanded to jail. Miss Heilstein did not recover from the shock of her father's unexpected death. She is a Spiritualist, and being told by a medium that her father was lonely she decided to kill herself. While preparing to commit suicide she determined to kill her mother also. After she shot her mother she shot herself.

GRAND STAND GOES DOWN.

Four Thousand People Were on It Viewing a Fireworks Display.

PARIS, TEXAS, May 15.—About 9:30 o'clock last night the grandstand on which were seated 4,000 persons witnessing a display of fireworks fell with a crash. No one was killed but a great number were injured, some probably fatally. The pyrotechnical display was the closing entertainment of the firemen's convention. The staging was overcrowded and seemed to give way in all parts at once, and totally collapsed.

BICYCLE TRUST FORMED.

Called the American Bicycle Company and Has a Capital of \$80,000,000.

TRENTON, N. J., May 15.—Articles of incorporation were filed with the secretary of state last night of the American Bicycle company, with an authorized capital of \$80,000,000. It is understood that the company will take over the bicycle manufacturing plants on which A. G. Spaulding holds options, which include most of the great concerns of this country.

Elephants as Nurses.

Siamese women intrust their children to the care of elephants, who are careful never to hurt the little creatures; and if danger threatens, the sagacious animal will curl the child gently up in his trunk and swing it up and out of harm's way upon its own broad back.

Great Britain's Doctors.

The Lancet, in a statement of the number of doctors in Great Britain holding British degrees, gives the total number of practitioners at 34,994.