

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, May 1, 1899.

Long-headed men are not doing any premature hurrahing because Aguinaldo asked Gen. Otis to agree to a suspension of hostilities until he could call the Philippine congress together and have it decide whether the war should be continued. It may mean an end of the war, and it may be only a trick of Aguinaldo to gain a little needed time to put him in a better condition to continue the war, but it is just as well to wait and see whether Aguinaldo accepts the terms of peace offered by Gen. Otis as an unconditional surrender and amnesty for the Filipinos.

Of course every body, the supporters as well as the opponents of the administration policy in the Philippines, wishes to see the fighting, of which the country has become very tired, cease there. It is admitted that Aguinaldo is no fool. In fact, his proposition itself would prove that Gen. Otis had recognized the Philippine congress he would have specially admitted the existence of the Philippine government, and that admission would have quered the administration policy. Perhaps that may have been all that Aguinaldo was after. A little patience and we shall know.

The hint has been passed around among the western members of the house that the Hanna-McKinley candidate for speaker will be a Western man. There is much curiosity to know why that was done so early in the game. There is one eastern candidate—Sherman, of New York—who is thought to have no chance at all, and he is understood to be Mr. Reed's choice. Perhaps that explains it. Hanna may have thought it necessary to drop that hint to head off any Democratic members who might be inclined to place their votes for Sherman, or it may have been put out as a bluff to try to make Sherman hedge himself to stand by the Hanna-McKinley programme, if given their support. Henderson, of Iowa, and Hopkins, of Illinois, are the most actively pushed of the western candidates, but many doubt whether either of them will get the Hanna-McKinley support. One somewhat disgusted Republican said: "The trusts will name the next speaker. Quite a number of gentlemen imagine that they are making canvass for the place, but they will find that they are mistaken. Sometime this summer the representatives of the trusts will get together in New York, or some other convenient place, and settle the matter. After the meeting is called to order the chairman will ask what is the business before the meeting. 'The naming of a speaker of the house of representatives' will be the response. Different names will be considered and finally, after due deliberation, the gentlemen will take a vote. Someone will be selected, and he may not be anyone whose name has been previously mentioned for the place. The election, however, will be assured. See if my prediction is not fulfilled." That isn't a picture to be proud of, but such things have been done before by the same crowd.

Including the \$20,000,000 paid to Spain, through the French ambassador, the Treasury deficit for April was \$21,088,437.

The report of the military court of inquiry has been in the hands of Acting Secretary Meiklejohn, of the War Department for two or three days, awaiting Mr. McKinley's order to be made public. President McKinley's friends are alarmed at reports of defections among Western Republicans, which have reached Washington. That these reports are not without foundation is shown by the statement of Mr. W. C. Newman, a life-long Republican, who is the agent of the Montanans' Protective Association, of Montana, and who has been sent East to see if something cannot be done to revive the once prosperous foreign cattle trade. He said: "If the administration had come out boldly and allowed an open and honest investigation of the meat scandals, it would have created the impression abroad that this country was sincere in its efforts to furnish the best of meat to the domestic and foreign consumer. As it is, it will require years to overcome the prejudice, the administration's cowardly action has caused. A great provision of feeling has taken place at the West within the past few weeks. I recently attended a semi-political meeting of ranchmen and farmers in Southern Montana, and, unless something unforeseen takes place, the administration's attitude will imperil Mr. McKinley's support by the Western states at the next national convention. The Democratic party in the West is thoroughly disgusted with its present national leaders."

Race Question in a Sunday School Convention.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 29.—The proceedings of the ninth triennial International Sunday-school Convention today were enlivened by a heated discussion over the placing of negroes on one of the committees.

The naming of the nominating committee precipitated the trouble. When Georgia was reached in the roll-call, W. S. Witham was placed in nomination. Somebody named Rev. E. R. Carter, colored, and it was insisted that he was the choice of the state. This was denied by Second Vice President Green, who said that Witham had been made the nominee of the state delegation.

Then the state of South Carolina was called for its vote. A white man was named, and a negro was nominated by a negro. Dr. B. F. Jacobs, who was presiding at the time, announced that no state could have more than one delegate.

A score of speeches were made in less than the same number of minutes. Amendments and substitutes came thick and fast and the audience was in an uproar. Delegate Neil, of Washington, D. C., who had caused considerable comment among the white people present by leaving that portion of the house set apart and placarded for the negro delegates and sitting with the white people of his delegation, was introduced by a white delegate.

"I am representing the District of Columbia," said Delegate Neil, "and when I left home I thought I would sit with my delegation, but now we are separated. I want to know how we will have any representation, and how we will be heard. If white delegates only are to be placed on the committees and white men will not sit with negroes, I would be glad to ascertain what we can accomplish by ourselves.

"The negro is making rapid headway in Christian work, and I appeal to this convention not to discourage us, for we may lose years before we will get to the place we now occupy."

The excitement was now at fever heat, and many delegates were on their feet in an effort at recognition. Second Vice President Green, of Atlanta, finally secured the floor. He said: "The negroes have representatives from this state on other committees, and that is the reason the colored man is not one of the nominating committee. We live here among these people. We respect them. We treat them right. We treat them as nicely as we do our own color. But we do draw the line when it comes to sitting together in the same pew." (Applause.)

The matter was finally referred to the executive committee, which late in the afternoon reported in favor of Mr. Witham.

Rehearsed His Own Funeral.

CHICAGO, Ill., April 29.—Parker R. Mason, a millionaire property owner, died yesterday in his old-fashioned mansion near the lake, not far from the Marine Hospital. Before his death he had the burial service read, funeral hymns sung, selected his pall-bearers and made every preparation for his funeral. Just before his death he summoned into his presence the quartette that was to sing at his funeral and had them rehearse the hymns to be sung over his lifeless body, after which he paid them for their services. Then he asked to see Rev. John Hoke, the Presbyterian minister of Washington Heights, who had often been his companion on fishing excursions. He showed the clergyman the place where he wished to be buried, paid him for the funeral sermon he wanted preached and had the minister repeat the text and a part of the sermon to him.

Next he paid for his coffin, settled all the undertaker's fees, picked out the suit he wished to wear in his coffin and after designating that a huge boulder, which had been dug up in his yard thirty years ago, be placed over his grave, closed his eyes and died.

Mr. Mason was fifty-six years of age, was born in Chicago and leaves a wife and four daughters.

A Cuban Kick.

HAVANA, May 1.—An order of Collector of Customs Bliss forbidding the importation of firearms has caused some dissatisfaction, many Cubans believing the step is taken to prevent increasing the strength of Cuban forces in case a collision should follow a protracted stay of Americans. Some call it a regular Spanish measure, in that it savors of force. There appears, however, to be no objection in high political or army circles. Anti-American sentiment continues rampant.

Chaplain A. A. Pruden, of the late First North Carolina Regiment, has been called to the rectorship of Christ church, in Savannah. He went into the war from St. Philip's church, in Durham.

GENERAL NEWS.

Earthquake shocks were felt in Indiana and Kentucky Saturday night.

More than \$500,000 will soon be spent on sewerage and paving for Havana.

General Brooke has taken steps to begin paying the Cuban army without more delay.

General Brooke is considering the issuing of a decree prohibiting lotteries and raffles in Cuba.

The possible absorption of the Central American States by Mexico is being discussed in Nicaragua.

A mob of miners blew up non-union mills at Wardner, Idaho, Sunday, destroying property valued at \$250,000.

It is said that ex-President Cleveland will be offered the professorship of general politics in Princeton University.

The John W. Daniel Democratic Club of Richmond has declared in favor of the re-election of United States Senator Martin.

The reported agreement between Great Britain and Russia as to pending questions in China is officially confirmed in London.

An anti-expansion meeting was held in Chicago, Monday, at which resolutions were adopted denouncing the national administration.

Robert P. Porter, in a speech in London, said the tariffs for America's new dependencies would be patterned after England's open door.

General Henry, military governor of Porto Rico, has issued an order directing alcaldes or mayors to improve the moral conditions in their towns.

Duke de Ores, the newly-appointed Spanish minister to the United States, will leave Madrid for Washington some time during the present week.

A special to The Omaha Bee from Milan, Mo., says that four families were annihilated by a tornado at that place. There was great damage to property.

Dewey's victory at Manila was celebrated in Savannah, Ga., Monday by ringing of bells, blowing of steam whistles, detonation of giant crackers and display of bunting.

General orders have been issued for the disbandment of the military organizations of Virginia. General orders for the reorganization of the state militia will soon be issued.

Mrs. Jessie E. Sloane, after being divorced from Henry T. Sloane in New York Friday, went to Greenwich, Conn., where she was married to Perry Belmont, the leader of the gold-bug Democracy.

The association of medical officers of the army and navy of the Confederacy will meet coincident with the annual reunion of the United Confederate Veterans, in Charleston, S. C., May 10th.

In a public address delivered at Galena, Ill., last week Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith expressed the opinion that this nation needs no political, commercial or military alliance with any power that exists.

It is believed in Berlin that an understanding has been reached between the governments of the United States and Germany, not only as to their relations in Samoa, but in regard to other portions of the world as well.

A state convention which shall have for its mission the discussion of rape and lynching and whose object shall be to find a remedy for existing conditions will probably be called to meet in Atlanta, as soon as delegates can be selected from the various counties of the state.

Wireless telegraphy was put to a practical use Saturday when the Goodwin Sands Lightship, on the English coast, was struck by a passing vessel, and the crew notified South Foreland that their ship was in a sinking condition. Tugs were thereupon dispatched to the assistance of the lightship.

The congress of the Argentine Republic opened at Buenos Ayres Monday. In his message President Roca said that a settlement is in prospect of the territorial question, under which peace will be assured and the government enabled to develop the resources of the country, and promote the colonization of Patagonia.

Rear Admiral Schley has been detailed to a position more commensurate with his rank than that to which he was assigned two weeks ago, when he was appointed a member of the naval examining board, presided over by Rear Admiral Howell. His duties will be those of the president of the naval retiring board. The new place is probably one of the best that could have been offered him of all the stations in Washington.

Oak Ridge Institute's Fine Record on the Ball Field This Year.

OAK RIDGE, N. C., May 1, 1899. The base ball season for the Oak Ridge team closed on the 27th ult., with the second victory over A. and M. College. The record of Oak Ridge is one the school is proud of. Of the eleven games scheduled Oak Ridge won eight, lost two, and one (with Cornell) was prevented by rain. The following is a resume of the victories and defeats:

Table with 2 columns: Team Name and Score. Games won: Bingham School (14 to 5), Guilford College (7 to 0), Horner's School (5 to 4), Wake Forest (10 to 1), A. and M. (4 to 2), Roanoke College (5 to 1). Games lost: University North Carolina (11 to 0), Wake Forest (5 to 4).

This puts Oak Ridge second only to the University in the school teams of the State and gives her the championship of schools and colleges in the base ball as well as foot ball for the year. All games have been entirely free from bickerings and unpleasantness. Not a decision of the umpire has been disputed during the season and the utmost good feeling has been the feature of the athletic contests on every ground abroad and at home.

The winning of the championship of schools at the "Track Athletic Meet" at Chapel Hill, Saturday last, was the crowning even of a year of victory on the athletic field. Oak Ridge Institute got the banner, and Carter, of her team, carried off the cup as the best athlete.

Slavery Was Better.

ATHENS, Ga., April 30.—Bishop H. M. Turner, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, preached at the courthouse here today to white people.

During his sermon he said he would prefer to see his people, the black race, again in slavery, since slavery afforded them protection, more so than in their present condition. He said he sees little future in this country for the negro in competition with the white race. He declared that he did not believe it possible to bring about assimilation or equality, lacking which there must continue to be race prejudices.

The negro was brought to America, he said, by Divine will, and taught by example the basis of a higher civilization. Now, he declared, it is manifestly the will of God that the negro should go back to Africa and civilize the savage races there. The race question, he concluded, would never be settled until the black man returned to his native country.

A Comparison of Losses.

Washington, May 1.—A memorandum has been prepared at the War Department, comparing the losses of the Spanish war with those of the first year of the Civil war. The aggregate strength of the troops employed during the war with Spain was approximately 275,000, covering the period from May, 1898, to April 1899, inclusive. During this time the deaths from all causes were 6,190, or 2 1/4 per cent.

The mean strength of the first year of the Civil war was 276,371, with an aggregate loss by deaths of 19,150, being a percentage of 6.8.



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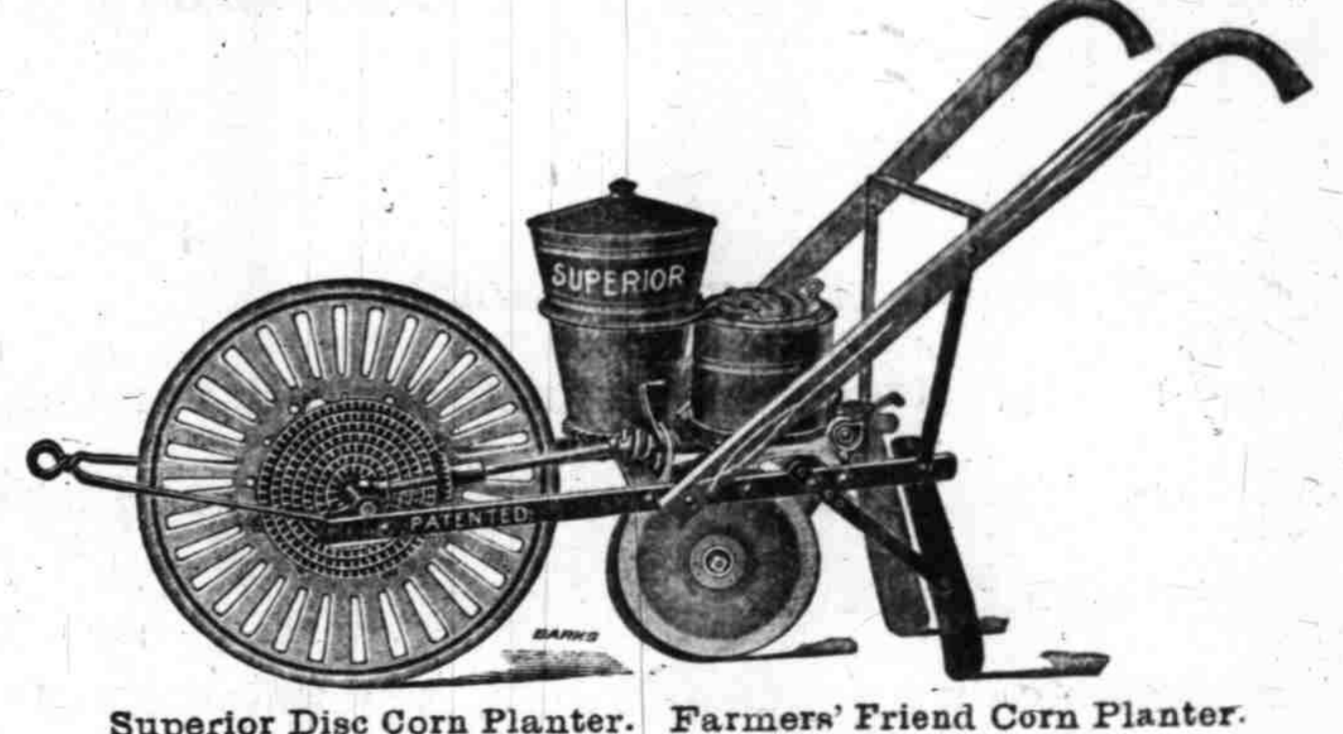
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