

VOL. XXVIII. of the employes as the number of applications for stock would not be on the increase at the end of three years. That was ample time to test its merits, and see whether there was anything in it or not.

It doesn't require the application of an X ray to see through the merits of a scheme like this for it speaks for itself and the favor with which it is received by the employes, who would be very quick to detect any flaws in it, speaks for it. By this plan the road becomes practically a co-operative one, in which the instalment feature enters without any of the drawbacks of the instalment plan.

There is no industrial system in this country more interested in preventing strikes among its employes than the railroads, for there is no system that suffers so much by strikes when they occur, and not only the railroads suffer but the country generally in proportion to the magnitude of the strikes. Hence any movement to prevent such strikes is a matter of public interest and must attract public attention.

The working of this plan will doubtless be watched by other railroad corporations and working well there is no reason why it should not be followed by other corporations and in course of time be generally adopted. It looks like a level headed, business-like and simple way of solving the strike problem by bringing the company and the people in its service as close together as it is practicable to bring them and making the interest of some of the interest of all without in any way impairing the efficiency of the service or the relations that should exist between employer and employed, where rules, regulations and discipline are necessary to success.

Why couldn't a similar plan be tried by manufacturing, mining and other companies to test its merits as a solver of the strike problem with them? If it works well in one great enterprise, employing 20,000 men, it ought to work well in similar enterprises employing a greater or less number of men, and in other enterprises, too.

Secretary Carlisle's report shows a deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, of \$35,283,246. He estimates the deficiency for the current year at \$64,500,000, and for the year following at \$45,718,970. This would give us a total for the three years of \$135,422,312. It is pretty evident from this showing that the Government needs more revenue, that is if the present rate of expenditure is to be kept up, but how this revenue is to be secured is the question. There is not the slightest probability of any material reduction in current expenses, for we have started on the down grade of extravagance and it is mighty hard to put on the brakes. The Republicans a few years ago discovered, when the Democrats were chiding them for the lavishness with which they were spending and squandering the people's money, that this was a "billion dollar country" and they have been acting on that idea in all the legislation with which they have had anything to do. As a straw indicating that we need not expect any reduction of expenditures bills have been already introduced for appropriations for new public buildings amounting to over \$7,000,000. Of course all of these will not go through and many of them have been introduced without any expectation that they will pass, but simply to make the gentlemen who introduced them solid with their constituents, and there are very few constituencies which object to pulls from the Treasury when they get the benefit therefrom according to the decision of the Attorney General, not until after the first Thursday in August next can any of the bills be taken up.

It would be quite embarrassing to be obliged to go through a marriage ceremony twice before one could be sure of the knot being safely tied, but such was the case in a town not a thousand miles from here a few days since. And it was due to the fact that some newly-elected magistrate was too previous in assuming his official functions.

The STAR therefore, wishing to prevent embarrassment, would remind people that according to the decision of the Attorney General, not until after the first Thursday in August next can any of the bills be taken up. We would from any tariff the Republicans might offer he doesn't shed much light on how we are to run the Government without issuing bonds, as he has been doing, to meet expenses.

Mr. Geo. E. Boggs, of Haywood county, has recently shipped a few barrels of winter apples to Germany, and believes that this is the beginning of a business that will grow and reach considerable proportions. Some varieties of apples grown in North Carolina are pronounced by eminent pomologists to be equal the best apples grown anywhere. Specimens of these apples have been

exhibited at expositions, and it is probably through the attention they attracted at these exhibitions that this shipment to Germany has been made. We have seen apples grown in that section and in the central section of the State side by side with the finest apples that are grown in other States, where special attention is given to raising the choice varieties, which would compare with any in size, beauty and quality, and hence it has been to us a matter of surprise that so little effort has been made to find markets abroad for this crop, which is a large one in our State. If we remember correctly, over 300,000 barrels of American apples have been shipped to Europe this year, a large increase over the shipments last year, due in a great measure, no doubt, to the abundant crop and low prices. But of all these apples probably not a hundred barrels came from any State South of Maryland. Whether this is lack of push by our apple growers, high freights or something else we do not know, but possibly this venture of Mr. Boggs may result in turning attention to this subject, and introducing the North Carolina apple in foreign markets.

The New York Sun has been throwing its rays on the little State of Delaware, which, according to the showing of bribery in the last election, is entitled to the championship for total depravity. The bribers showed no partiality but took in all classes, including preachers, lawyers, doctors, bankers and merchants. In the classification the editor is noticeable by his conspicuous absence.

The Atlanta Constitution remarks that Russia's great enterprise, the trans-Siberian railway, is moving slowly. It is, but it is the greatest enterprise of that kind ever undertaken, and is moving surely, if slowly. Over-half of the 4,709 miles is completed, and the balance will be, it is said, within the next four years. The estimated cost is something over \$175,000,000.

The Charleston News and Courier shows that South Carolina has the pre-eminence of raising more cotton to the square mile than any other cotton-growing State. She raises a good many other things, too, and can without half trying raise more hades to the square mile than any State out of the forty five.

Spain wants 25,000 more soldiers to send to the Philippine islands to squish the rebellion there. If there be any truth in the report that Japan is egging on the kick there, and that Japanese officers are leading the rebels Spain will have her hands full on that side of the globe as well as on this side.

Senator Tabor, of Colorado, whose night shirts were once the admiration of the Washington laundry people, who was very wealthy then, got broke, struck it rich and got to be again worth \$6,000,000, is broke another time. He has sampled the ups and downs.

The South Carolina penitentiary authorities are going to try the experiment of working convict in a cotton factory, which it is proposed to erect for that purpose. This will be somewhat of a new departure, which will be watched with interest by other States.

It is said that the object of ex-Queen Lilioukalani's visit to this country is to work for annexation and a pension. If she can't be annexed we suppose she would compromise on a pension without the annex.

The railroad fatalities in the United States last year numbered 6,136 killed and 33,748 wounded. Of the killed 505 lost their lives from carelessness, and of these 376 by trying to beat the locomotive at railway crossings.

Newly-Blessed M. quitrate. It would be quite embarrassing to be obliged to go through a marriage ceremony twice before one could be sure of the knot being safely tied, but such was the case in a town not a thousand miles from here a few days since. And it was due to the fact that some newly-elected magistrate was too previous in assuming his official functions.

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CITY AND COUNTY AFFAIRS.

The Board of Commissioners invite Co-operation of the Chamber of Commerce—A Commission Appointed by the President of the Chamber to Confer with the Board.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 28. Mr. Jas. H. Chadbourne, Jr., President Chamber of Commerce, City.

DEAR SIR:—At a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of New Hanover county, held on December 28, 1896, it was directed by resolution to request you to appoint a committee from your chamber who will represent the large tax-payers and business men who are more interested in the law, and the county expenditures than in politics or in hunting places for favorites to draw pay from taxes collected from the people.

It is desired that this committee shall be permanent, as they would be in touch with the tax-payers, knowing their wishes, wants and necessities, and ability to meet tax levies.

You can assure this committee that any recommendation of theirs will be carefully considered. By the Board, and that no duplicity will be onerous, and will not consume more time than any public-spirited citizen ought to be willing to devote to his county.

The Board feels that your expression of opinion by the committee would work good to the tax-payers of our county and city, which are so near being one and the same. The principal difference is that two sets of officers are paid frequently for performing the same class of duties; the paving of three or four physicians for services that one being a noteworthy example.

With this view of saving to the county-city, the Board of Commissioners would like to appoint you as a physician that will be willing to accept your appointment, provided he is acceptable to your committee and approved by the Board of Health.

The Board would particularly, at present, request the views of your committee upon the following important questions: 1. What per cent. tax shall be levied for the following purposes: Payment of County Officials, County Hospital, Auditor, Poor, County Roads, Criminal Court, Military, Justices of the Peace, and the matter of separation of Poor House from House of Correction. Most respectfully submitted, F. W. FOSTER, Chairman County Commissioners.

MR. STARR JOHNSON.

Supposed to Have Been One of the Crew of the Ill-fated Schooner Frank M. Noyes Lost at Sea on the Second of December.

Mr. Joseph Starr Johnson of this city is supposed to have been one of the ill-fated crew of the schooner Frank M. Noyes, which foundered off the North Carolina coast with all on board except a Swedish sailor named Erick Stocklass.

SAYANNAH, GA., December 5.—The British steamship Strathairn, Captain Cumming, which arrived at this port today from Delaware Breakers, brought Erick Stocklass, a Swedish sailor, who was picked up Friday evening to a small hatch floating in the Gulf stream off the coast of North Carolina.

It was also reported that among the missing was one Joseph Johnson, steward of the ship. Yesterday Mr. George Johnson, a brother of Mr. Starr Johnson, received a letter from Baltimore, Md., in which the writer stated that Erick Stocklass, the only survivor of the Noyes, was in Baltimore and that the writer had conversed with him and his description of Joseph Johnson who was on the ill-fated ship, tallied with that of Mr. Starr Johnson of this city, and inquired if he was missing.

Mr. Geo. Johnson immediately telegraphed to New York city to the owners of the schooner Ann L. Lockwood, in which he supposed his brother to be, and received a telegram in reply saying that the Ann L. Lockwood arrived in New York city last Friday; that Mr. Starr Johnson had been one of the crew, but was transferred to the Frank M. Noyes.

The N. Y. Times' Dispatch Box. Capt. W. C. Lewis, of Beaufort, N. C., was in the city Christmas day. He arrived the night before on the George W. Clyde and was on his way home from Savannah, to which point he had piloted, from Beaufort, the New York Times' dispatch boat, bound for Cuba.

After consultation with the chairman of our Executive Committee, and with several members of the Chamber, I hereby appoint the following committee in accordance with your request, viz: D. L. Gore, Samuel Bear, Jr., J. S. Armstrong, J. W. Norwood, H. C. McQueen, W. H. Chadbourne, DeWitt C. Love, J. G. Gieschen.

Very truly, JAS. H. CHADBOURNE, JR., President.

THREE FRIENDS FIGHT.

FIRST NAVAL BATTLE OF THE WAR BETWEEN CUBA AND SPAIN. The Three Friends Fired Upon by a Spanish Coaster and a Gunboat Near Juan River—She Replied With a Hotchkiss Gun and Shrapnel, and the Spanish Coaster was Destroyed.

NEW YORK, December 28.—A special to the World from Key West, Fla., says: The lone star flag of Cuba has met the yellow banner of Castile upon the seas. The shrapnel shell and rifle volleys of a brave filibuster have made answer to the roar of Spanish twelve-pounders, and have gained for Cuba Libre the first victory on the ocean.

The filibuster steamer Three Friends sailed from Fernandina, Fla., Sunday night, December 18, carrying a valuable cargo of munitions of war for the Cuban insurgents, including the rigging of U. S. Army warships and revenue cutters, and dodging every sail upon the ocean, the little steamer, with about fifty men, was within hailing distance of Cuba on the sixth night of its Thursday night, and bidding his shipmate farewell sank into the sea.

It was also reported that among the missing was one Joseph Johnson, steward of the ship. Yesterday Mr. George Johnson, a brother of Mr. Starr Johnson, received a letter from Baltimore, Md., in which the writer stated that Erick Stocklass, the only survivor of the Noyes, was in Baltimore and that the writer had conversed with him and his description of Joseph Johnson who was on the ill-fated ship, tallied with that of Mr. Starr Johnson of this city, and inquired if he was missing.

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were now about 800 yards apart. Then the Spaniard fired at the third time, the shrapnel striking the stern of us, but in a direct line.

"Use the Hotchkiss," commanded Maj. Morales. Gunner Michael Walsh, who, with his crew, had stood by the twelve-pounder in the bow, heard the command with joy, and called out to Capt. O'Brien to swing the ship around. In a minute the filibuster was almost broadside to the coaster.

"The latter boomed for the fourth time, but the smoke had not cleared away behind the Hotchkiss, and the fourth and sent a shrapnel shell between the short masts of the coaster squarely over her engines. The shell did not burst, but the Spaniard, who had analyzed with fear. It was the first time in the Cuban war that a filibuster has returned shot for shot.

"A cheer burst from everybody on board the Three Friends. The Spaniard had fired four times, by without effect. Several men on the lower deck opened fire with their rifles, and the following firing rocketed for assistance. The call for assistance was promptly answered, for while the filibuster was swinging into position to allow the Hotchkiss to re-echo, a Cuban gunboat, double the size of the coaster, appeared on the port.

OPENED FIRE WITH HEAVY GUNS. She opened fire with heavy guns, but did not have the range. Gunner Walsh on the prow, signaled it for the new-comer and sank the lanyard. There came a roar that shook the sea and the shrapnel whizzed over the heads of the distance. The shell flew straight for the gunboat and burst directly over her. It was answered by a still heavier shot from the gunboat, which was a stiff breeze was blowing off the land, and the ship headed southward.

It was known that the battle-ship Reina Mercedes, the cruiser Albatros, and the coaster Dose de Maceo were patrolling the Pinar del Rio south coast.

SEALED ORDERS FROM THE JUNTA. The sealed orders from the New York junta were opened an hour after the Cape had been passed. They gave no directions as to the course the vessel should take, its destination, and the names of the orders of the junta read: "Sail to the mouth of the San Juan River and there await a party of insurgents, who will take charge of the cargo. Do not attempt to land men or arms until further orders."

The orders caused a sensation. A consultation was held immediately in the cabin. Navigation Captain Lewis, Maj. Perez Morales, commander of the land expedition, and Lt. Col. Calvo, a sea commander of the same. Maj. Armas was also called in.

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prefatures and camps means simply the destruction of hamlets, huts and un-fortified peasants. As of the male inhabitants are killed without mercy. The situation is most horrible.

It is known from good authority that Weyler has issued secret orders to consider as bandits all found outside the towns or city limits and that they be therefore shot on the spot. Many honorable officers are protesting against this order and requesting passports to return to Spain. They say they came to fight Cubans and not to kill innocent people.

The representatives of the Herald and the Liberator at Madrid have wired their papers strongly protesting against Weyler's horrible methods of carrying on the war. The people of Havana are surprised that these newspapers should from Havana demand that the Government make of England's action in the Armenian atrocities and the question asked the United States, "Does not this act in the same way?"

The situation of the rebels in Pinar del Rio is not so desperate as Weyler alleges and many believe that on Tuesday a party of 500 crossed the front from Havana toward the former. It is a fact that the rebels have entrenched in the hills at least 18,000 well-armed and munitioned troops. They are not only well-armed, but are made of England's action in the Armenian atrocities and the question asked the United States, "Does not this act in the same way?"

Communication with the country is guarded against the rebels more rigorously than ever. Nothing is known or printed of the rebel movements; Gomez's location is uncertain and opinions differ. It is only known that he is steadily advancing. Numerous sharp fighting in Santa Clara province this week point to his whereabouts, or at least show that large masses of rebels are in that province.

BUTCHERY OF "RACIFIGOS." Another Bloody Deed by Cleveland's "Chivalric" Friends. NEW YORK, December 24.—Word was received in this city to-night of the murder by Spanish troops of Antonio Diaz, his son several times, and the nephew Grandson, of Casigua. The letter giving details was received by a Cuban resident here who owns a farm near Jaraco, about twelve miles from Jaraco, and it came from the overseer who announced that he had abandoned the farm, as his position entailed too great a risk.

The letter tells of the death of Diaz, whose farm was in the neighborhood. The Spanish troops had frequently visited Diaz's place and had been treated well. Recently the Spaniards approached near the capital stopped at the farm, and though Diaz was in sympathy with them, he requested them to upon him. They did so, and Diaz's escape from injury at their hands was interpreted by the Spaniards as evidence that he was friendly with them. A mass of the rebels, who were waiting the place and found Diaz playing in a field, his little son near him. They put both to death by machetes. Then they ran across Miami and the Spaniards came to Diaz for some corn he had purchased. He was likewise dispatched, and \$500 found on his person was appropriated.

HON. W. J. BRYAN