The News and Observer.

VOL. XXXVIII. NO. 75.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

ANY NORTH GAROLINA THE LARGEST GIRCULATION OF DATLY

CHEATED UNCLE SAM

A STARTLING STORY OF THE FRAUDULENT EVASION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES.

THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS STOLEN.

A Bric-a-Brac Dealer in New York Systematically Evades Payment of **Customs** Duties for Fifteen Years-An Employe Who Had Been Discharged for Drunkenness Turns Informer--Exact Amount of the Swindle Not Yet Known--Others Suspected.

NEW YORK, April 19.--One of the most startling stories of fraudulent evasion of customs duties which has developed in ples. the port of New York for years, came to light today.

It involves the name of one of the best known bric a brac dealers in the country and implicates possibly one or more customs employes who have until now en-joyed the unlimited confidence of the collector of the port and the heads of the various departments. The customs offi cials have not been so disturbed for a long time, and for the last two weeks a thorough, unremitting investigation of

the matter has been going on. The discovery of the frauds came from the former Secretary and more recently. head salesman of the house of O. L Sypher & Co., of 5th avenue and 26th street. The informer is L. H. Todd, who, while the concern was a corporation, acted as its secretay, but who for the last year or so, since the corporation dissolved, has been its head salesman.

Todd was discharged January last, it is said, for drunkenness. Two weeks ago he appeared at Collector Kilbreth's office, and astoun led t' at official with the information. His statements, however, have since been verified, and with the assistance of Col. Phelps, of the Law Department, and Appraiser Vunn, the customs authorities have gath ered indisputable evidence that Todd's statements are true and that O. L. Sypher & Co. have profited to the extent of many thousands of dollars during the last fifteen years at the expense of the customs and that which looks like collusion with one or more customs employees.

Todd claims that in the last fifteen years Sypher has been importing into the port bric-a brac, tapestry, antiques, artistic silver articles and relics at a rate of duty abnormally below their proper valuation, and cities numberless importations of artistic and valuable silver articles from Great Brit. ain, including trays, living cups, valuable table pieces and other silver articles which were invoiced as "Old Silver" and valued at four shillings and six pence a pound.

The customs officials did not receive a detailed invoice of the importations as

FREE SILVER IN THE WEST. Claimed That Gen. Black is About to Become a Bimetalist.

Special to the News and Observer. WASHINGTON, D. C., April 19. Some of those who usually know the

inside of political affairs say that the statement that Gen. John C. Black, of Illinois, came to see the President to receive advice as to the best way of combatting the free silver idea, is all a mistake. These people say that Gen. Black came to inform the President that the free silver sentiment in Illinois had become a tidal wave, whose sweeping progress could neither be stemmed nor directed into another channel. It is alledged that he intimated the unavertable triumph of this doctrine in his State, estimating that two thirds of the Democratic party now adhered to its princi-

In addition to this rather startling statement, it is announced on seemingly good authority that Gen. Black seriously contemplates casting his lot with those of his party who are for bimetalism. It is alleged that he is himself actually considering the propriety of a formal declaration in favor of rehabilitating the white metal.

Once in a while, writes the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Record, President Cleveland gets by Mr. Thurber, and invades the room occupied by the subordinate clerks in the White House. On one of these occasions recently he went and stood looking down at the work which one of the clerks was doing. The man at work never looked up. He thought it was one of the other up. clerks who occasionally bothered him. "What the devil do you want?" he asked.

. There was no response. The other clerks gasped for breath. A death-like stillness prevailed. and the working clerk looked up to meet a smile on the countenance of the President. In time an explanation followed, but it will be a long time before that White House clerk will ask a like question until he is dead sure of the man he is ta king to.

Consul General Crittenden, of the City of Mexico, is at home on leave. He says that Senator Ransom has been sick nearly all the time since his arrival in Mexico. His friends here regard his reception by Diaz as evidence that he is well again.

* * *

All the Virginians here, except the big politicians, are gratified that the President appointed Gen. Fitzhugh Lee to the vacant position of collector of Internal Revenue. The members of Congress wanted to select a man but the President acted without waiting for them to move. The Star says that gossips says the President made the appointment in order to have one prominent leader in a position to advocate his financial policy. Well informed people take no stock in this talk. Early in the administrati n, An Elaborarte Dinner given by the the whole consignment was invariably the President offered Gen. Lee an impor tant foreign appointment. At that time Gen. Lee expected to be elected United States Senator from Virginia and declined. Now the President, anxious to give him a position, gives him the best he has at his disposals. * * *

THE REBELLION GROWS

UPRISING IN CUBA RAPIDILY SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND.

CAMPOS WANTS MORE TROOPS.

Though the Insurgents are Growing in Number they are Badly Armed and Equipped -- The United States will be Asked to Recognize the Belligerency of the Revolutionists--This Would Result in the Free Shipment of Arms and Men to the Island.

MADRID, April 16.-Despatches from Havana, informed the government that the rebellion is spreading, but the insurgents are badly armed, and equipped. The despatches say that if the uprising spreads further, General Martinez Capos will ask for reinforcements.

Congress Asked to Recognize Them. WASHINGTON, D. C., April 19 .-- A bill recognizing the belligerency of the Cuban revolutionists has been prepared in this city and will be introduced in Congress when that body convenes in December

next. It was drafted at the suggestion of certain Representatives and Senators who are in sympathy with efforts of the Cuban people to throw off the yoke of Spain, and these gentlemen will use their influence to pass it through both houses. Such action on the part of the United States would be of immense service to the revolutionists. It would result in free shipments of arms and men to the Island in support of the insurgents' Ca 180.

Spanish officials say that but for the hope that the United States may recognize the Cuban belligerency, the rev olution would collapse within thirty days

Mr. Marti in pursuance to the programme already outlined, will be elected President of the Cuban provisional goverment, which it is purposed to establish

at an early day. Senator Mauraugua, the retiring Spanish minister to the United States, will leave to-night for New York, where he will remain a few days prior to his departure from the c untry.

It is not improbable that Mr. Maraugua may visit Havana before leaving the western hemisphere, in order to fully acquaint himself with the situation in Cuba, so that upon his arrival at Madrid he may be able to furnish the Spanish ministry with an intelligent account of the insurrection.

After a short stay in Madrid he will roceed to Paris and make that city his eadquarters during the period he shall temporarily retire from active work in the Spanish diplomatic service.

AMERICANS IN ENGLAND.

Damaging Evidence Produced Against Him and His Friend Taylor.

WILDE REFUSED BAIL.

LONDON, April 19. -Oscar Wilde and his friend Alfred Taylor, were arraigned in the Bow Street police court at noon to day for further examination. Wilde

looked greatly fatigued and really ill. His hair was ruffled and his general ap pearance indicated carelessness. Charles Parker was called to the stand and testified that Taylor, the other accused man, told him he had gone through the marriage ceremony with young Mayer. He, Taylor, wearing woman's clothes. After the ceremony there was a wedding breakfast, followed by the orgie, the disgusting details of which

were fully recounted. The detective testified that he had searched the rooms occupied by Taylor, Chapel street, where he found checks payable to Mayer and telegrams from Wilde to Taylor arranging and cancelling meetings, other witnesses were called to the stand and gave similar damaging testimony.

At the conclusion Wilde and Taylor were fully committed for trial in the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey. Application was made for bail, but it was refused.

Wilde in reply to the question whether he had anything to say, said: "Not at present. Counsel for Oscar Wilde has an-

nounced his intention to apply to the Court of Queen's bench for the admission of his client to bail, on the ground that the admission to bail of a prisoner charged with or indicted for a misdemeanor is compulsory under the statute law.

FIVE FIREMEN INJURED.

They Were Buried Beneath the wall of a Burning Building.

PHILADELPIA, April 19 .- A fire which destroyed the building occupied by the New York Biscuit Company, 210 North Front Street, badly damaged the soap and candle factory of Wm. Dreydoppel, 208 North Front Street and resulted in serious injury to five firemen, started shortly before 1 o'clock this morning in the basement of the former establish-

The flames spread so rapidly that four alarms sounded and three police and fire boats on the Delaware, which is distant but a block were put into service A hour after the fire began, a rear wall of the buildings on Saven Street, a small thoroughfare, fell, and five firemen were buried in the debris. All were injured, one probably fatally. The fire spread to a row of tenement

houses on Craven street and Augusta Place, and seven families were burned out in a jiffy, all of their household effects being lost. Other dwellings in the immediate neighborhood were also damaged, principally by water.

The loss to the biscuit company aggregates \$200,000 and the damage to

WEEKLY TRADE REVIEW

SPECULATION A BIG FACTOR IN THE IMPROVED PRICE OF PRODUCTS.

CROPS BACKWARD IN THE SOUTH.

Rise in Price of Cotton Intended to Prevent Decrease in Acreage--Meat Market Under Absolute Control of Strong Corporations--Owing to Wild Speculation Oil has Risen More Than 200 Points -- Money Market Dull and Iron and Steel Disappinting.

NEW YORK, April 19.-R. G. Dunn and Co.'s weekly review of trade to morrow will say:

In every speculative department busi ness is growing, but this is really the least satisfactory feature of the situ: tion. Cotton, oil and wheat climb above the export price, so that the marketing of products abroad must be checked and money is absorbed which ought to be employed in productive industry and in distribution of products to consumers.

Everybody knows that oil has not risen 200 points because it is intrins cally more valuable, nor is wheat actually worth more than it was two or three weeks ago, but the expansive and uplifting force has unfortunately taken to speculation rather than to production, and so we have higher prices in all speculative markets without a larger demand

for consumption. There is no evidence that cotton is in larger demand than it was when the price was a cent lower, but prices have been so low for months that an upward movement was easy without much rea-son, though stocks here and abroad are 300,000 bales larger than they were at the same date after the greatest crop ever produced heretofore and spinners here and abroad have taken about 1,600, 000 bales more than they have con-sumed. The rise tends to prevent the decrease of acreage which is its one reasonable excuse.

Outside of speculative markets, the most important feature is the rise in the price of beef, which is largely due to the control of sources of supply by a few strong corporations. There ought to be, but apparen ly is not, sufficient power in the hands of the government to meet any such conspiracy against the public, and the proposal of Secretary Morton to admit Mexican cattle, and cattle from Canada on easy terms for the benefit of consumers, is heartily commended, though it is not likely to have much influence. The actual decrease in receipts of cattle at the four chief western markets has been 200,000 head during the first quarter of 1895, and the quantity killed has been only 80,000 head less than last year, about ten per cent., but facts have little to do with prices i this case, as in the case of cil. In iron and steel, the situation is rather disappointing, although the out-Boston. put continues large, as the demand for finished products does not seem to increase. Structural forms are in large demand, but sales of wire are about 30

SOLDIERS COMING SOUTH. Twelve Thousand Federal Veteran:

Buy Homes in Southern Georgia.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 19.-The Soldiers' Colony Company, of which P. Ff. Fitzgerald, of Indianapolis, is at the head, to day closed a bargain with ex-Governor Northern, of Georgia, and the Immigration Bureau, for a solid tract of one hundred thousand acres located in South Georgia.

While the originators of this colong are Federal veterans, any moral person may obtain a home in the colony upon equal terms. Twelve thousand persons will be located this fall beginning in September.

This is the largest colonization scheme of the age, and has been gotten up on the share plan during the last few years. Having secured all the needed money they have not olny selected a site, but have bought the land outright.

The papers of Georgia print long com-plimentary editorials on Mr. Fitzgerald's selection of a site in this State, and assure his friends of a warm reception.

ANOTHEROSCAR WILDE AFFAIR

A Prominent Business Man Arrested 8. for Practising Base Crimes.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., April 19. De-witt D. Nay, 56 years old, well known in the city and prominently connected with a large business house, was arrested to-day on a charge of practising base crimes.

The police have been watching a certain block in the heart of the city, sup posing that a gambling room was in op eration there. This morning three off ers burst into a room on the upper floor and upon the evidence in sight the arrest

The apartment was handsomely furnished and occupied by a colored man. The place, it is now learned, has been frequented by promisent men, who met you has there and indulged in the prac-tices that characterized the Oscar Wilde affau

Nay refuses to talk, but the evidence seems convincing against him. Many boys have told revolting tales of their visits to the place. Other arrests will probably follow.

BASEBALL YESTERDAY.

Season Opened at Boston by a Game Retween Boston and Washington,

Boston, April 19.-The League season was opened at the South end grounds this afternoon. Fully 13,000 people crowded the grounds. Several thousands stood up in the outfield, making a ground rule of two bases on a hit into the crowd necessary. The game was delayed 25 minutes owing to the rush. The Washingtons started in like winners and by clever batting had a fair lead on the Bostons until the 7th inning when Stockdale was pounded right and left for 6 hits with a total of 10. The visitors were run off their feet and could do nothing after this onslaught. The fielding of on and the batting Long, McCarthy, Cartwright and Joyce were the features. Score:

in a lump as"old silver." Sypher would, however, receive a detailed invoice, and in nearly all cases, the true value of these articles would be 10 or 12 times as great as the amount specified in the cus-toms invoice. Most of the silver ware passed through the second division of the appraiser's department in which Cyrus A. Stevens was assistant appraiser.

Eugene Honeywell, who has been in the customs service 15 years, is the man through whose hands the Sypher property passed and upon whose head now falls the suspicion that Sypher was assisted in swindling the customs by one inside the service.

Collector Kilbreth has always had implicit confidence in this official whom he describes as absolutely above suspicion until it is clearly proven that he is guil-ty, The case has many ramifications and hints at smuggling, and the impli cation of steamship employees is hinted Sypher has made strenuous efforts to

make light of the charges. Ex-Judge Dittenhoefer, his counsel, assured the collector that Sypher would be ready when called upon to meet the charges.

The amount of money out of which the government has been swindled will run into the hundred thousand dollars. but the customs authorities are not now in a position to state the exact amount.

PARNELL'S MOTHER DYING.

She was Robbed and Then Knocked Senseless by a Footpad.

BORDENTON, N. J. April 19.-MIS. Delia Parnell, mother of Charles Stewart Parnell was assulted by a footpad last night near the railroad station and rob bed of a small amount of money.

She screamed for help when attacked and the thief knocked her senseless. She is seriously injured and the doctors say she may die. She is over 80 years of age.

She had walked from her home to the village to get a check cashed and was probably followed by the villian w o robbed h r.

THE PLAGUE IN CHINA.

A General Outbreak of it Expected at Any Time.

HONG KONG, April 19.-Many deaths are reported in Macoa, in the Portuguese settlement of China at the mouth of the Canon River, as the result of the plague which made its appearance there a short time ago.

The Governor of Hong Kong has refused to establish a quarantine against the infected region, and what are called here is probable at any time.

Hon. F. A. Woodard recommends Bassett as postmaster at Rocky Mount, and ex Congressman Bunn recommends A. G. Wilcox. Half of Rocky Mount is in Mr. Woodard's district (Edgecombe) and the other half (Nash) in Mr. Bunn's old district. Each claim the right to name the new appointee. Mr. Bunn's nominee, the late Bennett Bunn, was appointed. * * *

Mr. Paul C. Humphrey, formerly of Goldsboro, is connected with the National Seed Company. They were doing a thriving business until the Postoffice Department decided that their business was too much like a lottery, and excluded their letters from the mail.

Mr. T. M. Robertson, of the Census office, has returned from a trip to Liberty, Randolph county. His family have gone there to remain until the fall. Mr. Robertson, and other North Carolinians here expect to be in Raleigh at the unvieling of the Confederate monument on the 20th of May.

DEATH CLAIMS A VICTIM.

and Killed.

Special to the News and Observer.

WINSTON, N. C , April 19. At Cross Roads Church, Davie county, yesterday Lee Wooten, a good farmer. was standing near a saw mill. One end of a shawl, which he had on, was caught in a revolving shaft, throwing Mr. Wooten on the same. He was whirled around and terribly bruised and mangled. He died in a few minutes after the machinery was stopped.

TWO WORKMEN KILLED.

Several Others Were Injured and Two of Them Fatally.

CHICAGO, April 19 .-- Four iron beams comprising the hoisting apparatus at the Chicago Ship-building Company's yards at South Chicago, fell this morning to the deck of a steel steamer in course of construction, and on which a number of men were at work. Two of them, Patrick Harvey and Henry Blake, were instantly killed, and several others injured, two of them, John Conly and J. J. Hand, fatally.

The hoisting apparatus was used in the construction of the steel steamer. the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board have resigned. The general feel-ing is that an outbreak of the plague main stays to give way and the heavy beams to fall on the steamer's deck.

American Society in London.

LONDON- April 19.-The Americans constituting the new American Society in London dired at the Cafe Royal this evening. There were about 150 persons present. Ambassador Bayard. who presided, had on his right, James B. Eustis, United States ambassador to France and Gen. Patrick A. Collins, Consul General,

and on his left Andrew Garnegie. The dinner was very elaborate. proposing the first toast of the evening-to the Queen-Mr. Bayard said: "The manhood of America responds to the manhood of Great Britain in this toast, as Americans of every opinion honor the British sovereign's sex.

The toast to the President of the United States was then given by the Ambassador. He referred to Mr. Cleveland's vigorous actions at all times when the honor of the country demanded decisive steps and when America's equal rights in the councils of the world were involved.""He echoes the voice of our chosen citizens when he makes known our demands," he said, "and we stand behind his policy. The organization of Americans in suropean capitals doubtless wi'l mould opinion to the advantage of our country.

Ambassador Eustis caused a mild sensation with his response to the toast "Our Guests." The stirring Americanism which he breathed in every sentence was all the more remarkable in contrast A Farmer Caught in a Revolving Shaft | with the sentiments of Ambassador Bay ard's speech.

"The chief indictment found against America by Europeans, is that we have no ancestors and no ruins. I hear this so often that I occasionally remark that I am sorry Chicago and Boston were rebuilt after the great fire."

Andrew Carnegie spoke for "the American bi-Nationalists" and Gen. Collins for the American officials in London.

THE STAMP COUNTERFEITERS

The Newspaper Man Under Arrest

(HICAGO, April, 19. - Charles O. Jones, the newspaper artist, was positively iden tified at one o'clock this morning as the mysterious George Morrison, dealer in

of the American Expre s Company, at Elgin, Ill, was shown the prisoner and identified him as the man who shipped from that point \$225 worth of stamps to W. L. Thompson, editor of Heart and Hand.

The woman now under arrest in Hamilton, Ont., known as Mrs. M. T. Mack, is Tinsey McMillan, of Chicago. She is the principal in the stamp forgeries and her only associate is Jones.

Dreydoppel's factory amounts to \$50,-000 more. The damage to the dwellings will probably reach \$25,000, making the total loss \$275,000, upon which there is a partial insurance.

REVENUE FROM INCOME TAX.

Commissioner Miller Says the Returns

Show About \$14,365 000.

WASHINGTON, April 19.-Internal Revenue Commissioner Miller to day gave out his official estimate of the revenue to be realized from the income tax, as he stated it in a letter to Secretary Car-"Telegraphic advices from the Col-

lectors of the several internal revenue districts indicate that the aggregate amount of income tax shown by the returns which were filed before the 16th inst., will be about fourteen million, tbree hundred and sixty five thousand dollars.

"Delayed returns and corrections, it is believed, will considerably increase this amount.

"The total expenditures on account of he work, including necessary sales and allowances, to the end of the present fiscal year will not exceed one hundred

and thirty five thousand dollars.'

WORK OF THE FIRE FIEND.

Sixty Business Houses Burned in the

Town of Ardmoore.

ARDMOORE, I. T., April 19. - The main business portion of Ardmoore, for six solid blocks on Chaddo Street, north and south of Main Street, were burned about 3 o'clock this morning. Sixty business houses were entirely destroyed. The loss will aggregate \$500,000. The United States Court and jail were also destroyed. The Masonic Temple was also burned

Many families are camped out in the street. A Mrs. Neal was so badly burned that she cannot recover.

ALL QUIET AT COAL CREEK.

The Miner Who Was Shot is Not Dead but Will Die.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., April 19 .-- All is quiet at Coal Creek today. The miners still remain out of the Royal mines but there has been no further disturbance and none is expected.

The report sent out yesterday that Frank Hendricks, one of the men shot, had died, was premature. There is little doubt but that his wounds will prove fatal, but he is alive this evening.

Morgan, who was pursued by the in dignant miners, has not been heard from. There is no trouble at any of the other mines in the Coal Creek district.

per cent. less. Some large textile mills have advanced wages at Fall River about 10 per cent. restoring the rates paid after the reduction in September, 1893. Labor troubles are comparatively less serious this week, and the tendency is toward larger returns for labor, which will increase the consuming power for other products. The cotton mills are encouraged by improving prices, and are fairly busy.

Money markets are comparatively dull, and accumulation from the interior continues, although there is no material increase in the commercial demand.

Failures for the first eleven days of April amounted to \$3,417,765, of which \$1,424,238 were of manufacturing and \$1,952,527 of trading concerns. Failures during the past week have been 241 in the United States, against 219 last year, and 34 in Canada, against 45 last year.

Bradstreet's Report.

NEW YORK, April 19 .-- Bradstreets tomorrow will say:

The volume of general trade has maintained the previous week's proportions, and at some points shows noteworthy increase as compared with the total a year ago.

The reaction in petroleum prices ap pears to have been overcome and the tendency is again upward, based on a drop in stocks from about 11,000,000 barrels of Pennsylvania oil in January. 1894, to less than 3,000,000 barrels of merchantable oil. So marked and rapid has been the appreciation in price of petroleum that speculation in it has been excited.

Forther advances in quotations are noted also for wheat, on improved demand for export; cotton, on a widened consumption, present and prospective: print cloths and other cotton goods, because of higher raw cotton.

General trade conditions with the South are no better, and in some respects less satisfactory. In Texas, high winds and lack of rain have hurt crop prospects, and farmers in some localities have not planted yet.

Firemen Asked to Resign.

DENVER, April 19 .- The fire and police board has requested the resignation of every fireman in the city. The action has created a very bitter feeling and last election.

001011710-12 Washington, 103002000-

Batteries: Stivetts and Ganzell; Stockdase and McGuire. Umpire, Keefe.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., April 19 .- Follow ing the brilliant opening game yesterday the Louisville team dropped into its old style to day. Knell was knocked out of the box in the first three innings and Luby did little better. Pittsburg's play was marked by splendid fielding and base running, in strong contrast to its work yesterday. - Attendance 2,000. Score:

Louisville. 2-----Pittsburg, Batteries: Knell and Welsh; Hawley and Sugden. Umpire, McDonald. In the South.

LYNCHBURG, Va., April 19 .- The tobacconists murdered the Roanoke team in the game of ball to-day. Gray was in the box for the home boys and Loye for the visitors. For six innings not a single hit was made on Gray, and all told the Roanokers scratched out but six, which netted them two runs. Twelve: hits were made by Lynchburg, which, with thirteen errors by the Magicians, gave the Tobacconists fifteen runs. The team work of the Lynchburgers was brilliant, while the playing of Roanoke was wretched in every particular.

Score: 22001211 \$-16 100000010-2 Lynchburg Roanoke Batteries: Gray and Schabel; Loyd and Purcell.

RICHMOND, Va., April 19.--The Rich-mond club beat Portsmonth out again this evening in one of the most exciting. ten inning games ever played here. Hard batting in the last two innings was all that saved the locals from defeat. Up to that time it was a pitcher's battle Score.

001000023-6 Richmond. Portsmouth, 2000000010-2 Batteries: Tannehill and Gibson : Hallman and Vetter.

NORFOLK, Va., April 19 -- About 600 people witnessed the second league game between the home team and Petersburg this afternoon. The game was better on the whole than the preseding ane. Score : Norfolk, 12; Petersburg, & Tenley Batteries-McDonald and

Foreman and Hayden.

To Dethrone the King of Coven.

LONDON, April 19 .- A Central News dispatch from Seoul, under today's date. says that a plot has been discovered to dethrone the King of Corea in favor of is supposed to have been taken on account of the firemens' activity in the spirators, including Li Shun Yon. Were spirators activity in the spirators including Li Shun Yon. promptly arrested.

Positively Identified.

counterfeit stamps. This morning, M. D. Whitman, agent