

THE INAUGURAL FETE

PREPARATIONS FOR THE EVENT ARE WELL UNDER WAY.

Affair is to be on a grander scale than ever before—Administration Does Not Favor an Extra Session—Shipping Bill's Status.

[Washington Correspondence.]

The inauguration preparations this year are well under way, and are on a grand scale. Pretty nearly every prominent man in the city is on one or another of the committees, and there are to be several novel and interesting features, which will make the event more than usually noteworthy. It is felt that uncommon elaboration is justified, because it is the first inauguration in the new century, and it is partly due also to the great personal popularity of President McKinley, and to a feeling which somehow seems to prevail that the beginning of his second term will usher in a kind of new "era of good feeling." Partisanship during this session has certainly been reduced to a low ebb, and the people's representatives nowadays seem actuated more by considerations affecting individual and national prosperity than by old-fashioned political differences of opinion.

It is becoming daily more apparent that Congress is determined to avoid an extra session if it can. The recent talk about an extra session was started mainly by the reported wish of the Administration to have supplementary legislation about the Philippines and the new Cuban Constitution. But the best authorities in Congress incline to the opinion that the necessity in the Philippine case is not sufficient to demand a special session, and now there is an increasing doubt as to whether Congress has any right to supervise the Constitution of Cuba. The original position of Congress, as promulgated just before the war with Spain, was that the Cubans "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent," and that this country disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise any control over the island except for its pacification. It is now argued by many Congressmen that this pacification has been accomplished, and therefore that we have no business to interfere further with the Cubans. If this opinion should prevail, it would probably knock out the extra session idea altogether.

In considering the pending Shipping Bill it should always be remembered that the greatest benefits flowing from it will be to the farmers of the United States. The Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Wilson, pointed this out very plainly in a recent interview. Secretary Wilson said that the most important national problem for us to solve was what to do with our surplus products, and especially our surplus agricultural products. This surplus is now about one-third of the total production, and it is constantly increasing. In other words, our farmers and other agricultural workers now produce one-third more than they can use or sell in this country, and this vast surplus must be disposed of in foreign markets, or, if it is not, there will be a tremendous crash one of these days. Access to foreign markets is now had, in the main, only by the employment of foreign carriers. The service is slow, uncertain, irregular, costly and unfriendly, or at least, indifferent. What we need most of all and at once, the Secretary said, is a large, adequate American merchant marine, for the transportation of our exports and for the further development of our foreign markets.

If it be unsafe and absurd to rely upon foreigners for our shipping facilities in time of peace, how much more so in time of war! Yet that was what we were reduced to in our war with Spain. All our transports, colliers, etc., were borrowed from other nations, and there were only a few American ships which were available as auxiliary cruisers, etc. But these few were of invaluable assistance. Commander Driggs, executive officer of the auxiliary cruiser St. Louis, recently declared that "the actual value of this ship to the navy in the war was more than the total amount of the proposed subsidy during the whole fifteen years of its operation." The St. Louis is one of the crack steamships of the American Line, which was employed by our Government for auxiliary service during the war. Commander Driggs stated further that the original intention of the Spaniards was to send some of their warships to our Atlantic coast, in order to bombard our cities, and that they were deterred from doing so only because they learned of the employment of the four swift and powerful American Line steamships as auxiliary cruisers. They had no ships able to compete with these four, and therefore they gave up the idea of the bombardment.

The foreign nations, whether friendly or unfriendly, would like nothing better than to see this Shipping Bill fail. The agents of most of the leading German and English steamship lines have been busily engaged in this country, ever since the bill was first broached, lobbying against it. In this fact resides one of the strongest arguments for the measure, from the American point of view. Many English newspapers and commercial periodicals, just received on this side, contain quite alarmist references to the matter. The Yorkshire Post says that the pending bill "threatens very seriously our own ship-building and carrying trades." The London Economist declares that this is "the most important among national movements adverse to the interests of British shipping," and that America will now "begin a contest with us for the sovereignty of the seas." The London Express tells its readers that "to those who can read the signs of the times in America it is evident that, in the near future

England will be met with a competition of a more serious meaning than any she has hitherto suffered at the hands of the United States. America intends to compete with us for the supremacy of the seas. The whole trend of later developments is in the direction of an extension of American shipping, and the impulse that is now setting in will be far-reaching in its effects, and will have to be reckoned with by this country."

AMERICAN COMPETITION.

Its Grave Menace to European Interests Candidly Recognized by Foreigners.

The new century's opening days are destined to furnish a good many tributes to the skill and resources of the United States in the general business field. The London Times, having American competition in view, sounds a note of warning to England. "It is useless to disguise the fact that Great Britain is being outdistanced," it declares. "The competition does not come from the glut caused by miscalculation as to the home demand. Our own steel makers know better, and are alarmed. The threatened competition in markets hitherto our own comes from efficiency in production such as never before has been seen." "There are only two great countries from which we have anything seriously to fear," says a British industrial expert, writing a series of articles in the London Mail, "and these are the United States and Germany, and I place them in their relative order of importance in this respect."

This is testimony to the superiority of the United States in the industrial field which is significant. It was presumably known to the writers of the two expressions quoted that the United States in 1900 had gone ahead of the United Kingdom in the aggregate of its exports of all sorts. It was undoubtedly known, too, to both of them that the exports of manufactures of the United States are growing faster than those of agricultural products and the raw material of manufactures. What makes this circumstance of portentous consequence to an old industrial country like England is that the gain in the United States has been greater in the past two or three years than it was before. It promises to be still greater in 1901. Not only does the United States meet the older countries in the competition for the trade of Asia, Africa and South America, but it is making inroads into their home markets. The amount of American goods sold in England, France, Germany and the rest of Europe is constantly on the increase, notwithstanding the fact that we are discriminated against in the tariffs of the continental European nations. Germany is making great gains in exports, but the expansion in this respect is much larger by the United States than it is by any other country.

Until about a dozen years ago England had virtually no competition in Asia and Africa which caused it any uneasiness. The writer in the London Mail who has been referred to says that Great Britain exported to South Africa in 1889 about \$65,000,000 worth of goods, and while there has been an increase to only \$75,000,000 since then, the United States sextupled its exports to South Africa in the interval, and now ranks second to England in this trade. It is evident that that British authority believes the day is close at hand when the United States will take the lead in the exportation to Asia and Africa which his own country has had for generations. His words are echoed by other writers for the great papers in London, Liverpool, Manchester and the rest of the British trade centres. While Germany is making gains in its foreign trade, as compared with England, it is the United States which is really feared. Not only has the United States a larger population and immeasurably greater natural resources than Germany, but its people, as the British experts testify, are displaying a general versatility and adaptability in all their great industries such as those of no other country can approach. Here are the reasons why, at the opening of the new century, horoscopes of American industrial advancement in the near future are being cast by British and other Old World authorities which are more glowing than even those which the American prophets have been framing.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Promise of Even Better Things.

Thomas Lowry, of Minnesota, is not one of the "doubting Thomases" who think that, under Dingley law protection, industrial prosperity has reached such a height in this country that there must come a fall. This is his opinion, as expressed in a recent interview. "Right as was the outlook toward the close of the year, all the promises and all the expectations now are of even better things. The prosperity of the country is exceptionally substantial, and, to my mind, there is no doubt of its continuance. Everywhere you go you see the signs of the times. The farmer, the artisan, the merchant, the manufacturer, the transportation men—all are doing well; all are confident. Mr. Lowry has this advantage over his less optimistic friends—the facts which are being reported from all over the country give valiant support to the truthfulness of the statements which he makes and to the wisdom of the opinion which he expresses. They tell a story of continually advancing prosperity which has few halts in the line of march.

The Corned Philosopher.

"A man," said the Corned Philosopher, "usually realizes at middle age that he is a good deal of a fool, though sometimes he needs the assistance of some young person to aid him in finding it out."—Indianapolis Press.

HAS BEEN SIGNED.

One Copy Will be Immediately Sent to Congress.

AN UNPLEASANT INCIDENT.

Senator Cisneros Takes Inopportune Time to Exhibit Hatred of United States.

Havana, By Cable.—The Cuban constitution, first submitted by the constitutional committee to the convention at the public session of January 21, was signed Thursday. One copy was sent to Gov. Gen. Wood and the other placed among the records of the convention. The attendance was not large.

At 5 o'clock the members affixed their signatures, the president and vice president leading off, the two secretaries signing last.

Senator Cisneros created a sensation by refusing to sign it. He said: "Cuba is now independent, and I can see no reason for sending this constitution to the United States for acceptance. The United States government has no right to pass upon it, for it is a distinctively Cuban document and was drawn up by this convention which has assumed the responsibility of establishing the republic."

Several delegates argued with him, but he was immovable. As the delegates retired, Senator Tamayo remarked: "We are all Cubans, Senator," and Senator Cisneros replied: "Yes, when the time comes to fight the Americans we will fight them together." Then he turned toward the president's table and shaking his fist at the American newspaper men, he said: "The Americans are like the monkey. When the monkey closes its paw on a thing it never wants to let go."

Subsequently he said he would sign the copy of the constitution that had been filed with the records of the convention, but would wait until the other had been sent to Washington.

Senator Capote, president of the convention, delivered the document to Gen. Wood at the palace Friday morning at 9:30. Gen. Wood and his staff will receive formally the commission charged with the duty of presenting the constitution. The latter will be translated and a copy in English will be sent to Washington with the original. Probably the translation will not be ready before Monday. Gen. Wood sent a personal letter to Senator Tamayo, chairman of the special committee on relations, outlining the suggestions received from Secretary Root, but pointing out that these were only expressions of opinion of the executive department as to what the people of Cuba desire to have established and agreed upon between the United States and Cuba, and should not be taken as an official declaration of the United States, it being necessary to refer the whole matter to Congress.

The special committee on relations has not yet decided what report it will make. Another meeting has been called. Gov. Gen. Wood will appoint a commission consisting of two Cuban merchants, two Americans and Collector Bliss, as chairman, to revise the terms. A supplementary revision will be first made and submitted to merchants in Havana and the United States for suggestions. The Cubans take kindly to the scheme which will allow them a choice in arranging the duties.

Will Edit "The Smasher."

Topeka, Kas., Special.—Mrs. Carrie Nation is to enter politics and to become the editor of "The Smasher" of the Mail, a paper to be run in behalf of negroes. She has refused tempting offers of theatre managers and will remain in Topeka to help elect a "clean man" for mayor at the spring election. These matters were announced by the crusader from her cell in the county jail after the charge against her, of smashing the Senate saloon two weeks ago, had been dismissed by Judge McCabe. She is still being held on the charge of breaking into Moser's cold storage plant last Sunday.

Atlanta Suffers from Serious Fires.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—Fire destroyed almost an entire block in the wholesale district of Atlanta, entailing a loss of a half million dollars, on which there is insurance amounting to nearly \$450,000. The burned area is bounded by Railroad avenue and Lloyd, Decatur and Collins street. The principal losers are: J. J. and J. E. Maddox, wholesale grocers, \$125,000; Gramling and Spaulding Shoe company, \$70,000; Draper-Coggins Shoe company, \$70,000; Arnold Hat company, \$40,000; R. N. Fickett Paper company, \$40,000; McConnell and Christopher, dry goods, \$25,000; Dinkins and Davidson, hardware, \$15,000.

A Friend to the Negro.

Charleston, Special.—Mrs. Laura White, who as agent of philanthropic Philadelphia Quakers founded the Penn Industrial and Educational Institute for negroes on St. Helena island, died at her home on the Frogmore plantation. She came to Beaufort soon after the war and has done a great work educating the negroes. She was also highly esteemed by the old southern planters there about.

Lynched in Louisiana.

Lake Charles, La., Special.—Thomas Vital, colored, charged with an assault on a 13-year-old white girl, was taken from his home near Baton Rouge and lynched. Samuel Mardix, who attempted to defend Vital, was shot to death. Vital had been previously shot in the leg by the girl's father and was resisting officers when the mob captured him.

SENATE COURT ORGANIZED.

Prepared to Begin the Impeachment Trial March 11.

SENATE.

Thirty-seventh Day.—The Senate met at 10 o'clock, Lieutenant Governor Turner presiding. Rev. Mr. Weaver offered prayer. The reading of the journal was dispensed with.

Resolution passed for a joint committee to accompany the remains of Dr. Kirby to Goldsboro. Speight, Wood and Aycock were appointed.

The following bills passed third reading:

Senate bill to authorize Mt. Airy to issue bonds for water-works.

House bill to authorize Johnston to work convicts on public roads.

House bill to authorize Haywood to levy a special tax.

House bill to prevent live stock from running at large in parts of Bladen.

Senate bill to supplement an act to prevent live stock from running at large in Watauga, Caldwell and Mitchell.

Senate bill to impose a license tax of \$25 on dealers in deadly weapons came up. Smith wanted it re-referred to the finance committee, and it was so ordered.

Thirty-eighth day.—The Senate passed more important bills of the State interest than on any other previous day of this session. The Senators worked hard for nearly five hours and when an adjournment was taken until 11 o'clock Monday the calendar was virtually clear.

At 12 o'clock Monday the Senate will be organized into a court for the purpose of trying the Chief Justice and an Associate Justice of the Supreme court. The preliminary ceremonies were witnessed yesterday when the members of the House presented to the Senate the articles of impeachment and received the assurance that the same would be acted on according to law. A full account of this ceremony is printed elsewhere.

The substitute prepared by the subcommittee to the bill by Senator Ward for the protection of trade and commerce against conspiracies and monopolies passed without a dissenting vote. This bill has appeared in the News and Observer. It defines what trusts and monopolies are, imposes penalties which are to go to the State and makes it the duty of the Attorney-General to bring suit.

The bill providing a corporation law for North Carolina which was fully discussed Friday, passed its third reading in the Senate without opposition.

Among other important bills passed were the new oyster law and restoring to the Governor the appointment of members of the Board of Internal Improvements; both bills having originated in the House.

If the State Board of Agriculture carried out the wishes of the Senate as expressed yesterday the State will be represented at the Buffalo, Charleston and St. Louis Expositions.

The Governor was given the power to fill vacancies on the Criminal Circuit Court bench and he will appoint the successor of Judge A. M. Moore resigned.

The contested election case of Kennedy against Currie was settled unanimously in Senator Currie's favor and the contestant paid \$225 for his expenses.

Senator McNeill introduced his bill to repeal the Cumberland dispensary according to the wishes of the primary but since some citizens wished to be heard before the Committee on Propositions and Grievances Monday.

Senator Travis, by request introduced a bill to allow in surance companies to withdraw under the Craig act.

Thirty-ninth day.—Lieutenant Governor Turner called the Senate to order at 11 o'clock and Rev. Dr. A. A. Marshall, of the First Baptist church, offered prayer. He brought before the Senate the question of whether sitting in legislative or executive session or as the highest court of the land, and that their minds and hearts might be filled with justice and love from above so that they might not injure any citizen of this Commonwealth, but guard the welfare of their State.

At 11:30 the Senate took up and discussed the rules presented for governing the impeachment trial.

At 12:30 the roll call began and the Senators were sworn in five at a time by Lieutenant Governor Turner. Each Senator repeated the oath after President Turner and signed the same. Senator Alexander being first on the roll was the first sworn. All were present and sworn in except Leitch, Speight and Webb. Marshall, Republican, had conscientious scruples against swearing and he affirmed. Chief Clerk Maxwell, Reading Clerk Cochran, Sergeant at Arms Smith, and Mr. Weldon Smith as stenographer, were sworn in.

London introduced a resolution that the rules adopted by the Senate for the impeachment be adopted by the court of impeachment. Carried.

London offered a resolution to inform the managers of the House that the court was ready to receive them at its bar. Adopted.

At 12:45 the managers entered in a body, with their counsel, J. H. Pou and C. M. Busbee, and took seats on the left. Rountree announced that the managers prayed process issue. London moved to issue a summons returnable at 1:15 today. Carried. Lieutenant Governor Turner placed the summons in the hands of Sergeant-at-Arms Smith.

The Senate then resumed its session and soon adjourned.

Fortieth day.—The Senate passed the divorce bill and discussed Alexander's road bill, many minor bills were introduced and a number of local bills passed.

HOUSE.

Thirty-seventh Day.—Speaker Moore convened the House at 10 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Butler. Petitions were offered as follows:

By Winston, to pension J. D. Barham and L. W. Phelps.

By Benbow, to prohibit sale and manufacture of liquor near Yadkin Valley Institute.

Forty-eighth day.—The articles of impeachment against Fuches and Douglas, as prepared by the managers and

their attorneys, were submitted to the House and adopted, after some discussion caused by objections to them on the part of Republican members.

At exactly 12 o'clock the articles were laid before the House. They were read and re-read, article by article, and adopted serialim.

Immediately after the last article had been adopted a resolution was sent to the Senate informing that body that the House was ready, through its managers, to exhibit the articles of impeachment whenever it should suit the Senate to receive them.

It suited the Senate to receive them: At once.

At one o'clock pointed to the hour of 2:15 the managers, accompanied by the entire House, proceeded to the Senate.

The Senate received the articles with great solemnity and fixed 12:30 Monday as the hour at which the Senate will organize as a court of impeachment for trial of the judges.

Just before 12 o'clock, Doorkeeper Howell announced in stentorian tones Mr. Speaker, the report of the managers of the impeachment."

Then the managers elected by the House to conduct the impeachment trial, entered the Hall. They were Judge Allen, of Wayne, chairman; Messrs. Craig, of Buncombe; Graham, of Granville; Hayes, of Chatham; Rountree, of New Hanover; Nicholson of Beaufort; Seawell, of Moore, and Shannhouse, of Mecklenburg. Mr. Spanhour, of Burke, was absent.

Walking up to the speaker's desk in appropriately ceremonious order, two by two, with Judge Allen at their head, they ranged themselves in line on either side of Judge Allen, who then said in distinct and incisive tones:

Speaker: The managers elected by the House to conduct the impeachment trial of David M. Fuches and Robert M. Douglas have prepared articles of impeachment, which they are now ready to submit to the House for its consideration and adoption."

And all the while he spoke the clock was striking twelve.

Mr. Gattis, of Orange, then moved that the report be received, and that the House resolve itself into committee of the whole for the immediate consideration thereof. This motion prevailed, and the Speaker called Mr. Gattis to the chair.

On motion of Judge Allen, the articles of impeachment were ordered read and considered serialim. Mr. Winston, of Bertie, at the request of the committee, then read the five articles printed below. They were signed by all of the managers, except Mr. Shannhouse, who it was explained by Judge Allen, acquiesced entirely in the articles, but was at home when the paper was signed.

The question then came up on the adoption of the committee's report. Mr. Masten called for the yeas and nays. Call sustained. Result of vote.

Those voting for adoption were: Allen of Wayne, Ardrey, Bannerman, BBarco, Barnhill, Beasley, Blalock, Blount, Bradsher, Brittain, Carraway, Craig, Curtis, Daniels, of Vance; Daughtridge, Ellen, Fields, Garret, Gattis, Graham, Harris, Hayes, Jenkins, Lane, Lawrence, McKithan, Mann, Mauney, McCulloch, McIver, Morgan, Morpew, Nicholson, Owens of Tyrrell, Peerce, Pearson, Robinson of Anson, Rottrock, Rountree, Seawell, Simms, Smith, Stewart, Taylor, Thompson, Ward of Halifax, White of Jones, Willard, Wilson, Winston and Zachary—50.

Those voting no were Baldwin, Benbow (Rep.), Blythe (Rep.), Brim (Rep.), Burlison (Rep.), Burnett (Rep.), Caloway (Rep.), Carson (Rep.), Coleman (Rep.), Connor, Dean (Rep.), Duncan (Rep.), Ebbes (Rep.), Gaither, Hood, Isbell (Rep.), Mastin (Rep.), McFarland (Rep.), McIntoch (Rep.), McLean, Morris, Owen of Sampson (Rep.), Patterson, Payne (Rep.), Petree (Rep.), Reinhart, Sheets (Rep.), Stevenson, Watts, Weaver (Rep.), Whitaker of Guilford, Yarborough—33.

Mason, voting "aye" paired with Dui's, voting "no."

Thirty-eighth Day.—Speaker Moore convened the House at 10 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Daniels.

The customary number of bills were introduced. The pension bill, after some discussion, was made a special order for Tuesday noon. At 2:40 p. m., the House adjourned.

Fortieth Day.—The House held day and night sessions. No general legislation was enacted.

Telegraphic Briefs.

The National League magnates began their annual spring meeting in the Fifth Avenue Hotel and will probably be in session for a week. A definite plan of action against the American League, in case of war, was the hearing of demands of the Players' Association, and the consideration and adoption of a playing schedule for the season are some of the things to come up.

A fire in the poor quarter of Birmingham, England, yesterday, resulted in six men and women being burned to death and four dangerously burned.

Entombed Miners.

Tusca'loosa, Ala., Special.—The fate of the 13 negro miners entombed in the Asylum mine by a rush of water from an abandoned shaft is still problematical. The rescuers have been unable to make any headway in pumping out the water, as the mine fills as rapidly as it is pumped out. A third pump has been put into operation. The only hope for the negroes is that they will burn their lamps and in this manner keep the air in the small space comparatively pure. The authorities have little hope, however, as it will take several days to pump out the water.

HE FELT THE SAME WAY.

Mrs. Henpeque—They say when a tiger has its prey in its power the victim feels neither fear nor pain—only a dreamy ecstasy.

Mr. Henpeque—I don't doubt it. The night you accepted me I felt the same way.—Judge.

DEAD IN COAL MINE

Thirty-Six Miners Burned to Death By Explosion.

AWFUL RESULT OF CARELESSNESS.

A Fire in a Coal Mine in Diamondville, Wyo., Buried to Death All the Miners in One Shaft With a Single Exception.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Special.—The worst disaster in the history of coal mining in Wyoming since the Almy horror, eight years ago, occurred at Diamondville Monday night. Thirty-six men are believed to have perished in a fire which started in Mine No. 1, of the Diamondville Coal and Coke Company.

The blaze was first discovered shortly after the night shift commenced work. It is thought to have originated from a careless miner's lamp in the oil room. The flames made such progress that only one man escaped from the two entries in which it was confined. His name is Jno. Alexander and he was frightfully burned in running the gauntlet of the flames. He was suddenly confronted by a wall of fire and smoke and wrapping his head in an overcoat he ran in the direction of the main entrance. He fell unconscious, and was carried to the mouth of the mine. The alarm was sounded and hundreds of miners at work in the mines and on the outside rushed to the rescue of their imprisoned comrades. The fire had by this time made such progress that it was impossible to enter the rooms of flames. The entire night was spent in confining the fire to the two entries and this morning it was necessary to seal them up to prevent the flames from spreading to other parts of the mine. This step was only decided upon after all hope of saving the lives of the men had been abandoned. Nothing could live five minutes in the fire, which was increasing in fierceness every minute. The plugging of the two entries will smother the fire, but it may be several days before the barricades can be removed and the chambers explored.

The exact total of men entombed is not yet known as a number are missing, some on sick leave and others in the hospital, suffering from burns received while fighting the flames, so that an accurate count at present is impossible.

The scenes at the mouth of the mine during the night and day were heart-rending. Relatives and friends of the entombed miners rushed to the mine, frantically waving their hands and crying to the mine officials and miners to save their dear ones. Many of the women and children were slightly injured in the crowd and by falling over obstacles in the darkness.

Diamondville has been the scene of a number of disastrous fires since the coal mines were opened there, ten years ago, but the conflagrations were never attended with serious loss of life.

The mine is owned by the Oregon Short Line Railroad. Its output is about 175,000 tons of coal per year and upwards of 700 miners are employed.

Hor of Horrors.

Versailles, Ind., Special.—George James and his four young daughters were burned to death in their farm house, four miles from Versailles early Saturday morning. A son, 12 years old, made a desperate effort to get his father and sisters out from the burning house, but failed. The son, who been sleeping with his father, escaped through a rear door, and finding it impossible to get back owing to the rapid spread of the fire, rushed to a window of his father's room and broke the glass in with his fist. He begged his father and sisters to climb through the broken sash, but they made no reply. In a few minutes the whole structure fell, burying the five inmates.

Goes to Ash-ville.

Chicago, Special.—John T. McCutcheon, the war correspondent-artist, who was with Admiral Dewey at the battle of Manila, was taken to-day on a special car to Asheville, N. C., where it is hoped his health, seriously affected by malaria contracted in the Philippines, and an attack of typhoid pneumonia in Chicago, will be regained.

The Seaboard to Knoxville.

Brunswick, Ga., Special.—It is reported here that negotiations are pending for the purchase of the Tallulah Falls railroad by the Southern Air Line and eventually resulting in a line from Athens, Ga., to Knoxville, Tenn. The purpose of the new line, it is said, is to bring in reach the undeveloped mineral resources of the mountainous region of North Carolina and East Tennessee. George L. Prentiss, of New York, who is considered a leading promoter of the undertaking, was here but would neither deny or affirm the rumor.

By Wire and Cable.

King Leopold, of Belgium, went to Nice Saturday for a long stay.

General Rios, who presided at the Spanish Peace Commission meetings in Paris, is seriously ill.

M. Pichon, French Minister to China, will probably be succeeded by M. Jean, chief of the cabinet of Foreign Minister De-casse.

A National Anti-Cigarette League was formed in Chicago, Ill., February 28.