# THE CAUCASIAN.

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## A GOVERNMENT RAILROAD.

### A Bill For the Government to Take Charge of The Union and Central Pacific Railroads

### ORIGINAL LAW PROVIDES

**It The Bill Quotes The Provisions of The Act of 1863 and Subsequent Acts Providing For The Construction of These Roads—It Sets Out That These Roads Have Forfeited to The Government by the Terms of The Law Under Which The Government Furnished The Money to Build Them—It Directs The Attorney-General to Judiciously Enforce Said Forfeiture, and Directs The Secretary of The Interior to Take Charge of The Roads and Operate Them at Cost in The Interest of The People.**

THE CAUCASIAN prints below a very important bill. As our readers have already been informed, the Union and Pacific railroad companies have failed to pay the principle and interest of money furnished by the Government to build these roads. It is known that there is a deal now on foot between certain syndicates and the officials of the Government to buy this property for less than it is worth. In fact, to buy it for less than these roads owe the Government. It is an astonishing statement that the officials of the Government should be willing to be a party to a deal to rob the Government. But the fact seems to warrant this conclusion. Senator Butler has introduced a bill with a view to thwarting this deal, and also providing for the Government to take charge of these roads and operate them as one continuous through competing line across the continent. This would give a fair test of the practicality and advisability of Government ownership of railroads. It should be tried, and would prove whether public ownership or private ownership of transportation lines is best. The bill is as follows:

A BILL

Supplemental to an Act entitled "An Act to aid in the construction of a railroad or telegraph line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, and secure to the Government the use of the same for postal, military, and other purposes," approved July first, eight hundred and sixty-two; also an Act approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and also an Act approved July seventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, both in amendment of said first-mentioned Act and other Acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, and directing the Attorney-General to have certain provisions of said Acts judicially enforced, and directing the Secretary of the Treasury to take possession of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads, to provide for a sinking fund, and for other purposes."

Whereas the United States has issued its bonds, payable in thirty years after date, bearing six per cent interest per annum, amounting to twenty-five million eight hundred and eighty-five thousand one hundred and twenty dollars, to the Central Pacific Railroad Company to aid in the construction of said road and its telegraph lines, under the condition that the amount of the said bonds so issued and delivered to said companies, together with all interest thereon, should at maturity be paid to the United States, and upon the failure of said company to comply with said condition the said railroad and telegraph lines, with all the property and franchises, functions, immunities, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, should also all land grants to the said company by the United States which at the time of said default shall remain in the ownership of said company, to be subject to be taken possession of by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the use and benefit of the United States; and

Whereas the United States has issued its bonds, payable in thirty years after date, bearing six per cent interest per annum, amounting to twenty-seven million two hundred and thirty-six thousand five hundred and twelve dollars, to the Union Pacific Railroad Company to aid in the construction of said road and telegraph lines, upon the same terms and conditions referred to in the Act applying to the Central Pacific Railroad Company; and

Whereas a large part of the principal and interest of the bond issued by the United States to the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroad companies is now due and payable by the said companies are in fault;

Whereas the said railroad companies have failed to comply with the provisions of said Act and also the Act adopted May seventh, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, mandatory to the act of July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, authorizing the United States to aid in the construction of said railroads and telegraph lines; and

Whereas according to the terms of said Acts such failure is made to be a forfeiture of all the property rights, privileges, grants, franchises derived or obtained from the United States; therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Attorney-General of the United States be and he is hereby directed to use such forfeiture by said railroad companies to be enforced.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to take possession of the Central Pacific Railroad and telegraph lines and of the Union Pacific Railroad and telegraph lines, with all of the property rights, functions, immunities, and appurtenances thereunto belonging; and also all lands granted to the said companies by the United States which at this time remain in the ownership of the said companies, subject to any lawful, prior and paramount mortgage, lien, or claim thereto. And thereafter the United States Government shall own, operate, and control said roads and properties as public property and as one continuous line of railway, and shall charge no greater rate for the carriage of passengers and freight thereon and for messages forwarded over its telegraph lines, than may be sufficient in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior, to pay the actual operating expenses of said road and telegraph lines, to keep the same in proper and efficient repair, and to create and complete a sinking fund as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 3. That for the purpose herein mentioned the Secretary of the Treasury shall fund any bonds, mortgages, or lein debts of the said railroad companies, respectively, lawfully paramount to the rights of the United States, into bonds of the United States payable in thirty years after date, bearing not more than three per centum per annum, to be known as Pacific Railway bonds, the interest and principal of which may be paid in any lawful money of the United States. And the right is reserved to the United States to call in said bonds, or any of them, and to pay the same at any time after ten years from the date thereof; and the further right is reserved to postpone the payment of said bonds until a later period or periods beyond thirty years from date, subject to the payment of interest thereon during the time of such extension. Such bonds shall be issued in amounts not to exceed one thousand dollars each, and shall have coupons attached to each bond for the payment of interest, at a rate not exceeding three per centum per annum; and such coupons shall be payable quarterly each year, beginning with the date of the bond to which they are attached, and shall be numbered to correspond with the number of the bond to which the same are attached. The bonds and the coupons so issued shall be made payable to bearer, and the title to the same shall pass by delivery: *Provided*, That said bonds may be registered by the owner thereof in the Treasury of the United States in the manner and with the effect as is now prescribed by law in the case of other registered bonds issued by the United States.

SEC. 4. That there shall be established in the Treasury of the United States a sinking fund and saidsinking fund shall be invested by the Secretary of the Treasury from time to time in the bonds issued under the the provision of this Act, at a rate not exceeding the par of their face value and accrued interest, or in any other interest-bearing obligations of the United States; and the interest thereon shall be in like manner from time to time invested, and the same shall accumulate and be disposed of as hereinafter mentioned. There shall be carried to the credit of said sinking fund, on the first day of February of each year, the net earnings of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads and telegraph lines until said sinking fund shall be sufficient in amount to liquidate the principal and interest of said Pacific Railway bonds.

SEC. 5. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to ascertain the cost by purchase of such parts of lines now owned and operated by the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads as may be necessary to constitute a continuous line of road between Omaha and Kansas City and San Francisco, or the cost of constructing such necessary connecting lines, and to report the same to the Congress of the United States within six months after the passage of this Act.

## GREEKS RETREAT.

**Scenes of Confusion and Panic—It Was a Mad Stampede and a Frenzied Rush.**

ATHENS, April 28.—The retreat of the Greeks after the battle of Mati developed into a rout before many miles had been covered. The Larissa correspondent of the Associated Press, who was with the retreating troops, has arrived here, and his story of the fight is full of interest. While soldiers, villagers, women and children were marching along, all hopelessly mixed up and the soldiers anathematising their officers, a dozen horsemen and as many riderless horses appeared. The cry went up, "the Turks are upon us," and the stampede began. The frightened soldiers and villagers began to fire in every direction, and the terror of the animals added to the confusion. The correspondent, who narrowly escaped being shot by an irregular, says the mad firing kept up for half an hour. Men, women and children were killed, and the scene was terrible. The way was strewn with ammunition boxes, broken carts and furniture, the bedding of soldiers, blankets and tin pans. The latter rattled under the horses' feet, blankets became entangled in them, and the horses, frantic with alarm, galloped about among the flying crowds, many of them riderless.

Guns and ammunition, wagons and carts, added to the obstruction. The traces had to be cut, in order to enable their drivers to mount the horses attached to them and seek safety in flight. There were many struggles between the fugitives for the possession of the horses. In this manner the affrighted crowd struggled on for several miles, presenting a most vivid picture of disaster and fear. Some of the Greek officers, it is true, did their duty. They ordered the bugles and trumpeters to sound "cease firing," and rode about calling upon the fleeing soldiers to halt. But others of the Greek officers lost their heads, and pushed onward as terror-stricken as the soldiery. One brave officer tried to bring his men to their sense by presenting a revolver at them and shouting "stop! stop!" but he might as well have called upon a whirlwind to stay in its course. General Mavromichaelis, who had evidently reached Larissa sometime before, rode back some distance in order to arrest the stampede. Two miles from the Larissa road is situated on embankment, where the general succeded in inducing half a company of foot-sore men to halt, but thousands continued their rush to Larisso. There was a blockade at the bridge across the Salambra river, at the entrance of Larissa. Another terrible scene was there presented, of guns, men and horses mixed up in a struggling and fearful mass.

In the streets of Larissa there was indescribable confusion. Troops of all arms were mixed together, and threw themselves down in utter exhaustion, heedless of the calls of trumpets and bugles, summoning them to fall in. The inhabitants, rushing about the streets, intensified the confusion. The mere mention of the Turks was sufficient to create a frenzied rush.

When the moon rose and the neighborhood of the town could be made out with some distinction, matters became calmer, and at dawn the excitement, had been reduced to a restless movement from street to street and an anxious discussion of the future. Some estimate of the number of deaths which occurred during the stampedes and indiscriminate firing say that from five to six hundred persons were killed. But your correspondent thinks these figures are exaggerated, though the people declare they have seen many wagons bearing the dead to to Larissa.

The five newspaper correspondents, who were in the stampede, all had miraculous escapes from death.

The first hours of daylight were spent by the Greek officers in assembling their scattered troops and sending them to Pharsalos. The troops continued to march without any refreshment, and is alleged that many of them had not tasted food since Friday morning. When it became known that Larissa was to be abandoned, there was another panic The women and even the children went about drawing their hands across their throats, showing what they expected of the Turks, and in an incredibly short time the roads leading to Pharsalos and Volo were crowded with people, vehicles and animals, the latter bearing all kinds of household effects.

## THE WOMEN'S EXPOSITION

**To be Held at Charlotte Promises to be a Grand Success—An Outline of Some of The Leading Attractions.**

Special Cor. the Caucasian.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 24.—The comprehensive and attractive programme for the Women's Exposition of the Carolinas is nearly complete. The doors will be thrown open the evening of May 11th, with a reception to the public. Mrs. Sallie Southall Cotton, one of the South's leading women, whose address on a National training school at the Mother's Congress at Washington attracted such wide-spread attention, will deliver the address. A number of addresses by prominent Southerners, and entertainments of various kinds will extend through the entire month. "Gala Week," the week of the 20th celebration, will be crowded with events. In addition to the numerous attractions afforded by the Exposition, the fastest bicyclists in this country will be here at the week of the National racing circuit; the competitive firemen's races and displays, and various other organizations will have a place in the celebration.

Special rates have been granted the Exposition from all points in North and South Carolina and nearby points in the neighboring States. The rate including Norfolk, Suffolk, and Danville is one fare for the round trip. For May 19th, and 20th, as low rates will prevail as have ever been given in the State, the rate being one cent a mile. This will enable all to attend. The Century Poster exhibit, probably the finest in the world, including all the private collection of Mr. Ellsworth, Secretary of the Century Company, all works of the finest French artists have arrived.

Some fifty paintings from Washington artists have arrived, and many of the leading art exhibits will be here in the next few days The work on the building is about complete, and the rooms are being given the finishing touches; the building presents a handsome appearance, is well situated, and the arrangement is as good as could be desired. One of the features growing in interest daily is the exhibit of the colleges in the State. The University of North Carolina will send a most creditable exhibit, including the famous death-mask of Napoleon, valued at $30,000, Greensboro Female College, the State Normal School, St. Mary's, Guilford College, Salem Academy, Elizabeth Colleges and other higher Institutions will be represented. Parties of students from the various institutions will visit the Exposition, indeed the plans are to arrange special excursions from these schools and colleges, a real gala day affair.

The month of May will be crowded with events in Charlotte, and indications point to the largest crowds in the history of the city.

**Initiative and Referendum.**

Direct legislation is strictly a Populist measure. It simply means that the voters have a right to vote on any law if they wish before it becomes operative and binding; or they can propose a law, and when voted for by the majority of the voters the legislature must enact it into a law. Direct legislation means self government by the people. It means that your "fellow dog delegate" cannot sell you out. It means that a big corporation will not be able to make your laws by buying your law-makers. It means a people's government. The masses of the people are honest, and when they are brought face to face with a proposition they are going to vote on it with the best interest of the country uppermost in their minds. Give us direct legislation by all means. It is the only great rallying point where all reformers can find a common ground. It is a vital principle of popular government, as much in advance of our present faulty system as the republic was in advance of the limited monarchy. Study direct legislation—Kentucky Farm.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE FOR THE CAUCASIAN.**

## CAMPAIGN FOR FREE CUBA.

### HOW IT IS WAGED BY GOMEZ AND HIS PATRIOT COMMAND.

**An Eye Witness Describes the Situation as He Saw It Just Before the Rainy Season Began—Spain's Losing Game—Condition of the Troops.**

Of the newspaper correspondents who have visited Cuba during the past few months, probably no one is better qualified than Mr. Stephen Bonsal to speak intelligently of the progress of the war. Mr. Bonsel contributes to the Review of Reviews for May an able and dispassionate study of the whole situation, from which we quote the following paragraphs:

"In the country which the insurgents command—that is, in at least four fifths of the island—into which the Spanish columns do not venture except in large force, food grows on every bush and every root is edible for the Cubans who know how to prepare it. There are hill-locked valleys which the Cuban forces hold, and where their cattle graze in safety. Here they have even planted quick crops, like sweet potatoes, which ripen five or six times a year. Gomez and his leaders have, one and all, availed themselves of the advantages presented by the nature of the ground to the fullest extent. Indeed, the campaign has shown Gomez to be not only a man born to command, but one who is abreast of the military science of the day, so far as it can be applied to the peculiar welfare upon which he is engaged. His masterly circular movements never fail to puzzle those who would bring his army to bay, and worn out by the chase, the Spanish columns never succeed in cornering him. The half grown and immature boys, the raw recruits which Spain has sent to the island, serve as but fodder for fevers and other diseases to feed upon. With half rations, scant clothing, and little or no pay, and that in a depreciated currency, the soldiers are only capable of doing one day's work in seven, but the wonder to me is that they are able or willing to shoulder a musket at all.

"The result of the campaign is, then, that the life-blood of Spain is flowing from every pore. The priceless lives of her sons and all her borrowed treasure are being poured out upon this thirsty island with as little result as though it were all poured into the Carribbean Sea. Certainly the campaign closes without the patriot army having placed to their credit any exploit which can be compared to Maceo's wonderful march from Camaguey to Pinar del Rio in the winter of '95-96. But even had it been possible, the repetition of such a movement would have been useless, and, unlike the Spaniards, the Cubans never waste man or a cartridge.

STARVATION VS. FIGHTING.

"The campaign has been one of starvation rather than of fighting, and out of this the patriot forces have emerged successfully. They have with them cattle sufficieent for several years to come and crops growing in places where the Spaniards are unable or do not care to go to destroy them. In the Cienaga de Zapata, or the great salt swamp on the south coast, which the Spaniards has never dared to penetrate, the Cubans maintain their hospitals, their factories for the repair of rifles, their depots of stores, their tanneries, and their salt wells. Indeed, with the exception of the question of ammunition, which is not overabundant, they could stand isolation from the outside world much better than could the Spanish forces. Were Cuba to be blockaded by a hostile power, within two weeks the Spanish army would be compelled to evacuate or to surrender, as almost everything that is necessary for the support of the army, even in the wretched condition that is maintained, is brought from abroad, from Spain, the United States, or Mexico.

"Seeing that the waiting game has brought them within measurable distance of complete success, the Cubans are naturally reluctant to hazard their present position upon a battle. They have very little more to win, and a great deal to lose, and so, in the main, they confine their operations to harassing the Spaniards as much as possible with the least expenditure of men and ammunition, and to the husbanding of their not overabundant resources. and they do well. I saw General Weyler six weeks ago in Santa Clara, and he was loud in his expression of contempt for Gomez and his army. 'I have never been able to get up with him,' he said. It was the most complete and unconscious confession of failure that I have ever listened to.

EVACUATION NEAR.

"Of course, the situation is very generally understood in Havana, though this understanding very rarely finds expression in words. Many a man has been sent to Fernanda Po for less. But within the precincts of the palace itself, and from the lips of a Spanish officer, I have heard the war characterized as la luncha de dos impotentes, or a struggle between two antagonists, neither strong enough to conquer, as it is a true description of the situation. The Cubans cannot drive the Spaniards from the Island, and the Spaniards cannot capture the Cuban strongholds or compel surrender. It should be borne in mind, however, that while it is quite impossible to gauge the endurance or estimate the capacity of the insurgents to continue their struggle for liberty, we can foresee and predict almost to a day when the Spaniards will have to withdraw, and sullenly folding their tattered banners, 'scuttle' from the colony they have proved unequal to rule.

"The army pay is now some four months in arrears, and the discontent is naturally great. The army supplies and commissariat bills it is difficult to speak of, as they are kept with such studied irregularity, but they are certainly greatly in arrears. By the aid of the fraudulent silver notes, the money in the treasury will last perhaps three months more. If the attempt to raise a loan of another hundred millions, which is now being made in Paris, giving the tobacco and said monopolies as security, is successful, Spain will have money enough to maintain her present position on the island until the beginning of the next year."

## THE GREAT STRIKE OF 1894.

**Arrest of U. S. Deputy Marshal Loade to Startling Disclosure of Incendiarism During That Memorable Strike.**

It now transpires that the strikers did not burn the cars in Chicago during the great strike of 1894, but that a U. S. deputy marshal is the guilty person. These facts came out as follows:

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—By the capture of William Ingliss Bloom, the alleged incendiary, the fire wardens of this city may have incidentally saved Chicago the loss of sums aggregating near $1,000,000.

Suits for damages approximating this amount has been trought against that municipality as a result of the destruction of railroad cars and property by fire during the great railroad strike.

Bloom confessed yesterday to destroying a great quantity of this rolling stock, which he, as an officer the law. had been called out to protect. He admits that he set fire to many of the cars, possibly sixty of them. He could not tell exactly, owing to the excitement when the work was done. According to his confession, he set many fires and participated in many others.

Most of the cars were destroyed on July 6, 1894.

Bloom's confession is corroborative of the claims made by officers of the American Railway Union during the big strike of 1894. They charged that irresponsible men had been employed to act as deputy marshals, and that in order to retain thier position they set fire to railroad cars for the purpose of creating riots and thus make their presence necessary for the restoration of peace.

"I have always said the truth would eventually come out," said W. E. Burns, a director of the American Railway Union, today. "We had evidence that the fires were started just as Bloom said they were, and now that he has confessed he will add another sensational chapter to the trying times of those days. The strikers would have no motive in starting fires, as they were confident that the strike would be won.

After the fires occurred the soldiers were brought to the city and in conjunction with the injunction, the strike came to an end. But I am glad that there is a chance to prove our charge as to who started the fires."

## - DEBOE'S POSITION.

**He is a Republican and All That the Party Stands For.**

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 28.—Senator Deboe was seen tonight and asked concerning his position on important political questions. He said: "I belong to the school of Republicans of James G. Blaine, William McKinley and John Sherman. I am a protectionist and believe in upholding American institutions: I am in favor of the passage of the tariff bill in accordance with the well-known principles of the Republican party. I am for sound money and for the principles enunciated in the St. Louis platform, and shall favor proper legislation in conformity to the principles therein. I am in thorough accord with the Republican administration at Washington."

Ex-Senator Blackburn spoke to his followers at the opera house tonight. He said that it was not defeat, but failure, and would soon be remedied. The greatest fight ever known was on in this country. It was the appeal for liberty that rang on the streets of Paris. It was the peoples fight against money kings.

"In Heaven's name;" he said "let us get together and resolve to fight for the liberty. I wish we were as sure of heaven as we are of gaining power again in Kentucky. We have had enough of Republicans."

## THE RIVER SLOWLY FALLING.

**Crop Work Will be a Month Late—Arkansas Farmers Returning to Work—A Brighter Report From the Flood Districts.**

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 23.—No new crevasses have appeared in the levee today but the current of the river is still beating against the southern embankments with a fury that causes the gravest apprehension. The break at Delta has inundated 75,000 acres of the finest plantation in Southern Louisiana. The water continues to pour through the opening and is rapidly spreading over a greater area. Reports from Greenville are not encouraging. While the water is slowly receding in the overflowed district of the Yazoo delta, yet it is almost certain that the planting of this year's crop will be 30 days late. The situation north of Memphis, and in Arkansas, however, has greatly improved. Capt Davis, the general purchasing officer here, will send out two boats loaded with provisions tomorrow, one going north and the other to the St. Francis river country. Capt. Davis states that this will be the last government shipment to these districts, unless some new emergency arises. Many people are returning to their farms in Arkansas, and the work of planting will begin shortly. According to the official bulletin of the United States weather bureau, the Mississippi river fell two tenths of a foot in the past thirty hours, and will continue to fall slowly at this point.

From Cairo, Ill., a most encouraging report comes. It is to the effect that there the river fell seven tenths of a foot since the last bulletin was issued, and will continue to fall at this rate for some time.

At all other point from which bulletins are issed, the decline is reported varying from one-tenth to eight-tenths of a foot. The Missouri river at Omaha and Kansas City fell three-tenths of a foot. The river at Nashville and Chattanooga also registered a fall. In fact, no rise was reported at any point covered by the weather bureau in its official bulletin.

The river at Natchez is unchanged, but many people are becoming gloomy again over the threatened outlook for rain and wind to-night. The levees are soaked.

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## ANOTHER FLOOD.

**A Cloud Burst Causes a Sudden Rise in the River and Sweeps Down Upon the Town of Guthrie—Many Portichoeps in the Water.**

GUTHRIE, O. T. April 28.—Where at daylight this morning stood the most beautiful residence portion of Guthrie, tonight is a flood devastated, stricken and demolished district. The houses that are left are toppled about like cardboard boxes after a windstorm, and careless waves of resistless waters roll through or over half a thousand deserted and wrecked homes. Two thousand homeless people are gathered shivering on the bluffs west of the city, or housed in the homes of that part of the city which lies high and dry on the hills A hundred or more have gone down to watery graves and thousands have lost their all.

With a mighty roar the flood came down the valley a mile wide, twenty feet deep in the channel and four feet across the entire valley. It struck the city at 6:30 in the extreme southwest, where the negroes mostly live, and in a few moments hundreds of their little homes were carried away and many lives were lost. The railroad tracks are on the east bank of the river for three quarters of a mile. Across is the valley running through the western part of the city, and in it is much of the finest residence portion and small business section where there were about twenty stores, etc.

In less than twenty minutes from the time the flood struck the city, this entire section was inundated and within an hour the water was ten feet deep, and hundreds of buildings were floating away. Not only the meaner structures, but fine residences, store buildings, a large cotton gin and other large structures went into ruins and floated away down the stream. On many buildings were men, women and children. From hundreds of trees came piteous calls for help. With the first rush went every bridge in the city. A few boats were crushed or carried away and nothing could be done to help many who fell or were swept from places of refuge and were drowned before the eyes of horrified, but powerless spectators.

By 9 o'clock the water was thirty feet above the normal level of the river, and the once placid stream was a raging torrent across the entire valley. It seemed that soon the people in trees and on roofs would be swept away, and desperate measures were taken to help them. Geo. Willis and H. A. Platt, both prominent young business men, stripped and leaping into the torrent swam the main channel of the river and secured an old flat boat which was moored to a tree. With this boat they saved over thirty people.

While this rise is due to the general rise of the Cottonwood, a cloudburst at 4 o'clock this morning near Seward, southwest of here, caused the great flood.

## WATERS RECEDED.

**Extent of the Damage and Loss of Life at Guthrie.**

GUTHRIE, Okla., April 29.—The great flood is a thing of the past, the waters have receded and where yesterday flowed ten feet of water, as far as it could reach, the ground is almost dry, and river was within its banks. A trip through every section of the flooded districts shows over one hundred homes entirely gone, three times as many damaged, a dozen business houses wrecked and twice as many stocks of goods mixed. The loss is fully $100 000, and five hundred people are homeless. Many persons reported as drowned last night were found in trees, on high places, and in houses lodged down stream and it soon became apparent that the number of drowned did not exceed 20 or 25.

## BIG STRAWBERRY SHIPMENTS.

**320,000 Quarts Shipped Yesterday From the Wilmington Section.**

WILMINGTON, N. C., April 29.—Enormous shipments of strawberries are being made daily from this section to the northern markets. From points on the Wilmington and Weldon railroad alone from Wilmington to Goldsboro inclusive, a distance of only eighty four miles, the shipments today were 2,500 crates by express and 7,500 crates in refrigerator cars of the California Fruit Transportation Company. Ten thousand crates contain three hundred and twenty thousand quarts.

**Carrying Out The Wishes of The Majority.**

Mercury.

The goldbug papers have been rejoicing all the while at the fight the middle-of-the-roader (so-called) were making against chairman Butler. These papers hoped these kickers and Republican allies would down him, and thereby, so split the Populist party, as to not bother them any more in trying to fool the people over minor issues. But they are realizing the fact that Butler, as chairman, is carrying out the wishes of a large majority of the committee who ought to know the sentiment of the people, and hence, is with his party organization in this matter.

**Entirely Right.**

Sledge Hammer.

We are of the opinion that chairman Butler of the Peoples Party national committee is entirely right in declining to call a conference of the party at this time. We believe that such a meeting at this time would be made the means of creating divisions in the party instead of promoting harmony. That the success of its principles would be more wisely served, by a united and earnest effort on the part of all its members to win to its support not only the host who are daily becoming more and more dissatisfied with the Democratic and Republican parties with whom they have been mistakenly acting, but also to strengthen the wavering if such there be in our own ranks. Let all who are honestly striving to overthrow and destroy the blighting power of plutocracy and the gold power, unite in one supreme effort, forgetting all differences and disappointments of the past, and pull together to secure a congress in 1898 that will represent the people and not the corporations, an administration in 1900 that will restore the country to the principles of the fathers. Mistakes may have been made during the 1896 campaign, but if so the healing balm of time should be allowed to perform its cure instead of re-opening the wounds for the benefit of a common enemy. Stand firmly by its organization, and by every principle of the Peoples Party, but don't, we beg of you do anything to create divisions which will weaken our forces one and three years hence.

## CAPTURED FIVE CAMPS.

**Operations of Spanish Troops in Province of Pinar Del Rio.**

HAVANA, April 29.—A column of Spanish troops commanded by Col. Ketruch, which has been operating against the insurgents in the vicinity of Mulata, Guajabon, and Charcos, Province of Pinar del Rio, has captured five insurgent camps. The enemy left twenty-five men killed and retired with many wounded. The troops had a lieutenant and seven soldiers wounded.

During a number of skirmishes which have taken place in the last three days the insurgents, according to the official reports, lost 116 killed, had eleven men wounded, and the troops captured ten prisoners. The Spanish columns during these skirmishes had eight men killed and seventy-eight wounded.

The government has authorized Senor Porru, the Civil Governor, to return to Madrid on May 10. He will be relieved by the Marquis Palmerola.

## KENTUCKY'S NEW SENATOR.

**Blackburn's Famous Fight Against a Goldbug Ends in Defeat and Election of Deboe.**

WASHINGTON, April 28.—The Senatorial deadlock in Kentucky ended to-day in the election of Deboe, Republican. Two sound money Democrats voted for Deboe. A scene of the wildest excitement followed the announcement of Deboe's election. Four or five gold Democrats joined in the shouting of the victorious Republicans. Deboe says he is a gold standard man, despite the silver stories circulated about him, and that he will be found on the Republican side and in line with every Republican policy.

Dr. Deboe is about 45 years old, and a resident of Crittenden county. He was elected to the State Senate four years ago as a gold Republican, and was a delegate to the St. Louis convention.

## THE INCREASE OF POPULISM.

**A Goldbug Paper Says That the Republicans Made a Mistake in Promising Prosperity.**

The St. Paul Globe, goldbug, cautions its readers to look out for the Populists. A few extracts are quoted to get the facts as the Globe sees them:

We suppose no intelligent and honest man questions that a very decided movement has taken place toward the Populist cause in this portion of this country since the election last November. For this the managers of the Republican party are wholly to blame. They themselves set up a test that was unnecessary, absurd and certain to react unfavorably upon themselves. "Prosperity" was the only word in their mouths from morning until night. They did not tell the discontented men that we were having the experience of every county on the face of the globe in declining prices with increasing age, and that industry and frugality were the only remedies. Not a bit of it. They told him that he was suffering because the country had a Democratic administration. They furthermore pledge themselves solemnly to give the country prosperity if they were returned to power. All this motto business about the 'Advance Agent of prosperity" was simply preparing the way for Republican disaster and the increase of Populism.

**President Spalding Arraigned.**

CHICAGO, Ill., April 29.—President Charles W. Spalding of the defunct Globe Savings Bank, who has been in jail since last Saturday in default of bail was arraigned this afternoon to answer a charge of embezzlement. He waived examination and was held to the Criminal Court. Cashier Churchill and Vice-President Averill also appeared on the same charge and their cases were contested.

**Eaten by Hogs.**

JACKSON, Ohio, April 29.—Wm. Evans, a wealthy and highly respected farmer, living near Centreville, went out early this morning to feed some stock. As he did not return, the members of his family made a search and found him lying dead in the cow lot, surrounded by hogs, which had eaten away one hand a part of the arm and otherwise mutilated his body. He is supposed to have been stricken down with an attack of heart trouble, to which he was subject.

**Cuban War Notes.**

HAVANA, via Key West, April 29.—The insurgent Rafael Fernandez, adjutant of the Cuban leader Roban, has been captured by the Spanish troops. It is said that he is an American citizen.

The war is going on fiercely in Havana province. The insurgents captured the town of Sietecito.

Gen. Rodriguez, commander-in-chief of the Cuban army in Havana province, says in a report to Gen. Gomez that never before has the revolution been so strong as it is now in this province.

Hon. Thomas E. Watson, in his last week's paper goes for Senator Kyle because he will vote for the Dingley tariff bill, but he says nothing about how Senator Pritchard will vote and he also forgot to print Congressman Skinner's speech in favor of the Republican tariff bill. Has the "gallant Tom" forgotten about his endorsement of Col. Skinner's fight for the election of Pritchard? He ought to look after all his own household and not single out just one of the family for a target—Plow Boy.


If

If You Are Wise
You Will Advertise
Without Persuasion
In THE CAUCASIAN.


## A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

### CHAIRMAN BUTLER WRITES AN OPEN LETTER TO HON. FRANK BURKET TO CORRECT MISREPRESENTATIONS.

**A Majority of the National Committee are Opposed to Holding a Conference at This Time—If the Minority Proceed to Hold One It May Cause Division and Evil May Follow.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 26 '97.

Hon. Frank Burket Okolana, Miss.,

DEAR SIR:—Your quotation and comments in your issue of the 21st upon a purported interview misrepresents my position. I have given but one interview with reference to the proposed conference. In substance I said:

That the committee of the Reform Press meeting had requested me, as national chairman, to have the national committee of the party to take action to determine whether or not a national conference of the party should be held at this time. That individually I was opposed to holding such a conference, but that I desired and intended to act in harmony with the official organization of the party, and therefore I submitted your request to the national committee. If a majority of the committee had favored such a conference, then I would have called it in obedience to their judgment and decision. But that a large majority of the committee had decided that it was neither wise nor expedient to hold such a conference at this time, and that the Reform Press Committee in proceeding to hold a conference did so in disregard and defiance of the judgment and decision of the official organization of the Peoples Party.

These were the sentiments I expressed, and if I was reported otherwise then the interview was to that extent incorrect. I am sure that you would not purposely misrepresent me. Therefore, I will ask you to make this correction.

In conclusion, permit me to say that I regret exceedingly that your committee, after requesting that this question of a conference be submitted to the national committee, should now refuse to observe the judgment and decision of the party organization. For your committee to proceed to call a conference under these circumstances is peculiarly unfortunate. You could have very properly and justly criticised me if a majority of the national committee had decided for a conference and I had disregarded and defied their decision. Then why should not the action of the committee be looked to and estimated the evil results to our party that must necessarily follow the course you are pursuing. Instead of uniting the party, it will cause more friction and fresh discord. When you call upon those in any county and township who may agree with you, though in the minority to proceed to organize and send delegates, regardless of committees as well as the national committee, you do that which at once cause divisions and start a fight among our people in nearly every county and township in the United States. This will be deplorable.

Since replying to your committee officially stating the position of the national committee, I have received answers from seven additional members of the committee. Five of these oppose a conference while two favor a conference. This makes more than a majority of the whole national committe voting against the conference, even if every member of the committee who has not been heard from would vote in favor of it. Under these circumstances, surely you will not persist in a course that can mean nothing less than disruption and disorganization of the party, to a greater or less extent.

Yours respectfully,

MARION BUTLER.

**When Loving Mothers Grow Selfish.**

"It is when children reach maturity that the supreme test of parental love comes," writes Edward W. Bok, discussing the home-leaving of children at time of marriage, in the May Ladies' Home Journal. "All through infancy and early years the children are more or less care. And then, just as the parents feel relieved from cares and anxieties, and are beginning to enjoy the companionship of their children in the serene and complacent way which 'grown-ups' have, there comes a flattering of the wings, a remote suggestion of flight. The son is no less his mother's boy than he has been and ever will be. But he is—and who realizes it so quickly as a mother?—in a new and very natural sense, another woman's hero; and that woman a girl. With her he discerns, away out on the horizon line, the shadowy lines of a house that is to become a home, their very own. The girl, too, whose going in and out of the house has been a daily joy to the parents—she, too, has become a heroine to some one other than her father or her mother. It is hard for the parents to realize that this mate of her flight can care for her as they have; that in her young eyes, in her young heart, it is possible that he can be altogether noble and capable! And after the young birds have taken flight the parents wonder if sometimes they do not grieve in their new life. But some fine morning a clearer vision is given them, and they realize that, after all, their children are only playing the same role which they played a few years before. It is a magnificent quality in parents when they so prepare themselves that they can meet this inevitable time with the proper spirit—when, in other words, parental love can get the better of selfishness."

**Grant's Earlier Right.**

Plow Boy.]

We used to be a "middle-of-the-road" Populist, but when Skinner, McCaskey and Babb together with such lesser lights as Fiske, Odom, Kestler and other rantankerous Rep. Pop fusionists began their false 'middle-of-the-road" performances the term no longer has any charms for us and we hereby grant them exclusive right to use it as seems to them best.