

REPUDIATION OF BONDS.

BY COUNTIES RAISING A STORM OF ANGRY COMMENT.

Buncombe County Brings Suit to Inval... date an issue of \$98,000—Southport Naval Reserves—New Year at the Capital—Grant's Low Estimate of Russell's Following—Butler Denies Rumors as to Fusion—Our State Leads in Number of New Factories.

Messenger Bureau, Raleigh, N. C., January 1. Buncombe county now brings suit to test the validity of \$98,000 of bonds issued to the Asheville and Spartanburg railroad. The holders of these are innocent persons. Grant's home of the Stuy county \$100,000 of bonds, lately declared invalid by the supreme court. The repudiation of bonds is raising a storm of angry comment and it is urged that it is damaging the credit of the state, which has been so high. It is said plainly that it was the decision in the Oxford case which opened the door to these evils.

The claim is officially made that the penitentiary debts are paid and that there is a "good balance" to its credit. The new superintendent, McBoone, having given his bond yesterday, took charge today. It is said that the new division of naval reserves at Southport, composed almost entirely of pilots, will be one of the best of all. There were more murders in the state during December than in any other month of the year.

It is quite clear that Carl Duncan, the incoming revenue collector of this district, is going to make a great effort to oust every democrat under his jurisdiction. He is clearly quite ready to knock out civil service. It is said that there is an end to free passes by the railways, unless perhaps some one makes a test case and lets the courts decide whether such passes are forbidden.

The new year came in clear and cold. The public buildings were nearly all closed. A few clerks were at work here and there. There was no reception at the executive mansion. It is said not to be the custom to receive there on this day and it would interfere with private receptions. At the office of the secretary of state it is said that the December entries of "public lands" were larger than in any other month of the year. Only 100,000 acres yesterday were over \$300 and yesterday over 2,500 acres were entered. Of course all the land of this kind has been entered before.

It is quite probable that the next session of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly will be held at Asheville. The teachers of Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee are invited to attend and that will be the most convenient point for them all. H. L. Grant makes the plain assertion that only one republican in 1,000 in the state endorses Governor Russell's administration. He is one of the republican committee and ought to know.

Senator Butler declares that as yet no fusion of populists and republicans is agreed on. This is in contrast with the news from Washington last week. It must be that the Butler wing of the populists is holding out for a more liberal terms than the republicans offer. The anti-Butler populists are regarded as having already made a deal with the republicans for this year. The leaders are now holding them up to this.

North Carolina remains at the head of all the states so far as the number of new mills in the state and the additions to old mills are concerned. The statement was made that Mrs. Peris F. Chase, of New Hampshire, had the flag of the Fourth North Carolina regiment captured at Sharpsburg. It turns out that it was captured at Chancellorsville, where the color-bearer and twenty-five men of that regiment were flanked and captured. It was at one time denied that the Fourth had ever lost its colors.

It is quite plainly hinted that it is the purpose of the new railway commissioners to oust H. C. Brown, the veteran and very efficient clerk to the board, and put in his place the Fourth North Carolina regiment. Last week made assistant clerk. Brown is a democrat and Sharpe a republican. Mr. Richard Baker, of Wilson county, was sent home from the asylum here today, cured.

Mr. Bryan at Austin.

Austin, Texas, January 1.—W. J. Bryan and wife, accompanied by ex-Governor Crittenden of Missouri, arrived here after midnight last night and today were tendered a reception at the home of ex-Governor Hoeg. About 2,500 people attended. Mr. Bryan authorized the statement by the Associated Press today that he would not make any statements on his Mexican trip until he reached Lincoln, when he would give the public his views in detail. He, however, expressed himself as delighted with the country and the people. Mr. Bryan and the members of his party will assist Governor Culberson in his New Year's reception this evening and leave tonight for Muskogee, Indian Territory, where Mr. Bryan will stop a day or two before going home.

Indignities to General Rivera.

Barcelona, January 1.—General Ruis Rivera, the insurgent leader who was captured, badly wounded, in the province of Pinar del Rio, by the Spanish troops under General Velasco, on March 29th, 1897, and who was condemned to death and his sentence modified, has arrived here and was conducted on foot and in chains to Montjuich fortress between lines of soldiers and mounted gendarmes. General Rivera was calm, but he protested against being chained. No one was allowed to speak to him. There was a big crowd of people in the vicinity but there were no demonstrations.

Catarrah is a Disease

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VIRGINIA'S NEW GOVERNOR.

Governor Tyler Inaugurated—In His Address He Favors Rigid Laws Against Election Frauds, Financial Reform for the People and Economy in State Finances.

Richmond, Va., January 1.—The inauguration of Hon. J. Hoge Tyler as governor of Virginia took place in the hall of the house of delegates at noon today. The hall was crowded, a large number of ladies being present. The ceremonies were very simple. The incoming governor and lieutenant governor and some half dozen of their friends were escorted from the executive mansion to the capitol building by Company F, First Virginia regiment. Governor O'Ferrall met the party in the executive reception room, and with the governor-elect, headed the procession to the hall of the house where the two branches of the general assembly had gathered. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Moses D. Hoge and the oath was administered to the new governor by Judge R. H. Cardwell, of the supreme court of appeals.

Lieutenant Governor Echols was also sworn in by Judge Cardwell. The new governor then delivered his inaugural address. In his address, the incoming governor declared in favor of retrenchment rather than the cutting down of salaries. One of the most salient features of his address was that part devoted to the honest elections question. On that point he said: "Virginia would set a noble example to her sister states of this union and be worthy a leader's place in the future, if she would forever set the seal of her condemnation upon the affronting of those who would debauch the people's suffrage and their property by the shameless use of money and the power of combination influences. Here lies the gravest menace to our republic, and in taking upon myself the exacting duties of this high station, I would feel derelict if I did not ask the legislature to amend the constitution so as to clearly within the penal code as to deter all would-be offenders."

As to the financial question, he declared that it was "a burning shame that the statement is almost daily and hourly made that there was plenty of money in the treasury, while it is a well known admitted fact that through the broad land, and among the people there was not enough to meet the tax-burdens laid upon them. Retrenchment and economy was a principle, but how it was to be practiced on a pace with an ever-decreasing value of taxable property under our present financial system, he earnestly hoped the legislature would be spoken for by the voice of the people's attention to the real needs of the people in demanding a better and more satisfactory banking system, and a more healthful money circulation."

IT IS NOW GREATER NEW YORK.

Mayor Van Wyck Enters Upon the Duties of Mayor of the Second Largest City in the World.

New York, January 1.—New York today became the second city of the world, with Robert A. Van Wyck as its mayor. At the City hall, a large crowd gathered early to witness the induction of the new mayor. Mayor Strong transacted a few last matters of routine. Nearly all the old members of Mayor Strong's cabinet dropped in to say good bye. Floral pieces were strewn in every direction. A tiger, in yellow and black immortelles, resting in a bed of roses, was one of the most noticeable decorations.

At 11:55 o'clock, Mr. Van Wyck entered the office. He was greeted by Mayors Strong, Gleason and Wurster. The four men chatted some time and the big crowd of office-holders and ex-office-holders made a circle around them. About one minute before 12 o'clock, Mayor Strong said: "Mr. Van Wyck, the people of this new city, made up of five boroughs and 3,500,000 people, have decided that you should be the first mayor and descend from your position as judge to assume the position of magistrate. My impression is that this old city in which you and I have lived for about the same number of years—this old city of New York that is passing away, will contribute \$3,000,000,000 worth of property to the new city of which you will be mayor; \$230,000,000 banking stock and \$1,000,000,000 of deposits. And you will take charge of this little borough along with the others, and you will always feel, I know, that it is the brightest little jewel in the cluster of five. You have been chosen to be mayor of one of the largest cities in the world. I congratulate you and welcome you as mayor of Greater New York."

Mayor Van Wyck, in reply, said: "The people have chosen me to be mayor. I received the office from and to them I will answer." Then, after a great shaking of hands, the ceremony was completed, and the administration of Mayor Strong was a thing of the past. A good contingent of Brooklynites accompanied B. S. Color when he took charge of the comptroller's office. Mr. Color announced several minor appointments and got through the ceremony of induction with little ado.

Sparks

Harris I. Drummond, president of the J. T. Drummond Tobacco Company, of St. Louis, makes a positive denial of the statement that negotiations are under way for the sale of the Drummond Company's plant to the American Tobacco Company. A cablegram from Cairo says the Warwickshire and Lincolnshire regiments of the British army have been ordered to start from Wadyhalfa for the frontier.

EVENTS IN THE FAR EAST.

NO DEFINITE INFORMATION TO BE ASCERTAINED.

The Situation Not so Alarming—British and Russian Foreign Offices Doubt German Ucer-situation as to Her Position—The Korean Situation of More Interest to England than the Chinese—Hints of a Chinese-Japanese Alliance Against Europe. (Copyrighted by The Associated Press.) London, January 1.—The ingenuity displayed in manufacturing news from the far east is remarkable. Five-sixths of the statements can be safely labelled "Guess Work." The British and Russian foreign offices are as dumb as cysters and the German stream of conflicting communications in the semi-official press shows they do not know there on which foot they are standing. France is apparently in the dark, while the mikado has dissolved the Japanese diet in order that opinions should not be expressed. In the circumstances it is not strange that accurate information is difficult to secure. The known facts wholly corroborate the statements cabled the Associated Press on Saturday last, that Great Britain is carefully watching the situation, biding her time and will certainly not fail to act promptly and vigorously at the proper moment. It was pointed out in that dispatch that in well informed circles the scare in the newspapers in regard to the far east was at least premature and that the members of the government were evidently sincere in disclaiming the least alarm.

This view of the case was practically reiterated by The Daily Graphic on Friday, which asserted that there was every reason to believe the Russians would adhere to their pledge to evacuate Port Arthur at the end of the winter, and that, therefore, there were no grounds for complaint on the part of Great Britain. The Daily Graphic further pointed out that the British government did not regard the occupation of Kiao Chou by the Germans as calling for alarm, because British interests were not threatened. With the foreign office and the admiralty, according to The Daily Graphic were agreed on this point. Evidently, apart from the question of a Chinese loan, the Korean question is not interesting for Great Britain at the present time than the questions of Port Arthur and Kiao Chou. The British superintendent of Korean customs, a more serious scheme to overturn Sir Robert Hart, the British director of the Chinese imperial railway, which has been recently been nipped in the bud. The cabinet's existence was short if it permitted Russia to coerce the Tsung-Li-Yamen (Chinese foreign office) into dismissing the British head of the Chinese customs.

It is not known yet whether the British government approve of the arrangement arrived at, according to a cable despatch from Peking by which McLeavy Brown and M. Alexief, the Russian agent, in Korea, will work the Korean customs together. The British ministers appear to be somewhat distrustful of the new scheme, which is short if it permitted Russia to coerce the Tsung-Li-Yamen (Chinese foreign office) into dismissing the British head of the Chinese customs.

The Spectator publishes an interesting article on Japan's policy, in which the writer regards Marquis Ito's return to power and Japan's offer to assist the officers at Peking in drilling the Chinese army, and her proposal to consent to a postponement of the payment of the war indemnity, as possibly foreshadowing a new era of peace. The writer adds that he is convinced the Marquis Ito thinks that securing perpetual control of the resources of trade and soldiers of China are within his power and, if Japan's offer is accepted, Europe, according to the writer in The Spectator, will be beaten. "Lipton has not the means to make the effort necessary to conquer the United Yellow Peoples."

The financial barometer does not show any decided trepidation. Consols are improving. There is not the slightest sign of the selling which has been marred on the political horizon. There are signs of reaction in the long-continued depreciation in land. Farms are selling and renting more freely and at higher prices. The improvement is attributed to the rise in the price of wheat, and partly to the cheapness of money. Capitalists are glad even by land investments. The New Year honor list is weak and decidedly partisan. It attracted little interest from the public, outside of the knighting of Mr. Thomas Lipton, the millionaire provision merchant whose knighthood establishes the fact that titles are purchasable, for the honor bestowed upon him was, of course, due to his gift of \$25,000 (\$125,000), to the Princess of Wales jubilee fund for feeding the outcast poor of London. The Paris police, during the course of the week, secured another of the organized gangs of murderers and robbers which have terrorized the suburbs of the French capital for months past. The new arrests number thirty-three and the oldest prisoner is only 21 years of age. Within three months the bodies of fifty-three murdered persons have been found in a small section of the River Seine and it is believed most of the murders are traceable to this gang. There have been innumerable murderous attacks and robberies in the streets and the police are satisfied that all of the gangs, a number of which have been arrested within the past six

GERMANY TO HOLD KIAO CHOU IS THE OPINION OF ONE IN THE EMPEROR'S CONFIDENCE.

A Most Important and Valuable Possession—The Forts to be put in Thorough Repair and Surrounding Country Improved—Understanding as to France and England Helping Themselves also to Chinese Territory—American Reciprocity Negotiations. (Copyrighted by Associated Press.) Berlin, January 1.—Bishop Anzer, of South Shan-Tung, China, dined with the emperor and empress at the new palace on Tuesday. Baron Von Buelow, the minister for foreign affairs, and Count Von Leyder, the new minister of Japan, were present. On the following day the correspondent of the Associated Press had an interview with the bishop, to whose shrewd advice and detailed information regarding the whole province of Shan-Tung, in which Kiao-Chou is situated, the German government owes much. Bishop Anzer gave an interesting account of the occurrences of the previous evening and of the audience he was accorded by the emperor in November, and also told of his audience with the pope a fortnight ago. The bishop, who has been thirty-four years in China, and who is about to return, said: "I am amazed at the keen knowledge the emperor displayed regarding China's resources and government. Every question the emperor asked was pointed. There is no doubt Germany means to keep Kiao-Chou and its contiguous territory, and, if the right measures are taken it will prove a most valuable possession, even more valuable than Hong Kong, because its mineral wealth, coal and iron, although needing a large amount of capital to develop it, is almost inexhaustible."

THE CUBAN MINISTRY.

Take the Oath of Office and the Autonomous Government is Inaugurated—Blanco's Special Courtesy to Consul General Lee.

Havana, January 1.—Many people assembled at the palace today to witness the swearing in of Senor Rafael Montero, marquis of Montero, Senor Francisco Seay and Senor Laureano Rodriguez, as secretaries of the provisional government. Marshal Blanco, the captain general, escorted by a number of high Spanish officials, the consular corps, army and navy officers, politicians, etc., reached the throne room at 9 o'clock a. m. A new Bible was open on a table and upon it the secretaries took the oath of fidelity to the constitution and the Spanish government, placing their right hands on the Bible and kneeling as they repeated the words required. Senor Galvez, president of the cabinet, read out loud and then the oath was administered to the others. To Marshal Blanco's inquiry "Do you swear fidelity to Spain, the queen and Spanish institutions?" all replied "We do."

Marshal Blanco then addressed the officials, saying: "On the day just taken, the autonomous government of Cuba is now established in accordance with the royal decree of November 27, 1897. The political parties to which you belong are guaranteed the full liberty of opinion which the government expects of you, impartial and just motives. It is your duty to study the necessities of the island and especially economic questions and the means to restore the property destroyed, the peace and the welfare of Cuba, form the best propaganda we can make in behalf of autonomy and against the revolution, which, although it was never justified, will hereafter have no pretext whatever to exist. I sincerely wish my good fortune in fulfilling your noble and thorny mission, so that we may together realize the civilized island for which I have professed great affection for years, the peace and prosperity so much needed. To consecrate the carrying out of our wishes, let us cry with hearts full of loyalty to our institutions: 'Long Live Spain.' 'Long Live Cuba.' 'Always Spanish.'"

The German foreign office formally denies that the reciprocity negotiations between Germany and the United States have failed, and the hope is expressed that the negotiations will eventually result in mutual advantages, although it is maintained that there must be a willingness shown on the part of America, as well of Germany, in order to arrive at an understanding. Prince Bismarck Still Lives. London, January 1.—The Evening News prints a dispatch from its own correspondent at Berlin saying: "The one remark on the lips of everybody is 'Bismarck is dead.' Although expected for months, the vent has caused a great shock. It is the sole topic of conversation in the hotels and cafes."

The last report received by The Associated Press regarding the health of Prince Bismarck was contained in a dispatch from Berlin dated December 29th. It reads as follows: "It is asserted that, owing to his insomnia, the medical attendants of Prince Bismarck have advised him to abstain from all work and excitement for some weeks to come. Dr. Schwenger believes in the possibility of a cure, but not a rapid one." A dispatch from Berlin December 27th said: "The Hamburger Nachrichten denies that Prince Bismarck's gout is better and says he cannot walk or sleep, and is unable to read or answer his friends' letters. The former chancellor is described as being very irate at the statement that his health is satisfactory, and is quoted as saying: 'If the gentleman who wrote that were in my place he would be able to get an idea of what a satisfactory condition is.'"

Rush of Cotton to Japan.

San Francisco, January 1.—The industrial activity of Japan is illustrated by the demand for steamer space on the ships of the Pacific Mail and Orient-Occident steamship Companies. There is now so much cotton from Texas in San Francisco awaiting shipment for the Orient that heavy shipment of flour destined for the same market cannot find steamer space. The quantity of cotton is being taken in the warehouses and in cars on this side and across the bay amounts to 14,000 bales. R. H. Schwerin, vice president and general manager of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, says it is a fact that flour shipment have been delayed by reason of the demand for space to carry the cotton, but he fancies that the delay is only temporary. His recent visit to the Orient and the observations he made there, convinced him that Shanghai was taking the lead in the manufacture of cotton goods.

The Red Cross Ask Aid for the Cubans

Washington, January 1.—After consultation with the war department, officials of the Red Cross have arranged to send headquarters in New York for the reception and forwarding to Havana of contributions for the benefit of the suffering Cubans. Miss Barton will be in charge and she may find it necessary to go to Havana to arrange for co-operation with Consul General Lee. The mission of Hood's Sarsaparilla is to cure disease, and thousands of testimonials prove it fulfills its mission well.

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The emperor told the bishop that steps were under way to give a through administration to the territory and to rapidly develop the natural commercial advantages of Kiao-Chou. Relative to his audience with the pope, Bishop Anzer said that his holiness "highly approved the energetic shown by Germany in the gigantic task of opening China and preparing her for the blessings of Christianity and civilization."

The correspondent at Berlin, in a dispatch, will commence improving the harbor of Kiao-Chou, and will construct docks and wharves and strengthen the forts materially. Krupp ordnance of large calibre has been ordered, and during the winter a large quantity of military supplies will be sent to China. Some of the best artillery and engineering officers have volunteered to go to Kiao-Chou. In official circles, it is not believed that Great Britain or any other power, will interfere with Germany's plans. It is stated that the entente with Russia and France is perfected and that France will soon force China to grant her further compensations on her southern frontier.

It is also learned from an excellent source that there is no intention on the part of either Russia, Germany or France to place obstacles in Great Britain's way if she feels inclined to strengthen her position and interests in the south of China—from Shanghai south. The German foreign office formally denies that the reciprocity negotiations between Germany and the United States have failed, and the hope is expressed that the negotiations will eventually result in mutual advantages, although it is maintained that there must be a willingness shown on the part of America, as well of Germany, in order to arrive at an understanding.

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The Reil-Stibley Marriage.

New York, January 1.—Professor Alexander Melville Bell, the distinguished Scotch scientist and father of A. Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, and Mrs. H. G. Stibley, of Toronto, were married at the Park Avenue hotel here today. A Great New Year's in Washington. Washington, January 1.—The White house was closed today for the first time upon New Year day for many years. The president and Mrs. McKinley went for a drive in the forenoon and then spent the remainder of the day in retirement. Vice President Hobart and members of the cabinet omitted their reception as a mark of sympathy for the president, and the example being generally followed, today was very quiet in Washington.

The Pack Trains for Kioandke. Washington, January 1.—The war department has placed Lieutenant Guy H. Preston, 8th cavalry, in charge of the army packtrains that are to undertake to get supplies into the Kioandke region. Lieutenant Preston has been in Washington for some time. His principal assistant will be Lieutenant James Ryan, 10th cavalry, who rode with the packtrains at Forts Washburn and Robbston. The animals already at Vancouver under organization are to be re-enforced by about seventy-five more all selected mules from the Rocky Mountain country and used to extreme rigors of climate. It has been definitely decided not to burden the expedition with wagons.

ANYTHING TO BEAT HANNA.

Ohio Republican Legislators Caution Short Three Votes of Enough to Elect the Hanna Ticket for Organization of the House.

Columbus, Ohio, January 1.—The caucus for the nomination of officers of the legislature which convenes next Monday, were held tonight. Usually these caucuses are of state interest only. Tonight the re-election of Senator Hanna was directly involved and indirectly led open and aggressive republican opposition in Ohio to the result of the caucus. Hanna showed that the nominees of the Hanna slate are short three votes of election in the house and one vote in the senate. The opinion prevails that Hanna will be short four votes or less in the joint ballot Wednesday, January 12th, unless changes are made in the meantime. At the joint republican caucus next Wednesday night Senator Hanna will be short four votes or less. It is now stated that there are enough republican members who will not enter the caucus to prevent his election. The legislature stands 75 republicans and 5 fusionists. Including the fusionists there are 62 republicans and 47 democrats in the house, a total of 109 with 53 necessary to elect. There were only 52 present at the house republican caucus tonight. There were ten absentees tonight. Three were reported sick and the others reported as having gone to the democratic members to beat what is called the Hanna slate next Monday, and week from next Monday to defeat Senator Hanna for re-election.

The opposition tonight claim that they will have enough votes Monday to organize the house with 55 votes for the Mason ticket, 52 for the Bowen ticket, and 2 absent on account of sickness. The Hanna men claim that Griffith of Clinton; Griffith of republican members and Montgomery, who are sick, will vote for Bowen Monday and elect him. The members from Clinton and Union are, however, reported as having decided that they will be unable to be in their seats Monday.

While both sides claim the organization of the house, the opposition to Senator Hanna and the Bowen ticket is most demonstrative. The Hanna managers claim that the senator will succeed even if the Bowen ticket is defeated. The opposition would then have the formation of all the committees and with the chairmanships and other patronage their disposal. It is believed that Senator Hanna will not stand equal chances if his opponents get the organization on Monday. Representative Mason, the opposition candidate for speaker, came from Hanna's home. Mason is bitterly opposed to Hanna for senator and is for McKisson for the short term and Governor Bushnell or the long term. Senator McKisson and he is running for speaker on the issue of anybody for senator to beat Hanna.

Governor Bushnell and the entire state administration took an active part in the caucus tonight against Senator Hanna. Joining the democratic members and those republicans who remained away from the caucus. It is now conceded that the democrats will organize the senate which stands 17 democrats, 17 republicans and 1 fusionist. The attitude of Senator Burke will not likely leave the tie vote to be cast by Lieutenant Governor Jones. The democratic steering committee claimed at midnight that they had all of their partisans except one in line for the fusion tickets, and for anybody to beat Hanna, and that they would show a solid front on Monday.

The American-Mexican Embroglio.

Washington, January 1.—The story of the dispossession of a party of Americans from Clipperton island by a Mexican warship as reported by an incoming steamer at San Francisco has yet had no official confirmation. All that is known at the Mexican legation here is that vague rumors floated that the British had taken possession of the island and that with a view to asserting the sovereignty of Mexico over it, a warship was sent there to maintain her claim. The department of state has nothing at all on the subject but is not disturbed over the news. Don't go everybody