

CUBAN WAR CLAIMS.

Congress Will Have to Pass a Law Looking to Their Settlement and Payment.

TO PAY THE CUBAN SOLDIERS.

Our Government Considering the Proposition to Advance the Money for Their Pay on Being Disbanded--The Situation in the Philippines Most Acute--The Insurgents in Possession of Iloilo.

The Issue to be Raised Between our Forces and the Insurgents--The Volunteer Regiments that are to be Disbanded.

Washington, December 28.—Immediately upon the ratification of the peace treaty by the senate, the president will recommend to congress the enactment of legislation, looking to the settlement of the claims of American citizens for damages sustained in Cuba, Porto Rico and other Spanish possessions which formed the seat of war. These claims, to the amount of \$28,000,000, on this score have already been lodged with the state department. It is true that an unknown portion of these are claims based on depreciations committed by Cubans, for which it is questionable whether the Spanish government could be held responsible. On the other hand, it is believed that there are many claims for large amounts that have not yet been presented, owing to the inability of the claimants to secure the necessary corroborative evidence during the Spanish occupation of the evacuated territories, or because of the belief that it would be fruitless to present any claim so long as Spanish sovereignty was maintained. Now, however, by an article in the treaty of Paris, the United States has assumed liability for all claims preferred by its citizens on account of depreciations, or in fact on any proper score. In their turn the Spanish assumed liability for any claims that might have been made on account of Spanish citizens or the Spanish government itself against the United States. What such claims would have amounted to cannot be estimated. None were filed with the United States government prior to the declaration of war. But it is recalled that there was much criticism on the part of the high Spanish officials of the alleged failure of the United States government to observe the requirements of the neutrality laws and more than one statement to the effect that the Spanish government intended to present a claim for a round number of millions on that score.

THE SOLDIERS HAD GOOD BEEF.

William W. Hill, assistant secretary of the war investigation commission, and who served in Company L, District of Columbia volunteers, as first sergeant and acting quartermaster sergeant, was the only witness before the commission today. Colonel Denby, who presided, questioned the witness regarding the mooted question of the canned beef furnished the volunteers. Mr. Hill discounted the complaints made by the men. He said they came from those who would complain against anything. He said the health of his company was excellent at Tampa and he credited it largely to free use of lemonade. The canned beef first furnished the men, he said, was lean, dry and hard, lacking nutrition, though later it was considerably improved. He believed the canned beef, which he explained, was "canned just after being boiled," was "perfectly fit to eat," though once in a while he would receive a can that was spoiled and smelled badly. He knew a large lot of spoiled canned beef had been found at Tampa before his company sailed for Cuba. The men seemed to like the canned beef, he said, but later became surfeited with it. The refrigerated fresh beef, he said, had no evidence of chemical treatment and had a natural appearance. The trouble with the refrigerated beef, he thought, was that the men overfed themselves and ate it half-cooked.

THE TROOPS TO BE MUSTERED OUT.

It is said at the war department that no change in plans as to the mustering out of troops will be made as a result of the threatening outlook in the Philippines. The secretary of war has made some progress in designating the volunteer regiments to be mustered out, but no announcement will be made until the list is completed. It is believed, however, that the list will include the Thirty-first Michigan, now at Knoxville; the Second Tennessee, at Columbus, Ga.; the Third Tennessee, at Anniston, Ala.; the Third North Carolina (colored), at Macon, Ga.; the Sixth Virginia (colored), at Macon, Ga., and the First West Virginia, at Columbus, Ga. These regiments would constitute a good part of the volunteers to be mustered out, for the entire number will not run very high, owing to the purpose to first muster out the volunteers at Manila and reduce the regulars down to the number contemplated by law when the war closed.

NEW COMPLICATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

A dispatch was received at the war department from General Otis today informing the officials of the capture of Iloilo by the insurgents. It appears that the American forces which were dispatched there arrived too late, and that the insurgents had added to the difficulty of the problems already presented by hoisting their flag over the city, which they have been besieging for months. The news was contained in the following message from General Otis:

"Manila, December 27.

"Adjutant General, Washington:
"Sent Colonel Potter on first vessel to Iloilo on December 24th to commu-

nicate with Spanish General Rios. Latter evacuated evening of 24th and Potter thirty-nine hours late. Insurgents took possession of city on 26th, and Potter found Aguinaldo's flag flying. Cannot now report probable results; will not hear from there for four days as no cable communications. Spanish forces have evacuated all stations in southern islands, except Zamboanga, Mindanao, by orders, as they say, from Madrid." OTIS.

The evacuation by the Spaniards of all the Philippine ports as reported by General Otis, although doubtless inspired by a desire to secure their safety by concentration, undoubtedly has done much to complicate the problem already presented to the war department of extending the military jurisdiction of the United States over the islands. It will now be necessary to expedite the execution of the original plans and it may be fully expected that within a week important events will have happened in the Philippines. It is presumed that General Otis will have his hands and this demand may at once raise the issue between the insurgents and our own government of possession of the islands. The province of Iloilo is set down in the official directories as having a population of 472,900 and it is the second seaport in importance in the Philippine group. It is located on a river navigable for vessels of fifteen feet draught, so that very few of our gunboats would be available to assist the troops in case it should be necessary to take forcible possession of the city.

The Spaniards have chosen a strong place for the concentration of their troops in the town of Zamboanga, which, as the reports indicate here, is strongly fortified and possessed of considerable natural strength from a defensive point of view. It is not doubted that they will be able to maintain themselves for an indefinite period against the insurgents, presuming that they are not cut off from obtaining supplies from the sea. The town itself has a population of 21,000 inhabitants.

Major General Francis V. Greene arrived in Washington this morning from New York and reported at once at the war department to Secretary Alger. He came to assign his commission as an officer of the volunteer army preparatory to his return to private life. It is with regret that the department accepts his resignation.

TO PAY THE CUBAN SOLDIERS.

Negotiations are progressing in the matter of payment of Cuban troops, so that on laying down their arms they may be enabled to enter upon civil pursuits and earn their living. Probably, no further appropriation by congress will be necessary to enable the president to carry out the plan if it should be decided, as it probably will be, to advance the money, charging it against the revenues of Cuba, to pay the Cubans' part of the money due them for their service in the Cuban army. This debt is not an obligation resting upon the United States, but is one for which the Cuban government will be obliged on its establishment on an independent basis. Pending the establishment of a permanent government, there is no authority responsible for the payment of these soldiers and unless this government advances the money as a loan they will have to go for an indefinite period without pay for services already rendered in the war for independence. The special deficiency appropriation bill carries an item of \$3,000,000 as an emergency fund which the government may use for any purpose, and the idea is to advance the money for the payment of the Cuban soldiers out of this fund. It is understood, however, that the president has not consented to this arrangement yet.

The New Panama Canal Company.

London, December 29.—The Paris correspondent of The Times says: At the annual meeting of the new Panama Company today (Wednesday) a long report was read. In addition to showing that no definite plan has yet been adopted for the completion of the canal, the report refers to the American interests in the Nicaragua canal since the Hispano-American war and indicates the means taken to acquaint the United States government and the American people with the position and prospects of the Panama canal. On this point it says:

"We have offered to place at the disposal of the United States every facility for examining our works and plans, which will easily convince them of the superiority from all points of view of the Panama route. They will find in the treaties existing between them and Columbia and in the facilities allowed by our statutes all the guarantees and advantages which their national interests can reasonably require. Panama route is indisputably the maritime highway which can be opened to navigation in the shortest time and at the least expense."

Tomorrow Attorney McGowan will make an argument for the defense and District Attorney Hosmer will close for the prosecution. It is expected that the case will be given to the jury Friday morning.

A MYSTERIOUS POISONING.

A Lady Dies from Poison Sent as Bromo Seltzer to a Third Party by an Unknown Person.

New York, December 28.—Mrs. Kate J. Adams, a well-to-do woman, was poisoned today in her handsomely furnished apartments on Eighty-sixth street. Her death is connected with a curious chain of events. Mrs. Adams was a widow, 50 years of age, and lived with her son-in-law, Edward Rogers, an insurance agent. Harry Cornish, a well known athlete and physical director of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, boards with the Rogers. Mrs. Adams awoke this morning with a bad headache. Her daughter, Mrs. Rogers, advised her to take some bromo seltzer. Mrs. Rogers hunted around, but found none of the required medicine. Finally she remembered that there was some bromo seltzer in Mr. Cornish's room. This she got and gave to her mother, who took a fair sized dose. In a few seconds Mrs. Adams was in great pain and evidently suffering from the effects of a strong poison. Dr. Hitchcock was called in and he tried to counteract the effects of the poison, which he declared to be cyanide of potassium. Mr. Cornish and Dr. Hitchcock both tasted the poisonous stuff and in a few minutes both were prostrated by the effects of the slight quantity they had taken.

Dr. Potter was called in. He revived the two men, but Mrs. Adams died. Mr. Cornish states that on Christmas day he received a neat package addressed to himself containing a sterling silver medicine bottle holder in a Tiffany box and in the holder was a bottle marked "bromo seltzer." This package was anonymously sent, but Cornish says that he thought nothing of this, as he frequently gets presents in this way. It was this bottle that Mrs. Adams drank with fatal effect.

Mr. Cornish says he cannot think who could have had any design on his life.

MRS. BODKIN'S TRIAL.

The Opening Speeches in this Sensational Murder Case.

San Francisco, December 28.—This was the most interesting day in the Bodkin case since the trial of the woman for the murder of Mrs. Dunning commenced. The proceedings opened this morning with an argument by Attorney General White, of Delaware, for the prosecution. Mr. White addressed the jury quietly and proceeded to review the testimony brought out during the trial. He called attention to the chain of circumstantial evidence against Mrs. Bodkin and said that if the jury believed the evidence of the witnesses for the prosecution then Mrs. Bodkin must be convicted for murder in the first degree. He dwelt upon the awfulness of the crime and the unsuspecting, defenseless condition of the victims. As Mr. White concluded Mrs. Bodkin leaned her head on her arms and seemed to be greatly affected.

At the afternoon session Attorney George Knight made the argument for the defense. Mr. Knight's reputation as an orator and ability as a criminal lawyer attracted an enormous crowd to the court room. Many prominent attorneys were in attendance in addition to many well known citizens. Mr. Knight talked for nearly three hours and endeavored to convince the jury of the weakness of the prosecution's case and the lack of a motive by Mrs. Bodkin for committing such a crime. He referred to the Maybrick and the Dreyfus case as instances of suffering of innocent people because of public opinion.

Mr. Knight denounced Doctor Bishop, the Dover physician who attended the poisoned woman, and was most bitter in his condemnation of the methods of the San Francisco police. Mr. Dunning, the husband of one of the murdered women, also came in for a share of the attorney's vitriolic sentences. Particular attention was called to the fact that Mrs. Bodkin, the alleged author of the anonymous letters that were mailed in San Francisco in June was in Eureka, Cal., all of that month and could not have possibly mailed the letters there. Mrs. Grace Harriss, who identified Mrs. Bodkin as the woman who purchased the handkerchief which was found in the box of poisoned candy, was denounced as an untruthful and disreputable woman. The testimony of the candy girls who identified Mrs. Bodkin as the woman who purchased the candy was also vigorously attacked by the lawyer.

In speaking about the alleged purchase of arsenic by Mrs. Bodkin on June 1st, Mr. Knight sought to show the improbability of her keeping the poison until July 31st when she purchased the candy. He did not, however, directly deny the purchase of arsenic.

Writing Export Ames, who came here from New York and testified that Mrs. Bodkin was the author of the anonymous letters and also addressed the wrapper on the candy was denounced as coming here and testifying for the prosecution because he was paid to testify that way. Mr. Knight laid great stress upon the fact that the arsenic found in the candy was in lump form, whereas Druggist Gray testified that Mrs. Bodkin purchased powdered arsenic. He also said there was no legal proof that Mrs. Dunning had died of arsenical poisoning. An autopsy, he said, was necessary to prove the cause of death in any poisoning case.

Mr. Knight closed with a brilliant peroration in which he described Mrs. Bodkin as an innocent woman, and he urged the jury to acquit her of the horrible suspicion that had rested upon her through the machinations of the police.

Writing Export Ames, who came here from New York and testified that Mrs. Bodkin was the author of the anonymous letters and also addressed the wrapper on the candy was denounced as coming here and testifying for the prosecution because he was paid to testify that way. Mr. Knight laid great stress upon the fact that the arsenic found in the candy was in lump form, whereas Druggist Gray testified that Mrs. Bodkin purchased powdered arsenic. He also said there was no legal proof that Mrs. Dunning had died of arsenical poisoning. An autopsy, he said, was necessary to prove the cause of death in any poisoning case.

Mr. Knight closed with a brilliant peroration in which he described Mrs. Bodkin as an innocent woman, and he urged the jury to acquit her of the horrible suspicion that had rested upon her through the machinations of the police.

Tomorrow Attorney McGowan will make an argument for the defense and District Attorney Hosmer will close for the prosecution. It is expected that the case will be given to the jury Friday morning.

DISORDER IN HAVANA

Many Arrests Made by American Troops

A PLUCKY SPANIARD!

suffers Death From a Cuban Mob Rather Than Cry "Viva Cuba Libre"—Cuban Troops Not Recognized by Americans in Command—Army Officers Learning to Become Customs Collectors—No Censorship Imposed on the Press

Havana, December 28.—The patrols of American troops made thirty arrests for misdemeanors last night and turned the culprits over to the civil authorities. Two of the men arrested for the Vegas Bomba cafe affair are Spanish marines. They were surrendered to the Spanish authorities. Fifty United States soldiers for being in the city without leave were sent to the camps for punishment. A detachment of 100 Cubans under the command of Jos. Estrance, has entered Havana.

The Spanish transport Munchon sailed for Cadiz today with 2,400 Spanish troops on board.

Major General Brooke does not recognize the Cuban army and will do everything compatible with tact and judgment to cause its disbandment. An auxiliary force of Cubans may be formed, but the recruits will be taken as individuals. Consequently volunteer police work on the part of the Cuban commanders in the provinces of Havana, Santa Clara and Pinar Del Rio will not be encouraged. The offers of assistance which are continuously being made by the Cuban chiefs are politely received, but are not accepted.

The Havana newspapers will not be censored in the Spanish sense, but they will be watched, cautioned against incendiary and untruthful utterances and suppressed if habitual offenders. Press cablegrams will not be censored. It is understood that the United States treasury will fix the value of the centene at \$4.82 and of the Spanish silver dollar at 60 cents.

Today the army officers who have been appointed sub collectors of customs at various posts outside of Havana went to schools so to speak. Fourteen gathered at the banking house of E. L. Childs, of the Havana chamber of commerce, and were instructed by him in the intricacies of exchange and how to calculate the double ratios of silver to Spanish gold and American gold.

This afternoon a Spaniard named Fernandez, a member of the municipal police, was surrounded by a crowd of Cubans in Bombay street. Cuban and American flags were waved in his face. His rifle was twisted out of his hands and half a hundred men yelled to him to shout "Viva Cuba Libre" or die.

Fernandez threw up his arms as if to assent and then when the mob had quieted down to hear what he had to say, he cried in clear tones "Viva Espana, Viva Espana." Knives were thrust into him and tonight he is dying.

It is favorable sport among the Cuban young men to stop in the streets persons supposed to be pro-Spanish and to make them kiss the Cuban flag and cry "Viva Cuba Libre." Some times these incidents have their humorous features, quite as often the victims are viciously treated.

Today a fight was started by some Cubans carrying American and Cuban flags, who declared they had been insulted by Spanish marines. A Cuban drew a pistol and declaring that he would defend the American flag fired. Other shots followed. According to unofficial reports a Spanish soldier of the Calarava battalion was killed, a Spanish marine fatally wounded and at least one other, if not several others, hurt.

This morning two battalions of the First Texas and the Second Louisiana volunteer regiments, which arrived here yesterday on the United States transport Mobile from Savannah, marched through a portion of the Prado to Camp Quemados. The mascot cats of the Texans were borne in front of the column.

The United States troops occupied Castle La Punta this afternoon.

THE ESCAPE OF MORGAN'S MEN

The Tunnel Under the Penitentiary Wall Discovered

Columbus, Ohio, December 28.—All the survivors of General Morgan's party who escaped from the Ohio penitentiary during the war have been invited here to inspect the recently discovered tunnel through which it is claimed the raiders escaped, and settle for all time the dispute as to whether Morgan and his men escaped through the tunnel or by the connivance of the officials of the penitentiary. A carload of dirt taken from the tunnel made under the walls has been found in the air duct near the cells which Morgan's men occupied. After the men made their escape, the hole was filled up with loose dirt and the clay around this shows the exact dimensions of the tunnel.

RUSSELL'S LATEST DODGE.

Efforts to Weather the Coming Storm.

PENITENTIARY OFFICERS

To be Placed in Absolute Control of Democrats--Democrats Solid for a Separate Car Law--Figures from Report of Secretary of State--A Change in Insurance Law Recommended--A Moonshiner Killed by Revenue Officer--Matters Before Democratic Executive Committee.

Messenger Bureau
Raleigh, N. C., December 28.

Early yesterday morning Captain W. H. Day told your correspondent that J. M. Mewboorne has resigned as penitentiary superintendent and that the governor would offer him the place. Captain Day wanted to know what would be thought of this and also of the placing of a good democrat in absolute charge of all the farms, saying the governor had the power to appoint a fusionist, to serve two years and not under the decision of the supreme court, removable during his term of office, but that he was entirely willing to appoint a democrat. This was told with the understanding that nothing was to be said about it. But in some way the news "leaked" yesterday; most probably through the governor's office.

J. R. Tillery, from whom the penitentiary now leases a farm of 2,600 acres on the Roanoke, is the man Captain Day has picked to have absolute charge of the farms. Captain Day said this morning to Mr. Tillery: "If I go in as superintendent, as I expect to do, I will turn over all the farms to you. I believe you can manage them." "I think I can," said Tillery, "if I am given absolute control, such control as Leazar had when he was superintendent; that is power to appoint the whole force. Mewboorne has been handicapped. He has not had control. Trained and experienced men like Leazar had are a prime necessity."

The state charters the Weldon Cotton Manufacturing Company, capital \$25,000, W. T. Shaw, W. E. Daniel and other stockholders.

It is asserted that not twenty-five votes will be cast in the legislature against the bill requiring separate cars for whites and blacks. The democrats are a unit in favor of it. This was clearly shown at the democratic state committee meeting last night.

At this committee hearty thanks were tendered the many populists and republicans who at the last election joined hands with the democrats in redeeming the state from negro rule. Special thanks were also tendered Democratic State Chairman Simmons for his great work during the campaign.

The biennial report of the secretary of state was completed today. He calls attention to the fact that there is no adequate means for detecting "underground" insurance, and also refers to the exemption from tax and license of certain insurance organizations commonly called benevolent. He suggests that either all or none have exemption, and says it is better to license and tax all, even if at a reduced rate. The resident agents law of 1897 is not adequate, but is good as far as it goes. Of land grants he has issued 59. These were for land in all counties save twenty-four, the greatest number being from Wilkes and Macon--fifty-one from each. Legislation is needed as to the redemption of lands. The law on the subject expired in 1891. The office receipt for the two years were \$186,539. They have been as follows during the previous two year periods--ending in 1892 \$90,518; ending in 1894 \$102,398; ending in 1896 \$120,970. During the past year the battle-ground of Moore's Creek, ten and a half acres, was purchased for \$160. On it stands the monument. There is urgent need for a fire proof warehouse for documents. All the Lord Granville land grants are now packed in an office, and the military land warrants are bundled and piled on shelves.

It is said that there is difficulty in getting a receiver for Guirkin & Co's., bank at Elizabeth City. The creditors objected to the first receiver because of his relationship to a bank official and now to the second one because he owes the bank money.

Deputy Marshal King in the course of a desperate fight with a Guilford moonshiner named Sanders shot the latter through the heart.

The meeting of the democratic state committee here last night was well attended. It did not adjourn until after midnight. This morning Francis D. Winston, one of its most influential members, spoke of the governor's new line of action in proposing to put in a democrat as penitentiary superintendent and said: "We want to know if the governor thinks he is fooling anybody. The democratic legislature will be likely to name the various officers to take charge of the state's institutions. The legislature will not be cheated of a thorough investigation of the business affairs of the state connected with the state administration, regardless of any appointment the governor may make. This is said without regard

ROYAL Baking Powder

Made from pure cream of tartar.

Safeguards the food against alum.

Alum baking powders are the greatest menaces to health of the present day.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

to the fitness or character of any of the governor's appointees. Governor Russell's course is giving color to the idea that there is something rotten all along the line."

The meeting of the democratic committee devoted nearly all the time to the discussion of the limitation of the franchise. It was in no sense a suggestion to the legislature. The latter does not need suggestions, nor would the committee make any.

The county of Alexander owed the state \$18,000 for convict labor in building a railway. Each year it pays \$1,000. Today it made the eighth payment.

J. B. Weatherly and E. L. McCormick, merchants at Maxton, filed petitions in bankruptcy. The trustee has made his report. It was received here today, and January 9th they will get their discharge.

The superintendents of the insane asylums will urge the legislature to so change the laws regarding lunatics as to abolish the old "inquisitions of lunacy" and give clerks of court power to investigate. They will also urge that provision be made for the treatment of inebriates.

A MINISTER DISAPPEARS

Supposed to Have Wandered Off in Fit of Temporary Insanity

Charleston, S. C., December 28.—The Rev. Wm. Aken Kelly, a young minister who was recently admitted to the Methodist conference of this state, has been missing for over a week and his friends are very anxious about him. He has a church in Sumter, S. C. Ten days ago he came to this city, accompanied by his wife and child, to spend the Christmas holidays with friends. The Sunday before Christmas he preached an excellent sermon at Bethel church. On the following Tuesday he made an appointment in the morning to meet his wife and some friends at a point near the city. He then left the house at which he was staying and has not been seen since.

His wife says that he had worked very hard preparing for his examination at the conference of his church and she thinks that his mind gave way under the strain and that he has wandered away. She does not fear foul play, but she is afraid that he is ill somewhere and unable to communicate with his friends. Once before after a period of hard study the young minister left home and was not heard of for four days. He came to himself then in Augusta, Ga.

The Rev. Mr. Kelly is about 26 years of age. His father was for years city assessor of this city and he and his family are widely known and popular in South Carolina.

A Train Wrecked

Trinidad, Colo., December 28.—The eastbound California limited train No. 4 on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, was wrecked eleven miles east of this city at 7 o'clock this morning.

The accident happened on a curve and it is supposed to have been caused by the spreading of the rails. The engine, one Pullman and the dining car passed over all right. The observation car, two drawing-room sleepers and a composite car left the track. The wreck immediately caught fire from an explosion of gas from the composite car and the entire four cars were burned up.

Those in the composite car are reported badly injured. No one was killed.

A corps which was en route for Philadelphia was cremated in the fire.

Physicians from this city were taken to the scene of the wreck and cared for injured people, after which they were taken to La Junta.

Funeral of Mercedes Garcia

Atlanta, Ga., December 28.—A special to The Constitution from Thomasville, Ga., says: Notwithstanding they were strangers in a strange land, the funeral of Miss Mercedes Garcia, daughter of General Calixto Garcia, who died here yesterday afternoon, was largely attended today. The services were conducted in the parlors of the Masury hotel, at which place the Garcia family are stopping. The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful. The body was laid away in its temporary resting place in Laurel Hill cemetery, but will be removed to Cuba as soon as the family can make the necessary arrangements.

Constipation prevents the body from ridding itself of waste matter. De Witt's Little Early Risers will remove the trouble and cure Sick Headache, Biliousness, Inactive Liver and cleanse the complexion. Small sugar coating, don't gripe or cause nausea. R. R. Bellamy.