# The Wilmington Messenger.

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## PUBLIC SUMMARY.

STATE.

[illegible] is in Raleigh and says [illegible] for the senatorial fight; in [illegible] Wilson he says he has [illegible] choice——Otho Wilson says [illegible] get the nomination of the popu[illegible]cus——The recount of the [illegible]ton-Young ballots ended yester[illegible] Broughton now will show how [illegible] convicts were allowed to vote——[illegible]ckholders of the Atlantic and [illegible]arolina railroad have taken all [illegible] of the road from the president [illegible]rectors and placed it in the [illegible] of the finance committee——The [illegible] by the burning of the Raleigh [illegible]eet car plant is only $25,000; the [illegible]esident of the company says it will [illegible] rebuilt——The railway commission [illegible]mends its rule as to posting bulletins [illegible]f arrival and departure of trains.

DOMESTIC.

In going down the river from Jack[illegible]nville the Commodore sticks in the [illegible]d and the revenue cutter Boutwell [illegible]s her off——Henry Seerung, a [illegible]minent citizen of Lincoln, Neb., [illegible]mits suicde; no reason for the deed [illegible]n be assigned——The inauguration of [illegible]Governor Pingree, of Michigan, was a very simple ceremony——Preparations are about completed for the Indianapolis monetary conference; there has been some dropping off of delegates——It is said the men Nelson and Winner lynched in Missouri for the murder of Winner's wife were innocent——At Barfield, Mo., Adolph Mavis kills Mrs. Paine, a former sweetheart and then takes his own life——The report of the committee of the American Bessemer Association on a plan to revive the pool provides for the closing, for a consideration,, of the smaller mills and a few large ones to furnish the country with steel billets——Two men are killed by a collision on the New York Central railroad——A terrific explosion occurs at powder mills, near Aconia, Ohio——Six negroes are arrested for the murder of the proprietor of the Southern Pacific hotel at Milan, Tenn.——At Youngstown, Ohio, several persons die while asleep from inhaling escaping coal gas——Chief Ryan, of the Norfolk fire department is met on the streets and shot twice by his assistant, Captain Wood; the wounds are not mortal——The sheriff at Atlanta received notice that a party from Greene and Dekalb counties would attack the jail last night for the purpose of lynching Flanagan the murderer; preparations were made to receive them; Mr. Allen is not dead nor is Miss Slack, but she is paralyzed——At Danville, Va., J. W. Holland makes an assignment to secure debts of $148,100 for which he was indorser for his brother the late C. G. Holland——The Dauntless rescues from one of the Florida keys the men whom the Three Friends attempted to land in Cuba on her last trip——Richmond, Va., has a $30,000 fire——At Dallas, Tex., a noted criminal is captured while burglarizing a dwelling——Minister de Lome sends to the state department a copy of a cablegram from the Spanish foreign minister setting forth the decision of the cabinet as to reforms to be made at once in Porto Rico and as soon as possible in Cuba——A trestle is burned on the Augusta Southern railroad; the people on a train have a miraculous escape——Four hundred Italian colonists pass through Atlanta——Governor Black, of New York, was inaugurated yesterday——Two suicides occur at Austin, Tex., yesterday.

FOREIGN.

A Havana dispatch to Madrid says that fifty-one men who went out on the Three Friends last trip and were landed on a desert island were drowned in attempting to leave the island——The semi-official press of Spain approve the action of the government in seizing the issues of the two papers denouncing the policy of General Weyler——Public opinion in Spain is greatly excited over the reports of the destitution of the Spanish soldiers in Cuba, especially of those in the hospitals——It is said by a Madrid paper that the cabinet has decided on Weyler's recall, but the premier has delayed action in the matter——The drowning of the Cubans on a Florida key, as telegraphed from Madrid, is denied from Jacksonville——General Weyler says the insurgents in Pinar del Rio have been crushed.

### Telegraphic Sparks.

King Humbert, of Italy, is ill and the new year's receptions at the Quirinal have, consequently, been postponed.

Rear Admiral Joseph Skarrett, United States navy, (retired) died Thursday night at his residence, in Washington city.

Edward Wright, colored, was hanged in the jail yard at New Castle, Del., Friday, for the murder of Ida Crummel, a negro girl, on the night of May 30, 1896.

The statement of the Norfolk and Western railway company for October, shows net earnings of $214,543, an increase of $7,370 over October 1895. For the four months ended October 31st, the net earnings were $707,534, a decrease of $142,577, compared with the corresponding period of 1895.

### A Train on a Burning Bridge.

Augusta, Ga., January 1.—News reached Augusta tonight of the burning of a trestle on the Augusta Southern road about forty-two miles from this city. One span was burned when the train crossed over. The baggage car spanned the burned portion when the train was brought to a standstill. No one was injured. The escape seems miraculous. Every evidence points to incendiarism.

### Inaugural of New York's New Governor.

Albany, N. Y., January 1.—Governor Frank G. Black was inaugurated today. Pleasant weather ushered in his inaugural day. The ceremony was a simple and impressive one. The time necessary to conduct the installation ceremonies was brief. Governor Black never cares for ostentation and the inaugural exercises today were entirely in keeping with his views of such functions.

### A Fire in Richmond, Va.

Richmond, Va., January 1.—Fire broke out tonight in the furniture warerooms of Waller Scott, and the large stock was practically ruined, either by being burned or with water. The damage of $25,000 is covered by insurance. The building, owned by the T. C. Williams estate, was damaged about $5,000 and was fully insured. The fire is supposed to have been caused by friction in the elevator shaft.

### Two More Suicides in Austin.

Austin, Tex., January 1.—Following that of County Treasurer Jernigan yesterday, there were two other suicides in this city last night. Howard C. Bell, a prominent drug clerk, took morphine, and his dead body was found on the outskirts of the city this afternoon. George Durst, a tailor, was found hanging dead in his place of business this morning.


TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c.


## LAST SOCIAL FUNCTION

### OF MR. AND MRS. CLEVELAND IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

**The New Year's Reception—Beautiful Decorations of the Apartments—A Brilliant Spectacle—Foreign Representatives in Court Dress—Army and Navy Officers in Full Uniform—The Wife of the Chinese Minister the Attraction of the Occasion.**

Washington, January 1.—The annual new year's reception at the White house took place today, according to a long established custom. It constitutes the yearly ordeal of the president and the mistress of the White house for they must shake hands with several thousand of their fellow citizens and a large number of distinguished foreigners. They bore their part heroically, however, and looked as fresh at the ending as they did at the beginning. It was the last function of its sort in which Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland will figure as the principle characters and this may have been responsible in part for the throng that paraded corridors and apartments during the time set apart for the reception.

The interior of the mansion had been lavishly decorated for the occasion. A suggestion of the tropics was given by a survey of the decorative arrangements. In the dainty oval shaped Blue room, the official chamber of the White house, with its delicately tapestried walls, the artistic effect was well carried out. It was in this apartment that the president, Mrs. Cleveland and the receiving party stood. Soft hued globes tempered the gleams of electric light that filled the room. The two mantels were banked in solid masses of cut flowers—roses of many varieties, and the rarest of other blooms that the conservatories of the mansion could give. Both mirrors were draped in smilax, while the scintillating pendants of the central chandelier were profusely entwined with the delicate creeper. In each of the three windows was a stately palm—one an areca and the others of the seaforthia variety—while smaller palms were banked around them, together with azleas and ferns. In the fire places were ferns galore and the decoration was completed by fringes of ivy leaves around the doors and cornices.

The Red room held a profusion of tall plants and palms. Jardinieres of greenish tinge holding growing plants comported well with the permanent hangings of the Green room.

In the broad corridor leading from the East room, past the reception chambers to the private staircase at the westward end, a few rubber trees and palms sufficed for decorative purposes, as all the space that could be obtained there was necessary to accommodate the constantly moving throng.

Those who paid their respects to the president and Mrs. Cleveland passed out of the receiving chamber into the Green room and thence into the spacious East room, the scene of so many historical occurrences. Six hundred people is the ordinary capacity of this compartment. Today it was filled to an uncomfortable degree with foreign envoys, officers of the army and navy, high judicial functionaries, senators, representatives and many civilians, with a large number of ladies. They were not so crowded, however, as to be unable to see and appreciate the floral beauty displayed. As in every other part of the interior the East room had its chandeliers and cornices twined with smilax. Trailing arbutus also formed a graceful drapery. The white jardinieres on all the mantels held Chinese primroses, rubber plants and cherias. Date and cocoanut palms spread their foliage high over the heads of the promenading guests. The broad and high east window was a mass of pomsetta palms, and grouped about the bottom of these were ferns a plenty. The mirrors, the embrasures, the fireplaces, were all suitably arranged.

Eleven o'clock was the hour set for the beginning of the reception. Before that time, members of the diplomatic corps, ambassadors, ministers, attachees and their wives and daughters, had begun to arrive and were ushered into the Red room where they awaited the signal to pass along the line. Out in the public lobby the United States Marine band, under the leadership of Professor Fanciulli waited the signal to play. Suddenly Fanciulli waived his baton and the various instruments burst forth into the well known air of "Hail to the Chief." Down the private staircase came the president, Mrs. Cleveland, the members of the cabinet and their ladies, led by Colonel John M. Wilson, of the United States army, superintendent of public buildings and grounds and master of the ceremonies. Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland, Vice President and Mrs. Stevenson, Secretary and Mrs. Olney, Secretary and Mrs. Carlisle, Attorney General and Mrs. Harmon, Postmaster General and Mrs. Wilson, Secretary and Miss Herbert, Secretary and Mrs. Lamont, Secretary and Miss Morton and Secretary and Mrs. Francis, an imposing procession, passed along the corridor to the Blue room and took their places, the president and Mrs. Cleveland at one end, with Secretary Olney and Colonel Wilson at their right, and the ladies forming a line across the apartment. The cabinet officers modestly dropped to the rear and entered into conversation with some of the ladies, who composed that contingent commonly designated "behind the line."

The first to greet the president was the British ambassador, Sir Julian Pauncefote, dean of the diplomatic corps. He was accompanied by Lady Pauncefote and daughters and the attaches of the British legation. Next came the ambassadors of France, Italy and Germany, with their legations staffs. After these came the plain ministers, headed by Senor Romeo, of Mexico, and other diplomatic representatives in the order of their rank of seniority.

A year ago a Chinese woman was seen for the first time at the opening function of the official social season. She was Mrs. Yang Yu, the wife of the envoy from the Flowery kingdom. To-day she came again and created quite as much interest and comment as she did on her previous appearance at a New Year's reception. Her wonderful silken robes were the admiration of all the women present, while every man pronounced her as pretty as a picture, and not a Chinese picture either. Her attractive little face beamed beneath a curious head dress that fairly glittered with precious stones. She drew the lion's share of attention, even more than her husband and the silk gowned members of his suite. Yang Yu's costume was resplendent. In his wake came his secretaries and attaches. It is probable that the participation of the wives of Chinese ministers at official social functions will be a permanent thing. Mr. Yang Yu will be succeeded this year by another distinguished fellow countryman and it is safe to say that his European wife will exercise all the prerogatives to which her sex entities her in her native land.

The presence of Mrs. Yang Yu was not the only mark of oriental advancement at the reception. When the Korean minister and his suite were announced the spectators who craned their necks to see the odd head dresses and gowns in which they had been accustomed to see the representatives of the Hermit kingdom attired, met with a disappointment, for they had discarded their picturesque costumes for the conventional garments of European civilization, appearing in them for the first time at the New Year's day function.

The last of the diplomats to pay his respects was Senor J. D. Rodriguez, the first representative of the Greater Republic of Central America (Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador.)

Secretary Olney, who had made the presentation of the members of the diplomatic body, stepped to the rear as the last of the foreigners had passed, and Colonel Wilson took his place to introduce those that followed. Chief Justice Fuller led the line of grave looking justices of the federal supreme court. Chief Justice Nott, the new presiding officer of the United States court of claims, was followed by his associates on the bench. Chief Justice Alvey, of the court of appeals of the District of Columbia, a member of the Venezuelan commission, preceded the district judiciary. Then came ex-members of the cabinet and ex-ministers of the United States.

Major General Miles, attired in his full uniform, a broad golden scarf across his breast, indicating that he was the commanding general of the military forces, led the large contingent of army officers. Adjutant Ruggles and the various brigadier generals who preside over the bureaus of the war department were immediatly in his rear.

Rear Admiral Ramsey, Rear Admiral Walker, Commodores Matthews, Sampson, Hichborn, Melville and a number of other well known officers composed the naval contingent. Colonel Heywood the commander of the marine corps, led those under him, and after them came General Ordway, and the general staff of the militia of the District of Columbia.

Senators and representatives in congress had struggled along before and behind the military and naval people. Speaker Reed bowed past the receiving party, attracting considerable attention. Senator Sherman and other veteran wearers of the toga were also present. Black frock coats became the rule at this point and continued for some time.

Passing along in the order assigned came the regents and secretary of the Smithsonian institution; the civil service commission; the assistants to the heads of the executive departments, and the heads of governmental bureaus.

Carrying their tattered battle flags came the Associated Veterans of the War with Mexico, all bowed down with the weight of years; then members of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Loyal Legion, the Union Veterans Legion, and the Oldest Inhabitants Association of the District of Columbia.

It was nearly 1 o'clock when the public reception began. Men, women and children of all walks of life passed in a seemingly endless procession through the reception rooms. For each the president and Mrs. Cleveland had a smile and a handshake.

At 2 o'clock the doors were closed and the last of the most trying social ordeal of the Cleveland administration was over.

## POLITICIANS ASSEMBLING.

**Talk as to the Senatorship—Intense Interest in Division of the Spoils—Recount of Votes in the Broughton-Young Contest.**

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., January 1.—W. S. Hyams, republican state committee secretary, said this evening: "I am here for the fight." Otho Wilson asked Hyams: "Am I your second choice for senator?" Hyams replied: "I have no second choice." Hyams says: "There are seventy-two republicans in the legislature. So Pritchard needs fourteen votes. I have never counted all the populist members, because I cannot say what those will do who were elected by fusion with democrats. Otho Wilson tells me they will go into the populist caucus." Otho Wilson was then interviewed and said: "There are sixty populist members, all will go into the populist caucus. I never knew one to fail. I will get a good big majority of the populist caucus. If the latter nominates the senator I will be the man. Nobody else is in it."

When asked what were Guthrie's chances Wilson gave a cornfield laugh and said: "That's my answer." He says Butler can hold the populists together.

It is a fact that Wilson is at the hotel all day with republicans who are here working for Pritchard.

E. S. Walton, of Morganton, is here and wants to be railway commissioner.

R. A. Cobb, of Morganton, is on hand as aspirant for state librarian.

Ewart says he expects every populist and republican legislator to be here by early Monday morning as there is intense interest in the session and in the division of spoils.

Congressman Settle arrived this afternoon.

The recount of the ballots cast for Broughton and Jim Young for the lower house in Wake, ended today. The clerk of the court in his report gives Young two majority. Broughton will tomorrow take up the matter of convicts who are permitted to vote. He says there are lots of these.

## SHORN OF THEIR POWER.

**New Move Against the Officers of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad. Electric Plant in Raleigh to be Rebuilt. Train Bulletin Rule Amended.**

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., January 1.—There is a new movement in the matter of control of the Atlantic and North Carolina railway. The stockholders have taken all control of the road from the president and directors and put it in the hands of the chairman of the finance committee. The president's office is now merely nominal, with a $12,000 salary. The election of superintendent, secretary and treasurer was also taken from the control of the directors.

The president of the street car company says actually only $25,000 was lost by the fire and that the plant will certainly be replaced.

Senator Butler writes Chairman Ayer he will be here Sunday.

The railway commission issues the following order, amending rule No. 14 governing posting of bulletins of trains:

"The bulletin shall be placed in a conspicuous place at the ticket office and notices thereon of arrival and departure of trains shall be erased immediately after the departure of trains."

## SHOT HIS CHIEF.

**Chief Ryan, of the Norfolk Fire Department, Shot by His Assistant, Captain Frank Wood—The Wounds Not Mortal.**

Norfolk, Va., January 1.—Chief Martin J. Ryan, of the Norfolk fire department, was shot this afternoon by Captain Frank Wood, assistant chief of the department. Chief Ryan was standing in the street between engine house No. 1 and the police station, when Captain Wood approached and making some remark drew a six-shooter and fired five shots, when he was overpowered by bystanders who rushed to the rescue of the chief. He was lodged in jail. Chief Ryan was taken to the hospital where it was found that he had received two wounds, one in the right knee and one in the back. He will probably recover. While the shooting was in progress, Mayor Mayo was writing an order suspending Captain Wood from the department for drunkenness, which offense had been reported by Chief Ryan. This caused the shooting. Captain Wood is an old and very valuable fireman and exceedingly popular. But his one weakness, fondness for drink, was generally recognized, though he did not often yield to it. He was intoxicated when he did today's shooting. He is still in jail.

## THE CONTEST FOR SENATOR

### PRITCHARD'S FRIENDS ADMIT HAVING A HEAVY TASK.

**Justice Clark's Friends Also at Work—To Rebuild the Electric Plant—State Banks in Fine Condition—Eastern Farmers in Good Condition—A Hoodoo Train—Republican Leaders Gathering—Fight for the Public Printing.**

Messenger Bureau, Park Hotel.
Raleigh, N. C., January 1.

The greatest interest was manifested here today as to the rebuilding of the street car power-house and equipment. The stock is held by many people, most of them wealthy. The line had not paid but about held its own and its lighting department was beginnig to earn money. It appears quite reasonable to predict, even without official action by the stockholders, that the equipment will be replaced. Directors express regret at the light amount of insurance carried (only one-fourth the value of the property destroyed). It will be at least a month, it would seem, before cars are again running.

State Bank Examiners Crowder and Joyce have just finished their examination of the banks and the state treasurer says their reports show the banks to be in fine condition.

The colored people celebrated emancipation day in the usual style here today. The weather was fine and the turnout large.

The public buildings were all closed, but the heads of departments and clerks were at work, as they always are on all holidays save Christmas day.

Dr. Kemp P. Battle, ex-president of the state university, was here today returning from a visit to his home in Edgecombe county. He says the people there are in fair spirits. They are less in debt than at any time in years and are more economical. The cotton mills are making some money. There is talk of a new bank at Rocky Mount.

Train No. 22, which was in the wreck on the Seaboard Air Line near here Wednesday, is a "hoodoo," it seems. On it Gibson, Watson, Catlett, Dan Hicks, Kittrell, Robertson and Overby were hurt or killed. It is considered by railway men an "unlucky train."

Populist State Chairman Ayer insists that by his count there are not less than sixty populists in the legislature. He is extremely reticent regarding the senatorial contest and contents himself with saying he knows nothing.

Marshall Mott, Judge Ewart, Carl Duncan and Claude Bernard, all prominent republicans, are here. It is the senatorial matter which brings them. All are working for Pritchard. Mott says as much. He also says he is an aspirant for the position of United States attorney for the Western district and that he will get that place. All admit that Pritchard has a task before him, but all declare he will be reelected. H. L. Grant, the republican committeeman, who openly charged Senator Butler with making false statements, says some republicans thought he went too far, but that he really could not be longer silent.

In a quiet way it appears that work is being done in the interest of Judge Walter Clark as a candidate for the senate. Nor are the friends of William Guthrie idle.

The Gazette, the negro organ, gets the Wake county public printing.

The owners of The Tribune, the republican daily, say they will be in the field as aspirants for the public printing.

The official organ of the negro republicans has much to say regarding the fight for the senate; that Pritchard is the friend of their race and that the latter desires his re-election to such an extent that it would look with disfavor upon efforts in the future to get negroes to support populist candidates if Pritchard is defeated; that the populists know the negro voters were among the most potent and zealous allies in planning and carrying out co-operation.

## THE STEEL BILLET TRUST.

**A Plan to Pay the Smaller Concerns to Close and a Few of the Larger Mills to Supply the Market.**

Pittsburg, Pa., January 1.—The specail committee appointed at the last meeting of the American Bessemer Association, to figure out a plan by which the defunct pool may again be placed on its feet as the great dictator of prices in the iron and steel world, has completed its report which will be presented at a meeing of members to be held Monday next, probably in Pittsburg, but possibly in New York.

The identity of the committee is not known. The report prepared by them will, however, astonish the iron and steel world beyond doubt. The plan is that the larger concerns will buy up the allotment of the older and smaller mills and pay the owners to turn the keys in the doors and practically retire from the billet manufacturing business, with the exception of pocketing the dividends that they will receive from the concerns that will make the billets for the whole country. In this respect the billet pool will emulate the methods of the nail pool, but with more hopes of success. The cosummation of the project means that the trade in billets and finished products would be confined to the larger producers, or a concentration of production placed in the hands of a few large firms, who will then control production, set the price and share with the idle mill owners.

### A Noted Criminal Captured.

Dallas, Teas, January 1.—A burglar giving the name of Charles Wilson, and residence Butte, Mont., was captured here this morning robbing the house of Eugene Crowder, a wholesale druggist. Chief of Police Arnold says the capture is the most importance made by his force in years. Wilson, he says, is an allas, and that the prisoner is one of the most desperate criminals in the country, having operated in the cities of New York, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New Orleans. Chief Arnold declined to make known Wilson's true identity until he communicate with police departments in various parts of the country, with the hope of capturing confederates.

### No Joint Caucuses.

Raleigh, N. C., January 1.—Prominent republicans from all parts of the state are assembling here to participate in the great senatorial fight. Interest is greater than ever before in a similar contest. Republicans here all declare for Pritchard. Populist State Chairman Ayer, announces that populist members of the legislature will have no joint caucuses at the approaching session. Two years ago there were many joint caucuses. He says that the populists will act with the republicans in some particulars. He has engaged forty-nine rooms for populist members at one hotel.

### Italian Colonists.

Atlanta, Ga., January 1.—A party of 400 Italian peasant farmers passed through here tonight on their way to join the Austin-Corbin colony at Sunny Side, Ark. These colonists came from the estate of Prince de Resnoli, Mayor of Rome, who superintends their location and emigration.

## TO ATTACK ATLANTA'S JAIL.

**The Sheriff Expecting An Attempt to Lynch Flanagan, the Murderer—Allen and Miss Slack Not Dead—Flanagan's Defense Insanity.**

Atlanta, Ga., January 1.—Information was received here tonight that a party of Greene and Dekalb county men would arrive during the night and attack the county jail. They want to get Edward Flanagan and lynch him for the murders which he committed last night near Decatur.

The county changed sheriffs today, and Sheriff Nelms placed ten extra men on duty tonight. He has also notified the police and the military that he will call on them if necessary. Nelms is a well known fighter, and an attempt to lynch his prisoner would be disastrous to the attacking party. If a mob should come to the city from the country it would be hard for them to find a leader desperate enough to make the attack on the prison.

The Greene county people are incensed because one of Flanagan's victims, Miss Ruth Slack, lived there and was at Decatur on a visit. The Allens have lived in Dekalb county for years, and their neighbors are enraged. "Grandfather Allen," who was knocked in the head and was supposed to be dead, recovered consciousness this morning, and will probably recover. Miss Slack is not dead, but she is paralyzed and unconscious and the doctors say that she cannot possibly recover. Grandmother Allen" was buried today.

Flanagan sent for another lawyer today, W. C. Glenn, accompanying his message with a check for $500. It turns out that Flanagan had considerable ready money in bank, and he had more than $500 in cash in his pockets when he was brought into the jail. The defense will plead insanity.

Flanagan says that he was in love with the child Leila Allen and the family had consented to their marriage when she was older. He states that he believed yesterday that the Allens were plotting to have him arrested so as to get his money. He had a morbid imagination and has made various statements about the Allens of late. He says that he offered Father Kennedy $1,000 if he would place Leila Allen in a convent where she must remain until old enough to marry. Father Kennedy is out of the city.

Flanagan was for a time a traveling agent of the Standard Oil Company. He says that he came originally from Mississippi. He is 28 years old.

## REFORMS PROPOSED

**By the Spanish Cabinet for Porto Rico and Cuba—To go Into Effect at Once in the Former and as Soon as Practicable in the Latter.**

Washington, January 1.—Senor de Lome, the Spanish minister resident here, furnishes the Southern Associated Press the following copy of a telegram from Foreign Minister Tetuan:

In the council of ministers, presided over today by her majesty, the queen regent, a royal decree was signed which applies to the island of Porto Rico the laws of reform voted in the cortes on the 15th of March 1895.

The preamble to this decree is of the greatest importance because of the statements it contains regarding Cuba. It begins by explaining the reasons why the reforms are applied today and wherefore this has not been done before. Among other paragraphs it contains the following, which, owing to their importance, I copy in their entirety:

"In the actual circumstances, the government considers that the proper time has arrived for giving to the world ample proof of its firm resolve to fulfill the engagements voluntarily contracted by the nation, by implanting and carrying into effect in Porto Rico the reforms of the system of government and civil administration, voted by the cortes and sanctioned by her majesty and which, conveniently enlarged and extended will be applied in due time to Cuba.'

"In unfolding the bases of the reforms with that scrupulous care which the complex nature of the case and its many and varied problems demand, the undersigned minister has been inspired with a sense of the necessity of ample administrative decentralization, and has proceeded to the utmost limit, which the actual law allows, without diminution of the inherent sovereignty of the nation. At the same time, true to the solemn promise before parliament by its president, the government proposes to give a more ample scope to the reforms when, as a herald of peace, the happy moment arrives for the definite application of the reforms to both the Antilles. As soon as possible, her majesty's government will hasten to apply to Cuba, not only reforms which form the ground work of the law applied today to Porto Rico, but also will extend to both provinces the reforms which have been offered with the view of conferring upon both Antilles an administrative and economic personality of a local character, which shall facilitate the complete intervention of the country in its own affairs, maintaining at the same time intact the right of sovereignty and the condition necessary to the maintenance of that right, as was stated in the words her majesty designed to address the cortes, by the advice of her responsible government upon the opening of parliament.

"These amplified reforms can be partly put into practice by means of the power possessed by the executive government and partly will require the sanction of parliament. The government is confident that it will not encounter insuperable obstacles to its rapid action in this sense, looking to the patriotic uniformity of opinion respecting the fundamental ideas which underlie the application of the reforms.

"Briefly, the law of reforms voted by the cortes and sanctioned by the crown which is today to be applied to Porto Rico, will form the foundation stone of the new regime; but an additional decree, account of which will be given to the cortes, will amplify to such an extent these reforms that a genume home administration will be constituted in our Antilles, in the first instance for Cuba, but to be extended to Porto Rico as soon and at the same time as it may be possible to apply it to the former island.

"TETUAN,
Minister of Foreign Affairs."

### A Heavy Failure at Danville, Va.

Richmond, Va., January 1.—A Danville special to The Dispatch says John W. Holland today filed a deed of assignment to Berryman Green, trustee, to secure notes and debts on which he was indorser for his brother, the late C. G. Holland, to an amount aggregating $148,100. The assets consist principally of valuable real estate in the business portion of the city, an interest in the tobacco business and bank stock, and personality of every description. The creditors are principally banks in Danville, Lynchburg, Richmond, Roanoke, Norfolk, Baltimore, Chatham, Stuart, and other points, which hold notes of C. G. Holland. The assessed valuation by the latest assessment of the property conveyed is $170,000 and conservative business men are of the opinion that it will pay every dollar of the debt. It is notable that the assignor himself owes not a dollar of debt, all the indebtedness being incurred as indorser or security of the late C. G. Holland.

## EXCITEMENT IN SPAIN

### OVER DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF THE TROOPS IN CUBA.

**Suppression of Newspapers Criticising Weyler—A Ministerial Crisis—Weyler's Recall—False Report of Drowning of Party of Filibusters—Landed by the Three Friends on a Barren Key—Weyler Says the Rebellion in Pinar del Rio is Crushed.**

Madrid, January 1.—The semi-official newspapers defend the action of the government in seizing the issue of the Heraldo and Imparcial upon the ground that the articles published by those papers denouncing the policy of Captain General Weyler, in Cuba, had a tendency to create discontent among the troops in Cuba, and to encourage American filibusters. The government will not permit the objectionable articles to be transmitted by telegraph.

Public opinion is greatly excited over reports that the Spanish troops in Cuba are compelled to undergo extreme hardships through hunger and nakedness, and that those who are confined in the hospitals by illness or because of wounds are suffering from neglect and an insufficent supply of medicines. As large sums of money have been sent to Cuba from Spain for the purpose of furnishing clothing, medicines, etc., to the troops, the question is asked where has this money gone.

El Dia asserts that a ministerial crisis is probable as the results of a change of policy. It is rumored that the cabinet has approved the proposal to recall Captain General Weyler, but that Premier Canovas has delayed action in the matter, giving no reasons for so doing. All of the ministers met at the residence of Premier Canovas last evening and drank to a toast expressing hope for the speedy conclusion of peace in the disturbed colonies.

A special dispatch from Havana to The Imparcial says that fifty-one men comprising the fillibustering expedition recently landed upon a desert key by the steamer Three Friends have been drowned. The men were hastily put ashore on the barren island after the Three Friends had been pursued by Spanish gunboats with which the filibustering steamer had an exchange of shots, and the cargo of arms and ammunition, provisions, etc., on board the steamer were also landed with the men. The Three Friends, being closely pursued by the Spanish war vessels, was compelled to put the men ashore on this barren island or take them back to the United States, and it was in making an attempt to leave the island, the dispatch says, that they were drowned. The dispatch also states that 360 rifles, which the filibusters had with them, were lost in the sea.

Jacksonville, Fla., January 1.—There is no longer any doubt that the Three Friends expedition was landed on a Florida key after the vessel had been chased from the Cuban coast by a Spanish patrol boat. A telegram from Miami says that the Dauntless reported there last night and went on to No Name key, where a large body of men are reported to be wrecked, and that two of the number are reported to be dead. A telegram from Key West says that when the steamer City of Richmond passed No Name key the Dauntless was there taking on board a party of men and a cargo. The Three Friends is still in the custody of the collector of customs. No legal proceedings has yet been instituted against the vessel or crew.

Jacksonville, Fla., January 1.—The story sent from Madrid of the drowning of fifty-one men landed on a Florida key by the steamer Three Friends is declared by the Cubans here to be false. J. A. Huau, agent of the junta, says if the story was true he would have been so informed.

Havana, January 1.—A reporter of The Diario de la Marina has had an interview with Captain General Weyler, in the Mata Toro camp. Speaking of the situation in the province of Pinar del Rio, General Weyler said that, speaking from the standpoint of strength and importance, the insurrection in that province had been crushed. The few insurgents remaining were obliged to hide like wolves in their caves. Fevers and smallpox had thinned the rebel ranks. His own column and those of the other Spanish commanders had overrun the base and interior of the hills and had met no rebels. The insurgents after the death of Maceo, were without a leader. Riviera, Maceo's successor, was unpopular among his men. General Weyler added that his statement would be confirmed after Generals Melguize and Arolas had completed their operations, which included the sweeping of the province from west to east. Generals Hernandez, Velasco, Obregan, Bernal, Ruiz, Fuentes and Segura, were now in the centre of the hills. Perhaps General Arolas was also there. Once the Rubi hills were fortified, a severe blow might be directed against the rebels under Ducassis.

General Weyler said, in conclusion, that he would allow no houses to be built on the outskirts of the towns, as were they constructed they would serve mostly as refugees for bandits.

An odd feature of the above interview is that General Weyler while declaring that Pinar del Rio is practically free of insurgents, finds it necessary to have the Rubi hills fortified before he will attempt to strike a blow at the rebels under Ducassis.

### Butter Dish Factory Burned.

Chattanooga, Tenn., January 1.—The factory of the Benjamin Butter Dish Manufacturing Company, in Riverview five miles north of this city, was tonight burned to the ground. The fire originated in the dry house and, in the absence of means of fighting, it spread very rapidly. The loss will approximate $14,000; insurance $6,000. The plant employed about twenty-five hands and was completed only a short time ago.

### Spanish Newspapers to be Prosecuted.

London, January 1.—The Madrid correspondent of The Standard telegraphs that the government intends to prosecute several newspapers for imitating The Imparcial and The Heraldo, which were seized yesterday for condemning the military administration in Cuba and demanding General Weyler's recall. The government is determined to suppress the press campaign against the cabinet's policy in Cuba.

### Chattanooga's New Auditorium.

Chattanooga, Tenn., January 1.—At the laying of the corner stone of the Auditorium, Chattanooga's first public assembly hall, Congressman Benton McMillin, of the Fourth Tennessee district, delivered the principal address. The ceremonies were in charge of the Masons, although numerous secret societies sent delegations. The audience chamber of the new building will seat 5,000 people.

### Reported Drowning of Cubans Denied.

New York, January 1.—Cubans in this city scout the report of the drowning of the members of the Three Friends expedition. They note the fact that the news comes by way of Madrid, though the island is not far from Key West and such a disaster must of a certainty, if true, reached there.

### Innocent Men Lynched.

Kansas City, Mo., January 1.—Prosecuting Attorney Aul, of LaFayette county, in an interview here yesterday, expressed the opinion that the two men, James Nelson and Jesse Winner, who were lynched by a mob at Lexington a short time ago, were innocent of the murder of Mrs. Winner and her baby. He claims to have sufficient evidence to cause the indictment of fifty of the lynchers.

General Maceo is merely keeping out of the way until Weyler shall be decorated for killing him. After that he and the captain-general will both resume business at the old stand. Washington Post.


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Want to have a bit of earnest talk with you on this matter; want you to believe every word we tell you. We are going to make a confidant of you. Here's the confession:

We are overstocked and have decided to take a liberal loss now, while there are yet three months of winter before us. Better that than wait till the season is about ended and then begin.

Every redustion is exactly as represented, and we shall make this the greatest cloak trading event in years.

Unfavorable weather conditions have forced this loss upon us. Merchants have to take these chances. We bought for winter and it failed to come in time, so we'll just pocket the loss and make the best of it.

One consolation is our customers get a benefit, so "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good."

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