

SPAIN BACKS DOWN

SHE WITHDRAWS REQUESTS FOR LEE'S RECALL.

The President Refuses to Recall the Consul General—The Montgomery Ordered to Havana—Congress to Pledge \$50,000,000 at the President's Disposal for Purchasing War Munitions and Warships—The Montgomery Supplied with Ammunition and Ready to Sail

Washington, March 7.—There were no less than five important events today having a bearing more or less direct upon the troubled relations between the United States and Spain, viz: The introduction in congress by Mr. Cannon, of a resolution carrying \$50,000,000 for the public defense; the withdrawal by the Spanish government of its intimated objection to the continuance in office of Consul General Lee; the order to the cruiser Montgomery to proceed to Havana in place of the Fern; the passage of the bill through the house, increasing the artillery arm by two regiments, and the institution of negotiations looking to the purchase of warships for our navy.

SPAIN'S BACK DOWN.

As for Consul General Lee's case, the news of the satisfactory ending of the incident through the withdrawal of the suggestion by Spain was expected as soon as it was noted that a loophole had been left open through the failure to make the complaint in anything like an official shape. Some fear is expressed that the consul general will not find his post very congenial now that he knows he is an unwelcome guest in Havana, but the administration is relying upon his devotion to the welfare of the Americans in Cuba and American interests generally to submit his own personal wishes to restraint and remain at his post.

Late in the afternoon Senor du Bose, the Spanish charge d'affaires received a cipher cable from the minister of state in Madrid, Senor Gullon saying: "You can disavow the rumor that any official application has been made for the recall of General Lee." This confirmed Mr. du Bose's view that a misapprehension had occurred and some intimation concerning General Lee had been construed into a request or demand for his recall, which Mr. du Bose says with positiveness was never intended.

It is learned that the Spanish objection to Consul General Lee is based largely upon his sympathy for the Cubans and some of his utterances which have found their way into print. It is understood that the Spaniards also take exceptions to the friendly relations and companionship existing between General Lee and correspondents of papers, which have been decidedly unfriendly to Spain. It is believed that Senor de Lome carried to Spain papers and information calculated to make the Spanish government request the recall of Consul General Lee.

As there has been no designation of the purpose which prompted the introduction of Mr. Cannon's resolution, it may be said that the money is wanted primarily as an emergency fund. It is said by officials who will have the disposition of the treasure that it by no means follows because Congress places such a sum of money in the control of the president that he will feel bound to spend all of it. Those who look for a wholesale purchase of warships from the bargain counters of European builders are likely to be disappointed. The navy department at present is inclined to make but one purchase of this kind, at first, at least, in the shape of a substantial ironclad. It does desire to get possession of several of the larger class of torpedo boat destroyers, such as the Squal, of the Russian navy, vessels of 300 tons able to keep the sea in bad weather, a weak point with our own boats, and capable of enormous speed, such as thirty two knots. But such craft are not for sale at all times; they are built to order generally and could not be procured in this manner in less than six months from the date of contract even in Europe unless special prices were paid. There is no disposition on the part of the navy department to lumber the navy with a lot of unserviceable craft in a spasm of fear, but rather to get a few of the best vessels to be had.

OFFERS OF SHIPS TO THE NAVY.

The offers of ships to the navy department are now assuming definite and formal shape. During the day Secretary Long received a call from A. F. Lane, representing the Maxim Nordenfledt Company and the agent for several war vessels now nearing completion in large foreign ship yards. These include two cruisers of the type

of the Cincinnati, which are designed to be twenty knot vessels, and two ironclads of fourteen knots, which would be called third class battleships under our rating. These are now open to purchase, and it is understood that Mr. Lane's visit was in this connection. The two cruisers are 330 feet long, 43 feet beam and 15 feet draft. They carry six 6 inch and four 5 inch guns, and an auxiliary battery. The ironclads have a 13 1/2 inch belt of Harvey-steel. Their armament is two 10 inch guns, four 5 inch, two 6 inch 3 pounders and four 1 pounders. Mr. Lane regards these ships as first class in every particular, as they were designed on modern principles and are being built by one of the leading ship-building firms in Europe. They are well along toward completion, and all four, it is said, could be in commission within a few months. They were originally designed for one of the South American republics, but there is said to be no obligation which would prevent their acquisition by the United States. Mr. Lane recently sold the navy department sixty of the Maxim-Nordenfledt rapid-fire guns, and his standing with officials is such as to give his representations as to ships much weight.

OTHER THINGS NEEDED.

There are things wanted much more than warships in case of trouble and the army shares these needs, so that a fair proportion for the \$50,000,000 would have to go to the war department. These are abundant supplies of shot and shell and powder. The army is as short as the navy of these essential stores. It has been found greatly to the gratification of the army officers, that there will not be nearly the difficulty in securing modern arms for the army, even on a war footing, as was anticipated. This is because certain private gun makers have just brought out a type of repeating rifle very similar in general features to the army rifle, using the same cartridge of the .30 gauge, and with about as great rapidity of fire. The plants of these companies are so extensive that they could turn the arms out very rapidly so that the Springfield in the hands of the militia could be replaced in short order.

FACILITIES OF THE COUNTRY.

In connection with the subject of purchasing naval ammunition, it is said that no contracts have been closed but the department has informed itself fully as to how speedily it could secure every kind of ammunition and supplies in case of emergency. This inquiry has shown, in a general way, that the facilities of this country are ample to meet any demand for powder, projectiles, cartridge cases, primers, fuses, etc. These supplies are not kept in stock, however, and in case of emergency they would have to be made to order. It is said that the capacity of our firm for turning out the brown prismatic powder required by the navy is 5,000,000 pounds a month, which would more than meet the demands of a conflict.

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NO ISSUE OF BONDS NECESSARY.

The appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the national defense for which provisions was made in the bill introduced in the house today by Mr. Cannon, will not involve the issue of bonds. This announcement was made by the treasury officials, who stated that the treasury has already prepared to meet any demands that will likely be made upon it. One official said that the cash amounted to \$355,521,766, of which \$204,063,971 was gold; \$111,853,834 silver, \$107,564,968 in paper currency and \$33,064,000 in disbursing officers' balances. The net available cash on hand, above all liabilities amounts to \$235,664,203.

NO DANGER TO THE MONTGOMERY.

It is not felt at the navy department that the people of the Montgomery are taking any particular risk in going to Havana at this time for it is said that even should hostilities break out, it is a rule of honorable warfare that they be given safe conveyance out of the waters of the hostile country. Of course General Lee and the members of the court of inquiry at Havana would be equally exempt from molestation. The personnel of the Montgomery is:

TO RAISE NEW REGIMENTS AT WILL.

Without delay the officers of the adjutant-general's department today gave the necessary orders for the recruiting of the two new artillery regiments authorized by congress. The purpose is to enlist such men as have had service in the artillery wherever possible and no doubt is entertained that plenty of material of the right kind will offer. The officers of the new regiments are now being selected. As for the men, it is the plan to assign fifteen soldiers from existing artillery regiments as the nucleus of each new company, to take hold of and break in the new men who are enlisted, and it is expected that in a

very short time Uncle Sam will have two good regiments. The headquarters of one of these regiments will be established at Fort Slocum, on Long Island sound, commanding New York, as there are suitable quarters available there. The destination of the other regiment has not been decided upon.

THE PRESIDENT FULLY SUSTAINED.

The sentiment at the capital today and especially in the house side was unanimous in support of the action of the president in dealing with Consul General Lee. The immense gravity of the situation seemed profoundly to impress the members who stood about the lobbies before the house met. Without regard to party, all united in commending the president's firm stand and the unanimous desire expressed was in support of any measure deemed necessary to maintain the American contention.

SENATOR HALE, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS AND ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO CONSIDER THE NAVAL BILL, SAID TODAY THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED TO SECRETARY LONG, OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT, THE ADVISABILITY OF MAKING THE PURCHASE OF ANY SUPPLIES AS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY IN THE EVENT OF WAR WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THE FUNDS FOR THEM WOULD BE PROVIDED BY CONGRESS.

THERE WAS A CONFERENCE LAST EVENING AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE SENATOR HOAR, OF MASSACHUSETTS, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES. SOME OF THESE KNOWN TO BE PRESENT ARE SECRETARIES LONG AND ALGER, JUDGE DAY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE; SENATOR ARLISSON AND REPRESENTATIVES DINGLEY AND CANNON. IT IS ALSO KNOWN THAT SOME DEMOCRATS WERE PRESENT. ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION THAT ANY AMOUNT OF FUNDS THAT WERE DEEMED NECESSARY WOULD BE PROVIDED BY CONGRESS TO PUT THE GOVERNMENT IN A STATE OF DEFENSE AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE BACKED IN ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE NECESSARY.

THE RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE WAS A MEETING OF SECRETARY ALGER AND SPEAKER REED TODAY AND A CONFERENCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY OF HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS, FOLLOWED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE \$50,000,000 DEFENSE BILL BY MR. CANNON.

NAVAL SUPPLIES WANTED.

Secretary Long sent to congress today for inclusion in the armament bill, a bill for the purchase of naval ammunition, it is said that no contracts have been closed but the department has informed itself fully as to how speedily it could secure every kind of ammunition and supplies in case of emergency. This inquiry has shown, in a general way, that the facilities of this country are ample to meet any demand for powder, projectiles, cartridge cases, primers, fuses, etc. These supplies are not kept in stock, however, and in case of emergency they would have to be made to order. It is said that the capacity of our firm for turning out the brown prismatic powder required by the navy is 5,000,000 pounds a month, which would more than meet the demands of a conflict.

TO SEND THE MONTGOMERY TO HAVANA.

The decision of the navy department concerning the sending of ships to Cuba was made known at 2 o'clock this afternoon when the following brief statement was posted by the bureau of navigation: "The Montgomery will relieve the Fern at Havana. The Fern will carry provisions to Matanzas and Sagua la Grande."

This conclusion was reached after conferences between the officials of the state and the navy departments, and is understood to be such an adjustment as will not lead to further objection by the Spanish government. The Fern is a dispatch boat, without heavy armament or guns, although she belongs to the navy and is technically a naval vessel. As she comes as near being a transport as anything in our naval service, her selection will accord with the Spanish government in a transport or merchant ship undertake this carriage of relief supplies.

THE SENDING OF THE MONTGOMERY TO HAVANA IS PRIMARILY INTENDED TO REPLACE THE FERN, WHICH IS NOW AT MATANZAS. THE MONTGOMERY IS AN UNARMED CRUISER OF 189 TONS, WITH AN ARMAMENT OF TEN GUNS. THE PLANS OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT ARE TO HAVE THE MONTGOMERY START FOR HAVANA AT ONCE, IN ORDER THAT THE FERN MAY RETURN TO KEY WEST IN TIME TO TAKE ON THE RELIEF SUPPLIES REACHING THERE NEXT WEDNESDAY. IT WILL BE THE SECOND VISIT OF THE MONTGOMERY TO CUBA, AS SHE HAS ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO SANTIAGO DE CUBA AND MATANZAS. CAPTAIN CROWNINGSHIELD, CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF NAVIGATION, SAYS THAT NO TIME HAS BEEN WASTED IN THE STAY OF THE MONTGOMERY AT HAVANA, AS SHE IS THE ONLY DECISION WHICH HAS BEEN REACHED THAT SHE WILL REPLACE THE FERN THERE FOR THE PRESENT. THE MONTGOMERY WILL BE THE FIRST UNITED STATES WARSHIP AT HAVANA SINCE THE MAINE DISASTER.

MR. CANNON'S NATIONAL DEFENSE APPROPRIATION BILL.

Chairman Cannon, of the appropriations committee, today introduced a bill entitled "Making Appropriations for the National Defense." It is as follows: "That there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated for the national defense and for each and every purpose connected therewith, to be expended at the discretion of the president to remain available until June 30, 1899, \$50,000,000."

IT WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS. IT WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE POSTPONED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TOMORROW AND PROBABLY REPORTED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION. SO FAR AS THE OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF IT CARRIED \$100,000,000 INSTEAD OF \$50,000,000.

HOW SPAIN'S DEMAND WAS MADE.

Madrid, March 7.—The details of Spain's request that the United States government recall Consul General Fitzhugh Lee from his post as consul general of the United States at Havana are as follows: The United States Minister, General Stuart L. Woodford, had a conference at the Spanish foreign ministry on Thursday last, with Senor Gullon, the foreign minister. The minister of the ministry for foreign affairs, who acted as interpreter, Senor Gullon expressed the desire of the Spanish government that General Lee be recalled "as proof of good will on the part of the United States." General Woodford called immediately to Washington on the subject and the reply of the United States was communicated to Senor Gullon on Saturday.

SOME OF THE SPANISH PROVINCIAL PAPERS REFERRED TO THE MATTER YESTERDAY, BUT THE JOURNAL OF MADRID HAD NOT MADE ANY REFERENCE TO IT.

Havana, March 7.—On account of the attempted smuggling from New York, the customs officers give careful examination to all consignments of military stores, and the distribution of quinine has been prohibited for a time. It was found that much quinine made its way into the hands of the insurgents. No official information is accessible concerning the reported departure of the United States steamer Havana, which was supposed to have been passengers on the Ward line steamer Concho this morning. It is bearing on the state of public feeling here it is worth noting that there were thirty-two halls and more or less elaborate parties in Havana last night.

WHAT LEE SAYS.

General Fitzhugh Lee, consul general of the United States, was questioned today regarding Spain's demand for his recall, and said: "I shall continue to do my duty, which is to guard American interests. Fitzhugh Lee, my son, came to Havana on Monday morning, and he was granted his leave by the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. He was here before, has many friends and will return to the United States when his vacation is over next week. Mrs. Lee is not ill nor is she nervous. I have not written her anything to alarm her. I have had no need to do so."

THE SPANISH STEAMER ALFONSO XIII HAVING REACHED THIS PORT FROM SPAIN, HAVING ON BOARD 1,233 SOLDIERS.

A SIGNIFICANT ORDER.

Key West, Fla., March 7.—Naval officers here had scarcely learned of Admiral Sigsbee's order directing the departure of the cruisers Nashville and Montgomery for Matanzas and Sagua la Grande with supplies for the reconnoitering force already mentioned, when a telegram from Washington was followed by a hurried conference between Admiral Sigsbee and Commander West and shortly after 3 o'clock Admiral Sigsbee countermanded the order issued at noon and directed that the Montgomery proceed as soon possible to Havana and the Fern was again assigned to the duty of carrying supplies to Matanzas. The Montgomery is being hurriedly coaled, and work on her will be carried on through the night. It is hardly expected that she will leave Key West before morning and her departure may be further delayed. The official reason for the Montgomery's going to Havana is that she is merely to relieve the dispatch boat Fern. A naval officer—one of the few who at the time this dispatch is sent are aware of what change of plans is being made—thought it most significant that a member of the Montgomery's crew should be sent to take the place of a mere dispatch boat.

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London, March 7.—The Times says editorially this morning: "If Spain is placed in an awkward position respecting the Lee incident, she must thank the indiscretion of her foreign office. The course of the President McKinley. Mr. Cannon's bill can hardly be explained by the Lee incident. It is probably due to the rumor that Spain is purchasing war vessels. We do not believe that Spain desires war, but if she does, this evidence of America's alertness offers a most effectual check. McKinley appears to be adhering loyally to the policy of firmness, caution and pacific circumpection he has hitherto pursued. No doubt, he has the support of the sober and conscientious mass of the American people, but he has had to face outbursts of popular passion that a weaker man might have mistaken for the voice of the country. The complicity of the Spanish government in the Maine disaster is a hypothesis too monstrous and irrational to be entertained; and there is nothing impossible in the possibility of an arrangement between Spain and

America, while the intractable nature of Cuba's disorders cannot but inspire thoughtful Americans with a serious doubt as to the wisdom of annexation."

MINISTER GULLON'S VERSION OF THE AFFAIR.

Madrid, March 7.—El Liberal says today: "Senor Gullon, the foreign minister, has informed the journalists that Spain having protested to Washington on the subject of sending two men of war to Matanzas and Sagua to carry relief to the Cubans, the American government decided that the vessel should not be men-of-war. Senor Gullon has sent a report of the matter to the queen-regent."

ON THE NAVAL VESSEL MARKET.

Washington, March 7.—A naval officer, whose name was not obtainable, will leave here tomorrow on his way to Europe to inspect naval vessels that are building there. The following telegram was received today at the state department from Consul General Lee: "Havana, March 5. 'Assistants Secretary of State, Washington: 'Persons should be cautioned not to send consignments to private parties marked care Consul General Lee. A box was recently so marked which was found to contain jewelry, bric-a-brac, etc. Custom house officials demand duty on such shipments. 'LEE.'"

THE COURT OF INQUIRY.

Havana, March 7.—The court of inquiry held its usual sessions today, examining Ensign Powelson and the divers' plans. The Spanish divers work when they desire to do so. The day was beautifully clear and the waters were steadily in clearing away the debris. Many articles of personal value to the officers of the Maine are recovered from time to time.

KEY WEST, MARCH 7.—THE COAST STEAMER HAVANA ARRIVED HERE FROM HAVANA HAVING ON BOARD THE REMAINS OF SIX MORE VICTIMS OF THE DISASTER TO THE MAINE. THEY WERE BURIED WITH THE SAME CEREMONIES OBSERVED WHEN THE FIRST BODY WAS BURIED ON THURSDAY LAST, AND THE FUNERAL PROCESSION WAS ALSO IN THE SAME ORDER.

PATRIOTISM RAMPANT.

In the American Congress—The House Passes and Endorses the Bill to Increase the Artillery Force. SENATE. Washington, March 7.—Today's session of the senate was devoted entirely to consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill. At the hour of adjournment the bill had not been disposed of and its discussion will be continued tomorrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The spirit of patriotism was rampant in the house today and by almost an unanimous vote, the Hawley bill, providing for two additional regiments of artillery was passed under suspension of the rules. No effort was made to obstruct action, but Mr. Bailey, the democrat leader, pleaded for more time than the forty minutes allowed under the rule, and because it was refused after the bill had been passed he inaugurated a filibuster against the District of Columbia legislation for several days. Mr. Bailey desired to speak in favor of the bill, but could not get time. During the day he had several sharp tilts with the speaker.

MOST OF THE TIME IN FAVOR OF THE BILL WAS CONSUMED IN ONE MINUTE SPEECHES.

Mr. Hull and two republicans refrained from referring to any emergency, but some of the democrats who spoke did and Mr. Williams, of Mississippi, referred directly to probable war with Spain. Every expression construed into a reference to a possible crisis was received with applause.

MR. HULL, IN OPENING THE DEBATE, EXPLAINED BRIEFLY THE NECESSITY FOR THESE MEN TO MAN THE COAST DEFENSES OF THE COUNTRY.

Mr. Hull said that he had 244 big guns and 232 mortars would be mounted, 476 in all. These guns required 18 men each to handle them and in time of war sixty. There were but 4,025 artillerymen all told in the service. The guns employed July 1st would require 7,000 men, regardless of any exigency that might arise. Even if no exigency arose these men, he insisted, would be necessary to care for the fortifications and guns upon which we were expending millions of dollars. The charge that this bill was an attempt to increase the standing army to be used possibly to overawe the cities, he said, he considered too frivolous to discuss.

MR. JONES, DEMOCRAT, OF VIRGINIA, THE OTHER DEMOCRAT WHO OPPOSED THE BILL, INSISTED THAT THE BILL WAS NOT A WAR MEASURE; IT HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HE CLAIMED THAT IT MADE A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE LINE OF PROMOTION. HE THOUGHT IF ANY EMERGENCY EXISTED THE PRESENT ARTILLERY REGIMENTS SHOULD BE RECRUITED UP TO THEIR FULL STRENGTH. FOUR THOUSAND MEN COULD thus be added to that branch of the service without creating two additional regiments.

MR. SHAFROTH, OF COLORADO, CAUSED A ROUND OF APPLAUSE WHEN HE EXPRESSED HIS REGRET THAT A SINGLE VOICE SHOULD be raised against such a bill at such a time. THERE WAS NO DENYING THE FACT that our foreign relations with Spain were on the eve of a rupture. WAR ought to be averted if possible, but we ought to prepare at once, he said, for every emergency.

MR. WILLIAMS, DEMOCRAT, OF MISSISSIPPI, SAID THAT HIS VOICE WAS NOW, AS EVER, FOR PEACE IT SEEMED ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT SPAIN WAS FORCING us into war to extricate the reigning family from the desperate straits into which she was placed by her futile attempts to subjugate Cuba. THE BILL WAS THEN PASSED WITHOUT DIVISION. THE GREAT CHorus OF AYES WAS OFFSET BY THREE VOICES ON THE MINORITY SIDE, Messrs. Cox, democrat, of Tennessee; Jones, democrat, of Virginia and Todd, fusionist, of Michigan.

AT 5:40 P. M., THE HOUSE ADJOURNED.

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THE RECEIVERSHIP CASE

AGAINST THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD.

The Contention that its Charter Rights and Title Were not Transferred by the Sale Under Second Mortgage—Much Interest in the Fertilizer Tax Case, Pending in the Federal Court—Companies of the State Guard Recruiting—The Progress Textile School

Messenger Bureau, Raleigh, N. C., March 7.

The sheriff here today served papers on Vice President A. B. Andrews, of the Southern railway, in the matter of the order of Judge McIver as to the appointment of a receiver. In 1880 at a special session of the legislature the Richmond and Danville railway bought for \$750,000 the state's interest in this road. The state was attempting to build the road and there was a great clamor for a sale. The money was paid in cash, and that year there was no state tax. The legislature made the sale and there was joy that the state was rid of the road at so fine a bargain. The buyer also paid interest on \$3,000,000 of the first mortgage bonds, there being about the same amount of second mortgage bonds on which none was paid. There was also a floating debt, quite large, mainly from accrued interest on second mortgage bonds. In 1893 the Southern bought in the road at a foreclosure sale by virtue of a federal court decree under the second mortgage, subject to the lien of the first mortgage. The sale under the foreclosure of the second mortgage, it is now contended, did not carry charter rights and title to the property and it is further contended that the Western North Carolina railroad is still intact and did not lose its identity as other roads which were sold under foreclosure of first mortgage. This contention is based on Judge Douglas' opinion in the 'James' damage suit. The state's sale of its interest in 1880 was to the State of North Carolina. The property was held so long as interest on the first mortgage bonds was paid.

The extraordinary dryness of February will be made plain by the statement that only 42 of an inch of rain fell, the average for that month being about four inches. The mean temperature was 41 degrees or three under the average. The railway commission has not yet passed upon the question of its right to forbid the issue of inter-state free passes.

Superintendent Newbome, of the penitentiary, says the manufacture of brick there will begin this week and will be on a larger scale than ever before. He finds the manufacture pays. There is a good deal of interest in the result of the case between the United States supreme court, involving the legality of the tonnage tax on fertilizers. Only one company and one attorney have pressed this case. It is said that the other companies do not in the least object to the tax of 25 cents per ton. A bill was introduced in the last legislature, at the suggestion of the agricultural department, reducing the tax to 20 cents per ton, but it did not pass.

Most of the companies of the state guard are recruiting. Some are negotiating for recruits between the ages of 21 and 40 years of age. Yesterday morning there was an explosion in a Durham drug store, which wrecked the windows. Some clerks who were asleep in the building barely escaped with their lives. The promoters of the state textile school, which it is proposed to establish here as an adjunct to the agricultural and mechanical college, say they will be in a position to place the matter in a very strong way before the next legislature.

The penitentiary superintendent says he is at a loss to know why the federal convicts from South Carolina are not to be sent here. They are not included in the order of the attorney general. Convicts are to grade the railway from here to the Cape Fear river. It is expected to have it in operation by July.

Ex-Private Secretary J. E. Alexander was out today, after quite a severe attack of the measles. The supreme court has heard argument in the important cases of State Treasurer Worth against Stewart Brothers, of Winston, ex-state printers, involving \$20,000, which the treasurer claims was collected by the Stewarts improperly, being in excess of the real cost of the work.

To Be a Notable Masonic Meeting

Raleigh, N. C., March 7.—Arrangements were made today for a notable assemblage here the latter part of May, probably about the 24th or 25th, of the grand chapter, the grand council, and the grand commandery of Knights Templar and the Mystic Shrine, all Masonic bodies. A committee is appointed to make arrangements, composed of Jno. C. Drewry, Wm. Simpson, R. H. Bradley, W. A. Withers and John Nichols. There will be a particularly handsome reception and it is to be made an extensive affair.

Governor Russell has gone to Wilmington, to be absent until Thursday.

Notice is given that five vacant North Carolina scholarships at the Peabody university at Nashville, Tenn., are to be filled.

Russell Wants No Successor to Hancock

(Special to The Messenger.) Raleigh, N. C., March 7.—Governor Russell did not desire any election of president to be made at tomorrow's meeting of the Atlantic and North Carolina railway directors.

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