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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, May 3, 1897.—The republican members of the Senate Finance Committee have completed the work of amending the Dingley tariff bill, and unless the democratic members of the committee cause some unnecessary delay the bill will be reported to the Senate this week. The bill has not been made public, but it is known that it has been amended in nearly every schedule, and that as a rule the amendments provide for slightly lowering the duties from those in the original bill, although in some cases they are raised. The bill is still a distinctly republican protective measure, just as everybody knew it would be, but whether on the whole it is an improvement upon the original bill is, of course, largely a matter of personal opinion. The average republican only asks for a tariff that will protect all American industries and products alike, and is not disposed to haggle over the precise rate of duty to be imposed on any particular article or articles. It is claimed by the Senators who have framed these amendments that they are intended to increase the revenues of the government without any sacrifice of the principle of protection.

Senator Frye doesn't believe the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty with Hawaii, which the sugar trust is demanding through its lobby, is possible. He said: "The representatives of the sugar trust are now seeking the abrogation of this treaty with more than usual energy and activity. They are deeply interested in abrogation, and I don't know of any one else who is. In their efforts to secure their own interests they are misrepresenting their disadvantages to the United States from this treaty and concealing the advantages. The advantages are manifold and the disadvantages small."

There are few people around Washington who do not believe that the annexation of Hawaii is one of the certainties of the near future. Whether the recently reported attitude of Japan towards Hawaii will result in hastening annexation is yet to be determined. An official speaking of the matter said: "This government is not alarmed nor annoyed by the reports of Japanese restlessness and loud war talk. That nation has not recovered from its victory over China yet, and it feels as if it owns the world. A little bluster will do no harm to any one, but you may rest assured that the Japanese will do nothing more than bluster. After the tariff bill has been disposed of, the Senate may have an opportunity to act upon a treaty providing for the annexation of Hawaii. Meanwhile you may be sure that the U. S. navy will back Hawaii in enforcing its immigration laws, against the Japanese or any other nationality."

President McKinley touched the electric button that started the machinery of the Centennial Exposition, at Nashville, and later he expects to visit the exposition in person and to carry with him as many members of his cabinet as can go. He has expressed much interest in the success of the exposition.

If President McKinley had never until within the last ten days thought of annulling some of the extensions of the civil service rules made by Mr. Cleveland, the facts brought out during that time would have started him to thinking about it. Testimony taken by the Senate committee that is investigating this subject has already made it plain that the whole thing was manipulated to the advantage of democrats and the disadvantage of republicans, and entirely regardless of the best interests of the public service. At the last meeting of this committee letters were read from Postmaster General Gary and from Secretary Long in favor of changing, and Public Printer Palmer fired this broadside: "As applied to this office (Government Printing Office) which is simply a great manufacturing plant, involving varied branches of skilled labor of high grade, the civil service rules are, in my judgment, an obstruction rather than an aid to efficiency and economy. In my opinion the civil service rules as promulgated for enforcement here should be modified radically, suspended, or repealed." Hon. N. B. Scott, the West Virginia member of the Republican National Committee, who

has been tendered the position of Commissioner of Internal Revenue, says that he doesn't want the place and will not take it unless the extension of the civil service rules to collectors and gaugers is rescinded.

Secretary Alger has annihilated the spy system of keeping the time of the employes of the War Department, which was adopted under the Cleveland administration and which has been a source of much irritation to the employes. General Alger takes the ground that a man who cannot be trusted to do his duty without being watched is unworthy of employment by the government, or by anybody else, and the War Department clerks will hereafter work on honor.

THE GRECIAN MINISTRY.

Mr. Cowles Calls at the White House to Obtain a Denial From the President That Hopkins is to Have It.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—There was a lively scramble for places at the pie counter to-day, and President McKinley probably wishes that even foreign were under the protection of the civil service law. Among the early callers at the White House this morning was A. D. Cowles, of Statesville, N. C., who has been industriously seeking an appointment as minister to Greece. Some of the newspapers are stating with great positiveness that Dr. Hopkins, of Atlanta, Ga., has been slated for that place. It was with the purpose of obtaining a denial of the report that Mr. Cowles hurried to the Executive Mansion to-day. He was accompanied by Claudius Dockery, of Rockingham, and ex-Representative Cheatham, who is confident that he is to be made recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia. The President was not very communicative on the subject of the Grecian mission, but simply said that the matter is still under advisement.

The Georgia applicants for appointment in the foreign service are not enthusiastic over the proposition to appoint Dr. Hopkins minister to Greece. They fear their prospects for recognition will be greatly diminished if such a big plum goes to one man.

There is a lively contest going on over the appointment of collector of internal revenue for the eastern district of North Carolina. Senator Pritchard is said to favor the appointment of Carl Duncan, of Beaufort. The other candidates are William Martin, B. H. Cozart and James Cheek of Hillsboro. The term of the incumbent expires some time next month and although it is understood the incumbent will be allowed to serve out his term, the applicants for that office are mustering their forces and getting into position for the bitter fight that is sure to ensue. The contest over the collectorship in the western district has not yet assumed a dangerous form. Messrs. Pledger, Snythe, DeLon and Colonel Pierce, all aspirants for consulships, insist upon a wider distribution of Georgia's share of the foreign fruit.—Charlotte Observer.

THE TURKS MOWED DOWN.

They Met With Disaster at Velestino—The Greek Fleet Bombards the Turkish Coast.

ATHENS, May 1.—The government has received dispatches from Pharsalos giving details of the battle between the Turks and Greeks at Velestino. The Turkish force numbered 8,600, of which 600 were cavalry. The Turks charged with their cavalry, but were met by the Evzones posted on a hill. An entire Turkish regiment was decimated. Four Turkish squadrons which attempted to charge, were received with a combined rifle and shrapnel fire, which mowed down several hundred. Fifty Greeks were killed, and a major and five subalterns wounded. A detachment of Turkish cavalry attempted to turn the flank of the Greeks, but was repulsed after a heavy cannonading.

A dispatch from Santa Maura, capital of the island of that name off the west coast of Greece, announces that the Greek gunboat flotilla in the gulf of Arta, has bombarded the Turkish coast, near Nicopolis and Santa Petras. The Turks fled, the dispatch adds.

Shelby Aurora: The Iso-Thermal lun at Rutherfordton has been greatly improved. Mr. Guthrie has added about 16 new rooms.

GREEKS STILL FIGHTING.

AN ACCOUNT OF GREEK VICTORY AT VELESTINO.

Greek Fleet Bombarding the Turkish Coast—A Conference of the Powers at Paris Proposed—Greek Parliament Talks of Carrying on the War.

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PARIS, May 1.—All the powers, including Germany and Austria, have agreed that the moment is opportune to intervene between Greece and Turkey. They are now discussing the conditions of such intervention and appear about to reach an understanding.

LONDON, May 1.—It is stated, semi-officially that the Marquis of Salisbury has proposed a conference of the powers at Paris in order to discuss the means of terminating the war between Turkey and Greece. The indications are that the proposition will not be favorably considered by the powers.

PARIS, May 1.—Dispatches received here state that M. Ralli, the new premier to Greece, has intimated willingness to have the powers mediate in the contest between Greece and Turkey. It is further stated that Turkey has signified her willingness to accept a war indemnity guaranteed by a temporary surrender of the Greek fleet.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The Turkish legation here received the following cablegram from Constantinople to-night:

"Marshal Edhem Pasha telegraphs that after a fight which took place at one hour's distance from Velestino our troops took possession of three fortresses and of three intrenchments. Hefzi Pasha, commander in chief of the Ottoman forces at Epirus, also announces that the Hellenes who were located at Karava-Seria, not being able to resist the attacks of our troops were that the summits commanding the pass of Condjadis also have been taken by our troops."

ATHENS, May 1.—6:30 p. m.—The legislative chamber finally secured a quorum and held a sitting this afternoon, great crowds surrounding the building. The public galleries were thronged. The new ministers were seated on the government bench. M. Ralli, the new premier, without delay addressed the house. He said the first care of the government would be to reorganize the army. Without a reorganization of the military forces it would be impossible to carry on the war and conclude an honorable peace. Happily the army, which was worthy of a better fate, maintained its spirit unimpaired. The country might rely upon it with confidence. He besought the legislative chamber and the nation to cooperate with the government. Meanwhile the cabinet asked the chamber to agree to an adjournment.

M. Delyannis, who recently retired from the post of premier, said that there was no need of a vote in the chamber regarding this subject. There could be no possible objection to an adjournment. In the name of his party, he desired to say that all the members of the party would give their whole support to the new cabinet as long as the Turks occupied an inch of Greek territory. The main subject of their solicitude would be to devise ways and means to drive the enemy from the country.

M. Philaretos said that the princes ought to be recalled from the frontier. The crown prince was evidently too fatigued to lead the army. This re-

mark was followed by applause from the galleries.

One of the members of the chamber expressed astonishment at the reports of the lack of action on the part of the Greek fleet. M. Ralli then confirmed the detailed reports received concerning the Greek victory at Velestino. In regard to the movements of the army in Epirus, he said that the retreat had been orderly, with the exception of a part of the infantry, which had been infected by a panic originating among the inhabitants of the villages.

A motion to adjourn was adopted, general assent being given. M. Delyannis approached M. Ralli at the conclusion of the session, the ex-premier and the new premier shaking hands.

SOPIA, Bulgaria, May 1.—Anarchist and revolutionary placards, signed by the Macedonian socialist revolutionary party were posted throughout this city during the night. The printer of the placards has been arrested.

LONDON, May 1.—A special dispatch from Athens announces that the Greek army in Epirus has retreated in thorough order to Arta, where it is awaiting reinforcements.

A special dispatch from Athens says that the reports of the Turkish assaults on Pharsalos are officially confirmed. Continuing, the special dispatch says that M. Ralli, the new premier, continues to advocate and out-rage, though he is not averse to an honorable peace.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 1.—Rifizi Pasha commander of the Turks at Janina, yesterday telegraphed a report to the effect that the troops had occupied, after a fight, the heights commanding the Caravanserai. The Greeks fled, according to the official Turkish accounts, by way of Kunuzades. Edhem Pasha also sent a telegram announcing that after a serious fight at Velestino the Turks had captured three forts and four entrenched positions, the Greeks retiring to Volo.

AGRETS, May 1.—Special dispatches received from the frontier announce officially the evacuation by the Greeks of Filiippidia and the subsequent occupation of the town by the Turks. It is stated that before the resignation of the Delyannis cabinet an informal proposal, looking to a three days' armistice, was made through the French, British and Russian ministers. No reply has as yet been received, the powers evidently awaiting for an official request.

PARIS, May 1.—Telegrams received from Athens state that the new ministry acknowledge that it will be impossible for Greece to continue the war with an empty purse and with discouraged troops.

ATHENS, May 1.—A dispatch from Arta says that 5,000 Greeks under Colonel Bairastaris are again attacking Pentepigadi. The German cruiser Augusta Victoria has arrived at Phaleron.

STILL OF FRENCH BROAD RIVER.

Rev. K. Budger Not Strictly in it at Present Writing.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—Senator Pritchard, accompanied by ex-Congressman Ewart, called at the White House to urge the President to appoint H. A. Gudger to the diplomatic or consular service. The President said he could not make any promise to Mr. Gudger or his friends at this time.

The following fourth class postmasters were today appointed in North Carolina: Clarkton, Bladen county, Sidney Meares; Bob Good, Halifax county, Jennie Parker; Peter, Caldwell county, H. H. Smith; Pembroke, Chatham, Annie Chapin; Windsor, Bertie, L. T. Bond.

President McKinley today threw a wet blanket over the hopes and aspirations of those persons who are expecting early appointments to the consular service through Representative Norway, of Ohio, who called at the White House. The President stated that he does not intend to make any further appointments in the consular service until after Congress adjourns. This determination is supposed to be in the interest of prompt action by the Senate on the tariff bill. Mr. Northway called to urge the appointment of Gen. Sampson, of Arizona, formerly of Ohio, as consul general to Mexico. If the President adheres to this decision, many Southern Republicans who are eager to break into the consular service will be solely disappointed.

TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL.

The President Set the Wheels Agoing.—NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 1.—The Tennessee Centennial Exposition opened this morning and was largely attended. The opening ceremonies began with a civic parade with about 3,000 men in line. The parade acted as an escort to Governor Robert L. Taylor, who was also accompanied by State and city officers and his full staff. The parade ended at the auditorium on the exposition grounds where short ceremonies were held at 11 o'clock. Promptly at noon the machinery on the exposition grounds was started by President McKinley, who pressed an electric button in the White House. The day was observed as a pugle holiday. Among the many guests were Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson and his party and Governor Stevens of Missouri.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1.—At exactly five minutes to one o'clock this afternoon President McKinley touched an electric button in the White House which set in motion the machinery at the Nashville exposition and formally opened Tennessee's centennial exhibition to the world. It was high noon in the Southern city when the above interesting event took place here. There were present besides the President, the members of the cabinet, the Tennessee congressional delegation and several of the committee of arrangements who came on from Nashville for the event.

Sheehan Says Tammany Will Win.

BUFFALO, May 2.—John C. Sheehan who is here visiting his father, said today that he was confident of 75,000 plurality for Tammany's ticket in New York next fall. The canvas would be made on the platform "New York for New Yorkers." The Republican Legislature, he said, has made it easy for Tammany Hall to win by its policy of harassing the cities, putting the burden of the State tax on them, and restraining the personal liberties of their citizens.

He did not care, he said, whether Tammany's opponents nominated a fusion ticket or not. It would make little difference in the general result. Purroy, he said, was dead and would not be nominated. Mr. Sheehan looks for Democratic victories in Brooklyn and Buffalo as a protest against the tyranny of the country legislators over the cities. He had no opinion as to whether the nominating conventions would endorse the Chicago platform.

GENERAL NEWS.

In a shoot at Chicago for the Dupont trophy at 100 birds, Budd of Iowa defeated Winston of Indiana, the holder of the trophy, by a score of 85 to 86.

It is announced that Major Lewis Ginter of Richmond, Va., has resigned from the Board of Directors of the American Tobacco Company on account of ill health.

At a late hour last night it was reported that the condition of Col. John S. Mosby was practically unchanged. He was conscious all day, but not even the members of his family were allowed to see him.

Captain Edward Murphy, formerly of the America steamer Laurada, was arrested at Port Antonio Friday on his arrival there from New York by order of the Jamaica Government, on two charges of filibustering.

The hog abattoir of J. B. Bartlett & Co., in Jersey City, N. J., was burned last night entailing a loss of \$40,000. The fire spread to Kinsel & Co's dry dock and a trestle and six cars of the Jersey Central railroad and did \$20,000 additional damage.

The weekly bank statement shows the following changes: Reserve decrease \$340,275; loans increase, \$984,560 specie increase, \$256,700; legal tender increase; \$77,200; deposits increase, \$2,097,100; circulation decrease, \$360,100. The banks now hold \$48,915,625 in excess of requirements.

Chief of Police Flowers of Fayetteville, N. C., arrested near there Jim Thomas, one of the gang who held up and robbed an extra train on the railway Calera, Ala. March 9th last and for whom there is a reward of \$300. Thomas was sent to Wilmington in charge of an officer to be identified by the Express company.