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WASHINGTON LETTER.

(Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24th, 1898.—President McKinley's Cuban policy has not been changed one iota by the democratic hubbub in the House, last week. He stands now just where he has stood from the beginning, and when he makes a move, it will be because of happenings in Cuba and not because of howling among democrats. For weeks this government has been ready to move at the proper time—when it shall in the eyes of the civilized world be justified in moving to bring about peace in Cuba. It will not delay because of lying Spanish news from Cuba, any more than it will hurry because of democratic ranting. The republicans in Congress are supporting this policy solidly and are likely to continue to do so, notwithstanding democratic prophesy to the contrary.

The Republicans of the House are as solidly behind the administration on the Hawaiian question as upon the Cuban question. This was shown when Chairman Hitt, of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, moved to table a resolution calling upon the President for his authority for negotiating a treaty for the annexation of Hawaii in which it is agreed to pay the Hawaiian public debt of \$4,000,000 out of the U. S. Treasury. The democrats tried their best to prevent the resolution being laid on the table, but Mr. Hitt's motion was supported by the Republicans and was carried. There are no new developments in connection with the consideration of the annexation treaty by the Senate.

Notwithstanding the honor paid to the memory of Hon. Benjamin Butterworth, late Commissioner of Patents, by the President, the Cabinet and other distinguished public men, who attended his funeral, last week, he is to be further honored by a public memorial meeting, if present plans are carried out. The service that he rendered the country in purifying the practice of patent attorneys, though known by comparatively few, is estimable in value. It is expected that Acting Commissioner Greeley, who was in accord with Mr. Butterworth and his able co-adjutor in the recent reforms, will succeed him as Commissioner of Patents.

It is Mr. Justice McKenna now, the late Attorney General's nomination to the bench of the Supreme Court having been confirmed by the Senate without a roll call. Gov. Griggs, of New Jersey, who will, as soon as his nomination is confirmed by the Senate, assume the portfolio of Attorney General in the Cabinet, has been extending his already large acquaintance among public men during a visit to Washington; consequently the President is receiving more praise than ever for the selection of so able a man as Gov. Griggs to succeed Justice McKenna.

Representative Dalzell, of Pa., hit the Southern democrats who are trying to get a bill appropriating \$288,000 to cover alleged damages in consequence of the war to the Book Publishing Company of the Southern Methodist Church substituted for the Senate bill giving that Company the right to refer its claims to the Court of Claims, a heavy blow when he recalled to their memories that an unanswerable report had been made against these claims twenty-five years ago, when they were before the House, by a subcommittee composed of Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, Republican, and Hon. W. R. Morrison, Democrat, both then members of the House. Mr. Dalzell said the claim was at that time thrown out as unworthy of the attention of patriotic representatives, sent to Washington, not to loot, but to guard the Treasury.

There is some misapprehension even in Congress, of the nature of the old Stanley Matthews resolution, expressing the opinion that the government has the option of paying its bonds in silver, which was recently reoffered by Senator Teller, and which is now under consideration, and will this week be readopted by the silver majority of the Senate, and there is probably much more throughout the country. It is now, just as it was twenty years ago, when it was adopted by both branches of Congress, merely a concurrent resolution, not requiring the President's signature and not being binding upon anybody, even when

adopted by both Senate and House. In fact, such resolutions are nothing more than an expression of the opinions of those who vote for them. It will be remembered that Mr. Cleveland ignored one or two resolutions of this nature, declaring the opinion of Congress as to what he should do on the Cuban question. In this case the resolution will not get far enough to need ignoring, as, owing to its failure to be acted upon by the House, it will never be officially brought to the attention of President McKinley.

House Elections Committee No. 1 has reported in favor of seating Aldrich, the populist contestant from the fourth Alabama district. Ploverman, democrat, now holds the seat.

It is understood that the President has decided upon what modifications of the civil service rules he will make, and the order may be issued any day. The modification, according to this information, is along the lines of the recommendations made in the recent communications of members of the Cabinet to the Senate.

ZEKE BILKINS.

The Major is a Model Politician and is Getting Warmed Up.

B. "Hello! Mr. Editor."

R. "Hello! Major. Any news today?"

B. "Not very much. Me and sum ov my dynamakr nabors are thinkin' ov goin' ter Raleigh to ask the sanitary officer ter make a more rigid inspection ov the columns of the News and Disturber. We think it iz calculated to breed microbes an' cause a lot ov sickness in this seekshun. They iz likely ter be a yellow-fever epidemick started in this seekshun before the season is over if the News and Disturber sewer pipes are not closed up. I think awl decent folks are gittin' mortally sick ov sich business. I heard a dynamakr remark not long ergo that he had burned five or six copies of the News and Disturber durin' the past month or two before he finished readin' them in order ter keep his family frum readin' it. Another one sed he'd jist ez soon hev a pig pen in hiz parlor az ter hev sum copies of the News and Disturber lyin' around. He sed he wanted a paper to condemn wrong an' uphold right, but he didn't want it filled up with the sickenin' details ov revolutin' scandals time after time. He sed further that he didn't believe it would help the dynamakr party any, an' that; unfortunately, sum dynamakrats iz as low down in the moral scale az anybody else, which, I reckon iz true. Another tried an' true dynamakrat sed he hadn't been able ter eat a square meal fer six weeks on account ov the daily batches ov slime prepared an' dished out by the News an' Disturber so frequently. It is more dangerous than tuberculosis. That paper must hev a mighty low estimate ov the intelligence an' morality ov its readers. Well, the campaign is comin' on slowly. It seems like an ager me since the last one. I am like an' old warhorse though, I kin scent the battle frum afar. Az it cums on my democracy rises like mercury in a thermometer, an' I'm lookin' younger every day. I'm ready fer the fray an' will run on any sort ov a platform, low tariff, high tariff, gold standard or silver standard—anything ter git in. I'm what you call a model politishun. I'm fer anything an' everything frum divorces up ter in juncckshuns. Gude bye!"—Progressive Farmer.

A woman never really knows the meaning of happiness and content until she is the mother of a healthy, happy child. The health of the child depends on the health of the mother, both before and after birth. Most all of woman's weakness and particularly the weakness that most strongly influences the health of children, comes from some derangement or disease of the distinctly feminine organs. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will cure troubles of this nature. It should be taken regularly by every woman during the entire period of gestation. It gives strength to all the organs involved, lessens the pains of childbirth and insures the health of both mother and child.

Send 21 one-cent stamps to cover cost of mailing only, and receive free a copy of Dr. Pierce's Medical Adviser. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

SOUTHERN COTTON MILL COMPETITION.

NEW YORK WORLD WIRES GOVERNOR RUSSELL FOR INFORMATION.

Labor Commissioner Hamrick Replies That Our Mills are in Excellent Condition.

Governor Russell received the following telegram yesterday from the New York World:

"It is asserted by the New England cotton mill owners that the great strike now in progress is due to the extraordinary extension of the Southern competition in the cotton mill industry. Will you kindly telegraph to the New York World at our expense a brief statement in regard to the prospect for further extension of Southern cotton spinning in the immediate future; also the number of spindles as compared with five years ago, the comparative profits and per capita earnings of laborers. The favor of an early reply will be greatly appreciated."

The telegram was turned over to Mr. J. Y. Hamrick, the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, who made the following reply to the World:

In 1896 this State had 80 cotton mills with 4,071 looms and 199,433 spindles. In 1894 this had increased to 156 mills with 14,908 looms and 700,497 spindles.

The year 1897 has witnessed a wonderful increase in cotton manufacturing over these former years, for there are now in this State 210 cotton mills with 1,410 knitting machines, 24,517 looms and 1,044,385 spindles.

Forty-four per cent of our mills run at night and the average hours of labor are 11½, for this State has no law regulating the hours of labor.

The average daily wages paid skilled men (exclusive of machinist, engineer, firemen and superintendent) was \$1.11 unskilled men 66¢, skilled women 67¢, unskilled 46¢, and children 34¢, or a general average of 65 cents per day.

During last year twelve cotton mills were erected and eleven mills commenced the year before completed. Since December plans have been matured for the erection of three new mills.

The prospect for a rapid extension of the cotton mill industry of the State is most excellent, for within her borders are water courses with an aggregate of 3,500,000 horse power capable of running 140,000,000 spindles.

Here the cotton is grown, and when manufactured in the State, the cost of its transportation to the Northern mills is saved.

Our mills are in excellent condition and are declaring from 5 per cent to 15 per cent dividend on the capital invested.—Raleigh Post.

GEN. LONGSTREET AND HIS BRIDE.

Waiting in Washington for the General's Confirmation as Commissioner of Railroads.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—The venerable Gen. Longstreet and his youthful bride form an interesting picture as they go about the streets and public buildings of the capital. They are sight seeing while waiting for the Senate to confirm the old soldier's nomination to be Commissioner of Railroads in place of the one-legged soldier and statesman, Wade Hampton of South Carolina. Gen. Longstreet shows his age plainly. His tall form is stooped, his face wrinkled, and his hair and whiskers snow white. Moreover, he is almost totally deaf, and can hear what his young bride has to say only by the aid of an ear trumpet, which he carries constantly. Whenever the couple stop for a moment they are immediately surrounded by a group of curious citizens, who gaze at this combination of May and December with undisguised pleasure and amusement.—New York Sun.

A sanitarium for colored people has been opened at Southern Pines.

Brevard, Transylvania county, is to have a private bank with a capital of \$10,000.

The Salisbury bar has endorsed Capt. Chas. Price for the Federal Court judgeship.

CASTORIA
The
Signature
of
Jas. H. Fletcher
is on
every
bottle.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORMERS WIN.

The House Committee Decides to Have Hearings Before Passing on the Antis' Bill.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—A lively session of the House Committee on Reform in the Civil Service was held today. Republican members of the committee, who favor the passage of the bill agreed upon in the holiday recess and approved by the conference of Republican Representatives, wanted that measure reported promptly to the House, but the original civil service reformers on the committee, Messrs. Brosius, Alexander and Sprague, thought the committee should hear what persons interested had to say on the subject before passing upon the bill. The Democratic members united with them, and by a vote of 7 to 4 it was decided to begin the hearings next Thursday.

Among those who will appear before the committee are members of the National Civil Service League, the Civil Service Association of Philadelphia, and Mr. Sherman Rodgers. These hearings will be private, and it was decided that the witnesses should be questioned on specific points, and not be permitted to indulge in indefinite statements.

It was stated after the committee adjourned that if the subcommittee to whom the conference bill was referred last week did not make some disposition of it within a month a resolution will be introduced in the committee to discharge the subcommittee from its further consideration, and dispose of it in the full committee.—New York Sun.

Advance Summary.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 20.—The Manufacturers' Record of this week calls attention to the remarkable development of the South's export trade, which is emphasized by a summary of the statistics of breadstuff shipments for the year 1897 as compared with 1896. The total shipments of corn, wheat, oats, and flour from five leading Southern ports aggregated 167,938,972 bushels, against 138,861,847 bushels in 1896. The total increase was 39,077,125 bushels. The total value of the exports of all the breadstuffs from all the leading ports of the country for 1897 was \$243,121,108, a gain over 1896 of \$65,900,000. At these five Southern ports the total for 1897 89,005,052, against \$57,177,884, being an increase of \$31,827,168. Thus a total gain from the entire country of \$66,900,000. Nearly one-half or \$31,777,168 was from five Southern ports. Making a comparison by percentages, the increase from these five Southern ports was 55.7-10 per cent, against 23.5-10 per cent from all other ports.

Of industrial enterprises reported for the week the two most important, ones look to the development of extensive water powers—one at Atlanta, Ga., with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, and one at Columbus, Ga., with a capital stock of \$100,000. Each company will develop from 10,000 to 12,000 horse power for electrical transmission to be used in manufacturing enterprises in and around these cities. The Atlanta enterprise has secured the cooperation of some capitalists in New York largely interested in municipal undertakings throughout the country.

During the week there was reported the organization of a \$100,000 steamship company to operate a line of steamers from Port Arthur, Texas, to Mexican ports, large contracts for freight to Mexico having been already made.

Among the new industrial enterprises reported during the week were a \$80,000 cotton manufacturing company at Fayetteville, N. C.; a \$30,000 iron foundry at Rome, Ga.; \$150,000 gold mining company at Dahlonega, Ga.; Ga.; large machine-tool works at Covington, Ky.; \$100,000 brewery at New Orleans, La.; \$60,000 telephone company at New Orleans; \$100,000 window-glass factory at Baltimore; \$250,000 corundum mining company to operate in Clay county, North Carolina; \$100,000 steamship line company at Port Arthur, Texas; two \$5,000 telephone companies at Lexington, Va., and a \$10,000 oil development company at Sistersville, W. Va.

Lumberton Robeonian, J. F. Ward, one of the best men of the county, died of heart failure Sunday night at his home near Mt. Elin church. He was sick but a few days.

TRADE OUTLOOK BRIGHT.

Large Measure of Activity in Nearly All Lines.

New York, Jan. 31.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

"A large measure of activity in business and industrial lines, with, in some instances, previous records surpassed and very general steadiness in prices of staples, is perhaps the most notable feature of the trade situation this week. Quotations of cereals show the most aggressive strength. While those of some makes of pig iron betray rather more decided weakness than they did a week ago. Mild weather is frequently mentioned as an influence tending to check retail distribution of seasonable goods, chiefly because of the effects on country roads. Spring trade opens up slowly, as usual at this time of the year, but confidence is still unimpaired. As already intimated, the immense current production of pig iron, amounting to fully 4,000,000 tons per month, has begun to exercise an influence upon the price of that staple, but decreases reported are still only fractional. The outlook in the steel rail trade is reported as a very flattering one.

"Large orders for railroad account already booked have been increased within the week, an example of this being furnished by sales of 15,000 tons reported from Chicago at full prices. Higher prices for wool abroad, based partly on short yield reports, are reflected in the firmness of domestic quotations, although demand, while comparing well with most preceding years, is smaller than it was at this time in 1897, when tariff changes were being anticipated. The industrial situation, with the single exception of the cotton industry, is one of exceptional strength. As yet the strikes in this branch of trade, however, are largely confined to Massachusetts.

Reports from South and West.

"Men's wear woollens are moving fairly well. At the West, distributive trade is slowly improving, while at the South a fair January trade is reported, particularly in the Mississippi Valley. Good returns from last year's Louisiana sugar crop find expression in higher prices for sugar lands. The good export demand for cotton precludes too heavy accumulations at primary points in spite of the crop movement. Mild weather in the Northwest affects trade to some extent. A point of interest, however, is the report that fur goods manufacturers, who usually shut down at this season, are running full time on Alaskan orders.

"Business is active on the Pacific coast. California crop prospects have been improved by the recent rains, and ship and boat building are very active along Puget Sound and at Portland.

Don't boil your food, it irritates your stomach. Choose digestible food and chew it. Indigestion is a dangerous sickness. Proper care prevents it. Shaker Digestive Cordial cures it. That is the long and short of indigestion. Now, the question is: Have you got indigestion? Yes, if you have pain or discomfort after eating, headache, dizziness, nausea, offensive breath, heartburn, languor, weakness, fever, jaundice, flatulence, loss of appetite, irritability, constipation, etc. Yes, you have indigestion. To cure it, take Shaker Digestive Cordial. The medicinal herbs and plants of which Shaker Digestive Cordial is composed help to digest the food in your stomach; help to strengthen your stomach. When your stomach is strong, care will keep it so. Shaker Digestive Cordial is for sale by druggists, price 10 cents to \$1.00 per bottle.

Capt. H. M. Ramsour, who was here from Hendersonville today, says it is reported there that there are three cases of smallpox in Henderson county, one at Flat Rock, the other on the road between Hendersonville and Fletcher's, and the third about two miles from Hendersonville. The victims were tramps from South Carolina Capt. Ramsour understood, and they have been isolated and cared for by the Henderson county commissioners. —Asheville Citizen, 25th.