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WASHINGTON LETTER.

(Regular Correspondent.)
Washington, Feb. 14, 98.

President McKinley has never justified the confidence reposed in him by the American people to a more marked extent than since the publication of the grossly insulting letter written by Senor de Lome, late Spanish minister to the U. S. In the letter, Senor de Lome personally insulted the President, as well as his own government. When Washington was in a ferment of excitement and men of prominence who are usually cool headed were advising all sorts of hot-headed steps on the part of this President McKinley never for a moment lost the coolness which has always marked his acts at critical periods, although there isn't the slightest doubt that his blood fairly boiled at de Lome's insults. Like the patriot that he is, he sunk his individuality and acted only as the country's executive. He merely requested the Spanish government, through the American Minister at Madrid, to recall de Lome. Senor de Lome had anticipated that and cabled his resignation, and it was accepted by his government before the request for his recall was presented. The wisdom of this moderation on the part of the President is daily becoming more apparent. There was another important feature of de Lome's letter, in which he declared that autonomy for Cuba and negotiations for a reciprocity treaty were only shams. Had this letter been made public in a legitimate manner, its contents would have justified the most extreme measures upon the part of this government, but it was stolen, and that fact was not mitigated in the least by the acknowledgment of its authorship by de Lome. The government of Spain, by accepting de Lome's resignation has relieved this government of the disagreeable contingency of taking official cognizance of a stolen letter, and at the same time has placed itself in a position from which it cannot escape without renouncing responsibility for the contents of the letter and apologizing for its having been written, without losing the respect of this and every other civilized nation. In fact, the Spanish government has either got to call de Lome a liar or acknowledge itself to be both liar and hypocrite. Surely there is nothing in this situation to call any patriotic American to feel otherwise than proud of his President.

No statement or apology from Spain can remove the effect of its minister's assertions concerning autonomy and reciprocity; therefore de Lome's letter is likely to be a factor in determining the future relations of this government toward Cuba. There is little doubt that President McKinley would have taken steps before now to have brought the war in Cuba to a close, had it not been for Spain's autonomy scheme. Although he did not probably have more faith in the success of autonomy than the average man familiar with the situation in Cuba, President McKinley felt bound to accept the claim of Spain that it was honest in its offer of autonomy, and to allow sufficient time to demonstrate its success or failure to elapse before taking action. Regardless of what Spain may do or not do, de Lome's letter has changed the whole situation, and it is not now thought in Washington that anything short of Spain's developing an unexpected ability to bring the war in Cuba to an end herself will prevent early action on the part of this government. Congress deserves credit for having kept quiet and allowed the President to manage this affair.

The majority report of the Elections Committee of the House in favor of seating Thorp, the republican contestant from the 4th Virginia district, contains a scathing arraignment of the election laws of that state, and of the methods employed in that particular district, which was designably made overwhelmingly by a jerrymander made by a democratic legislature. There is no doubt about the seating of Thorp.

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce will this week give public hearings on the Hepburn bill for the establishment of a new executive department, to be known as the Department of Industry and Commerce, the head of which shall be a member of the Cabinet, and upon the National Quarantine bill.

In order to learn definitely whether the time now being devoted to the discussion of the treaty for the annexation of Hawaii is being thrown away, the Committee on Foreign Relations will, this week ascertain the full strength of the treaty in the Senate, by bringing about a vote that will serve as a test. Should the vote show that the treaty is short of the necessary two-thirds, it will at once be abandoned, and the efforts of the committee be devoted to pushing a joint resolution providing for annexation to a vote. Members of the Committee have not the slightest doubt of annexation at this session of Congress; only they desire to be absolutely certain that it cannot be secured by a ratification of the treaty, before starting upon the other route.

SOUTHERN BUSINESS BRIGHTENING.

The Advance in Cotton Has Imported a More Cheerful Tone to It—Bradstreet's Report.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say: A number of favorable circumstances and events present themselves this week. Perhaps the most notable of these are the renewed activity and confidence in the iron and steel market, accompanied by even prompt and rapid advances in several grades of crude pig iron and steel, and the advance in the price of raw cotton, long predicted but unrealized until the present week. Wheat might be regarded as a minor feature in the business situation, though at the same time conveying much that is hopeful to the interest involved. Quite a general improvement in distributive trade is reported opening in good shape. Less favorable features of the week are the slowness of spring trade in dry goods to develop at New York and other Eastern centres, except Boston, and the mild weather in the Northwest, rendering it likely that retailers' stocks carried over will be larger than expected. Although the advance in cotton has been claimed to be too rapid, it has undoubtedly imparted a much more cheerful tone to the Southern business situation, and with the advance of iron and steel has done much to add to the confidence with which the trade outlook for 1898 is regarded.

Business failures continue to make favorable comparisons with previous weeks and years, the total for the week just ending being 278, against 295 last week, 301 in the corresponding week of 1897, 381 in this week of 1896, 296 in 1895 and 288 in 1894.

Canadian failures for the week number 51, against 42 last week, but compare with 54 in this week a year ago, and 70 in the corresponding week of 1897.

Wheat exports fall slightly below last week's reduced total, aggregating for the week 3,419,594 bushels, against 3,635,000 bushels last week, 2,051,000 in the corresponding week of 1897, 2,718,000 in 1896, 2,572,000 in 1895, and 2,005,000 in 1894.

Corn exports show a gain, amounting as they do to 4,508,000 bushels, against 4,104,000 last week, 4,169,000 in this week last year, 3,143,000 in 1896 and 562,000 in 1895.

Bank clearings continue to point to an immense business doing in the country at large, in a total aggregating for the week \$1,434,000,000, less than 2 per cent. smaller than last week; 58 per cent. larger than this week in 1896; 74 per cent. larger than in 1895; 82 per cent. larger than in 1894, and 6.3 per cent. larger than this week in 1892.

Cow Affected With Hydrophobia.

A valuable cow belonging to Mr. Thos. Sherrill, of near Troutman's, died Tuesday night. It is thought that the cow was affected with hydrophobia. A few weeks ago a mad dog passed through that section and bit a colored woman. A madstone (with apologies to the Asheville Citizen) was applied to the wound and the woman suffered no bad results. A hog that was bitten by the dog subsequently went mad and died. It was not known at the time that Mr. Sherrill's cow had been bitten but the dog was seen on the premises and as the animal developed, a few days ago, the usual symptoms of hydrophobia, her death is supposed to be due to that cause.

Mr. Sherrill is a brother of Mr. W. F. Sherrill, of Statesville.—Statesville Landmark.

MAJOR ROLLINS TALKS.

REPUBLICAN PROSPECTS NEVER BETTER THAN NOW.

Farmers Here than Satisfied With McKinley Prosperity—The State Can be Held if the Leaders Act With Common Sense.

Asheville Register.

A reporter of The Register ran up against Major W. W. Rollins at the Farmers Warehouse Monday evening and had a long talk with him about matters politically, McKinley prosperity, etc. The Major takes great delight in spending all his leisure time about the warehouse talking with the farmers. Asheville is a market for all the surrounding counties, and it is the tobacco center of all of Carolina west of the Blue Ridge; and farmers by the score can always be found about the market place at this season of the year. The Major perhaps knows more farmers by name than any other man in Asheville; talks with them more; understands their condition better; and better understands their feelings and sentiments. At the time mentioned the Major was found in the center of a group of Haywood county farmers of the Democratic persuasion. He was talking enthusiastically; they were intently listening. He discussed the great advance in price over a year ago of everything the farmers have to sell, and was laying special stress upon the fact that Irish potatoes were selling in Asheville at \$1.10 a bushel in 1000 bushel lots. Under Democratic rule it was worth as much as the price received to haul them to market.

To the reporter the Major said that the farmers were more than satisfied with McKinley prosperity. Not only have they received a dollar a bushel for all the wheat they have had to sell but they now have a market for every item of produce they can put on this market, and the prices are largely in advance of what they were under Democratic rule. There has been a great rise in the price of cattle. Farmers now receive more than double the price given under Democratic administration. He claims that the farmers will appreciate their great blessing, and show that appreciation by an increased Republican vote throughout the District this fall. All that is necessary to carry the county this fall is to nominate a ticket of clean men who know how to manage the business of the county. All these Democratic hopes he regards as premature, and will be shattered by the votes of the people in November.

The Major said, in discussing the Democratic Congressional candidate, that ex-Mayor W. J. Coker was far in the lead in the contest for the nomination, and as matters now stand will be nominated.

The State can be held, if the leaders of the Republican and populists consult the interest of their people and act with ordinary common sense. The people do not desire a return of Democratic rule, and will stand firm if they are not distracted and led astray by the leaders of the party. Speaking of the last Legislature, he said some mistakes had been made but he could show ten blunders equally as serious made by Democratic Legislatures to one of those made by this one. He is not afraid of a free, full and fair discussion of the acts of that body. The Major intends to go to the New Bern fair and will leave soon for that city. While in Eastern Carolina he will do some fusion missionary work.

According to a celebrated anatomist there are upwards of 5,000,000 little glands in the human stomach. These glands pour out the digestive juices which dissolve or digest the food. Indigestion is want of juice, weakness of glands, need of help to restore the health of these organs. The best and most natural help is that given by Shaker Digestive Cordial. Natural, because it supplies the materials needed by the glands to prepare the digestive juices. Because it strengthens and invigorates the glands and the stomach, until they are able to do their work alone. Shaker Digestive Cordial cures indigestive certainly and permanently. It does so by natural means, and therein lies the secret of its wonderful and unvaried success.

At druggists, price 10 cents to \$1.00 per bottle.

Sensible Decisions.

Hon. Perry Health, the First Assistant Postmaster General, is distinguishing himself nowadays by some very sensible and commendable rulings touching matters of public interest. We took occasion Friday morning to compliment him on his opinion in the case of editors who have been appointed postmasters, and now we find fresh cause or approval in a decision he has just rendered in that always absorbing matter of "offensive partisanship."

Some time ago John L. Manning, President of the Union Veteran Club, of Chicago, addressed a communication to the local postmaster, asking for a definition of the limits within which government employes would be accorded freedom of political action and opinion. This was referred to the department, and in a Chicago press dispatch we find the following indication of the department's verdict.

"Chicago, Feb. 7.—Postmaster Gordon to day received a letter from First Assistant Postmaster General Health in regard to what action employes of the postal service would be allowed to take in political questions. The communication stated that the department had no special rule in such matters, and that they preferred not to make any Mr. Health said, however, that there would be no objection to the employes asserting their political rights, but that there might be an objection to the manner in which these rights were asserted. He stated that it was the object of the department to do everything possible for the good of the department, and that nothing would be done to hinder the carrying out of that object.

If this means, as we assume it does, and as the context suggests, that the McKinley administration intends to free itself of the hypocritical Mugwumpery which has characterized some of its predecessors, the country is to be congratulated, and Mr. Health to be felicitated. The Post has always and energetically antagonized the ridiculous theory that an American citizen must forfeit his political rights and skirt the responsibilities of citizenship because he accepts an office under government. We have never been able to see why a postmaster, or any other Federal official, should be excluded from all participation in campaigns—why he should be regarded as less fit for political activity than when he was in private life. Moreover, we have never known the system to work usefully or equitably, for while subordinate officers have been muzzled under its operation or dismissed for disregarding the injunction, the country has been scandalized by the spectacle of members of the Cabinet and other high functionaries abandoning the public business and campaigning like any ward heeled in the interest of their chief and his ambitions.

It is a pernicious system, both in theory and practice. It is un-American, undemocratic, hypocritical, and unjust. We rejoice in the knowledge that the Post-office Department does not intend to perpetuate it.—Washington Post.

LOVERS MAY KISS LEGALLY.

A Gallant Georgia Judge Tells Them to Go Right Ahead.

The kissing epidemic which has been raging in society circles has reached the courts and the vital question of kissing or not kissing passed upon judicially. D. A. Engesser has a pretty 14-year-old daughter, Mary, and Mary has a serious beau, Louis Cocolo, who, while ardently wooing her, indulged in the luxury of kissing her ruby lips. Papa Engesser belongs to the anti-kissers and also believes that Mary is too young to permit such familiarities on the part of her "steady company."

But Mary not only defended her lover against the charge that he had insulted her, but admitted his right to kiss her and claimed a right to be kissed. Cocolo declared his intention of marrying Mary, and Judge Calhoun after soundly upbraiding the father for his interference, advised Cocolo to go ahead with his kissing and love-making.—Atlanta Dispatch.

The Cumberland county dispensary at Fayetteville made \$600 clear profit in January. For the first six months of its existence the profits were about \$2,400. They are equally divided between town and county.

YELLED THEMSELVES HOARSE.

Congressman Pearson Stirs the Boys Up at a Banquet.

Up in Grand Rapids, Mich., the Lincoln club planned its annual banquet for Saturday night. The management of the affair, it appears, was not thorough, for when the crowd was turned into the banquet hall it was found that there were more than could be accommodated. The doors were closed until the outsiders could be singled out and given seats. Some of the crowd got hot, of course, and the fact that Senator Mason, who was advertised to appear, did not do so was not calculated to cool them.

Finally, the banquet turned into a smooth channel, and there were several speeches, among them one by Congressman Richmond Pearson of Asheville. A Grand Rapids paper says of Mr. Pearson's speech:

"Speaking of the feeling between the North and South today, he said he could assure his hearers that it was the warmest that could be. He would have been willing as a testimonial of respect to the dead hero in whose honor the banquet was given, to have brought a bouquet of flowers and presented it at the banquet. Here the speaker grew humorous and declared that if you fellows up here ever take a notion to secede, we have enough men down in our State to come up here and drive you into Lake Michigan, Lake Erie or into that other lake whose high flashing flames are bluer than the waves of the other two bodies of water. He had learned through tradition, he said, and, too, it was the last to surrender. He said he was proud of the record and hoped he would be pardoned for referring to the incident upon this occasion. Here the speaker followed with a beautiful tribute to Abraham Lincoln and was cheered to the echo. Concluding, he gave an eloquent eulogy upon the union of the North and South, which brought the entire 325 listeners to their feet, who, while they yelled themselves hoarse, waved napkins frantically through the air. The demonstration continued for several minutes, while those nearest Congressman Pearson patted him enthusiastically on his back. Following this there were three hearty cheers given the patriotic Southerner."—Asheville Citizen.

Why Our People Are Poor.

Aberdeen Telegram

We may talk about the gold standard and about the free coinage of silver, and may try both, but we will remain poor until some great evils right to our doors are remedied. We believe that not less than \$2,000 a month goes from Moore county to Richmond, Va., and other markets for meal, corn, hay flour, and bacon, that ought to stay at home. Every pound of these five staple articles that is needed in the county can be raised here at home, and should be. Just think for a moment what a difference there would be in the business of the county if the \$24,000 (and we think this is a low estimate) that is sent out for the five articles should go into the hands of our own farmers, and from them into the other channels of business. We would hear less crying about hard times; we would have less credit business, and our people would be independent. We need to be more self-reliant. Moore county ought to raise all of its own meat and bread and some to spare, and until we do it we are going to be poor in spite of what kind of financial system the national government may adopt. As long as we keep our barns and smoke houses in Richmond, Chicago and Kansas City, and try to bridge the chasm with 5-cent cotton, we will not only remain poor, but will grow poorer every year.

Ewart Sure of Confirmation.

ASHEVILLE, Feb. 11.—T. M. Green of Haywood county, who was last week appointed a deputy collector in Collector Harkin's office, has retired, giving ill health as the reason for his resignation. Henry C. Shook, of Haywood, takes the place vacated by Mr. Green.

Judge Ewart arrived here today from Hendersonville. He said: "The last word Senator Pritchard said to me was that nothing could prevent my confirmation unless I should lie down and expire."—Charlotte Observer.