

EUROPE ENJOYS A SEASON OF CALM

But the Situation is Not Relieved of Danger.

INTERNAL TROUBLE IN FRANCE

England Has Some Differences to Be Settled With the French Republic—Victor Napoleon Regarded Seriously in Some Quarters.

London, Jan. 7.—The lull in international turmoils of the past two or three weeks has been so welcome that one would fain believe that this season of peace on earth sentiments might be prolonged through the remaining days of the century. There is some reason to hope that the danger which seemed most imminent—internal trouble in France—may be postponed a few weeks, but there are other disturbing factors which make it impossible to take an optimistic view of the European situation. It is undoubtedly the intention of the British government to force outstanding questions with France to a settlement, according to British interests. This policy will force the distracted French Republic to make concessions more humiliating, perhaps, than in the Fashoda affair or accept the alternative of war. It becomes clearer daily that Salisbury will take full advantage of French troubles to secure compensation or revenge for reverses suffered at French hands the past few years in Siam and Africa. It is equally clear that an appeal to arms by France would be followed by speedy and overwhelming disaster.

One of the chief motives of the British policy is, of course, by dealing sharply with France to strike an indirect blow against her ally, Russia. The New Foundland shere question is the point now at issue, and it is already evident that the French government will surrender. There is absurd talk about asking cession of the Channel Islands as the price of yielding, but the compensation Great Britain will pay will be nothing more than a pecuniary sop. When this question is settled, others will be pushed forward; but there is a limit to the patience of the French people who are already exasperated to the point of desperation by internal scandals.

Victor Bonaparte is now taken seriously in some quarters. The spectators say that if he has not been reported wrongly he has resolved to strike a military coup d'etat. The same writer comes to the dubious conclusion that it would be easy to overrate the strength of the enemies of the French republic, but impossible to overrate the weakness of its friends.

INTEREST IN BEEF QUESTION.

Egan Will Testify and Packing Houses Will Be Heard.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Numerous witnesses are to be examined next week by the war investigating commission regarding the beef supply of the army. The commission today granted the request of General Egan, Commissary General, that he be allowed to appear again to reply to statements of General Miles about the quality of beef.

Telegrams have been sent to the chief packing firms of the country, extending permission to them to furnish witnesses, and already representatives of several contracting firms have arrived in Washington. The commission has informed Swift & Co., that its witnesses will be heard Monday, and it is said that some interesting testimony will be offered. It was reported today that Swift & Co. are prepared to show that the government inspector inspected all beef supplied to the army both before and after killing and dressing.

Inspector Defoe, who, it is said, represented the government, has been asked to appear before the commission and is expected next week.

San Martin Doomed to Life Imprisonment

Madrid, Jan. 7.—Gen. San Martin, formerly military commander at Ponce, Porto Rico, who surrendered that place to Americans without orders, has been condemned by court martial upon charges of cowardice and sentenced to imprisonment at Ceuta for life.

Weyler Gives a Banquet.

Madrid, Jan. 7.—General Weyler gave a banquet last evening to a large company of guests, including fourteen generals, an admiral and many other officers. The principal toast was the "regeneration of the country and reform of the army and navy." The guests expressed the hope that Weyler would soon come into power.

MOONSHINE STILL CAPTURED.

Bean Eaters Will Practice Three Weeks on Trinity Ball Grounds.

Durham, N. C., Jan. 7.—Special.—Revenue Officer Samuel P. Satterfield, Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue and of Legislative Clerkship notoriety, has been staying around here a few days. Last night with his posse he ran on to a large still some seven or eight miles north of here, which was destroyed, together with a large quantity of beer. The still was yet warm, but the operators and the distilled spirits had departed with all of the booty the limited notice permitted. This location is in Mangum township, but not in that portion of it historically known to the department as "Hunt's old field," a locality which has much enlarged the docket of the United States court in recent years.

The assertion made in this correspondence two weeks ago, that the Boston baseball team would come here in March for spring practice with twenty-old men, was verified today. They purpose staying here about three weeks, and the Trinity College team hopes to benefit some by the expert practice of the Bean Eaters.

Dusham has great confidence and respect, a kind of personal friendship, for our Representative in the Legislature, H. A. Foushee, and in the question of the amendment of its charter, is leaving the matter practically to his discretion.

Our thrice mayor, Hon. M. A. Angeer, now very aged, has been confined to his bed for several weeks, and grave fears are felt as to his condition.

Misses Clara and Maude Wilson, of Summerfield, who have been visiting Mrs. Walter Bradsher, left this evening for a visit to Burlington.

Col. J. S. Carr is distributing souvenir badges of the late Democratic election success, with a splendid photo of himself.

The remains of Miss Melissa Bordeaux, who died here yesterday, were taken to Chatham county today for interment.

Mrs. A. A. Pruden, nee Happer, who so patriotically joined her husband, chaplain of the First North Carolina volunteers, when the Spanish war began, after a short sojourn here, left yesterday to join her husband at Havana.

SKINNER'S AMENDMENT.

Politicians Have no Idea It Will Ever Come a Law.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Special.—There has been considerable discussion today among Southern members as to the scope and intent of Congressman Skinner's proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States. If it ever should become a law, which seems improbable in the present temper of the country, it would completely disfranchise every negro man in this country. Mr. Skinner has not offered any explanation of the reasons which have prompted him to favor such radical legislation at this time on the eve of his retirement from Congress and his friends are equally at a loss to understand his motives. As a rule it does not meet with favor, as it would deprive the South of perhaps 20 to 25 Congressmen by decreased voting population. This is not desired and will in itself probably be fatal to any serious attempt to galvanize the proposition with vitality.

Senator Pritchard today introduced a bill to pension, at the rate provided by law, Mary J. E. Sane and T. C. Humpers, minor children of Jno. P. Humpers, private Company B, Second North Carolina Volunteers.

Z. F. Long of Rockingham is in the city for a few days.

Mr. Kitchin feels very hopeful that he will be able to secure the passage by the House this session of the bill which has passed the Senate providing for a public building in Durham. The bill appropriates \$125,000 for that purpose.

W. H. Clark, of Asheville, and Clarence A. Stone, of Chapel Hill, have received appointments in the railway mail service.

FIERCE FIRE IN CHARLOTTE

Heavy Loss by an Early Morning Blaze.

BUSINESS SECTION IN DANGER

Flames Subdued After Three Hours of Hard Work—Harness and Bicycle House the Principal Loser.

Havana Letter Says Shelby Company is Guarding Moro Castle.

Charlotte, N. C., Jan. 7.—Special.—One of the most threatening fires that Charlotte has seen broke out in the very heart of the business district early this morning. Fire was discovered in the Shaw & Howell Company's large harness and bicycle works, and their large building was soon a mass of flames. The entire fire department was called to the scene and the men worked heroically for three hours to keep the fire within the limits of this building. The flames swept across the street and even touched the Buford House and the D. A. Tompkins Company's building, while the Charlotte Supply Company and the Liddell Company's uptown office were in imminent danger. The walls fell into the streets, making the work extremely dangerous for the firemen, but fortunately no one was injured.

The Shaw & Howell Harness Company's stock, which had just been inventoried at \$27,000, is a total loss. The building, owned by the Carsons, and valued at \$10,000 is a total loss. The other losses are slight. All the buildings were fully insured.

A letter received here from Havana says the Shelby company is guarding Moro Castle, and that the rest of the regiment will probably soon be scattered through the various parts of Havana province on provost duty.

The people of Charlotte comment very favorably upon the new departure of the Morning Post in giving the people one of the best papers in the country at the lowest price. "The legislative proceedings are excellently reported by the Post," a well-known hotel man said to your correspondent.

Death Rate Decreasing.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Late reports from Havana by the marine hospital service show that the death rate is slowly decreasing in the city. Under date of December 24th, Sanitary Inspector Brunner says that, for the week ended that date mortality was the lowest since early spring, and that the only death from yellow fever occurred in one of the military hospitals, December 30th, the same officer writes that the death rate had still further declined. Deaths from malarial fevers, however, were more numerous than formerly. Reports from Santiago give most encouraging accounts of the condition of health there.

AGUINALDO MEANS FIGHT.

Proclamation Issued in Which McKinley is Roundly Denounced.

Manila, Jan. 7.—Aguinaldo today issued a vigorous proclamation addressed to his Filipino brethren, foreign consuls and other foreigners, protesting against the intrusion of Americans in the Philippines. In his appeal he alleges that verbal promises of American authorities that the Filipinos would have independence have been violated. He roundly denounces President McKinley's instructions to General Otis as against all ideas of right and justice, and calls upon Filipinos not to desist for a moment in the struggle for liberty they have so gloriously begun. The proclamation has created considerable excitement. It is reported that members of the so-called revolutionary reserves in Manila have been secretly ordered to join the insurgents in the interior immediately.

The First California volunteers, which embarked Tuesday, presumably for Iloilo, are still detained in Manila bay.

Colombia Settles With Italy.

Washington, Jan. 7.—An official dispatch from his government received by General Rengifo, Charge d'Affaires in Washington, of the United States of Colombia, contains the announcement that an arrangement has been made for the satisfactory adjustment of the claims of E. Cerruti, an Italian citizen, against the government of Colombia. It was the failure of Colombia to satisfy the demands of Italy in Cerruti's behalf that caused the Italian government to send a squadron to Cartagena with instructions to bombard the town or take possession of the custom house if the demands were not settled in a stated time. A temporary compromise was effected, but recently it has been announced that another Italian squadron would be sent to Cartagena. Rengifo announces that the present action is in respect of danger of international trouble.

EXCITING RACE FINISH.

Four Riders Only a Few Inches Apart at End of Twenty-four Hours.

New York, Jan. 7.—At no bicycle race in Madison Square Garden has there been a finish more exciting than that of the 24-hour contest ended a few seconds after ten o'clock tonight. During the last minute four men, who had been riding without rest since Friday night, sprinted as if life was at stake. The race was won by Louis Gimm, by half a length of wheel, while only a few inches separated second and third men, Pierce and Turville. Frederick, the fourth man, was a length behind Turville.

The race was the first of the kind ever held in this country, and was remarkable for the fact of their being five men from whom to pick the winner when the last mile was begun. The first prize was \$1,000 and the second \$400. There were eight prizes. Gimm, the winner, is a Pittsburg boy, who has won a reputation as a road rider. The eight men who will receive prizes finished as follows:

Name	Miles	Laps
Gimm	450	0
Pierce	450	0
Turville	450	0
Frederick	450	0
Lawson	449	6
Julius	437	6
Hale	443	4
Millet	422	6

ARGUMENT IN QUAY CASE.

Fall Bench of Supreme Court Listens to Argument on Technicalities.

Philadelphia, Jan. 7.—Whether the court of quarter sessions of the peace of Philadelphia will try Senator Quay for alleged conspiracy to misuse the funds of a banking association and misapply funds therein deposited by the Treasurer of the State, rests now with the decision of the Supreme Court, which listened to arguments today. Setting aside all precedents in its former practice, the full bench of the Supreme Court sat for four hours to hear technical points argued—and for an hour after adjournment the seven justices who comprise the Supreme Court bench deliberated in private. It was expected they would hand down a decree this afternoon, but at 4 o'clock all had left the judge's chamber, except Chief Justice Sterritt and Associate Justice Mitchell. These two jurists finally left after an apparently earnest conference, and the offices of the clerk of the court were closed for the night. A decision is expected Monday.

BUTLER WAS JOKING.

Senator Allen Suggests a Motive for His Pension Amendment.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Presentation in the Senate today of a memorial from a Confederate post in Florida, opposing the pensioning of Confederate soldiers, was made the text of some remarks by Senator Allen, who said he did not suppose that Butler was serious in offering his amendment, but was simply carried away by enthusiasm. Such a proposition he considered an injustice to the rank and file of Confederates, and he thought it well to close the whole incident with the happy thought that all sectionalism had been closed by the Spanish war.

Mason, of Illinois, presented an anti-expansion resolution, on which he will speak next Tuesday. The District of Columbia appropriation bill was passed and some minor measures agreed to.

Company Organized to Handle Tobacco

Philadelphia, Jan. 7.—Philadelphia wholesale tobacco dealers have taken steps to organize a company to handle outputs of the American Continental and Lorillard Companies in Philadelphia and portions of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Steps for the formation of a company were taken at a meeting Thursday night, but the matter was kept quiet. The company will have a capitalization of \$1,000,000 common and \$500,000 preferred stock, and will probably be known as the Pennsylvania or Quaker City Tobacco Company.

Veterans Against the Butler Idea.

Norfolk, Jan. 7.—Stonewall Camp, Confederate Veterans, of Portsmouth, has declared itself uncompromisingly opposed to Senator Butler's bill which contemplates the pensioning of soldiers of the late Confederacy by the general government, adopting resolutions to that effect; but applauding the patriotic sentiments expressed by President McKinley in his recent Atlanta speech.

Duelist met Hurt.

Paris, Jan. 7.—Droits de L'Homme reports that a duel with swords has been fought between Count Boni De Castellane, husband of Anna Gould, and Paul Deroulede, the leader of auto-pensionists. Deroulede is said to have been gravely, and Castellane slightly injured. The cause of the difficulty is unknown.

Vote Will Be Taken Monday.

Washington, Jan. 7.—The House today concluded consideration of the Legislative and Judicial appropriation bill, adopting it substantially, as reported from the committee. A vote on the amendment striking out the appropriation for salaries of the civil service commission will be taken Monday.

HITCH IN RECENT RAILROAD DEAL

Injunction to Stop Sale of Pooled Stock.

MAY TIE UP THE TRANSACTION

Ryan Has No Interest in the Enterprise of the Williams Syndicate. Railroad Contractor Sues Owners of the New Road From Richmond to Ridgeway.

Norfolk, Jan. 7.—It is authoritatively stated that Thos. F. Ryan, of New York, whose efforts to secure control of the Seaboard Air Line system, have been unremitting for three years past, will continue his fight whether he defeats the sale of the system or not. In an interview today, D. Lawrence Groner, of Ryan's counsel, said:

"The injunction granted by Judge Wicks in Baltimore yesterday restraining holders of more than 3,000 shares of pool stock in the Seaboard and Roanoke from disposing of their holdings until Ryan's bill for specific performance could be heard, will have the effect of tying up the reported sale to the Williams syndicate indefinitely if not preventing it altogether; and of the two propositions, I regard the latter as far more probable."

"Has Mr. Ryan anything to do with the new interests which are seeking to obtain control of the road?" was asked.

"Nothing whatever, Mr. Ryan has acted in this matter from the beginning until now for himself, and if he gets control of the road it will be with full notice to all concerned. I am inclined to think that even if the sale to Mr. Williams would be consummated, Mr. Ryan would still continue his suits directed to the ascertainment of the financial affairs, and particularly the purchasing department of the road, and if things then should be found in a bad condition as alleged, I have no doubt he will insist upon the suits he now has pending in the courts being prosecuted to the end."

Suit Against the New Line.

Richmond, Jan. 7.—Suits have been brought in the United States Circuit court here in the name of William B. Strang, a railroad construction contractor, of New York, against the Richmond, Petersburg and Carolina Railroad Company, for the enforcement of an alleged contract for building the road.

Mr. Strong alleges that the defendant company agreed to build the road from Richmond to Ridgeway, N. C., contracting to turn over to him the \$2,500,000 of bonds secured by the Mercantile Trust Company, of New York, or the proceeds from the sale of the bonds.

WHAT IS ASKED FOR.

The bill recites that Strang opened an office in the Ebel building in Richmond; that he employed engineers and other help, and has been ready to carry out his part of the contract, but the company has put him off from time to time until now it is reported that negotiations are pending looking to making other arrangements for building the road.

The court is asked to issue a decree enjoining and restraining the Richmond, Petersburg and Carolina Company and the Mercantile Trust Company from cancelling the mortgage on its property or the bonds secured by the same.

It is alleged that DeWitt Smith, the president of the railroad company, has purchased in his own name a large amount of real estate for terminal facilities for the company. The court is asked to make him a party defendant, and to enjoin him from disposing of such property until this cause can be heard and determined.

The court asked to declare the bonds of the company a fund to construct the road.

A representative of the railroad company made light of his suit. He said the company has never had any contract with Strang. The New Yorker, he stated, has been anxious to build the road, but no contract was entered into.

Williams Says There is Nothing in It.

Baltimore, Jan. 7.—Mr. John Skelton Williams, who is the reputed head of the syndicate for the purchase of Seaboard and Roanoke stock and for establishing a new through line from Washington to the South, was in Baltimore today. Being shown a dispatch from Richmond informing him of the suit brought by William B. Strang against the Richmond, Petersburg and Carolina Railroad, he said that Strang never had a contract for the construction of the road nor any one connected with the road, and declared emphatically that the Strang suit would amount to nothing.

Mr. Williams further stated that he had a talk today with Mr. De Witt Smith, of New York, the president of the Richmond, Petersburg and Carolina Railroad Company, who was in Baltimore today, and that Mr. Smith emphatically stated that neither he nor the company of which he was president had made any contract whatever with Mr. Strang; that they had not contemplated making any with him, and that it was not likely that any would be made with him in the future.

"His suit will amount to nothing," said Mr. Williams, "and Mr. Smith does not even look upon it seriously. I am not connected with the Richmond, Petersburg and Carolina road, myself, but I have heard of Mr. Strang before, and this is not the first time that he has tried to identify himself with railroad schemes."

ED. FOY ACQUITTED.

Ex Convict Pleads His Own Cause and Gets Seven Years.

Wilmington, N. C., Jan. 7.—Special.—The Circuit criminal court concluded the first week of the January term today. The jury in the case of Ed. Foy, charged with burglary, late last night returned a verdict of not guilty. Foy will be tried on another charge of housebreaking Monday.

The case of W. H. Hausley, a negro charged with the larceny of a number of hogs, occupied a good portion of the morning session. A curious feature of the trial was that Hausley, a densely ignorant negro, conducted his own defense, cross examined the witnesses and afterwards made a speech to the jury. The jury found him guilty without leaving their seats and Judge Battle sentenced him to seven years in the State penitentiary. His record is bad and he has only recently been released from a five year sentence in that institution.

The trial of a well known young white man for highway robbery, which promised sensational developments, was abruptly ended by the solicitor who failed to make out a case and not pressed the indictment.

The work of clearing out the dens of ill-fame goes merrily on, and today two more of the soiled doves were shipped from the city on free tickets.

The United States transport Hartford, which arrived here Thursday with Miss Clara Barton on her passenger list, sailed this afternoon for Havana. The repairs to her machinery having been completed.

This afternoon the police found a 2-year-old white boy wandering in the woods near the southern suburbs. He was too young to give any information concerning himself, not being able to give his name. The little tot is being tenderly cared for at the station, but his home and parentage are mysteries.

UNCLE JESSE DEAD.

Rev. J. A. Cunningham Succumbs to Heart Failure.

Greensboro, Jan. 7.—Special.—Rev. J. A. Cunningham died at his home in this city at 8 o'clock tonight. He had been ill for some time, but the immediate cause of his death was heart failure. The funeral will take place Monday.

Uncle Jesse, as he was called for many years, was one of the oldest members of the North Carolina Conference, M. E. Church, South. After long and successful service in the pastoral relation he was called to the responsible work of presiding elder. In that capacity he served the Raleigh district four years, and with the close of the last conference year completed his time limit on the Durham district. Admonished by failing health and the infirmities of age, he realized that his work in the ministry was finished. He was too feeble to attend the conference at Elizabeth City, but he wrote a very pathetic letter to his fellow laborers in the ministry, asking to be placed in the superannuated relation. His request was granted with the hope that his life would be spared yet a long time. But that was not to be; his earthly career closed within a few weeks after he laid down his work.

A mighty man among North Carolina Methodists has fallen. A more lovable character or a minister better beloved has rarely, if ever, lived to bless his fellow men.

FRANCE SHAKY FINANCIALLY.

Depositors Withdrawing Savings From Small Banking Houses.

London, Jan. 7.—Unanimous foreboding that a national crisis is imminent in France has now taken control of movements of money there. From the highest financial institutions of Paris, to outlying peasants' savings banks, there is the same sense of instability. It has not approached a panic yet, except among small investors, thousands of whom have become distracted, and are following like sheep their leader's order to get their money into their own keeping. Yet the entire financial complexion is so dangerous that the London Weekly Statist, dealing entirely with this phase and not discussing political causes, says:

"It is difficult to believe that confidence can be shaken to such an extent and order be maintained much longer."