

## Debate in the House Gets Up to Fever Heat

Vandiver of Missouri Stirs Up the Republicans, and the House Gets Into a State of Confusion

Washington, May 15.—The Senate bill was disagreed to by the House today, with Messrs. Vandiver, Sherman, and Williams of Missouri as the House conferees. By unanimous consent a bill was passed for the further distribution of Supplemental reports and digests to Federal judges.

At the bill opening to homesteaded the extensive Ute tract in Colorado embracing about 900,000 acres.

The naval appropriation bill was then taken up and an agreement was made for a general debate until 4 p. m.

Mr. Vandiver of Ohio said he thought the time had come for a careful consideration of the question of building battleships in government yards in order to get the exact facts might be determined. He did not go as far as some of the advocates of government construction in asking that all the new ships be built in government yards, as this would afford no basis for comparison. He proposed that one battleship, one armored cruiser and one gunboat be built in a government yard, and one of each class of ship in private yard, thus giving a comparison of government and private construction, under substantially similar conditions.

Mr. Vandiver of Missouri sent to the desk and read a statement appearing in the Irish World, signed by Thomas R. O'Brien, Company No. Twenty, New York, giving alleged details of the killing of native women and babes under the management of unscrupulous contractors.

When Mr. Vandiver asked if any one in behalf of the administration were ready to rise and defend the atrocities against American soldiers on natives Mr. W. A. Smith of Michigan retorted with the question whether any one on the other side of the chamber was ready to rise and defend the atrocities of natives on American soldiers. An exciting passage followed between Mr. Smith and Mr. Vandiver. The latter asserted that the natives on one side nor the other were defensible.

Mr. Vandiver piled mountain high, declaring Mr. Vandiver, "of cruelties, excess, torture, murder, arson and every other crime known to the calendar."

"That is false," exclaimed Mr. Smith, "and I will back the charge at the general election and call upon him to produce the proof of it."

"The report are ample and will be presented," said Mr. Vandiver.

Mr. Vandiver proceeded to read portions of the testimony before the Philippine committee of the Senate. When he returned to General Funston Mr. Landis of Indiana interposed the same the gentleman Funston—that is the gentleman who captured your old friend, Emilio Aguinaldo.

"Yes," answered Mr. Vandiver, "and the English Aguinaldo seems to be a man not clear to the other side of the chamber."

"But all his engravings come from that Democratic side of the chamber," answered Mr. Landis.

Mr. Vandiver became excited in a warm colloquy with Mr. Hinson of Michigan who demanded to know how a stable government was to be maintained without soldiers.

There was considerable confusion and the speaker had to rap vigorously for order.

Mr. Vandiver continued to recite cases of alleged cruelty.

Mr. Hinson gained recognition to give notice of an amendment he intended to offer to the bill providing that no part of the money appropriated shall be expended for any history written by Edward S. Maylay for use as a text book in the naval academy or in the ship libraries of the navy or in any part of the naval establishment. Mr. Mudd, then offering the amendment, stated that it had been his intention to discuss at length the Schlesley controversy.

The speaker, he had abandoned, owing to the death of Admiral Sampson. The amendment, he said, could not be carried out without drawing Admiral Sampson into the controversy, and he had no desire to do that, as he had great regard for his memory.

Mr. Mudd said, however, that he regretted the findings of the President regarding the Schlesley court of inquiry were sensible than the findings of the court itself. But Admiral Schlesley needed the benefit of the hands of the Congress. His deeds were written on the hulls of the Spanish vessels which strayed the Spanish bay.

Mr. Hinson, defending the army, said: "A company of Tagalos, Filipinos, the Filipino army if you choose to call it, descended upon a village of peaceable Filipinos and destroyed that village, murdering men, women and children, and if the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Vandiver) desires a specimen of barbarism, I want to tell you what they did to loyal Filipinos and Americans. They took men out and tied them to tree hills. Those tree hills are eight or ten feet high and filled with ants that are absolutely ravenous. They tied these men to ant hills and allowed them to be eaten to death by ants. They buried them in the ground up to their necks, and allowed them to be pecked to death by the birds and eaten by the ants. They took loyal Filipinos and Americans and cut them open in the abdomen, taking out a portion of the bowels, nailing it to a tree, and driving them around the tree with bolts while the disemboweled themselves; and yet you gentlemen stand here and condemn American soldiers for standing by the flag and who are loyal to the American flag and who are suffering such outrages as these."

Mr. Hinson of Iowa, replying to Mr. Vandiver, said the army of the United States was made up of citizens of this

country, and the gentleman ought not to join all libelers and slanders in traducing his own. These allegations were made here for the purpose of securing a miserable and despicable political advantage.

Mr. Vandiver interrupted to say that he had not sought to give partisan bias to the matter, nor had he sought any political advantage.

He offered to give facts, but Mr. Hinson declined to receive them.

Mr. Williams of Mississippi—Does the gentleman believe that Gen. Smith issued an order to make Samar a howling wilderness, and to kill all persons, men, women and children, over ten years old? Mr. Hinson—No, I do not. In the sense in which it is sought to make the charge, I believe it to be a lie. (Applause.) I do not believe that any American officer issued such an order. I believe it to be slander pure and simple. (Applause.)

Mr. Williams—Does the gentleman then believe that the lawyer, who, defending Gen. Smith during the court martial the other day, admitted the issue of the order, lied and slandered his client?

Mr. Hinson—I have heard that there are lawyers who would lie. (Laughter.)

The committee was then pacified, and its attention was recalled to the subject nominally before it—the naval appropriation bill—by a speech from Mr. Mayer of Louisiana, the minority leader, comparing the vessels of the United States with those of Great Britain, France, Germany and Russia, all of whose navies exceed those of this country. He argued in favor of an increase of the navy sufficient to put the United States on an equality with those countries.

The reading of the bill by paragraphs for amendment was begun.

Mr. W. W. Kitchin of North Carolina, a member of the committee on naval affairs, moved to strike out the provision for a \$100,000 emergency fund.

Mr. Dayton of West Virginia opposed the motion, and in doing so attacked Mr. Kitchin and named the other Democratic members of the committee for alleged inconsistency. He intimated that they had agreed to one thing in the committee and in the House did the opposite. There were three members of the committee, he said (referring to Messrs. Kitchin, Wheeler and Tate, Democrats), who were inconsistent always. He said that his recollection was that they had voted for the provision.

Mr. Dayton's statement brought a rejoinder from Mr. Kitchin, who replied with considerable feeling to the recollection placed upon himself and his colleagues. He recalled an instance where Mr. Dayton had made a statement in the committee, and his Dayton's recollection of it later was directly opposite to that of eleven other members of the committee. He resented Mr. Dayton's remarks, and characterized his attitude as one blustering around and talking about the ranking members of the committee and one of the majority.

Mr. Rixey of Virginia said that he had opposed the emergency fund in the committee and agreed with Mr. Kitchin that it should be stricken out.

Pending a vote on the motion, the committee of the whole, having the bill under consideration, arose without taking action, and at 5:01 the House adjourned.

## CONCESSIONS TO CUBA

### Republicans Will Support a Bill to Be Framed Soon

Washington, May 15.—A meeting of the Republican members of the Senate Committee on Relations with Cuba will be held within a few days, as soon as Senator McMillan returns from Michigan, and a Cuban reciprocity tariff bill, to the passage of which the Republican Senators as a body will be committed in advance, will be framed.

Senator Aldrich, the political manager of the Republicans, returned to Washington today, and after talking with his colleagues on both sides of the chamber had a conference with Senator Platt of Connecticut, chairman of the Cuban committee, when the situation in the Senate was discussed. The bill which Senator Platt favors and which will probably receive the endorsement of the Republican caucus, is one that he has always favored and provides for a 25 per cent reduction in tariff rates on Cuban imports into the United States to take effect whenever equivalent reduction shall have been made by the Cuban government on products of the United States going into Cuba.

Senator Burrows and one or two other radical bees sugar men have during the past few days set up the claim that after the 20th of May when the new Cuban government is to be installed it will not be possible for the United States to make any commercial arrangements with Cuba except by form of a treaty requiring a two-thirds vote of the Senate, and that therefore it will be necessary to abandon the plan of reducing the Cuban tariff. Senator Platt, however, who is a profound lawyer and who has studied the Cuban question probably more thoroughly than any other man in the Senate, says there is no force whatever in this contention.

## Bottom Falling Out

Richmond, Va., May 15.—Probably caused by the recent disturbances under the earth, a large portion of the ground along Dutch Gap on James river, below Richmond, has sunk, and much earth has fallen into the river.

General Butler's forces cut the gap during the civil war. It is several hundred yards in length and runs across a horse-shoe made by the river, cutting off several miles.

## Bottom Falling Out

## A WONDERFUL FORWARD STEP

General Conference Adopts Report of Committee on Education

Dallas, Texas, May 15.—Special-Bishop Candler of Georgia presided over the session of the general conference today. He makes an ideal presiding officer. Much business was transacted.

The committee on itinerance presented for passage the memorial from the North Carolina conference in regard to conference papers.

Dr. Jno. Williams of South Carolina read the papers defending the majority of the committee on publishing interests of the session of 1898 against the paper presented a few days ago by Judge Strother of California. Judge Strother presented a paper in rebuttal of certain points.

The remainder of the report of the committee on education presented by Dr. W. F. Tillet of Tennessee was considered by the conference in sections and was adopted. This means a wonderful forward step on the part of the church in the matter of education.

The long-looked for report of the committee on publishing interests is expected every day. The presentation will precipitate one of the most memorable debates in the history of the church.

## BAILEY'S NAME SENT TO SENATE

Raleigh Postmaster to Have Another Term—The Appalachian Bill May Come Up Today

Washington, May 15.—Senator Simmons called upon the President today and discussed with him the nomination of Mr. Mullen to be postmaster at Charlotte.

It is understood that it is probable that no action will be taken upon Mr. Mullen's confirmation during this session, and that his term will therefore expire with the adjournment of Congress. In the meantime the President, it is understood, will inform himself with reference to the charges against Mr. Mullen, and in the light of the evidence will make an original appointment.

Senator Pritchard, who returned from Asheville commencing today, is still inclined to favor Mullen's prompt confirmation.

Chairman Burton, of the Senate committee on forest reservations, said today that he hoped to have the Appalachian Park bill brought up in the Senate tomorrow.

The Senate committee on public buildings and grounds has adopted an amendment leaving the matter of selecting a site for the public building at Elizabeth City to the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury. The citizens of that place have been unable to agree on the site, and it has been the subject of much controversy between the various factions.

The President today sent to the Senate the nomination of Christopher T. Bailey to be postmaster at Raleigh, N. C.

The nominations of George Randolph to be United States district attorney for the western district of Tennessee and of Holt P. Barr, Jr., to be postmaster at Portsmouth, Va., and Newton L. Wilson to be postmaster at Blocton, Ala., were also sent in. None of these was reached in the course of the brief executive session held before the Senate adjourned.

## AN ENTRANCE TO BIRMINGHAM

The Seaboard Air Line Sees the Way Clear to Realize Its Hopes

Baltimore, May 15.—Developments of the past few weeks indicate that the Seaboard Air Line will be running trains into Birmingham, Ala., within a comparatively short time. They may not be operated over tracks owned by the Seaboard Air Line, as such, but they will be run over a line built in the interest of that corporation.

With this end in view the Seaboard Air Line or its friends bought the East & West Railroad, running from Cartersville, Ga., to Poll City, Ala., 116 miles. The road was purchased from the Eugene Kelly estate, of New York city. The deal was made some few days ago, but the price and the details could not be learned today.

President John Skelton Williams, Vice President J. M. Barr and J. Williams, Middlesboro, have been in Birmingham for some days, leaving there yesterday for the north. Mr. Middlesboro is expected home Monday. His visit to the south has been contemplated for some time, but has been deferred because of illness. His desire has been to inspect the properties of the Alabama Consolidated Coal and Iron Company in which he is deeply interested. At the same time there is reason to believe that plans of the Seaboard were also given serious consideration.

## Burroughs Surrenders

Portsmouth, Va., May 15.—Postmaster Samuel Burroughs of this city, who has been missing a week past, is in the custody of the United States authorities at Norfolk. He voluntarily surrendered himself. It is stated that he has never been out of the city.

## NIXON UPSETS THINGS GENERALLY

Chairman Griggs Will Try to Get the Ruffled Situation Smoothed Over

Washington, May 15.—Chairman Griggs of the Democratic Congressional committee, left Washington today for New York to confer with Democrats in that city upon the effect of the change in the Tammany organization on the Congressional campaign. The resignation of Mr. Lewis Nixon from the chairmanship of Tammany may, it is feared, disarrange some of the well laid plans of the Congressional organization. Mr. Nixon had been chosen by the Democratic Congressional committee to be chairman of the finance committee of that body.

Chairman Griggs will earnestly urge Mr. Nixon to remain at the head of the finance committee, unless it should develop that the strained relations threatened between Mr. Nixon and the rank and file of the Tammany men might result to the detriment of the general Democratic good.

## Crocker is Hands Off

London, May 15.—Richard Crocker was seen at Moat House, Wantage, Berks, this afternoon in regard to the resignation of Lewis Nixon as leader of Tammany Hall and the statement made by Mr. Nixon that he had resigned because of the dictation by Mr. Crocker. Mr. Crocker said:

"I have not been dictating to Mr. Nixon. On the contrary I have been taking no active interest in New York politics and have wired everybody to support Nixon. It was a benevolent and not a political question, and Nixon had no cause to resign. I am sorry and hope he will reconsider his determination. It will be a serious inconvenience to the party organization if he refuses to reconsider his decision. I will give no advice because my enemies will talk, and say I am dictating New York politics from abroad."

## MADRID IS ALL GAY

The Coronation Attracts Multitudes of Strangers

Madrid, May 15.—The festivities in connection with the coronation of the king are proceeding without a hitch. The weather today is generally fair, with an occasional shower. The light rainfall, however, has no material effect on the merry-makers, and the streets are crowded. The scene in the streets is most picturesque. All the buildings are elaborately hung with bunting, and this, added to the bright uniforms of soldiers and the dresses of the women makes the city a kaleidoscope of colors.

There has been a heavy influx of visitors from the provinces and abroad. Government officials say there are at present 70,000 strangers in the city, and others are still coming.

The football match held today was attended by a vast concourse.

At noon the foreign ambassadors to the coronation were presented to King Alfonso.

Public interest today centers in the expected arrival of the foreign princes. The Duke of Genoa and Oporto are already here. All the princes, both Spanish and foreign, will be tendered a grand banquet in the palace this evening.

A noteworthy fact in connection with the reception was that Dr. J. L. M. Curry, the American special envoy, was the first of the foreign envoys to be received by the king. He drove to the palace in a royal landau, attended by the Marquis of Villalobar. A guard of honor was drawn up in the court yard to receive him. He was ushered immediately into the royal reception hall in company with Secretary Simpkins, immediately after the papal nuncio and before any of the other envoys. King Alfonso and Queen Regent Christina welcomed Dr. Curry in a most cordial manner.

## ALL NEWS TO MINISTER WU

Washington, May 15.—No information has been received at the Chinese legation in regard to the reported intention of the Chinese government to recall Minister Wu from his post here and appoint him a member of a commission to remodel the Chinese laws of commerce as stated in dispatches from Peking this morning. If such is the intention of the Peking government Minister Wu has not been informed of it. Rumors of Mr. Wu's removal to the United States have been circulated frequently during the past year, but they appear to have been unfounded.

Mr. Wu returned this morning from Baltimore where he went yesterday to keep an appointment made some time ago.

## All Quiet in Haiti

Washington, May 15.—United States Minister Powell today cabled from Port au Prince, Haiti, regarding the situation there. He says:

"A committee of eleven has been organized for the conduct of affairs. The chairman is ex-President Canal. Committees of this character have been organized in all the cities. All quiet at present."

## Digging in the Ruins of Devastated St. Pierre

A Resident of an Adjoining Village Describes the Volcano's Outburst. All Done in Thirty Seconds

Fort de France, May 15.—The approach to St. Pierre is easier. The first of the wrecked buildings of the city are extinguished and representatives of the commercial houses from Fort de France are digging in the debris of houses and stores in search of documents and valuables.

The town is a mass of indescribable ruins which bear a striking resemblance to those of Pompeii. In the lower part of the town called Mouterie the outlines of the streets can be made out, and in places here and there are stretches of walls of houses several yards long which are still erect, but battered and crushed in at the top.

The number of the victims is so great in places that in the great heaps of commingled dead identification of individuals is very difficult. The deadly odor of the putrefying bodies makes the work of handling them not only horrible and offensive, but dangerous to the searchers as well. Thus far two thousand bodies have been found and disinterred from the ruins. Of these 602 have been buried.

A noticeable thing is that petroleum will not catch fire when thrown on the bodies. On the ground floor of the hospital there is a mass of twisted iron beds to be seen, but no trace of fire. It is supposed that an enormous puff of gas produced a great atmospheric pressure. The formation of sulphurated hydrogen gas doubtless caused thousands to die of sheer suffocation before the fire itself reached them. This would explain the condition of the bodies which are covered by superficial swelling and superficial burns caused by the great

cloud of fire which followed the first gust of gas from the volcano. After this there came a shower of stones, some as large as apples. Certain bodies have marks of the wounds produced by this awful hail of rocks. All the dead are covered by a layer of ashes ranging in depth from a few inches to a foot or more.

An inhabitant of Morne Rouge, a town of 600 inhabitants, seven kilometers from St. Pierre, who was watching the volcano at the moment of the catastrophe, says that here were seven luminous points on the volcano's side just before it burst. He said that all about him when the explosion came there was a terrible suction of air, which seemed to be dragging him irresistibly toward the mountain in spite of all his resistance. The volcano then emitted a sheet of flame, which swept down toward St. Pierre. There was no sharp, distinct roar of explosion, as when a great cannon is fired, but only awful jarring rumbles.

No one thinks that the entire outbreak did all the work of havoc lasting more than thirty seconds. Then there was complete darkness for ten minutes caused by the dense volumes of smoke and clouds of dust and shattered rocks.

The entire country all about St. Pierre was turned into a chaotic waste. All the trees are either torn up by the roots or snapped off and lie level with the ground.

In the streets of St. Pierre heaps of copper and silver have been found. In the neighborhood of the telegraph office the instruments were found, but some of them had been hurled to a distance of fifty yards. The metal of the instruments was melted, but the instruments themselves could be recognized. During the greater part of the day of May 10 Mount Pelee was for some time free from smoke.

## Election of Palma Officially Declared

President of the Cuban Senate Thanks General Wood for His Services to the People of the New Republic

Havana, May 15.—The Senate and House of Representatives met in joint session today and examined the credentials of the members of the presidential and senatorial colleges. The credentials were proclaimed correct and it was formally announced that Senator Palma had been elected president and Senator Estevez vice president. Governor General Wood was formally notified to this effect and a committee was appointed to notify Senators Palma and Estevez.

Senator Palma says that he will appoint his secretaries tomorrow. There will be six of these, but it will rest with the congress to decide as to what their duties shall be. The congress will remain in session after May 20, the date of Senator Palma's inauguration, in order to enact the necessary laws governing the duties of the secretaries and also to arrange a treaty of relations with the United States and a commercial treaty. Among the other matters that will be

dealt with are the questions of sanitation, the rural guard and the police. It is claimed that there is some dissatisfaction over some of the proposed appointments of secretaries.

A petition has been issued vesting the jurisdiction of the customs service in the secretary of finance after May 20, subject to such modifications as may hereafter legally be made. It has also been ordered that upon the termination of the present military government the distinctive signals prescribed for vessels in the coasting trade of Cuba shall be abolished and thereafter all Cuban vessels shall fly the flag of the republic.

A petition to Governor General Wood has been circulated among members of the Senate and House, asking him to commute the sentence of death passed upon two men who are to be garroted tomorrow. Clemency is asked for on the ground that the men fought in the revolution and that the date of the execution is close to the day set for the inauguration of the Cuban government. General Wood commuted the sentence before the congressional petition was presented to him.

The Congress waited upon General Wood and informed him of the election of Senator Palma as president, and then Senator Canoto, president of the Senate, thanked General Wood for his services to Cuba and expressed the gratitude of the Cuban people. The commission also visited Senator Palma and officially informed him of his election.

## St. Vincent's New Crater is Belching Hot Vapors

Burying the Dead Under Serious Difficulty -- The Living in a-Distressful Situation

St. Thomas, D. W. I., May 15.—Advices from St. Vincent show that it is impossible to get nearer than eight miles to the new crater that has appeared in the volcano on the island of St. Vincent. The old crater was filled by a beautiful lake, but this has disappeared, having either sunk into the bowels of the mountain or been blown in the shape of steam and scalding water over the surrounding country. The fissures that have appeared on the sides of the volcano continue to throw out hot vapor. Subterranean noises are heard miles from the mountain and the trembling of the earth indicates the possibility of further discharges. Monday afternoon great volumes of steam and smoke were thrown out.

The whole island is covered with a peculiar mist and the atmosphere is charged with noxious vapors, which have the effect of increasing sickness among the people. An ambulance and medical assistance have arrived from Barbadoes. The poorer classes from the afflicted district are now threatened with starvation, though the government is feeding 3,000 of them and giving them shelter. Among the many victims of the disaster are almost all of the Carib colony who lived in the devastated part of the island.

Many of the bodies of those who lost their lives have now remained unburied so long that decomposition has set in, and the odor is so overpowering that many of the searching parties have been

compelled to abandon their work. In other cases those engaged in burying the dead refuse to handle the bodies.

Consequently ropes are tied to them and they are either trampled and there interred or are placed on improvised funeral pyres and burned as speedily as possible.

The executive council of Jamaica has appropriated \$1,000 for the benefit of the sufferers.

Dispatches by mail from St. George, Grenada, state that the Royal mail steamer Taw has taken medical assistance to St. Vincent. The Mirror has started a subscription for the relief of the sufferers and has itself subscribed £1,200.

## FAITH CURE VICTIM

### Dowie's Daughter Dies of Burns Without a Doctor

Chicago, May 15.—Denied medical treatment, Esther Dowie, only daughter of John Alexander Dowie, general overseer of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion, and self-appointed "Rajah II," died last night after the most frightful sufferings from the effects of burns received Tuesday morning.

The white-haired "Healer" was kneeling in prayer at his daughter's bedside when she passed away. Beside him were grouped several of his faithful followers, all praying for the recovery of the girl.

Miss Dowie, who was twenty-five years of age, received the burns that resulted in death while curling her hair in her room at Zion house Wednesday morning. She was using an alcohol lamp to heat the curling iron, it was upset and ignited, the flames immediately enveloping her from head to foot.

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