

For N. C.: — Rain, colder; for Raleigh: fair, colder.

THE MORNING POST.

Temperature for the past 24 hours: Max. 42; Min. 31.

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Democratic Senators Combine Their Force

Simmons Takes Strong Position in Favor of Reciprocity With Cuba—Cotton May Be Grown in Spite of the Weevil

By THOMAS J. FENCE

Washington, Dec. 15.—Special.—The process of solidifying the Democratic forces in the Senate reached a most gratifying stage today. In caucus assembled the Democratic senators adopted a resolution which provides that when a caucus by a two-thirds vote determines upon a line of action this shall be binding upon all Democratic senators. The resolution, which was introduced by Senator Blackburn of Kentucky, permits the following exceptions when senators may vote otherwise than determined by the caucus: when a senator has already pledged himself to his constituents, when he has been instructed by his state legislature, or when he opposes a proposition on the ground of its unconstitutionality.

The Blackburn resolution was adopted by a vote of 23 to 2, showing with what unanimity the Democratic senators favor presenting a solid front on matters of legislation that are to come before this Congress.

Two other significant votes were taken when an amendment was voted down, which provided that the Cuban reciprocity question and the Panama canal matter should not be subject to caucus action. This shows that there is some likelihood that both these matters may be taken up and made the subject of party action.

The chances are that the Democrats will not take up the Cuban reciprocity matter as a party measure. One embarrassment is that several Democratic senators have already made speeches for reciprocity, while it is generally believed that a majority of the Democrats are against the reciprocity bill in the shape in which it will be presented after a vote.

The most interesting matter will be the canal question, and it remains to be seen whether any Democratic caucus action will be taken on it. While it is known that the differences among Democrats on this question has been greatly exaggerated, it is not yet certain that it will be made subject to party action. The disposition of the Democratic senators now is to get closer together on the Panama question. When the matter was first discussed the information about matters on the isthmus was in rather a meagre and chaotic state. Then its discussion could not be complete as present conditions afford. Nevertheless, even if the Democrats do make Panama a party question and oppose the treaty, they cannot defeat it. The combined Republican strength with three Democratic votes will be enough to ratify the treaty.

Senator Mallory of Florida voted against the Blackburn resolution. Senator Cockrell of Missouri opposed it in a speech, but it is said he refrained from

voting. Democratic senators are generally congratulating themselves on the outcome of the caucus. It shows that they are getting together.

Senator Simmons spoke today in behalf of Cuban reciprocity, occupying the floor of the Senate about an hour. Several members of the delegation from the state left the House to hear the senator speak. The Tar Heel senator took the position, as he did last year, that the reciprocity measure would result in much benefit to the south. The contention of the Louisiana senators that Cuban soil was so much better adapted to the growth of sugar than our own that we could not afford to put the sugar growers of Cuba in competition with our own, did not appeal to the North Carolina senator. "My own state as well as others in the south," Mr. Simmons declared, "has corn lands greatly inferior to those in Kansas and other western states."

Between these, he said, there was free trade; and yet North Carolina produces corn in competition with the west. Texas, he declared, has soil better adapted to the growth of cotton than any other state, yet cotton is one of North Carolina's chief products. There is free trade between Texas and North Carolina; and yet, despite the advantage in favor of the former state North Carolina farmers grow cotton with profit. The senator did not think Louisiana senators had any right to oppose this bill because of the fact that the lands of Cuba are better adapted to the culture of sugar. Soil conditions should not affect this question, because every state experiences some disadvantages. "Sugar," he declared, "cannot be grown in this country on a basis just to the consumers of sugar."

Continuing his argument, Senator Simmons declared that North Carolina produced last year one hundred million pounds of tobacco, and while the bill under consideration reduces the tariff on Cuban tobacco he could not oppose the measure. "Sugar, rice and tobacco do not feed and clothe the Cubans. They must go elsewhere for their clothes and substantial provisions. Wealth that is to come will create a demand for luxuries. It is to our interest to get that trade from the new republic almost at our door. Cuba in a few years will be enormously rich. She will want cotton goods of the cheaper varieties, such as are manufactured in my state, and I want to add here that North Carolina is manufacturing every pound of cotton that she grows. Nearly every town in the state has its knitting mill. The concession on cotton goods is fifty per cent. This advantage our people will gain."

Senator Simmons declared that the bill was not built on Republican lines as evidenced by the utterances of McKinley, Blaine and Republican platforms. It was fashioned rather after Democratic declarations in favor of tariff reduction.

"If this bill provides a bounty for Cuba we get a bounty in return. Bounty or no bounty, it does not take any money from the people of this country. It is simply the remission of a tax which would go into the treasury. The treasury is already overflowing. It contains more money than we have any use for."

"I wish certain amendments had been made to this bill. I recognize that that should any be made now they would destroy the treaty. I want to

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A Regular Hot Time in Negro Suffrage League

An Attempt to Endorse Roosevelt Led to Endless Debate. Speakers Roundly Denounce Booker Washington

Washington, Dec. 15.—The question of endorsing President Roosevelt for reelection in 1904 nearly caused the disruption today of the convention of the National Negro Suffrage League, now in session here.

Resolutions on the subject, presented at 9 o'clock this morning, were still being debated at midnight tonight, and without apparent adjustment of settlement before morning. Charges of bribery were freely made concerning the committeemen and other members of the convention. Among the many resolutions which united to prevent the endorsement is a "Heart's clan" who want the negro vote for their man.

An executive session was called up in order that plans for the coming presidential election might be discussed. To forestall anything his friends might say, A. H. Grinke of Boston, who afterwards said he could not tell eight months ahead of the convention for whom he would vote if he were in the convention, made a speech endorsing Roosevelt and declaring that the negroes had not any friends. There was one traitor in the negro's own, he said, and that traitor was Booker Washington. He finally introduced a resolution that negroes should vote

for negroes and their rights before a politician party.

Rev. G. W. Lee of Washington supported the resolution. Rev. S. L. Caruthers of Washington championed the case of the president. But the convention referred to a committee his resolutions, endorsing Roosevelt, asking the Republicans to nominate him for president and pledging the negroes to vote for him.

The next attempt to secure an endorsement occurred at the night session. Rev. G. C. Coleman tried to take the convention by storm for the president by revival oratory, but like resolutions presented by others were ruled out of order. In the committee meeting James H. Hayes of Virginia, who last year urged the negroes to "put the torch to the south if their rights were not observed," was elected chairman. The New England contingent, led by Grinke, charged Hayes with desiring

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Death of Captain Lee

Richmond, Va., Dec. 15.—Captain Robert C. Lee, a nephew of Gen. R. E. Lee and a brother of Gen. Fitz Lee, died in Fredericksburg today, aged 84 years. Captain Lee served during the war in the Confederate navy and on several occasions distinguished himself. He never married.

Bunchanan Sails for Panama

New York, Dec. 15.—William L. Buchanan of Buffalo, N. Y., the first United States minister to the Republic of Panama, sailed today for Panama to take up his new duties.

TROUBLE IN COREA

The Army a Dangerous Element in the Event of an Outbreak

Seoul, Dec. 15.—More rioting has occurred at Mokpho and yesterday a Japanese mob wounded seventeen Koreans. High Korean officials are hurrying to Mokpho to try to quell the disturbances. So far Russia has not interfered.

United States Minister Allen has demanded a definite answer from the Korean government in regard to the opening of the port of Wiju. Despite American, British and Japanese pressure, Russian influence over the Korean government is apparently unshaken, and it is expected that Korea will procrastinate in dealing with the matter, and probably may refuse eventually to act at all.

A feeling of unrest is growing among Korean people who fear that, whether it be peace or war between Russia and Japan, the extinction of the empire is imminent. It is believed that the outbreak of hostilities or the announcement of a protectorate of any kind will precipitate trouble. Foreigners in Seoul expect disorder, and the American residents desire a warship. The Korean army, numbering 8,000 men, is considered one of the most dangerous factors of the situation. In case of trouble it is feared that the soldiers will be the first to lead the rioting and begin looting.

CASHIER SPECULATED

Finding He Had Gone Too Far He Ended Life With a Bullet

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 15.—Isaac Bushnell, cashier of the Yale National bank, shot himself a short time before the opening of business at the bank today and died an hour and a half later.

The president of the bank said: "It is evident that Mr. Bushnell had been speculating in stocks to a limited extent and was indebted to this bank for a small amount, which is amply covered by surety bonds."

From a reliable source it is learned that the bank's securities have been found by Bank Examiner Barrows to be intact, and that the books also apparently show the misappropriation to be less than \$15,000—probably about \$12,000. Mr. Bushnell had been connected with the institution for twenty-one years.

General Wood Deceived Cuban School Teachers

A Former Superintendent of Public Instruction Tells How He Came to Lose Faith in the General. The Inquiry Nearing the End

Washington, Dec. 15.—Major James E. Runcie, Inspector General George H. Burton, U. S. A., and Alexis Frye were witnesses before the committee on military affairs today, which is reaching an end of the hearing on the charges against General Leonard Wood. Major Runcie's testimony was of little importance so far as it bore on the matter of the article in the North American Review, written by him but inspired by General Wood. Mr. Ray Stannard Baker's testimony on that point having been submitted to Major Runcie, he took occasion to reiterate that General Wood had inspired the article in question and that he had talked with General Wood about the article both before and after it was published. Major Runcie gave the committee some valuable information regarding the Castaneda concession at Havana, which was granted and confirmed by General Wood under circumstances which left Secretary Root in the dark concerning the true character of the proceeding. The Castaneda plant for electric light and power is now said to be established at Havana by virtue of General Wood's order, issued in violation of the Foraker act.

Inspector General Burton was called merely to establish the date upon which he began an investigation of the Cuban postal frauds, the purpose being to determine whether this date preceded the date of General Wood's arbitrary changes in the penal code of Cuba admitting ex parte evidence in criminal trials. One of Major E. G. Rathbone's charges against General Wood is that the military order in question worked to the injury of parties on trial and resulted in a miscarriage of justice.

The most interesting testimony of the day was offered by Alexis E. Frye, former superintendent of public instruction in Cuba and formerly an intimate friend of General Wood. Mr. Frye told the committee of the visit of 1,300 Cuban teachers to Harvard University in 1900 and of certain cir-

FRESH OUTBREAK IN SAN DOMINGO

Our Consul at Puerto Plata Reports a Revolution in Full Bloom

Washington, Dec. 15.—Mr. Simpson, United States consul at Puerto Plata, San Domingo, has cabled the state department under today's date that a revolution had broken out at San Domingo and that the movement is extensive and serious.

This is supposed to be the result of the failure of the provisional government to secure recognition at the hands of United States Minister Powell, which fact operated to prevent that government from obtaining money necessary to maintain itself through a foreign loan.

Nothing is known officially of the reported plots against the life of United States Minister Powell, but the navy will take all necessary precautions to protect the American legation in San Domingo. The Newport will return there from San Juan as soon as she has coaled.

ACQUIRE SAN DOMINGO

New Idea Embodied in a Senate Resolution

Washington, Dec. 15.—In the Senate today Senator Hepburn introduced a resolution authorizing the president of the United States to enter upon negotiations for the acquisition of sovereignty over the island of Hayti and San Domingo. The preamble to the resolution gives the following reasons for acquisition of sovereignty by this government: On account of the unstable character of the two governments on the island; on account of the geographical situation of the island, and principally for the reason that the island lies in the sea road to the entrance of the isthmian canal.

Automatic Air Brake

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 15.—Special. The patent office at Washington has granted a patent to Mr. John B. Wrigth of this city on his automatic air brake. Should this device prove to be what it seems it will reduce to a great extent the number of railroad wrecks. The preamble to the resolution looking to the formation of a company to have his appliance manufactured in Greensboro.

General Wood Deceived Cuban School Teachers

circumstances connected therewith which caused him to lose faith in the word of General Wood. Before the teachers left for the United States General Wood informed Mr. Frye that he intended to issue an order curtailing the teachers' salaries. Mr. Frye asked that this action be abandoned, and especially requested that the teachers be not deprived of their full salaries during their visit to the United States.

Upon arrival at Harvard Mr. Frye told President Elliot of Wood's proposed action. President Elliot, said the witness, was much interested in the matter, and expressed the hope that Gen. Wood would not cut down the salaries during the visit of the teachers, as he feared the news would nullify all the pleasant and profitable impressions gained on the trip. Nevertheless, the order was issued.

Gen. Wood visited Boston while the Cuban teachers were there. He learned of the consternation that his order had made, and in a speech to the teachers, President Elliot being present, Gen. Wood told the teachers that he had no idea how the order came to be issued, and that he had not authorized its issuance and that it would be rescinded, and that so long as he remained at the head of affairs in Cuba there would be no reduction in the salaries of teachers. Stenographic reports of Gen. Wood's speech were submitted today by Mr. Frye to the committee.

The committee will call Secretary Root to the stand tomorrow. It is expected that his testimony will close the investigation. The committee is not expected to make its report to the Senate before January 4.

A minority report will be made, since it is a foregone conclusion that the majority of the committee will make a report favorable to Gen. Wood. A demand will also be made that Gen. Wood be summoned from the Philippines to face the evidence brought out in the investigation. This demand will be based on the fact that Gen. Wood is not confronted by more charges, but by evidence in support of the charges that have gone so far to establish their truth that it can not be ignored by an officer of the army.

Signed Treaty Returned

New York, Dec. 15.—The steamer City of Washington arrived today from Canal, bringing the signed copy of the colonial treaty with the republic of Panama. The treaty was in a metal box, in charge of the purser, who turned it over to a representative of the government on arrival at the dock.

PLOT AGAINST POWELL

American Minister to San Domingo to Be Killed by "Accident"

New York, Dec. 15.—A Dominican plot to assassinate William Powell, United States minister to Hayti and charge d'affaires at Port au Prince, San Domingo, was announced yesterday in a communication from a high official of the present Dominican government to a Dominican citizen in this city who formerly was an official under Wos Y. Gil, the recently deposed president of the republic.

The letter told also that the plot had been so arranged that former President Jimenez, under whose leadership Wos Y. Gil was overthrown, should be killed at or about the same time.

The plan, as reported, was to let two or three men get into a fight in a street along which Mr. Powell was passing. It was arranged that in the melee other rioters should engage, and it would be an easy matter to kill the American "by accident."

"Burglar Proof" Safe Robbed

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 15.—Last night robbers blew open the vault and "burglar proof" safe of the Courtney Cotton Manufacturing Company at Newburg, securing between \$2,000 and \$3,000 in cash. Nothing smaller than dimes was taken. It was evidently the work of professionals, as they left a new kit of tools. There were two in the party, but there is no clue to their identity.

A CARDINAL'S BEQUEST

Inducement to a Spanish General to Spank Uncle Sam

London, Dec. 15.—The will of the late Cardinal Herrera Y. Esphosa contains according to a special dispatch from Madrid, the extraordinary bequest of \$10,000 to the "first Spanish general landing in United States territory with an army sufficiently strong to avenge the defeat of Cuba and the Philippines." Pending the happening of this event the legacy is to remain deposited in the bank of Spain.

BOSTON DEMOCRATIC

Collins Receives a Larger Majority Than Ever

Boston, Dec. 15.—Mayor Collins was re-elected mayor today by a plurality of over 27,000, the largest plurality a candidate for that office was ever given by this city. That the Democratic candidate was popular every one conceded, but few expected that he would receive another term by more than his plurality of last year, which was nearly 19,000.

The indications are that Collins carried every ward in the city, including ward eleven, the aristocratic section of Boston. It is believed the Democrats have elected every one of their thirteen aldermen candidates, including even James H. Curley of ward 17, who has a sentence to serve for impersonating another man at the government civil service examinations. The council has a large Democratic majority.

Ike Allen, the negro candidate for street commissioner on the Republican ticket, was snubbed under. The Republicans paid little attention to the election.

ROOT AND WOOD

The Secretary Preparing Evidence for the Senate Committee

Washington, Dec. 15.—Secretary Root was today summoned to appear before the Senate military committee tomorrow and give testimony in regard to the administration of General Wood in Cuba. He was occupied this afternoon for several hours in going over important orders and papers relating to Gen. Wood's services in Cuba. He will answer very strongly a number of charges made against Gen. Wood.

An important feature of Secretary Root's testimony will be his explanation of the statements made by Gen. Brooke that Gen. Wood did not obey his orders, but conducted the department of Santiago in some ways independently. Secretary Root has collected information from the files of the war department for the purpose of showing that whatever Gen. Wood did in Santiago was authorized by the president and secretary of war.

In regard to the charges affecting Gen. Wood's financial accounts in Cuba Secretary Root will testify that they have all been thoroughly examined by competent experts and found to be correct and beyond any criticism whatever. Secretary Root will testify that many of the charges now brought against Gen. Wood were contained in a letter from Major Estes G. Rathbone, sent to the war department last March. These charges were investigated and Gen. Wood offered to submit to any inquiry which the secretary of war should consider proper.

Knox Sums Up the Government's Points

Contentions Upon Which the Court Is Asked to Affirm the Decision in Northern Securities Case. Closing Argument for the Company

Washington, Dec. 15.—Arguments were finished in the supreme court today in the appeal of the Northern Securities case from the decision of the circuit court of appeals in favor of the government. They took up yesterday and today about six and a half hours, of which the attorney general occupied a little over two hours and Messrs. Johnson, Bunn and Young, for the defendants, four hours. The attorney resumed his argument, begun yesterday, when the court assembled at noon, and concluded before the recess. George E. Young, for the Great Northern Railway Company and J. Hill and others, personally, then closed the case. At 3:15 it went to the court calendar to be taken up for argument.

Attorney General Knox took up his argument from the point he left it yesterday afternoon when the court adjourned. Mr. Knox reviewed the formation of the railway companies involved in the suits and, referring to the claim of economic danger from the enforcement of law against such combinations, declared with emphasis: "It is not the enforcement of law that creates panics and distress; it is the willful violation of the provisions of the law of economic health."

He declared that by the union of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern in the Northern Securities Company two competing interstate railroads have been beat into such a relation that their independence as competitive factors in interstate commerce is destroyed.

The thing that has been done was declared illegal, he said, when brought about by the methods pursued in the joint traffic and Trans-Missouri cases. These were cases of contrasts or agreements between independent and competing lines of railroad for the regulation of traffic charges. The government charged that these agreements restrained interstate commerce, and this court sustained that contention.

Mr. Knox summed up his points in support of his contention that, as a fact, this is a combination in the form of a trust or otherwise, as follows: "That the end it accomplishes is to bring under one control the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads in such a way as to destroy competition between them and to create a monopoly of transportation in the section served by them."

"That this end was the deliberate purpose of the parties defended who conceived and carried out the combination."

"That such a combination is in restraint of trade, as your honors have repeatedly decided, and therefore violates the act of congress."

"That all of this," he added, "defendants make vigorous objection, much of which is wholly irrelevant. I shall not deny the fact of a tendency to combination throughout the land nor discuss its economic value."

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The Panama Canal and Rural Delivery

Pensions Bill Under Consideration, but Not the Subject of Debate—Politics Conspicuous in the Discussion

Washington, Dec. 15.—The House today, on reconvening, went into committee of the whole for further consideration of the pensions appropriation bill. Mr. Crumpacker, the first speaker, addressed himself to the Panama canal, saying that the attacks on the conduct of this government in connection with the new republic were unwarranted by the facts. He said that while there was no purpose on the part of the individual members of the minority to foment trouble, yet the attitude of the minority would give encouragement to Colombia. Mr. Crumpacker, in a colloquy with Mr. Williams, the minority leader, asked if it were not time that the Democrats were willing to accept the stolen goods if permitted to condemn the act of taking. Mr. Williams replied that while they could recognize the character of the child they could treat it properly.

Mr. Maddox of Georgia, replying to Mr. Crumpacker, said he had arraigned the party for statements made by a few members of the minority. He then spoke on rural free delivery. He presented figures and declared that of

The attorney general next discussed the alleged invasion of state rights. "Of course," he said, "a state has certain powers over the instrumentalities of commerce which it creates, as it has over the individuals by whom commerce is conducted. But a state has no power over either instrumentalities or individuals that can be interposed between them and the obligations imposed by a federal statute regulating interstate commerce."

"The question in this case is not whether congress can regulate and has regulated state corporations or the ownership of their capital stock. The question is, can the owners of such capital stock regulate interstate commerce?"

"It is settled law that interstate commerce can not be regulated by state constitutions nor by state legislatures, nor by corporations acting through their directors, as attempted in the trans-Missouri and joint traffic cases. "Whence comes such power, then, to stockholders if the sources of all their rights and powers are impotent to defeat the law of congress?"

"But put the proposition as it is put by appellants, can congress regulate the ownership of interstate railroads under its power to regulate commerce among the states, and has it done so by this act of 1897?"

"Most certainly, yes. Congress can regulate anything and everything in the sense that it can prohibit and prevent its use in a way that will defeat a law that congress may constitutionally enact. For this purpose the supreme power operates upon everything, upon every one."

"I can not think that a combination, held together by a rope of sand, comes within the prohibition of the law, and that one which is bound by links of steel may defy its wisdom and its power."

"To prevent such a dangerous concentration of power—dangerous to commerce and a menace to our freedom—the people have done all that it is possible for them to do under our system of government. They have legislated against it. If this law can be construed so as not to cover the situation, or if the court says yes to the proposition, affirmed in the last paragraph of Mr. Morgan's answer, namely, congress has no power to prevent such combinations, then indeed, the government's grave concern as to this legislation may be easily understood."

Mr. Knox had spoken an hour and a half before he was interrupted by a question. Then Justice Holmes asked him, in respect to his interpretation of the law as applied to state and interstate commerce. Justice Harlan, Fuller and White made suggestions in respect to the manner in which state and interstate commerce are differentiated.

Mr. Knox closed his argument after speaking an hour and thirty-five minutes.

THE FINAL ARGUMENT.

The closing argument was made by George B. Young of Minneapolis, general counsel for the Great Northern Company, on behalf of the appellants. He denied emphatically that the securities company was formed as a scheme or device to evade the antitrust law, and asserted that the men who formed it or sold their shares of stock to it had any purpose to restrain commerce or lessen competition or monopolize traffic. Since its formation, he said, rates on both lines had been voluntarily reduced so as to decrease

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the 15,000 routes established last June more than one-third of them were located in four states—Indiana, Ohio and Illinois—and that the first two named states have more routes than twelve southern states which he named.

Mr. Maddox said when his constituents asked him why he could not secure more routes the only reply he could make was that he could not get up to the "pie counter." He said he could show more routes established in seven counties in one district than were to be found in a whole state.

Mr. Hemenway replied to Mr. Maddox, when colloquy with Mr. Clayton of Alabama and Mr. Robinson of Indiana ensued relating to the number of routes in different districts.

Mr. Hepburn of Iowa explained as to the routes in Iowa. He charged the Democrats with having opposed the rural free delivery measure, when Mr. Maddox said that it was a Democrat who introduced the first bill.

Mr. Gardner of Massachusetts spoke in opposition to Cuban reciprocity. At 2:45 p. m. the House adjourned until tomorrow.

Speeches on Cuban Reciprocity

Washington, Dec. 15.—When the Cuban reciprocity bill was taken up, Mr. Perkins of California spoke. He declared that the people of the United States had increased their sugar consumption six pounds a year per capita during the past eight years. Mr. Simmons of North Carolina and Mr. McComber of North Dakota spoke in favor of the bill.