

WASHINGTON NEWS.

SECRETARY OLNEY AND THE CUBAN QUESTION.

White House Reception. Southern Protection. Contract for Building Japan War Vessels. Trying for Re-Election.

If Secretary Olney isn't careful he will lose a part of the reputation for sturdy Americanism he gained by his able and staunch presentation of the Monroe doctrine in the controversy with Great Britain over the Venezuela boundary. He may be innocent of the charge, but it is being whispered around that he is acting in conjunction with the Spanish minister in trying to create an impression that will intimidate Congress into letting the Cuban question alone. This impression is what the rumors of European aid for Spain and of reverses for the Cubans are circulated with such persistency for. Had it not been for his able and constant hobnobbing with the Spanish minister of late, it is not likely that Secretary Olney's connection with these rumors would ever have been suggested. What the effect on Congress will be remains to be seen when the session is resumed next week. There is hardly a corporal's guard of either branch of Congress in Washington today. Secretary Olney is a thing this week which many think was an unnecessary lowering of the dignity of the office he holds. It was in connection with the closing of the details of the Venezuelan arbitration, and he called at the British Embassy, instead of compelling the British Ambassador to call at the Department of State, to transact the business.

The New Year's Day reception at the White House was never a more brilliant pageant, so far as the collection of elegantly dressed women who assisted the President and Mrs. Cleveland to receive the guests. The collection of the diplomatic corps, and the handsome uniforms of the army and navy officers were concerned; but there was a notable absence of Senators and Representatives which must have been a little unpleasant even to a man as free from sensitiveness as President Cleveland is. Nothing could have more conspicuously brought into notice the existing chasm, between the President and Congress.

There are lots of Southern Democrats who are not in sympathy with the position assumed by Representative Wheeler, of Ala., who is one of the Democratic members of the House Ways and Means committee who is regularly attending the tariff hearings before the committee, towards the proposition of W. R. Craig, of Vicksburg, Miss., to place a duty of three cents a pound upon Egyptian cotton. When the subject was before the committee Gen. Wheeler exclaimed dramatically: "The South would be selling its birthright for a mess of pottage." He asked for this protection, Representative Payne at once asked "What do you call its birthright?" "Free institutions, free trade, free everything," promptly replied Gen. Wheeler. The number of men in Congress who would come out as flat as that for free trade can be counted upon one's fingers, although most of the Democrats would not be called "Protectionists," not withstanding the many strongly protective features of the present Democratic tariff law.

While none of the silver men in Congress are enthusiastic to any extent over Senator Wolcott's proposed legislation for another international conference in the interest of bimetalism, none of them will oppose that legislation, although few of them believe that it will amount to anything more than other efforts in that line. The Republicans favor the proposed legislation, not only because it will carry out the promise made in their National platform, but because they hope it will aid in taking the silver question out of politics, either by bringing about international bimetalism or by making a plain that no such thing is possible under existing conditions.

Senator Dubois has gone to Idaho to personally manage his effort for reelection to the Senate. He will have the open assistance of the National Democratic Committee, which already has several men on the ground. Some of the friends of Mr. Dubois say that the Republican National Committee is using its influence against him, as a punishment for his having backed the St. Louis platform and supported Bryan, but members of that committee have positively denied that it was doing anything against Mr. Dubois or that it had the slightest wish to see him defeated. One notable feature of this case is that his friends expect more confidence in the reelection of Mr. Dubois than he does himself.

The nomination of Mr. Charles H. Hawley, of Miss., to the vacancy on the Court of Claims was hung up by the Senate Judiciary committee for the purpose of investigating a charge of homicide which was filed against him. It is no secret that Mr. Hawley's friends that he killed a man—a lawyer who was his opponent in a case in one of the Mississippi courts—but they say it was clearly a case of self-defense, which was investigated by a grand jury that refused to find a true bill. The man killed was a brother of Hon. W. V. Sullivan, who has been elected to the next House from the second Miss. district, and who is understood to be behind the fight that is being made on the nomination. Mr. Hawley is at present an assistant in the office of the Solicitor General, and has been nominated and confirmed by the Senate three times to Federal offices since the killing, about ten years ago.

Twenty-four months from this date, the rapidly growing Japanese navy will be increased by the addition of two swift cruisers of American build.

The contracts were signed at the Japanese legation by Minister Hoshi, representing the Japanese government, and by Messrs. Henry Scott of San Francisco and Charles H. Crane of Philadelphia, representing the Union Iron Works and the Cramps' shipyards, respectively.

Shortly after the termination of the

China-Japan war, when it became known that Japan proposed building a large navy the Tokyo American Press sent agents to Tokyo to secure a part of the work.

These efforts were for a time unsuccessful but they were not abandoned, for the location at Washington, particularly by its naval attaches, and by the further fact that after a careful investigation of the great European and American navies the Japanese government decided that the Americans had reached the port of entry of naval machinery and that our engineers and builders were superior to those of other nations.

These favorable influences resulted in the signing of contracts for the two seas and class protected cruisers, one to be built at San Francisco and the other at Philadelphia, both to be completed in two years.

The two vessels will cost \$1,000,000 in round numbers, and represent the latest and best type of marine architecture. Each will have a displacement of 4,760 tons, or 290 tons more than the Chicago, which was one of the original quartet of steam vessels that marked the renaissance of the new Navy.

Senator Wolcott's trip to Europe in the interests of international bimetalism is being discussed with much interest, both by those who believe international bimetalism to be a tangible something which can be practically worked and by those who believe it to be what Senator Wolcott would call an "unrealistic dream." While Senator Wolcott carries no official credentials, it is believed that he goes practically at the request of President McKinley and of the various committee charged with the preparation of legislation in the interest of international bimetalism, of which he is chairman, and it is known that he goes at the request of the bimetallic League. These facts are not likely to be overlooked by European statesmen, whom he meets.

There are several reasons why Senator Wolcott will receive a cordial welcome in England, not the least of which is the speech he made on the Venezuelan question at the last session of Congress, which was greeted with favorable comment upon by every paper of prominence in Great Britain. Most of the ultra gold men agree with the ultra silver men, that Senator Wolcott's errand will be fruitless but there are a number of conservatives who are firmly of the opinion that international bimetalism can and will be brought about, and some of these, like Senator Chandler, express the opinion that England can even be persuaded to take the initiative steps toward that end.

No time is set for Senator Wolcott's return, but it is known that he will come back before the session of Congress closes, as it is the programme for the Congress to authorize the President to appoint delegates to an international monetary conference.

WASHINGTON, January 6.—The seventh day's session of the Ways and Means Committee found the room well filled with those interested in the agricultural schedule.

F. H. Rockwell, of Warren, Pa., engaged in raising, feeding and fattening cattle in Kansas and Mexico, says that under the McKinley law cattle could not be imported from Mexico, as the tariff was prohibitive. He started business in Arizona in 1893, but on account of the dry season was forced to go to Mexico. The Kansas farmer is greatly benefited by the bringing of cattle from Mexico to Kansas, where they were kept from six to eight months.

Last year the gentleman paid \$22,000 to the Kansas farmers for grain alone, and this year the amount would be over \$40,000. Much is also paid the farmer for their labor, and it is more profitable to the farmer than raising cattle themselves.

It is misleading to say that the average value of these cattle was \$4 per head, as the poorest stock would bring that figure during the operation of the McKinley law it was impossible to bring cattle to this country, and large herds were accumulated in Mexico.

As soon as the Wilson bill went into effect large numbers were brought in, these cattle could not be fattened in Texas. The inferior grades were sold as canners, and the canned product was exported, principally for use in foreign armies. One drawback to the industry was the inability of the cattlemen to acquire title to sufficient lands on which to graze the herds. In Mexico large tracts could be bought outright for less than cost about \$5.50 per head, while American cost \$9, \$12 and \$15 per head.

Representative Curtis, of Kansas, representing the principal cattle districts of Kansas, asked for a duty of \$10 per head on a cattle one year old and over, and \$5 per head on those below one year.

An interesting experiment was undertaken at the Indian Head Proving Ground by the Naval Ordnance Bureau and found that approximately two-thirds of projectiles with and without apogee on their points.

At a reformed, six-inch armor-piercing, three, three-inch armor-piercing, projectiles, from the same manufacturer and as far as could be obtained, were fired in every way, were fired a point-blank range with the high-muzzle velocity of 2,100 feet per second.

One was an ordinary, untreated shell, another had a soft lead cap, and the third a third copper cap, containing a firm lubricant, both the latter modified shells having been tested with apparently favorable results, but without satisfactory comparison with the performance of ordinary projectiles.

Against the Harvey test plan six John Campbell shells were fired and all showed the same striking results, namely, all other shells failed, whether capped or uncapped, but the Campbell shells struck the face of the plate.

The annual report to the President of John J. B. Russell, Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, indicates how important the work of his office has become.

No less than 48,000,000 shad eggs were collected, and from these 38,000,000 fry were planted in streams emptying into the Atlantic ocean and the Gulf of

Highest of all in leavening strength—Largest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

A. & N. C. R. R.

LIVELY BIT OF NEWS REGARDING IT.

Robt. Hancock's Connection With It. Fear of His Presidency. Grounds for Appointment Receiver.

Railroad, N. C. Jan. 7. This interesting bit of news regarding the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway, and the proposed lease of it, is being made public by the fact that the railroad is being sold to the United States.

The fact is that there is a panic along the line of the road because of the belief that Hancock, who is a party part, is to be made President.

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There was no holiday today, and the Legislature will be in session today.

The State Board of Education held a special session today.

About twelve members of the Legislature had arrived at noon today. The numbers will increase tomorrow.

The Legislature will be in session today.

The following from State Auditor Finnan's annual report is of interest.

According to returns for 1896, the aggregate value of real and personal property, including railroads, steamboats and telegraphs, was \$249,664,449.

The assessment for 1896, the year covered by this report, was \$27,457,257.99, a decrease of \$22,207,191.

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THREE FRIENDS AND WHAT IS FORTH.

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"Blight"

costs cotton planters more than five million dollars annually. This is an enormous waste, and can be prevented. Practical experiments at Alabama Experiment Station show conclusively that the use of

"Kainit"

will prevent that dreaded plant disease.

All about Kainit—the results of its use by a noted expert on the best farms in the United States—sold in little black bags, and will be gladly sent free to any farmer in America who will write for it.

GERMAN KALI WORKS, 31 Nassau St., New York.

LOOK!

READ!

PONDER!

Do you wish to own your home?

Are you tired of that ceaseless rent paying?

Do you wish to own your home?

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