

MAY ANNEX CUBA.

That Island May Become a Part of the United States.

PLEA FOR A LOWER SUGAR DUTY.

It is Urged Before Committee That Immediate Relief Be Afforded the Cuban Sugar Growers.

Washington, Special.—The ways and means committee began hearing Wednesday on the subject of Cuban reciprocity, with a large representation present from the various interests which would be effected by legislation of this character. The Cuban industries were represented by Messrs. Place, Mendoza Dumois and Franke, chosen by commercial organizations in various parts of the island. The interests engaged in sugar production in Cuba were represented by Edwin F. Atkins, spokesman for an organization controlling a large part of the sugar production of the island; Hugh Kelly, of New York, and John F. Craig, of Philadelphia. William Haywood was present in behalf of the Hawaiian sugar planters and Henry T. Oxnard for the domestic beet sugar interests. The tobacco and other interests affected by Cuban production were also well represented.

Edwin F. Atkins, of Boston, made the opening statement in behalf of reciprocity. He spoke of the enormous overproduction of sugar throughout the world, amounting to about 1,500,000 tons, which had resulted in a crisis in the industry. European countries had met this by bounties, so that the German producers, by means of a bounty, were able to sell sugar at half a cent per pound below its cost of production. The cost of production in Cuba was 2.06 cents per pound, which was somewhat above the selling price. Mr. Atkins stated that there was now about \$20,000,000 of standing cane in Cuba and at present prices a considerable part of this would not be harvested. The loss to labor, he thought, was likely to lead to disturbances. At the time set for the withdrawal of American troops there would be, in his opinion, a deficit in the insular revenues which were largely recruited from the sugar industry. Mr. Atkins stated that a 50 per cent. reduction of duties was desired on the various products of the island, but in response to inquiries from Mr. Payne he said that the sugar industry felt they should have a 100 per cent. reduction. He was opposed to a drawback. Mr. Atkins said that if present conditions continued Cuba probably would become so desperate as to be forced into annexation.

Louis Place, a merchant of Havana, and head of the Cuban delegation, presented the case from the Cuban standpoint. At present, he said, Cuba was buying large quantities of foreign goods and if reciprocity was brought about with the United States, Cuba would buy American cotton goods, wine, and many other articles now bought abroad. He believed this market in Cuba would amount to \$250,000,000 within two years.

Francis B. Thurber, of the United States Export Association, stated that the primary consideration was one of good faith on the part of the United States to Cuba.

Hugh Kelly, of New York, who has large sugar holdings in Cuba, said that as an American he urged that reciprocal concessions be made. He believed that if there was no reciprocity Cuba would ask for annexation and if this occurred the voice of the American people will be for admitting the island.

Mr. Mendoza, of the Cuban delegation, pictured the distress if present conditions were continued and said the loss on the sugar crop of the island this year would approximate \$12,000,000. He strongly favored the free admission of sugar and reciprocal concessions on American goods entering Cuba.

Must Have Negro Schools.

Guthrie, O. T., Special.—Chief Justice Burford has issued an order to the effect that if there be only one colored child of school age in a school district the authorities must provide a separate school house and teacher. This order takes in the entire Territory and will prove very expensive to the various counties.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Detailed Doings of Our National Law-makers.

HOUSE.
Twenty-third Day—The House held a short session, devoid of events. It adjourned at 4:30 p. m.

Twenty-fourth Day—The House was in session only a few minutes and no important measures were under consideration. At 4:20 p. m. the House adjourned.

Twenty-fifth Day—The House of Representatives was in session less than an hour. Only routine business was transacted, the most important feature of which was the reporting by Mr. Cannon, chairman of the committee on appropriations, of an urgency bill. The bill will be called up for consideration next Monday.

The Senate amendments to the House bill appropriating \$90,000 for a government exhibit and floors pace at the Charleston Exposition was agreed to and the bill passed.

SENATE.

Twenty-fourth Day—For a brief time the Senate had under consideration the bill creating a Department of Commerce. The discussion tended to show that the measure will have to be amended in many particulars before it can receive the approval of the Senate. Serious objections were raised to the transfer to the proposed Department of several important bureaus, now a part of other Departments of the government. Notice of several important amendments was given, but no definite action on the measure was taken. A large number of uncontested bills and private pension measures were passed, after which the Senate adjourned until Monday.

Twenty-fifth Day—The Senate held a brief and interesting session. The Democratic members of the Senate Committee on the Philippines were in consultation for several hours over their proposed substitute proposition for the Philippine tariff bill. They are agreed on all the essential features of their position. In general they say they will recommend that in the end provision should be made giving the Filipinos their independence, but in the meantime providing for free trade between the United States and the Philippine archipelago such as is maintained between the United States proper and other territories.

Favor Panama Offer.

Washington, Special.—The supplemental report of the Isthmian Canal Commission on the proposition of the Panama Canal Company to dispose of its property to the United States for \$40,000,000 was delivered to President Roosevelt Saturday evening. The members of the commission refuse to discuss the nature of the report and like reticence was maintained at the White House, but it was stated on excellent authority that the report unanimously recommends that the offer of the Panama Company be accepted. The report, it is stated, is very voluminous, going into all phases of the question and attempting to meet the objections that any legal complications will arise.

The Goebel Murder.

Frankfort, Ky., Special.—Attorneys for the defense in the Jim Howard murder case say that they will tomorrow put on the witness stand reliable persons who will give all the details of the alleged Goebel murder conspiracy. They say that this testimony will show that Howard had nothing to do with the crime.

A Jeweler Murdered.

West Chester, N. Y., Special.—Bela Brown, aged 60, a manufacturer of jewelry, was found murdered in his store Sunday night. His legs were tied together and he was gagged with a long neck scarf. On the back of the head was a hole extending into the brain and there were several gashes in the scalp evidently made with a hammer, which was found near the body smeared with blood.

News By Wire.

A half million of Eastern capital is to be invested in Oregon timber lands.

Illinois subscriptions to the McKinley National Memorial aggregate \$25,139.

Two colored miners were killed and eight injured at Millstone, Tenn., by a runaway mine car.

The residents of Wilmington, Del., were aroused the other night by the continuous screech of a whistle. For more than an hour the noise was uninterrupted. Next morning it was learned that the whistle valve of a locomotive engine in the railroad yard had become jammed and the engineer was unable to release it. Not until the steam pressure was reduced by drawing the fire did the noise cease.

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL

New Enterprises That Are Enriching Our Favored Section.

Kentucky Oil Fields.

In a recent issue of the Morning Herald of Lexington, Ky., is published a sketch of the development of the oil field in Eastern Kentucky, about fifty miles from Lexington. The beginning of the advancement of that section is traced to the construction of about twenty-five years ago by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway of a road from Mt. Sterling to Huntington, W. Va. Iron ore had been mined in Bath county for seventy-five years in small quantities, but the arrival of the steam road increased the output of the ore and of timber. A little more than a year ago the Mt. Sterling Oil & Gas Co., which had acquired leases in the neighborhood of Ragland, drilled its first oil well in Bath county, and almost every well since drilled in that county has been found to be productive. The Herald says:

"None of the wells have been gushers, and now that the field is partially developed, no gushers are expected. One reason that the oil would not flow without pumping is that it is free from gas, the pressure which causes the oil in most gushers to flow freely. A second reason is the quality of the oil itself.

"The oil produced in the Licking river fields is a thick, black, heavy lubricant, very similar in appearance to hot tar. The quality is good, and the oil men claim that it will sell on the ground at \$4 to \$4.25 per barrel. The only market found for it so far, however, is local, the Bath county machinists using it as a lubricant on delicate machinery that requires the best quality of oil, paying fifty and seventy-five cents per gallon. The oil men believe that a market can readily be found when occasion demands it.

"The ordinary tanks provided for the first flow of the wells have been filled. As yet no pipe lines have been laid, and, indeed, it has not yet been determined to what point they will be laid.

"The Guffey & Galey Company, reputed to be largest independent oil concern in the world, is constructing a 65,000-barrel tank within 200 yards of the depot at Ragland.

"They have few, if any, leases in the vicinity, all of the neighboring territory having been already leased. Mr. J. E. Maguire, a representative of the Guffey & Galey Company, stated that his company expected to handle any oil offered to it if it could see its way clear to make a profit on the oil. The Guffey & Galey people evidently believe that there is money in the field by going to the expense of erecting such a tank. There are no larger tanks in the country than the one at Ragland, although the same people have forty tanks of its size in various parts of the United States. Mr. Maguire said that the tank would cost about \$20,000 when completed. The expense of erecting it alone, without the cost of the material, will be between \$3500 and \$5000. It will be 130 feet in diameter and thirty feet in height.

"Nearly all the wells which have been drilled at Ragland have been plugged to await the completion of the tank. When the tank is completed they will be pumped to their full capacity. If the tank is then filled in any reasonable time, which is confidently expected, active measures will at once be taken to construct pipe lines, probably to Salt Lick, though there has been some talk of pumping the oil to the top of a nearby mountain and pipe it to the Ohio river, and at the river load it into barges for final destination.

"One of the most promising companies in the Bath county field is the Licking Valley Oil & Gas Co., composed almost entirely of Lexington men. The company has 8600 acres of land leased in the immediate territory, a large portion of which is contiguous to the Ragland wells. Other leases are across the mountain, and some lie toward Salt Lick, while it has several hundred acres of leased land in Menfee adjoining producing wells. The company has subleased part of its land to Mr. J. M. Sweeny, who has drilled one well upon it. The well was found to be a good producing well, but was immediately plugged up to await storage facilities. The company is drilling another well nearby, and is now nearly 400 feet deep. Not less than thirty wells have been drilled in Bath county, of which number at least twenty-five are profitable wells.

"Two wells were shot at Yale, about two miles across the mountain from Ragland. Oil was found in the wells, but it was so flooded with salt water that it is not deemed profitable at present to work.

EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO.

Three Hundred People Are Said to Have Been Killed.

Mexico City, Special.—One of the most terrible catastrophes ever recorded in the State of Guerrero is reported to have occurred late Friday afternoon, when an extremely violent earthquake shock was felt at Chilpancingo, causing a great loss of life and injuring many persons. Details from the stricken district are very meagre, but scattering reports received here indicate that probably 300 persons were killed and as many more injured. It is known that the State capitol, the parish church and many business houses and residences are in ruins and there is much suffering from awful seismic disturbance. One of the edifices that suffered most was the Federal Telegraph office, which explains the paucity of news that has so far reached this city. Later, meagre details began to arrive here. The telegraph lines and apparatus at Chilpancingo were badly damaged, but the employees, all of whom were uninjured, proceeded to erect an improvised telegraph office on the outskirts of the city. The number of dead was greater in the parish church than in any single place, as a crowd of worshippers were gathered there for the afternoon service. The solid masonry-walled roof came toppling down on the worshippers as if it had been wrenched from its bearings by a thousand strong hands. Several people were killed there. The War Department has ordered the troops in the neighborhood to cooperate in the work of rescue. Until this work is completed it will be impossible to accurately learn the number of victims. It is believed, however, that this is one of the most destructive seismic phenomena that has occurred in Mexico. The greater part of the population of Chilpancingo are now camping out on the outskirts of the town.

Earthquake shocks were felt in many other cities and towns. In Mexico City the earthquake took place at 5:17 Thursday afternoon and was of such violence as to shake the most substantial buildings. The Pan-American Congress was in session at the time. The first movement was one of trepidation and was sharp. It was followed by an easter oscillatory movement from north-northwest to south-southwest. The duration was 55 seconds. The damage in this city was only slight.

The State of Guerrero has always been the focus of seismic disturbances. Reports received here tonight state that the shock was very severe at Chilapa. No casualties reported so far from there. In duration the Chilpancingo shock was less important than that in Mexico City, having lasted 50 seconds against 55 seconds at the capital.

Up to 11 o'clock at night no further news had come through from Chilpancingo. The earthquake was also heavy at Iguala, in the State of Guerrero, destroying the parish church and many buildings in the city and neighborhood. Among the latter was the sugar mill of General Frisbie, an American. The mill had just been completed and fitted up with American machinery at a cost of \$200,000. The property loss is immense throughout the State of Teururo.

The Associated Press correspondent has just seen a private telegram from Chilpancingo from a gentleman to relatives in this city saying: "I and family are safe. Many houses were destroyed." The fact that he does not refer to loss of life is considered significant and it is now developed that the first estimate of deaths was greatly exaggerated.

Train Wrecked.

La Fayette, La., Special.—The fast passenger train which left New Orleans was wrecked Friday at Code station, 12 miles east of LaFayette. Five passenger cars were thrown from the track, all well filled with passengers, but fortunately only three were hurt. The injured are: Dr. H. C. Smisson, of Sloucm, internal injuries; Dr. Brecker, of Detroit, leg hurt; Mrs. C. H. Hambert, of Buffalo, N. Y., injured internally. The injured were brought here, sent to a hotel and are reported as doing well.

Bank Closes.

Albany, Ga., Special.—An application for a temporary receiver has been filed by the directors of the Commercial Bank of Albany. The bank did not open for business and a posted notice stated that the bank had suspended payment, pending the action of the State authorities. The liabilities of the bank are estimated at \$123,000, with assets of \$191,000 in bills receivable and real estate.

TOWNS GROW FAST.

Rural Districts in the South Rapidly Filling Up.

DETAILS OF THE LATE CENSUS

Population of North Congested in the Large Cities—In the South the Increase Has Been Rural.

Washington, Special.—The Director of the Census has given out a statement regarding the growth of urban population North and South, which shows the following facts:

The large cities taken collectively, are growing nearly twice as fast as the rest of the country.

The per cent of the population of North States living in large cities is nearly three times as great as the corresponding per cent in the South; the North has a rate of increase no greater than that of the South.

The large cities of the North are growing much faster than those of the same size in the South, but this difference balanced by an extremely rapid growth of small towns and cities in the South and especially rural population.

The statement says these results seem paradoxical but are correct.

Director Merriman's statement is designed to explain how the deduction that the South for the first time is now growing as rapidly as the North harmonizes with the well known fact that in the North the population of inhabitants living in cities is much larger than it is in the South and that as a rule cities increase in population much more rapidly than country districts.

The statement shows that in the North the proportion of the population living in large cities is more than three times as great as it is in the South. The population living in cities of over 25,000 inhabitants increased 41 per cent between 1890 and 1900, partly by the growth of the 126 cities of that size in 1890 and partly by the addition during the following ten years of 36 other cities to the list. The population of the country outside these cities increased between 1890 and 1900 14.9 per cent. The 160 cities of the United States, each of which had over 25,000 inhabitants in 1900 increased in population 32.5 per cent between 1890 and 1900, the rest of the United States, including Alaska and the recent insular accessions increased 17.5 per cent.

Of the total population of 77,994,579 in continental United States 19,718,812, or 25.9 per cent live in cities of 25,000 inhabitants or more. The proportion of inhabitants of the three sections, the North, South and West, into which the census divides the United States follows:

North, total population, 47,879,699; population of cities of 25,000 or more 16,196,550 or 34 per cent; South, total 24,523,527; cities of 25,000 or more, 2,488,553 or 10 per cent. West 4,091,349; cities of 25,000 or more 1,033,179, or 26 per cent.

The per cent of increase of population living in places of sizes indicated from 1890 to 1900, by sections follows:

25,000 and over, North, 42.2; South, 31.0; West, 47.3; in United States, 41.1. 8,000 to 25,000, North, 22.9; South, 26.9; West, 17.9; in United States, 23.1. 4,000 to 8,000, North, 27.6; South, 87.3; West, 50.7; in United States, 36.7. In incorporated places of less than 4,000, North, 27.9; South, 44.4; West, 46.5; in United States, 33.0. Rural, North, 1.2; South, 17.9; West, 22.0; in United States, 9.4.

These figures concludes the statement, show that the present growth of population is a resultant in the North of a very rapid growth of large cities, as lower growth of small cities, and a very slight growth in the country; and a resultant in the South of a rate of growth of larger cities below the average for the country, balanced by a striking growth of small cities and an increase of rural population as fast as the average for the United States.

Lee Memorial Services.

Memphis, Special.—Memorial services commemorative of the birthday of Gen. Robert E. Lee, were held throughout the South. At the Central Methodist church, in this city, the Rev. W. K. Piner took as the text of his sermon, "The Soldier." Fifteen hundred people listened to Mr. Piner's eulogy of the dead chieftain.

Syrian Robbed.

Kirkville, Mo., Special.—I. Solomon a Syrian, living at Keokuk, Ia., was held up Sunday night and robbed of a money belt containing \$8,500. Solomon had sold his business in Keokuk and was looking for a location here. Two fellow country men have been arrested for the robbery. Solomon says one of them held him while the other cut the belt from his waist. The money has not been recovered.