

A HARDWARE TRUST

Tremendous Combination of Capital to Control Trade.

MUCH CAPITAL IS REPRESENTED

A Combination That Proposes to Dominate the Hardware Business of the Country.

New York, Special.—Authoritative announcement of a consolidation of the great hardware interests in the country in a combination capitalized at \$120,000,000 will be made by The Iron Age. The consolidation embraces the Simmons Hardware Company, at St. Louis; Bindley Hardware Company, of Pittsburg; William Bingham Company, of Cleveland; Supplee Hardware Company, of Philadelphia; Pacific Hardware and Steel Company, of Duluth; Bigelow & Dowse Company, of Boston; VanCamp Hardware Company, of Indianapolis; George Etchrich Hardware Company, of Denver; Janney, Semple, Hill & Co., of Minneapolis, and forty other houses, representing nearly every important trade centre of the country. Negotiations are still pending with other houses, and it is expected there will be further accessions to the number already named in the combination. The Iron Age says:

"Several names have been suggested for the consolidation, such as the National Hardware and Metal Company, International Hardware and Metal Company, and there is little doubt that one of these will be chosen. It is supposed that the officials shall be as follows: E. C. Simmons, president; John Bindley, vice president; and W. D. Simmons, chairman of the executive committee. There will be a board of directors, consisting of from 25 to 30 persons representing the different sections of the country. There will also be an executive committee of nine.

"The forming of the company is attended to by Moore & Schley, of New York, and George B. Hill & Co., of Pittsburg. It is intended to incorporate under the laws of New Jersey with a capital of \$120,000,000; \$40,000,000 preferred and \$80,000,000 common stock. The profits will be a 6 per cent. cumulative stock, preferred both for liquidation and dividends. The general headquarters for buying and selling and transportation of goods will be in St. Louis. The Eastern headquarters will be in New York.

"The principle of home rule will be recognized in connection with the local houses, who will make their own selling prices, except so far as this may interfere with the buying department or the expressed wishes of the manufacturers, which it will be the policy of the company to respect. Each house will be held responsible for the results of its business and if they are not satisfactory the house will be closed. The company naturally expects to purchase goods on the most favorable terms, in view of the large volume they will handle, and various economies will be secured as the direct result of the consolidation.

"As at present constituted it is estimated by the company that they will embrace something like two-thirds of the distributing efficiency of the jobbing trade of the country in the hardware line. They are content that the other third should remain competitors, as it is not intended to monopolize the jobbing business."

Election Law Criticized.

Washington, Special.—A criticism of the election law of Virginia is made in the report filed by House elections committee No. 3, in the case of James A. Walker vs. Wm. F. Rhea, from the ninth district of Virginia. The committee reports in favor of Rhea, as the contestant has died. The law is criticized as "repugnant to all lovers of fair play and honest elections." An appeal is made to the constitutional convention of Virginia and to the General Assembly to make changes which will insure a fair and free vote and an honest count. Representative Johnson, of South Carolina, dissents from that part of the report making "strictures on the laws and the people of Virginia."

Drove Nail Into Husband's Head.

Wellington, Kans., Special.—In Grant county, Oklahoma, just across the line from here, Mrs. Peoples, a Bohemian, is reported to have killed her husband by driving a nail into his head. Peoples, a farmer, went home drunk, beat his wife and afterward ordered her to get his supper and went to sleep with his head leaning against pine partition. When supper was ready the woman tried to awaken him but failed. Fearing that he would beat her again when he awoke for not calling him, she drove a nail through from the other side of the partition in the man's head, killing him. She made no attempt to escape.

Declined to Remove Boycott.

Norfolk, Special.—By a vote of 16 to 11 the Central Labor Union of this city have declined to remove the boycott against the Norfolk Railway and Light Company which has been on since March 1. This means that the fight will be continued indefinitely. The cars are running on schedule time and are experiencing no inconvenience.

PRESIDENT'S EXPOSITION SPEECH.

Says Many Things Complimentary to Southern Progress.

The address of President Roosevelt at Charleston Wednesday was well-timed and well received. The President said in part:

"It is to me a peculiar privilege to speak here in your beautiful city. My mother's people were from Georgia; but before they came to Georgia, before the Revolution, in the days of Colonial rule, they dwelt for nearly a century in South Carolina; and therefore I can claim your State as mine by inheritance no less than by the stronger and nobler right which makes each foot of American soil in a sense the property of all Americans.

"Charleston is not only a typical Southern city; it is also a city whose history teems with events which link themselves to American history as a whole. In the early Colonial days Charleston was the outpost of our people against the Spaniard in the South. In the days of the Revolution there occurred here some of the events which vitally affected the outcome of the struggle for independence, and which impressed themselves most deeply upon the popular mind. It was here that the tremendous, terrible drama of the civil war opened.

"With delicate and thoughtful courtesy you originally asked me to come to this exposition on the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. The invitation not only shows a fine generosity and manliness in you, my hosts, but it also emphasized as hardly anything else could have emphasized how completely we are now a united people. The wounds left by the great civil war, incomparably the greatest war of modern times, have healed; and its memories are now priceless heritages of honor alike to the North and to the South. The devotion, the self-sacrifice, the steadfast resolution and lofty daring, the high devotion to the rights as each man saw it, whether Northerner or Southerner—all these qualities of the men and women of the early sixties now shine luminous and brilliant before our eyes, while the mists of anger and hatred that once dimmed them have passed away forever.

"All of us, North and South, can glory alike in the valor of the men who wore the blue and the men who wore the gray. Those were iron times, and only iron men could fight to its terrible finish the giant struggle between the hosts of Grant and Lee. To us of the present day, and to our children and children's children, the valiant deeds, the high endeavor, and abnegation of self shown in that struggle by those who took part therein will remain for evermore to mark the level to which we in our turn must rise whenever the hour of the nation's need may come.

"When four years ago this nation was compelled to face a foreign foe, the completeness of the reunion became instantly and strikingly evident. The war was not one which called for the exercise of more than an insignificant fraction of our strength, and the strain put upon us was slight indeed compared with the results. But it was a satisfactory thing to see the way in which the sons of the soldier of the Union and the soldier of the Confederacy leaped eagerly forward, emulous to show in brotherly rivalry the qualities which had won renown for their fathers, the men of the great war. It was my good fortune to serve under an ex-Confederate general, gallant old Joe Wheeler, who commanded the cavalry at Santiago.

"In my regiment there were certainly as many men whose fathers had served in the Southern, as there were men whose fathers had served in the Northern army. Among the captains there was opportunity to promote but one to field rank. The man who was singled out for this promotion because of conspicuous gallantry in the field was the son of a Confederate general and was himself a citizen of this, the Palmetto State; and no American officer could wish to march to battle besides a more loyal, gallant, and absolutely fearless comrade than my former captain and major, your fellow-citizen, Micajah Jenkins.

"A few months ago, owing to the enforced absence of the Governor of the Philippines, it became necessary to nominate a Vice Governor to take his place—one of the most important places in our government at this time. I nominated as Vice Governor an ex-Confederate, Gen. Luke Wright, of Tennessee. It is therefore an ex-Confederate who now stands as the exponent of this government and this people in that great group of islands in the eastern seas over which the American flag floats. Gen. Wright has taken a leading part in the work of steadily bringing order and peace out of bloody chaos in which we found the islands. He is now taking a leading part not merely in upholding the honor of the flag by making it respected as the symbol of our power, but still more in upholding its honor by unwearied labor for the establishment of ordered liberty—of law-creating, law-abiding civil government—under its folds.

"The progress which has been made under Gen. Wright and those like him has been indeed marvelous. In fact a letter of the general's the other day seemed to show that he considered there was far more warfare about the Philippines in this country than there was warfare in the Philippines themselves! It is an added proof of the completeness of the reunion of our country that one of the foremost men who have been instrumental in driving forward

the great work for civilization and humanity in the Philippines has been a man who in the civil war fought with distinction in a uniform of Confederate gray.

"If ever the need comes in the future the past has made abundantly evident the fact that from this time on Northerner and Southerner will in war know only the generous desire to strive how each can do the more effective service for the flag of our common country. The same thing is true in the endless work of peace, the never-ending work of building and keeping the marvelous fabric of our industrial prosperity.

Strikers Defy Court Order.

Kansas City, Special.—Striking journeymen bakers have disregarded an order issued by Judge John Henry, of the Circuit Court, restraining them from interfering with the business of Warneke's bakery and one of them went so far as to throw the court's order into the street when the deputy served it. What course Judge Henry will take remains yet to be seen. The strikers have interfered with the baker's business by standing in front of his shop and telling all persons who passed not to patronize the store, as its manager was antagonistic to organized labor.

Engineer and Fireman Killed.

Griffin, Ga., Special.—A northbound passenger train on the Central of Georgia Railroad ran into an open switch, half a mile below this city, colliding with a string of freight cars standing on the side track. None of the passengers were injured, but Engineer Ramsey and Fireman Green, of the passenger train were painfully hurt. The engine of the passenger train was partially demolished, and several freight cars wrecked. Traffic was blocked for two and a half hours.

Another Railroad Deal.

Chicago, Special.—The Record-Herald says: "Upon the authority of a large stockholder in the Plant System, it is stated that the Pennsylvania interests will soon acquire possession of the allied Plant and Atlantic Coast systems. In this fact it is alleged is to be found the reason for the purchase by the Atlantic Coast Line of the Plant System, which has surprised the railroad world. Should the Pennsylvania secure the two systems they will add a total of 3,970 miles of line, bringing the total to 20,000 miles under one control.

Trains Wrecked and Burned.

Cheraw, S. C., Special.—Freight trains Nos. 22 and 52 on the Seaboard Air Line, running north from Columbia, had a rear-end collision on a very heavy grade near McBee, twenty miles from here. Train No. 22 came rushing down hill at a high rate of speed and crashed into No. 52, which had stopped to fix a pin which had dropped from one of the cars. Train No. 22 was a total wreck and a fire destroyed it.

Virginia Mountains Snow Covered.

Roanoke, Va., Special.—Snow has fallen here, and the weather has turned very cold. The mountains are covered with several inches of snow. Further west the mercury has registered two degrees below freezing since early Tuesday morning and snow has been falling at intervals. Fruit trees are not yet in bloom and if the wind continues high there will be little damage from the cold snap.

Democrats Carry Kansas City.

Kansas City, Special.—At midnight the returns of the city election indicate the re-election of Mayor Jas. A. Reed, Democrat, over John G. Green, Republican, by 2,250 plurality. The remainder of the Democratic ticket was elected by similar pluralities. The Democrats will fully control the city government for the first time in many years.

City Editor E. W. Caldwell, of the Evening Journal, was elected Mayor of Sioux City, Ia.

First Aid to Fiction.

The third unsuccessful attempt within a month to read a historical romance moves us to suggest to the Association of American Publishers that a long felt want would be supplied by a "Skippers Index." The best kind would be a marginal index. H would refer the reader to Hero and Heroine; D is for Duel; V is for Villain; K is for King; A is for Ambuscade; E is for Escape; R is for Rescue of Heroine; S is for Supper at the Inn. By referring to these topics in the stereotyped order of incidents, one could get through a romance in twenty minutes, or forty at most, if the thing were well enough done to warrant loitering. As it is, only the professional reviewers are able to skip scientifically and surely; the rest of us must keep turning pages in search of the required incident; and turning pages, no matter how fast, takes valuable time. Let us have a "Skippers Index," Messrs. Publishers. It will not interfere with the pleasure of readers that like to know that "the last rays of the declining sun were tinting the western hills," and it will save time for readers that wish to get at what story the book may contain.—Chicago Tribune.

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL

\$200,000 Mill for Griffin, Ga.

Mention was made last month that Messrs. Douglas Boyd, J. J. Mangham and others were organizing a company to build a cotton factory, the fifth, at Griffin, Ga. It is now announced that the required capital of \$200,000 has all been subscribed, and will be issued as \$125,000 of common stock and \$75,000 of preferred stock. Articles of incorporation have been prepared under the title of the Boyd-Mangham Manufacturing Co., and application has been filed with the charter authorities. The greater portion of the capital is being furnished by local capitalists, but Eastern parties will also be interested as stockholders. As soon as charter has been issued the company will make preparations to begin the construction of its plant. An equipment of 10,000 spindles and 300 looms is proposed.

\$500,000 Company at Pell City, Ala.

It was reported some weeks ago that Col. Sumpter Cogswell of Pell City, Ala., was negotiating with New England capitalists for the establishment of a large cotton factory at Pell City. The Pell City Manufacturing Co. has now been incorporated to erect and equip the plant, capital stock being placed at \$500,000. The incorporators are Messrs. Sumpter Cogswell of Pell City, C. E. Riley and W. R. Sears of Boston, Mass.; G. W. Pratt, A. J. Draper, J. D. Cloudman and E. Chappell of Atlanta, Ga. It is stated that arrangements will be made to decide details and begin work this month.

Mill to Add Looms.

Important betterments have been decided upon by the Knoxville Cotton Mills Co., of Knoxville, Tenn., and work on same has already begun. The company is building an addition two stories high, 90x100 feet, which will make its main building 100x320 feet in all. The principal machinery to be installed will be a sufficient number of looms (probably 300) to manufacture into cloth the product of the present 10,000 spindles. About \$25,000 will be expended for the improvements. The plant is only a year old.

Textile Notes.

Loray Mills of Gastonia, N. C., received an order last week for 2,000 bales of sheeting for shipment to Shanghai, China. About \$100,000 is probably involved in a contract of this extent. The Loray Company just started its plant in January, begun weaving in February, and in March sent samples of its product to the Shanghai trade. This order is the result. The mill has 50,244 ring spindles and 1680 looms.

Wm. Krenning has been elected treasurer and general manager of the Wytheville (Va.) Woolen & Knitting Mills Co., a concern which he originated and was not connected with for about a year. Mr. Krenning purchased a controlling interest in the enterprise. The plant consists of a complete two-set mill, manufacturing cassimeres, blankets, hosiery, etc.

Plant of the Great Falls Cotton Mills Co., of Falls City, Tenn., was completely destroyed by floods in Tennessee last month. This was the first time the mill had ever sustained any damage from high water. The company was capitalized at \$50,000, and does not intend to rebuild. H. L. Walling was treasurer.

Hawkins Manufacturing Co. of Hillsboro, Texas, has been organized with capital stock of \$15,000, for textile manufacturing, etc. The directors are Messrs. H. P. Hawkins, T. G. Hawkins, C. A. Sullenberger, W. R. Patterson, T. E. Tomlinson, E. B. Hughes and J. K. Parr.

It is proposed at Magnolia, Miss., to form a company with capital of \$50,000 or \$75,000 for the erection of a cotton mill. J. E. Wolfe is interested, and is asking for full information as to cost of building, cost of machinery, date when machinery can be delivered, etc.

Cuero (Texas) Cotton Mill has arranged to install 3004 additional spindles, which will bring the equipment up to the capacity of the present buildings. There being now 2494 spindles in place, the increased equipment will be 5000 spindles; the looms at present number 160.

Messrs. H. E. Tener, Jr., L. L. Fleming, Paul Jones, W. S. Hanson, Geo. A. Mansfield, Melvin Conish, L. W. Bryana and W. H. Moore have incorporated the Indian Territory Cotton Products Co. of South McAlester, I. T., with a capital stock of \$250,000.

Knoxville (Tenn.) Woolen Mills is changing its looms so as to manufacture cassimeres instead of jeans, the original product. New looms are being installed, and the entire mill will soon be producing the new goods.

C. C. Newell of Utica, N. Y., is visiting Texas, and is said to contemplate the erection of a knitting mill at San Antonio, Waco or some other Texas point where proper facilities can be obtained. Mr. Newell is engaged in the knitting industry in his State.

Tennille (Ga.) Cotton Mills will probably be put in operation in the near future. Either the property will be sold of B. E. Willingham, a cotton-goods manufacturer of Macon, Ga., will take charge of the plant in the interest of the bond-holders.

W. P. Anderson of Westminster, S. C., contemplates building a knitting plant to invest probably \$40,000. Manufacturers of the required machinery are invited to send catalogues and information.

IN CONGRESS.

Detailed Doings of Our National Legislature.

HOUSE.
Ninetyeth Day—The feature of the second day's debate in the House on the Cuban reciprocity bill was an impassioned speech in opposition to the measure by Wm. A. Smith, a Michigan Republican. Senators Spooner, Quarens, of Wisconsin, and Doolittle, Iowa, and a group of Michigan sugar manufacturers were in the gallery and he was liberally applauded. His Republican supporters as he called the Republican leaders who were advocating the bill, boldly charged them with being false to the Republican doctrine of protection. In the course of his remarks he announced that he was willing to vote to amend the chair in order to support an amendment to take the differential of refined sugar.

Mr. Morris, of Minnesota, another Republican, who made a strong speech against the bill, also made a similar announcement. The other speakers of the day were Mr. Ball, Democrat, of Texas, and Mr. Sparkman, Democrat of Tennessee, both of whom opposed the bill. Mr. Mendell, of Wyoming, who advocated its passage.

The Democrats and Republican opponents of the measure are trying to get together on the proposition to take the differential of refined sugar. The indications are that the debate will be protracted. The demand for time speak is great and there is now no expectation that the general debate will be completed until next week.

In the course of Mr. Smith's speech Mr. Underwood, of Alabama, asked Mr. Smith if he would vote to take the differential of refined sugar coming from Cuba. Mr. Smith replied that no refined sugar came from Cuba and turned asked Mr. Underwood if his Democratic side would vote to rule the chair and join in voting to take the differential of the sugar of the world. After some sparring being which Mr. Underwood showed disposition to evade the question in response to the promptings of the Democrats around him, he finally declared the prediction that there would be an opportunity to vote upon a proposition to take the differential of the sugar of the world. "If it is," observed Mr. Smith, "I will give your vote with great interest."

"We are not here," said Mr. Morris, "to make laws for the benefit of the diers of fortune who go to Cuba instead of home and of such buccans as Mr. Havemeyer, the head of the sugar trust." "But, gentlemen," added, turning to his Republican colleagues, "if you are determined to this thing, if you insist upon giving the sugar trust a present of two and a half millions, let us give the sugar trust a dose of its own medicine. Let us take the differential of refined sugar under which the trust has grown strong and powerful." He called upon the Democrats to stand with the Republicans and "hit the sugar trust and hit it hard." The Democrats cried out that they would join the Republicans and applauded vigorously.

Mr. Ball, of Texas, denied that his bill was in line with Democratic doctrine, because it was admitted that it would not result in reducing the price of sugar to the American consumer, the sole beneficiary, he argued, would be the sugar trust.

SENATE.

Ninetyeth Day—Throughout the day's session of the Senate the Chinese exclusion bill was under consideration. Three speeches were delivered upon the subject by Mr. Gallinger of New Hampshire, and Mr. Dillingham, of Vermont, opposing it, and Mr. Turner, of Washington, supporting it. Mr. Gallinger urged that the pending bill was unnecessary.

Mr. Gallinger maintained that pending subject was a matter for diplomatic negotiation and not for congressional action. In this connection he read Minister Wu's recent letter to Secretary of State Hay, in which he protested against the enactment of the bill, declaring that it would disturb friendly relations between the United States and China.

Mr. Mitchell, of Oregon, inquired of Mr. Gallinger what he thought of the propriety of a foreign minister criticizing measures pending before Congress. Mr. Foraker, of Ohio, said that the Chinese minister clearly was within his rights.

In an extended address, Mr. Turner appealed to the Senate to pass the proposed bill, not merely for the protection of the people of the Pacific States, but to prevent the entire body from being contaminated by the Chinese.

Mr. Dillingham advocated the re-enactment of the present Geary law, declaring that representatives of the Pacific States had expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied with the operation of the existing law and that there was no proper reason for a change, particularly as the change would involve great trouble and expense.

Mr. Fairbanks, of Indiana, reported favorably from the committee on immigration the Chinese exclusion bill passed by the House of Representatives. It was placed on the calendar.

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