

TERRIBLE IF TRUE.

Rumor That a German Steamship Has Been Wrecked.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY LIVES REPORTED LOST.

Fire Breaks Out in the Cabin of a Steamer Plying Between Leith and London, and Before the Flames Were Extinguished Six Women and a Child Were Burned to Death and a Number of People Badly Injured.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—The Daily News will to-morrow publish a despatch from Berlin saying an unconfirmed rumor has reached that city that a North German Lloyd steamship has foundered, and that 150 persons were drowned. Neither the name of the steamship nor the locality of the alleged disaster is given.

FATAL FLAMES ON A STEAMER.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—The London and Edinburgh Steamship Company's steamer Iona, plying between Leith and London, caught fire early this morning while on her trip to Gravesend. The fire started in her cabin. Five women and one child, passengers, and the stewardess were burned to death, and a number of others were badly burned or otherwise injured. The fire was extinguished by the ship's fire apparatus.

The manager of the London and Edinburgh Steamship Company was interviewed and made a statement, as follows: The steamer Iona left Leith Saturday evening with one hundred saloon passengers and fifty second-class. The part of the boat in which the second-class passengers slept was used as a saloon during the day and at night was divided by a partition into sleeping compartments for women and men.

At 2 o'clock a fire was discovered in the ladies' compartment on the port side. The flames spread so rapidly that the crew was prevented from rescuing all the passengers. The fire was under control at 3 o'clock, but the bodies of the victims were found. They were so badly burned that they were unrecognizable. The cabin on the starboard side was only slightly injured.

During the progress of the flames the wildest excitement prevailed. The saloon passengers—men, women and children—rushed on deck. Some were almost naked. Women screamed and children cried, and it was not until the flames were subdued that they could be pacified. The Iona is lying in the dock at Wapping. She was inspected by a representative of the United Press to-day. The ladies' cabin was completely demolished. Some of the killed appear to have fallen from their berths in their efforts to escape. The bodies were found lying almost in ashes on the floor. The fire originated in the lavatory, which adjoins the cabin.

NINE OF THE CREW MISSING. LONDON, Sept. 16.—The British ship Hartfield, from the Clyde for Able Bay, caught fire at sea and was abandoned. The British brig Invercauld picked up part of the Hartfield's crew and landed them at Cape Town. Nine of the crew were missing.

KU CHENG OUTRAGES.

Gunboats Ordered Up the River to Demand Punishment of Ringleaders.

FOO CHOW, Sept. 16.—In consequence of the attitude of obstruction assumed by the Chinese officials toward the progress of the inquiry into the recent outrages at Ku Cheng, and their refusal to carry out the sentences imposed by the examining court upon the ringleaders in the attacks upon the Christian missions at that place, two gunboats have been ordered to ascend the river to demand the enforcement of the penalties imposed.

APPEAL FOR THE SAFETY OF MISSIONARIES.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—The chief interest attaching in Washington to the dispatch from Foo Chow that a rebellion has begun in the province of Fo Kien is as to what will be done to protect the American and European missionaries in that province, should any still remain in the vicinity of Ku Cheng. Reports reached here through diplomatic and private sources several weeks ago that the missionaries, after the recent massacres in the interior of the province, had, with their families, sought refuge at Foo Chow, which is near the coast, and where the presence of foreign men-of-war makes them safe from further violence. If they have remained at Foo Chow, or rather at Pagoda anchorage, which is a foreign settlement only a few miles removed, no danger can happen them. If, however, in their zeal to begin again their work of Christianizing the natives, they have returned to the interior of the province, the gravest apprehension will be felt for their safety, unless they receive the protection of the European or American forces.

It is surmised that the rebellion is the work of the vegetarians who were responsible for the assaults some weeks ago upon the foreign missions.

PRISONERS BEING RELEASED.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—The Times to-morrow will publish a despatch from Shanghai, saying that the Chinese regard the inquiry into the massacre of Christians at Ku Cheng as a mockery, and have begun to release the prisoners without consulting the British Consul.

STATE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT ADVICES.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—The State Department is without advices regarding the alleged latest phase of the Chinese situation in regard to a refusal of the Chinese Government to execute any of those convicted of participating in the missionary massacre unless they are assured that with the execution of these men all other demands will cease. According to the latest information of the department the Ku Cheng commission was at work, with its labors unimpeded, and the investigation had not been begun. No dispatches have been received from Minister Denby on the subject.

FUNDS FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

Pittsburg Banks Ready to Furnish the Treasury With Money.

PITTSBURG (Pa.), Sept. 16.—Telegraphic advices from Washington and New York state that Pittsburg banks are going to furnish the United States Treasury with \$1,000,000 in gold to help keep the reserve fund above the \$100,000,000 mark.

What I Saw in the Papers is as far as my Knowledge of this matter goes.

stated William Montgomery of the Allegheny National Bank this morning. "There is always plenty of gold on hand in the local banks, and I do not believe there is any question but that the Pittsburg bankers could spare \$1,000,000 to the Government if it was wanted. My estimate, which I do not claim to be ac-

BLANCHE LAMONT'S MURDER

The Trial of Durrant Resumed Before Judge Murphy.

MOST DAMAGING EVIDENCE YET INTRODUCED.

Three Witnesses Identify Him as the Man Who Took the Murdered Girl From the Normal School, and Swear They Saw Him Alight With Her Near the Emmanuel Church.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 16.—The evidence against Durrant to-day was the most damaging yet introduced. There were but three witnesses on the stand, but they identified him as the man who took the girl from the Powell-street Normal School, and saw him alight from a car with her near the church. Cross-examination did not shake them.

The first of the witnesses was Miss May Lanigan, one of the three girls who left the school with Miss Lamont, and a few minutes later saw her on a car going in the direction of the church. The witness positively identified the man who was with Miss Lamont as Durrant.

Mrs. Mary Vogel, who lives opposite the schoolhouse, identified Durrant as the man she had seen walking outside before the class to which Miss Lamont belonged was dismissed that afternoon. She said particular attention to him, as she had considerable money in the house, and his suspicious actions led her to believe that he was a burglar. She saw him meet the young lady, and watched them get on the car together.

Mrs. Vogel's testimony corroborated that of Miss Edwards, another of the school-girl witnesses, in every particular. She observed Durrant first by a newspaper portrait, and afterwards when she saw him in court in the early part of the trial. To-day, when asked to point him out, she walked to within a few feet of the stand, and said impressively: "That is the man."

Durrant was unmoved during this scene, but the weight of the testimony introduced to-day as a whole told on his spirit. The last witness of the day was Mrs. Elizabeth L. Crosset. She was 71 years of age, but of apparently unimpaired faculties. Her statement on the stand was that she left her home in the north-east part of the city to dine with her granddaughter in the Mission, where the Emmanuel Church is located. It was 3:20 when she left home, and some twenty minutes later she boarded a car, by transfer, on Market street. She was riding with a young lady she did not know. Durrant was outside on the dummy, and Mrs. Crosset was on a seat opposite on the inside. It was seven blocks from the point where she got on to where Durrant and the young lady alighted, and en route Mrs. Crosset had ample opportunity to take notice of Durrant. This, she says, she did, beyond any possibility of mistake. She saw Durrant riding with her granddaughter, and thought the girl was somewhat lighter than that shown in court. Her description of the girl who was with Durrant was meager. So far as she could recall, she saw Durrant with Miss Lamont.

On cross-examination Durrant's attorneys attacked the old lady on her mentality, and subjected her to a cross-examination which was so vigorous that the court intervened to protect the witness. Her memory was tested, and it was found to be so good that she could readily give a list of homeopathic remedies which she had used from time to time had taken. She said she had seen Durrant, about five years ago, and had seen him as much as five times a month at the home of her son. Durrant was very intimate with her grandson.

The defense claims that Mrs. Crosset was not in the city at the time she said she saw Durrant with Miss Lamont. Her memory was tested, and it was found to be so good that she could readily give a list of homeopathic remedies which she had used from time to time had taken. She said she had seen Durrant, about five years ago, and had seen him as much as five times a month at the home of her son. Durrant was very intimate with her grandson.

The prosecution expects to finish its direct case this week.

GUARDING AGAINST CHOLERA.

Three Vessels From Infected Ports Detained in Quarantine.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 16.—The Board of Health held a special meeting to-day to take action in relation to the steamship Rio de Janeiro, which arrived this morning from Hongkong and Honolulu. Quarantine Officer Chalmers submitted certificates of the United States Consuls at the various ports touched by the vessel.

Consul-General McLean of Yokohama certified that the sanitary condition of the port was good, but that during the two weeks preceding the departure of the vessel there had been seventy-seven cases and thirty deaths.

Consul-General Mills of Honolulu certified that between August 17th and September 8th fifty-eight cases of cholera and forty-four deaths had occurred. He also stated that the steamship had taken only one passenger, and that her baggage had been fumigated.

Consul Abercrombie of Nagasaki certified that the sanitary condition of the port was good, but that during the two weeks preceding the departure of the vessel there had been seventy-one cases of cholera and fifty-five deaths.

Consul Hunt of Hongkong certified that the sanitary condition of the port was good, and that there was no cholera there.

On motion the ports of Yokohama and Nagasaki were declared infested. It was good, but that during the two weeks preceding the departure of the vessel there had been seventy-one cases of cholera and fifty-five deaths.

The United States medical authorities are on the alert to check cholera. Captain McFarland, who has been in the quarantine service for the last fourteen years, and on and on, was this morning commissioned by Dr. Peckham of the United States Medical Marine Station to command the Federal quarantine tug George B. Stern. Captain McFarland left for Angel Island at 11 o'clock to take charge of the tug and put her into the Government quarantine service.

The bark C. S. Allen, which arrived yesterday from Honolulu, was ordered into quarantine, and the ship Merioneth, from Rio de Janeiro, was likewise ordered into quarantine at Angel Island. The latter reported that cholera, smallpox and yellow fever were prevalent in Rio de Janeiro, and one of her own crew had contracted scurvy on the way.

SAN BERNARDINO FIESTA.

Bull-Fights the Order of the Day in the Southern City.

SAN BERNARDINO, Sept. 16.—The bull-fight opened in the amphitheater this afternoon. About 500 spectators were present. The arena was 125 feet in diameter. Eight toreros from Sonora and three bulls were introduced. The first bull would not fight. The second, though of the shorter variety, was vicious, and made excellent sport, throwing down the clown and going one of the toreros in

the calf of the leg and hand. It was ridden with a rope tied around its back of its forehead, and a bull, of a long-horned variety, was very active, and kept the toreros busy, and a number of amateurs trying to climb a grassed pole in the center of the arena for a cup prize afforded further amusement. The bull-fight was complete except torturing and killing the animal. Another more spirited bull-fight is scheduled for Wednesday evening.

OREGON SHORT LINE.

SALT LAKE (Utah), Sept. 16.—The attorneys for the American Loan and Trust Company made application to-day to Judge Ranier at Cheyenne for a decision on the forfeiture and order for sale against the Oregon Short Line and Utah and Northern Railway Company on the confessed mortgage of \$10,185,000 held by the Trust Company on the line. The defendants were not represented in court. The evidence showed that service was made upon a clerk in the office of the Oregon Short Line. The Judge ruled that the evidence was insufficient, and declined to issue the order.

SUIT AGAINST THE STANFORD ESTATE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 16.—The Stanford case was begun to-day in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals before United States District Judge Morrow, United States District Judge Gilbert of the Southern District and United States District Judge Hawley of Nevada. Ex-Judge L. D. McKelick, representing the United States, made the opening argument. Ex-Judge Garber, ex-Judge Spencer and Attorney Russell J. Wilson represent Mrs. Stanford.

THIRTY YRS. AT FOLSOM.

SANTA CRUZ, Sept. 16.—This morning Joe Rodriguez, alias "Black Joe," pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to thirty years in Folsom. Rodriguez killed William Benson by kicking him in the back. He has already served a term in San Quentin for assault with a deadly weapon, and has frequently served time in the County Jail for minor offenses.

EIGHTY-ONE LIVES LOST.

VANCOUVER, Sept. 16.—Detailed news has been received from Australia of the loss of the 5,000-ton Chinese steamer Catterthun, previously reported by telegraph. The steamer was forced out of her course by unknown currents and thrown on the rocks near Port Stevens lighthouse. Eighty-one lives were lost.

ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

THE SOCIETY CONVENES IN ANNUAL SESSION IN CINCINNATI.

Work on the Monument to General Sherman to be Erected at Washington Soon to Begin.

CINCINNATI, Sept. 16.—Under the guard of a company of regulars from Fort Thomas, the members of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee held their business session at the Grand Hotel this morning. The soldiers were sent as a delicate appreciation of the society by the Government of the United States.

Gen. A. M. Dodge, the President, called the meeting to order with a gavel that was made out of the wood of a tree that stood near where General Thomas was killed. The President made a brief address, in which he reminded the members that they had once again met in the city which was the old home and resting place of the officers that had served it so faithfully.

General Secretary Hickenlooper, who had neither predecessor nor successor, made a brief reply, and gave the following list of the deaths that occurred during the year: Lieutenant E. P. Johnson; Captain E. H. Webster, Denver; Captain T. H. Griffin, St. Louis; Major George B. Hogg, Chicago; General Mason G. Ryan, Kansas; Major General W. H. Taylor, Peals, Rockford, Ill.; Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. Dawes, Cincinnati; Lieutenant Oliver Anson, Council Bluffs, Iowa; General Charles Southerland, Washington, D. C.; Major J. W. Faldock, Omaha, Neb.

Treasurer M. F. Force announced that in order to meet the expenses one or two bonds would have to be sold, and the necessary authority was given him to make the sale. Colonel W. S. Oliver, who was in command of the fleet at Vicksburg, is almost blind and disabled, and at present is in a sanitarium in California. An effort is being made to have him transferred to the home at Santa Monica, Cal.

Colonel B. Henderson of Iowa, of the committee on the statue to General Sherman to be erected in Washington, reported available funds on hand to the amount of \$83,433.49, and that they were assured of about \$2,000 from the excess to the Grant statue fund, which the G. A. R. had in hand. The best artists of the country were already engaged to make designs, and it was hoped that by January the selection for a design would be made and the work immediately begun.

A committee to take proper steps in regard to the Grant monument in Washington was suggested, and Captain Tull, General O. O. Howard, Colonel D. B. Henderson and General Dodge were appointed. This memorial may be a relief across the Potomac to Arlington Heights.

The event of the day was the meeting to-night at Odd Fellows' Hall. At 7:15 o'clock the procession was formed for the march to the temple. On the stage were grouped Colonel Fred Grant, General Dodge, Mayor Caldwell and the other speakers of the evening.

General Andrew Hickenlooper made a short address of welcome. The meeting was then formally opened with prayer by Rev. Robert A. Gibson of Christ Church. General Hickenlooper then introduced Governor McKinley, who delivered a short speech.

Mayor Caldwell was the next speaker. General Dodge, President of the society, then responded to Governor McKinley and Mayor Caldwell's speech.

Colonel Fred Grant was then introduced, and delivered the address of the evening. He was received with great enthusiasm.

FOUR DUELS IN SPAIN.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—A dispatch from Madrid says: A serious quarrel has recently been going on between the editorial staffs of the journals *Pase and Nation*, which has resulted in a number of challenges. Four duels were fought with swords yesterday which resulted in each case the *Nation's* representative was wounded. Twenty-four other duels are pending.

MISS ANTHONY TAKEN SUDDENLY ILL.

ROCHESTER (N. Y.), Sept. 16.—Miss Susan B. Anthony was seized with a fainting spell in a photograph gallery this forenoon. Miss Anthony was about to sit for a photograph. Medical aid was obtained, and after restoratives had been given, Miss Anthony was brought back to consciousness and removed to her home.

FIFTY HOUSES BURNED.

VIENNA, Sept. 16.—Fifty houses and the Dominican monastery at Corinthia were burned to-day. The town, anciently known as Virunum, is noted as retaining its ancient character. It was a flourishing place in the time of the early Roman Emperors.

MORE FIGHTING IN CUBA.

Insurgents Attack Troops, But Are Forced to Retreat.

MANY OF THEIR NUMBER KILLED AND WOUNDED.

REBELS PLANT DYNAMITE IN A ROAD.

Spanish Troops Had to Pass, Blowing to Pieces Two Officers and a Number of Soldiers—A Report That the Mexican Government Has Declined to Recognize the Insurgents as Belligerents.

HAVANA, Sept. 16.—A force of 1,600 rebels made an attack a day or two ago upon a plantation at Altamira, where a force of Government troops were stationed. The insurgents were forced to retreat after a sharp fight in which many of their number were killed and wounded. The Government loss was five killed and wounded.

REBELS USING DYNAMITE.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Sept. 7, (via Key West, Fla., Sept. 16).—In the engagement between the Spanish and Jose Maceo and Santa Maria, near Ramon De Las Yaguas, on August 31st, the rebels had prepared more than sixty holes filled with dynamite on the different roads the troops had to pass. When the engagement was over a Spanish regiment marched past one of the traps and the dynamite exploded, blowing to pieces Lieutenant Francisco Ruiz, Captain Orono and several other soldiers.

When the troops saw this they were so filled with terror that an entire company deserted to the rebels and remained with them.

During an engagement between the Spanish General Llanes and the rebel leader Rabi, in Descano del Muerto, near Mangangis, the Spaniards took a Spanish soldier prisoner who had joined the rebels at the beginning of the revolution. His name was Pedro Kovra Estero, and he belonged to the regiment of Havana. He was brought to this city, tried by court-martial, and sentenced to death. He was shot this morning in front of the slaughter house in the presence of all the troops that were in the city. He was so weak he had to be taken to the place of execution in a carriage. This is the first execution of a rebel in this city. He was taken prisoner because during the engagement he went into the Spanish ranks to obtain arms, and he killed a Spanish Lieutenant and a Cuban milito.

GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGN OUTLINED.

New York, Sept. 16.—In an interview this afternoon, Senator Dujoy De Loma, Spanish Minister, said that he was in receipt of a personal letter from General Campos, in which the campaign for the fall was fully outlined. No active operations would be undertaken until the excessive heat was over. To push matters now would cause an unnecessary loss of life, owing to the great heat on the coast and the many types of disease.

Early in October some aggressive work may be done, but no serious battling will be in order before November or December. Then siege trains and assaulting columns will be sent against the rebels. They will be hampered in and attacked simultaneously on all sides by the best regiments on the island.

Meanwhile vigorous organization goes on. Immense quantities of supplies are being received and distributed on bases of supplies all over the island. Small fortifications have been erected in a number of places.

General Campos in his letter said that more troops had been sent than he had asked for. General Campos believed that he had all the men necessary—artillery, cavalry, engineers and infantry. In addition to these are Cuban volunteers and commissary corps, Spain, unasked by the Government, has mobilized a third army corps of 25,000 men, and they are ready for embarkation.

MEXICO WILL RECOGNIZE THE INSURGENTS AS BELLIGERENTS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—Cuban sympathizers in this city and Brooklyn said to-day that Mexico will recognize the insurgents as belligerents within a few days. They based their assertion on private dispatches received from the City of Mexico.

Gonzalo De Quesada, General Secretary of the Cuban revolutionary party in America, the dispatch said, arrived at the Mexican Capital last Saturday. He went straight from the depot to the home of the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was closeted with him until after midnight. In the course of the conference it was said that the Senator made such alluring offers to the Minister, and promised so many advantageous concessions to the Mexican Republic, that the Minister is strongly impressed in favor of the Cubans, and practically conceded to use his influence to obtain Mexican recognition of the insurgents as belligerents.

Later advices which reached here to-day at 4 p. m. said that on Sunday Senator Quesada saw the Minister again, and after further argument obtained an additional promise that the Mexican Government would concede the demand for belligerent rights as soon as possible. The Secretary said that it was the general opinion in Mexican circles that the formal recognition would be made within a fortnight at latest.

PRISON CONGRESS.

Proceedings of the Conference Being Held at Denver.

DENVER, Sept. 16.—The first business session of the National Prison Congress was held this morning in Unity Church. Warden R. S. Allen of Joliet, Ill., read a paper describing the merits and advantages of the State account system of employment, which elicited a lively debate. In the debate which followed the reading of the paper, Warden George of Kentucky endorsed the plan. Kentucky has had the system in vogue two years, and has found it successful. About 1,100 men are employed on "State account," and about forty on contract. The contract men give more trouble than the 1,100 men employed by the other system.

Warden Chambers of Michigan did not agree. It had not been successful in his State.

By a question from Warden Hale of California it came out that the Illinois institution has a number of prisoners on the road selling all over the country to jobbers alone, and not at out prices.

Warden Hale insisted that "systems" for making money were not the end and aim of prisons, and Warden French of the United States Prison at Leavenworth, Kas., made an impassioned appeal for an application to prisons of the principles set in action at Elmira, N. Y., by Mr. Brockway. He pleaded for humanitarianism and charity, and not for money-making.

In reply to questions, Warden Allen said that convicts produce less than "free men. Their hours are shorter and their tasks lighter, so that in his State there was no complaint from laboring men. The opposition to this system in Illinois comes not from labor organizations, but from the contractors.

MINNESOTA PENITENTIARY AT STILLWATER.

The Object of Prison Government to Protect Society.

MANY OF THEIR NUMBER KILLED AND WOUNDED.

REBELS PLANT DYNAMITE IN A ROAD.

Spanish Troops Had to Pass, Blowing to Pieces Two Officers and a Number of Soldiers—A Report That the Mexican Government Has Declined to Recognize the Insurgents as Belligerents.

HAVANA, Sept. 16.—A force of 1,600 rebels made an attack a day or two ago upon a plantation at Altamira, where a force of Government troops were stationed. The insurgents were forced to retreat after a sharp fight in which many of their number were killed and wounded. The Government loss was five killed and wounded.

REBELS USING DYNAMITE.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Sept. 7, (via Key West, Fla., Sept. 16).—In the engagement between the Spanish and Jose Maceo and Santa Maria, near Ramon De Las Yaguas, on August 31st, the rebels had prepared more than sixty holes filled with dynamite on the different roads the troops had to pass. When the engagement was over a Spanish regiment marched past one of the traps and the dynamite exploded, blowing to pieces Lieutenant Francisco Ruiz, Captain Orono and several other soldiers.

When the troops saw this they were so filled with terror that an entire company deserted to the rebels and remained with them.

During an engagement between the Spanish General Llanes and the rebel leader Rabi, in Descano del Muerto, near Mangangis, the Spaniards took a Spanish soldier prisoner who had joined the rebels at the beginning of the revolution. His name was Pedro Kovra Estero, and he belonged to the regiment of Havana. He was brought to this city, tried by court-martial, and sentenced to death. He was shot this morning in front of the slaughter house in the presence of all the troops that were in the city. He was so weak he had to be taken to the place of execution in a carriage. This is the first execution of a rebel in this city. He was taken prisoner because during the engagement he went into the Spanish ranks to obtain arms, and he killed a Spanish Lieutenant and a Cuban milito.

GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGN OUTLINED.

New York, Sept. 16.—In an interview this afternoon, Senator Dujoy De Loma, Spanish Minister, said that he was in receipt of a personal letter from General Campos, in which the campaign for the fall was fully outlined. No active operations would be undertaken until the excessive heat was over. To push matters now would cause an unnecessary loss of life, owing to the great heat on the coast and the many types of disease.

Early in October some aggressive work may be done, but no serious battling will be in order before November or December. Then siege trains and assaulting columns will be sent against the rebels. They will be hampered in and attacked simultaneously on all sides by the best regiments on the island.

Meanwhile vigorous organization goes on. Immense quantities of supplies are being received and distributed on bases of supplies all over the island. Small fortifications have been erected in a number of places.

General Campos in his letter said that more troops had been sent than he had asked for. General Campos believed that he had all the men necessary—artillery, cavalry, engineers and infantry. In addition to these are Cuban volunteers and commissary corps, Spain, unasked by the Government, has mobilized a third army corps of 25,000 men, and they are ready for embarkation.

MEXICO WILL RECOGNIZE THE INSURGENTS AS BELLIGERENTS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—Cuban sympathizers in this city and Brooklyn said to-day that Mexico will recognize the insurgents as belligerents within a few days. They based their assertion on private dispatches received from the City of Mexico.

Gonzalo De Quesada, General Secretary of the Cuban revolutionary party in America, the dispatch said, arrived at the Mexican Capital last Saturday. He went straight from the depot to the home of the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was closeted with him until after midnight. In the course of the conference it was said that the Senator made such alluring offers to the Minister, and promised so many advantageous concessions to the Mexican Republic, that the Minister is strongly impressed in favor of the Cubans, and practically conceded to use his influence to obtain Mexican recognition of the insurgents as belligerents.

Later advices which reached here to-day at 4 p. m. said that on Sunday Senator Quesada saw the Minister again, and after further argument obtained an additional promise that the Mexican Government would concede the demand for belligerent rights as soon as possible. The Secretary said that it was the general opinion in Mexican circles that the formal recognition would be made within a fortnight at latest.

PRISON CONGRESS.

Proceedings of the Conference Being Held at Denver.

DENVER, Sept. 16.—The first business session of the National Prison Congress was held this morning in Unity Church. Warden R. S. Allen of Joliet, Ill., read a paper describing the merits and advantages of the State account system of employment, which elicited a lively debate. In the debate which followed the reading of the paper, Warden George of Kentucky endorsed the plan. Kentucky has had the system in vogue two years, and has found it successful. About 1,100 men are employed on "State account," and about forty on contract. The contract men give more trouble than the 1,100 men employed by the other system.

Warden Chambers of Michigan did not agree. It had not been successful in his State.

By a question from Warden Hale of California it came out that the Illinois institution has a number of prisoners on the road selling all over the country to jobbers alone, and not at out prices.

Warden Hale insisted that "systems" for making money were not the end and aim of prisons, and Warden French of the United States Prison at Leavenworth, Kas., made an impassioned appeal for an application to prisons of the principles set in action at Elmira, N. Y., by Mr. Brockway. He pleaded for humanitarianism and charity, and not for money-making.

In reply to questions, Warden Allen said that convicts produce less than "free men. Their hours are shorter and their tasks lighter, so that in his State there was no complaint from laboring men. The opposition to this system in Illinois comes not from labor organizations, but from the contractors.

MINNESOTA PENITENTIARY AT STILLWATER.

The Object of Prison Government to Protect Society.

MANY OF THEIR NUMBER KILLED AND WOUNDED.

REBELS PLANT DYNAMITE IN A ROAD.

Spanish Troops Had to Pass, Blowing to Pieces Two Officers and a Number of Soldiers—A Report That the Mexican Government Has Declined to Recognize the Insurgents as Belligerents.

HAVANA, Sept. 16.—A force of 1,600 rebels made an attack a day or two ago upon a plantation at Altamira, where a force of Government troops were stationed. The insurgents were forced to retreat after a sharp fight in which many of their number were killed and wounded. The Government loss was five killed and wounded.

REBELS USING DYNAMITE.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Sept. 7, (via Key West, Fla., Sept. 16).—In the engagement between the Spanish and Jose Maceo and Santa Maria, near Ramon De Las Yaguas, on August 31st, the rebels had prepared more than sixty holes filled with dynamite on the different roads the troops had to pass. When the engagement was over a Spanish regiment marched past one of the traps and the dynamite exploded, blowing to pieces Lieutenant Francisco Ruiz, Captain Orono and several other soldiers.

When the troops saw this they were so filled with terror that an entire company deserted to the rebels and remained with them.

During an engagement between the Spanish General Llanes and the rebel leader Rabi, in Descano del Muerto, near Mangangis, the Spaniards took a Spanish soldier prisoner who had joined the rebels at the beginning of the revolution. His name was Pedro Kovra Estero, and he belonged to the regiment of Havana. He was brought to this city, tried by court-martial, and sentenced to death. He was shot this morning in front of the slaughter house in the presence of all the troops that were in the city. He was so weak he had to be taken to the place of execution in a carriage. This is the first execution of a rebel in this city. He was taken prisoner because during the engagement he went into the Spanish ranks to obtain arms, and he killed a Spanish Lieutenant and a Cuban milito.