

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

Discussion Resumed in the Senate on the Belligerency Resolutions.

Stewart Arguing in Favor and Hale and Gray in Opposition.

The Former Saying It Was a Reproach to the American People That They Had Stood by So Long and Witnessed the Vain Attempt of Spain to Govern Cuba—He Hoped to Have Speedy Action, and If it Did Not Bring Results, Pass a Joint Resolution.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The Cuban debate in the Senate to-day was a character of unusual interest.

Gray of Delaware, a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, rose in order, as he explained it, to give the reasons which compelled him to withhold his assent from the conference report.

Gray interrupted all through his speech by Hale of Maine, in the course of which Hale flatly contradicted a statement repeatedly made by Sherman of Ohio, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, as to Spain having violated all the promises and reforms stipulated in the capitulation of 1878.

Gray made a mock apology to Hale for interrupting his speech so much, but spoke of him by an intentional slip of the tongue as "The Senator from Spain."

The junior Senator from Texas, Chilton, advocated the passage of a joint resolution rather than of a concurrent one, and expressed his belief that intervention by the United States meant the ultimate annexation of Cuba, to which he was opposed.

The last speech of the day was made by Caffery of Louisiana, and was against the entire proposition as having no better basis than stories in the "Arabian Nights."

When the Senate met the bill to enable the people of New Mexico to form a Constitution and State Government, and to be admitted into the Union as a State was reported from the Committee on Territories and placed on the calendar.

Senate bill authorizing the expenditure of the unexpended appropriation for the construction of canals and locks at the Cascades of the Columbia River in the construction of projecting walls was passed.

The conference report on the Cuban belligerency resolutions was then taken up.

Stewart (Pop.) of Nevada addressed the Senate in support of the resolutions. It was a reproach to the American people that they had stood by so long, he said, and witnessed the vain attempt of Spain to govern Cuba.

Should the Senate, Stewart asked, answer the demand of the American people and extend that sympathy in the most effective way, or should it spend its time quibbling about the fact whether there was war in Cuba?

Then Stewart took his seat, and as no other Senator sought the floor, the Vice-President asked whether the Senate was ready for the question, and he stated the question to be on agreeing to the conference report.

Then Gray (Dem.) of Delaware, one of the members of the Committee on Foreign Relations, rose and said that he wished to state briefly the reasons which compelled him to withhold his assent from the conference report.

to call to account the Government of the United States for that expression of the opinion of its people.

Gray argued that there was no reason why the Senate should accept the House resolutions, after its own resolutions had been contemptuously swept aside.

A spirited colloquy occurred between Platt, Gray, Hale and Sherman over the failure of the Committee on Foreign Relations to furnish the Senate with information.

Hale asserted that Spain had not violated the promises made after the war of 1878, as stated by Sherman.

Hale inquired whether anybody denied that Cuba had representation in the Spanish Cortes.

Sherman—She has one delegate.

Hale—I have a list here showing that Cuba and Porto Rico have in the Spanish Cortes forty-five members in the House of Deputies and fourteen or fifteen members in the Senate.

Gray—How many of them are appointed by the Governor-General of Cuba?

Hale—Not one. Every essential thing in that promise has been given by Spain.

After some further remarks on that point, Hale exclaimed: "I speak with some feeling, because I am laboring under a great sense of indignation on account of the suppression of the real facts in this case. The committee has kept the facts from the Senate."

Gray sarcastically apologized for breaking so often into Hale's speech, and referred to him as if by a slip of the tongue as "The Senator from Spain." (Laughter.)

In conclusion Gray said: "All reasonable men will agree that Congress can do no less than it has done in giving utterance to the sympathies of the American people for the people of Cuba in this crisis of their experience, and in expressing the desire that Spain, without rupture of friendly relations, shall sit down with us at the council board of nations and consider whether there may not be some other issue in this controversy than the extermination of a whole people fighting for their liberties."

Chilton (Dem.) of Texas spoke against the Cuban resolutions in their present form.

Caffery (Dem.) of Louisiana opposed the bestowal of belligerent rights upon the Cubans. The resolutions, he said, were passed on the statements of irresponsible newspaper correspondents, whose accounts of the affairs in Cuba rivaled the stories of the Arabian Nights.

Without finishing his speech Caffery yielded to a motion to adjourn, and the Senate, at 4 p. m., adjourned until to-morrow.

ORIENTAL ADVICES.

Anarchy Prevailing on the Korean Peninsula.

Eleven Peaceful Japanese Subjects, Including One Woman, Foully Murdered by Rioters.

TOKIO (Japan), March 3.—(Correspondence of the United Press, per steamer Peru)—Eleven peaceful Japanese subjects, including one woman, have been foully murdered by Korean rioters since the coup d'etat of February 11th.

The political crisis nearly precipitated in Japan on receipt of intelligence about the recent coup has been averted. The balance of power in the Diet is held by a party numbering thirty members, and calling themselves the National-Unionists.

An instance of the strange fearlessness of the Japanese was furnished during the disturbances in Seoul on the 11th of February.

A strong attempt has been made to induce the Emperor of China to forego the building of the Tientsin-Pekin railway, or more correctly speaking, of the Tientsin-Lukou railway.

The only exciting episode of the day's discussion came when Sulzer (Dem.) of New York, following Gibson (Rep.) of Tennessee, exhibited a campaign circular issued by Gibson, and humorously commented on the statements in it relating to his (Gibson's) services in the charge by some Democrats that he is "egotistic."

Sulzer was on the opposite side of the hall, and suiting himself to the accompaniment of a vigorous rapping by the Speaker, did not comprehend the remark, saying: "The next time the gentleman had better use a trumpet."

Gibson was trying to get recognition, but Sulzer declined to yield, and the Speaker directed Gibson to take his seat. He did so, shaking his hands and shouting that a man who made a charge of that kind and then refused to give

BAYARD'S UTTERANCES.

Debate on the Resolutions Condemning Them Continued in the House.

A Vote to be Taken on the Committee's Report To-day.

The Closing Scenes of the House Marked by an Expression of Personalities Between Sulzer (Dem.) of New York and Gibson (Rep.) of Tennessee, Brought About by a Charge That the Latter Was Abusing the Franking Privilege.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The debate on the Bayard resolutions was continued in the House to-day, and toward the close of the session descended into an expression of personalities between Sulzer (Dem.) of New York and Gibson (Rep.) of Tennessee.

The display of a circular letter by Gibson to his constituents, by Sulzer, and the charge that it was being circulated under a frank, elicited an angry outburst from the Tennesseean, who denied that he was using a frank upon the document, and that the person who said so was the author of a vile slander.

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an opportunity for response "was a cord." The honor of Gibson's assertion having been conveyed Sulzer by those about him, he said he had been informed that the letter was being circulated under the Congressman's frank.

"I want to know who your informant is?" said Sulzer.

Again Sulzer declined to yield, whereupon Gibson cried angrily: "It is a false statement, and your informant is the author of a vile slander, and if you refuse to give his name you are as bad as he is."

In a minute or two Sulzer said if he had said anything which had offended Gibson he felt that in an honorable, manly way he should withdraw it and apologize for it, and he did so.

The resolutions were then discussed for a few minutes by Sulzer, and, recurring to Gibson, said that when he got back to Tennessee and the people asked him what the Republicans had done he could answer: "We censured Bayard."

With this the incident ended, and the House, on motion by Hitt (Rep.) of Illinois, at 5:15 adjourned until to-morrow.

PACIFIC RAILWAY DEBTS.

Hearing Before the House Committee Yesterday.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—John C. Coombs of Boston, representing the Credits Commutation Company, located in Sioux City, to-day appeared before the House Committee on Pacific Railroads for the purpose of seeing where he could attach the interests he represented to the plans suggested by the other parties.

After he had finished a committee consisting of Chairman Powers, Messrs. Wright, Ferris, Kyle and Sulzer was appointed to consider the various measures proposed for the settlement of the indebtedness. They are to consult with the Senate Pacific Railway Committee and recommend to the full committee as early as possible a bill to settle all the matters pertaining to the roads.

Senator Perkins' Custom Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The Senate Committee on Commerce this afternoon ordered a favorable report on Senator Perkins' bill to establish the customs collection district of Santa Barbara, Cal., and to make that city a port of entry and delivery.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The treasury gold reserve at the close of business to-day stood at \$127,658,750. The withdrawals for the day were \$115,700.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

Call for a Conference to be Held at Washington.

With the View to the Establishment of a Permanent System of Settling Disputes With Great Britain.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The following letter has been mailed to over 1,000 representative men throughout the United States.

"Dear Sir: A widespread desire has been manifested by many in the United States and Great Britain for the establishment between these two countries of a permanent system of arbitration.

"It is earnestly desired that all parts of the country should be represented at this conference, and in order that this may be assured, a similar invitation has been sent to representative men, irrespective of party or creed, in every State and Territory in the United States, the combined membership of the two houses of Congress being taken as a general basis of numbers and appointments.

"Assuming that you share our belief as to the importance of the end proposed, we deem it unnecessary in this communication to enter into an extended statement on the subject. By repeated Acts, as well as by repeated declarations, our Government has appeared before the world in advocacy of international arbitration as a measure conformable to our interests and the general interests of mankind.

"In confining the present movement to the promotion of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain, we are not unconcerned for the wide application of the principle involved. But, taking into consideration the importance and value of practical results, it has seemed wise to concentrate our immediate efforts upon the attainments of a permanent system between the two great English-speaking peoples.

"Earnestly trusting that we may receive at an early date your acceptance of the invitation hereby extended, we remain yours faithfully.

The letter is signed by Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller, Major-General Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A.; Admiral John G. Walker, U. S. N.; Hon. John W. Foster, LL.D. of Washington; Hon. Abraham S. Hewitt, Hon. Charles P. Daly, William E. Dodge, President Seth Low of New York, Hon. George B. Swift, Marshall Field, Marvin Huggitt, Potter Palmer, Cyrus H. McCormick of Chicago, President William Preston Johnson, Rev. B. Palmer, D.D. of New Orleans; Hon. Charles F. Warwick, Mayor; Most Rev. F. J. Ryan, Bishop of New York, LL.D.; President Charles W. Elliott, LL.D.; Hon. William E. Russell, ex-Governor; Right Rev. William Lawrence, D.D. of Boston; Horace Davis, I. W. Hellman, William H. Beatty of San Francisco, James Cardinal Gibbons.

SILVER AND PROTECTION.

Conference of Free-Coinage Senators and Representatives of Manufacturers.

With a View to Linking Together Bimetallism and Tariff.

The House Committee on Railroads Appoints a Sub-Committee to Confer With a Like Committee From the Senate to Investigate the Various Measures for the Settlement of the Indebtedness of the Pacific Roads, and Report a Bill to Settle All Matters.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—At the Hotel Page an important conference was held to-night between the silver Republican Senators who voted against the consideration of the tariff bill in the Senate and a large number of representative men from Philadelphia, who favor the linking together of protection and bimetallism.

The authoritative statements issued by the conference after its secret session is looked upon by politicians as the first note of warning on the part of the Republican Senators from Western States against the adoption of a single gold standard plank in the St. Louis platform.

The conference was the result of the following correspondence between William Wilhelm and the sextet of silver Senators named in the circular:

"Pottsville (Pa.), March 16, 1896. "Senators Jones, Teller, Dubois, Carter, Mantle and Cannon—Gentlemen: It has been my good fortune to meet Messrs. James Dobson, Charles Heber Clark and B. E. Defender of the city of Philadelphia. They and their industrial friends are anxious to confer with you relative to the present depression and the remedy for existing financial and industrial troubles.

"I am assured will take pleasure in meeting you. Yours sincerely, WM. WILHELM."

"United States Senate, Washington, March 18, 1896. "James Dobson, Philadelphia—Dear Sir: Accepting the suggestion made to us by letter by William Wilhelm of Pennsylvania, that it would be well to have a conference between representatives of industrial interests of the country and ourselves, we shall be pleased to confer with yourself and such men of enterprise as you may choose to invite at Washington."

(Signed) H. M. Teller, E. T. Dubois, Lee Mantle, T. H. Carter, F. J. Cannon, J. P. Jones.

All of the above Senators were present at the conference to-night, as were Congressmen Hartman of Montana, Aldrich of Idaho, and also the following named representatives of manufacturers: James Dobson, manufacturer of carpets; George Campbell, woollens; James Pollock, carpets; S. B. Freeman, lumber; Frank Caven, silk; C. H. Hardy, yarns; George W. Elkins, street railways; Alexander Crow, carpets; Henry A. Frye, greener; Henry Holmes, carpets; R. W. Scott, knit goods; James Brown, woollens; Howland Crof, worsteds; Charles M. McLeod, yarns; James Defender, yarns; John Fiesler, wire; Robert Dawson, carpets; Robert W. Scott, knit goods; Charles H. Clarke, surgical appliances; Theodore R. Miller, upholsterer; Richard Campion, yarns; Joseph Bromley, rugs; Joseph R. James, woollens; James Foster, dyes; James Phillips, worsteds; C. D. Fierstone, buggies; and R. E. Defender, electrical appliances.

The conference was organized by choosing Senator Dubois as Chairman, and Wilhelm of Pennsylvania as Secretary. For three hours and a half, behind closed doors, the conference proceeded, involving the uniting of bimetallism and protection as a national issue. Remarks were made by Senators Teller, Jones of Nevada, Carter, Mantle and Cannon.

President Dorman, from the Manufacturers' Club of Philadelphia, expressed the opinion that the tariff duties could not be made high enough to protect our manufacturers if our country remained on a gold basis. James Dobson, the great carpet manufacturer, came out unqualifiedly for free coinage, by international agreement, if possible; otherwise by independent action. He believed that independent action would induce international action. Free coinage might create temporary disturbances, but it was the quickest way to perform relief to mills all over the country, which were suffering.

Henry A. Frye of Philadelphia said that the sooner we took independent action for bimetallism the better it would be. He declared for protection and bimetallism.

Charles H. Clarke, editor of the "Manufacturers' Club of Philadelphia," said he had labored in season and out of season to convince the manufacturers that protection would only prove effective with the restoration of silver. That he was happy to have so many representatives of the industrial interests of the country meet the Senators who had voted against the Dingley bills to personally verify his declaration.

Richard Campion declared himself in favor of the restoration of silver, but thought that the cause of bimetallism was not to be advanced by the defeat of the revenue measure.

Several opinions were expressed of regret at the loss of the Dingley measure, but no opinion antagonistic to the restoration of silver was uttered.

The Senators present defined their position in such manner as to make it plain to the manufacturers that there could be no protective tariff legislation either at this session of Congress or the next, without the rehabilitation of silver. Bimetallism and protection constituted indivisible issues before the country.

Some of the manufacturers themselves indulged the position as being the logic of the country's necessities and political conditions. The issue was clearly defined, but no attempt at organization was made. The intensity of the interest shown demonstrated a determination to rescue the country, if possible, from its impending industrial and financial ills.

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Charles Heber Clark invited the Senators to a meeting to be held at the Manufacturers' Club, Philadelphia, at an early date.

Many strong letters in harmony with the purpose of the meeting were received from manufacturers throughout the country who were unable to be present at this particular meeting. The incidental mention of the name of J. Donald Campion for nomination for the Presidency met with cordial support.

EXPEDITION UP THE NILE.

The Matter Discussed in the House of Commons.

LONDON, March 19.—In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Labouchere referred to the British expedition to Dongola, and asked the Government if any alliance existed between Great Britain and Italy.

Mr. Curzon, Under Foreign Secretary, said there existed no alliance or agreement of any kind between the two countries but the circumstances in which they were placed. He pointed to the expediency of a friendly co-operation of the two Governments.

Mr. Curzon also announced that M. Berthelot, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, had informed Lord Dufferin, the British Ambassador to France, that he repudiated all responsibility for the statement made in reporting the purpose of the interview between the Minister and the Ambassador on Tuesday, in which the former is represented as having demanded to know the reasons for the British expedition up the Nile, and as having pointed out the gravity of the consequences of the movement.

Such statements, M. Berthelot had said, must have been published by misinforming persons.

The Italian Government, Mr. Curzon continued, had informed England that Italy would not evacuate Kassala unless the military authorities there should find it impossible to hold the place.

Mr. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury, and Government leader in the House, said that the British Embassadors to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Rome and St. Petersburg had been instructed to communicate to the respective Governments to which they were accredited the grounds on which the British advance up the Nile had been made, and that it may be necessary to use a larger sum than was at the disposal of the Egyptian treasury, and the Government hoped the Commission of the Egyptian debt would assent to the expenditure of a portion of that fund. As the operations were in the interest of Egypt, Mr. Balfour said the costs should naturally be defrayed from the reserve fund. It was not possible, he said, to form an exact estimate of the expense at present.

In the House of Lords, Lord Salisbury, in reply to a question, said the Italian Government had not learned of the fall of Kassala, which is regarded as extremely important.

COSTLY BLAZE AT PROVIDENCE.

The Handsome Building of the Masonic Fraternity in Ruins.

PROVIDENCE, March 19.—The handsome building of the Masonic Fraternity in this city is in ruins. The loss is estimated at half a million dollars.

Fire was discovered in the building about 4 o'clock this morning. It had evidently been burning for some time, and had gained considerable headway, for after the alarm was turned in it spread rapidly, and when the firemen arrived was so far advanced that there was little hope of saving the building.

In half an hour from the time the fire was discovered all the central and rear parts of the building were in flames. The high walls of the building contained the halls and various lodges rooms.

The firemen operating the water tower had a narrow escape. The tower was set at work in Dorrance street and had been doing good service. The wall, however, became unsafe and the tower was removed. It had just been taken from the place when the wall fell outward into the street, burying the spot the tower had occupied deep under hot bricks.

The fire was not brought under control until 5:30 o'clock, at which time the Masonic building was a total loss and the buildings in the rear were badly damaged.

FILIBUSTERING EXPEDITIONS.

Orders to Customs Collectors Relating to Their Seizure.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Secretary Carlisle had a long conference with the President this morning on the subject of enforcing the neutrality laws as against filibustering expeditions leaving the United States to aid Cuban insurgents. On his return to the treasury the following telegram was dictated and sent broadcast:

"Collectors of Customs: Somers Point, N. J., reports that a filibustering expedition for Cuba was transferred from the steamer Atlantic City to another steamer, probably the Bermuda, off Great Egg Harbor Inlet yesterday morning at 8 o'clock, said to be composed of General Garcia and several followers. If the vessel is carrying an expedition consisting of arms and men in violation of Title 67, Revised Statutes of the United States, seize her if she arrives within your jurisdiction. The fact that a vessel carries a cargo of arms is not sufficient of itself to authorize a seizure. If necessary, communicate with any revenue cutter and with the United States Attorney. (Signed) "SCOTT WIKKE, Acting Secretary."

Copies of this telegram were sent to the Navy Department, to Captain Shoemaker, Chief of the revenue cutter service, Treasury Department, to the Spanish Minister here, to the Attorney-General, the Secretary of State, and to all Collectors of Customs along the Atlantic Coast from New York to New Orleans.

Released From the Jail Sentence.

LINCOLN (Neb.), March 19.—The Supreme Court to-day handed down a decision which released Editor E. Rosewater of Omaha from the jail sentence imposed by District Judge Scott, who held Rosewater in contempt of court for publishing in his paper an article reflecting on the district bench. The sentence passed by Judge Scott is overruled.

France Does Not Approve It.

PARIS, March 19.—The Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Berthelot, in the Chamber of Deputies to-day commented unfavorably upon the proposed British expedition to Dongola, and intimated that France was not inclined to consent to the use of the Egyptian surplus to defray the expenses of the expedition.