

LEAGUE WHEELMEN CANNOT RACE ON SUNDAYS.

L. A. W. Assembly Votes Down an Amendment Permitting Such Meetings.

Western Delegates Were in a Hopeless Minority.

California Divided into Two States, Those Counties South of Kern to be Known as South California, and the Remainder North California—The Amendment Flaking Colored Men Eligible to the League Defeated.

ALBANY (N. Y.), Feb. 12.—A snowstorm amounting almost to a blizzard, the lateness of last night's banquet and the fact that the fight for the Presidency was over militated against the early session of the L. A. W. to-day. It was 11 o'clock before a quorum was present.

The entire session was devoted to discussions of the proposed amendments to the Constitution. The first amendment was offered by Mr. Bassett, as follows: "That States having not less than twenty-five resident League club members shall be called Consulates, and that California shall be divided into two States, as follows: South California, to include Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties; all north of these counties shall be known as North California."

The convention rejected an amendment proposed by Hinkley that no member shall be expelled or be deprived of any benefits of the League without the sanction of the Chief Consul, thus reducing the powers of the Racing Board.

Another proposed amendment rejected was for the repeal of the provision of Article II of the League club to pay \$2 upon joining the League.

A motion that local option be given divisions to control their own representatives on the State Board, not to affect the National Board, was adopted.

Welch of California moved to amend Article V, by striking out the words "League club" and allow any cycling clubs to be represented on the National Board.

This was amended so that each division may determine the number of members of a club necessary to entitle it to representation on the State Board.

An amendment was adopted which gives amateurs the privilege of exchanging prizes, as long as they do not convert them into cash.

Secretary Bassett's proposed amendment making colored men eligible to membership in the league was defeated—says 155.

Two-thirds is required for the adoption of any amendment. The proposition to admit professional riders as associate members in the League of American Wheelmen was defeated by an overwhelming vote.

An effort was being made to bring up the Sunday racing matter for discussion out of regular order. The Western delegates urged it for the reason that they will be forced to leave for home by 4:30 p. m. at the latest, and that would leave the amendment at the mercy of the Eastern delegation. The motion was lost and the amendments taken up in regular order.

E. W. Roberts of Missouri proposed an amendment to the effect that the Racing Board provide amateur and professional national champion events at league meets, the races to be the same in number, etc. It was adopted.

Cooke of Rhode Island proposed an amendment that in the event of a contested election in any division it must be referred first to the Division Rights and Privileges Committee and in case of an appeal be carried to the National Rights and Privileges Committee.

Mr. Welch of North California moved to take up and adopt the amendment of W. S. Roberts, to add to Article IV, Section 7, that the Racing Board shall grant sanctions for race meetings to be held on Sunday in divisions where the Board of Officers of the divisions shall adopt a resolution permitting the same; the resolution to be subject to revocation at any time by the Board of Officers filing the same.

Mr. Welch said that in California Saturday was the busiest day of the week, and Sunday was the only day at liberty to the masses for enjoyment. Other amusements were sanctioned, and why not wheeling?

Mr. Monaghan of South California said that while he was not opposed to Sunday racing on general principles, he did not believe that the league should grant it, inasmuch as the majority of the league members were opposed to it. "If it goes out this afternoon through the Associated Press," said he, "that this league has passed this amendment favoring Sunday racing, it will hurt us severely in the eyes of the public."

The speaker was heartily applauded. A. E. Dunn of Philadelphia thought it was a dangerous question to handle. The wisest thing they could do was to keep as far away from the danger as possible, and thus be on the safe side. If this amendment is adopted, an explosion of some sort will surely follow.

E. W. Hartwell of Denver, Col., favored the amendment. He did not believe that if the league sanctioned Sunday racing it would reflect on the league. It was merely a local option, and the different sections of the league would take the responsibility.

saloons, and there was no reason why the tracks should not be.

A. C. Willis of Maryland spoke in favor of the amendment. He believed this was not a State rights question when a general permission to do racing was granted, under which every State could do as it pleased. As to the morality of the subject, he believed that Sunday racing in California would mean a drawing away from disreputable sports to a reputable one.

J. B. Townsend of New York said it was not a question of morality or sentiment; it was merely a question of business, and it would be very bad business to drive those people of moral sense who might object. It would hurt the League in every section of the East.

A. F. Aiken of Louisiana argued for the question on the ground that Sunday was the only day for such recreation in his State.

Thomas C. Welch of New York spoke for the amendment, on the ground that the League had no reason for assuming to forbid the people of California to hold a Sunday meet. It was like having "Neal Dow or John Raines temperance ideas crammed down one's throat."

G. W. Sands of Maryland opposed the motion. It was throwing open the doors too wide.

Mr. Roberts spoke briefly for the resolution, and Chairman Gideon of the Racing Board stated that the Board was unanimously in favor of granting Sunday racing.

The vote was then taken and resulted as follows: 57 yeas 161, and the resolution was declared lost.

W. S. Arthur of Illinois moved to reconsider the vote by which the striking out of the word "amateur" was rejected this morning and professionals thus kept out. There was a row at once, and he was attacked as taking unfair advantage of the large number of members who had already left. There were some lively words, and then the motion was lost by a heavy vote in the negative.

The Racing Board reported the following Western States disturbed racers: Oregon—Augustus Castondork, J. E. Williams, Portland; California—Hugh Clark, C. W. Chatter, Butte; Montana—W. S. Laswell, Butte; Oregon—Augustus Castondork, J. E. Williams, Portland.

Kansas—Jake Hayne, Parsons. Amendments to the by-laws were adopted increasing the bonds of the Secretary to \$10,000 and the Treasurer to \$15,000.

A motion to allow the annual assembly to select the meeting place instead of the Executive Committee was defeated.

A resolution was adopted placing road races by L. A. W. members under the jurisdiction of the board for the aiding the Century Road Club in purifying road racing.

Portlandians moved to have a regular salary attached to the office of Chairman of the Racing Board. This was lost by a vote of 137 to 82. Mr. Jenkins cast fifty ballots for the amendment. They were challenged by Mr. Gerlach, and a vote by proxy will be taken. It is shown that Mr. Jenkins lost the proxies.

Mr. Gerlach called for W. S. Ball's amendment referring to the powers of the State and National Racing Boards. The introducer of the amendment said that he was powerless to pass it, and withdrew it. A recess was taken until 7:30 this evening.

EX-QUEEN LILIUOKALANI.

ASSERTION THAT SHE IS STILL THE LAWFUL RULER.

The Act of Abdication Said to Have Been Procured Under Duress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Julius A. Palmer, representative of ex-Queen Liliuokalani, in a circular to the President, declares the act of abdication of the ex-Queen was procured under duress, and is void for this reason and because of legal informalities. He says the Queen has never given a legal abdication and is still the lawful ruler, even if she forbears to enforce her legitimate rights. It is believed Liliuokalani inspired the card.

At the Hawaiian Legation it was read with interest, but without concern, and is here regarded simply as an expression from the royalist standpoint of the eventual episode of Hawaiian history, but not at all likely to have any practical influence.

Mr. Palmer's card was called forth, as he explains, by the publication in the "Star" recently of the Queen's abdication. He refers to that document as a "brief drawn by Hon. A. S. Hartwell, president of the Hawaiian Republic of sugar planters and lawyers now preventing the Greek war vessels from actively interfering in Crete is not believed here. It is thought that any action which may be taken will be by Great Britain, Russia and France in common, but it is confidently reported that these powers have decided to allow Greece to have her own way in the matter.

The insurgents of Crete, acting in concert with the foreign consuls, have declared Halepa to be neutral territory, which must not be infringed upon without twenty-four hours' notice. The commanders of the foreign warships have obtained the promise of the Greek Admiral that he will give forty hours' notice of any attack which he may determine to make upon Crete.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—A special to the "Herald" from Vienna says: "The Vienna Cabinet has addressed a most serious warning to Greece. It is further learned from exclusive sources that the powers have informed Turkey that they cannot force Greece to withdraw her fleet, but will leave Turkey a free hand.

Another is reigning in Athens. The Ministry is only temporarily saved by embarking in a mad enterprise. Engaged and accused of secretly backing Greece, to force Russia's hand.

All the evening papers condemn in the strongest terms Greece's action. Even the ultra-liberal "Tagblatt" says: "If King George is deaf to earnest remonstrances, his impotency must be drastically brought home to him."

The "New Free Press" warns Greece that, if provoked, Turkey would be justified in attacking Thessaly, with disastrous consequences to Greece.

WARLIKE EXCITEMENT OVER CRETE INCREASING.

A Clash of Arms Soon Sure to Occur Between Greece and Turkey.

Unless the Powers Intervene, Which is Not Likely.

Belief That Greece Will be Given a Free Hand in Crete, and That if She Succeeds in Annexing That Island Her Right to Do So Will Not be Questioned by the Rest of Europe.

ATHENS, Feb. 12 (Copyrighted, 1897, by the Associated Press).—The warlike excitement has increased with the departure of troops for the frontier and the equipment of additional war vessels for service in Cretan waters. Nobody seems to doubt that a clash of arms will occur between Greece and Turkey unless the Powers intervene, but it is believed here that Greece will be given a free hand in Crete, and that if she succeeds in annexing that island her right to do so will not be questioned by the rest of Europe.

It is quite certain that King George has not insisted, without consulting his friends, in sending a torpedo flotilla into Cretan waters, with instructions to prevent at all hazards the landing of Turkish troops in Crete.

The Porte is understood to have submitted to the Powers to restrain Greece in this emergency, but nothing further is known of the policy Turkey is adopting, though it is reported that a large force of Turkish troops is assembling at Salonika for embarkation to Crete; that there is great activity in military circles on the Turkish frontier, and that a portion of the Turkish fleet is being prepared for active service.

Advices received here from Crete say that Gorgi Berovitch Pasha, the Turkish Governor of Crete, sought refuge last night in the Greek Consulate at Crete, fearing the anger of Mussulmans and dread of arrest. It is understood that Berovitch Pasha had previously tendered his resignation, and that the Sultan had refused to accept it.

In reply to the request from the Turkish Minister here, Assim Bey, made yesterday for an explanation of the departure of the Greek flotilla for Crete, and the issuing of a note to the Powers stating, in brief, that Greece cannot remain inactive in view of the present outrages upon Christians in Crete, the Government of Greece says that the measures taken are due to a desire not to discourage the Christians from occupying Halepa at a moment when an attack upon that town is threatened.

The town of Crete is now said to be tolerably quiet, but from 4,000 to 5,000 insurgents are near there awaiting reinforcements. When the reinforcements arrive, it is stated, the insurgents will attack Crete in force.

It is known that the Turkish officials in Crete have reported to the Porte that it is absolutely impossible to pacify the island without a very large force of troops, and the occupation of every town, village and mountain stronghold in the country. The hatred which has always existed between the Mussulmans and Christians has been fanned into fever heat by the recent collisions between the insurgents and the Turks, and this feeling has been still further intensified by the proclamation of the independence of Crete from Turkish rule and its union with the Kingdom of Greece.

Conflicts of a more or less serious nature are reported from many parts of the island, and Heraklion is said to have been set on fire at a number of points. The foreign fleets have left Crete for Heraklion, which seems to confirm the report that it is now the center of Greek operations.

Others report that the situation at Retimo is almost as serious as at Heraklion. The Turks at Retimo refuse to allow the Christians to leave the place until a detachment of 100 Turkish soldiers and 40 Mussulmans, who are held at Amari as hostages, are released.

The opinion expressed in official circles here is that nothing short of a landing of blue jackets and marines from the foreign fleets will subdue the insurrection, and it is not believed that the powers can agree to take this step, as a "brief drawn by Hon. A. S. Hartwell, president of the Hawaiian Republic of sugar planters and lawyers now preventing the Greek war vessels from actively interfering in Crete is not believed here. It is thought that any action which may be taken will be by Great Britain, Russia and France in common, but it is confidently reported that these powers have decided to allow Greece to have her own way in the matter.

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The same journal published a telegram from Constantinople showing that the whole of the Cretan situation commented upon by the Cretan committee at Athens, whose leaders are Deputy Romans and Dr. Papsake, which has sent numerous emissaries to Crete, honeycombed the island with seditious pamphlets. The majority of the Cretan population remains passive, notwithstanding the activity of the Crek agents' provocateurs. This latest Greek coup was not entirely unexpected in diplomatic circles here, since repeated suspicious inquiries have been addressed to the commander of the Greek fleet by the commanders of the ships of other nations in Cretan waters as to what action would be taken in Cretan eventualities.

The semi-official "Freundenblatt" today says: Greece must be restrained from going any further. Austria has already acted, and the other powers will not be backward. They will not assist Greece nor hinder Turkey in sending troops and responding with hostilities to the aggressive action of Greece.

SITUATION GROWING GRAVER. LONDON, Feb. 12.—A dispatch to the "Times" from Crete announces that four of the boats of the torpedo flotilla and the transport commanded by Prince George of Greece have arrived in the harbor of Crete.

It is also reported that the Italian officer attached to the new Italian gendarme, who went to Kissamo for the purpose of investigating the alleged massacre of Christians, was returned to Crete, and fully confirmed the dispatches of several days ago. In these reports it was announced that the Mohammedan inhabitants had been besieged in their houses at Kissamo. Firing in the streets finally followed, and twenty-three persons were killed, the bodies remaining buried for several days. This Italian officer says in his report: "Firing by the Christians in the streets caused a stampede of the Mohammedans. The Moslem natives made little defense. Only a few Christians were wounded. I did not see any corpses. Most of the bodies had been removed or buried, but their names have been recovered, and the evidence as to the number of the killed and wounded has not been exaggerated."

According to reports received at Crete, a Turkish warship arrived at Kissamo on Wednesday, and was immediately fired by the Christians. The Mohammedan population is now shut up in Kissamo, and six Christians have also taken refuge there.

SWEPT TO DEATH BY RAGING WATERS.

A Woman With Her Young Son, Together With a Span of Horses, Drowned.

While Attempting to Ford a River in Humboldt County.

Though Warned That the Crossing Was Dangerous, They Persisted in Trying to Cross, With the Result That the Current Upset the Wagon, and the Occupants and Team Sank From Sight.

EUREKA, Feb. 12.—Mrs. H. P. Miller and her 12-year-old son, together with a span of horses, were drowned at 10 o'clock this morning while attempting to ford Van Duzen River near its junction with the Eel River.

The party was warned that the crossing was dangerous, but persisted in trying to cross, with a fatal result.

Parties tried to intercept her, but too late, as she was already some distance from shore. The horses began to swim, but the current upset the wagon, and the occupant, showing him into the water. He managed to keep afloat, and drifted down the river about half a mile, struck on a sand bar and waked ashore. The horse and buggy were not recovered.

The place where the accident happened is twenty-five miles from this city, at the point where the Pacific Lumber Company's railroad crosses the Van Duzen River. The freshet caused by the recent rains washed out the bed of the river at the ford, which makes the crossing there extremely hazardous.

MONITOR TERROR. The Navy Department Notified That the Warship is Ready for Sea.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Commodore Seward, Commandant at the New York Navy Yard, has notified the Navy Department that the double turret monitor Terror will be ready for sea to-morrow, and she has been ordered to join Admiral Bunce's fleet off Charleston.

The Terror was launched seventeen years ago, but the long delay in completing her has not been so very harmful, for it has enabled the department to embody new ideas as they have developed in that period of time, so that she is now an up-to-date coast defense ship in every respect.

This is the first of our naval ships to be fitted with pneumatic mechanism for the revolution of her turrets and working of her guns. The report of the trial board just received at the Navy Department shows that the new system functioned satisfactorily upon trial.

CUBANS FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM. GOMEZ SAYS AUTONOMY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—A dispatch to the "Herald" from the district of Santo Espiritu, Santa Clara province, gives the following statements signed by General Maximo Gomez:

"The enemies of Cuba have circulated in the United States the rumor that I am disposed to accept autonomy as a basis of settlement or solution of the present war.

The Constitution of Cuba absolutely establishes in its articles that peace is to be negotiated upon the basis of absolute independence of Spain. It is the duty of the Cuban people to have been fighting for two years, and to continue to fight until victory be ours.

All the statements which have heretofore or may be in future published to the effect that we are willing to accept any other solution instead of independence should be regarded as false.

REBELS CAPTURE SUPPLIES. CINCINNATI (O.), Feb. 12.—A special to the "Commercial Tribune" from Havana, via Key West, says: Major Frederico Nunez, the insurgent leader in Pinar del Rio, and some of Colonel San Martin's guerrillas had a fight day before yesterday with Las Mangas, on the military road. San Martin had charge of a large convoy of ammunition and provisions going to San Cristobal. Nunez attacked the Spanish camp at midnight. It was on the edge of a vast field of dry grass. Nunez set fire and the wind drove the fire on San Martin's camp. The Spaniards rushed out to save their supplies, not suspecting a raid, whereupon the insurgents, with cries of "Viva Cuba Libre," dashed in dealing death right and left. The Spaniards offered a stout resistance, but after some sharp fighting broke and fled, leaving their train of supplies and pack horses to the insurgents.

Twenty of the Spaniards were killed and eleven Cubans. The latter, however, lost Captain Medro, one of the boldest scouts in Mexico's army. Mirandi, less than five miles west of Havana, was raided by the insurgents last night and ten houses were burned. The small Spanish garrison withdrew after firing a few rounds. The insurgents looted the stores and escaped. No casualties were reported.

WOMEN WORKERS. WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The eleventh annual report of the Department of Labor, just transmitted to Congress by Commissioner Wright, shows the proportion of women to the whole working class is increasing, while that of men is decreasing.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT OTTAWA, ONTARIO.

The Group of Handsome Parliament Buildings Practically in Ruins.

Thousands of Dollars Worth of Valuable Reports Burned.

Great Excitement Prevails Among the People in Consequence of the Belief That the Fire Was of Incendiary Origin—The Property Loss Estimated at Over Three Hundred Thousand Dollars.

OTTAWA (Ont.), Feb. 12.—At 12:30 this morning the upper stories of the group of handsome Parliament buildings in this city are practically in ruins, a fierce fire having been raging in them since the middle of the afternoon.

The loss is already over \$300,000, and as the flames are not yet under control, this amount will be greatly increased. Thousands of dollars worth of valuable reports have been burned and more are in danger.

The local fire department has been unable to stop the progress of the fire, and aid has been asked for from Montreal. The fire is believed to have been of incendiary origin, and in consequence the greatest excitement prevails.

Efforts are now being directed toward saving the almost priceless documents in some of the departments which the flames have not yet touched, but the undertaking is so fraught with peril that the firemen hesitate to undertake them.

The spectacle of the blazing buildings was a grand one, and the vicinity was crowded with thousands of people.

The fire was fierce when discovered in the afternoon on the top floor of the west block of the Parliament buildings, south of the Mackenzie tower, and quickly spread to the roof and over to the east block. Several pieces of hose were laid and a rush was made for the hydrants, when it was discovered that they were all frozen. An alarm from the city was then sounded and the city fire brigade turned out.

In the meantime the fire was spreading, eating its way along the roof toward the south. Then streams were put on from the thirty hydrants, when the departmental hose burst and the city department hose had to be depended upon altogether.

By this time the fire had so increased that it was bursting out through the windows, through the roof and along the edge between the roof and the walls. It ate along with terrific rapidity and soon the roof of the Mackenzie wing was one mass of flames and smoke. A general alarm was struck and the whole fire brigade turned out and was soon at active work. Streams were poured upon the flames from all directions. The fire continued to spread, however, and soon the tower on the southwest corner fell.

The center tower was next destroyed and the flames continued to eat their way, reaching the next large tower. They commenced to lick that, and finally had it completely engulfed in ruins. The firemen are now trying to confine the fire to the fourth floor, but unless help from Montreal arrives soon the building is not saved.

The original fire is not known. The civil servant had not been away from the building five minutes when the flames were seen to rise and burst out of the windows on the west side, close to the Mackenzie tower.

rumors are in circulation that the fire was of incendiary origin and the whole of the fourth story of the block is filled with reports from the Public Works, Railways and Canals, Marine and Fisheries Departments. The estimated loss at the present time is over \$300,000, and the sum will be largely increased before the fire is extinguished.

The old Western Department building where the fire was fiercest was damaged \$100,000 by the fire. The upper floors with the mansard roof were completely burned out, but the main floor on the second and third floors are all safe, the fire not having gotten through the concrete floor. Much damage has been done by water, but no important departmental documents have been destroyed. The offices destroyed are those of the Public Works, Department of Marine and Fisheries and the Mounted Police. Lack of pressure, bad hose, frozen hydrants and a variety of causes contributed to the poor work of the fire brigade.

At 3 o'clock this morning a Sibley engine and men arrived from Montreal, but by that time there was nothing more to harm.

The construction of a modern building in place of the one wrecked will cost not less than \$250,000.

RACE WITH DEATH.

Six Men Narrowly Escape Drowning on a Sinking Tug.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—Six men had a race with death on the lake last night and won by a hair's breadth.

They were the crew of the big supply tug A. C. Vanraalte. This tug carries supplies to the crib off Sixty-eighth street, and while returning to her dock she sprung a leak while backing a tremendous ice field. Then for three hours the six men battled with ice and faced death while they were trying to keep their boat afloat long enough to reach her dock. The tug managed to get into the Calumet River, but her fire was dead. The men were up to their knees in water when the boat touched the dock. In answer to signals of distress the fireboat Chicago responded and took the crew ashore.

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