

SPAIN'S MINISTER AT WASHINGTON.

De Lome Will Probably Soon Have to Depart From the Capital.

Practically Admits Writing the Attack on President McKinley.

If Not Recalled by His Government the State Department Will Move Directly in the Matter and Give Him His Passports—The Matter Causes a Sensation in Washington Official Circles.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—The publication of what is supposed to be an autograph letter written by Senor De Lome, the Spanish Minister, to his friend Canalejas, criticizing the President with the utmost freedom, caused a sensation in official Washington, and soon will be followed by Minister De Lome's departure from the United States.

At the outset there was a disposition to question the authenticity of the letter, but as, bit by bit, the circumstances were developed until it was finally announced officially that the Minister declined to deny the authenticity of the letter, all doubt was dissipated, and the only question that remained was as to the line of action to be pursued by our government toward the offending Minister.

The writing of this letter is unquestionably an offense against the amenities of diplomatic relations, and such offenses have almost invariably been regarded in the United States, as in other capitals, as sufficient ground for the termination of the official status of the letter writer.

As soon as the letter appeared in the press the State Department officials began an effort to settle its authenticity, and when it had learned all that could be developed on this point, and had been told that the Minister himself refused to deny writing it, the consideration of the next step began. Assistant Secretary Day was in consultation with the President on the subject at least four times during the official day, and then spent much time in framing his message to United States Minister Woodford at Madrid. The official statement of the sending of this message was accompanied by a declaration to indicate its contents at this time, the department merely giving to the press the following statement:

"Minister De Lome does not deny writing the letter. This department has communicated with General Woodford on the subject. Until that communication reaches the Spanish Government it would be improper to in any manner state the contents of the message to General Woodford."

While the department refused to add to this meager announcement, it can be stated without question that Mr. Woodford was directed to lay the fact developed before the Spanish Government together with the statement of the Minister's refusal to deny the authorship of the letter.

The Spanish Government is looked to with confidence to deal with the case properly. The day after the Minister was recalled the Minister, presuming that he himself has not already taken steps to vacate his position. No doubt is entertained of a compliance with the implied suggestion, but in case there should be undue delay in acting, the State Department would feel called upon to move directly in the matter and give the Minister his passports, as was done with Sir Julian Pauncefote's predecessor, who wrote the celebrated Murchison letter.

At the Spanish Legation every avenue of inquiry as to the letter is closed. The Minister positively declines to be seen concerning the subject. He will neither affirm nor deny the accuracy of the letter as a whole or in part. Neither has he given any statement denying or affirming the authorship of the letter. The information of the State Department is necessarily limited on a communication of this character as it has not passed through official channels. It is not a communication of the Spanish Minister to his Government. Being to Senor Canalejas, who is not a member of the Spanish Cabinet, although of high standing as an adviser of the Government, the letter is not one that is removed from such official communications as come to the attention of the State Department. It is not expected therefore that the Department will be able to throw any light on the accuracy of the letter for the present at least.

The circumstances under which a letter of this character could escape from the privacy of the two persons between whom it passed, excites much comment. The general belief is that it was never delivered to Senor Canalejas, but was stolen while en route. Canalejas was in Washington some months ago, and then went to Cuba for the purpose of observing the condition of affairs there. As a former Minister in the Liberal Cabinet, having been Minister of Justice, and as editor of "El Herald" at Madrid, he was accorded a warm reception by Minister Dupuy de Lome, who gave a banquet in his honor, which was attended by a number of prominent business men. He then left for Cuba, and his mission necessarily brought him into continued correspondence with Minister De Lome.

after it had reached the house where Senor Canalejas was stopping.

The effect of the letter on the future of Minister De Lome arouses interest. His service as Minister has now extended beyond three years, and he has been in charge throughout the most serious phases of the Cuban complication. When the Conservative Ministry fell last autumn, it was generally supposed that Premier Sagasta would send a liberal Minister to succeed the late De Lome, who is a prominent Conservative and a former Conservative Deputy. He was continued at his post, however, although it was understood at the time that he placed his resignation at the disposal of the Spanish Government.

"In the absence of any official information of the writing of such a letter, it would be manifestly unfair and unjust to the Spanish Minister to make any statement at this time as to the intentions of the State Department," said Assistant Secretary Day, in answer to a question as to what procedure would be followed in treating the letter written by Senor De Lome to Senor Canalejas. It was said that up to noon the department was absolutely ignorant officially that such a letter had been written, and that the publication in the morning newspapers had been seen, and had created a sensation in official circles. The President himself was not long in ignorance of the matter, for Assistant Secretary Day called upon him early, and to the great disappointment of the large number of visitors who were patiently waiting in the lobby to secure access to the President, word came out that he could not be seen, owing to his great engrossment with official business, which was taken to mean the Spanish Minister's letter. It was after this conference that Mr. Day made his statement to a number of newspaper men.

Secretary Sherman assumed a similar position, though he let it be known that the writing of such a letter as that published could constitute a breach of diplomatic etiquette of which our Government must take notice.

As no denial of the authenticity of the publication has yet reached the State Department, it is believed that after a reasonable delay the matter will be referred to the attention of the Spanish Government through Minister Woodford, presuming that no action has been taken by the Spanish Minister himself before that time, and a changed representation of Spain at Washington may be expected in due order. This has led other gentlemen, there is no excuse that will be acceptable to our Government.

The rule as laid down in the Sackville case is generally regarded as the standard of precedence for our guidance in such matters, though there are not lacking other precedents. To plead that the letter was purely personal; that it was not even addressed to an official or a citizen of the United States will not excuse. Lord Sackville set up such an excuse, but President Cleveland declared it was insufficient, and the Minister was compelled to leave Washington.

There are few Senators who had not read the De Lome letter when the Senate met to-day, but there were comparatively few there willing to express an opinion on it.

"It is a very serious matter," said Senator Gray, of the Committee on Foreign Relations; "to serious, indeed, to discuss carelessly. Mr. De Lome is entitled to a suspension of judgment until the responsibility is more definitely determined."

"If it is true," said Senator Foraker, also a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, "Mr. De Lome ought to be given his passports immediately."

Senator Spooner: "If true, it is a gross act, and almost amounting to a crime. I do not discuss it, in view of the doubt as to its genuineness."

Senator Hawley: "It is a matter for the State Department to deal with, and does not for the present come within the domain of Congress. I have no doubt that it will be properly handled by the department."

Senator Stewart: "The sentiment expressed is in line with Spain's policy and disposition. We do everything to conciliate the Spaniards; they reciprocate by despising us."

GEN. BARRIOS ASSASSINATED.

The President of Guatemala the Victim of a Murderer.

No Details of the Killing or By Whom the Crime Was Committed.

Vice-President Manuel Estrada Cabrera Assumes the Reins of Government—Prospero Morales, Leader of the Insurgents, Disclaims All Knowledge of the Assassination.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Senor Lejo Ariza, the Guatemala Minister to the United States, this afternoon received an official cablegram from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, announcing the assassination of President Barrios and the succession to the Presidency of Vice-President Manuel Estrada Cabrera. No details whatever were given.

The dispatch came from Guatemala City, the capital, where President Barrios has lived and the Government departments are carried on. It added that the entire calm prevailed.

This last assassination, coupled with the immediate resignation of the First Vice-President, in accordance with the methods of the country, is a special source of gratification to the Guatemalan officials here, and to some extent alleviates the shock with which they received the news of the tragedy.

The relations between the late President and the Guatemalan Minister at Washington, Senor Lazo Arriaga, were much more than of an official character. They were close friends, and the death of the President at the hands of an assassin was a personal bereavement to the Minister. Senor Arriaga said Senor Barrios was a man of wide attainments and marked executive ability. He was 42 years of age. The six-year term of service for which he was elected terminated March 15th next, but the National Congress, which was only half assembled, had already extended this term for a further four years.

The new President, Mr. Cabrera, is a man of prominence in Guatemala, and is one of two chosen by the Congress to fill the Presidency in case of a vacancy. The system of election is different from that in the United States, there being no Vice-President elected with the President. The duty of filling the executive chair devolves upon the Congressional branches. Accordingly, two Vice-Presidents, First and Second, are elected at the same time.

During the war of 1885, when his uncle, the President, was killed, the General succeeded him as commander of the forces. Later on, when President Barrios was in control, he banished the young General to the coast, and he went direct to California, residing in San Francisco for about a year.

Nine years ago General Barrios was Consul in Hamburg, Germany. In 1892 he succeeded Barrios as President, his term of office (six years) expiring on March of this year. Last June he publicly declared himself Dictator of Guatemala. His partisans say that under his administration the country prospered and developed extensively.

THE NEWS AT SAN FRANCISCO. SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9.—The news of the assassination of President Jose Maria Reyna Barrios of Guatemala created considerable excitement in this city to-day, as both the murdered President and his wife were well known here, and also because a number of San Francisco merchants have extensive interests in that Republic.

To the little colony of refugees who fled from Guatemala some months ago and located in this city to escape the wrath of the dictator, the announcement was not surprising, as the insurgents threatened some time ago to kill Barrios before the expiration of his term on March 15th.

RIOTOUS SCENES IN A PARIS COURT.

Exciting Incidents During the Hearing of the Zola Case.

Young Barristers Make a Demonstration Against the Judge.

The Calling in of a Detachment of Troops to Quell the Disturbance Leads to a Violent Affray—An Altercation Between General Gonz and M. Laborie, in Which the Public Joined, Reaches Such a Pitch That the Judge Orders the Court Cleared.

PARIS, Feb. 9.—In spite of special precautions, there was a repetition of the scenes witnessed yesterday when the trial of Emile Zola and M. Perriex, who are being prosecuted by the Government for denouncing the Esterhazy court-martial, was continued to-day in the Assize Court of the Seine. General Boisdeffre refused emphatically to testify, under the plea of professional and state secrecy. M. Delegrave, the presiding judge, consented that Mme. Dreyfus should be allowed to testify on the condition that her evidence be restricted to the Esterhazy case.

Over 200 barristers in their robes gathered at the public entrance and indulged in horse play. When the presiding judge ordered them not to obstruct the passage, the barristers made a demonstration against the judge. Thereupon the Commandant of the Republican Guards sent a detachment of troops to quell the disturbance. The intervention of the military was ill-received, and led to a violent affray. The barristers rushed upon the guards and struck them. One of the young lawyers was arrested, but after quiet had been restored he was released.

M. Laborie protested against the limitation of the evidence of Mme. Dreyfus, and denounced the scenes in court, the bias of the newspapers, and the attacks on his client as being unworthy of France.

General Boisdeffre, replying, admitted that as Minister for War, before he had testified at the Esterhazy court-martial, he had received from Major Esterhazy a certain document which concerned the Dreyfus case, but he refused to give any further particulars on the ground of professional secrecy.

The General admitted that Colonel Picquart had been transferred to Tunis owing to his being favorable to Dreyfus, and the witness added that he personally was convinced of the guilt of Dreyfus, while other facts before and after the court-martial, which had come to his knowledge, made this conviction unshakable. This statement created a sensation in court, and the General added that he told the Colonel to avoid arresting Major Esterhazy, which the Colonel wished to do.

General Mercier, the former Minister for War, who was next examined, declared that he believed the honor and other documents extracted from the War Office had been communicated to the newspapers by the Dreyfus family.

M. Laborie immediately asked that Mme. Dreyfus be allowed to confront General Mercier and deny his statements. But the judge refused to allow it.

General counsel for M. Zola then pressed General Mercier to say if it was true that a secret document had been communicated to the Dreyfus court-martial, but the General refused to reply. At the conclusion of his examination General Mercier was cheered.

WIFE MURDERER MERRY.

An X-Ray Examination to be Made of His Brain.

Rochefort's Sentence.

Loyal to Lady Somerset.

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—Before mounting the gallows, Chris Merry, the wretched under sentence of death for wife murder, is to get an X-ray examination of his brain. Several years ago Merry was struck on the head with a brick, which left an indentation. Merry's attorneys believe that to be responsible in great part for the violent outbursts of temper which the condemned man shows, and it is to learn the exact nature that the examination is to be made, with the object of obtaining clemency from the Governor.

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—In the libel suit of M. Joseph Reinach against M. Henri Rochefort to-day, the latter was sentenced to five days' imprisonment and to pay a fine of 3,000 francs. Rochefort recently charged Reinach with intending to prove the innocence of Alfred Dreyfus by means of forged documents.

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—A letter has been sent to Lady Henry Somerset, signed by all the National W. C. T. U. officers, assuring her of their loyalty and love, and expressing much sympathy in her illness, and urging her to come to America as soon as her health and strength will permit.

ADOLPH LUETGERT CONVICTED.

FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

The Jury Fixes the Penalty at Imprisonment in the Penitentiary for Life.

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—Adolph L. Luetgert was to-night convicted of the murder of his wife, and sentenced to imprisonment in the penitentiary for the term of his natural life. Luetgert received the verdict with a laugh.

It was 10:50 o'clock when word was sent to the court room by the jury that they had agreed upon a verdict, and were waiting to bring it into court.

Judge Gary, whose home is within a few blocks of the Criminal Court building, informed the jury as it passed out that he had not waited for pleasure, and at any time during the night that they agreed upon a verdict he would return to the court room to receive it. Quickly as possible after the jury had sent word of an agreement, Judge Gary hastened to the court room.

The news of the verdict had spread quickly to the street, and in a few minutes the court room was jammed with newspaper men, policemen and witnesses who had given evidence at the trial and curious spectators.

BICYCLISTS MEET AT ST. LOUIS.

National Assembly of the L. A. W. Convenes in Annual Session.

Entire Day's Proceedings Devoted to Discussion of Good Roads.

Interest in the Election at Fever Heat—Confidently Expected on All Sides That President Potter Will Be Re-elected and That His Whole Ticket Will be Successful.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 8.—The entire day was devoted by the National Assembly of the L. A. W., to the discussion of good roads.

Chairman Otto Doerner of Milwaukee presided over the meeting, and in his opening address stated that reports were coming in from all over the country that the farmers had entered the good roads movement with an unexpected zeal.

Professor John Hamilton of Harrisburg, Pa., President of the National Association of Farmer Institute Conductors, delivered the principal address of the day.

The meeting did not adjourn until late in the afternoon.

The interest in the election has increased to fever heat. The New York delegation has posted a bulletin board in their headquarters on which is marked down every vote as fast as it is pledged for Potter. At 8 o'clock to-night the board read 276 votes pledged. That President Potter will be re-elected is confidently expected on all sides, and speculation is now being made on his majority. The success of his whole ticket also seems assured, for no decided opposition has shown yet, nor has any other ticket been made public.

Rumors of the candidacy of George D. Gideon, ex-Chairman of the Racing Board, and of Fred Garloch, ex-Racing Board member from Chicago, are bruited about, but have not as yet assumed definite shape.

The Potter slate is as follows: President, Isaac Potter of New York; First Vice-President, Thomas J. Keenan of Pennsylvania; Second Vice-President, Edward N. Hines of Michigan; Secretary, Abner Bassett, Massachusetts; Treasurer, J. C. Tattersall of New Jersey.

A protracted session of the Racing Board was held to-day, with all the members present. Professionals from nearly all the States were recommended for transfer to the amended class, and their cases will be acted upon by the National Assembly. The following was among those so recommended: California—Howard W. Squires, Oakland.

COAST AND EASTERN RACES.

BUCK MASSIE WINS THE STAKE EVENT AT OAKLAND.

Easily Defeats Eddie Jones, Los Prietos and Flashlight in the Emoryville Handicap.

San Francisco, Feb. 9.—The Emoryville handicap, at a mile and a furlong, the feature of the card at Oakland to-day, was won by Eddie Jones, Buck Massie.

The Easterner, in at 115 pounds, made quick work of Eddie Jones, Los Prietos and Flashlight. He was played down in the betting from 9 to 10 to 7, and galloping in front of the way won easily. In a drive the Eddie Jones, second choice in the betting, took second place from Los Prietos by a nose. The stake was worth \$50 to the winner. Results:

Three furlongs, maiden two-year-olds, Clarendo (Clawson), 7 to 10, won; San Augustine (C. Sloan), 8 to 1, second; Malay (Thorpe), 3 to 1, third. Time—1:32. Vioris, Villmar, Prince Will, Ellen Wood, Wrinkles and Compliment also ran.

Seven furlongs, selling, Estro (Spencer), 10 to 1, won; Ellard (Tuberville), 20 to 1, second; Mission (Thorpe), 4 to 1, third. Time—1:32. Rio Prio, Bow and Arrow, Musculado, Bramblea, Socialist, El Moro, Kaiserin, Miss Alice, Searchlight and Irritator also ran.

One mile and a sixteenth, selling, Palomilla (Thorpe), 2 to 1, won; Roche (Clawson), 15 to 1, second; Roy di Tierra (Gray), 12 to 1, third. Time—1:51 1/2. Serena, Flaendes, Don Daniel, Bobolink and Little Chris also ran.

One mile and an eighth, Emoryville handicap, purse \$1,200, Buck Massie (Conley), 7 to 10, won; Eddie Jones (Thorpe), 3 to 2, second; Los Prietos (Gray), 10 to 1, third. Time—1:56 1/2. Flashlight also ran.

One mile, selling, Morinel (McNichols), 9 to 1, won; Dr. Bernays (Wood), 7 to 2, second; Bonita (Gray), 6 to 5, third. Time—1:43. Dolore, Tip Dipper, Gotobed, Outright and Greenleaf also ran.

Six furlongs, Fortunato (Conley), even, won; Lost Girl (Clawson), 5 to 1, second; Major Cook (Spencer), 8 to 1, third. Time—1:18. Spay Lark, Highland Ball, I Don't Know, Charlie M. Diabla, Hermoso, Bobbins, Emma D. and February also ran.

RESULTS AT NEW ORLEANS. NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 9.—Weather cloudy; track good. Results: Seven furlongs, L. T. Caton won. Barometer second, Jim Conway third. Time—1:34 1/2. One mile, selling, Octave won. Siva second, Calacta third. Time—1:44 1/2. Six and a half furlongs, Pat Morrissey won. Everett second, Cold Coin third. Time—1:22 1/2. Mile and an eighth, Lobengula won. Sister Stella second, Royal Choice third. Time—1:57. Six furlongs, selling, Randazzo won. Duces of York second, First Ward third. Time—1:10 1/2.

FIRE AT FORT WORTH.

A Quarter of a Million Dollars' Worth of Property Destroyed.

KANSAS CITY (Mo.), Feb. 9.—A special to the "Star" from Fort Worth, Tex., says:

At 3 o'clock this morning the largest property loss by fire that ever occurred here took place. The eight-story Hurley office building, the Dreyfus Company's mammoth dry goods house, the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, the general offices of the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Company, the Worth Cycle Company, and one or two small merchandising companies were burned to the ground. The firemen were unable to get the fire under control before 9 o'clock this morning. The total loss is estimated at over \$250,000.

The Hurley building was the largest in the city, and was owned by William Butler, trustee of the Simpson heirs of Boston. It is impossible at this time to ascertain the exact amount of insurance, but it is known that it will fall far short of the loss. Over twenty tenants in the Hurley building lost everything. Flying embers fell in blocks away. Street car lines are paralyzed. The wires are cut and no cars are running. It is the worst calamity that ever befell the city.

REV. C. O. BROWN.

A Chicago Church Organ Offers Him Some Good Advice.

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—The question of retention or dismissal of Rev. C. O. Brown by the Green-street Congrega-

tional Church will be decided at a meeting to-night. It is generally accepted by the leaders of the church that whatever may be the action of the church, Dr. Brown will not receive any favor from the Chicago Association at the meeting next Monday.

The "Advance," the local church organ, to-day says: "Dr. Brown is disqualified from performing the duties of the ministry. This is the judgment ever made by the action of the church. Dr. Brown will not receive any favor from the Chicago Association at the meeting next Monday.

"The Advance," the local church organ, to-day says: "Dr. Brown is disqualified from performing the duties of the ministry. This is the judgment ever made by the action of the church. Dr. Brown will not receive any favor from the Chicago Association at the meeting next Monday.

"The Advance," the local church organ, to-day says: "Dr. Brown is disqualified from performing the duties of the ministry. This is the judgment ever made by the action of the church. Dr. Brown will not receive any favor from the Chicago Association at the meeting next Monday.

Ultimatum Regarding Crete.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 9.—Much importance is attached to a communication appearing in the official "Messenger," in which Russia, abandoning the candidature of Prince George of Greece for the Governorship of the island of Crete, threatens all concerned, declining all responsibility for the consequences of further dragging the question, and says Russia will not allow any increase in the number of Turkish troops in Crete, or be a party to any coercion of the Cretans.

No Prohibition in Austria.

VIENNA, Feb. 9.—It is denied that there is any question at present of prohibiting the importation of American fruits and fruit products into Austria.

Condition of the Treasury.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Today's statement of the condition of the treasury shows: Available cash balance, \$223,550,046; gold reserve, \$165,264,077.

(Continued on Eighth Page.)