

Iowa State Bystander

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DES MOINES, IOWA

The Grand Duke Cyril must thank his stars that he was exiled when he was.

A woman seldom makes a fool out of a man; she usually acts as nature's assistant.

All's quiet in Ekaterinoslav—the place with the name that sounds like a roll of musketry.

If they shoot too well for the world to know about it, Uncle Sam's tars must be shooting some.

Admiral Togo can't be so much of a hero, after all. He hands over every cent of his salary to his wife.

The consumption of Scotch whisky is "steadily declining." So it was really a fad and not a preference.

"Where," asks a Nashville paper "are the strong men?" A good many of them are playing center just now.

When a bank fails, it is only an other case where the examiners failed to examine or the directors to direct.

The man who makes two laughs grow where two sour faces grew before deserves to be made a multimillionaire.

A Philadelphia woman had her husband arrested for beating her between prayers. He was probably praying for "more strength."

If the University of Chicago succeeds in discouraging the great American toothpick habit, it will need no other claim to fame.

Henry Arthur Jones, the English dramatist, says the people should read plays as well as see them. Heavens! Has the man no pity?

Pittsburg is to have a hotel of great magnificence, and New York one of great height. You pay your money and you take your choice.

Hall Cable addressed the Rockefeller bible class on "The Pace That Kills." Does Mr. Cable use a gasoline, electric or steam car?

On the new liner Amerika there is every modern facility for getting meals, but the facilities for keeping them are as primitive as ever.

The full text of the Portsmouth treaty shows it to be much more comprehensive than the summary summary would have led one to believe.

Jerome K. Jerome's joke about American cooking is all right—as a joke. Also it is all right when applied seriously to some American cooking.

Secretary Taft thinks football needs reforming. It is certainly no game, as played at present, for gentlemen built on the architectural lines of Mr. Taft.

It seems sometimes to the owner that about all the fun there is in a nice, well kept, airy house and lawn is enjoyed by folks who drive by and look at it.

Owing to the disturbed condition of the public mind in Russia, the project of a tunnel through the Caucasus, to cost \$150,000,000, has been temporarily laid aside.

If the women's charges are true, washerwomen first tear a garment up, then they split it across, then they wet it, dry it and glue it home with a bill.—Acheson Globe.

Let us not shed more than a painful of tears over the brief imprisonment of an American swell in Paris. The tears are proper for the girl whom he lured by reckless driving.

New Jersey is about to have a law providing that drunken chauffeurs shall pay \$1,000 and spend three years in state's prison. That ought to lower the death rate considerably.

Chief Chemist Wiley found butter colored, with coal tar dye, but without a tremendous journey he could have made the much more painful discovery of butter flavored with it.

During all of the time he has been in India Lord Curzon has never worked less than fourteen hours a day. And look at him now—turned out of office in humiliation and not a friend on earth.

By the use of kites at Fort Leavenworth the signal corps has demonstrated that the upper air is full of wireless messages hovering around and looking for some convenient place to light.

A New York man after being run over by an automobile was asked if he wished to prefer charges against the chauffeur and replied that he did not, because it wasn't the chauffeur's fault. The heroic philosophers are not all dead.

The Spanish naval authorities have given up all hope of saving the armament and hull of the cruiser Cardinal Cisneros, now lying in eighty feet of water. She is as effectively lost as the kettle in the well, although they know just where she is.

Harry Dollard of New York was discharged from the Williamsburg hospital after an operation for appendicitis on Friday. On Sunday he went to drive; the horse ran away, and before night Mr. Dollard was back in the Williamsburg hospital with a fractured skull and internal injuries.

A Connecticut man hanged himself fifty feet in air to a tree. Far be it from us to speak ill of the dead, but it is bad form for any one to render himself conspicuous by a barefaced bid for publicity.

BOARD WANTS OVER A MILLION

Biennial Report of Board of Control Is Filed With the Governor.

LEGISLATION WILL BE URGED

For Maintenance of Institutions \$1,400,250 Is Wanted—Suggested Provision for Care of Deserted Soldiers' Wives.

Des Moines, Nov. 16.—The state board of control, in its biennial report filed with the governor yesterday, recommends the appropriation of \$1,400,250 for the state institutions during the ensuing biennial period. This is a reduction of about \$450,000 from the amount asked by the superintendents of the institutions.

Among the recommendations as to legislation, the board of control recommends its former recommendations for the establishment of an epileptic colony, a reformatory for females over 16 years of age, a reformatory for males over 16 and under 30 years of age, and for laws providing for indeterminate sentences and for paroles of prisoners sentenced for felonies.

The board also recommends that the law be changed so as to authorize transfer of insane to other states at the expense of the state. That notice be sent to superintendents of state hospitals of all escaped patients taken into custody. That procedure as to legal settlement of patients be made more definite.

Other legislative recommendations are made as follows:

Paroles—Asking for the authority to appoint a parole officer for the prisoners.

Soldiers' home—It is recommended that the law be so changed as to admit wives of soldiers who have been deserted without their fault, and who have not been divorced.

Industrial School for Boys—An increase in the support fund is urged as necessary in order to properly operate the institution. Ask to sell 40 acres of land lying at a distance from the institution.

Industrial School for Girls—Per capita allowance is too small and \$15 per month per capita is recommended.

Chaplains—Recommend that the salaries of chaplains at the penitentiaries be fixed at not less than \$100 per month.

Homes for Friendless Children—Additional legislation is urged regarding the inspection of same.

Publication of reports—Recommend the omission from our printed reports of the reports of the superintendents of the institutions.

Placing of children—Recommendations that the law be changed so as to permit the placing of children who are committed to either of the industrial schools, or to the Soldiers' Orphans' home, when authorities are satisfied that the parents are unfit to have charge of their children.

One chapter of the report is devoted to the work of the state agent. The report sets forth the work done by the state agent, showing that she has since her appointment traveled over 12,000 miles, investigated more than 120 homes, and placed in homes thirty-eight boys and twenty-eight girls under her supervision, of which but six did not do well. Her salary and expenses for the nine months were \$1,478.00.

POLICE HAVE CLUE TO DIAMOND THIEF

Des Moines, Nov. 15.—With the recovery of a stolen diamond, worth several hundred dollars, detectives believe they are close on the heels of a man who can explain many recent burglaries in Des Moines.

It is alleged that the diamond fell into the hands of a loan agent, who upon the failure of the borrower to pay the loan, disposed of the diamond in a Walnut street pawnshop.

Police officers claim to know the original owner of the diamond and declare that it was stolen a month or two ago.

While utmost secrecy in the investigation is being observed it leaked out that detectives are attaching much value to the loan man for receiving the diamond without making a report on the transaction to police headquarters. Such a report is provided for by ordinances. The loan man may be prosecuted under this ordinance.

WOMAN OF BUXTON MURDERS HUSBAND

Buxton, Nov. 14.—W. H. Austin, a prominent resident of this city, was stabbed to death by his wife here Saturday night and the autopsy on his remains revealed that his heart was in his right side.

Austin was stabbed fourteen times. The fight with his wife began in the house. Austin was chased from room to room by his infuriated spouse, who was armed with a big old-fashioned "Barlow" knife.

As Austin finally rushed through a door for the street the last and fatal blow was administered. The knife penetrating his back and heart.

Mrs. Austin was arrested immediately and taken to Albia. The exact cause of the trouble is not known, but it is believed to have resulted from charges of unfaithfulness made by Austin. The couple had been married about one year. The youngest and autopsy, at which the phenomenon regarding Austin's heart was discovered, was held at Albia Sunday.

HERRIMAN WINS FIGHT.

Des Moines, Nov. 15.—With the election of Herriman director by a large majority yesterday afternoon at the annual meeting, the Iowa Mutual Tornado Insurance association re-elected J. B. Herriman as secretary and turned down A. N. Buckman, for many years president of the organization, and C. O. Bradford, cashier. Resolutions were passed vindicating Mr. Herriman of the charges preferred against him.

CHARITON MAN IS HELD FOR FRAUD

Chariton, Nov. 12.—A sensational indictment was returned by the grand jury when Prof. J. M. Hanlin, who was for six years deputy county clerk, and previous to that was county superintendent here, was indicted on the charge of making false entries in the fee book at the clerk's office.

E. S. Wells was county clerk for four years previous to last January, and Hanlin was his deputy during that time. At the close of Wells' term he was elected county attorney, and is now filling that office. His books as clerk were examined by expert accountants the past summer, and they found that he owed the county about \$1,500, which he paid back to the county treasurer. Sheriff Boss was also found to be over credited on the books, though he had not drawn his salary to date.

Wells claimed that the \$1,500 deficit to the county was through no fault of his, as he claimed Hanlin his deputy, had had charge of the books during his entire four years of office, and it was through Wells' effort as county attorney that Hanlin was indicted yesterday.

Professor Hanlin has been held as one of the most reliable and honest men of Chariton. He was a soldier in the civil war and suffered severe wounds, which are now making him practically an invalid. He has not been deputy clerk for several months, having resigned the office at the end of the second quarter of this year.

He has employed one of the strongest law firms of the county, and says he will make a fight that will open the eyes of the people of Lucas county. Just what sensations he proposes to spring are not known and will not become public until the January term of court, when the trial is set. Professor Hanlin claims that any misdeeds were entirely unintentional and were due to the negligence of Clerk Wells as much as to himself.

COURT HOLDS MAN AS LORD OF DOMAIN

Des Moines, Nov. 15.—The supreme court yesterday declared that a man who knows he is right is not bound to back off his own premises to avoid the assault of an assailant and may even kill the intruder to protect his own rights. A man's home is his castle and the supreme court has extended the castle to include a man's premises, meaning the land around about the castle.

The question arose in the case of Myron Bennett of Boone. He was convicted of assault with intent to commit manslaughter, by the shooting of a man named Caldwell. The evidence tended to show that Caldwell insulted Mrs. Bennett and then threatened Bennett, who promptly shot him. That he had a right to do it, if this statement is correct, the supreme court sustains.

But of course the decision is not to that effect or on that point. The case is reversed and Bennett is given a new trial because there was a wrong instruction to the jury respecting this sort of a situation. The general rule is that a person assaulted must retreat if he may safely do so before taking the life of his assailant or inflicting great bodily injury upon him. This rule is not applicable to this case because Bennett was on his own premises and therefore was not bound to retreat from the threatened assault of Caldwell.

May Lawrence Loses Her Case.

Oscola, Nov. 15.—Mrs. May Lawrence, who sued Frank Jones, a wealthy resident here for \$10,000 damages for slander, has lost her case. The suit has been dismissed.

ENDS LIFE RATHER THAN BE A BURDEN

Marshalltown, Nov. 17.—A profound sensation was caused here yesterday afternoon by the suicide of S. P. Ayres, editor of the Marshalltown Herald, a prominent citizen and well known throughout the state.

The dead body was discovered in an outhouse at his home shortly after noon by his son. A revolver at his side and a bullet wound in the head, told the cause of death. In his desk the following note was found, explaining the reason for his act:

"I have suffered on and on since I was hurt, hoping to fully recover, and see no hope now, as paralysis, and perhaps reason is threatened. If I cannot be a help, I cannot be a burden."

About a year ago Ayres was attacked by burglars as he was passing a dark alley in this city. He grasped with his assailants and was shot in the back of the head. The bullet made apparently only a slight wound, and a large scab has been forming. Ayres said himself that he never felt hurt, hoping to fully recover, and see recovered.

NEGROES MUST NOT BE REFUSED FOOD

Des Moines, Nov. 16.—Boarding housekeepers must furnish food to negroes as well as white people on application, according to a supreme court decision handed down yesterday morning.

The decision was given in the affirmation of the verdict for the plaintiff in the case of W. M. Hubbard vs. Humane Officer Ed Crawford. Hubbard, a negro, was a juror in a case on trial in the district court. The jury was taken to the Crawford boarding house on Ninth street for meals. Mr. Crawford refused to furnish the negro meals. The negro brought civil action and secured a verdict for damages. Judge Howe heard the case in the lower court.

"Jimmy" Carney and Pat Carmody, principals in a Sioux City gambling house row, in which John Carmody was fatally shot by Officer Caraher, have been indicted for conspiracy.

ATTORNEY MOODY DENIES ALL PLEAS

Says Commissioner Garfield Acted under the Law in This Instance.

ALL EVIDENCE WAS WELL USED

No Advantage was Taken of the Chicago Packers—Immunity from Prosecution was Promised, and Kept.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 17.—Attorney General Moody yesterday made a statement with reference to the pleas in bar filed by the defendants in the indictment against the beef packers, pending in the district court at Chicago.

He said he believed the public was entitled to some accurate information with regards to the facts, and that it could be given without affecting the interests of the government or infringing upon the just rights of the accused.

The statement continues as follows: "Ten separate pleas in bar have been filed, each one of them alleging facts which it is claimed ought to bar the government from proceeding further in this case."

"Eight of these pleas are based upon the alleged conduct of Mr. Garfield, commissioner of corporations, in making an investigation of the affairs of the defendants in pursuance of the authority conferred upon him by law, and in special obedience to the resolution of the house of representatives requiring him to make such investigation."

"The government denies in point of fact that Mr. Garfield did compel the several defendants to attend and testify and produce documents before him, or that he did subpoena any of the defendants to appear before him, or that he did produce documentary evidence, or that he waived the oath which he was authorized to require of them, or that he promised them any immunity whatever in the premises, or that any evidence obtained from the defendants was delivered to or used by the department of justice or the district attorney before the grand jury which found the indictment."

The attorney general asserts in the most positive terms that none of the information obtained by Mr. Garfield was used before the grand jury, and further says that he is informed by Mr. Garfield and believes that at certain stages of the investigation the defendants declined to give information unless they were put in a position to obtain the immunity provided by the act of congress and required by the constitution of the United States, and that when such instances occurred, acting after conference with the attorney general, Mr. Garfield refrained from pursuing the inquiry further and made no other attempt to obtain information, documentary or otherwise, along these lines.

"After full conference with Mr. Garfield, the answer of the government has been prepared by Mr. Page, under the supervision of the attorney general and with the assistance of the district attorney, and will be taken to Chicago and filed in the court the early next week."

"The seventh plea in bar urges that the government unlawfully seized certain papers of the defendants and submitted them to the grand jury, contrary to the rights conferred upon them by the constitution. The government denies that it obtained any papers otherwise than by the orderly process of a subpoena directed to the person who had the custody of them."

"The eighth plea sets up as defense the fact that the government, heretofore proceeded against the defendants by a petition under the Sherman act, under which petition an injunction against the continuance of the combination was issued about three years ago and was affirmed last winter by the unanimous opinion of the supreme court. The attorney general himself having personally argued the case for the government in that court, and claims that by taking this action, the government elected to pursue the civil remedies and is disbarred from resorting to a prosecution under the criminal provision of the anti-trust law."

"The government admits the facts, but contends that they constitute no bar to a criminal prosecution."

PRETENDER TO RUSSIAN THRONE

St. Petersburg, Nov. 17.—A false emperor has suddenly made his appearance near Penza and already his followers number 50,000. This is the startling report received in a dispatch from Simbirsk. Penza is in the heart of the vast region extending west from the Volga, where agrarian uprisings and large scale have been occurring and the report turns out to be true that the pretender to the throne has placed himself at the head of the peasantry the government will soon face, besides its other troubles, a formidable agrarian rebellion. It required a year to suppress the famous rebellion led by Pugatcheff, who impersonated the deposed and murdered Peter III in the time of Catherine II. That uprising was started in the same region, on the banks of the Volga.

King of Norway Chosen.

Christiania, Norway, Nov. 14.—At 2 o'clock this morning, the returns of the plebiscite were still incomplete, but no change in its main features is now possible. The results in 418 constituencies show 223,245 votes in favor of Prince Charles of Denmark as king of Norway and 62,739 against him. The republicans expected to poll 3 per cent of the votes but only obtained 21 per cent.

Peasants Attack Tshuk.

Warsaw, Nov. 15.—At Pultusk, in this government, the peasants organized for the purpose of driving out or lynching the thieves who have taken advantage of the present disturbances to loot and plunder. The lynchers killed eleven and fearfully mutilated twenty of the thieves.

LAND TAXES ARE TO BE REMITTED

Council of the Empire in Russia Aids the Peasants in Their Struggle.

ARE THREATENED BY FAMINE

Witte's Cabinet Holds Its Second Meeting—Plans to Place Council of Empire on Elective Basis—The Workmen Seek Eight Hour Day.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 14.—The council of the empire yesterday afternoon decided to remit a portion of the land payments due next year by the peasants in the provinces affected by the famine. The peasants since their emancipation in 1861 have been paying installments on land allotted them. The council also decided to remit entirely the payments of 1906 due on land held by peasants killed during the war. The amount remitted totals \$13,000,000.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 14.—The second session of Count Witte's cabinet was held yesterday afternoon. One of the matters under consideration was the project for placing the council of the empire, the upper house of the national assembly, to a certain extent on an elective basis, which Count Witte insisted upon before accepting the premiership and which was one of the principal causes of the long delay in issuing the imperial manifesto of Oct. 30.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 14.—As the next step in their programme the social democrats have decided to attempt the enforcement of an eight hour day in all the factories of St. Petersburg. The workmen in a number of big factories have already resolved to work only eight hours for their present pay and cease work entirely if their employers attempt to enforce the old scale.

Among the socialist leaders is Vera Zassulitch, who, taking advantage of the proclamation of amnesty, has returned to Russia.

GEORGIA IS SEALED UP.

Natives Defy Strong Forces of Russian Troops.

London, Nov. 14.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Mail says that 24,000 Georgians, armed with modern rifles, hold Georgia (in Trans Caucasia) despite the three important Russian forces converging thereupon and that, except for rumors, Georgia has been completely isolated for many days.

JUDGE OVERRULES BURTON'S DEMURRER

St. Louis, Nov. 16.—United States Circuit Judge Vandevanter yesterday overruled the demurrer filed to the indictment of United States Senator Burton of Kansas. The trial of Senator Burton on the charge of having used his influence before the post-office department in behalf of the Rialto Grain and Securities company of St. Louis to prevent the issuance of a fraud order against the company is set for beginning on next Monday.

The demurrer overruled by Judge Vandevanter was based on two counts in the indictment, and set forth the contention that the charges that Senator Burton had received compensation for services from a concern against which charges were preferred were vague, in that it did not specify the exact nature of the proceedings said to be pending. The second objection raised in the demurrer was that it was not specifically stated in the indictment that Senator Burton knew of the proceedings against the company, it was alleged, he received compensation.

DEMAND RETURN OF LAWYER HAMILTON

New York, Nov. 14.—John A. McCall, president of the New York Life Insurance company, was called before the Armstrong committee of insurance investigation yesterday and peremptorily ordered by the committee to demand the return from Europe to this country of Andrew Hamilton, the lawyer who has charge of the legislative matters for the New York Life Insurance company. Hamilton is a resident of the city of New York and is the owner of the balance which he owes the New York Life. McCall denied that it was the policy of his company to have Mr. Hamilton remain abroad until after this investigation had been concluded, and said that on the contrary he would very much like to have Mr. Hamilton return.

Mr. McCall, replying to Mr. Hughes counsel for the committee, said he had called the attention of the board of trustees of the company to his testimony before the committee relative to Hamilton, and gave Mr. Hughes a copy of his statement, which said that if Hamilton did not return to the New York Life the sum of \$225,000 by Dec. 31, he would himself pay it to the company. Mr. McCall said Hamilton was either in Paris or Nauenheim.

PEASANTS ARE FIGHTING.

Agrarian Situation Shows Little Improvement.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 15.—There has been little improvement in the agrarian situation in the central provinces. The peasants in many cases are fighting among themselves and organized bands are attacking villages of considerable size for the purpose of plundering them. Lieut. Gen. Eakharoff, former minister of war and vice admiral Donbass chairman of the technical board of the admiralty, who have been appointed the emperor's representatives to restore order in the provinces of Saratoff and Chernigoff, started for their posts today.

RUSSIA FACES A NEW PERIL

Crucial Situation Confronts New Administration.

THE OUTLOOK IS GLOOMY

Council of Workingmen's Delegates Proclaims Strike—Alleged That Government is Guilty of Delay in Carrying Out Promised Reforms.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 15.—In view of the condemnation to death of many of the sailors who mutinied at Cronstadt, the delay in carrying out the reforms outlined in the imperial manifesto, the proclamation of martial law in Poland, and other repressive acts, the council of workingmen's delegates have decided to proclaim a general strike throughout Russia today.

Moscow, Nov. 15.—A strike has broken out in a group of factories owned by the state. Troops have been sent to the scene.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 15.—A state of war has been declared in Vladivostok. Private advices say that the Chinese quarter has been entirely destroyed and that the uprising is now under control.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 15.—In spite of the complete embargo placed on telegrams from Vladivostok the news of the outbreak there leaked out of the navy and war departments and became generally known throughout the city. Few details were available to the general public and the city was filled with the wildest rumors as to what was occurring in the eastern fortress. One report circulated on the bourse yesterday had the entire garrison and the sailors of all the ships in the harbor in an emeute. This, following on the heels of the mutiny at Cronstadt, contributed to the demoralization of the exchange.

While the information received by the Associated Press goes to show that though order was yesterday partly restored, a large garrison standing firm, the crisis has not been passed. Fears are expressed in admiralty and general staff circles that mob violence has flared out again and that this will necessitate a further resort to armed force. Martial law has been proclaimed and the authorities are confident of their ability to stamp out any disorders.

EMPEROR GIVES LAND TO PEASANTS

St. Petersburg, Nov. 16.—The Associated Press is informed from a high source that a ukase will be issued positively tonight whereby a large portion of the imperial domain which covers almost a third of European Russia, and which at present is the property of the emperor and grand dukes, will be given to the peasants.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 16.—Advices from Vladivostok indicate that the mutiny of the soldiers and sailors has been quelled and order partially restored, the commandant having agreed to send home the reservists and time expired men detained there.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 16.—A fierce northwest blizzard and snow which blew down on St. Petersburg has night prevented bloodshed in the Russian capital. The bitter cold by forcing the strikers to remain indoors did more to preserve order than all the Cossack cavalry patrolling the streets. Heavy military reserves are stationed in all the industrial districts but up to midnight there was no rioting.

The social-democrats had an impressive response on the part of all organizations of workmen to their summons for a general political strike to demonstrate their solidarity with the struggle of their Polish comrades for autonomy and to protest against the execution of the mutinous sailors at Cronstadt. The men walked out of all the big mills and factories and the employees of the Baltic and Warsaw railroads, the printers and other classes of laborers struck, but the shops in the center of the city were not closed. Troops took charge of the electric stations, which were operated by sailors so that the city was not placed in darkness last night.

TOM LAWSON ARRESTED FOR CRIMINAL LIBEL

Boston, Nov. 15.—Judge Wentworth of the municipal court yesterday issued a warrant for the arrest of Thomas W. Lawson on charge of criminal libel preferred by Chas. W. Barron. The case results from statements alleged to have been made in a magazine article by Mr. Lawson. Mr. Barron is proprietor of a bureau for the distribution of financial news in this city.

Before the warrant had been served an agreement between counsel was affected, by which Mr. Lawson is to appear in court next Saturday and submit to the service of the warrant. Meanwhile counsel for Mr. Lawson stated the defendant in this suit will apply for a warrant for the arrest of Mr. Barron, for criminal libel in matter printed in the market sheets issued by Mr. Barron's bureau.

HUNDREDS KILLED IN FRESH RIOTS

Odessa, Nov. 15.—News has reached here of fresh disorders in the small town of Krivirog in the government of Ekaterinoslav in which over a hundred persons were killed and the town sacked and half burned. Three influential Jews left Odessa for St. Petersburg yesterday to present to the council of ministers a full account of the outbreak at Odessa supported by documentary evidence.

Some divorces are due to misunderstanding, and some to the fact that people understand each other too well.

ISLE OF PINES SECEDES FROM CUBA

American Residents There Say They Will Become American Territory.

NEW OFFICERS ARE ELECTED

Address Letter to President Roosevelt, but It is Said They Will Receive No Encouragement at Washington.

New York, Nov. 16.—A cable dispatch to the Herald from Havana says: Residents of the Isle of Pines have issued a declaration of their independence from Cuba and organized a new government as a United States territory. A delegate to congress will be sent to Washington.

The first officers of the new territory are: T. B. Anderson, secretary of state; James M. Steere, treasurer; Ed C. Ryan, delegate to congress; A. T. Fries, chief justice; David L. Wall, sheriff. The convention divided the island into five districts and ordered elections to be held Tuesday to select members of the legislature which is to convene next week.

First official notice of the affair is contained in this letter: "Dear Sir:—The people of this island having purchased homes under the treaty of Paris, believing it was United States territory, and having waited over three years for recognition of their rights as American citizens, fearing a continuation of these conditions and feeling alarm at the condition of Cuba during the coming election, have taken preliminary steps for the establishment of a territorial government under the constitution of the United States, believing this the proper step to take and the most effective way to secure justice and equity from our national law-making body, also relying upon you, our president, for a square deal.

"We trust our action will meet your approval.

Yours respectfully,
T. B. Anderson,
Chairman Territorial Convention."

Fully one-third of those now living on the island are American citizens.

GET NO ENCOURAGEMENT.

Administration Will Not Support Attempt to Secede From Cuba.

Washington, Nov. 16.—It can be said that the would-be seceders will receive no encouragement from the administration. Secretary of State Root, when he was secretary of war, was very clear and emphatic on the points "that the Isle of Pines belonged to Cuba as a matter of right, as a matter of international law and as a matter of justice." Furthermore that in procuring naval stations in Cuba for the United States there was a general understanding that the Isle of Pines was to be ceded to Cuba, although its title had been in doubt.

DENIES THE COUP DETAT.

Cuban Official Says News From Isle of Pines is False.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 16.—The Cuban minister has received the following cablegram from the secretary of state of Cuba, Senor O'Farrell: "The news as the coup d'etat also lately false; complete tranquillity in all the islands. There is no fear of public order being disturbed."

SUIT IS BROUGHT UNDER ELKINS LAW

Washington, D. C., Nov. 15.—Attorney General Moody yesterday made a statement with regard to the petition which will be filed by the district of Wisconsin, under the Elkins law, to test the legality of certain commissions paid by railroads (after the receipt of the published rates) to a private car transit company controlled by stockholders of the corporation shipping freight in those cars over the railroad lines. The statement follows:

The petition is against the Milwaukee Refrigerator Transit company, Pere Marquette Railroad company, Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad company, Erie Railroad company, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad company, St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad company, the Wisconsin Railroad company, the Chicago & Alton Railroad company, and the Past Brewing company.