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WASHINGTON.

THE FRENCH ARMS INVESTIGATION.

REPORT OF SENATOR STEVENSON.

WASHINGTON, May 11.—The following is an abstract of the report submitted by Senator Stevenson, to-day, he not being able to sign the report of the majority of the French Arms Committee. The subject matter of investigation divides itself naturally into the following inquiries:

I. How many arms and what amount of ordnance stores did the Government sell during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871? to whom sold? at what prices? and what disposition has been made of the proceeds of said sales?

II. Were such sales made under authority of any existing laws of the United States, and were their requirements complied with?

III. Were arms sold by the Government in such quantities as to impair the defensive capacity of the country in case of war?

IV. Was the order of the Secretary of War upon the 13th of October, 1870, that no arms or ordnance stores should be sold by the Government of the United States during the French-German war, to either belligerent in that country, carried out in good faith?

V. Was there any corruption or malfeasance on the part of any official or employé of the Government in the sale of arms or other munitions of war?

VI. Has any Senator or other American citizen been in communication or collusion, for illicit purposes, with the Government or authorities of any foreign power, or with any agent or officer thereof, touching the subject matter of this investigation?

Senator Stevenson first says that the testimony shows that a balance of $219,634 47 was alleged to have been spent by the War Department in preparing the arms and stores for sale, and the costs incurred in making the sales have never been paid into the Treasury. The items of these expenditures have not been given.

In regard to the second subject of inquiry—the legality of the sales—the minority calls attention to the language of the acts of 31 March, 1825, and 20th July, 1868. The first of these acts requires that an inspection or survey of the stores sold should be made. The latter law does not repeal the first, but adds to it requirements as to advertising, &c., before private sales are made. Mr. Stevenson continues that it does not appear that any inspection of the damaged or unsuitable arms was made, and that therefore the law of 1825 was violated. The testimony shows that the War Department put the following construction upon the statute of 1868:

a. That the advertisement of a small quantity of arms or ordnance stores of any kind authorized the sale of any quantity of the same kind which the Government might thereafter have to sell.

b. That a formal offer at public sale after 30 days' notice of each lot sold was not necessary.

c. That if a superior model of a carbine or musket had been invented, and partially introduced, all other models however good might be sold as "damaged or otherwise unsuitable," &c., no matter how small the quantity of the most recent model might be at the time in the possession of the Government.

The testimony shows that Gen. Schofield first placed the above construction on the law of 1868; that he communicated it verbally to the Ordinance Bureau, and that it has been adopted by the present Secretary of War, though the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General, rendered in 1869, and also given in the testimony, warrants no such construction. The debates in the Senate and House of Representatives are also quoted to show that, when the law of 1868 was passed, the general understanding in Congress as to the meaning of this act was not in accordance with that of the War Department. Again, many of the breech-loaders sold were of the new caliber (.50), while others of the old caliber (.58) are still in the possession of the Government, and 36,221 Springfield muzzle-loaders are still in the hands of the militia. Mr. Stevenson concludes, therefore, that the sale of breech-loaders was wholly without warrant of law so long as there were left in the U. S. Arsenals, or in the hands of the militia, arms inferior to those sold.

On the third topic of inquiry, the minority reports that prudence and wise policy alike dictated that the larger supply of breech-loaders deemed by Gen. Dyer in his annual report for 1870 (1,000,000 was the number he thought we ought to have), absolutely necessary to be kept in our arsenals should not have been diminished even though, in an emergency, inferior muzzle-loaders and carbines might supply their place, lest the defensive capacity of the country might be reduced, and the Government forced, in case of sudden war, to look to a foreign market for the purchase of arms.

In regard to the strict observance of the order of the Secretary of War of Oct. 13, 1870, the report continues:

"The undersigned is of opinion that if the Secretary of War considered it his duty to prohibit the sale of arms to a known agent of a belligerent or his sub-agents, for the purpose of securing the observance of the neutral obligations of the United States, he should have considered it equally his duty to rescind a sale of arms made to such an agent, as soon as the latter was discovered to be such, and to prevent the delivery of the arms to be so sold." The testimony shows that no such action was taken, but that arms sold on the 12th and 13th of October, 1870, were not all delivered for two months after their destination was discovered.

"The undersigned can therefore not escape the conclusion that the order of the Secretary of War was in this case flagrantly and with open eyes violated by the Ordnance Bureau with the sanction of the War Department. But this is not the only case in which the order of the Secretary of War failed to be observed. After his discovery, Col. Squire, the known agent of Remington, procured the intercession of other persons as middlemen to effect the purchase of arms from the Government of the United States. Two of these (Austin, Baldwin & Co., and Thomas Richardson) might, if strict vigilance had been exercised, have been properly suspected of being in business connection with Remington." Senator Stevenson also makes out a pretty strong case against Gen. Dyer in connection with the sale of breech-loaders to Thomas Richardson. He shows from the testimony that Gen. Dyer and Samuel Remington were in New-York at the time this sale was made and the Frankford Arsenal ordered to fabricate the cartridges, and while Col. Crispin testified that they were in communication with each other at his office. The same day after that Dyer telegraphed conditions the of the sale to Col. Benet for the Secretary's approval and gave the necessary orders, and Remington wrote to Le Cesne that he had made the purchase, while Richardson remembered nothing of the details of the transaction in which he allowed his name to be used. The ground for suspicion is very strong that Dyer personally arranged this sale with Remington nearly two months after the Secretary's order.

The history of the exchange of Gatling guns is reviewed at length with the following result:

"The conclusion is inevitable that there was an understanding between Remington and somebody connected with the Ordnance Bureau in regard to the exchange of these guns; for without this neither the matter of the deposit (to pay for the new carriages), nor the delivery of the gun carriages could have been effected in the absence of instructions and advice of any kind from Gen. Franklin. In no other way can the testimony be harmonized. Franklin testified that he thought at the time that the Chief of Ordnance knew all about who was the purchaser of these guns, and where they were going."

The minority calls attention to the fact that the defect in the 10,000 navy rifles sold to Poultney & Trimble of Baltimore, and by them to Remington, was brought to the attention of the Navy Department by Remington himself, and that, having convinced the Department that they were imperfect, he bought them himself at an advanced price; that the arms and ordnance stores were delivered in New-York in lighters in the Government pay and in charge of employés of the Ordnance Bureau on board the French steamers; that the cases were, many of them, marked "R. F.," which meant "*Republique Francaise*," and were receipted for by the same person who received the arms sold to Remington, and that certificates that the arms and stores were in good order were given by a representative of the Ordnance Bureau to a French officer stationed in New-York to inspect them.

The minority report does not discuss at much length the right of the United States to sell arms to either belligerent, though Senator Stevenson does not agree to the affirmative of this proposition laid down by the majority. "The Secretary of War," he says, "by his order forbidding the sale of munitions of war to France or Germany, acted wisely and well. This action was just to the country and alike creditable to himself. It is much to be regretted that this order was not strictly obeyed. The officers who, by negligence and disobedience, failed in this particular, deserve more than ordinary censure."

Attention is next called to the fact that the order of the President, suspending the sale of arms from Jan. 23, 1871, to April 23, was violated, and telegrams printed in THE TRIBUNE quoted in proof.

On the fifth topic the report admits that "the testimony fails to disclose any corruption or improper conduct on the part of any officer or other employé of the Government in the sale of arms or munitions of war. If errors were committed, it is gratifying to know they were occasioned by no sordid or selfish purpose."

As to improper intercourse by any Senator or other American citizen with an officer or agent of a foreign Government, the report concludes: "There is nothing to cast the slightest reproach upon any of the distinguished gentlemen who have been mentioned in this connection, and nothing has been disclosed as having taken place which was not in every sense creditable and proper."

The report throughout shows a careful and conscientious study of the testimony, and a desire to arrive at the exact truth in the matter.

The report of the majority of the French Arms Investigating Committee has caused considerable surprise among those who studied the testimony carefully, and among students of international law. The idea that the United States, as such, may sell its surplus arms to a belligerent power, to be used against a nation with which we are at peace, is pronounced as monstrous. "If this doctrine obtains," said a member of Congress, to-day, "arms might have been delivered by the United States Government in Havre or Brest, as well as in New-York, and sent them in United States ships of war. Nor is this all," he continued; "I don't see why he might not just as well send men to use the arms. According to this doctrine, there is no act which we could not give a belligerent. We might sell him our entire navy, if we had one worth the name, and deliver the ships in his own ports. We might set all our national armories and arsenals at work, to turn out arms and ammunition for him. In short, we might do anything whereby we could realize a profit. Mr. Sumner's protest, yesterday, against the constitution of the Committee and its report, was well taken by all except those who are owned by the Administration. A debate on the report will take place when the Committee on Printing reports the resolution for printing extra copies, which will not be for a week at least.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS—SLOW PROGRESS OF THE TARIFF BILL—MR. KELLEY'S INTENTIONS—THE BUELL RECORDS—THE KANSAS BRIBERY CASES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, May 12, 1872.

The entire session of the Senate, yesterday, with the exception of the morning hour and a short interval following the report of the French Arms Committee, was spent in a debate on Mr. Morton's General Election law. The first question on which there was a division of opinion related to the manner of appointing Supervisors and Inspectors of Election. The bill as reported, and the law of 1870, provide for the appointment of these officers by the United States Circuit Judges. Attention was called to the fact that United States Judicial Circuits, especially in the South and West, and on the Pacific Coast, covered a great extent of territory, and that it was almost if not entirely impossible for Circuit Judges to know personally anything concerning the character of the men to be appointed as Inspectors of Election in towns 400 or 500 miles from their own residences. If numerous applications were made for such appointments in distant parts of his circuit, it would be impossible for him to hold court and appoint them in these different sections at the same time. The United States Judicial Districts are of much less extent, and if this duty were given to the District Judges the execution of law would be much easier. For some reason, not fully explained, the Administration Senators opposed this amendment, and voted it down by Yeas 19, Nays 25. The next important amendment to the bill was offered by Mr. Kellogg, for the purpose of extending the provisions of the seventh section of the original act, providing pains and penalties for interfering with the Supervisors or Inspectors of Election to all districts over which this bill extends the law. This amendment met with considerable opposition, and Mr. Thurman moved to amend it by substituting a clause repealing the seventh section of the original act. After considerable debate this last amendment was defeated. Mr. Casserly then offered two additional sections to the bill, intended to prevent the interference of civil and military officers in elections. Pending the consideration of this amendment, the Senate adjourned after having agreed to begin voting on the bill at two o'clock to-morrow.

Saturday was a fruitless day in the House. Almost nothing was done toward working through the Tariff bill, except to get a decision that it was in order to take whole pages from the rejected Burchard bill and move them as amendments to the pending bill. This greatly complicated the consideration of the bill. Mr. Beck moved to insert all of the old bill which related to iron, in lieu of the 10 per cent reduction made by the new one, and Mr. Cox made a like motion as to cotton and its manufactures. While these motions were undisposed of, it was held to be in order to go on and perfect the 10 per cent section of the bill by other amendments. Mr. Cox moved to make the reduction 20 per cent. Lost, 47 to 74. Mr. Kerr moved that the reduction be 15 per cent, which was also lost by a vote of 41 to 85. The Committee rose to close the debate, and there was a futile effort made to adjourn. When the House again went into Committee, motions made by Messrs. Morgan, Beatty, and Bingham, to except wool from the 10 per cent reductions, were all lost by votes of nearly two to one, the affirmative side being composed chiefly of members from Vermont, Western New-York, Ohio, and Iowa. Mr. Brooks endeavored to have the second or 10 per cent section amended by a proviso that no higher duty than 60 per cent ad valorem should be exacted upon any of the articles mentioned, but his amendment was rejected—Yeas, 10; Nays, 80. Not a single amendatory motion was carried during the day, except one made by Mr. Banks to strike out the word "like" in the clause "on all wools, hair of the alpaca goat, and other like animals." This was all that was accomplished by the day's work. The progress made with the bill grows less, instead of increasing from day to day. On Wednesday the first page of the bill was passed. On Thursday eight lines were disposed of; on Friday one line only was agreed to, and on Saturday the result, as stated above, was the striking out of a single word.

It is understood that Mr. Kelley intends to-morrow to make a bold stroke to prevent any tariff reduction being made this session. His plan is said to be to endeavor to get the rules suspended, and a bill passed sweeping away all internal taxes, except those upon spirits, fermented liquors, tobacco and cigars, and reducing the tobacco tax to 16 cents per pound. In this way he hopes to combine with the votes of the Protectionists those of the members from all the tobacco-growing States. There is, however, little prospect of his getting the necessary two-thirds vote for such a measure, although in a week more, when the House gets thoroughly wearied of the tariff discussion, it is not at all improbable that some bill of the kind, with, however, the addition of the ten per cent tariff reductions and the free list contained in Mr. Dawes's bill, will be passed, and the whole tariff and tax question disposed of by a single vote.

The inquiry about the missing records in the War Department was resumed by the Committee on Military Affairs yesterday. Wright Rives and Col. Moore, Secretaries of President Johnson, were examined, but knew nothing whatever about the loss of the Buell record. They appear to have been called as witnesses in the hope that the blame of the disappearance of the missing documents could be laid at the door of Johnson's Administration. Neither of the gentlemen had either seen or heard of the documents in question. Donn Piatt testified that he was Judge Advocate of the Buell Court of Inquiry, and at the conclusion of the proceedings of the Court brought the record to Washington, and delivered it at the office of the Judge Advocate-General. He had never seen it since the day it passed out of his hands, and had no knowledge of its disappearance until about six months ago, when, desiring to examine it, he went for that purpose to the office of Gen. Holt, and there learned that it had been sent at some considerable time previous, how long it was not known, to the War Department by order of the Secretary. On applying at the Department he learned that the record could not be found. Col. Piatt was not examined as to whether the testimony comprised in the record of the proceedings of the Court was of such a character as to make it for the interest of any person to destroy it, and especially if any prominent officials who have had free access to the files of the War Department, within the last few years, could have had any motive for destroying or concealing it. It is evident that there can be no thorough investigation unless the Committee goes much further than it has shown a disposition to do heretofore, and inquiries as to the matter of the record itself. It is freely asserted, by persons cognizant of the testimony taken by the Buell Court, that the evidence relating to the battle of Pittsburg Landing was exceedingly damaging to the military reputations of Gens. Grant, Sherman, and Halleck, and from this arises the current suspicion that some injudicious friend of one of these gentlemen may have thought he was rendering a service to his chief, and protecting his reputation as a military leader, by taking care that histories of the war, that may be written in the future, should not gain any light from the record of the Buell Court.

Senator Sumner has been asked many times, this session, to allow his Civil Rights bill to be taken up and passed in the Senate, so that it may be out of the way of the Amnesty bill. This he refuses to do, because he says that if his bill is passed and sent to the House it will be likely to lie upon the Speaker's table to the end of the session, while the Amnesty bill will become a law. He does not mean that General Amnesty shall be granted, if he can help it, until what he calls "Civil Rights" are secure. If the House will pass a civil rights bill and send it to the Senate, he will then allow it to be taken up separately and passed.

Senator Thurman having returned from Ohio, the Committee on Privileges and Elections held a meeting yesterday morning, and directed its Chairman, Mr. Morton, to report a resolution giving to that Committee authority to investigate the circumstances attending the election of Senator Pomeroy in 1867, and that of Mr. Caldwell in 1871, with power to send for persons and papers, and to sit in Washington or elsewhere during the session of Congress and in vacation. It is understood that the Committee will first take up the charges that have been made against Senator Pomeroy, and report upon them, before proceeding with the case of Caldwell, and that the first report will be made during the present session.

Secretary Boutwell has paid to Casey, Dillingham, and Longstreet, the Collector, Naval Officer, and Surveyor of the Port of New-Orleans, the half of a moiety arising from the noted Conturie sugar frauds in New-Orleans, which has been so long in controversy. It will be remembered that these frauds were discovered by Naval Officer Dillingham, and that the whole or parts of 12 cargoes of sugar were seized and condemned for undervaluation and light weights. The amount of money realized was $120,000; of this $60,000 was paid into the Treasury, and $30,000 divided between Casey, Dillingham, and Longstreet, according to law. The other $30,000 would be paid to an informer if one appeared, and three men—one residing in Boston, one a special agent of the Treasury Department, and another, an ex-member of the police force of New-Orleans, who was employed to work the case up after the frauds were discovered—appeared as claimants. Secretary Boutwell decided that there was no evidence that either of these gentlemen was the informer, and that the $30,000 should be divided among the three officers, as the previous sum had been. After this decision was made, suit was brought in the Court of Claims by one of those gentlemen, who claimed to have been informers. Secretary Boutwell holds that the Court of Claims has no jurisdiction in the case, and therefore paid the money to the Collector, Naval Officer, and Surveyor, taking their bond to return it if a decision should be made against them.

The Hon. George C. Bestor of Peoria, Ill., a prominent politician of his State, died at the National Hotel, to-day.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

The Congress Committee recently appointed to investigate affairs at New-Orleans have just handed their printed report to the President, and he has had an opportunity for the first time of examining it critically. In consequence of this examination he has requested the resignation of Mr. Casey, Collector of Customs at New-Orleans, and his Deputy, Mr. Herwig. There is nothing in this report to show that these gentlemen were not honest and efficient in the discharge of their duties as Custom-house officers; but owing to the character of certain portions of the testimony, it was thought that a change in these officers might promote the general interests of the service.

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing amendments to the Deficiency bill had a two hours' session yesterday, when the Senators agreed to abandon the amendment of Mr. Morrill of Vermont, but the House members determined to stand by the substitute of the House. The Committee meet to-morrow with a view to reconcile their differences. The effect of the Morrill amendment is to lock in the Treasury the amounts for which judgments have been entered in the Courts under the Supreme Court decision, and the effect of the substitute from the House will be to pay these judgments, and to require the Secretary of the Treasury to adjudicate the claims for cotton seized after June 25, 1865. Should the two Houses fail to arrive at an agreement on the subject, the decision of the Supreme Court fixes the status of the claimants as to cotton seized prior to June 25, 1865. All other cases stand as before. The fund to pay these claims is in the Treasury, held in trust for the claimants. It amounts to nearly $25,000,000, of which $10,000,000 is barred by statute of limitation. A number of prominent attorneys are here actively working for their clients.

The House Committee on the District of Columbia approve the bill appropriating $200,000 for the completion of the Washington Monument. The sum of $230,000 has already been expended upon the work, and $322,000 will be needed to complete the shaft, while the cost of the whole work, including the shaft and "pantheon," or base, is estimated to be $1,122,000. The Committee unanimously approve the plan of this monument, and of the work that has been already done, and bear cheerful testimony to the energy, integrity, economy and patriotic love which animated and governed the transactions of "The Washington National Monument Society," and especially commend the design of building the monument by the voluntary contributions of the people of the United States.

The steamer Keyport, which arrived here this evening, reports that while passing Fort Washington, 12 miles from this city, the barracks were on fire, and men with water were endeavoring to prevent the extension of the flames to the fort.

ALBANY.

MORE EXTRAVAGANT PRINTING JOBS.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, May 11.—The Senate, this morning, yielded to the pressure which has been brought to bear on its members by the printing firms of this city, and passed all the printing jobs except the Red Book. The Red Book resolution will probably be taken up next week and passed in the hurry and confusion of the closing hours of the session. The Senate's work this morning, if the Chairman of the Finance Committee can be believed, will add about $100,000 to the cost of this year's printing. Mr. D. P. Wood, who, up to yesterday, appeared to be strongly in favor of ridding the State of the burden of printing this mass of medical and scientific matter, turned the scale in favor of extravagance, the vote standing 16 to 9:

AYES.

Adams,	Bower,	Johnson,	Weismann,
Allen,	Chatfield	Lewis,	D. P. Wood,
Baker,	Cook,	Palmer,	J. S. Wood,
Benedict,	Graham,	Wagner,	Woodin—16.

NAYS.

Dickinson,	Harrower,	Lowery,	Madden.
Foster,	Lord,	McGowan,	Robertson,
Timonas—9.			

Nearly the whole morning session was spent in the contest over these gift-books.

COURT-MARTIAL PROCEEDINGS.

CHICAGO, Ill., May 11.—A general Court-Martial, of which Gen. D. D. Stanley is President, has been in session at Fort Sully, Dakota Territory, and adjourned yesterday, to reassemble at Fort Rice on the 10th of June. The only case that reached a trial was that of Capt. L. H. Sanger of the 17th Infantry, who was tried for seduction and abortion which resulted in the death of the victim, and for conspiracy against Capt. Donovan of the same regiment. Capt. Donovan and one or two others were the only persons who knew of Sanger's guilt. Sanger entered into a conspiracy with Surgeon Goddard of the same regiment, with a view of shutting Donovan up on a charge of insanity. The case came before Surgeon Goddard, who pronounced Donovan to be insane, and he was at once ordered to be confined in the St. Elizabeth Hospital, near Washington, D. C. He was taken to Washington in December last, but, through the influence of friends, he obtained a rehearing of his case, and the Surgeon there pronounced him perfectly sane. He was ordered back to his regiment, and has now been instrumental in bringing Sanger to trial.

The findings of the Court-Martial have not yet been made public, but it is not doubted that Sanger will be disgraced and suffer a long imprisonment. It is understood that when the Court reassembles Surgeon Goddard will be tried on charge of abortion and of conspiracy in the same case.

STRIKE IN THE LAKE SUPERIOR COPPER MINES.

DETROIT, May 11.—The Sheriff of Houghton County, Mich., and the Judge of the Circuit Court have telegraphed Gov. Baldwin that 1,500 men, employed in the Hecla, Calumet and Schoolcraft mines are on a strike, and committing outrages against the men who refuse to join them. The property of the companies is threatened with destruction, and the civil authorities are inadequate to preserve the peace. Troops are asked for immediately to quell these disturbances. Gov. Baldwin telegraphed to Gen. Sheridan at Chicago, requesting that two companies of infantry be sent to the mines. Gen. Sheridan, in reply, states that all the available troops in his command have been sent to the plains. Application was then sent to Gen. Cook, at Detroit, and a company of infantry will leave in the morning for the mines. Information received at *The Free Press* office gives rise to the belief that the disorder will spread to the adjoining counties.

PROBABLE HOMICIDE IN PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, May 12.—This evening, Wm. Ramsey, night watchman, employed at the Girard Tube Works of Murphy & Co., was shot by Samuel Woodlow, driver for the same firm. Woodlow entered the place and demanded a horse, which Ramsey had no right to give him without an order. This he told Woodlow, who in a frenzy drew his revolver and fired. The ball entered Ramsey's nose, and passed behind his left ear, producing a dangerous wound. The wounded man was taken to the hospital. Woodlow has not yet been arrested.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

....The Bank of Belgium has raised its rate of discount to five per cent.

....There were 50 deaths from small-pox in Philadelphia last week, an increase of 15 over the previous week.

....The strike of the sailors at Southampton and London has not yet ended, and the seamen at Liverpool are also threatening to strike.

....The Order of Victoria and Albert has been conferred upon the Empress Augusta of Germany, who is now on a visit to Queen Victoria.

....One hundred and fifty feet of the tow-path of the Erie Canal gave way on Saturday, 20 feet below the canal bottom at Big Nose. It will take about 10 days for repairs.

....The Hon. E. B. Washburne, the American Minister, yesterday morning presented Rear-Admiral James Alden, commanding the American fleet in European waters, and two officers of his staff to Admiral Pothuau, French Minister of Marine.

....Natives of Alsace and Lorraine, residing in San Francisco, to the number of 300, have elected to remain citizens of France. They marched to the French Consulate on Saturday with the tri-color draped in mourning, and took a solemn oath of allegiance to the Republic of France.

....At a meeting of delegates of the various German Singing Societies in Philadelphia, yesterday, it was resolved to give a grand torch-light procession in honor of Franz Abt, the German composer, on Wednesday night. On Friday night a concert will be given at the Academy of Music. He will reach Philadelphia on Wednesday at noon.

THE DIPLOMATIC MUDDLE.

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE QUESTION FOR INDIRECT DAMAGES.

CONTRADICTORY REPORTS—GREAT BRITAIN SAID TO BE AVERSE TO A RUPTURE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

LONDON, May 12, 1872.

The London Observer says communications have been passing between the Cabinets of Washington and London all the past week. The Government of the United States has as yet made no definite proposition of a favorable character. There is ground for hope, however, that President Grant may recommend and the Senate approve a modification of the Treaty of Washington. The course of the British Government before Parliament to-morrow depends on the reply of the Washington Cabinet. Public opinion in England is averse to any action which will close negotiations for a settlement.

The Post yesterday morning confirmed the rumor which was current the day before, that the negotiations between the United States and England relative to the indirect claims had been broken off, and stated positively that the British Government had withdrawn from the arbitration provided for under the Treaty of Washington.

LONDON, Monday Morning, May 13, 1872.

The Times and other London papers of this morning are of the opinion that the announcement of Friday that negotiations between Great Britain and the United States, with regard to the Indirect Claims had been broken off, was premature.

The Times says positively that all will yet be righted. It maintains that the American Government has agreed in principle to withdraw the claims for indirect damages, and advises forbearance on the part of both Houses of Parliament.

AUTHORITATIVE DENIAL THAT DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE IS ENDED—A SEMI-OFFICIAL STATEMENT—DISCOURAGING VIEW—WAITING FOR BRITISH DEVELOPMENTS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, May 12.—The Administration has authorized a denial of the report that correspondence in regard to indirect damages under the Treaty of Washington is at an end. The President, in conversation with the editor of his special organ in this city, on Friday, explained the attitude of the two nations substantially as it had been stated a week before in THE TRIBUNE, with the exception that the President was careful not to mention the very important letters and dispatches which Secretary Fish has sent to Gen. Schenck, and the replies to them from the British Government. The editor, at the end of his article, drew the following conclusion: "This unfortunate misunderstanding, therefore, ends the Treaty." The conclusion, from the facts so economically furnished, was a *non sequitur*, and the editor of the "organ" has been appropriately reprimanded.

But, though the Administration is still in the midst of correspondence with the British Government on this troublesome question, no well-informed person in Washington has, during the past week, doubted that the Treaty cannot be saved by anything which this Government can do; for, though there is not the slightest doubt that Secretary Fish sorely repents putting into the case the chapter setting forth the claims for indirect damages, public opinion is so strong that it will not allow him to withdraw or modify it. The question that has been asked to-day oftener than any other is, "What will be the effect on the pending negotiations of the overthow of the Gladstone Ministry?" More than ever since this misunderstanding arose, shrewd diplomatists have remarked that the whole course of the Administration seemed to be dictated by a desire that the present British Ministry should be sustained in power, and the President has been told that if he feared a change of Government in England he was mistaken, as any that might succeed that of Gladstone would be as friendly to the United States as the one deposed. The friends and advisers of Secretary Fish seem now to have arrived at this same conclusion, and are to-day, therefore, discussing the probable result of to-morrow's session of Parliament. The more hopeful believe that a new Ministry would take the ground that the Arbitration must go on, the British Government, protesting at the same time against the claims for indirect damages. They think that the new Ministry would defend themselves with the people, by saying that they found the Treaty, such as it was, when they came into power; that they are not responsible for its imperfection; and that there is no way out of the trouble than through the Geneva Conference. A new Ministry, they say, could do this, while the present one could not. The Administration is greatly concerned for the safety of the Treaty, and waits the report of to-morrow's session of Parliament with much anxiety.

OPINIONS OF BRITISH JOURNALS.

WHAT EUROPE WOULD THINK OF WITHDRAWAL.

From The London Telegraph of April 29.

If any notion is entertained in America that a withdrawal of the indirect claims would be regarded in England as an act of humiliation on the part of the Union, we can honestly denounce such a notion as baseless. On the contrary, such a withdrawal, made as it would be, not under compulsion but of free choice, out of regard to justice and fair dealing, would do more than any number of diplomatic triumphs to raise European opinion of the Western Republic.

AMERICA ADVISED TO RENOUNCE THE INDIRECT CLAIMS.

From The London Times of April 29.

Let America frankly renounce these worthless claims, if not because they are inadmissible under the Treaty, yet because she knows them to be invalid; because she would lose more than she would gain by proving their validity, were that possible; because they are a fatal obstacle to a settlement of claims much better founded, and because the character of the whole Anglo-Saxon race, as well as the cause of peace, is deeply concerned in the success of the Geneva Arbitration. By so doing she will give a proof of magnanimity far more gratifying to national self-respect than any forensic triumph, and rival that shown by Great Britain in recording an expression of regret in the Treaty.

THE INFLUENCES BROUGHT TO BEAR ON AMERICA.

From The London Times of April 30.

The Government of the United States are prepared, as we understand, to unite with us in a joint note, addressed to the Tribunal of Arbitration, putting on record the principle that the liability of a neutral cannot in any case extend beyond the direct consequences of such breaches of neutrality as are alleged against us on the part of America, and requiring the Arbitrators to conduct their arbitration on this basis, and to make their award, if any be made, with reference exclusively to the loss of vessels and cargoes destroyed by the Alabama or other cruisers, and the cost of pursuing such cruisers. * * * The firmness of the Ministry would, we fear, have been fruitless if it had not been supported by a united Parliament and a united people. The quiet but resolute attitude assumed on this side of the Atlantic early in the controversy produced as we know the greatest effect at Washington. It was seen that we were prepared to let the arbitration come to an abortive conclusion rather than admit that the indirect claims could in any shape be considered by the Tribunal of Arbitrators; and that we had, in fact, resigned ourselves to the failure of the Treaty as a painful but almost necessary result of the discrepancy of interpretation which had been brought to light upon the delivery of the original Cases. The spectacle of a nation so thoroughly at one upon this point that not a shadow of dissent could anywhere be traced convinced the United States Government that the arbitration must lapse if the indirect claims were not in some manner withdrawn from the adjudication at Geneva; and the step they are understood to have resolved to take is the result of many forces, the separate effect of each of which can never be measured.

SELECTING NEWS FROM AMERICA.

From The Pall Mall Gazette of April 29.

There are continued signs that the news from America is selected, and it is obvious enough that only those telegrams are selected which are most pleasing. For days past the wires have been active in conveying to England rumors and comments from comparatively obscure prints favorable to expectations of an easy and immediate settlement of the difficulty, while, though there must be a party opposed to surrender, not a syllable has been heard to indicate its existence. Thus our own *Times* makes long extracts from *The New-York Herald* on the one side, but it suppresses what is said by THE TRIBUNE on the other. Now THE TRIBUNE is beyond compare the most influential newspaper in America; it is for the United States what our own "leading journal" is in England; and therefore, if the language of the American press is worth consideration at all, certainly ought not to be left out of the survey. But this is done; for no discoverable reason except that the language of THE TRIBUNE is not in harmony with our hopes. A few days ago that paper had an article furiously opposed to the surrender which Mr. Fish was thought to contemplate, and declaring that the people must have changed their character if they sanction it; but of comment like this not a trace was to be found in Mr. Reuter's telegrams, nor did it appear in the telegraphic correspondence of any of the morning papers, except *The Daily News*. No doubt there is a reason for such suppressions; and the reason seems to be that it is wise to close eyes and ears to everything that does not mean the immediate and comfortable settlement of a troublesome difficulty. It may be true, indeed it is true, that the spirit manifested by THE TRIBUNE is very formidable; there can be no doubt that it is impossible for the American Government to retreat from its thrice-affirmed position without more disgrace than public men are generally willing to accept; these are difficulties with which undoubtedly we have to count. But let us pretend that we haven't. Let us say nothing about THE TRIBUNE and the feeling it represents; do not let us tell the country that it exists, nor make people uncomfortable by suggesting that the American Government had to consider its position at home as well as its relations with the British Cabinet. Such appears to be the sort of sentiment prevalent with *The Times* and other papers; and no doubt it is an easy and soothing one. But whether their concealments and suppressions are of any avail, whether there is any good sense or justice in them, is another matter. We prefer, for our own part, plain discovery and acknowledgment of the facts of the case; and believe that they are none the less for being hid and none the greater for being reckoned on.

THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT—THE SAN JUAN BOUNDARY—CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE WASHINGTON TREATY.

OTTAWA, Canada, May 11.—Sir A. T. Galt, in the House, last night, asked whether the Government had taken any steps to have the claims and interests of the Dominion specially represented, in the reference to the Emperor of Germany of the question of the San Juan boundary.

Sir John A. Macdonald replied that Her Majesty's Government had communicated with the Canadian Government on the subject, desiring to get all the information that was in their possession, in order to make up a case to be presented to the arbitrator. The Canadian Government consequently communicated with the Provincial Government of British Columbia, and an elaborate statement had been prepared under the charge of the Lieutenant-Governor and Attorney-General, from a British-Columbian and Canadian point of view. This statement had been sent home to England in time to be incorporated with the case, and in order to prevent any delay in obtaining further information, the Government of British Columbia had been placed in direct communication with the foreign office. No special agent had been appointed on behalf of the Canadian Government to argue the subject before the arbitrator.

The debate on the Treaty of Washington being resumed, Mr. Mills said he did not believe peace would be endangered if the Treaty were destroyed. On the contrary, he believed friendship with England was necessary to the United States as a check to Russian ambition in the Pacific with Japan as its basis of action.

Sir A. T. Galt was the principal speaker of the evening. He argued from the independence of Canada standpoint, and said that it was a most essential position of Great Britain in the controversy that she should not be weakened by the refusal of Canada to give consent to that portion of the Treaty submitted to her. He therefore believed that (although it might be imprudent to lay documental evidence on the table of the House) the Imperial Government had put upon the Canadian Ministry a pressure they could not resist. The alternative of compliance or separation from the parent country had been presented, and, shrinking from accepting the latter, the Canadian Government had consented to take the course now under discussion. Sir Alexander then went on to argue that peace with the United States is a necessity to Great Britain. He disproved of many of the clauses of the Treaty, and believed that every concession to the United States was a step toward annexation. He favored the independence of Canada, which, in his opinion, would be the means of preventing annexation. The position of the Dominion he held to be one of weakness to the Empire. He was prepared to show his loyalty by withdrawing that cause of weakness. So long as Canada was a member of the Empire, he held that she must accept the Imperial policy. He further believed that peace would be endangered if the Treaty were rejected, and therefore, in loyalty to the Empire, he should accept the Treaty. He argued that Great Britain was bound, if we desired, to give notice of the termination of the Treaty at the end of ten years; and if, at the end of that time, we were not able to take a position of independence, we must be content to be subject to the consequences of our feebleness.

Sir John A. Macdonald begged to state most distinctly that no threat or pressure of any kind, direct or indirect, had been used by the Imperial Government in relation to the Treaty, and called attention to the Queen's speech, which showed that Canada had exercised a free and unrestricted choice in the matter. He disclaimed all responsibility on the part of the Government for the utterance of a gentleman who was not a member of the Administration.

The debate will be resumed on Monday, and a division will be taken on Tuesday.

SERIOUS FIRES.

THE MOUNTAIN FIRES ON THE HUDSON.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., May 12.—Reports from Chichester, Ulster County, say that the mountain fires there are three miles in length, and that birds and game are fleeing before the flames. The sight at night is represented as being grand beyond description. On Friday, all day, the smoke was so dense the sun was obscured, and the united efforts of 150 men alone saved the village of Chichester. The atmosphere was so hot that at times they had to throw themselves face downward to avoid suffocation. The greatest anxiety is felt for rain.

FOREST FIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA.

CARLISLE, Penn., May 12.—A disastrous fire has been burning for the past six days on South Mountain. It commenced in the vicinity of the Pine Grove furnaces. To-day it is raging stronger than ever, and it is rapidly working down the mountain toward Holly Spring. A large quantity of trees has been destroyed.

LEAD WORKS BURNED.

PITTSBURGH, Penn., May 12.—The lead works of Fahnestock, Hazlett & Schwartz, on Liberty-st., took fire this afternoon, and were entirely destroyed, together with the dwelling adjoining. Fahnestock, Hazlett & Schwartz's loss is very large, probably $300,000; dollars; insured for $60,000—$5,000 in each of the following companies: North American of Philadelphia, Hartford of Hartford, International of New-York, Delaware Mutual of Philadelphia, Union of Bangor, Me., and the balance in Pittsburgh companies.

CONDITION OF THE CROTON AQUEDUCT.

In a recent statement concerning the condition of the interior of the Croton Aqueduct, Commissioner Van Nort says:

The aqueduct has been inspected by the Chief Engineer, who passed entirely through it and personally examined every foot of it from Croton Dam to Manhattanville. The aqueduct was found in general good condition; at a few points some slight repairs were needed and made. To make a proper examination it was necessary to entirely empty the aqueduct; the water was for this purpose shut off at Croton Dam for 48 hours. During this time the supply of water for the city was drawn from the reservoirs located in the city, which were of course drawn down several feet by the operation, but they have since been filled up and are now full to high-water line. Since the reservoirs have been filled a systematic cleaning out of the entire system of mains and pipes has been going on by scouring them out by means of blow-offs and hydrants. In time more or less sediment is collected in the bottom of the pipes, which not only impairs their capacity, but also slightly affects the taste of the water. This scouring out of the pipes is now nearly completed.

The Chief Engineer says that the reports of dead fish or other putrid matter in any of the reservoirs are entirely untrue, and that the writers of all such statements have been imposed upon by designing persons. He also says that there is no truth in the statement that the water in its passage through the aqueduct is affected by bad gases. The aqueduct is not now and has never been entirely full of water; nor are any of the ventilators on the aqueduct closed up, but all of them are open, and are as free air passages as they ever were.

MURDERERS SENTENCED.

HARTFOR