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HAVANA'S BONDED DEBT.

APPARENT INCREASE OF THREE MILLIONS SHOWN.

SANITARY INSPECTION BEGINS TO-DAY—PURCHASE OF THE FLOATING DRYDOCK.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Havana, Jan. 18.—The Finance Commission which is examining into the financial condition of the city to-day, discovered what seems to be an increase in the bonded indebtedness. This debt has been thought to consist of first-mortgage municipal bonds to the amount of $7,000,000 and municipal mortgage bonds to the amount of $3,000,000. The figures to-day make the apparent first-mortgage indebtedness $10,000,000. An inquiry will be pursued further to determine whether this is actual indebtedness. To-morrow witnesses will be summoned under oath, and much light is expected to be thrown on municipal transactions under the Spanish authorities. The vigor with which the inquiry is being pressed distresses the former officials.

The new Council has decided that it will not enforce collections for municipal taxes prior to January 1, and that it will not employ the Spanish Bank to collect taxes which are levied under the old régime. The municipality allowed the bank to collect city taxes, and withhold 5 per cent in the same way as the government taxes.

A determined effort is being made to have the Spanish Bank's privilege of collecting for the United States revoked. The feeling is more intense to-day. The foreign merchants have announced that they will not pay back taxes, though they will pay for the present period to whatever agency the American military authorities direct.

The Cubans are encouraged in their opposition by the report that Collector Bliss and the Military Governor have protested to Washington against the bank being designated as a tax collector. Shares of the bank were lower on the Stock Exchange to-day, due to agitation.

CITY'S SANITARY INSPECTION.

The sanitary inspection of Havana begins to-morrow. The city is divided into one hundred districts, and Cuban doctors are assigned to each district. The people will be forced to clean their houses, and after that a corps of plumbers will visit each district. It will be the first time in the history of Havana that plumbers have been acquainted with the inhabitants.

The plan of gathering up vagrants and unfortunates from the streets at night has filled all institutions provided for them, and additional quarters must be found.

Navy officers are impressing on Assistant Secretary Allen the importance of the United States obtaining the floating dock which lies in the harbor, now the property of Spain. Captain Peral is in command until the Madrid authorities decide what shall be done. Bids which were submitted under the conditions advertised by the Spanish Government are said to be unsatisfactory, and another advertisement may be ordered. The dock is new, and cost $1,000,000. The highest bid was $500,000. Some of the firms bidding are reported to do so with the expectation of selling the dock to the United States.

Captain Durfree, of the Engineer Corps, has gone to Sancti Spiritus with the reported purpose of arranging for a survey of Santiago. The plan is opposed by many Army officers. It has been learned that the price paid to contractors for excavations at Guantanamo for Colonel Hecker's six-mile military railroad is $1 70 a cubic yard, and that the total excavation will be about one hundred thousand cubic yards.

Private Hayden, of the 2d South Carolina, died in camp to-day from yellow fever. Smallpox in the 161st Indiana does not decrease. The troops in camp are rejoicing over the unauthorized report that the regiments are to be called home.

PLANS TO CONTROL TOBACCO.

PROPOSALS OF AMERICAN CAPITALISTS IN CUBA.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Havana, Jan. 18.—Propositions of American capitalists to control the Cuban tobacco production and manufactures are taking definite shape. It is not yet settled whether this will be in conjunction with an English syndicate or in opposition to it. The plan originates with some New-York banks, and includes banks in Boston, Washington and other cities. Several promoters and speculators have been working on the scheme, but they represented no capital. The present syndicate is said to be composed entirely of banks. The proposition is to obtain control of tobacco lands in the Vuelta Abaja or Pinar del Rio district, and also of the Partido district, in Havana Province. These districts comprise two-thirds of the production of the island. If tobacco-producing lands can be secured, the next step will be to manufacture the leaf entirely in Cuba, enabling the prices to be controlled, and driving imitation Havana cigars out of the market. Negotiations began in October by a New-York banking house with the tobacco interests, which were consolidated into the English syndicate known as the Havana Cigar and Tobacco Factories, Limited. This syndicate was composed of eleven factories, including Henry Clay and Bock & Co. Its capital is $7,000,000, Spanish gold, and it controls 5,000 caballerios, or 167,000 acres, in Vuelta Abaja. Seven factories refused to join the syndicate, and have kept an independent existence. Negotiations with the English syndicate are said to have ceased recently, and now a proposition has been made to Inclan & Co., and to other outside factories, which are considering it.

Tobacco men have heretofore been sceptical about all plans for controlling production and manufacture of the Cuban leaf, because of the amount of capital needed. For this reason, individual promoters have received little attention. The banks, however, have capital enough to command respect in trade circles, and it is known that some factories have received offers which are causing them to reconsider former refusals.

Tobacco lands are held chiefly by small farmers, and are not owned in large areas by factories, though some of these have leases of tracts for periods varying from three to five years. Tobacco buyers have claimed that the scheme of controlling production is not feasible, but capitalists are willing to attempt the experiment. The value of the product of the Vuelta Abaja and Partidos districts is estimated at from $10,000,000 to $12,000,000. In the present scheme account is not taken of the Remedios district, in Santa Clara, or of Santiago, comprising the cheap product. The assumption is that they would follow the course of the product in the western part of the island.

WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY.

San Juan de Porto Rico, Jan. 18.—General Guy V. Henry has received from the Secretary of Finance in the Insular Cabinet, Señor Collyiosta, a report showing that the former Spanish authorities appropriated 400,000 pesos belonging to foreign insurance companies, contractors and judicial trustees, which was on deposit in various institutions on the island. The insurance companies alleged that the United States Government must make good their loss.

BRUTALITY AT SANTIAGO.

Santiago de Cuba, Jan. 18.—A conspicuous feature of life in Cuba is cruelty to domestic animals. It is quite impossible to walk the streets of this city without seeing numerous cases of brutality that ought to be prosecuted. Mrs. Leonard Wood, with other women, is now organizing a branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and will soon put herself in communication with the head offices in New-York.

REVOLUTION IN SAMOA.

WHEN MALIETOA WAS PROCLAIMED KING MATAAFA'S FOLLOWERS REBELLED.

San Francisco, Jan. 18.—A cable dispatch to "The Call" from Auckland, New-Zealand, under date of January 15, says:

"When the Oceanic steamship Alameda left Apia on January 12 a revolution had broken out on the Samoan Islands and was being waged with much bloodshed and great destruction to property. The warships Falke and Porpoise, the latter in command of Captain Sturdee, were then at the islands, and were taking part in suppressing the rising.

"On December 31 Chief Justice Chambers determined in favor of Malietoa Tanus, asserting that Mataafa was barred by the Treaty of Berlin. On January 1 five thousand of Mataafa's followers rose in rebellion and defeated two thousand of Malietoa's men, ambushing them and killing thirteen natives and wounding many. The rebels have burned four hundred houses and razed the town of Upolu. The breadfruit trees have been cut down in many places. The foreigners are uninjured.

"The crew of the Porpoise is guarding the mission as a refuge for Malietoa. The three consuls have signed a proclamation recognizing the Mataafa party provisional government, pending instructions from the Powers, with President Rafael of the Municipal Council as executive head.

"On January 6 Rafael proclaimed a Supreme Court and took possession, declaring himself Chief Justice. He asked Mataafa for five hundred men, but was refused. The British and American consuls united in a strong protest against the action of the President of the Municipal Council. On the 7th Captain Sturdee of the Porpoise and the two consuls declared the action illegal. The Porpoise cleared for action and landed a force of marines.

"Her force was unopposed, and took possession of the court. Chambers was reinstated, and the British and American flags were hoisted over Chambers's house and the courthouse. The Provisional Governor wrote to Captain Sturdee on the 12th that he would seize Malietoa and take Tamasese off the Porpoise, by force if necessary, deprive them of their titles and banish them. Chambers is living on the Porpoise.

"The British and American consuls have protested against any infringement of the Berlin Treaty. British residents have taken refuge in their consulate, and the American residents have taken refuge in the mission. An American warship is urgently needed."

HAS THE TREATY BEEN VIOLATED?

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS REGARD THE SITUATION IN SAMOA AS EXTREMELY GRAVE.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The situation in the Samoan Islands is realized here to be full of gravity. For some time past there has been an exchange of correspondence between the three Governments which are parties to the Treaty of Berlin respecting the choice of a successor to the late King Malietoa, and some friction has developed owing to the strict adherence of the United States to the terms of the treaty. The statements in the dispatch from Apia are not regarded here as conclusive, for the reason that they are in conflict with the provisions of the treaty. If, as reported, Rafael, the President of the Municipal Council at Apia, and the German Consul, Rose, have seized the Supreme Court and pronounced themselves practically dictators, it is said here that they have violated the treaty absolutely. The functions of the president of the Municipal Council are clearly defined by the treaty, and the last advices received here were to the effect that President Rafael had received leave of absence and intended to visit New-Zealand. It was also understood that his successor had been selected, and it was thought that he was on his way to his post.

The Chief Justice, under the treaty, is the court of last resort under any circumstances, and, moreover, the treaty in terms provides distinctly that any dispute between the natives or between the foreigners in Samoa shall be referred to the Chief Justice, and his decision shall be final. The treaty expresses the idea that this provision is to guard against hostile outbreaks. Therefore it is scarcely believed here that the president of the Council would thus deliberately violate the plain treaty provision.

It was known here that the British and American consular officers at Apia have been acting in accord in the present involved political situation there, and although the interests of the United States may not be compared with those of Germany, yet its rights under the treaty are equal, and it may be stated that they will be maintained.

The report that the three consuls have joined in a provisional recognition of Mataafa cannot be reconciled with the open disagreement with the terms of the treaty as to the choice of a King that such action would involve, the power of settling disputes of this character being, as already stated, solely lodged in the hands of the Chief Justice, who is an American.

The last advices of the Government here were to the effect that the Chief Justice had this particular dispute under consideration, it having been regularly referred to him in accordance with the terms of the treaty. His decision, in all probability, would be regarded as binding by the Government of the United States.

COMMENT OF "THE TIMES."

London, Jan. 19.—"The Times," commenting on the troubles in Samoa, says that the only satisfactory feature appears to have been the cordial co-operation of the British and American authorities.

RUSSIA AIMING AT HERAT.

IMPORTANT POST MAY BE SEIZED IF DISTURBANCES FOLLOW THE AMEER'S DEATH.

London, Jan. 19.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of "The Daily Mail" says:

"In the event of disturbances following upon the death of the Ameer of Afghanistan the Russian General, Beguljuboff, Governor of the Trans-Caspian District, who has a force of twenty thousand men, has direct instructions to take Herat, a post of great military importance, three hundred and sixty miles west of Cabul.

BIG PRICE FOR A FLOWER.

THOMAS W. LAWSON GIVES $50,000 FOR CARNATION NAMED AFTER HIS WIFE.

Boston, Jan. 18 (Special).—Owing to the offer of $5,000 from H. N. Higginbotham, of Chicago, and $15,000 from a New-York florist for an interest in the Mrs. Thomas W. Lawson carnation, of which Thomas F. Galvin was the owner, Thomas W. Lawson himself has sent a letter to Mr. Galvin, in which he said that the flower should not leave Boston, especially if it was only a matter of dollars. He therefore offered the florist $50,000 for the sole right to it and the 8,000 plants the florist had provided. This was accepted.

SENATORIAL ELECTIONS.

FORMAL CHOICE MADE IN A NUMBER OF STATES.

SENATORS HAWLEY, LODGE, DAVIS, BURROWS, HALE AND COCKRELL REELECTED—QUAY'S CHANCES NOT IMPROVED.

The formal result of the election of United States Senators was announced in New-York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri and Indiana. New-York chose Chauncey M. Depew to succeed Edward Murphy, jr. Senators Lodge, Hawley, Hale, Davis, Burrows and Cockrell were returned by their respective States.

In Pennsylvania Senator Quay received the same vote as the day before, and lacked thirteen votes of election. Much feeling was aroused by the indiscreet rulings of Lieutenant-Governor Gobin in the joint session of the Pennsylvania Legislature. There have been twenty-two ballots without choice in California, where charges of bribery are under investigation. The situation in Delaware is unchanged. In West Virginia the organization of the House was not recognized by the Senate and Governor. The majority in North Dakota have agreed upon a plan to end the deadlock. No choice has been reached in Nebraska or in Utah.

QUAY'S CAUSE WEAKENED.

COURSE OF GENERAL GOBIN IN JOINT CONVENTION CRITICISED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Harrisburg, Jan. 18.—It is practically the unanimous opinion of disinterested persons here to-night that Senator Quay's friends will succeed in digging his political grave, if they persist in the course of action they have mapped out. The Senator had things moving his way with every chance of winning, but the course of General Gobin, who, as presiding officer at the joint convention, persisted in the most arbitrary rulings, has cemented anti-Quay Republicans and Democrats so compactly that it is a serious question whether Quay can ever draw from them.

When the Senate and House met in joint convention to-day Lieutenant-Governor Gobin, following the precedent of twenty-five years, took the presiding officer's chair, and ordered the vote for United States Senator, as taken in the Senate and House separately, to be read. This being done, he announced that, as there was no choice, it was in order for the joint convention to take a ballot. Immediately Representative Dixon arose and offered a series of resolutions to govern the proceedings of the convention.

Lieutenant-Governor Gobin ruled the resolutions out of order, on the ground that the Constitution provided a form of procedure for the convention, and said it would be followed. He ordered the roll to be called, but before it began Mr Dixon appealed from his decision and Gobin, to the astonishment of the assemblage, ruled that he could not entertain the appeal, as the convention could not make rules for its government. Dixon again appealed, but Gobin ordered the roll to be called, and the first joint ballot for United States Senator was taken.

RESULT OF FIRST JOINT BALLOT.

There were 248 votes cast, two Senators being absent, one vacancy existing in the Senate and three Representatives absent. The ballot resulted as follows:

Quay (Rep.), 112; Jenks (Dem.), 84; Dalzell (Rep.), 15; Huff (Rep.), 5; Tubbs (Rep.), 4; Stone (Rep.), 9; Downing (Rep.), 2; Rice (Rep.), 2; Irwin (Rep.), 3; Markel (Rep.), 1; C. E. Smith (Rep.), 1; Stewart (Rep.), 9, and Grow (Rep.), 1.

It will be seen that Senator Quay did not make any increase over the vote he received in the separate bodies. He only held his own. After Gobin had announced the result of the ballot Senator Flinn, the leader of the anti-Quay men, wanted to know what had become of Dixon's appeal, but Gobin refused to recognize him and recognized Senator Grady, with a motion to adjourn.

Then there was trouble A dozen people were up demanding a rollcall on the question of adjournment, but Gobin calmly ignored them and put the question on the motion to adjourn. The motion was overwhelmingly defeated, but Gobin declared it carried, and adjourned the convention. There were shouts for the Democrats and anti-Quay men to keep their seats, and after the Quay supporters had left the chamber the others, to the number of 135, remained and organized by the election of Representative Bliss as chairman.

Incendiary speeches were made, denouncing the action of Gobin, and a committee was appointed to prepare a protest. This committee reported at another meeting to-night, and also reported a plan of action for to-morrow, which embraces an intention to dispute the authority of the Lieutenant-Governor to preside, and to declare that the joint convention has the right to select its own presiding officer. There is a promise of a redhot time on the floor.

SOME QUAY SUPPORTERS DENOUNCE GOBIN

Among the 135 who denounced Gobin's action were five who have been voting for Quay, and it is said to-night that Quay is furious over Gobin's perverseness, and called him to account in rather plain language. An effort is being made to-night to keep Gobin out of the chair to-morrow, and it was announced that he is to leave the city in the morning to attend a funeral. The supporters of Senator Quay affect to be in no wise disconcerted by the events of the day. They say it is a little diversion on the part of the Democrats and anti-Quay people, but there was a roll signed by 139 men to-night, who pledged themselves to support the protest in joint convention to-morrow.

It is said that an effort will be made to call Gobin to account for holding two offices. He is a brigadier-general of volunteers in the Second Army Corps, stationed at Augusta, and it is asserted that under the Constitution he cannot hold his position under the United States Government and that of Lieutenant-Governor at the same time. Of course, the anti-Quay men are jubilant, and profess to see in the proceedings of to-day the downfall of Quay, but they cannot make any sure claim that Quay lost any votes. It is regarded more as a demand for fair play than an attempt to hurt Quay, but it has solidified the anti-Quay men.

DEPEW'S ELECTION COMPLETE.

RESULT OF THE BALLOTING FORMALLY ANNOUNCED AT ALBANY.

Albany, Jan. 18 (Special).—The election of Chauncey M. Depew as United States Senator was formally announced at a joint session of the two houses of the Legislature to-day. At noon the Senators, headed by Lieutenant-Governor Woodruff, walked from their chamber to the Assembly chamber. The Lieutenant-Governor took the chair of the Speaker. Mr. Kelsey, of Livingston County, was acting as Speaker in Mr. Nixon's absence, the latter being ill from the grip.

The clerks of the two houses first read the record of the votes taken in their respective houses yesterday on Senator. Clerk Whipple told of 27 votes in the Senate for Mr. Depew to 23 cast for Edward Murphy, jr. Clerk Baxter of the Assembly, said that in that

Continued on third page.

THE EAGAN COURT-MARTIAL.

FORMAL ORDER ISSUED BY SECRETARY ALGER.

DETAIL FOR THE COURT, OVER WHICH GENERAL MERRITT WILL PRESIDE—GENERAL EAGAN TECHNICALLY UNDER ARREST.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Jan. 18.—The Secretary of War issued the special order this afternoon for the court-martial of Commissary-General Eagan to meet next Wednesday, and it was published to-night by Adjutant-General Corbin in the following formal terms:

War Department,
Adjutant-General's Office,
Washington, January 18, 1899.

The following order is published for the information and guidance of all concerned:

War Department, Washington, January 18, 1899.

By direction of the President a general court-martial is appointed to meet in this city at 10 o'clock a. m. on Wednesday, the 25th day of January, 1899, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the trial of Brigadier-General Charles P. Eagan, Commissary-General of Subsistence, United States Army, and such other persons as may be brought before it. Detail for the court:

Major-General WESLEY MERRITT, United States Army.
Major-General JAMES F. WADE, United States Volunteers.
Major-General MATTHEW C. BUTLER, United States Volunteers.
Major-General SAMUEL B. M. YOUNG, United States Volunteers.
Brigadier-General ROYAL T. FRANK, United States Volunteers.
Brigadier-General ALEXANDER C. M'W. PENNINGTON, United States Volunteers.
Brigadier-General GEORGE M. RANDALL, United States Volunteers.
Brigadier-General JACOB KLINE, United States Volunteers.
Brigadier-General RICHARD COMBA, United States Volunteers.
Colonel PETER C. HAINS, Corps of Engineers.
Colonel GEORGE L. GILLESPIE, Corps of Engineers.
Colonel CHARLES R. SUTER, Corps of Engineers.
Colonel FRANCIS L. GUENTHER, 4th Artillery.
Lieutenant-Colonel GEORGE B. DAVIS, deputy judge-advocate-general, judge-advocate of the court.

The court is empowered to proceed with the business before it with any number of members not less than the minimum prescribed by law. Upon the final adjournment of the court the members will return to their proper stations.

R. A. ALGER, Secretary of War.

The journeys required of the members of the court in complying with this order are necessary for the public service.

By order of the Secretary of War:
H. C. CORBIN, Adjutant-General.

GENERAL EAGAN RELIEVED FROM DUTY.

When the War Department closed to-day General Eagan had received a copy of Secretary Alger's order, and was thereby relieved from duty pending the final disposition of the case. Although constructively in arrest, no limitations will be placed on General Eagan's movements, the authorities preferring to accord to him that consideration supposed to be due to an officer of his high rank who has not been convicted of any offence, however notorious the facts may be.

The precise charges against General Eagan have not been formulated, nor is it likely that they will be before the court assembles. A copy of his prepared statement as originally read to the War Investigating Commission has been delivered to the Judge-Advocate-General of the Army, and on this document the formal charges and the specifications will be based.

Lieutenant-Colonel George B. Davis, Deputy Judge-Advocate-General, who was substituted for General Clous at the last moment as judge-advocate of the court, is the professor of military law at West Point, and is regarded as one of the highest legal authorities of the Army, especially in matters of discipline. He will come to Washington immediately to assist Judge-Advocate-General Lieber in preparing for the prosecution of the offending officer. On these officials will rest the responsibility of determining whether General Eagan will be accused simply of "conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline," or be tried on the graver charge of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman."

ORDER NOT SIGNED BY GENERAL MILES.

It is noticeable that the formal order promulgated by the Adjutant-General does not bear the customary closing phrase, "By command of Major-General Miles." While General Miles was in Porto Rico it was impossible for him to sign orders from the War Department, and no instructions, rulings and circulars published to the Army bore any reference to the Major-General commanding. Since his return to Washington the former practice was resumed, and the phrase, "By command of Major-General Miles," however perfunctory it may have been in some cases, has invariably appeared in every order until to-night.

The sentence in the court-martial order, which brings within the jurisdiction of the tribunal not only General Eagan, but "such other persons as may be brought before it," is invariably found in all orders appointing court-martials, and is therefore without any unusual significance in the present instance.

The officers assigned to duty on the coast are at present stationed in the Atlantic States. General Merritt commands the Department of the East at Governor's Island, and Colonel Gillespie is in charge of the river and harbor work at New-York. Generals Wade and Butler have just returned to Washington from Havana, and will complete their services on the Cuban Evacuation Commission with Admiral Sampson by handing their report to the President to-morrow.

General Young is temporarily in command of the Second Army Corps at Augusta, Ga., General Frank at Augusta, General Pennington at Atlanta, General Randall at Greenville, S. C.; General Kline at Athens, and General Comba at Huntsville, are in charge of the camps of that corps. Colonel Hains and Colonel Suter are in charge of river and harbor works at Baltimore and Boston, respectively, and Colonel Guenther commands the 4th Artillery, at Washington Barracks.

FOR A NEW CUSTOM HOUSE HERE.

A BILL TO BE FAVORABLY REPORTED TO THE HOUSE THIS WEEK.

Washington, Jan. 18 (Special).—Collector Bidwell was here to-day, and conferred with a number of New-York Representatives, as well as with Speaker Reed, Chairman Mercer of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, and others, in regard to legislation authorizing the building of a new Custom House in New-York City. Assurances were given that a bill for that object would be considered before the expiration of this Congress, and Mr. Quigg has prepared a draft of one which will be favorably reported to the House this week. It provides for the building, on the Bowling Green site, of a new Custom House at a cost not exceeding $2,000,000, of which $1,000,000 is carried by the bill. The amount appropriated for the site is $750,000, plus the unexpended balance of the appropriation for the site for the Custom House and Appraiser's Warehouse, previously authorized, amounting to about $1,700,000. The present Custom House and site are to be sold at a price not under $3,000,000. Collector Bidwell said to-day that it would bring at least $250,000 more than that.

The bill also provides that the Secretary of the Treasury may, in his discretion, invite and receive competitive plans from architects for the new building, and this section might, perhaps, also be construed to place the construction under the control or supervision of the competitors. The report, a draft of which, it is understood, will be prepared by Mr. Quigg, will probably elucidate this point.

COSTLY FIRE IN SIXTH-AVE.

ANDREW J. CAMMEYER'S SHOE STORE WRECKED.

The great retail shoe store of A. J. Cammeyer, extending from No. 310 to No. 318 Sixth-ave., and occupying the greater part of the block between Nineteenth and Twentieth sts., was burned out last night. The damage will be in the neighborhood of $500,000. It will certainly exceed $400,000, according to late estimates.

The fire started in the basement about 9 o'clock, and alarms were turned in almost simultaneously a few minutes later by Patrick Moore and Frank Schreck, the watchmen on the first floor of the building, and Patrick Daly, a watchman employed across the street by Simpson, Crawford & Simpson. The firemen arrived with a rush in response to a first alarm, and the first chief on the scene ordered first a second and then a third alarm.

The building is a six-story brick and stone modern structure, supposed to be almost fireproof. It extends back in Twentieth-st for about 150 feet, and recently Mr. Cammeyer purchased a dwelling in Nineteenth-st. to give his place an entrance from that thoroughfare. Part of the Sixth-ave. frontage is occupied by the shoe store of Alexander & Co., also a large concern. The basement and first, fifth and sixth floors were occupied by the Cammeyer establishment, the second floor was occupied by K. L. Carey & Co., dressmakers; Mme. Pool, manufacturer of corsets, and a manufacturing jeweller; the third floor was vacant, and the fourth floor was occupied by Nathan Krauskopf, manufacturer of infants' clothing; S. Rauh & Co., manufacturers of overshoes and leggings, and F. W. Dodge & Co., proprietors of the New-York Building Material Exhibit.

The firemen worked hard, and at 10 o'clock thought they had the flames confined to the basement and vaults under the sidewalks and under control, when the fire broke out with greater fury than ever on the Twentieth-st. side. Immediately a fourth alarm was sent in. The fire continued to gain headway, and a fifth call was turned in for more engines and trucks. Thus reinforced, the firemen fought bravely from every vantage point. The Sixth-ave. trestle was utilized, and streams were played from the roofs of the big Siegel-Cooper building and the Alexander store.

About 11 o'clock, however, the flames broke out afresh in the rear part of the first floor, on the Twentieth-st. side, and half an hour later great red tongues of fire were licking the third floor at the Sixth-ave. and Twentieth-st. corner. When Chief Bonner saw this outbreak he shook his head dubiously and said he had little hope of saving the building. The fire, however, was kept below the second floor, and by 1 o'clock this morning was under control.

Mr. Cammeyer was on the scene a short time after the fire broke out. He was completely overcome by the enormity of the disaster which had overtaken him, and he was unable to give any information about the business for some time. He managed to say at last that the building and ground were the property of the Rhinelander estate. He had possession by a lease for a long term, and sub-leased to the various other occupants. He had put in his spring stock, and the basement and upper stories of the building were almost filled with this valuable property, making the loss heavy.

Foreman Robert Clarke, of Engine No. 21, while fighting the fire in the basement, was hit on the head by a piece of wood, but was not seriously hurt. Two firemen of Engine No. 24 were cut by falling glass, but were able to keep at work. At different times firemen were overcome by the dense smoke and had to stop work, but in every case they recovered quickly and got back in the battle

The flames made the dwelling at No. 48 West Twentieth-st. uninhabitable, and its owner and tenant, Mrs. H. R. Stanfield, and her son and daughter were obliged to get out. They managed to get most of their furniture into vans and out of danger.

PAYNE TO SUCCEED DINGLEY.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WILL BE APPOINTED IN A FEW DAYS.

Washington, Jan. 18.—There is no doubt that the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee, made vacant by the death of Mr. Dingley, will be filled by Speaker Reed at the present session of Congress, and that the new chairman will be Representative Sereno E. Payne, of New-York. The appointment is likely to be announced within the next few days. Mr. Payne is the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, and while this is not decisive, it established a strong presumption that Mr. Payne would be chosen. Next to him on the committee is Mr. Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, who is at present absent from the city, but whose friends in the Pennsylvania delegation said to-day that they believed he would not enter into competition for the chairmanship against Mr. Payne. Mr. Hopkins, of Illinois, next in rank to Mr. Dalzell, is considered debarred from the chairmanship by reason of the important chairmanships which the Illinois delegation enjoys already.

Aside from the personal question, some doubt has existed as to the purpose of Speaker Reed to act at the present session, as such a short time remained that it was thought the appointment would be left until the next Congress assembled. But there is no further doubt on that point, and the chairmanship will be filled at the present session.

Mr. Payne entered Congress fifteen years ago, and has served continuously, with the exception of the 1th Congress He took an active interest in tariff work, and assisted in framing the McKinley and Dingley bills and the War Revenue act. In virtue of the chairmanship Mr. Payne will become the floor leader of the Republican side in the House.

INSANE IN THE UNIVERSITY CLUB.

William B. Bushnell, a retired miner, sixty years old, and reputed to be wealthy, who lives at No. 7 East Twenty-seventh-st., became violently insane last night in the University Club, No. 32 East Twenty-sixth-st. He had been acting queerly all afternoon, and the members of the club contemplated some action. The case was brought to a crisis when Mr. Bushnell fell on his knees in one of the parlors and in a loud voice prayed for the destruction of his enemies.

Bicycle Policeman "Ajax" Whitman happened to be passing, and he was called in. He summoned another policeman, and after consulting with several of the prominent members of the club it was decided to remove the insane man to Bellevue Hospital. A cab was called and Mr. Bushnell placed in it, not without a violent struggle on his part. Whitman is reputed to be the strongest policeman in the city, but it was all he could do, with the assistance of the other policeman, to handle the maniac. The latter fought continuously all the way to the hospital.

At Bellevue Dr. Robertson said that the man was undoubtedly insane, and had him placed in the insane pavilion. All information about the case was refused at the club. At Mr. Bushnell's home it was equally impossible to learn about the case, but a member of the club said he understood that Mr. Bushnell had recently suffered heavy financial reverses.

PEACE TREATY'S PROSPECTS.

LITTLE DOUBT OF RATIFICATION AT THE PRESENT SESSION.

ALL ITS OPPONENTS HOPE TO DO IS TO ATTACH A PROVISO DISCLAIMING ANY INTENTION TO RETAIN THE PHILIPPINES PERMANENTLY—NOT LIKELY TO SUCCEED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Jan. 18.—The failure of the Senate to secure a vote either yesterday or to-day on the Nicaragua Canal bill has interfered somewhat with Senator Davis's purpose to force an early consideration of the Treaty of Peace between the United States and Spain. Two days at least have been lost, which might have been given to clearing away the ground for discussion of the Paris convention. Chairman Davis hopes, however, to have a clear field ahead of him before the end of the week, and only appropriation bills will be allowed hereafter to block the progress of the struggle for and against ratification.

The opponents of ratification realize that they have not the necessary strength to amend the treaty, a majority vote being required to alter its terms in any particular. They also know that, failing to change the text, they cannot muster the one-third vote needed to defeat the convention. Their only hope lies, therefore, in wearying the friends of the treaty into an agreement to append some proviso to the present text, disclaiming any intention on the part of this Government to retain the Philippines, as the price of a final vote during the life of this Congress.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

Though the opposition has now found a parliamentary leader of skill, energy and resources in the senior Senator from Maryland, Mr. Gorman, it is not yet clear what purpose the Democratic side of the Senate has to serve in maintaining a very stubborn fight against ratification. Since Mr. Bryan has declared in favor of ratifying the treaty first and settling the Nation's policy toward the Philippines later, it is not, perhaps, to be wondered at that Mr. Gorman should seize the opportunity to break the force of Mr. Bryan's leadership in Congress by advocating unconditional opposition to the terms of the Peace Treaty. By rallying behind him on this issue the great majority of the Democrats in the two Houses, he will certainly be able to commit the party to his own rather than Mr. Bryan's political programme.

But beyond its effect on the struggle for control within the Democratic organization, Mr. Gorman's fight against ratification cannot produce any very serious results. At best it can only postpone an approval of the terms of peace made at Paris until a special session of the Senate can be called in March—a session which will find the ranks of the opposition materially depleted, the Democratic leader himself being among the ten or more members of that party who will then have lost their seats. With Mr. Gorman directing the fight against ratification, Chairman Davis is sure to encounter many obstacles to progress in executive session. There is as yet, however, no substantial reason to think that the Paris Treaty, even with due regard to other necessary legislative business, cannot be ratified before March 4 next.

CONSEQUENCES OF REJECTION.

What would probably be the situation in the event of the defeat of the pending treaty of peace, is a question that is frequently asked. Answers to that question are found in opinions of American statesmen and the highest authorities on international law and usage.

Thomas Jefferson's opinion was that "conquest gives only an inchoate treaty of peace, which does not become perfect till confirmed by the treaty of peace and by a renunciation or abandonment by the former proprietors."

"Everything that has been stipulated by an agent in conformity with his full powers ought to become obligatory for the State from the moment of signing, without even waiting for the ratification," says Martens. "However," he continues, "not to expose a State to the errors of a single person, it has now become a general maxim that public conventions do not become obligatory until ratified. The motive of this custom clearly proves that the ratification can never be refused with justice, except when he who is charged with the negotiation, keeping within the extent of his public full powers, has gone beyond his secret instructions, and consequently rendered himself liable to punishment; or when the other party refuses to ratify."

VIEWS OF PRESIDENT MONROE.

President Monroe, commenting upon his negotiations with Spain relative to the cession of Florida and the declination of Spain to ratify the treaty, remarked that the facts would satisfy every impartial mind that the Government of Spain had no justifiable cause for declining to ratify the treaty. "A treaty concluded in conformity with instructions," said President Monroe, "is obligatory in good faith in all its stipulations, according to the true intent and meaning of the parties. Each party is bound to ratify it. If either could set aside without the consent of the other there would no longer be any rules applicable to such transactions between nations. By this proceeding the Government of Spain has rendered to the United States a new and very serious injury. It has been stated that a Minister would be sent to ask certain explanations of the Government, but if such were desired, why were they not asked within the time limited for ratification? Is it contemplated to open a new negotiation respecting any of the articles or conditions of the treaty? If that were done, to what consequence might it not lead? At what time and in what manner would a new negotiation terminate? By this proceeding Spain has formed a relation between the two countries which will justify any measures on the part of the United States which a strong sense of injury and a proper regard for the rights and interests of the Nation may dictate."

WHAT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS SAID.

Speaking for President Monroe and for himself, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams defined, distinctly and explicitly, the position of the United States Government relative to the obligation to ratify a compact for the adjustment of the differences between two nations. The Secretary of State wrote officially that:

The President considers the treaty . . . as obligatory upon the honor and good faith of Spain not as a perfect treaty (ratification being an essential formality to that), but as a compact which Spain was bound to ratify, as an adjustment of the differences between the two nations, which the King of Spain by his full power to his Minister has solemnly promised to approve, ratify and fulfil. This adjustment is assumed as the measure of what the United States had a right to obtain from Spain from the signature of the treaty. The principle may be illustrated by reference to municipal law relative to transactions between individuals.

The difference between the treaty unratified and ratified may be likened to the difference between a covenant to convey lands and the deed of conveyance itself. Upon a breach of the covenant to convey, courts of equity decree that a party who has broken his covenant shall convey, and further shall make good to the other party all the damage which he has sustained by the breach of covenant.

As there is no court of chancery between nations, their differences can be settled only by agreement or by force. The resort to force is