GUARDING FRANCHISES.

THE HOUSE INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AMENDS THE SENATE PORTO RICAN RESOLUTION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 21.—The special meeting of the House Committee on Insular Affairs to-day was interesting and lively as well as important. It was held to consider the joint resolution authorizing the temporary performance of civil duties by Army officers in Porto Rico pending the appointment and qualification of the civil officers provided for by the Porto Rican act approved April 12, and two amendments proposed thereto—one by Chairman Cooper and the other by Mr. Crumpacker, of Indiana. Mr. Cooper's amendment was as follows:

That all franchises, privileges or concessions mentioned in Section 32 of said act shall be approved by the President of the United States, and no such franchise, privilege or concession shall be operative until it shall have been so approved.

Mr. Crumpacker's amendment reads:

That all charters of private corporations shall provide that the same shall be subject to amendment, alteration or repeal; shall forbid the issue of stocks or bonds, except in exchange for actual cash or property at a fair valuation equal in amount to the par value of the stock or bonds issued; shall forbid the declaring of stock or bond dividends, and, in the case of public service corporations, shall provide for the effective regulation of the charges thereof, and for the purchase or taking by the public authorities of their property at a fair valuation. No corporation shall be authorized to conduct the business of buying and selling real estate, of issuing currency or of engaging in agriculture, or permitted to hold or own real estate, except such as may be reasonably necessary to enable it to carry out the purposes for which it was created. Banking corporations, however, may be authorized to loan funds upon real estate security, and to purchase real estate when necessary for the collection of loans, but they shall dispose of all real estate so obtained within five years after receiving the title. Corporations other than those organized in Porto Rico and doing business therein shall be bound by the provisions of this section as far as they are applicable.

The amendments provoked an animated discussion before the votes were taken by which the amendments were both adopted—the former unanimously and the latter by a vote of 8 to 5. Messrs. Cooper, Hepburn, Tawney and Moody, Republicans, and Jones (Va.), Maddox, Williams (Ill.), and Carmack, Democrats, voted in the affirmative, and Messrs. Crumpacker, Cannon, Payne, Hitt and Loud in the negative.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS.

The negative votes, it was explained, were cast on account of the belief that the amendments if adopted would so retard the passage of the joint resolution as to carry its adoption beyond May 1, and thereby cause embarrassment in the administration of civil affairs in Porto Rico. But opposition also developed on other grounds. One or two members who did not favor throwing, at this time, additional safeguards around the granting of franchises in the island, argued, among other things, that persons who should seek and obtain them and invest their money would incur great risk of losing, and also that the risk incurred would be for the public benefit as well as for private gain, and therefore that the franchise ought not to be hedged about by onerous or unreasonable restrictions; while others expressed the opinion that there would be no danger of the grantees abusing the privileges secured by them.

While the members who advocated the amendments did not contend that the privileges would be abused or that the persons who obtained the franchises would not incur some risk, as do the persons who invest their capital in any new enterprise, they did insist with much emphasis that it was the duty of Congress to impose such reasonable restrictions as were proposed both for the protection of investors and the safety and benefit of the Porto Ricans themselves. They also pointed out the fact that, whether the franchises should turn out to be valuable or not, there was at present and for some time to come would be a lively scramble to obtain them, and in default of suitable action by Congress it was not wholly improbable, to say the least, that "wildcat" corporations would be organized whose irresponsible promoters would be likely to hoodwink and fleece unsuspecting and uninformed investors both in Porto Rico and the United States.

In the course of the discussion a letter was read which a member of the committee had recently received from a prominent corporation manager in the United States, saying that he and others interested with him were preparing to make heavy investments in mortgages on plantations and other real property in Porto Rico. These mortgages bear a high rate of interest, and many of them cover property which the owners might be unable to retain, but even in that event the investment would be an exceedingly profitable one. The letter did not convey a direct invitation to its recipient to invest any money in the enterprise, but it might have been construed as suggesting something of the sort.

One of the arguments employed by the advocates of the amendments was the editorial entitled "Franchises in Porto Rico," published in The Tribune of last Thursday, which was read by a member of the committee in the course of the debate, and is said to have produced considerable effect on the minds of those who heard it.

ONE PROVISION LOST.

The advocates of the amendments, however, were not able to carry one provision which some of them earnestly desired to incorporate—that requiring the payment of compensation for franchises for the benefit of the Porto Rican treasury. The failure to do so may perhaps explain Mr. Crumpacker's vote against the amendment he proposed.

The powers granted by the amendment to regulate franchises are extensive and plenary, and the concurrent exercise of all of them by the Executive Council, with the approval of the Governor and the President of the United States, will enable the Council to require the payment of suitable compensation for the corporate privileges granted whenever that body may deem it desirable and expedient to do so.

The Cooper amendment simply restores the provision of the original Porto Rican bill which was stricken out by the Senate on motion of Mr. Money, of Mississippi, after a brief discussion which did not touch the real merits of the case. It is not believed, therefore, that the amendment will provoke serious opposition in the Senate Committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico or in the Senate. Mr. Foraker, the chairman of that committee, has been from the first a stanch opponent of granting franchises in any of the new island possessions except under suitable and proper safeguards. There is no reason, probably, to expect that the other amendment will encounter stubborn opposition in that committee or in the Senate, although some fear that it might do so was expressed by several members of the Insular Committee to-day.

After the committee adjourned Chairman Cooper, in explaining the action taken, said:

The restriction on corporations is designed to raise a safeguard before it is too late. Instead of waiting for fictitious capitalization and watered stock, we seek to avoid the possibility of "balloon" enterprises, and to place restrictions which the various States have put in their laws.

Mr. Cooper will call up the joint resolution and try to have it considered and the amendments adopted by the House on Monday.

Senator Burrows to-day introduced by request a bill directing the Secretary of War to refund the duties on flour, rice, pork, bacon, codfish and lumber imported into Porto Rico since the occupation by the United States and held in stock by the importers on October 21, 1899, when these articles were placed on the free list. There does not seem to be any prospect that this bill will ever be heard of again. The Executive order of October 21, 1899, was issued because of the destitution and poverty caused by the hurricane of August, and but for that would not have been necessary.

ANOTHER GREAT DISCOVERY.

"A Treasury Chief," whose name is not published in the evening newspaper which exploits his discovery to-day, has found "a strange provision" in the Porto Rican law approved on April 12. It is that the women of Porto Rico will have the right to vote under the law. Before the National Woman Suffrage Association accepts that conclusion, however, it may be expedient to study all the provisions of Section 29 of the act, a portion of which the "Treasury Chief" quoted.

Governor Allen, who sailed for Porto Rico this afternoon, was advised, it is understood, of the action of the House committee before the Dolphin left her dock, and expressed his gratification and a hope that it would be confirmed by Congress. No matter relating to his new and difficult duties has given him more or deeper anxiety than the scramble and competition for Porto Rican franchises. To a friend, it is asserted, Governor Allen remarked in substance several days ago that "the gang is already organized and prepared to loot Porto Rico without any unnecessary delay."

SECRETARY LONG TO MR. ALLEN.

Washington, April 21 (Special).—Secretary Long has written the following letter to Governor Allen, expressing the regret with which his resignation has been received:

My Dear Mr. Allen: I write to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to the President, to be transmitted by me to him, tendering your resignation as Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

I cannot perform this duty without expressing to you the very highest appreciation of the services which you have rendered in that position. You have discharged its duties with unfailing courtesy and ability. You have been more than an assistant, for there never has been a time when I have not felt that I might leave the Department in your hands.

I regard your departure with the greatest regret, but I recognize that the new and still more responsible office upon which you are about to enter has come to you by reason of your personal and official merit, and I congratulate you most sincerely upon the deserved distinction which you have thus earned. Believe me, sincerely yours,

JOHN D. LONG.

GOVERNOR ALLEN SAILS FOR SAN JUAN.

Washington, April 21.—Promptly at 1 o'clock this afternoon, the Dolphin left her dock at the Washington Navy Yard and steamed down the Potomac, carrying Governor Allen, of Porto Rico, to the scene of his duties. As the Dolphin sailed away the Marine Band played "Auld Lang Syne," the yard batteries boomed a parting salute, a detachment of marines, under command of Major Dickins, presented arms, and handkerchiefs waved from the friends and spectators gathered on shore. Secretary and Mrs. Long, who were the guests at luncheon of Captain Southerland, in command of the Dolphin, arrived about noon, and were followed almost immediately by Governor Allen and his party, consisting of Mrs. Allen, Miss Allen, Wheeler Howell, stenographer to the Governor, and several servants. Among those who were present to take leave of the new Governor were Secretary Root, Secretary and Mrs. Long, the Secretary of the Interior, Admiral Terry, the commandant of the Washington Navy Yard, and others. There were many floral pieces for Governor and Mrs. Allen. Among the donors were President and Mrs. McKinley, Secretary and Mrs. Root, and Secretary and Mrs. Long. Captain Southerland expects to make the trip to San Juan in six days.

PROGRESS AT MANZANILLO.

IMPROVED CONDITIONS NOTED BY COLONEL WHITSIDE.

Manzanillo, April 21.—Department Commander Colonel Whitside inspected Manzanillo on Thursday and Bayamo on Friday, and found both pests in excellent condition, and that a large amount of public work had been accomplished. He will recommend increased appropriations for road building.

Colonel Whitside was greatly surprised at the improved condition of the Cubans, who are now entirely self-supporting. The district produced 126,000 pounds of tobacco and 30,000,000 pounds of sugar during the season.

There is very little indication of political trouble, the people being not generally aware that the municipal election is approaching.

Bayamo is the home of General Rabi, who will probably lead the black party. He positively refused the sinecure place of Forest Inspector at the salary of $250 a month under the American Government. He is regarded as the most dangerous man in the island.

Colonel Whitside left here for Jucaro to-night.

PROSPECT OF FREE HOMES BILL.

OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS HEAR THAT SENATOR O. H. PLATT WITHDRAWS OPPOSITION TO IT.

Guthrie, Okla., April 21 (Special).—Congressman D. T. Flynn, of Oklahoma, telegraphs from Washington that Senator Platt, of Connecticut, has promised not to oppose the passage of the Free Homes bill. This is an important concession, which means in effect that this measure, which has been before Congress for eight years, is practically certain to pass this session, unless unexpected opposition is developed from unknown persons, as the bill will have comparatively plain sailing. For several sessions Senator Platt has been its most active opponent, and on one or two occasions he has prevented its final passage at the last stage. This time the bill has been so drawn that it meets his views, and if no new obstruction is met the Oklahoma home seekers who have been clamoring for the Free Homes bill will get what they want. The House will take up the bill for consideration on May 3. Its friends hope to get it through the House that same day. It will then go to the Senate, and, with Senator Platt in the ranks of its advocates, it should reach the President in time for his signature before adjournment.

THE NEW IVERNIA DUE TO-MORROW.

CUNARD LINE'S PROGRESS SHOWN IN THE BIG TWIN SCREW STEAMSHIP.

The new twin screw steamship Ivernia, of the Cunard Line, which is due here to-morrow from Liverpool, is, and will for some time probably continue to be, one of the largest steamers afloat. She is exactly three times the length of the first Cunard steamer, the Britannia, of 1840; of double the speed, and will carry ten times the number of passengers and eighty times the amount of cargo.

The dimensions of the Ivernia are: Length, 600 feet; breadth, 64 feet 6 inches; depth to shelter deck, 49 feet 6 inches; gross tonnage, 13,900 tons, and displacement, 25,000 tons. She will have additional strength and safety, due to four complete steel decks—lower, main, upper and shelter—a steel orlop deck extending from the boiler room forward to the stem, and a bridge deck, 280 feet long, above the shelter deck. In regard to passenger accommodation, the vessel will take 150 first class, 200 second class and 1,000 third class passengers, the last named being largely apportioned into two, four and six berth staterooms, with all conveniences. The accommodation for first class passengers is situated on the bridge and promenade decks amidships. The dining saloon on the bridge deck is a handsome room, artistically furnished, and will seat 150 persons. The ship is fitted throughout with a powerful installation of electric light.

OPPOSES A BILL.

CREATION OF AN ART COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES DECLARED IMPRACTICABLE.

At a meeting of the Fine Arts Federation of New-York, composed of delegates from the National Academy of Design, American Water Color Society, Society of American Artists, the Architectural League of New-York, American Fine Arts Society, Municipal Art Society of New-York, Society of Beaux Arts Architects, National Sculpture Society, the Mural Painters, New-York Water Color Club and the New-York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, held on Friday, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

That, in the opinion of the Fine Arts Federation of New-York, the bill for the creation of an Art Commission of the United States, proposed by the Public Art League, is an impracticable measure which, if made a law, would have little or no effect, and that its effect, if any, would in the judgment of the Federation be injurious to the best interests of art in the United States.

Resolved, That we oppose the passage of the said bill, and that the secretary be, and is hereby, instructed so to inform the officers of the Public Art League, the committees of Congress which may be considering the bill and the public press.

SMALL GIRL FALLS FIVE STORIES.

Maggie Holstein, three years old, of No. 135 East One-hundred-and-tenth-st., fell from a fifth story airshaft window of her home to the bottom of the shaft yesterday afternoon, breaking one of her legs and bruising an eye. She was taken to the Harlem Hospital.

SENATE TAKES UP CHARGES

AN INQUIRY INTO ALLEGED EXTRAVAGANCE OF ARMY OFFICERS IN CUBA ORDERED.

Washington, April 21.—After a discussion lasting more than two hours, the Senate to-day adopted the two resolutions offered yesterday by Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, calling on the Secretary of War for information as to the allowances made to Army officers stationed in Cuba and Porto Rico and the sums expended in providing quarters, equipages and other conveniences for them. The debate took a wide range, many Senators taking part in it.

Senator Pettigrew delivered a characteristic address in support of the resolutions. He criticised the statements made by the President and the War Department in response to his resolutions, maintaining that they were not complete or satisfactory.

Mr. Hawley, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, resented the statements of the South Dakota Senator as "reckless and unwarranted," and asserted that all information required by the Senate would be furnished in due time.

Mr. Carter, in an explanation of the subject, which he had investigated, said that additional salaries had not been granted to Army officers serving in Cuba or Porto Rico. When the United States assumed the functions of government in Cuba and Porto Rico Army officers were assigned to perform civil as well as military duties. These officers, Mr. Carter said, were thrust into positions where their expenses necessarily were considerably increased. He cited the case of an officer of his acquaintance who found it impossible to meet this additional expense out of his regular salary. He therefore asked to be relieved from duty in Cuba or an allowance for expenses. He received an allowance of $1,800 a year, because the Secretary of War and the President felt that the officer ought not virtually to be fined for the performance of duties to which he was assigned.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Cockrell as to the sort of expenses which made the allowances to officers necessary, Mr. Carter replied that there were scores of expenses attached to official stations which no gentleman could or would refuse to meet. This was true of the President of the United States, and it was true of the Governor-General of Cuba. It was evident that the officers in Cuba needed the additional money for expenses which they would not incur in the discharge of their regular military duties. There was no pretence, so far as he knew, that the allowances made to officers were to be regarded as additional salaries.

Mr. Tillman suggested that it might be well to wait until the resolutions were answered before discussing them. "We on the other side," said he, "want to know something on this question, and have not had the advantage of information from the War Department."

"How can the Senator know he will be on the other side," interrupted Mr. Chandler, "until he hears the evidence?" (Laughter.)

"I'm always safe in being on the other side from the Senator from New-Hampshire," retorted Mr. Tillman.

Mr. Stewart supported the War Department in making allowances to the officers in Cuba for extraordinary expenses made necessary by their duties.

Mr. Bacon, the author of the resolutions, discussed them at some length. He dissented strongly from the proposition that the President could collect and disburse according to his unrestrained judgment the revenues of Cuba. He did not have that unlimited power. He maintained that the law of the United States expressly forbade giving to Army officers any additional compensation above their regular pay. If allowances were necessary by reason of their assignment to duty in Cuba the matter ought to have been brought to the attention of Congress. He believed it was a dangerous precedent for the Executive branch of the Government to fall into the habit of violating the law thus openly.

THE PRESIDENT SUPREME IN CUBA.

Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, said it would be found that no officer had received an additional salary. Allowances probably had been made, and he considered them perfectly proper. He pointed out that Cuba was not now and probably never would be a part of the United States. It was foreign territory. It was occupied by the Army of this country under command of the President in consonance with international law. The military authority was supreme, and was limited in its administration of the affairs of the island only by the provisions of international law. The President was the chief power on the island, and there could be no other power there.

"We have heard something," said Mr. Platt, "about regal extravagance in Cuba. I think there has been nothing of the kind. There has been no extravagance. I have been there. The public building, or palace, as it is called there, was put in shape fit to live in. Nothing more was done. If Congress desires the information, of course it can ascertain how much General Brooke paid his cook and how much he paid his chambermaid, but I do not think extravagant expenditures have been made."

Mr. Platt thought that if there had been extravagance it ought to be remedied, but Congress had no control over the present administration of Cuba. It was under military executive and not legislative control.

"Can we not direct the President to withdraw the Army from Cuba?" inquired Mr. Tillman.

"That is one thing we can do," replied Mr. Platt.

"Do not the acts of Congress control in Cuba?" asked Mr. Daniel.

"No," replied Mr. Platt sharply.

"Do not the laws of the United States as to the pay and emoluments of Army officers apply in Cuba?" persisted Mr. Daniel.

"As to the pay and emoluments of Army officers, yes," replied Mr. Platt, "but as to what shall be done in Cuba, no. Our occupation of Cuba is military, and is under executive and not legislative authority."

"Where does the President get this great authority?" again asked Mr. Daniel.

"From the Constitution?" replied Mr. Platt. "As Commander in Chief of the Army the President has authority far beyond the power which may be conferred upon him by Congress."

Mr. Daniel expressed surprise at the statements made by the Connecticut Senator. It was the first time, he said, that he had ever heard the doctrine of the absolutism of the President asserted on the Senate floor. "Such a doctrine," said he, "should not go unchallenged here. The President of the United States is given certain specific powers under the Constitution. Beyond this his executive duty is to see that the laws are faithfully executed."

"Isn't this simply the blossoming of the imperialistic tree?" suggested Mr. Tillman.

MR. DANIEL SEES A YAWNING GULF.

"It is not the blossoming of the tree," replied Mr. Daniel. "It is far beyond that. It is the perfection and the rotting of the fruit. It will fall from the tree of its own weight. In falling I trust it will do something to remind the people of the country of the fearful precipice on the brink of which they are standing."

Mr. Daniel declared that no person, be he Bey or Sultan, had power to override definite and recognized authority and law. If he maintained, in defiance of law, the President had authorized the payment of additional salaries to the Army officers in Cuba, it was an exhibition of such absolutism as never had been known in this country, and the defence of the action by the Senator from Connecticut was extraordinary.

Mr. Chandler agreed with Mr. Platt that the President could make allowances for the military officers in Cuba, but he did not believe that he could legally increase their salaries. He hoped that when the reply came it would show a satisfactory conditions of affairs. As for the decorations, he apprehended that only the public buildings had been touched, and that these had only been cleaned, whitewashed and fumigated to make them habitable. Possibly on the palace $75,000 had been expended. He hoped that General Gomez would be elected as the first President of the island, and that he would enjoy his life in the palace as renovated by General Brooke.

On the question of the control of the military Mr. Chandler dissented from the views of Mr. Platt. He held that military officers serving in foreign territory were subject to the laws passed by Congress, and quoted the Constitution in support of this view.

Mr. Tillman considered the discussion premature and thought it had been sprung by the Republican Senators as a sugar coating to the pill of the acknowledgment of the Secretary of War that he had been making additional payments to Army officers which were unwarranted.

Senator Pettigrew complained that the Administration was generally slow in responding to resolutions of inquiry, saying that three months had elapsed since information now sought had been called for. He also said he did not mean to cast aspersions on any Army officers; he did not blame them for accepting what the Executive branch of the Government was willing to allow.

THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The resolutions were adopted without division.

The Senate passed a bill authorizing the purchase of the old Corcoran Art Gallery property in Washington at a cost of $332,500.

The Quay resolution was taken up, and Mr. Perkins spoke in favor of seating Mr. Quay.

The conference report on the Hawaiian Civil bill was disagreed to and a new conference requested, Messrs. Cullom, Morgan and Clark, of Wyoming, being named as conferees.

Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, offered and secured the adoption of a resolution directing the Attorney-General to "send to the Senate a statement of the action taken by him in the case of Jorge Cruz, a resident of Porto Rico, alleged to have been brought into this country under a contract to labor in the United States, and what steps, if any, have been taken or are in contemplation looking to proceedings against either the said Jorge Cruz or the party bringing him into the United States."

NO EXTRAVAGANCE, SAYS MR. ROOT.

HE EXPLAINS THE EXTRA ALLOWANCES TO ARMY OFFICERS IN CUBA.

Washington, April 21.—Secretary Root made a brief statement at the War Department to-day in reference to the charge that extravagant allotments had been made to the principal Army officers serving in Cuba for the maintenance of their establishments out of the revenues of the island. He said that about a year ago, before he came into office, representations were made that it was impossible for Army officers to live on their salaries in Cuba. The question of providing for their extra expenses out of the revenues of the island was suggested by Secretary Alger, and the Attorney-General was asked for an opinion on the subject. He held that there was no legal objection to such a procedure, and his opinion was approved by Secretary Alger.

Secretary Root said that allotments were made at that time in accordance with the Attorney-General's opinion, and they have since been continued. Allotments for extra expenses had been made to four officers—the Military Governor of the island, the Military Governor of the city of Havana, the collector of the port of Havana and the treasurer of the island. Mr. Root did not recall the exact amount of the allotment in each case, but the total did not exceed $15,000 or $16,000 a year. He said that Colonel Black, the engineer officer at Havana, did not receive an extra allowance, but he certainly was entitled to it.

Although showing that the plan was fully approved by him, Secretary Root made it clear that it was originated by Secretary Alger.

At the time of the original allowance the office of Governor-General was held by General Brooke, who recently was succeeded by General Wood. General William Ludlow was the Military Governor of Havana, and received an allowance as such. This office has been abolished, to take effect on May 1. The military department formerly under his command has been merged into the Department of Havana and Pinar del Rio, under command of General Lee. It is not known whether General Lee will receive the allowance heretofore made to General Ludlow, but it is a fair assumption that he will. The other two officers who had extra allowances are Colonel T. H. Bliss, of the Commissary Department, who is collector of the port of Havana, and Major Eugene F. Ladd, quartermaster of volunteers and captain in the 9th Cavalry, who is treasurer of the island.

Secretary Root further said that full particulars of the entire transaction will be furnished to Congress in response to the resolution of Senator Bacon. The reply will include a copy of the opinion of the Attorney-General on which the action of the War Department is based.

The Secretary was asked if similar allowances for extra expenses were made in the cases of officers in Porto Rico and the Philippines, and he replied emphatically, "No."

ASSAILED IN BARRANQUILLA.

ITALIANS TELL OF THE ATTACK ON MARCH 17 BY COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS.

Dr. Antonio d'Amico and Professor Arturo Malenchini arrived here yesterday from Barranquilla, Colombia, by way of Venezuela. They are the two Italians who were assailed for no apparent cause by Colombian army officials at Barranquilla on March 17, for which the Italian Government is expected to demand an apology. The circumstances which have led to the serious breach between the Government of Colombia and the foreign residents at Barranquilla and which threaten a diplomatic controversy with Italy, were told to a reporter by Dr. d'Amico.

The doctor had invited some of the most prominent residents to a dinner at the Hotel La Estrella, which was to celebrate the departure of Dr. d'Amico and Professor Malenchini for Rome. The party included the Spanish consul, the secretary of the Austrian consulate, several Italians, Englishmen, Colombians and two Americans.

When the last course of the dinner had been reached, General Palacio, commanding the Government forces at Barranquilla, accompanied by General de Castro, entered the banquet hall, and, according to Dr. d'Amico, began a tirade of abuse against all present, characterizing the affair as a revolutionary gathering. It is alleged he wound up his denunciation, which was punctuated with "Down with Italy!" with a signal which was answered by twenty-five soldiers who were waiting outside.

Then General Palacio ordered the arrest of several of the Colombian guests, whom he accused of conspiracy against the Government. In answer to protests from Dr. d'Amico, it is charged, he hurled a wine bottle at the latter's head, which fortunately, however, missed its mark. This interference caused much excitement, and immediately ended the banquet. Dr. d'Amico says that the most outrageous and insulting language was used against the foreigners present by General Palacio.

"There was not the slightest reason," said Dr. d'Amico, "for the belief that the gathering was of a revolutionary nature, as all the political parties were represented."

A written protest was made by Dr. d'Amico and Professor Malenchini to the British Vice-Consul, who is looking after the interests of the Italians at Barranquilla during the absence of the Italian Consul. This protest also bears the signatures of Julius Freund and August Strunz, jr., who were present. A copy certified to by the British Vice-Consul has been forwarded to Rome, and the Colombian Government may hear from Italy.

Several foreigners also protested against the conduct of General Palacio to their respective consuls, and have asked for some protection, as the Government of Colombia, they charge, has an utter disregard for the rights of foreigners.

THE NEW-HAVEN STEAMER LINE.

REASONS FOR ITS ABSORPTION BY THE NEW-YORK AND NEW-HAVEN ROAD.

New-Haven, Conn., April 21.—President Hall of the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad Company to-day gave out a statement regarding the announcement by the New-Haven Steamboat Company of its absorption by the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad Company. He said:

It is true that the control of the New-Haven Steamboat Company has passed into the possession of this company. The steamboat company now occupies a position relative to this company that it should have held twenty-five years ago.

This line was always popular in New-Haven and throughout the valley of the Connecticut for both freight and passengers. Its relations with the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad have generally been very cordial. Last year, without any notice to us, the steamboat company made a new departure and established a line to Providence, entering into competition with this company for New-York and Providence passengers and freight business.

From the day the New-Haven Steamboat Company started to compete with this company for business at Providence I directed that not a passenger or freight rate should be changed to protect our business, preferring to cease to do the business rather than to do it at a loss. Inevitable loss resulted to the steamboat company from attempting the competitive business, although, of course, this company lost considerable business from the operation of that line.

This situation, however, could not last longer without danger of warfare between the companies, and as a result of perfectly friendly negotiations and conferences, principally by Mr. Chapin and myself, I was enabled last Saturday to make a proposition to our Board of Directors which was unanimously accepted and under which the transaction was completed yesterday.

As to the future, I can only say that this company proposes to restore the old popularity and public convenience of the New-Haven Steamboat Company within its original chartered sphere of action. I believe this property can in many ways be of great advantage to our company, of which it is naturally a part.

It will relieve congested local freight business at the Harlem River and enable us to land much of our local freight from the Hartford, Northampton, Valley, Air Line, and, possibly, from the Naugatuck divisions of our road, more promptly than we can get it to our other piers by rail, and more economically.

I suppose that the Narragansett Bay Line will disappear, and no longer run on the waters of the beautiful Narragansett. The boats of the New-Haven Line, however, will for the present continue their trips between New-York and Providence for the accommodation of the people of Providence who desire to go to and from New-York by water, until our regular line begins its summer service. These boats will, hereafter, probable leave the docks of the Providence Line and sail direct to Pier 19, instead of Peck Slip, at the regular rates in force on the Providence Line. The boats from New-Haven will go to Peck Slip as usual, and the old service at New-Haven will be restored to all the old patrons of the line.

C. A. I. L. CONFERENCE.

A Church Association for the Advancement of the Interests of Labor conference will be held in Washington on April 29 and 30. On Sunday, the 29th, labor sermons will be preached in many of the Washington churches, and that day has been selected for the annual labor sermon in behalf of the Church Association for the Advancement of the Interests of Labor all over the United States. Clergymen are requested to preach sermons in the interests of labor, referring to the work of the association which has done much to promote fellowship with organized labor and conciliation between employer and employe.

Spring Resorts.

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The most modern hotel on the Beach Front. Capacity 600. Located in aristocratic cottage section. Rooms en suite with hot and cold and sea and fresh water baths attached. Orchestra and dancing. American and European plans. Write for booklets and special Spring rates.

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Parlor A—11 A. M. to 3 P. M. Where bookings for rooms can be made, and all information secured.

Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Brighton of America. Hotel Brighton & Casino are open throughout the year. F. W. Hemsley & Son.

THE IROQUOIS.

Ocean end South Carolina-ave., Atlantic City, N. J., 100 feet from boardwalk; capacity, 400; steam heat; rooms single and en suite, with bath; elevator; sun parlors; cuisine and service the best; special Spring rates, $12, $15, $17.50 weekly; $2.50 daily. American plan. Write for booklet. Coaches meet trains. W. F. SHAW.

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LITTLE BRIGHTON HOTEL.—Atlantic City, N. J. Ocean and South Carolina-ave. American and European plans. Restaurant and buffet attached. Full ocean view. Steam heat. Open all year. S. A. SCHWEISPORT.

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Fine fishing and boating; sea and lakes; first class livery connected. LEACH BROS.

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Ocean front of St. Charles Place, Atlantic City, N. J. Elevator to street level. Private baths. Steam heat. Sun parlors. Write for Booklet and Spring rates.

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THE WESTMINSTER, Atlantic City, N. J. Kentucky-ave., near Beach. Elevator. Sun parlor. Steam heat. Under old management. Special spring rates. M. ROCHE.

RICHARD CROKER'S SONS DEPART.

THEY SAIL TO MEET THEIR FATHER AND TRAVEL ON THE CONTINENT.

Frank H. Croker, Herbert Croker and Richard Croker, jr., sons of Richard Croker, sailed in the steamship Campania, of the Cunard Line, yesterday for Liverpool. They will meet their father in England and visit the Paris Exposition with him. Other passengers on the Campania were Lady Colebrooke, Lieutenant-Colonel George T. Denison, Mrs. William E. Hoag, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Prime, D. A. Seligman, Henry Higgins and John T. Beveridge.

THE CYMRIC TO RETURN TO SERVICE.

It is announced by the White Star Line that the steamship Cymric, which has been transporting troops to South Africa for some time past, has been released, and will resume her regular sailings from this port on June 12. The Cymric is a favorite steamer, and her return to service at this crowded season will be welcomed.

Spring Resorts

VIRGINIA HOT SPRINGS.

ELEVATION, 2,200 FEET.

A DISTINCTIVE HEALTH RESORT

ON CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAY.

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HOTEL OF THE HIGHEST CLASS.

The fine courses of the Virginia Hot Springs Golf Club adjoins the hotel. All baths from flowing springs of natural hot water, and the most curative known for gout, rheumatism, nerve and blood troubles. Pullman compartment-car, New York to Hot Springs, via Washington and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, without change. Excursion tickets and Pullman locations at C