GRIGGS TO RETIRE SOON.

WILL RETURN TO HIS LAW PRACTICE IN PATERSON—DOUBT AS TO HIS SUCCESSOR.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, March 16.—Attorney-General Griggs to-day authorized The Tribune to announce in positive terms that he will retire from the Cabinet within a couple of weeks. He declines to name specifically the date of his retirement, although it is generally believed that it will occur on March 30. Mr. Griggs will immediately return to his old home in Paterson, N. J., and resume the practice of law, which he had to abandon when he was installed as Governor of New-Jersey in January, 1896. He has been Attorney-General of the United States since January 31, 1898, and national affairs have imposed on him a greater and more important amount of work than has fallen to the lot of any of his predecessors. In the more than three years that he has been at the head of the Department of Justice he has been in fact, as well as in name, the chief law officer of the government. In that time he has had to solve all the new and tremendous legal problems that were brought before the various executive departments of the government as the result of the national obligations that were a part of the fruits of the war with Spain. Persons in a position to speak with knowledge of the facts declare that, with the possible exception of the President, Attorney-General Griggs has had to work more hours a day than any other official of the administration during his incumbency of the office which he is preparing to give up, to the regret of President McKinley and all the members of the Cabinet, to say nothing of a host of official and social friends in Washington and an army of associates throughout the country.

In spite of the enormous amount of work he has had to do in the last three years, Mr. Griggs to-day is as robust physically and mentally as when he first accepted the duties of the great office of Attorney-General. Naturally, he manifests a keen desire to get back into private life once more, and take up the work of the practice of law where he left off more than four years ago. It is no secret in Washington that the chief if not the only reason Mr. Griggs wants to quit official life is that the strain on his finances here is too heavy for a man of his modest means, and while he is still young, active and alert he regards it as a duty to those dependent on him to accumulate a competence for them and for his old age. His administration of the Department of Justice has been wholly free from scandal, and in a professional sense his conduct of the government's side of the insular test cases will bring him enduring fame, whatever may be the final decision of the Supreme Court on the far reaching constitutional questions involved. It is generally conceded, alike by those opposed to the government's contention in these cases and by those who favor it, that Mr. Griggs's presentation of the government's side was the strongest, most lucid and most convincing that has yet been made.

Who his successor will be is still an open question in Washington, so far as the general public is concerned. In point of fact, no member of the Cabinet at this time seems to know who the next Attorney-General will be, and it is extremely doubtful if the President has made up his mind whom to select. The name of P. C. Knox, of Pittsburg, who two weeks ago was said to be slated for the Attorney-Generalship, is now rarely mentioned in well informed circles. Rumor persistently deals with the name of John G. Johnson, of Philadelphia, who was described to-day by a member of the Cabinet who has known him for years as the ablest lawyer in the United States. Another member of the Cabinet, who is supposed to speak by the card, says that Mr. Johnson would refuse the Attorney-Generalship if it should be tendered to him, because of the financial sacrifice involved. At the same time, it is strongly contended that the Philadelphian's great love of his profession is a big point in favor of his accepting the post of chief law officer of the government, and on the other side of the equation is the fact that he is known to be thoroughly in accord on constitutional grounds with the government's colonial policy. The circumstance that Pennsylvania now has one member of the Cabinet in the person of Postmaster-General Smith is not being urged as an argument against the selection of Mr. Johnson, because the doctrine is no longer held that one State should not have more than one place in the President's official household.

MAY FORM A NEW LAW FIRM.

REPORT THAT MR. GRIGGS AND JAMES B. DILL WILL GO INTO PARTNERSHIP.

Washington, March 16.—There were persistent rumors here to-day that on or about April 1, when Attorney-General Griggs retires from the Cabinet, he and James B. Dill, the well known corporation lawyer, with one or two others, were to form a firm for the practice of law in New-Jersey.

A reporter called at the office of the Commercial Trust Company in Jersey City yesterday, and learned that James B. Dill had that day rented a suite of rooms there for Mr. Griggs, and that it was understood that they were to be associated together in business. The reporter saw Mr. Dill at his home in East Orange last night, but he refused to discuss the matter, and would neither deny nor confirm the report.

DISPUTE BETWEEN PERU AND CHILI.

THE PERUVIAN MINISTER SAID TO HAVE BEEN RECALLED FROM THE CHILIAN CAPITAL.

Washington, March 16.—Some apprehension is felt in official quarters over the reported action of Peru in withdrawing her minister from the Chilian capital. Although the withdrawal has not been communicated officially to this government, yet it is accepted as a fact, since it is in line with what was expected to follow the action of the Chilian Congress in rejecting the plan of arbitrating the remaining differences between the two countries on their boundary question. The Chilian Minister was withdrawn some time ago from Peru, so that the recall of the Peruvian Minister from Chili leaves each country without a diplomatic representative in the other. Whether this will amount to a complete severance of diplomatic relations has not been made clear by the meagre advices at hand, but in any event it is regarded as a further evidence of the growing seriousness of the situation.

LORD PAUNCEFOTE GOING HOME.

CANAL NEGOTIATIONS NOT LIKELY TO BE RESUMED BEFORE HIS RETURN NEXT FALL.

Washington, March 16.—The British Ambassador is expecting to make a visit home next summer, instead of spending his vacation at some American watering place. Although it will be a trip largely for recreation and attention to private affairs, it will afford Lord Pauncefote an opportunity to confer with the officials under the new administration of King Edward VII and to be received by the sovereign. In his absence it is hardly expected that there will be any developments in canal negotiations, which are more likely to be taken up in the fall, if at all.

The German Ambassador, Dr. von Holleben, also will go abroad for the summer and fall. In the mean time Count Quadt, First Secretary of the German Embassy, will go to Berlin, returning in time to assume the duties of Chargé d'Affaires in the absence of the Ambassador.

NO COMPLAINT AGAINST MINISTER LOOMIS

Washington, March 16.—It can be said on authority that no complaint has been lodged against Mr. Loomis, Minister to Venezuela, by the Venezuelan Government, nor has there been any suggestion from that source that his withdrawal would be acceptable. The officials again declare that Mr. Loomis has been doing his duty, and no more than his duty; and as it is well known to the Venezuelan Government that he has acted at every point under instructions from his own government there is not the least apprehension that any attempt will be made to hold him personally accountable for the friction that has followed the attempt to settle the asphalt controversy. This belief on the part of the officials is confirmed by Señor Pulido, the Venezuelan Chargé d'Affaires here, who has said that the Venezuelan Government has only the kindest feeling toward Mr. Loomis, and that the attacks which are said to have been made on the minister came from irresponsible newspapers which did not represent the Venezuelan Government.

GENERAL TRIAS SURRENDERS.

THE ONLY INSURGENT LIEUTENANT-GENERAL TAKES THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Washington, March 16.—The War Department has received the following cable dispatch from General MacArthur at Manila, announcing the surrender of Lieutenant-General Trias:

Mariano Trias, only lieutenant-general insurgent army, surrendered March 15, San Francisco de Malabon, with nine officers, 199 well armed men. Trias immediately took oath of allegiance, presence several natives. Most auspicious event; indicates final stage armed insurrection. Prestige Trias Southern Luzon equal to Aguinaldo. General Bates and Colonel Frank D. Baldwin entitled great credit for persistent work bringing this about.

THE ALABAMA'S GOOD PERFORMANCE.

REPORT OF ADMIRAL EVANS ON THE TRIAL OF THE NEW BATTLESHIP.

Washington, March 16.—The Navy Department has received from Admiral Evans, the president of the trial board, a report on the final trial of the battleship Alabama, which took place from March 11 to 13 off Pensacola, Fla. The report says that at 3:45 o'clock on March 11 a two hours' full power trial under natural draught was had. The machinery, both main and auxiliary, worked satisfactorily, with the exception of a few leaky stuffing boxes. The horse power developed was 7,506, and the speed was 15.2 knots. A thorough trial was made of the battery, the result of which was to show some trifling defects of adjustment and some faulty small bore ammunition. The big turret guns were fired with smokeless powder. Summing up the results, the board says that the trial developed no weakness or defect in hull or machinery, and that the ship is built of good materials, shows good workmanship and no breakdown or failure.

WILL REDEEM UNUSED STAMPS.

TREASURY OFFICIALS PREPARING TO PUT THE WAR REVENUE REDUCTION LAW IN EFFECT.

Washington, March 16.—The Treasury officials are making preparations to carry into effect the War Revenue Reduction act, which becomes operative July 1, and with a view to giving the public all information on the subject possible at this time the Internal Revenue Bureau to-day issued the following statement:

All documentary and proprietary revenue stamps in the hands of purchasers on and after July 1, 1901, will be redeemed by the government under the provisions of the act of May 12, 1900. Such stamps should be presented for redemption by the owners thereof to the collector of internal revenue from whom they were purchased, who will supply the applicant with necessary forms and instructions for the preparation of his claim. It is probable that regulations will be prepared and issued providing for the redemption of imprinted documentary stamps without requiring the destruction of the checks or drafts on which they are imprinted.

The amount of stamps which probably will be offered for redemption on and after July 1 cannot be calculated with any degree of accuracy, but the officials most familiar with the subject estimate that of the classes of stamps for documents, checks, etc., from which the tax was removed, the redemptions may aggregate $1,500,000, or possibly a little less. This estimate is based on the assumption that the public will have on hand on July 1 one month's supply.

The articles on which the tax was reduced represent a much larger sum, but in those cases the redemption will be in the nature of an exchange, although these stamps, like the others, will probably be redeemed in cash, but other stamps made to conform to the reduction in the rate of tax will be immediately issued, so that the net loss to the government will not be large. On the basis of users having a month's supply of stamps on hand on July 1, it is estimated that the redemptions will approximate the following amounts: Checks and drafts, $600,000; documents, $400,000; proprietary, $400,000; tobacco and snuff, $3,500,000; cigars and cigarettes, $2,000,000; beer, $6,000,000; total, $12,900,000.

GERMANS WANT AMERICAN MEAT.

THE NEW INSPECTION LAW OF THAT COUNTRY UNPOPULAR.

Washington, March 16 (Special).—The German meat inspection law, which absolutely prohibits the importation of American corned beef, sausages, etc., has had one year's trial, but has made no friends, according to Consul Diederich, at Bremen, who, in a report to the State Department, says:

In a recent convention of physicians, Dr. Karl Frankel, professor of hygiene in the university at Halle, an authority on all questions bearing on public health, gave utterance to very severe criticisms of the new law. He even went so far as to say that the law was nothing more than a cloak, faded and worn, hung over the Agrarian idol. He asserted that he spoke in the interests of national hygiene, and showed that while the government had declared that the passage of the law was required in the interest of public health, nothing suffered more from the passage of said law than did the public health of this nation, for the prevailing high prices of meat necessarily lessened its consumption, while the health of the nation demanded an increase.

That the prices of meat in Germany have risen materially since the passage of the law is well known to every one who uses meat. I have before me a report from one of the largest factories of textiles in Silesia. This factory employs from 1,500 to 1,600 men. Like many other large industrial establishments, it has a store of its own, where the workingmen may get all their groceries and other food supplies at almost cost price. Formerly the leading kind of meat supplied to the people was American corned beef, and every family figured on using about a pound of it a day, the cost being 14 cents a pound. Now there is no more American corned beef to be had, and fresh meat of home production has taken its place. The manager of the factory has investigated the increase of expense to the people for meat since the passage of the new law, and he has come to the conclusion that every consumer at his factory must pay 20 per cent more than he formerly did, as every buyer of fresh meat must take a certain proportion of bone and fat, thereby much lessening the amount of solid meat. According to his estimate, three cents has been added to the price of each pound of meat sold at the factory. To men with scant earnings an increase of over 21 cents in weekly household expenses for meat alone is no small item. The trade in American canned meats formerly amounted to from $6,000,000 to $10,000,000 per annum.

A NEW LIGHTHOUSE TENDER.

Washington, March 16 (Special).—The Treasury Department has just entered into a contract with the Burlee Dry Dock Company, of Port Richmond, N. Y., for the construction of a new steam lighthouse tender at a cost of $111,888. At the last session of Congress the expenditure of $120,000 was authorized for this purpose, and about half that sum is now available. The new tender, to be called the Larkspur, will be assigned to the third lighthouse district, which extends from Elisha Ledge, off Warren Point, R. I., to a point on the New-Jersey coast opposite Shrewsbury Rocks. It embraces all aids to navigation on the coasts of Rhode Island, Connecticut and New-York and part of New-Jersey, together with waters tributary to the sea or Long Island Sound within these limits, and the aids on Whitehall Narrows and Lakes Champlain and Memphremagog. As the steamers John Rodgers and Castus, used for buoy tenders and supply and inspection work, are now unfit for service, the addition of a new steamer to this district is considered to be of great importance. In recent years, owing largely to improvements made in lighthouse appliances, a different sort of tender is required. Some of the whistling buoys which are set in position now by the tenders weigh two or three tons. They are often anchored by sinks which weigh in the neighborhood of 5,000 or 6,000 pounds.

TO PROBE WATER EXTENSION DELAY.

Alfred T. White, J. Hampden Dougherty, William Harkness and Charles N. Chadwick, who assert they were insulted by several aldermen when they appealed to the Municipal Assembly for a better water supply for Brooklyn, have been subpœnaed to appear before the Kings County Grand Jury on Tuesday, when the investigation into the causes for delay in the extension of the water system will be continued. District Attorney Clarke intends to probe the matter to the bottom, and will summon every Brooklyn member of both branches of the Municipal Council.

MINISTERS AND MORMON ELDERS' DEBATE

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 16 (Special).—A four days' debate has been arranged between Protestant ministers of this region and the Mormon elders of the South, whose headquarters are in this city. The debate will take place early next month, and will be at some point in Mississippi yet to be chosen. Eminent men among the clergy of the South will attend, and a large delegation of Mormon elders from the Southern headquarters will also be present. The proposed debate over the Mormon religion is attracting widespread interest all over the South.

BAGGAGE EXAMINATION.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SPAULDING REPLIES TO CRITICISM OF METHODS AT THIS PORT.

Washington, March 16.—In view of criticisms of the methods employed in the examination of baggage at the port of New-York, Assistant Secretary Spaulding to-day said:

Up to this time I have received no official information that the general public is dissatisfied with the execution of the regulations of the department relating to the examination of the baggage of passengers arriving at New-York. Some of the New-York newspapers, however, and some personal correspondents complain that friends of arriving passengers are not permitted to go upon the docks, as formerly, until after the baggage has been examined. Others complain that the examination of baggage is unnecessarily severe, and that, altogether, the system is somewhat out of joint.

The matter of excluding friends of passengers from the docks pending examination of baggage is a matter of administration in the offices of the Collector of Customs and the Surveyor of the Port. The department knows nothing of it, but on general principles its confidence in these men is such that it is perfectly willing to trust to their judgment until that judgment has been proven faulty.

We have no objection to legitimate criticism, but the general public should understand that the government is doing its best to protect its own interests in the matter of the collection of revenues that legitimately belong to it, and at the same time is making every effort possible to relieve the travelling public from discomforts and annoyances of every character.

Evidence has reached the department tending to show that for a considerable period of time the government revenues have been defrauded by the failure on the part of some inspectors at New-York to perform their plain duty. Unquestionably considerable quantities of millinery, dress goods and other merchandise have been brought into this country without payment of the duty, and have been put into competition with goods which have been imported by honest merchants who have paid the duties required by law. The government is doing its best to put a stop to this practice, and it has no doubt that it will succeed, in a very great measure at least, and in this matter, as in that of the examination of baggage, if there is any serious fault in the administration of the law or the regulations of the department governing them they will be remedied at the earliest moment. No one can possibly be more interested in removing all annoyances to the travelling public than is the government. And it is to be hoped that the friends of good administration of the laws will bear with patience any seeming faults until at least they have been proven faults and an opportunity had for correcting. An idea of what has been done already in correcting the former abuses in the way of the collection of duties on goods brought in by arriving passengers may be gathered from the fact that during the first eleven days in this month the amount of duties so collected was $19,413. During the same period last year, with practically the same number of steamship arrivals, the collections aggregated $1,398. These duties have been collected, not on the personal effects of travellers but on merchandise which the owners were seeking to smuggle into the country.

SAYS COLLECTIONS ARE INCREASED.

In support of his statement that the customs revenues would show a marked increase under the regulations now in force, Collector Bidwell yesterday issued a table comparing the duties collected from passengers on certain steamships arriving here within the last few days with the amounts collected from passengers on the same or sister ships reaching this port on or close to the same dates respectively in March, 1900. The table of comparisons follows, making a showing which tends to bear out the argument made by the Collector that a great many articles which should be classified as "merchandise," but were hitherto regarded as "personal effects," are brought from abroad by returning tourists:

Steamships.	Passengers.	Declarations.	Duty. 1900.	Duty. 1901.
Lucania, March 4, 1900	320	241	$223 35	——
Lucania, March 3, 1901	332	235	——	$406 52
Pretoria, March 5, 1900	89	67	2 50	——
Pretoria, March 1, 1901	94	75	——	103 91
La Champagne, March 3, 1900	87	70	55 56	——
La Bretagne, March 4, 1901	61	50	——	707 88
St. Paul, March 10, 1900	221	175	766 85	——
St. Louis, March 10, 1901	296	240	——	16,213 97
Havana, February 27, 1900	99	82	64 20	——
Orizaba, March 1, 1901	52	38	——	117 88
L'Aquitaine, March 11, 1900	94	76	248 10	——
La Champagne	91	73	——	1,862 93
Totals			$1,398 56	$19,413 09

In the above table of duties, merchandise sent into public stores and shipped in bond to other ports in the United States are estimated at 50 per cent of the value as expressed in the invoices submitted.

ANGRY STOCKHOLDERS MEET.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO PRESENT PLAN FOR REORGANIZING INTERNATIONAL ZINC COMPANY.

A score or more angry stockholders who had suffered in the collapse of the International Zinc Company met yesterday afternoon in the office of C. H. A. Dougherty, No. 68 Wall-st. The crowd, in which were several men with white beards and one aged woman, and some who seemed hardly more than youths, filled to suffocation the inner office and overflowed into the ante-room. Among them was William Speed, of Philadelphia, a man well in the sixties, who was introduced as the largest stockholder in the zinc concern. Dr. John Grant Lyman sent a letter of regret. As a result of the meeting, a committee of three, with power to add to their number, was appointed to take charge of the interests of the stockholders and present a feasible plan of reorganization. The committee is composed of C. H. A. Dougherty, who has been a leader in the movement of which the meeting was an outcome; James McNaboe, a lawyer, of No. 302 Broadway, who is the counsel of the dissatisfied stockholders, and H. B. Shoemaker, a lawyer of No. 71 Broadway.

The first concern of the committee will be to institute some plan by which to forestall foreclosure proceedings, at present threatening the Free Coinage Mine, the most valuable property of the company in the Joplin district of Missouri. The mortgage on this property amounts to $25,000, and unless an injunction can be obtained from the courts to defer the sale, the stockholders, to retain the property, must raise $15,000 before March 30 and the remainder in ninety days. The value of the Free Coinage mine is estimated at $100,000, and it appears that an effort will be made to save it, even if this will involve the freezing out of some of the shareholders and the acquisition of the property by others, who are willing and able to contribute toward the fund for raising the mortgage.

Mr. Dougherty, who has led in this movement, presided at the meeting. He read a letter from Dr. Lyman, in which the latter sent his sympathy. He said he was in the same position as they were, having lost heavily in investments in the International Zinc Company. He concluded by saying that he would acquiesce in any action the meeting would take, and that his interests were identical with those of the stockholders.

Mr. McNaboe, who followed with a statement of the affairs of the company, said he would start on the presumption that Dr. Lyman's assertion that the failure of Joshua Brown & Co. was due to investment in zinc was true. "We are not here to make any charges," he said, "but if there has been a swindle from the start, as has been charged, you stockholders want to know it, and you owe it to yourselves as well as to the community to see that justice is meted out." He said he was determined to sift the matter to the bottom, and that he had already made some progress in his investigation.

Besides the Free Coinage property, the zinc company owns the Blue Wing mine, and the Mayne mine, both in the Joplin district, Missouri. The latter, it is conceded, is of no practical value, but the Blue Wing property, it was said, would pay under proper management. Mr. McNaboe exonerated the audit nrm of Barrow, Wade & Guthrie, who had the books of the concern, from any complicity in the scheme which led to the collapse.

Jesse W. Starr, who represented the New-England contingent of stockholders, said that the Blue Wing property was a paying one, and that he himself would be willing to take it from the company and pay a yearly royalty on it of from $12,000 to $15,000.

The reorganization committee will begin work at once, and will probably communicate its plans early this week to the stockholders it can reach.

EXPRESS KILLS WOMAN.

ON HER WAY TO A STORE SHE STEPS FROM BEHIND ONE TRAIN IN FRONT OF ANOTHER.

While crossing the tracks of the Putnam Railroad, at Parsons Lane, in Kingsbridge, last evening, Mrs. Josephine Bush, a young woman recently married, was struck and instantly killed by a Yonkers express train. Mrs. Bush was on her way to a nearby store to order groceries for Sunday's dinner. A southbound train was passing. As the last car went by the young woman bounded forward and across the northbound track, stepping directly in front of the express. She was tossed high in the air and descended again in front of the train, the engine and cars passing over the head and upper part of the body.

AFFAIRS IN CHINA.

A TALK WITH MINISTER CONGER. THE MANCHURIAN TREATY, HE THINKS, WOULD CERTAINLY AFFECT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Shanghai, March 16.—"The North China Gazette" publishes an interview with Edwin H. Conger, the United States Minister at Peking, in which he is quoted as saying:

I will not venture to say how far Russia is prepared to go. The Manchurian treaty is still unconcluded, but, if it is ratified, it would certainly affect the peace negotiations.

Only the Germans and French are now engaging in punitive expeditions. The Germans are operating on the borders of Shan-Se and the French around Pao-Ting-Fu. I believe it is impossible for the Emperor to return to Peking until the allies are withdrawn and the Chinese officials are restored to power and free from the risk of interference by the foreign troops.

The Empress Dowager's return, added Mr. Conger, depended on the capacity in which she came back. The Emperor was free to bring her. The Ministers recognized her responsibility in regard to the outbreak, but thought it was due to bad advice given by Prince Tuan and General Tung Fuh Siang.

GERMAN FLEET IN CHINESE WATERS.

ITS VALUABLE SERVICES IN AIDING PACIFICATION IN THE EAST.

Berlin, March 16.—In a second speech in the Reichstag yesterday, referring to the German fleet in China, Count von Bülow, after repeating that Germany had pursued no annexationist policy in China, said the German fleet had remained in China owning to its moral effect in rendering the Chinese more tractable in the peace negotiations, and, further, because the protection and support of the fleet was highly necessary for the German troops. Moreover, the presence of the fleet had largely contributed to maintain a quiet attitude among the various viceroys. Count von Waldersee believed that the fleet had rendered valuable service in this way, and the German Minister to China, Dr. Mumm von Schwartzenstein, considered its temporary retention very advantageous as affording a guarantee of the execution of Germany's demands, and, for the future, of the correct attitude of the Yangtse governors.

The Reichstag to-day passed the second reading of the supplementary estimates for the China expedition, amounting to 123,322,000 marks.

In the course of the debate the Minister of War, General von Gossler, said Count von Waldersee commanded about 64,000 men, including 17,750 Germans, 14,050 French, 12,850 British, 9,000 Russians, 6,000 Japanese, 2,350 Italians, 1,600 Americans and 250 Austrians. Brigandage in China, he added, had considerably decreased in consequence of the intervention of the foreign troops.

General von Waldersee reported, the Minister continued, that the so-called "Hun letters" were largely fantastic exaggerations. Peaceable populations were treated with leniency, but marauders and Boxers were rigorously suppressed. The assertion that sixty Chinese soldiers sent to fight Boxers had been shot was a piece of mendacity on the part of a mandarin who desired to offset the alleged shooting against a war contribution levied upon him. In consequence of Count von Waldersee's statements, General von Gossler announced, he would institute criminal proceedings against the newspapers which published the Hun letters.

Herr Richter, the Radical leader, objected to Great Britain being inadequately represented by troops in China, while she had the greatest interests in that country. He said that only Germans seemed to be employed in the expeditions.

General von Einem replied that the British had reserves at Hong-Kong, and could also draw on India, and pointed out that the Americans, French, Italians and Austrians participated in the expeditions.

MOVEMENTS OF GERMAN COLUMNS.

Berlin, March 16.—A dispatch from Peking, under date of March 15, received at the War Office says the strength of the Chinese forces in the battle of Ansuling Pass on March 8, was 3,000. The Chinese fled in the direction of Wu-Tai, twenty-five kilometres west of the Great Wall. In Ma-Sheng, on the Imperial Canal, the Fritsche column found great military stores and quantities of fodder.

The Arnstedt column, marching from Pa-Chu to Tien-Tsin, is advancing in extended front between Pao-Ting-Ho and Yung-Ting-Ho.

TIEN-TSIN REPORT DISCREDITED.

Washington, March 16.—The cable report from Tien-Tsin indicating that a collision between the British and Russian forces is imminent is not regarded in a serious light in the diplomatic circles most concerned in the issue involved. It is said in these quarters that it relates to comparatively minor concessions which are not of a character to strain the relations between the governments. So far, the matter has not assumed an international aspect in the sense of being communicated to any of the embassies here.

ROCKHILL ASKS FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

MAKES NO MENTION OF ANY CLASH BETWEEN BRITISH AND RUSSIANS.

Washington, March 16.—A cable dispatch was received at the State Department to-day from Mr. Rockhill, United States Special Commissioner at Peking, asking for instructions on some of the points which have arisen in the negotiations relative to indemnity and punishments. The commissioner, however, made no reference to what is described as the critical state of affairs at Tien-Tsin resulting from the clash of interests between the British and Russians in that quarter.

BURLINGTON AGAIN BOOMED.

MORE RUMORS ABOUT THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROPERTY SENDS THE STOCK UP.

The stock market yesterday was remarkably strong and active, nearly 750,000 shares being sold in the two hours of trading. The feature was Burlington, which, under extensive and persistent buying, advanced from 154⅞ at the opening to 161¼, then reacted under heavy profit taking to 158½ in the last quarter hour, and closed at 160¼, a net gain for the day of 5½ points. Various rumors accompanied the advance. One was that a syndicate had offered to purchase control of the road on a guarantee of 7 per cent dividends, and the offer had been rejected. Another report, which was widely credited, was that leading Burlington interests were increasing their holdings by purchases in the open market, with a view to preventing the execution of any plan of outsiders for obtaining control, and that they would, if it seemed necessary, follow the course recently adopted by the Delaware and Hudson directors and raise the Burlington's dividend rate from 6 to 8 per cent.

There were also persistent reports again heard that the Great Northern-Northern Pacific interests were actively negotiating for the Burlington control, and also that the Pennsylvania might be found ultimately in possession of this great and prosperous property, which would give the Pennsylvania a through route to Denver, and the Great Northern and Northern Pacific an independent outlet from St. Paul and Minneapolis to Chicago, as well as to St. Louis, Kansas City and Omaha.

MR. SAGE AGAIN DENIES IT.

RUMOR THAT NEW-YORK CENTRAL HAS SECURED POSSESSION OF MANHATTAN—REPORT ABOUT BROOKLYN RAPID TRANSIT.

Manhattan was strong and active in yesterday's market, making a net gain of 3⅝ points on reports that control of the elevated system had been secured by the New-York Central. Russell Sage, asked about this rumor, answered: "Not a word of truth in it."

Brooklyn Rapid Transit also showed marked strength, closing at 82⅝, the high price of the day, a net advance of 1⅝ per cent. There were unconfirmed rumors that this system also was to be taken over by the New-York Central.

B. Altman & Co.

Eighteenth Street, Nineteenth Street and Sixth Avenue, New York.

LACE DEPARTMENT.

(First Floor.)

ROBES made up in exclusive designs in Spangle and Lace combinations, Hand Embroidered Batiste, Lierre and Venise, Crystaline and Lace, and Silk Bruges and Batiste.

LACES, in form of Bas de Jupe, Incrustations, Galoons, Edges and All-overs, comprising original and reserved designs and combinations, including

Paris Model Laces, among which are "Dentelle Printemps."

(Examples displayed in Windows.)

MONDAY, MARCH 18th, a Special Sale of REAL LACES:

Bruges Lace, $1.25, 1.95, 2.85 yard.

Cream Applique Lace, 95c., 1.00, 2.95 "

SILK DEPARTMENT.

(First Floor.)

PLAIN COLORED DRESS SILKS.

Monday, March 18th:

TWO Thousand Yards of IMPORTED FAILLE PRINCESS, in Evening and Street shades; regular values $1.75, $2.00 and $2.50 will be offered at . per yard, $1.10

SUIT DEPARTMENT.

(Second Floor.)

For Monday, March 18th:

TAILOR-MADE SUITS of Blue or Black Homespun Canvas; Eton Coat and Flounce Skirt stylishly braided; foundation of Taffeta Silk, ... $37.00

WAIST DEPARTMENT.

(Second Floor.)

DRESS WAISTS. Models from Paris; also Copies and Adaptations (made on the premises) form a most attractive assemblage of Waists. Among the fashionable fabrics employed are Jardiniere Louisine, Pois Lame, Imprimé Régence, Satin de Lyon, Corea, Crêpe de Chine, also Russian and Milanese Lace Waists.

HAND-MADE WAISTS of Batiste, in White and colors.

SHIRT WAISTS of "TUSSAH SILK," and of GUARANTEED TAFFETA SILK in Black and colors.

For MONDAY, MARCH 18th:

Peau de Cygne Waists, . $6.75

Crepe de Chine Waists, . 10.00

accordion plaited.

Fifth Avenue Auction Rooms,

238 FIFTH AVE. WM. B. NORMAN, Auctioneer.

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comprising a great variety of subjects executed in the highest style of Art, including

A SUPERB EXAMPLE BY WORMS. A MAGNIFICENT PASINI. A RARE PIOT,

and many others of equal importance.

TO BE SOLD

THURSDAY and FRIDAY EVENINGS, MARCH 21st and 22nd,

AT 8 O'CLOCK.

NEWSPAPER MEN VISIT BUFFALO.

PARTY FROM THREE STATES ENTERTAINED AT THE EXPOSITION.

Buffalo, March 16 (Special).—One hundred and sixty very tired newspaper men, hailing from New-York, New-Jersey and Pennsylvania, left here tonight for their respective homes by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. They came here more or less indifferent or sceptical about the Pan-American Exposition. They go hence enthusiastic partisans of it. Everybody connected with the big fair says in the most positive manner that the show will be complete in every sense of the word by May 1. And the energy and spirit of all concerned in the enterprise give much plausibility to the prediction.

It is difficult to realize here that winter is almost over. For three months there has been sleighing without a break, and some of last November's snow is still in the streets, augmented by tri-weekly contributions regularly since then. The exposition grounds are covered with white, except where the wagon traffic has churned the snow into thick and gluelike mud. But the buildings are further ahead proportionately than those at Chicago at a similar period prior to the opening of the World's Fair. The Electrical Building, the Transportation and Manufactures Building, the Temple of Music and the United States building are nearly ready for occupation now, and ahead of time scores of exhibits are on hand.

The newspaper men came here as the guests of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company. On the trip they enjoyed especially the last fifty miles of the ride, which was done at a seventy mile an hour gait over a roadbed so solid that the train's vibration was not greater than that of a rubber tired baby carriage being trundled over one of Brooklyn's asphalt streets. Once here there was nothing in town too good for the visitors.

NEGRO COLONY FOR GEORGIA.

Atlanta, Ga., March 16.—A movement is taking definite form to establish near Atlanta a colony to be composed of and governed exclusively by members of the negro race. The movement was started by the Benevolent Enterprise, of Atlanta, of which the Rev. Edmund Bibbs is president. This is an organization composed of about five hundred families, and a majority of these, it is said, favor the project. In speaking of the matter the president of the organization says:

We desire to establish for ourselves a colony about seven miles out of the city on a tract of land large enough to build a town, have it incorporated and governed by our own people, and then establish the enterprises for making a livelihood. We hope to complete the work of organization within seven months.

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at 263 FIFTH AVE.,

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ANTIQUE FURNITURE

TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION

WED., THURS., FRID., SAT. & MON. AFTERNOONS,

March 20, 21, 22, 23, and 25, at 2 o'clock.

THE FREDERICK C. CLARK COLLECTION, OF BOSTON, MASS.

ALSO THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF JOSEPH F. PINNY, OF BANGOR, MAINE.

Making one of the largest displays of ANTIQUE FURNITURE, SOLID SILVER, SHEFFIELD PLATE, HISTORICAL CHINA, BRASS GOODS, ENGRAVINGS, COPPER PLATES, PRINTS, &c., &c., EVER EXHIBITED IN THIS CITY.

R. D. KENNEDY, AUCTIONEER.

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