

Vol. LXI... No. 20,113.

CHANCE FOR A BARGAIN  
BIG INCREASE OF COMMERCE  
WITH CUBA IN SIGHT.

HOW CONGRESS MIGHT HELP THE MERCHANT MARINE WITHOUT INJURING ANY HOME INDUSTRY.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Congress has an opportunity at the present time to make a bargain with Cuba whereby, without incurring any single industry in the United States, it can secure a concession that will do much to increase the merchant marine. This, at least, is the striking suggestion made to-night to The Tribune's correspondent.

President McKinley's last public utterance favored reciprocity. His successor in his first message urged the principle as the handmaid of protection, and in speaking of Cuba declared: "There are weighty reasons of morality and of national interest why the policy should be held to have a peculiar application." The Secretary of War in his annual report recommended that something be done, and done promptly, for Cuba. General Leonard Wood, the Military Governor, came to Washington to urge the same measure. The island of Cuba, so far as it can make its voice heard through commissions, commercial bodies and ayuntamientos, is asking for the same thing in order to save the island from absolute bankruptcy. Both sides wish for reciprocity, and it is urged, ought to be done.

IN CUBAN OR AMERICAN VESSELS.

Without entering upon the basis of reciprocity, what concession should be granted to Cuban sugar and tobacco, or what preferential rates should be given in the Cuban tariff to American products when an agreement is reached—a proviso should be added, the advocates of the idea declare, that merchandise, both Cuban and American, in order to secure the advantages of the preferential tariff rates that may be decided upon, must be carried in American or Cuban vessels. This, it is argued, would prove a hardship to either nation, and would prove a stimulus to American shipping. The production of Cuban sugar will in another year reach 1,000,000 tons. Cuban ore, fruit, tobacco and minor products would perhaps supply another 1,000,000 tons of freight. With the Cuban market secured to the United States—in itself a business that would increase exports from this country by something over \$50,000,000 annually—it may be assumed that American iron, railway material, wheat flour, meat, textiles, stone, machinery, coal, etc., would at least equal the tonnage furnished by Cuba, so that 4,000,000 tons of ocean freight would be secured annually to the American merchant marine.

Four thousand tons is a fair cargo for a merchant steamer, so this trade would provide one thousand cargoes annually. It would take twenty-two large steamers, making two round trips every month in the year, to carry this tonnage back and forth. This traffic, it is asserted, is in sight. It may be had for the asking. It would result in the laying of new keels in shipyards under rush orders, and thus contribute another factor to the present high tide of American prosperity. There are only five steamers flying the Cuban flag, and Cuba is willing to grant tariff concessions and give to us the carrying trade, and, furthermore, would agree that only vessels built in the United States should receive Cuban registry.

The carrying trade of Porto Rico is now in the hands of the United States. Reciprocal relations with Cuba would give us the carrying trade of that island, now largely in the hands of Norwegian, German and English vessels, which bring European goods to Cuba at nominal freight rates, and thus make it more difficult to compete with Europe in the Cuban markets. With the trade of these two islands in our hands, the tonnage of the Gulf of Mexico, the American Mediterranean, would soon become ours, and a noble fleet of American vessels would be ready to steam through the canal when built, to pursue its mission of peaceable conquest up and down the broad Pacific, the ocean of the twentieth century.

BETTER SUGAR MEN GATHERING.  
TO FIGHT AGAINST RECIPROCITY WITH CUBA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Representatives of the beet sugar interests from all over the country are assembling in Washington for a conference to-morrow on the subject of how to prevent action by Congress this winter looking to the establishment of reciprocal trade relations in sugar between the United States and Cuba and the Philippines. While they do not admit that the necessity for immediate legislation for the Philippines, occasioned by the recent decision of the Supreme Court, has called them here, they do not attempt to conceal their opposition to any measure that would let in sugar from Cuba or the Philippines free of duty, or even at a reduced rate. Their plea is that the beet sugar industry of the United States is in its infancy and needs every cent of the protection it now enjoys. They point out that millions of dollars are invested in the industry in California, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Michigan, Nebraska and other Western States, and declare vociferously that bankruptcy and ruin will follow any tariff legislation which permits sugar from these islands to enter the home market in competition with the product of the beet sugar mills. Another argument they are presenting is that 40 per cent of the sugar plantations of Cuba are now owned by citizens of the United States, against 5 per cent at the close of the Spanish-American War. What effect they expect this latter argument to have on Congress is not plain.

The Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee held two meetings to-day on the subject of a revenue bill for the Philippine Islands. A rather sharp division of opinion was developed, so that little progress was made. The views held by them run all the way from absolute free trade in sugar to the application of the Dingley rates. It is confidently believed that before the week is out some reasonable basis of compromise will be reached, and that before Congress adjourns for the holidays a bill satisfactory to the majority in both houses will be passed. The views of the beet sugar men may have the effect of tying up the Philippine question for some time. The West has several members on the Ways and Means Committee, and these members may be influenced by the pleas of the beet sugar men from their section for a continuance of the protection their industry now enjoys. At the same time, the beet sugar men are wholly separated, to the end that the necessity for immediate action on the Philippines may not prejudice the case against Cuba, and another related question of the government of the island is to be decided in the matter of reciprocity.

GEN. WOOD RETURNING TO HAVANA.

Washington, Dec. 9.—General Wood, Military Governor of Cuba, started to-night for New-York, where he will take the first steamer sailing for Havana. One of the objects of his visit to Washington was to advocate liberal commercial legislation with Cuba, and another related to the transfer of the government of the island to the officials to be elected in the spring.

BANK IN THE FAR EAST.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GREAT AMERICAN INSTITUTION ASSURED.

THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE CORDIAL CO-OPERATION—GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY SELECTED BY THE CABINET.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 9.—The establishment of a great American banking institution in the Far East is about to be realized with the cordial cooperation of the government at Washington, so far as such assistance can be given under existing law and under legislation that is being urged upon the present Congress. The enterprise is understood to command the enormous capital indispensable to enable it to compete with great foreign institutions strongly entrenched on the other side of the Pacific. The desirability of such a bank, capitalized and controlled by Americans, has long appealed to commercial interests doing business with the Orient, but not until the Philippines came under the jurisdiction of the United States did the national government become aware of the great necessity, through being placed in the humiliating position of absolute dependence for banking facilities on two absolute English corporations, and compelled to transact its business with them, including the handling of the large funds required by the army and navy. Frequently these transactions involved the application by these banks of rates of exchange that were regarded as exorbitant, and many opportunities arose for them seriously to hamper the fiscal operations of the government.

The method adopted in the general protocol of Peking for the distribution of the Chinese indemnity, amounting to \$233,000,000 gold, of which \$25,000,000, with interest, is payable to the United States in instalments running to 1940, made it indispensable for the United States to designate some bank at Shanghai as the depository of its share, and the only alternative to dealing with foreign banks was to encourage the establishment of an American institution of undoubted strength. The inducements which it has been possible to offer American capitalists to enter into the fierce competition that may be expected in addition to the amortization of the American share in the Chinese indemnity include as well the handling of the vast disbursements that are inseparable from the maintenance of great fleets of naval vessels and army transports in Chinese waters, and the transmission of consular fees, charges and salaries. These are to be immediately operative, but the extension of new banking facilities to the Philippines must await legislation by Congress.

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY SELECTED.

The Guaranty Trust Company of New-York has been selected by President Roosevelt's Cabinet to undertake the desired responsibilities at Shanghai, Hong Kong, and eventually at Manila or other Eastern ports, and already officials of that corporation have been sent out to survey the field and to make preliminary arrangements for beginning business about the first of the year, when they will be called upon to receive the first instalment of the indemnity at Shanghai. Their plans are not fully known here, but the administration has been satisfied of the company's full responsibility and its earnestness, and there is no fear that the company will not be ready to receive full authority to handle the Chinese fund when the payment is forthcoming and become the custodian of all civil and military funds at Manila in a short time.

The competition which must be met by the new enterprise is shown to some extent in the report of Commissioner Conant, who recently spent several months in Manila and in the East under Secretary Root's directions, to investigate the coinage and banking needs of the Philippines. He says:

An American bank doing business in the Orient will be confronted by foreign competitors long established, of unequalled strength, possessing great resources. English capital for many years dominated the colonial and foreign banking field, especially in the East, but has recently encountered powerful competition in French, German, Belgian and Russian institutions, or in banks deriving their capital from these sources. No less than nine large banks do business in Hong Kong, and other powerful institutions are scattered over Japan and the Russian and French establishments in Eastern Asia. A few of the leading banks doing business in the East, with their capital and reserve funds, appear in the following table:

Table with 2 columns: Bank Name, Capital and Reserve Funds. Includes Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, etc.

These banks represent only a part of the banking power available in the Orient for competition with American institutions. London is still the centre of foreign banking enterprise, and in that city are the head offices or the London offices of British dependencies and foreign countries, independently of the banks organized chiefly for domestic business in Great Britain and Ireland. The deposits of these Colonial and foreign banks having offices in London are about \$30,000,000, and represent an advance of nearly \$100,000,000 of English money for the development of trade in the British colonies and in foreign countries.

MAY GO TO THE COAST.

GREAT BRITAIN YIELDS TO CRITICISM IN THE MATTER OF THE CAMPS.

London, Dec. 10.—Lord Onslow, Parliamentary Secretary of the Colonial Office, speaking at Crewe last night, announced that the concentration camps in South Africa had now been placed under the control of the civil authorities; that no pains or expense would be spared to place them in the healthiest possible condition, and that those concentrated wishing to go to the coast would be freely permitted to do so.

DADY MUST GUESS AGAIN.

Lord Onslow added that the larger concentration camps were being broken up into smaller ones of from two thousand to three thousand persons each, and that if the government found things did not go better in the future they would not hesitate to turn to the experience gained in India in dealing with the plague.



THE ORANGE PESTHOUSE. Which has been the cause of considerable controversy and litigation.

CANAL STRIP LEASED.

TREATY SIGNED AT MANAGUA SECURING TO THIS COUNTRY THE NICARAGUAN ROUTE IN PERPETUITY.

Managua, Nicaragua, Dec. 9.—Dr. Fernando Sanchez, Nicaraguan Minister of Foreign Affairs, and William L. Merry, United States Minister to Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, to-day signed a treaty by which Nicaragua agrees to lease perpetually to the United States a section of Nicaraguan territory six miles wide, which includes the route of the Nicaragua Canal.

VOTE ON TREATY NEAR.

SENATOR LODGE EXPECTS RATIFICATION THIS WEEK—FAILURE OF THE OPPOSITION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 9.—Failure to-day marked the efforts of those who are trying to defeat ratification of the new Hay-Pauncefote Treaty by aligning the minority solidly against that convention through the Senate Democratic caucus. Such poor progress has been made in the caucus since the Senate adjourned last Friday that the Democratic caucus scheduled for to-day was not held. In view of the fact that the main object of the proposed caucus was to denounce the treaty, it is evident that more members of the minority than was at first supposed will vote for ratification when the treaty finally is brought to a vote.

Senator Lodge, who has managed the treaty with his usual skill and foresight, has no fears at all as to its ratification. He is perfectly willing to permit discussion, but of course he would not permit the secret enemies of the canal enterprise to utilize this privilege to instigate a hostile action by resorting to filibustering methods. In fact, it is impossible to filibuster to any considerable extent in executive session of the Senate, so that there is no danger of harm to the treaty by this means. Sen. Lodge, in his executive session, is still the center of foreign banking enterprise, and in that city are the head offices or the London offices of British dependencies and foreign countries, independently of the banks organized chiefly for domestic business in Great Britain and Ireland. The deposits of these Colonial and foreign banks having offices in London are about \$30,000,000, and represent an advance of nearly \$100,000,000 of English money for the development of trade in the British colonies and in foreign countries.

TWO TREATIES WITH BOLIVIA.

Lapaz, Bolivia, Dec. 9.—The Bolivian Congress to-day approved two treaties with the United States. The first is an extradition treaty, while the second provides for the use of postoffice money orders between Bolivia and the United States.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

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ORANGE HOSPITAL STANDS.

EFFORTS TO DISLodge THE PESTHOUSE IN THE STREET FAIL, AND IT IS OCCUPIED BY PATIENTS.

Orange, N. J., Dec. 9 (Special).—Attempts to enjoy the city of Orange from removing patients to the smallpox hospital, erected in the middle of Heywood-ave., have proven unsuccessful, and the building is fully occupied to-night. Notwithstanding this, people in the neighborhood of the building are greatly alarmed over the possibility of the disease spreading.

City officials declare that some of the people near by do not exercise as much common sense as the Italians did who chopped down the isolation hospital last spring. The people living within five hundred feet of the hospital have engaged counsel in an attempt to have the building removed. So far three lawyers have been engaged, L. D. Howard Gilmore, Robert H. McCarter and Frank B. Colton. These lawyers were in consultation to-day, but they could find no grounds upon which to base a successful appeal to a court. Some of the people in the neighborhood are considerably exercised over the erection of the hospital.

J. R. Wiersma, of Mosswood-ave., South Orange, who is a steamship agent in New-York, moved his family away last night. H. S. Haskins, of No. 5 Mosswood-ave., Orange, set to work to obtain another house and moved his family away to-day. The families of Perry Walton and Allen L. Seymour, whose houses are closer to the hospital than those of the people who have moved away, or intend to, are still occupying their residences.

A woman living near the hospital, when asked if her family intended moving, said she and the other members of the family felt entirely safe where they were. Except in a few cases, this is the sentiment of the people who live in the neighborhood. While they would be entirely willing to have the hospital in some other location, they admit that the location is a good one, and they do not apprehend any danger from the institution. It has been reported that the Board of Health was about to discriminate against the smallpox patients to be placed in the hospital.

Thomas Johnson Taylor, a wealthy resident of Orange, who was taken ill with smallpox on Saturday, was to be permitted, it was reported, to remain in his house in High-st. This report Health Officer William Schuler denounced as a falsehood. He said that not only would Mr. Taylor be taken to the hospital, but as a matter of fact he had already been taken there. He declared that it was impossible to take all the smallpox patients to the hospital last night, because it was necessary to fumigate the different houses.

This evening two new cases of smallpox developed in an isolation hospital of the city. If there were no isolation hospital these cases would make seven houses under quarantine.

PUNJABIS AND GERMANS FIGHT.

SERIOUS RESULTS OF AN AFFRAY BETWEEN FOREIGN TROOPS AT TIEN-TSIN.

Tien-Tsin, Dec. 10.—A sentry belonging to an Indian regiment stationed here ran amuck yesterday and killed two of his comrades. A company of Punjab infantry was at once turned out to secure him.

In the mean time the sentry had been shot by German troops, who then opened fire on the Punjabis. A free fight ensued, as a result of which three German privates were killed and a German officer mortally wounded, while three of the Indian troops were killed and several wounded.

DE WITTE'S TARIFF THREAT.

IT CAUSES A STRIFE AMONG THE POLITICIANS IN BERLIN.

Berlin, Dec. 9.—The statement of the Russian Minister of Finance, M. de Witte, that the German Tariff bill, when he said, means: "You strike me in agriculture and I will hit you in industry," has naturally caused a stir among German politicians. The German opponents of the Tariff bill utilize the opportunity given by M. de Witte's utterance, to urge that this bill is a measure of selfishness which, if inflexibly pursued, will inevitably lead to trade isolation and ruin. Those who support the government in this matter, and especially the great ministerial organs, aver that M. de Witte simply sets forth the right of Russia to reconstruct her own tariff, and point out that this present declaration is in reality more moderate than the one of last August, that it indicates no recent change in the position of the Russian Government, and that, consequently, nothing in these utterances can come as a surprise to the German Government, or cause changes in its policy, which was determined upon after careful study and an adequate knowledge of all the elements in the situation, abroad as well as at home.

BIG TOBACCO CARGO FROM PORTO RICO.

IT CONTAINS 1,662,255 CIGARS AND 500,000 CIGARETTES.

The largest cargo of cigars and tobacco that ever came to the United States from Porto Rico arrived here yesterday from San Juan on the Red D Line steamer Caracas, which docked in Brooklyn. The cargo came free of duty, being subject to the internal revenue tax only. It consisted of 24 cases, containing 1,662,255 cigars, 38 cases, containing 500,000 cigarettes and 300 boxes of cigars for thirteen consignees.

CASTRO DEFIES GERMANY.

IF LA GUAYRA IS SEIZED HE WILL DECLARE FREE TRADE AT VENUEZUELAN PORTS.

Willemstad, Island of Curaçao, Nov. 30.—A merchant, thoroughly familiar with Colombian and Venezuelan politics, who has just returned from an extensive trip through both countries and who is close to President Castro of Venezuela, spoke to-day to the correspondent here of The Associated Press on the German-Venezuelan situation. He said:

WAKEMAN ASKED TO RESIGN.

REFUSES TO ACCEDE TO SECRETARY GAGE'S DEMAND THAT HE GIVE UP HIS OFFICE BY JANUARY 1.

INVESTIGATIONS FROM WASHINGTON LIKELY.

Wilbur F. Wakeman, United States Appraiser of this port, yesterday received from Secretary Gage of the Treasury Department a request to resign his office, the resignation to take effect not later than January 1, 1902. The Tribune is in a position to state that Mr. Wakeman will not resign, and that he will between now and the last week in December make public certain reasons why he refuses to do so.

None of Mr. Wakeman's friends indulge in the belief that anything he may do will change the determination of Secretary Gage to have another Appraiser appointed. As there is no fixed term for the Appraiser's commission, it is expected that President Roosevelt will, on the recommendation of Secretary Gage, send to the Senate the name of Mr. Wakeman's successor.

Mr. Wakeman was seen for about two minutes last night at his home, No. 111 East Twenty-fourth-st., just before he started out to spend the evening with friends. When informed that The Tribune had received word from Washington that Secretary Gage had requested his resignation, he smiled grimly and said, slowly:

"The news concerning my late development in the relations between Secretary Gage and myself must come from Washington. I will not talk."

Ex-Secretary Bliss, who through thick and thin has been Mr. Wakeman's friend, was seen at his home, No. 198 Madison-ave. Mr. Bliss returned from Washington on Sunday night. It is understood that he went to Washington last week largely to see if Secretary Gage was immovable in his determination to have Mr. Wakeman displaced. Mr. Bliss absolutely refused to confirm or deny that the Secretary of the Treasury had asked for Mr. Wakeman's resignation.

CONFIRMED BY FRIENDS.

Confirmation of the report was obtained, however, from two merchants who have exerted themselves to prevent Mr. Wakeman's removal. One of them said:

"The Tribune's information is correct. Mr. Wakeman got a letter to-day from the Treasury Department asking him to turn in his resignation by the first of the year. Those of Mr. Wakeman's intimate friends who saw him to-day urged him to 'take his medicine' quietly. At present he is not inclined to do anything of the kind. He feels that he has conducted his office honestly, and that he deserves better things from the powers that be. He will give his reasons for believing that he should be continued in office. Backed as he is by some of the wealthiest and most upright merchants of the United States—men who represent hundreds of millions of dollars—Mr. Wakeman's reasons for his retention in office will doubtless reflect the opinion of his financial and moral backers, and for that reason they ought to be highly interesting."

Another friend of the Appraiser said: "Mr. Wakeman has known for a week that Mr. Gage was bent on his removal. He was in Washington a week ago Saturday last, and had a long talk with the Secretary. He brought to the Secretary's attention many features of his administration of the Appraiser's office of which Mr. Gage had not up to that time been cognizant. The Secretary expressed some surprise and admiration for the record of the New-York office for the last four years, and said as much. Then Mr. Wakeman asked Mr. Gage if he would go with him to the President and acknowledge that he (Wakeman) had done well. Mr. Gage refused. That was indication enough to Mr. Wakeman that the Secretary was unalterably against him, and therefore he was not surprised to-day when he received the letter requesting his resignation."

Some of the inside facts leading up to the demand of the resignation of the Appraiser were learned last night. It was said that Secretary Gage allowed the impression to become general in departmental circles in Washington that if Mr. Wakeman were retained there would soon be a vacancy in the Cabinet, and this impression was soon followed with suggestions from Mr. Gage's friends that, no matter whether influential merchants were in favor of the Appraiser's retention or not, the Secretary should be sustained in his opinion that it was for the good of the service that there should be a new Appraiser at this port. An accumulation of suggestions of this nature, it is believed, presented to President McKinley, and that Secretary Gage's matter entirely in the hands of Secretary Gage. When Secretary Gage had learned that his judgment in the matter would be presented to President McKinley, he was in requesting the resignation of Mr. Wakeman.

The suggestion was also made last night that Mr. Gage resented the President's action in appointing the successor, Collector Bidwell, without consultation with the head of the Treasury Department, and that this made him unusually firm in his determination that Appraiser Wakeman must go.

INVESTIGATIONS FROM WASHINGTON LIKELY.

Those familiar with the customs service in this city predicted last night that Appraiser Wakeman's removal would result in sweeping investigations of the Appraiser's and Collector's offices. Collector Bidwell will not be succeeded by Senator Stranahan until April 1, but there is a strong probability that Washington will insist on an investigation of a number of things involving examiners and heads of divisions which Appraiser Wakeman has been contending for.

Mr. Wakeman's merchant and friends presented to President McKinley a number of indorsements that surprised the President. One of these same merchants will urge the Appraiser to use the present occasion to make a full defence of his administration.

Mr. Wakeman's friends say that Assistant Secretary Spaulding's opposition to the Appraiser has been of the most vigorous quality, in season and out of season, and that Secretary Gage felt called upon to sustain his assistant. Mr. Spaulding is the head of the customs division, and his relations with the Appraiser have been strained for two or three years. Mr. Spaulding has been in the office of the Appraiser for a number of years, and has made hard feeling between the Collector and the Appraiser.

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