SENATOR WIEMAN'S GRAB.

THE BIGGEST PROPOSED AT ALBANY THIS YEAR.

A Scheme for Taxing the Counties in Order to Turn the State Into a Vast Paradise for Tramps by Boarding Them at a Cost of $6.19 a Day—For Whose Benefit?

The biggest grab proposed at Albany this year is fathers by Senator Julius L. Wieman, who represents the Ninth Senate district, which is in Kings county. The grab is known as Senate bill 360. It was introduced on Jan. 30, and is marked "Introduced by Mr. Wieman—read twice and by unanimous consent ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary."

The title of the bill is "An act to provide for the treatment and care of inebriates and persons addicted to the excessive use of drugs and other narcotics."

The bill itself follows:

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

§ 1. Be it enacted that when any citizen of the State becomes an habitual drunkard and is pecuniarily unable to procure any pay for treatment for such disease, any citizen of the State, the next friend, the attending physician, or any public officer may petition the county court or Judge thereof within and for the county where such habitual drunkard resides, for an order of said court or Judge thereof, permitting such habitual drunkard to take treatment at some institution for the cure of drunkenness and drug addictions, established within the State, at the expense of the county, as the County Judge may select.

§ 2. Said petition shall set forth the full name, age, and residence of such habitual drunkard, whether married or single, and that he has resided within the State at least one year previous to the date of the petition; it shall also set forth that such habitual drunkard has not the means to pay for said treatment, nor have the person or persons, if any, who are charged with his support. Said petition shall also set forth what addiction such habitual drunkard is affected by, and that such person appears to be unable to abstain, by means of will power alone, and shall contain a prayer that such habitual drunkard may have treatment at the expense of the county, at such institute mentioned in section one of this act. Such petition shall be signed by the petitioner and verified by his affidavit of belief in the truths of the facts set forth therein. Attached to or forming a part of said petition shall be a certificate signed and sworn to by two reputable citizens and taxpayers as to the truths of the allegations therein. The written consent of such habitual drunkard to the granting of the prayer of the petition and his agreement to take the treatment and obey the rules of said institution shall be annexed thereto or produced in court and filed therewith.

§ 3. Upon presenting such petition, verification and written consent, the said court or Judge thereof shall cause an order to be entered that such habitual drunkard shall be taken to some institution within the State to be designated in such order; provided, that the expense of treatment in such institution in each case shall not exceed the sum of $130, which sum shall cover and include all expenses for treatment, medicines and board for four weeks. The expense for such treatment shall be paid by the County Treasurer with and for the county where such order is made, in the same manner as other claims against such county are paid.

§ 4. No court or Judge thereof shall entertain a petition or make any order to send any person for treatment as herein set forth a second time.

§ 5. Any person who shall be treated for such addictions under the provisions of this act, and who may desire to reimburse the county at whose expense he has been treated, may tender the County Treasurer of said county the amount expended for his treatment, and said Treasurer shall give a receipt for the amount so paid, which receipt shall state that such payment is for reimbursement as aforesaid, and the amount so paid shall be covered into the treasury of the county.

§ 6. The term "habitual drunkard," under this act, shall include all persons addicted to the use of spirituous, malt, or fermented liquors, morphine, opium, cocaine, or other drugs or narcotics to such a degree as to deprive him or her of the power of reasonable self control.

§ 7. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

§ 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

Section one of the bill, it will be noticed, is slightly tangled. The description "an habitual drunkard, and is pecuniarily unable to procure any pay for treatment of such disease," might be called vague, at first glance. But it was thought that the object of the bill was to provide money to pay men for taking the treatment for the disease. This construction, however, is probably incorrect, and, though it don't say so anywhere, the rest of the bill indicates that the person described is one who is himself unable to pay for treatment.

Nowhere in the printed copies of the bill does it say that Mr. Wieman introduced it by request. A physician discussing the bill said to THE SUN reporter:

"The possibility of profit to so-called Keeley institutes and other inebriate asyums will be seen, particularly if the institute is in a place where the County Judge is friendly. The possibility of profit to a corrupt Judge, if there happens to be one anywhere in the State, will also be seen. He could start an inebriate home himself, or have one started by a friend, and then, with the assistance of these persons, one to petition and two to certify, all the tramps in the State could be gathered in and sent to the institution, the county paying $130 for each. The taxpayers are bound to put up the money under the bill.

"The bill says that no Judge shall order a man to go to an institution twice. All a man has to do is to go over into the next county and the Judge there can commit him. So he might go into every county in the State. Just one trip around would cost the taxpayers $7,800. By the time it was completed he would be forgotten in the first county and he could start all over again. As the so-called cures are practically harmless and only be taken with assurance a man could get a fine living just going around and getting himself committed. The average treatment in institutions is three weeks, and under the law the State would pay $43.33 a week, or about $6.19 a day, for the board and keep of men who probably never earned more than $6.19 a week in their lives. They could be kept in clover at that price, and at that the institution would get rich.

"When you consider that," said the Doctor, "and in addition the fact that most of the so-called cures are not cures at all, I think you will agree that a more outrageous grab of public funds than the one contemplated was never made. Why, suppose only ten were committed in each county in a year. It would cost $78,000 a year."

There is said to be a movement among the physicians of New York and Brooklyn to kill the bill where it is, in the Judiciary Committee. A petition for its defeat, already signed by several hundred of them, is in circulation and will be sent to Albany, and in case the bill should be reported favorably by the committee several public-spirited doctors will go to Albany to oppose it publicly.

THE WALLER INCIDENT CLOSED

Secretary Olney Has Little Faith in Waller's Claim for Damages.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—It is said at the State Department that the Waller incident has been formally closed by an exchange of notes to that effect between Ambassador Eustis and the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and it is presumed at the department that official notification to this effect will be received here in due course of mail.

Waller's status in regard to his claim for damages and his rubber concession does not appear to be clearly defined. It is obvious that his pardon will not curtail his right to sue in the French courts for redress on account of alleged cruel treatment given him while en route from Madagascar to Marseilles. But in respect to this alleged ill treatment Secretary Olney, in his recent report to the President, characterizes it as "intrinsically improbable" and "either wholly unfounded or at best grossly exaggerated."

In regard to the rubber concession, Secretary Olney's opinion is equally unfavorable. He says there is no proof of its "nature, extent, validity or value," that the French authorities "have always held the concession to be without any validity," and that its value "may have been supposed to be dependent upon the issue of the contest then going on between the French and the natives."

This being the condition of the case as understood by the State Department, it is expected that Waller will immediately avail himself of the offer of the United States Government to provide him free transportation back to the United States, and will not avail himself of the offer of this Government to furnish security for costs in the event of his choosing to bring suit for damages before the French tribunals. It is certain that Waller will have to submit better evidence of his right to the property than has yet been produced before Secretary Olney will consider the question of reopening the case.

The Stoddard Lectures.

The first of the Stoddard lectures, which have become a regular feature of Lenten diversion in New York, was given yesterday morning at Daly's Theatre before a large audience. "Naples and Its Wonderful Bay" was the title of the lecture. The views were taken last summer in Italy by Mr. Stoddard, and their include pictures of classical sites and buildings, as well as scenes from every-day Neapolitan life. The pictures and Mr. Stoddard's descriptions were of the familiar quality that has made these lectures popular in New York for several seasons. The subjects of succeeding lectures in the course are to be "Constantinople," "Napoleon Bonaparte," "India," and "Japan."

NO MONEY FOR SECTARIAN SCHOOLS.

The Appropriation of $50,000 in Its Indian Bill Is Stricken Out by the House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The perennial contest over the appropriation of money for the education of Indian children at contract sectarian schools came up in the House to-day in the course of the consideration of the Indian Appropriation bill, and was fought out in an hour and a half. The result was that, by a vote of 93 to 64, the provision that the Secretary of the Interior shall make contracts with present contract schools for the education of Indian pupils to an extent not exceeding 60 per centum of the amount so used for the fiscal year of 1895 was stricken out, on motion of Mr. Linton (Rep., Mich.), and an amendment inserted prohibiting the Secretary from spending any of the money appropriated for education in a sectarian institution. Under existing conditions only Catholic schools are in contract relations with the Interior Department, the other churches having abandoned their claims to public money.

In his speech in support of the amendment, Mr. Linton said that two years ago he had stated to the House that in his opinion the time had come when Congress should abandon the practice of making appropriations of public money for the maintenance or support of sectarian schools or institutions. Since that time a great change has occurred, he said, and now no longer were these schools provided for by name in the appropriation bills; while the charitable institutions of the District of Columbia had disappeared from the appropriation bills. A Senator discussing the subject had warned Congress that a storm aroused by the conduct of Congress in this regard was impending.

That storm, Mr. Linton said, had broken, and in the flood that followed many members whose names and faces had become familiar to the public were now resting quietly at home before their own firesides. "But that storm was only a gentle zephyr and that flood a rivulet," he declared, "to what will follow should Congress go forward in its policy of voting public money for sectarian purposes." Protestant denominations, Mr. Linton said, had abandoned the practice of receiving money from Congress for the support of their schools, and he had read the joint action of the Home Missionary Boards of the Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, and Congregational churches declaring against any further public support to church schools. The pending bill, he said, while not naming any church, proposed to give to the schools of one denomination the sum of a quarter of a million dollars, to be expended in schools where but one creed was taught.

Mr. Linton read a telegram referring to the approaching unveiling of the statue of Father Marquette in Statuary Hall, which said that the ceremonies would be attended by Cardinals Satolli and Gibbons, the French and Italian Ambassadors, and other prominent personages.

"Father Stephan," he said, "who has labored assiduously in this behalf for a long time, may think it is a good time, now that there is impending the unveiling of a statue of Father Marquette, clothed in the cowl and robe and surrounded by the paraphernalia of his order, in the presence of the high dignitaries of the Church, in Statuary Hall, a place made honorable by the great names in connection therewith, the statue overshadowing that of Lincoln, to ask the passage of a bill making an appropriation of $250,000 to his church. But I do not think so, and I believe that this House does not think so either."

The amendment was advocated by Messrs. Cooper (Rep., Wis.), Pearson (Rep., N. C.), Watson (Rep., O.), Hainer (Rep., Neb.), and Grosvenor (Rep., O.), and opposed by Messrs. Gamble (Rep., S. Dak.), Eddy (Rep., Minn.), Walsh (Dem., N. Y.), and Sherman (Rep., N. Y.)

Mr. Walsh said that the Church never undertook an enterprise which it did not conscientiously and successfully carry out, and if the pittance of $250,000 called for in this bill were denied the authorities, he assured gentlemen, their holy works would not be abandoned. He eulogized the work of the Catholics in New York city, where by maintaining their own schools for the education of their children they relieved the taxpayers of an annual expense of $3,000,000. Catholics, he said, were patriotic citizens. The first two precepts they learned were to love their God above all things and their neighbors as themselves. "And every poor man, black or red or white, is the neighbor of the true Catholic." [Applause.]

Mr. Grosvenor (Rep., O.) said he believed the time had come when this annoying and vexatious discussion should be taken out of politics, where it had no place. It did Protestant churches no good, in his opinion, and the Catholic Church did not desire its continuance. The amendment of Mr. Linton should be adopted, because it provided a means of ending the controversy.

Consideration of the bill was concluded with the exception of the paragraph directing the purchase of the title of the Ogden Land Company to the lands within the Allegany and Cattaraugus reservations in New York, and that was postponed until to-morrow.

Speaker Reed announced that he had signed the Urgent Deficiency and Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation bills.

ONE YEAR SINCE CUBA ROSE.

The First Anniversary Celebrated with Enthusiasm.

There were not seats enough in Chickering Hall last night to accommodate the throng that gathered to celebrate the first anniversary of the present Cuban struggle for liberty. Conspicuous among the auditors were dark-eyed, soft-featured women and girls in deep mourning, whose husbands or brothers have fallen in battle in the last twelve months. Every woman, girl, and boy wore a miniature Cuban flag as a badge. At the back of the stage, framed in braided ribbons of red, white, and blue, were the names of thirteen dead patriots—Marti, Primelles, Gonzales, Varona, Carzon, Crombet, Bovieo, Moncada, Goulet, Guerra, Casalles, Mujeo, and Acebo. Marti's name was in the centre of the line, and below it was his portrait. The speakers' desk was draped with the single-star flag of "free Cuba."

Juan Fraga, President of the Central Council of Cuban Revolutionary Clubs, presided. Editor Enrique Trujillo of *El Porvenir*, stirred the audience, particularly the señoras, to frequent outbursts of "bravas." Señor Trujillo said that the Cubans had sworn on entering the present revolution to free whites and blacks alike from the Spanish yoke. Gomez, the speaker said, had fulfilled his promise of carrying the war from the east to the west coast of the island. Property had been burned. This might seem barbarous, but it was a necessary war measure, and contributed to the destruction of Spanish tyranny. The Cubans had fought valorously—many had died with smiles on their lips for the "lone star."

Gaverando Rivas said that Marti's death had inspired hundreds with a desire to emulate and avenge him. The Cuban soldiers would never be paid; they did not want any pay except the gratitude of their countrymen and posterity. "America for the Americans" was now the watchword of the patriots of the United States: "Cuba for the Cubans," was the cry of the oppressed on the unhappy island.

Dr. Vignon, who spoke in English, said he regretted that he was too old to go to the field and cure the wounded and sick patriots. He had noticed that the Spanish reports were now calling the revolutionists "bandits and niggers." That was usually the way with men who feared defeat; when they thought they could not win they made faces and said hard things about their opponents. Dr. Vignon said he was an American citizen and had studied the attitude of his countrymen to the Cuban question. He was sure that about three-quarters of the Americans sympathized with the Cubans.

Jose Annas said he didn't profess to be a prophet, but he felt sure that this would be the last anniversary of the Cuban revolution would be celebrated on foreign soil. The Spanish cause was lost. They were attempting to bolster it up with lies, but the American public recognized the lies and laughed at them, just as they did at the stories of the first Don Quixote. The Spanish were trying to save themselves by appeals to the President of the United States. The people of the United States, through their Congress, had expressed sympathy with the patriots. There was nothing good in Cuba that had come from Spain. The hatred of her by the Cubans was not born of ingratitude, but was due to her perfidy. The Spanish soldier should remain at home, as he was not needed nor wanted in this hemisphere. "We may forgive the Spanish," the speaker said finally, "when we are free. We do not know how to hate as they do—we are not so revengeful."

WOULD CUBA PAY INDEMNITY?

Senor Palma Says She Would If Spain Would Give Her Complete Freedom.

Tomas Estrada Palma of the Cuban Revolutionary party, arrived here yesterday from Tampa where several days ago he met Dr. Joaquin D'Castillo, a member of Gen. Gomez's staff. Dr. Castillo accompanied Señor Palma to this city.

Señor Palma said that the Cubans were ready to pay Spain an indemnity if she would recognize Cuba's independence.

"If thereby we can terminate this cruel and destructive war," he said, "we will be pleased to negotiate with the Spanish Government. This is not because we fear that Spain will crush the revolution, for I am now more confident than ever that the Cubans will triumph. Our only reason for paying an indemnity would be to avoid any further bloodshed and destruction of property. I sympathize with the poorly fed, ill clad young Spanish soldiers who are compelled to face death in the field. The Cubans, however, never will consent to live again under Spanish rule. Either we shall gain our liberty or die fighting. We shall accept no terms of peace other than complete freedom. The island in a few months will be a desert waste unless Spain now accepts an indemnity and thus saves it."

CUBA'S CAUSE IN CONGRESS.

SENATOR MORGAN ON THE ATROCITIES OF THE SPANISH TROOPS.

He Quotes History to Show that in the Ten-Years' War 43,000 Prisoners Were Put to Death—A Substitute Resolution Offered by Senator White of California.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Mr. Morgan (Dem., Ala.) resumed his speech on the Cuban question in the Senate to-day. He reviewed the history of Cuba for the last hundred years, dwelling upon all the instances of cruelty and oppression practised by the Spanish rulers and soldiery on the people of the island. The atrocities of the Spanish troops, he said, shocked the civilized world. He quoted the statement of "an accurate and able historian," that in the last ten-years' war in the island of Cuba the Spanish Minister admitted that, in addition to the 13,600 Cubans who had been killed in battle, 43,300 prisoners had been put to death. When he first read that, he said, he inquired of himself what Christianity had been doing in the world if in this age it were possible that such things could be done in an island like Cuba, and that "this grand, free republic could sit indifferent by, knowing the facts, and not unsheathe the sword and strike to death the brutal monarch who inflicted it."

Mr. Frye (Rep., Me.) asked Mr. Morgan to state his authority "for that wonderful statement—that horrible statement."

Mr. Morgan was sorry to say that he could not recall the name.

"Is it from history?" Mr. Frye asked.

"Yes; deliberately written," Mr. Morgan replied, "and written by a Spaniard."

"Does the Senator believe it?" Mr. Frye asked.

"I hesitated a long time," Mr. Morgan replied, "to credit it, but to disbelieve it I would have to deny the deliberate statement made by a historian in a book of universal acceptance—the American Encyclopedia."

Mr. Call (Dem., Fla.), in further corroboration of the statement, read some extracts from a pamphlet by Clarence King rehearsing instances of horrible atrocities by the Spanish troops in Cuba.

Mr. Morgan, resuming his speech, said that in the battles fought in the patriotic wars for independence in Cuba the blood of the patriots had not been shed in vain.

For freedom's battle once begun,
Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled oft, is ever won.

That the American people had witnessed these struggles for so many years was enough to prove their faithful adhesion to national duty. They could go no further in their forbearance without a stain on the national honor and without doing injustice to the Government and people of the United States.

Mr. Morgan read copious extracts from the reports of United States Consuls in Cuba as to the progress and prospects of the insurgents, and summed them up by saying that the rising had gone to the extent of a great public war, and that the likelihood was that in the end the Cubans would achieve their liberty.

When Mr. Morgan took his seat, but without finishing his speech, Mr. White (Dem., Cal.) offered a substitute for the concurrent resolution, declaring that the Senate contemplates, with solicitude and profound regret, the sufferings and destruction accompanying the civil conflict now in progress in Cuba, and expressing the trust that the Executive Department will, at as early a day as the facts will warrant, recognize the belligerency of those who are in arms against Spain, and that the good offices of the United States may be prudently, peacefully, and effectively used to the end that Cuba may be enabled to establish a permanent Government of her own choice.

The subject went over until to-morrow, when Mr. Morgan will continue his speech.

In the morning hour the resolution offered by Mr. Lodge (Rep., Mass.), for investigation by the Finance Committee of all the facts and circumstances connected with the sale of United States bonds from 1894 to 1896 inclusive, was taken up, and a substitute for it was offered by Mr. Peffer (Pop., Kan.), enlarging the scope of the inquiry, and directing it to be made by a select committee of five Senators. Mr. Lodge moved to lay the substitute on the table, which was disagreed to—16 to 34.

Mr. Harris (Dem., Tenn.) moved to amend the substitute by striking out the provision for a select committee and allowing the inquiry to be conducted by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Hill said that, so far as Mr. Lodge's resolution was concerned, it was not objectionable in form, but he assumed that it was not the product of a desire to investigate every subject that might be suggested by a Senator. Before voting for such an investigation the Senate should ascertain the motive behind it, and the objects to be subserved by it. There should be something tangible presented, something definite, something specific. The resolution, he asserted, was based upon the wails and complaints of disappointed bidders. He regarded it as "a stab in the dark, an attempt to insinuate that which, if true, should be boldly asserted."

Mr. Hill was still speaking when the Vice-President announced the closing of the morning hour.

MACEO IN PINAR DEL RIO.

Welcomed Everywhere with Enthusiasm—Lack of Ammunition.

This letter has been received in this city from Juan Maspon of Gen. Antonio Maceo's staff:

"In camp four miles south of San José de las Lajas, province of Havana, Sunday evening, Feb. 16.

"Again we have crossed to the east of the trocha; I mean the Havana and Batambano trocha. We were told that a most formidable trocha had been built between Guanajay and Artamisa for the purpose of keeping us in Pinar del Rio, but this impregnable Spanish work we did not even see. You can determine the location of the Batambano trocha by the railroad track. Several of us carried relics or samples of it for awhile, but they grew heavy and we threw them away. Gen. Gomez with his command crossed it from east to west last week, paid us a visit, and recrossed it again to the east. He told Gen. Maceo that he had become quite attached to the trocha during the past month, having been able to pick up considerable ammunition along the railroad. Speaking of ammunition, what a shame his men did not have enough shots to hold out against the reënforcements sent from San Felipe! In thirty minutes more they would have been able to capture and carry off everything on that supply train, including the cannon. As it was, in the face of a murderous fire from the ironclad cars, they managed to get out 29,000 rounds and about sixty shells. If they only could have got the cases open in time and the cartridges into their empty guns, they might have held back the reënforcements and captured the contents of the entire train.

"You don't know how many opportunities we are compelled to let slip by simply because we have not the ammunition with which to make a stand at the critical moment. And now, while I am on this point, let me say this: I know you are an invalid, and have been giving all the money you could to the cause, but let me beg of you here and now not to give another dollar unless you are sure that it will be spent for ammunition. We can get along with the guns now in our possession, but we must have more ammunition or make great and irreparable sacrifices. We could not gather a very large amount in Pinar del Rio, for that province, as you know, was never heavily garrisoned. The Spaniards were well prepared for our invasion of that district. The ammunition which we did collect and hoped to carry to Gen. Gomez, who was so much in need of it, we were compelled to use between Paso Real and Artemisa, and had it not been for Gen. Gomez's fortunate "hold-up" of the Spanish train between Bejucal and San Felipe, we would have been reduced to pretty sorry straits.

"We are not discouraged; we are only anxious to continue the good work done in Pinar del Rio. Our sojourn in that province was the most complete and satisfactory triumph we have encountered since leaving the Oriente, and this more particularly so, as we did not know what our reception in that heretofore Spanish section might be. But it was all that the most enthusiastic patriot could wish. The people were waiting for us with open arms and made no attempt to conceal it from the loyal but numerically impotent garrisons of the Spanish Government. Only in the larger cities, impregnated with Spanish officeholders and spies, were we met with anything like resistance. We must have visited at least fifty towns, and in not more than five did we find anything but the spirit of perfect friendliness.

"Refreshments were tendered us on all sides. The most prominent citizens of the province came to us with assurances of their fidelity to President Cisneros and the new republic. Gen. Maceo was hailed on all sides as 'The great liberator from the east.' Wealthy and distinguished men vied with one another for the privilege of doing him honor. Women came with flowers, sweets, and remedies for our wounded. We almost forgot we were at war until news of the approach of some Spanish column caused us to count our cartridges and the number of miles to the next town.

"Perhaps it is well that we got out of Pinar del Rio, or our men might have become loath to exchange the balls and receptions for the hardships of the march and battlefield. We will never forget the province nor will the people forget us. Nine-tenths of the babies born in the Occident since Christmas have been named Antonio in honor of our illustrious and popular General."

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A cream of tartar baking powder. Highest of all in leavening strength.—*Latest United States Government Food Report.*

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FIGHTING IN CUBA.

Small Successes Reported on Both Sides—Taking Disabled Spaniards Home.

HAVANA, Feb. 24.—The commander of a detachment of Spanish troops who have arrived at Mariano, a suburb of Havana, reports that he met and dispersed the bands of rebels led by Villanueva and Baldomero Acosta, who had been operating in the neighborhood of Punta Brava, province of Havana, about twenty miles southwest of Mariano. People living in the neighborhood of Punta Brava carried into the town twenty dead rebels. Fifteen of the insurgents were captured. No mention of the Spanish losses is made in the report. Additional troops were sent to Mariano to-day.

The rebel leader known as "El Inglesito" has been captured to-day between Guines and San Nicholas, in the southwestern part of this province. He was made a prisoner by Col. Segura's column. A court martial has been ordered to try him.

An official report says that the forces of Gomez and Maceo left the province of Havana, passing between Bagnez and Lima on the south coast, going in the direction of Bolondron, after an engagement on Feb. 22, when they left three dead on the field. The columns of Gens. Prats, Arolus, and Galvis are in front of the enemy. Gen. Echague and Col. Frances are in pursuit of the insurgents.

The rebel leader, "El Inglesito," who was captured on Saturday, says that he is an American citizen and that his name is Alfred Gold. The authorities are investigating the claim.

Among the prisoners in the jail at Mariano, taken there after the Punta Brava engagement Saturday, is Ladislao Quintero, who also says he is an American citizen.

Forty-six political prisoners, who have arrived here from Cabanas, Mariel, Guanajay, and Cayajabos, will be sent to Ceuta and the Isle of Pines.

The station at San Miguel, on the Matanzas line, was burned Saturday. The telegraph line has been destroyed between San Miguel and Jaruco, the insurgents removing the poles. The station at Ibarra, on the Matanzas line, was burned yesterday.

The Marquis de Ahumada, who came from Spain with Captain-General Weyler as second in command of the Spanish forces, has been placed in command of the Third Army Corps. He will have charge of the forces in the provinces of Havana, Mantanzas, and Pinar del Rio.

HAVANA, Feb. 17, via Tampa, Feb. 24.—Señor Jover of Barcelona, the owner of a steamship line plying between that city and Cuba, has offered to transport to Spain all sick and wounded soldiers from Cuba free of charge. The Government of Spain has accepted his offer. The medical attendance will be under the direction of the Army Medical Department.

The twenty-inch bore breech-loaders have been sent from Spain to this island. They will be added to the fortifications here. The sea forts and batteries facing the sea are being put on an active footing. They will also be made ready for any contingency, domestic or foreign.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Feb. 15, via Tampa, Feb. 24.—On the 12th inst. a party of 100 rebels, under Commander Abad Reyes, visited the sugar estate of San Luis, in the suburbs of the town of that name, and after taking with them all the oxen of the place, ten rifles, and 900 cartridges, set fire to the sugar cane fields between that plantation and the Rio Grande plantation.

On the 10th inst. a Spanish column composed of 2,000 infantry, cavalry, and artillery under Gen. Lachambre, left San Luis, a second time, to attack Canto Abajo, which had been in possession of the insurgents since the 4th. When the Spanish column arrived at the River Canto, instead of going on to the right and attacking Canto Abajo, they turned to the left and entered Palma. The excuse for this was that they knew that the latter town was going to be attacked by the rebels; but in reality it was because they had heard that José Maceo, with 6,000 men was ready to receive them.

On the 11th Brigadier Cebreco, with 150 insurgents, left this jurisdiction to go to Guantanamo.

On the 12th Spanish Captain Gonzalez, with 150 men, had an encounter near Caleta Baracoa with the rebel forces of Commander Castellanos. The Spaniards had six killed and fourteen wounded. The rebels had one killed and nine wounded, and captured from the Spanish column two mules laden with 2,000 cartridges and some provisions. On retiring to Baracoa the Spanish column took several inoffensive countrymen with them and shot them.

On the 11th Commander Tamayo, with 250 men, seized the schooner Baracoa in the mouth of the River Yumury, Baracoa. The schooner was carrying provisions and clothing, and the rebels secured a large supply of rice, beans, potatoes, pork, codfish, petroleum, crackers, shoes, clothes, and other articles, in all about fifty large boxes. They also took six ordinary rifles, one Mauser rifle, and 1,000 cartridges.

On the 11th the same rebel party had an engagement between Yumury and Yacba with a Spanish column under Capt. Amador, killing three soldiers and wounding ten.

On the 12th the Spanish Captain, José, and his forces met a rebel vanguard in Vertientes and again in Sabana, Baracoa. The troops had seven wounded, two of them very badly. The insurgents had no wounded.

The increase of the rebel ranks is becoming greater every day. Men are constantly leaving this city for the field. Last night a whole band of musicians, forty in number, went out to the rebels. This is the third band that has joined the insurgents from this city.

Yesterday the Chief of Police arrested at the entrance of the Cobre road a man called Rodolfo Franco Sonis, who since the war has been serving as letter carrier for the insurgents. He was locked up.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The *Standard* will publish to-morrow a despatch from Madrid, saying that the turn the Cuban campaign has taken has strengthened the Cabinet. Prime Minister Canovas del Castillo will issue a decree this week dissolving the Cortes, and fixing the middle of March as the time for holding the elections for new men.

The Government is less concerned with the result of the elections than with the consequences of public opinion in America and Congress, possibly compelling President Cleveland to alter his friendly attitude toward Spain.

Indicted for Taking Expeditions to Cuba.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24.—In the United States District Court to-day the Grand Jury found true bills against Capt. Wiborg and Mates Peterson and Johansen of the steamship Horsa, and Capt. Svanoe and Mate Christiansen of the steamship Leon, charging them with organizing military expeditions in this country to convey aid to Cuban insurgents. The Captains and mates were arrested some time ago on this charge, and have had a hearing before a United States Commissioner and held for trial.

Key West's Cuban Demonstration.

KEY WEST, Fla., Feb. 24.—A torchlight procession occurred this evening in honor of the Cuban rebellion. In it were several floats representing Liberty, Cuba, and Commerce. All along the line of march the houses were decorated with American and Cuban flags.

Proposed Duty of 50 Per Cent. on Sugar.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—In the Senate to-day Mr. Caffery (Dem., La.) offered an amendment to the House Tariff bill placing a duty of 50 per cent. ad valorem on all sugars, tank bottoms, and a differential duty of ⅛c. per pound on sugar, &c., imported from a country paying a bounty thereon. On molasses between 40° and 60° it imposes a duty of 3c. per gallon and above 60° 6c. per gallon.

LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.

SPEAKER REED'S LOYAL FRIEND IN THE MICHIGAN DELEGATION.

Reed Is Still Czar of the House—The Proposed Memorial Bridge Across the Potomac—Novelties in Dinners Given by Cabinet Officers to the President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—One of Speaker Reed's most enthusiastic and loyal friends in the House is Representative D. D. Aitken of Michigan. He is the man whose tariff speech in the last Congress was chosen as the best statement of the attitude of the Republican party on that question, especially in regard to wool, and it was sent broadcast over the country by the Campaign Committee. It was Mr. Aitkin also who first introduced "The Little Red School House" into Congress in connection with the alleged interference of the A. P. A. in Michigan politics. It was Mr. Aitkin also who carried the Michigan delegation into the combine that organized the present House of Representatives, and for which Michigan was rewarded by being allowed to name the Chaplain, the tally clerk, and many other important offices under the Clerk, the Doorkeeper, and the Sergeant-at-Arms. Now the indefatigable and heretofore successful Mr. Aitken has undertaken to secure the election of a set of delegates from Michigan to the St. Louis Convention who will vote for the nomination of Thomas B. Reed. This is something of a task, because it is generally conceded that Michigan is (or at least has been until lately) overwhelmingly in favor of the nomination of McKinley. Mr. Reed is sure of two Wolverine votes, however, because Mayor Pingree of Detroit, who has demonstrated his popularity and strength by being elected Mayor of Detroit four times, and the last time having snowed under the Democratic candidate, has already promised Mr. Reed to deliver to him the votes of Wayne county, and he will have no trouble in carrying out this agreement. Pingree is a candidate for Governor of Michigan on a sort of farmer-anti-monopoly ticket, and the Republicans who do not regard him as a creditable representative are looking about for a man to defeat him. Representative Aitken is an avowed candidate for the nomination, and the anti-Pingree Republicans have, it is thought, practically decided to select him as the man most able to get the nomination away from Pingree. The interesting fact about all this political manœuvring is that Mr. Aitken, who wants to be nominated for Governor and to have Reed delegates elected, is a radical free silver man, and is one of the two members of the Michigan delegation in the House who voted the other day for the free coinage substitute of the Senate for the Dingley bond bill. The Republicans of Michigan are earnestly opposed to free silver, but Mr. Aitken is a very popular man, and he may, in spite of his financial record, which he says he is proud of, succeed in electing Reed delegates to St. Louis and Aitken delegates to the Michigan State Convention.

A group of members of Congress were discussing the other day the mooted question whether Speaker Reed is as much of a Czar as he used to be, and whether he really does attempt to dictate to the House what it shall and shall not do, as Judge Crisp, in debate on Friday, said he does.

"Well," said a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the group, "you just stand by the Speaker's desk in the House some morning, immediately after the House meets, and while the Chaplain is praying and the Clerk is reading the journal, and see how small most of you are. Another of his lieutenants on the floor, the so-called 'leaders of the House,' and listen to him giving his orders for the day, and you will see whether or not Reed is still a dictator. Why, he is not only the Speaker, but the Chairman of all the committees, and everybody knows it better than the Chairmen themselves."

Mr. Reed is much more gracious of manner since he became a Presidential candidate, but those who listened to what the member above quoted had to say agreed that he was right.

One of the most popular projects before Congress at present is comprised in the bill passed by the Senate and reported favorably by the House Committee on Military Affairs providing for the construction of a memorial bridge across the Potomac River, connecting the city of Washington with the National Cemetery at Arlington, Va. For ten years the subject of this proposed bridge has been agitated in Congress and out of it, and at last it seems that favorable action will be taken, unless some unfortunate vote against appropriations is made to apply to it. The bridge is intended to be a memorial in honor of Gen. Grant, and the sentimental idea of connecting the national capital with the cemetery, where thousands of Union soldiers are buried in marked and unmarked graves, and which is the resting place of Sheridan, Crook, and many other celebrated soldiers, appeals strongly to both Houses of Congress. It is intended to make the bridge a free highway, ninety feet or more above the river, so that only the tallest vessels seeking the port of Washington will be required to lower their masts, and to have the piers carried up in the shape of monuments, upon which will be memorial tablets reciting the achievements of the great Captain. The present road to Arlington is across what is known as the aqueduct bridge, which connects Georgetown with the Virginia shore. Beyond the bridge the road is new and rough, and it is the idea of those who are agitating the passage of the Memorial Bridge bill to make a grand, smooth roadway from the Washington end to the Arlington Cemetery, a distance of about two miles. The authorities who are laying out the future Washington are at present engaged in surveying a great system of boulevards, running well out into the suburbs and connecting with the various streets and avenues within the city limits. Frederick Law Olmstead was employed a year or two ago to lay out these boulevards, and the work is almost completed. A setback was given to the plan, however, a few days ago by a decision of Judge Cox of the Supreme Court of the District that the act of Congress authorizing the mapping out the new boulevards and sub-divisions was illegal. The whole matter is, therefore, suspended until Congress can so amend the law as to meet the objections of Judge Cox. When this is done the work upon the boulevards will be continued, and they will be fitting additions to the attractions of the national capital and its picturesque and historic suburbs.

The regulation social season having ended, there will be no more Cabinet dinners to the President, and so it will be impossible to introduce any more novelties in dinner-giving, such as were invented by Secretaries Smith and Morton. Each year the President of the United States and his wife dine the members of the Cabinet and their wives, and then in turn, at stated intervals, the members of the Cabinet dine the President and his wife. Official etiquette demands that the first dinner shall be given by the Secretary of State, the second by the Secretary of the Treasury, and so on down the list until the tail-ender, the Secretary of Agriculture, is reached. These official dinners this year were all of the conventional kind, until Hoke Smith's turn was reached. A happy thought struck him, and he introduced the novelty of arranging his table in the form of a marsh or duck pond, with ducks floating around in it, and this was enough to be very delicate compliment to the President's favorite pastime when away from Washington. Not to be outdone by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, when his turn came for dinner-giving, put his brain to work and invented a strictly bucolic, rural, or agricultural dinner, as it is variously called by those who participated in it. Of course, all the guests at this farmer's banquet were seated according to their official rank, but the meats were turned into pumpkins, the bread into potatoes the puddings into squashes, the ice cream into cheese, and so on. The desserts took the shape of cucumbers, loads of hay, sheaves of wheat, bundles of oats, &c., and the distinguished guests were made to laugh when the confections came to them in the form of packages of seeds distributed free under Congressional franks. One account of the dinner says the terrapin was served in "majolica fac-similes of itself." This dinner was unanimously voted to be the most conspicuous success of the series, and it is understood that next year Secretary Carlisle will try to outstrip Secretary Morton in the race for novelty by having all edibles converted into gold and silver coin and greenbacks. It is a question, however, whether the guests would eat them in this shape, and this consideration may defeat his plans.

Gen. Joe Wheeler, Representative from Alabama, is about the smallest member of Congress, and yet he is one of the most active. He constantly rushes about the corridors in breathless haste, and sometimes jumps into a running debate in the House as often as ten times a day. He is always in such a hurry that he does not hang his hat on the clothes tree with other members do, but keeps it under his desk, where he can grab it at a moment's notice and rush over to the Senate or to some of the various up-town departments. Gen. Wheeler is very earnest in everything he does, and especially so in his speechmaking. No great subject comes up in the House that is not illumed by his eloquence, and the columns of the *Congressional Record* always bear evidence to his speechmaking ability. Friday's *Record* contained two speeches by Gen. Wheeler on the same subject, namely, the Cuba delegation bill, more commonly known as the Dingley Bond bill. The first speech appears on the outside page of the *Record*, and fills nearly twenty-one columns. It was delivered on Feb. 6, and according to the usual custom was withheld until it could secure a place on the front page. The second speech was delivered on Feb. 13, and covers a little more than two columns in the *Record*. It is understood that Gen. Wheeler has another financial speech prepared, which he will deliver if the financial question comes up again during the present Congress. Gen. Wheeler is a man of considerable means and lives in a very handsome house on New Hampshire avenue, two miles or more from the Capitol. On New Jersey avenue, very close to the Capitol building, he has two offices in separate houses, where he keeps a force of clerks at work constantly attending to the many wants of his Alabama constituents.

In the Senate to-day the bill granting a pension of $200 a month to the widow of the late Secretary of State,