

JOLLY WITH A COLOSSAL J

How Secretary Root Molasses Cuban Delegation.

GOOD STORY COMES OUT

Gem-of-the-Antilles Men Took the War Secretary at His Word

BUT HE DIDN'T MEAN IT ALL

Spoke Metaphorically, Had No Intention of Misleading.

From The Journal Bureau, Room 45, Post Building, Washington.

Washington, June 3.—It was one of the biggest cases of "jolly" on record, and it was successful to the last degree. The McKinley administration, in the person of Secretary Root, administered it; the Cuban delegates received it gladly, and then went home, where they put it into concrete form as a part of their formal acceptance of the Platt amendment. Now that it has been taken seriously, the administration announces that it was meant only in a pickwicking sense, which everybody in this country knew all the time, and that the Cubans must accept the Platt pronouncement as it stands, without interpretation, verbatim et literatim.

This is too bad, for it spoils a good story; but there is some compensation in the thought that out of the wreckage another good story has arisen. When the Cuban delegates were in Washington, several weeks ago, it was announced in these dispatches that they were received with open arms by the president and secretary of war, who paid them every attention, the government paying the bill, even down to tips for the colored attendants at the Arlington hotel. During the visit there was an extended conference between the delegates and Secretary Root, at the latter's office, when a full explanation was made of the intent and meaning of the Platt amendment. The secretary was as full of explanation as a hen is full of feathers. The conference resolved itself into a big love feast. The delegates announced that, in the light of the secretary's words, they saw no possible objection to the Platt scheme. It was intended for the good of the Cuban people, and was simply another manifestation of the benevolent designs of the Washington government. And then they went home.

And then the trouble began. Taking the secretary seriously and literally, the Cuban constitutional convention accepted the Platt amendment, first, however, adding copious notes by the way of explaining what it meant.

"Will the Washington government accept our interpretation?" the convention was asked, and the reply came instant: "Of course it will." It was outlined by Secretary Root for our special benefit. The secretary, to adopt the vernacular of the street, took the delegates into his confidence when they were in Washington about as follows: "You folks are dead wrong in thinking that we are trying to do you up. Your convention has the wrong steer. We are your friends; and, more than that, we love you like a brother. There isn't a crooked hair in our heads. Instead of the Platt amendment's proposing to do so and so, it really proposes to do so and so, and we are in perfect harmony with your desires. We want just what you want, and we want it as badly as you do. This is no con game. The Platt amendment merely means this, and this, and this," and the good secretary amplified, in wonderful detail, his views, to which the delegates listened with beaming faces and with open mouths.

Of course it was not the Cubans didn't know it. For that matter, it wasn't especially intended that they should. It was enough if we in this country understood it and indorsed it. And we did, and the benevolent designs of the Washington government were announced with a great burrah, and the announcement was made straightway that the Cuban convention would undoubtedly acquiesce as soon as the delegates had time to explain.

Now, nobody for a moment will charge that Secretary Root even dreamed of the probability of friction, or delay, or that he deliberately planned to mislead the Cubans. Without any question, he acted honestly and said just what he believed to be true. And what he said was true, only the government does not propose to commiserate itself in black and white to a proceeding as unusual as this would be. There is no doubt that this government intends to deal with the Cubans as Secretary Root said it would, and that the "jolly" was discreetly confined within proper limits. But there will be no formal contract to this effect. The Cubans must accept the Platt amendment in good faith and leave the administration, in its own time and way, to interpret it. This is diplomatic and the only proper course. The Cubans now understand it, and there is consternation in Havana in consequence. But this will soon die out, and the islanders will accept the "jolly" for what it was intended to be, and see that they have made a mistake. "Jolly" is one thing; high diplomacy is quite another. The Cubans have seemingly been unable to distinguish between them. They will be wiser after a while.

NO MORE Solicitor General Collections, Richards, in a communication of Internal Revenue Yerkes, has pointed out to that official that the supreme court has not finally acted upon the Fairbanks case involving the validity of the law putting a 10-per cent tax on export bills of lading. Further, that Richards does not give the commissioner any advice, but leaves him to act in accordance with the situation. The commissioner is now out of town and will not be back until next Monday, and in his absence it is doubtful nothing will do toward resuming the collection of the tax. One official of the internal revenue bureau to-day gave it as his belief that collection would not be resumed. The war revenue reduction act repealed that section of the law, and the time in which collections can be made after the commissioner returns is so short that it will hardly be worth while to start the government machinery going again. The government will, of course, lose the taxes that would have been collected between the time the court decided the tax invalid and the end of the fiscal year. Should the former decision be reversed, but there is no help for it, and the commissioner of internal revenue will hardly be called to account for his blunder, but it will be more cautious in the future. The same internal revenue official said that the commissioner will probably not issue any circular relating to refunds in case the supreme court adheres to its verdict, but it will be well for millers and other exporters to file claims for refund of taxes paid, so that they may not be outlawed.

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"A reduction in the hours of labor has been proposed by the association started by the continued residence of Chicago to May 1 the number of shops working less than ten hours per day was only 1,870. I am firmly convinced that our nine-hour movement will result in reducing the hours of labor for 150,000 machinists."

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MURDER AT CARVER

Andrew Tapper, a Bartender, Cuts the Throat of a Girl.

ATTEMPTS SUICIDE BY DROWNING

Returns to Look at His Victim and Is Caught by the Town Marshal.

Special to The Journal.

Carver, Minn., June 3.—A cold-blooded murder occurred here at 6:15 this morning.

Andrew Tapper, a bartender, committed the deed and Miss Rosa Mix, a hired girl, was his victim. Both were employed by John Leonard, proprietor of the Baler house, this village. The girl was 20 years old and her parents live at Montgomery.

Tapper used a large knife, and cut two large gashes in the girl's throat and one in her left shoulder. He then went to the river and tried to drown himself, but failed.

He returned to the house, saw the girl lying on the floor in a pool of blood, and then started off down the park road with the marshal after him. He is now safely behind the bars in the county jail at Chaska.

Jealousy is supposed to have been the motive of the crime. Tapper was a suitor of Miss Mix, but had been repeatedly repulsed by her. The indignation of citizens is at a high point, but the law will probably be permitted to take its course, the facts being so clear that punishment is certain. Miss Mix's parents have been notified of the murder, but have not yet reached here.

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NOT A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY. The New Girl—But how about that book? The Lady of the House—I did not write that book.

RAIN

Widely Divergent Localities in the Dakotas Receive a Soaking.

Specials to The Journal.

Aberdeen, S. D., June 3.—Rain visited nearly all localities in the north half of the state east of the Missouri river yesterday and last night, the precipitation ranging from a quarter to three-quarters of an inch. A few isolated sections were missed entirely. There is fine growing weather to-day with prospects of more rain.

Dickinson, N. D., June 3.—The long drought is broken. A soaking rain set in this morning and will save the grain and range feed.

Fargo, N. D., June 3.—A slight rainfall began here to-day shortly after noon. Reports from the western and southern parts of the state are encouraging.

Grand Forks, N. D., June 3.—A good rain began to fall this afternoon and it looks as though the dry spell is broken.

ONLY SHOWERS

What Weather Observer Outram Says About Rain.

Weather Observer Outram regrets to say that he has little encouragement to offer northwestern farmers who are sadly in need of rain just now. He has hopes that there may be copious rainfalls all through this region, and especially in parts of North Dakota, which now seem threatened with a drought, but he has nothing more tangible than that.

The fifteen-minute shower which struck town this noon, Mr. Outram is inclined to regard as little more than local. It was only a shower and does not indicate a heavier and more prolonged rain fall elsewhere.

The bulletin this morning predicted probably light showers to-night, and the noon-day pour was simply a little ahead of its schedule time. Said Mr. Outram: "The farmers of Minnesota and the Dakotas need rain, and need it bad, although I think a precipitation of .04 inch. Both Dakotas had been practically without rain for the twenty-four hours ending at 7 o'clock this morning. At none of those places did the showers amount to any more than here. The country around Devils Lake is particularly in need of a drenching."

The flower that we do not pluck is the only one that never loses its beauty or its fragrance.

INTERNATIONAL TROOPS FIGHT

British at Tientsin Exchange Shots With French and Germans—One Killed, Many Wounded.

Special to The Journal.

Tientsin, June 3.—There was a serious affray yesterday between international troops. Some British fusiliers who were acting as police here sought to prevent French soldiers from house breaking, when they were attacked with bayonets and bricks. The fusiliers, in self-defense, fired in the air.

This brought a number of Germans to the aid of the Frenchmen. They numbered altogether two hundred men.

Five fusiliers fired again, killing a Frenchman and wounding three others. In subsequent fighting, four fusiliers, five Germans and one Japanese were wounded. The arrival of a German officer and a strong guard ended the fray.

Snakes Guard Miser's Money

Nashville, Ill., June 3.—John Rhodes, an old recluse, who lived in a lonely hut in the southern part of the county, was found dead yesterday. There were evidences of foul play and a number of citizens made an examination of the cabin which resulted in the discovery of three big rattlesnakes coiled up in an empty barrel. The snakes were killed and under a bed of leaves where they had been sleeping an old tobacco pouch was found, half filled with money. In a barrel two black snakes were found. It is believed that Rhodes made the snakes his companions and that they guarded his money.

Young Bridegroom Is Sent Home