

STILL UNSETTLED

Uncertain When the Tariff Bill Will Be Reported.

THE SILVER FIGHT OVER AGAIN

A Free Coinage Amendment to the Bland Bill.

MORE COMPLICATIONS

The finance committee don't themselves know today when they will report their bill. The schedule is still unsettled, and so is the sugar market in New York. The committee are working with great diligence to get their bill out, but the kickers in the Senate, whom they are trying to win over, don't seem to want to be placed there. It is quite evident that there are Senators outside of the committee who are not yet ready to have the bill reported. The Republicans are hopeful that the bill is getting in such shape as will make it possible for them to defeat it altogether. The measure is, aside from the particular items which are being manipulated in order to secure the support of outside Senators, one of lower dates than the Wilson bill.

Lower Than the Wilson Bill.

It is estimated that in the general schedules there is an average reduction of duty of about twenty-five per cent below the Wilson bill. In the textile schedules, especially in the woolen and cotton fabrics, the cuts are heavy. This will make more apparent the importance of special items placed at a high protection for trading purposes, and the committee are very ready to depart from the general scheme of their bill in order to accomplish, however, they know they must have.

The Difficult Problem.

If, on the other hand, the bill cannot receive the approval of the Senate without the duty which the present tariff imposes, the problem seems to be the one of the immovable body and of the irresistible force. Meanwhile there appears to be no doubt entertained that the silver question given precedence over the tariff in the Senate, and that the tariff will be considered of the silver question to the physical power of the Republicans to control the tariff. It is not taken for granted that the silver men will be able to get their bill passed, and the talk will therefore be largely confined to those Republicans who are opposed to silver with a free coinage amendment.

A Free Coinage Amendment.

It is proposed to amend the seigniorage bill by adding a free coinage amendment if possible, and the silver men are very hopeful that in the present disorganized condition of the administration forces in the Senate an amendment may be adopted. It is said that three or four members of the silver ranks will vote to attach the free coinage amendment and also to pass the bill. It is not, however, a very conservative Republican expressed the opinion today that it was far from improbable that the free coinage bill might ultimately be passed with a free coinage amendment.

More Complication.

This would only go to still more seriously complicate the situation for the Democrats, and the Republicans might look on with considerable complacency. The opinion of the Republican leaders is that every day the situation is becoming more favorable to the passage of the tariff bill and if the passage of a bill which would open up the silver fight again in the Democratic party is going to be made, it is not likely that the Republicans will not be disposed to interfere.

Changes His Flag.

But there is no significance in Admiral Benham's action.

Secretary Herbert received a cable message, saying that he has transferred his flag from the New York back to the San Francisco. It is said at the Navy Department that there is no special significance in this action, and that it probably means merely that the San Francisco is to be sent to New York from guard duty in the harbor so to enable the latter to make a short cruise in the open ocean. No orders have yet been issued for the relief of any of the vessels on the Brazilian station, but the impression is strong that the New York, San Francisco and the Detroit will be sent to the United States within a short time. The New York will probably be the first to start north. At any rate, one of the three vessels named will be sent to the United States within a few weeks to bring home Admiral Benham, who goes on the retired list April 15.

THE GAS INVESTIGATION.

The House Committee Get Some Admittance.

There was a short but very interesting hearing on the gas question before the House District committee this morning. It lasted only a few moments, but in that time the committee obtained some information as to the profits of the company which it has long desired.

Secretary Bailey of the Washington Gas Company appeared before the committee and was asked a few questions by Mr. Cooper of Florida.

He did not the \$900,000 increase of stock under the act of 1892, issued to shareholders represent dividends or earnings of the company," asked Mr. Cooper.

"No, sir," he replied, "it represented earnings," replied Mr. Bailey.

"Did not the \$900,000 of certificates of indebtedness represent dividends or earnings of the company, and were they not issued to stockholders?"

"Yes, sir," was Mr. Bailey's response.

That was the end of the hearing. The committee sought, and after a few minor questions as to salary and wage rolls Mr. Bailey was excused.

VANCE AND RANSOM.

Peculiar Conditions of Affairs Regarding the North Carolina Senatorship.

The senatorial situation in North Carolina has become an amusing. Some of Senator Vance's friends began to insist that Senator Vance should resign on account of his alleged inability to perform his official duties. Some of Vance's friends retorted that if he were to resign, it would be a disgrace to the State, and that the popularity would be endangered. The friends of the entire Democratic ticket in case he resigned, and the friends of Josephus Daniels and other members of the ticket say that Vance ought to resign and Ransom round and give a new deal all over again.

Wishes to be Chief Clerk.

W. J. Turner of Alabama has applied for appointment as chief clerk of the Bureau of Immigration, Treasury Department.

CONCERNING ARMOR PLATES

Where They Have Come From and on What Vessels Used.

Information Furnished by the Navy Department to the House Naval Committee.

In connection with the disclosures as to defective armor plates furnished by the Carnegie company, Chairman Cummings of the House naval committee has letters from the bureau of ordnance of the Navy Department showing where armor plates have come from and on what vessels they were used.

The bureau had an unaccounted balance of \$10,000,000 in February, 1893, which permitted extensive purchases of armor plates. The Carnegie Steel Company furnished \$2,433,864. The contracts with the various large concerns under which purchases have proceeded are as follows: Bethlehem Iron Company, 6,703 tons at \$3,970,337; Bethlehem Iron Company, 112 tons at \$7,330; Carnegie Steel Company, 6,090 tons at \$3,554,114; Carnegie Steel Company, 1,225 tons at \$2,433,864. The contracts with the various large concerns under which purchases have proceeded are as follows: Bethlehem Iron Company, 6,703 tons at \$3,970,337; Bethlehem Iron Company, 112 tons at \$7,330; Carnegie Steel Company, 6,090 tons at \$3,554,114; Carnegie Steel Company, 1,225 tons at \$2,433,864.

This armor plate has been used on war vessels of the United States, 487 tons at \$3,949,402; Monadnock, 379 tons at \$4,452; Terror, 547 tons at \$28,078; Puritan, 299 tons at \$18,117; Texas, 703 tons at \$14,909; Maine, 1,043 tons at \$2,000,000; Oregon, 175 tons at \$98,250; Cincinnati, 48 tons at \$26,276; Montgomery, 22 tons at \$11,877; Iowa, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Indiana, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Illinois, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Michigan, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Minnesota, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Missouri, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; New York, 563 tons at \$261,022; Oregon, 672 tons at \$1,344,044; Pennsylvania, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Rhode Island, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; South Carolina, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Tennessee, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Texas, 703 tons at \$14,909; Virginia, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Washington, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; West Virginia, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Wisconsin, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890; Wyoming, 1,427 tons at \$2,909,890.

The total expense thus far has been in excess of \$30,000,000 by premiums, harvesting, and the introduction of nickel previous to the settlement rate.

The armor plate to be furnished, the Carnegie Steel Company will furnish 4,888 tons and the Bethlehem Iron Company 5,076 tons. It is estimated that the whole amount to be furnished is 10,964 tons at \$36,785,000.

The Iowa and Brooklyn have not, as yet, received any armor plate. The total thus far has been \$30,000,000 by premiums, harvesting, and the introduction of nickel previous to the settlement rate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

Talk of Gen. Howard's Retirement and the Future Commander.

The widely-published statement that Gen. Howard will relinquish command of the department of the east, with headquarters at New York on the 1st of June, has been doubted at the War Department. The story was that Gen. Howard was to take leave of absence from the date named till the date of his retirement, November 8 next, and that Gen. Miles, now commanding the department of the Missouri, with headquarters at Chicago, was to be transferred to New York on the 1st of June, and to take command of that department until Gen. Schofield retires next year, when he will succeed to the command of the army with headquarters at Washington. There may have been a program of this kind, but it is not clear, though it would fall through. Gen. Howard has spoken of taking a leave on the 1st of June, but it is not clear that he has in mind, and that he will retain his present command up to the close of his career on the active list. At any rate, he has made no application for retirement, and it is not clear in the future, and has given no other official indication of a desire to be relieved of his command.

It is settled that Gen. Miles will succeed Gen. Howard in command of the department of the east. He has applied for the position, and it is not clear that he wishes in the matter will be respected by the President. There is considerable probability that Gen. Miles will succeed to the command of the department of the Missouri. Gen. Ruger, commanding the department of the California, can have it if he wants it, but it is not clear that he does not care to make the transfer.

MAIL SUBSIDIES.

The Pacific Steamship Line Unable to Carry Out Its Contract.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company has been notified by the Postmaster General that the contract subsisting between it and the government for the transportation of the mails between New York and the isthmus of Panama and between San Francisco and Chinese and Japanese ports has been cancelled, and that the cancellation will take effect on April 1. The Post Office Department has notified the company that the contract has not been carried out on the terms of its contract.

The contract provides that for the first two years the company shall send steamers every seven days, and that afterward for eight years the company shall send a steamer every seven days, but in reply to repeated notices the company has confessed its inability to comply with the requirements. Therefore, the Postmaster General has ordered the contract cancelled. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company will continue to carry the mails, but will be paid only the postage instead of a subsidy of \$1 a mile traveled.

Only two American companies are now under the subsidy act—the Ward line running between New York, Cuba and Mexico, and the Red line from New York to the north coast of South America. The United States Mail Steamship Company, which finds it unprofitable to carry out its contract.

THE MOSQUITO COUNTRY.

Official Confirmation of the British Protectorate Over It.

Official confirmation of the report that Great Britain has established a protectorate over the mosquito country, Nicaragua, is contained in a telegram from United States Minister Baker, New York, to Secretary Gresham this morning. It says that Consul Braden reports that fifty British soldiers have landed at Bluefield, and urge the advantage of having an American warship in the harbor as soon as possible. The telegram is brief, and the information conveyed is meagre. Nothing is told as to the nature of the British troops, or the reasons for their landing. It is according to press dispatches. No light is thrown on the present situation of affairs at Bluefield in particular, and the isthmus in general. The inference is that affairs are quiet.

To Patrol the Arctic.

A telegram was received at the Navy Department today announcing that the U.S.S. Ranger sailed today from Acapulca for San Jose de Guatemala. The fact that this vessel is slowly making her way north tends to corroborate the reports of the success of her way to San Francisco to be fitted out for service in Bering sea this summer.

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HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

The Latest Correspondence Received in Regard to Them

SENT TO CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

Changes Proposed in the Provisional Government.

A CHINESE MEETING

The President today sent to Congress the latest correspondence in relation to Hawaii, being three letters with inclosures from Minister Willis, covering a period from February 10 to February 15, inclusive. The first letter is merely an acknowledgment of the receipt of dispatches. The second, under date of Honolulu, February 14, describes the situation in Hawaii during the past month, including the Chinese meeting. The minister says that the action of Congress is awaited with great interest as indicating the future policy of the United States towards Hawaii. Several days previous to the date of the letter a number of government soldiers were affected by a peculiar way, which gave rise to a rumor of poisoning. There has seemed, however, to be little cause for such suspicion. A report was current of a Chinese uprising based upon a call for a mass meeting to consider certain proposed changes in the constitution. In his judgment there is no foundation for the rumor, but that the country is in a state of unrest and excitement, making it easy to originate such rumors.

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