

IT MAY MEAN PEACE

Presidents Kruger and Steyn Arrange a Meeting.

ITS LOCATION NOT ANNOUNCED

Close Observers, However, Predict Continuation of the War.

BOERS ARE RALLYING

LONDON, March 3.—President Kruger is said to have left Pretoria with the intention of meeting President Steyn. The place where they will meet is not mentioned, but is believed to be in the Orange Free State. Those in South Africa who are conversant with the effect the recent reverses have had on the Boers express the opinion that the meeting of the two presidents is preliminary to a suggestion of negotiations for peace. But if this is the case, it must be due to the pressure brought to bear upon the presidents by the burghers and Afrikaners in the British colonies rather than in the personal inclinations of the presidents, as all the available information depicts them as being as determined as ever to persist in the war until the resources of the republic are much more exhausted than they are at present. Some significance is attached to the consultation in view of the reported visit to England of Chief Justice De Villiers, Mr. Hofmeyr and Dr. Watermeyer, ostensibly on private business and for their health. The closest observers do not anticipate any sudden cessation of hostilities, and certainly the reports from the theater of war do not tend to encourage the advocates of peace. The Boers are apparently rallying with their accustomed boldness to repair a temporary reverse, and Great Britain has yet to test their force as a determined power under the new conditions of warfare. Outside the meeting of the presidents there is no new indication of any change in the situation. Telegraphing from Oosfontein today, thanking the lord mayor of Liverpool for his congratulations in behalf of the Boers, Lord Roberts says: "I trust her majesty's soldiers in this country will gain such further successes as will ensure the march of freedom and prosperity of South Africa."

BOER DEFEAT COMPLETE.

Gen. Buller Says Resistance is Over About Ladysmith.

LONDON, March 3.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Gen. Buller: "LADYSMITH, Friday, March 2, 6:30 p.m.—I find the defeat of the Boers more complete than I had dared to anticipate. This whole district is completely clear of them, and except at the top of Van Renst's pass, where several wagons are visible, I can find no trace of them. "Their last train left Modder Spruit station about 1 o'clock yesterday, and they then blew up the bridge. They packed their wagons six days ago, moving them to the north of Ladysmith, so that we had no chance of intercepting them; but they have left vast quantities of ammunition of all sorts, herbs, grass, camp and individual necessities, and have got away with all their arms except two. "Lord Roberts writes to the war office from Oosfontein, under date of March 2, 4:15 p.m., as follows: "I have returned from my paying Kimberley a hurried visit. I was much gratified at finding enthusiasm among the Boers, and I was glad to see that the sick and wounded. All this houses had been converted into hospitals, and the men were housed in a friendly manner. "I was struck with the friendly manner in which the wounded Boers and our men lay together, and I was glad to see the soldiers sharing their rations and biscuits with the Boer prisoners before they were sent to the front. "Some of the poor fellows were very hungry, after having been half starved in the laager."

ARGUMENT TO OPEN MARCH 20.

Arranging to End Investigation of the Senate committee on elections today held a consultation with counsel on both sides in the Clark investigation, and decided to give them at least two weeks for the preparation of the argument to be made in the case. Argument will begin on the 20th.

Counsel was requested to prepare printed briefs and also to present oral arguments; the latter to occupy six hours for each side. The memorialists are to have the opening and closing. Former Senator Ed. Atkinson and Mr. McMillan are the arguments for the memorialists, and former Senator Faulkner and Mr. Roger Foster will argue for the government.

Mr. Faulkner stated that he was having a comparative statement prepared showing the evidence on all given points in parallel columns, contrasting the testimony for the prosecution and defense. He said that it would take a week to complete this work.

WILL NOT SUCCEED LUDLOW.

Report Regarding Gen. Lee Specially Denied.

It is said at the War Department that there is no immediate intention of making any changes in the military commands in Cuba. A specific denial was made of the story that Gen. Fitzhugh Lee is to succeed Gen. Ludlow as military governor of the city of Havana. Gen. Ludlow's assignment to duty as president of the Military War College is not intended to interfere with his duties in Havana, and so far as known he is likely to continue to act in that capacity until the War Department has formulated its plans for the withdrawal of a large portion of the military forces in Cuba in anticipation of the transfer of governmental affairs to civil control.

Departs of Lord Pauncefote.

The State Department has not been advised of any purpose on the part of the British government to further extend the incumbency of Lord Pauncefote as the British ambassador to this capital. It is known that the ambassador himself is not informed upon that point. In consequence he has arranged to depart for England at the end of this month.

Polysomnic Office Holders.

Rev. Wm. R. C. Campbell of Utah was examined today by the House subcommittee investigating the charges that certain federal appointees are polygamists. He said it was a matter of common report that John C. Graham, the postmaster at Provo, had children by his plural wife. His testimony was given as to Orson Smith, lately postmaster at Logan, Utah.

Transport McClellan Arrives.

NEW YORK, March 3.—The United States transport McClellan arrived this morning from San Juan, Porto Rico, Santiago, Guantanamo and Baracoa, with twenty-one cabinet officers, fifteen undertakers and civilians, and 101 bodies of dead soldiers.

WENT OVER EMBANKMENT

Serious Accident to Montreal Express on Canadian Pacific.

Over a Score of Passengers More or Less Seriously Injured in the Wreck.

TORONTO, Ont., March 3.—The Montreal express on the Canadian Pacific railroad, due here at 7:30 a.m. today, jumped the track between Ponty Pool and Burketon and bounded down a steep embankment, the coaches toppling over each other as they neared the bottom of the incline. The train was moving at a rapid rate of speed. There were a large number of passengers aboard, many being members of parliament on their way from Ottawa. The following named were injured, none of them seriously: Leighton McCarthy, M.P.; C. E. Klopfer, M.P.; James Featherstone, M.P.; and T. H. McPherson, M.P.; Munroe Grier, Toronto; J. J. Johnston, Ottawa; J. H. Hamilton, Moosejaw; E. K. Johnson, Ottawa; W. McCleary, M.P.; Thorold; W. R. Bird, Toronto; Miss Bush, London; T. L. Edmondson, Hamilton; D. H. Stine, President; E. F. Telfer, Collingwood; J. MacLean, Ottawa; Mr. and Mrs. Bland, Hamilton; S. Dooly, Ottawa; Wm. E. Wainwright, J. S. Duck, Toronto; John McKacchie, Winnipeg; and C. D. Watt, Toronto.

PRELIMINARY IN NEW YORK.

Takes Breakfast With Party of Friends at His Hotel.

NEW YORK, March 3.—President McKinley arose at 8:30 o'clock this morning, and took breakfast with a party of friends at his hotel. He was accompanied by his wife and a party, during his stay here to attend the Ohio State dinner tonight.

Those who breakfasted with the President and Mrs. McKinley were Abner McKinley and his wife, Miss Mabel McKinley and Miss Barber, a niece of the President. Among those who called were Gov. Nash of Ohio, ex-Secretary of the Interior Cornelius N. Bliss and Gen. Grenville M. Dodge.

Shortly before noon President McKinley was driving with his brother Abner. They were driving to the city hall, where they were to meet the members of the National Republican League. Ex-Representative J. J. Beiden, ex-Chief Justice De Villiers, Wm. W. Weibe, Mr. William L. Strong, Mrs. Garrett A. Hobart and her son, Garret A. Hobart.

TO MEET IN ST. PAUL JULY 17.

Official Call for Meeting of National Republican League.

CHICAGO, March 3.—The following official call for the meeting of the National Republican League was issued today: "In accordance with a resolution of the executive committee, the twelfth annual convention of the National Republican League will be held in St. Paul, Minn., on July 17, 1900, at 10 o'clock a.m. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. Alternate delegates will be entitled to seats in the convention hall with their respective delegations. "The business before the convention will be the consideration of reports of permanent and special committees, reports of amendments to the constitution, consideration of a financial policy for the maintenance of the national organization, election of officers, naming time and place for the next national convention and other matters of importance, and the consideration of any matters which may relate to national or state league organizations of the kind of the republican party. "GEORGE W. STONE, President. D. H. STINE, Secretary."

TWO OCEAN LINERS AGROUND.

Pennsylvania and La Normande Stuck in Gedy Channel.

NEW YORK, March 3.—The Hamburg-American liner Pennsylvania, which left New York this morning bound for Plymouth and Halifax, is aground in Godfrey channel in the lower bay. Her machinery is evidently damaged in some way. She has hoisted a "not under control" signal.

The French liner La Normande, which arrived at New York yesterday, is aground at 11:30 a.m. to be aground on the side of Gedy channel, opposite to where the Pennsylvania is aground. Tugs are at work endeavoring to float the two steamships.

OPPOSES PORTO RICAN BILL.

Gen. Harrison Says He Considers Its Principle Wrong.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 3.—In response to the question whether he had, as reported in conversation with friends, expressed opinion adverse to the Porto Rican bill, General Harrison said today: "Yes, I regard the bill as a most serious departure from the right principles."

KENTUCKY ELECTION CASE.

Both Sides Will Conclude Their Arguments This Afternoon.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 3.—It is thought argument in the case to determine the rights of the rival claimants for the governorship of the state will conclude before Judge Field this afternoon. Former Gov. Bradley spoke for the republicans today and Zach Phelps will close for the democrats.

El Paso Rioters Arrested.

Capt. Loughborough, 25th Infantry, commanding at Fort Bliss, Texas, has reported to the War Department that all the soldiers in his command connected with the recent attack on the jail authorities at El Paso have been arrested, with the exception of Private McElroy, who deserted the Corp. Powell, one of the party, has made a confession. If convicted the men will be severely punished.

Oxford Wins at Foot Ball.

LONDON, March 3.—In the foot ball game between Oxford and Cambridge today the former won by two goals. Cambridge did not score a goal. There was a moderate attendance.

Vanderbeck Will Retain Control.

DETROIT, Mich., March 3.—Geo. A. Vanderbeck, late owner of the Detroit Club of the American Base Ball League, appears likely to retain possession of the club, notwithstanding its recent sale to satisfy Mr. Vanderbeck's decree for alimony. Vanderbeck has complied with an order of the court, requiring him to file a bond of \$500 with sureties for payment of the alimony. Mr. Vanderbeck today wired his players notices of the outcome.

Still in the Storm's Grasp.

MALONE, N. Y., March 3.—Northern New York is still in the grasp of the storm. People in outside districts find it impossible to bury their dead. The body of a girl who died here last Monday still lies in the house.

TELEPHONE HEARING

Business Citizens Appear and Make Statements.

QUESTIONS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Cost of Establishing a Plant Discussed.

ACTION WAS POSTPONED

The House committee on the District of Columbia today gave a hearing on the bill to incorporate the Washington Telephone Company and authorize it to operate a telephone system in the District of Columbia.

A committee from the Business Men's Association, consisting of Messrs. H. F. Woodruff, Mitchell Drenforth, Samuel C. Palmer, W. Baldwin Johnson, Ergood Getz, Barry Bulky, William Hahn, Henry Getz and Wm. W. Danenhower, appeared before the committee to endorse the bill.

The bill has been published in full in The Star heretofore, as well as the amendments proposed by the subcommittee, except in this particular, that the rate of taxation has been fixed at 1 1/2 per centum of the annual gross receipts of the company in lieu of all tax on personal property. A provision has also been inserted requiring the company to make annual report of its earnings, expenses and financial condition to the committee.

Mr. Daniel for the Columbia Company. Mr. T. C. Daniel appeared before the committee in behalf of the bill for the Columbia Telephone Company, which has also been introduced in the House. Mr. Daniel said he wished to avoid the appearance of opposing any project which would give Washington a new telephone company. He called attention to the stock and bond features of the two bills.

Mr. Babcock said it was unnecessary to discuss the general features of the bill. The measure before the committee had been prepared with care and was about as well guarded as possible. The only question was to who should be named as incorporators.

Mr. Daniel thought that a majority of the stockholders should be made up of the people. He said the franchise would be worth a quarter of a million dollars.

Would you be willing to pay that amount for it?" asked Mr. Babcock.

Mr. Daniel said that he could not individually answer that question nor bind the stockholders of the company. He would be reported should limit the amount of bonds and stock to the actual cost of the road, and no stock to be issued until the bill is passed.

Mr. Babcock called attention to the fact that this was a limitation in the Washington Telephone Company bill upon the issuance of bonds and stock.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Daniel if he would give \$100,000 for the franchise. As one member of the committee he would hesitate to give away this charter. If there is any one around who is willing to give \$100,000 for the franchise, let him come forward.

Mr. Daniel wanted time to consider this phase.

Mr. Babcock said it might be better to reduce the rates to \$24 and \$38, and then the charter would not be so valuable.

Mr. Daniel said that a new telephone system could be constructed for \$100,000 and he wanted a limitation put upon the issue of stock and bonds. It might be thought desirable at some future time for the city to purchase the plant, and a provision in the bill, however, he was not prepared to obstruct the movement for a new telephone company.

Mr. Woodard's Statement.

Mr. H. F. Woodard, as chairman of the committee from the Business Men's Association, then addressed the committee. He said the association had considered both bills, and had directed the committee to approve the bill introduced by the Washington Telephone Company's bill by the Business Men's Association.

He said he took it for granted that the wishes of 800 representative business men would be taken into consideration in granting the franchise. The franchises, the bill is well-known citizens of Washington.

"We are entirely satisfied with this bill and we are prepared to support it," said Mr. Woodard, "and we sincerely hope there will be no delay in acting upon the bill."

Mr. W. Baldwin Johnson addressed the committee on behalf of the Business Men's Association. He said he was a member of a committee appointed by the association to investigate the proposed bill. He said he had conferred with the men concerned in this bill and in a position to do what they promise.

Mr. George R. Webb, one of the incorporators of the Washington Telephone Company, told the committee that the limitation of the stock issue to \$500,000 would make the bill valueless.

"It will cost over \$1,000,000 to install this plant," said Mr. Webb. "It is nonsense to talk of putting it up for \$500,000."

Mr. Babcock said the House would certainly put out an amendment requiring the party to submit views upon either bill to do so. Mr. Webb was questioned by members of the committee upon the capitalization of the company. He said it was absolutely necessary to use some stock for the benefit of the men who purchase the bonds, but not all the stock would be so used. Some of it will be retained for extension of the lines.

Mr. Jno. J. Hemphill, who was present in behalf of the Telephone Subscribers' Association, said the plan of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company cost \$1,000,000. Mr. Hemphill said the court here had decided that it costs \$71 a year to operate a telephone. These people propose to operate it for \$48 and \$39 a year. Now, in order to do so, he thought they should be given a little leeway in the matter of stock. He was opposed to watering down the public and the company to give the company a fair capitalization.

At this point Mr. Woodard's committee asked about the personnel of the proposed Columbia Telephone Company, and Mr. Daniel proceeded to tell about the men named in the charter.

Action Postponed.

The committee considered the Washington Telephone Company's bill in executive session for a short time, but decided to postpone action until next Wednesday, in order to permit any one who might desire to submit views upon either bill to do so. It is believed that the Washington Telephone Company's bill will be reported at Wednesday's meeting.

February Receipts in Philippines.

The War Department received a cable statement today showing that the total receipts from the Philippine Islands for the month of February were \$23,421, of which amount \$37,950 was derived from the customs sources.

Ordered to San Antonio.

Capt. Frederick W. Sibbey, 2d Cavalry, has been ordered to San Antonio, Tex., to report to the commanding officer, Department of Texas, for duty as acting inspector general of that department.

For Overtime Work.

The House committee on appropriations has received an estimate from the Secretary of War of an appropriation of \$53,305 to pay employees of the War Department for overtime work occasioned by the Spanish war.

OPEN DOOR MEANING

Effect on Philippines of Free Trade With Porto Rico.

TERMS OF THE PARIS TREATY OF PEACE

Spain Given Commercial Rights Equal to Ours.

OTHER NATIONS' CLAIMS

Does the adoption of the Porto Rican bill foreshadow the abandonment of the policy of holding the Philippines?

The inting that it does or may be being significantly whispered, and some very earnest expansionists fear that it does.

The suggestion is that it is the purpose of the republicans to have tested by the Supreme Court, with reference to Porto Rico, the constitutionality of levying a discriminatory duty on goods from the insular possessions of the United States, and that if the Supreme Court decided that the Constitution of necessity extends to these islands and that they must be given the same privileges as other parts of the territory of the United States there will be a change of policy with reference to the Philippines, the purpose to retain them otherwise than under a protectorate being abandoned.

One reason for the insistence on the Porto Rican bill is that it is believed to have the test made as soon as possible in the Supreme Court, so that there will remain time to shape the Philippine policy accordingly.

Objections of Republicans.

In the debate on the Porto Rican bill several republicans announced that they would be opposed to the retention of the Philippines if it retained them meant that they must be permitted to enjoy all the privileges of territory of the United States. Senator Foraker made a significant declaration with reference to "open door" in the Philippines while debating the matter in the Senate yesterday, suggesting that it would mean the failure of our whole protective system.

If the Philippine Islands were to become a part of the territory of the United States, the treaty with Spain would have no more right to demand an open door there than they would have in any part of the United States; but if it were a part of the United States, it would be subject to customs duties levied by us, the demand might be made for an open door in the Philippines, as in China.

Terms of the Paris Treaty.

On broad general principles this is the status of the case; but there is an embarrassment in the terms of the Spanish peace treaty which might compel an abandonment of this well-defined principle.

The treaty with Spain provides that Spain shall enjoy for a period of ten years the same commercial privileges in the Philippines as are enjoyed by the United States. Moreover, the favored nation clause is contained in all or nearly all of our commercial treaties with any nation, and it might be insisted upon by them that whatever privileges in the Philippines were accorded to Spain.

Awaiting the Court's Ruling.

Under these circumstances, if the Supreme Court should decide that free trade must exist between the Philippine Islands and the United States, it might be equivalent to the establishment of free trade with the world for a period of ten years in the United States. A ruling by the Supreme Court is, therefore, regarded as of the greatest importance, and the matter will be settled once for all; and should the court hold with reference to Porto Rico that the tariff should be retained, but that uniform revenues must be maintained through the United States and all its possessions, the purpose to retain the Philippines might be abandoned, and a new plan of dealing with the question be adopted.

Startling Charges Discredited.

Charleston's Officers Said to Have Been Drunk at Time of Wreck.

Sensational charges are contained in a confidential letter which has been received at the Navy Department from an American citizen and former attaché of the department, who relates the circumstances relating to the wrecking of the Charleston, and makes the serious statement that a number of officers of the vessel at the time of the disaster were under the influence of liquor. The charge is supported by quotations from men on board the vessel at the time, and the correspondent who furnishes the information claims to have verified the allegations by diligent inquiry among the officers of the Charleston.

The letter was not placed on the official files on account of the peculiar nature of the charges, but it has been referred to the judge advocate general of the navy, with instructions from Secretary Long that the matter be investigated at once. This inquiry will probably not take a more formidable aspect than that of a note of inquiry addressed to the commander-in-chief of the Asiatic station.

Navy officers here who have seen the letter say that there was nothing to justify the charges, and they believe the department will rely on the testimony of the officers from the unwarranted allegations. Captain Pigman, who commanded the Charleston at the time of the wreck, is not involved in any of the charges.

DISTRICT APPROPRIATION.

The bill to be submitted to the Full Committee Monday.

The subcommittee of the House appropriations committee will report the District of Columbia appropriation bill to the full committee next Monday, and it will be acted upon by the House. The bill is to be called up for passage later in the week.

It is understood that the subcommittee thus far has not made any radical reductions in this bill under the current law, but that it is a conservative measure, and in some particulars better than the present law.

The subcommittee developed the fact that the threatened deficit in the District revenues would not occur at a time to affect the operations of this bill, and there has been no shaving of the estimates upon the basis of a deficit of revenue.

Ordered to San Antonio.

Capt. Frederick W. Sibbey, 2d Cavalry, has been ordered to San Antonio, Tex., to report to the commanding officer, Department of Texas, for duty as acting inspector general of that department.

Proposed Railway Commission.

Directed to Regulate All Lines Entering the District.

Mr. Pearce has introduced a bill in the House providing for the organization of a railway commission in the District of Columbia to locate all steam railroad tracks entering the city upon a common route.

The bill directs the President of the United States to appoint two commissioners, who, with the chief of engineers of the army, shall comprise the railroad commission of the District of Columbia. The commission shall locate a union railway starting near Takoma Park and following the route along the Washington coast so as to have it on the Eastern branch of the Potomac, to connect with the Baltimore and Potomac railroad. All crossings shall be above or below grade, and in Rock Creek valley tunnels shall be used.

The commission shall locate union passenger tracks along the Potomac in the vicinity of the Long bridge. Regulations shall be made for the use of the tracks, bridge and depots by all steam railroads entering the District. The title to the property shall be vested in the United States and managed by a board of three men to be selected by the railroad companies.

The bill makes an appropriation of \$3,000,000 and fixes the salaries of the railroad commissioners at \$4,000 a year. The bill was referred to the District committee.

To Do Away With Friday Night Sessions.

It is understood that the committee on rules of the House is likely to take favorable action on a rule to have a time set for considering private pension bills during the day instead of at Friday night sessions, as the latter are usually ineffective because of scant attendance.

GEN. CORBIN'S TRIAL

The Senate Adopts a Resolution Asking for Information.

MR. ROSS SPEAKS AGAINST QUAY

Mr. Teller Discusses the Currency Bill.

HOUSE IN SHORT SESSION

On motion of Senator Pettigrew the Senate, without debate, adopted the following resolution today: "Resolved, That the Secretary of War be, and is hereby, directed to send to the Senate the record of the court-martial of Lieutenant Colonel Corbin, which convened at Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1864 or 1865, together with all the evidence submitted."

"The Secretary of War is also directed to send to the Senate the report of Col. Thomas J. Morgan, dated January 10, 1865, in relation to the 1st Colored Brigade, and Lieut. Col. Corbin's connection with operations from November 20, 1864, to January 12, 1865."

"The Secretary of War is also directed to inform the Senate what allusion Col. Morgan made to said Lieut. Corbin in that report."

It is understood that in the testimony of the trial referred to Lieut. Col. Corbin was charged with cowardice, and that he was acquitted of the charge. It was charged that while under fire he got off his horse and went behind a tree.

The Quay resolution was then laid before the Senate and Mr. Ross (Va.) was asked to address the Senate, when Mr. Burrows suggested the adjournment of the Senate until the 10th of next month.

Forty-nine senators responded to their names, and Mr. Ross proceeded.

Mr. Ross took a position antagonistic to the Quay resolution. He announced that his conclusion had been arrived at only after a careful study of the Constitution, and his argument was entirely upon his construction of that instrument. He contended that under the constitutional provision a vacancy in the Senate could only be filled when it occurred during a recess of the legislature. The Quay case did not, to his mind, meet this requirement.

Mr. Teller on the Financial Bill.

As the clock of Mr. Ross' speech Mr. Teller (Col.) took the floor to discuss the currency report on the financial bill. He maintained that too much power was given the Secretary of the Treasury, and he was opposed to all the provisions of the measure, which he discussed in detail.

Mr. Teller said that he did not believe it was a good thing to extend the public debt, but he did not believe the gold standard could be maintained without it.

Mr. Teller asserted that there has been no effort made in the last twelve years to reduce the public debt nor would there be by the Republican party.

He asked, with all the money in the treasury it could not be used to pay current expenses instead of issuing bonds.

Mr. Teller said that the bill would prevent any evil effects from a possible end chain, and was to prevent a drain upon the treasury.

THE HOUSE.

It had been intended to proceed today in the House with the Aldrich-Robbins contested election case, but unanimous consent was given to vacate the order heretofore made and postpone the final vote until next Monday at 10:30 a.m., the debate continuing Monday and Tuesday.

Bills were passed to authorize the construction of a bridge across Pearl river at Rockport, Miss., and for one across Rainy river, Minnesota, between Rainy lake and the mouth of the Rainy river.

Joint resolutions were passed for the government acquisition of a certain reservation of giant trees in California; also one for extending the time for building a bridge across Missouri river at large.

Mr. Weeks (Mich.), from the committee on elections No. 3, gave notice that the second district of Virginia would be called up immediately after the Aldrich-Robbins case was concluded.

TO EXAMINE CANDIDATES.

Board of Officers to Assemble at the War Department.

The following named persons have been authorized by the Secretary of War to appear before a board of marine officers Monday at the marine barracks, Washington, for examination for admission to the grade of second lieutenant in the Marine Corps:

R. W. Dikeman, Michigan; Eli T. Fryer, New Jersey; Wm. Garland Fay, Maryland; Edgar Hayes, Alabama; Thomas Holcomb, Jr., Delaware; Walter T. Huff, New Jersey; G. E. Manning, Ohio; Theodore Monell, Missouri; Frank Schwaib, Ohio; William E. Smith, Connecticut; Hamilton D. Smith, Pennsylvania; Myron E. Weston, Texas; John W. Williams, Texas; and J. B. Wicks, Vermont.

If all the candidates recently examined and recommended for appointment by the board of officers receive commissions there will then be fifty-one persons in the grade of second lieutenant and nine vacancies will remain to be filled.

PROPOSED RAILWAY COMMISSION.

Directed to Regulate All Lines Entering the District.

Mr. Pearce has introduced a bill in the House providing for the organization of a railway commission in the District of Columbia to locate all steam railroad tracks entering the city upon a common route.

The bill directs the President of the United States to appoint two commissioners, who, with the chief of engineers of the army, shall comprise the railroad commission of the District of Columbia. The commission shall locate a union railway starting near Takoma Park and following the route along the Washington coast so as to have it on the Eastern branch of the Potomac, to connect with the Baltimore and Potomac railroad. All crossings shall be above or below grade, and in Rock Creek valley tunnels shall be used.

The commission shall locate union passenger tracks along the Potomac in the vicinity of the Long bridge. Regulations shall be made for the use of the tracks, bridge and depots by all steam railroads entering the District. The title to the property shall be vested in the United States and managed by a board of three men to be selected by the railroad companies.

The bill makes an appropriation of \$3,000,000 and fixes the salaries of the railroad commissioners at \$4,000 a year. The bill was referred to the District committee.

Naval Commissions Issued.

The following commissions issued to officers in the navy were announced today at the Navy Department: To be captain, W. C. Gibson; to be commander, R. G. Davenport; to be lieutenant commander, H. M. Witzel; A. G. Winterhalter and R. T. Hall, to be surgeon, R. F. Crandall; medical inspectors, Wm. D. Derr, and director, J. C. Wise; paymaster, R. Hutton.

Two Offices Abolished.

In the interests of economy, Acting Secretary Melickjohn has abolished the office of assistant auditor of customs and assistant auditor of post offices for Porto Rico, held respectively by W. W. Barr and John W. Conner, and has directed that the duties shall be performed by the auditor of the islands, Judge J. B. Garrison, formerly deputy controller of the treasury.

Transferred to War Department.

Arrangements were made today for the transfer of the auxiliary cruisers Badger and Resolute from the Navy to the War Department. These vessels were purchased during the Spanish war, and are no longer needed by the navy. The Badger was formerly the Yumurt of the Ward line, and was purchased for \$367,000. The Resolute cost \$475,000. She was formerly the Yorktown of the Old Dominion line.

ENLARGING THE CAPITOL

Suggestion That Has Laid on the Table of the Architects.

Interesting Facts About the Great Building—Wooden Gable Over the Eastern Main Portico.

The suggestion made by Mr. Hoar in the Senate recently that the Capitol building should be enlarged so as to provide more room for committees, etc., has departed some that this contemplated a departure from the plan of the building, and perhaps its desecration, from an artistic point of view. As a matter of fact any new construction in connection with the building is not a remote possibility, but that suggested by Mr. Hoar is only what was in contemplation almost with the original conception of the present enlarged plan. In the office of the architect of the Capitol there is a large picture of the east front elevation of the building, drawn by Wallace, who was architect before Corbin, many years ago, representing the building as it was in contemplation of the architect at the time it was still in course of construction.

In this picture the colonnade on the east front is extended from the main building under the dome around to the wings on either side, and is in harmony with the design of the building as it now appears. It is a more recent plan, modified from the main east front of the Capitol building never was completed. The east portico of the two marble wings more recently constructed, in which are the Senate and the House, is extended forward to the main building in compliance with the design to bring forward the portico of the main building, as completed at that time.

Few people who look with admiration at this building, massive and grand, viewing it from the east, which is the main front, are aware that a certain amount of fraud is being perpetrated upon them. That which seems to be of massive stone is in fact a composition of wood, though the portico of the main building is of stone. The gable roof, which is of stone, is extended forward beyond the line of the main building in compliance with the design to bring forward the portico of the main building, as completed at that time.

There was some objection to the plan of Mr. Hoar, which is his great colonnade around the entire east front of the building, destroyed the artistic angles where the main building drops back sharply to the columns on the east portico. The result of this was the two great marble wings. Some years ago a suggestion, made in a tentative way, was made by Mr. Hoar, led to the drafting of a new plan, in which the main front of the main portico is brought forward, and the columns are confined to the three porticos as they now are, and the same angles and proportions which now lend such beauty to the building are retained.

This plan has grown yellow in the archives of the architect's office, however, and has never been brought forward. It is believed that any steps will be taken for the enlargement of the building for many years to come.

EXCLUDED FROM THE CEMETERY.

Edward Finnigan Testifies Regarding the Idaho Case.

Edward Finnigan of Millan, Idaho, continued his testimony today before the House committee on military affairs concerning the Coeur d'Alene troubles. He said notices were posted early last July forbidding members of organized labor from entering the miners' cemetery on July 11 for the annual ceremony of the deceased miners. The order, the witness said, gave notice that women and other relatives of miners would be arrested if they assembled.

Chairman Hull brought out the statement that the Coeur d'Alene cemetery was the property of the United States, and that the notice was signed by the military authorities. The witness said in answer to a question by Mr. Hull, that the military authorities were not notified of the order, which a number of women secretly carried flowers to the miners' graves, and that there was no organized demonstration, they were not arrested.

WILL BE AT BOSTON JUNE 17.

Arranging the Summer Cruise of the North Atlantic Squadron.

Rear Admiral Farquhar, commanding the North Atlantic squadron, will arrange the program of the summer cruise of that squadron along the New England coast so as to have it at Boston on June 17, for the purpose of participating in the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill. An arrangement to this effect has been made by Secretary Long, at the request of officials and organizations of the city of Boston.

The vessels of this squadron are the New York, Texas, Stetson and the Detroit at Mobile. They will probably make a short visit to Galveston, Tex. The flagship New York and the gunboat Machias are cruising in the Gulf of Mexico.

It is more than probable that the big battleship Oregon will be sent to the New England coast for the summer maneuvers along the New England coast. She will take the place of the New York as the flagship of the squadron.

As the New York is greatly in need of repairs it is not likely that she will be available for the Boston celebration. As soon as she is ready for service she will be put into dry dock at New York for a thorough overhauling.