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Let us provide the Wines and Liquors for this festive occasion. Selling only best grades at fairest prices—we can do it to best advantage. Every good brand is here. Send your order to us at once. 'Phone 2188—

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California Claret (Zinfandel),—per dozen, $2.50—bottle..... 25c.

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25c. bottle—$2.50 dozen.
35c. bottle—$3.50 dozen.
50c. bottle—$5.25 dozen.

Cooking Sherry—a good California product—per gal..... $1.00

Good Cooking Whiskey, for Thanksgiving pies and deserts—per gallon..... $2.25

California Brandy — per gallon, $2.50—per bottle 75c.

New England Rum, excellent grade—per bottle.. 75c.

Creme de Menthe, per bottle..... $1.00

Smith's Philadelphia Ale—per dozen..... $1.25

Bass' Ale, per dozen for..... $2.00

Guiness' Stout, per dozen for..... $1.90

Gosman's Ginger Ale, per dozen..... $1.00
(25c. allowed for bottles returned.)

Cantrell & Cochrane's Ginger Ale, per dozen.. $1.40

Leading brands of Bottled Beer delivered anywhere—Heurich's, Pabst, Schlitz and Anheuser-Busch. Per case of two dozen..... $1.25

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Mail orders filled. 'Phone 2188.

"SILVER WEDDING" WHISKEY is the best to offer your guests. Costs one dollar a full quart—but is far superior to any other brand. Established 1876—its splendid purity has been constantly maintained. Let us send a bottle along with the other "good cheer" you order.
$3.50 for a gallon jug.
$4.00 for a Dwarf Barrel.

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Rich, swagger effects, in red, white and navy..... $4 to $5.50

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Women's elegant quality Wool Golf Gloves..... 50c.
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Also beautiful line of Women's fine Austrian Wool and Silk Golf Gloves at 75c. to $1.50.

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Stylish Bishop and Lace-trimmed Stocks—splendid values at
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Those very exclusive Hand-made Stocks, in lace, embroidered and beaded effects, at $1 to $3.50.

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The latest effects in Women's Black Lace-ankle and All-over Lace Lisle Hosiery. Special value at.. 50c.

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Special in Women's Heavy Fleeced White and Natural Vests and Drawers at..... 25c.
Women's Cotton and Wool Tights—knee and ankle lengths—white—gray—black and natural, at
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Special offering in Women's Fine All-linen Embroidered and Initial Handkerchiefs—both sheer and heavy cloth, at..... 12½c.

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Are here—all the novelties are in this collection, at
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Odd and artistic designs in gilt, black and platinum photo frames; all sizes.
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In Dresden, Early English and French, Lowestopt, Chelsea, Sevres, Delft, Vienna, &c., in useful and ornamental shapes; Old Dutch Glass Wine Sets.

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Andirons, Fire Sets, Candelabra, Jardinieres, Lamps, Door Knockers.

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A LOCAL CONCERN.
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AMERICANS IN CUBA

Most of Them Are After Land.

WARNING THE UNWARY

NOT TO PUT FAITH IN SOME COMPANIES.

Development of Street Railway Will Aid Colonization—Benefit to the Island.

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

HAVANA, November 18, 1902.

Americans are coming into Cuba pretty rapidly. They are of the right class. Most of them are after land. That is where they show good sense. It is about the only way to get rich or to live in comfort without being too rich. A newcomer who puts his money into land or engages in genuine investment enterprise is going to distance the fellow who has nothing but schemes.

Among the Americans who are coming are all types. Some of the real capitalists do not control quite as much money as they are credited with, yet there are investment projects which have capital back of them, and which with conservative management are likely to succeed. A good many syndicates still exist on paper, and will never get further than that. Others have brought money to Havana and have it in the banks.

With the commercial and financial classes who do the business of the city that is the only real test of whether an American enterprise is genuine or not. If they have money on deposit they can also have credit, and they are given the recognition to which they are entitled. But if they are going to get the money later and bring it down to Cuba, the Havana banks treat them politely and pass them on.

Selling of Franchises.

"It was a late discovery of American capitalists that the Foraker law did not seriously interfere with legitimate investments. It simply prevented a lot of speculators from peddling franchises in the United States. Since the Cuban government was established there has been no general law passed regarding franchises. For the most part the old Spanish laws continue in force. Under these, municipal and other franchises may be obtained. Some impetus has been given to plans for water works, street car and electric lighting projects, gas and so forth. But as a rule the Cuban municipalities are not rushing headlong into public improvements. Most of them are still too poor, and the resources of local taxation are too uncertain. American capitalists have found this out, and they also have become conservative. Where they are going into municipal improvement projects it is only after a careful investigation.

It is rather of the individual American than of the syndicate that I mean to write, because so many inquiries still come from individuals whose future must depend on the capital which they can bring and utilize in sums from one thousand dollars upward. Swindling land companies keep on advertising that they have platted off lots in Paradise, otherwise known as Cuba. They will sell a certain amount of swamp or savannahs to credulous persons who buy without knowing anything of the geography or of the physical conditions of the island. Some persons of respectability, who ought to be in jail, lend their names to the legitimate colonizing enterprises, these schemes. They throw a cloud over

Warning the Unwary.

There is a limit to which the unwary can be warned. Where half a dozen people are thinking of coming to the island, they will save money by sending one of their number in advance before they invest a dollar. And where the single individual has only a thousand dollars he will do wisely to set aside a third of it for the expense of a trip to Cuba. I have met so many Americans who bought lands from companies or whose standing they knew nothing and then come to Cuba to take a look at their property, that the suggestion of first coming to Cuba and then buying the property is a constantly recurring one.

With soil of boundless richness Cuba also has a considerable quantity of poor lands. That is the kind of land that the swindling companies buy in order to sell to gullible persons in the United States. Americans now have a further means of informing themselves because the United States has a consul general in Havana and consuls in the other chief cities whose reports to the State Department have value.

These are general hints or pointers. Probably no one who has the prospectus habit and takes for gospel what he reads in those works of boom literature will pay heed to them. Others who may want to know can take the information for what they think it worth.

Regarding the type of the individual American who is coming to Cuba now I got the best notion from one of the Cuban immigration inspectors. "They all come first class," he said, "and while in one sense they are emigrants, they don't appear on the records as such. I asked one man how much money he had with him, and he asked me would I rather be pitched overboard or would he put me to sleep right there on deck. I know he was mad and I didn't ask any more Americans who we thought were emigrants how much money they had with them."

Nominally Cuba has in force the immigration laws of the United States and the inspectors have the right to satisfy themselves that the immigrants are not going to become public charges. As this inspector explained, he should have known better than to ask a first-class passenger, and he won't do it again.

The American Colonist.

A fair proportion of the Americans who are coming in are acting on the advice of friends or neighbors. These have passed two or more summers. The American colonist is apt to be discouraged during the first rainy season, but after the second one he finds that it isn't so bad, and he writes to his neighbors telling them to come along.

The opening of the railway which Sir William Van Horne and his associates have built across the island is going to be a basis for large development and colonization enterprises. But the conditions of soil in the eastern provinces are not different from those that prevail throughout the island, and information which will answer for a colonist in one province will be just as good for another section.

For Cuba herself the chief benefit from the American immigration is going to be in diversifying her products. A good deal that is academic is written about diversified industries in Cuba. Whenever sugar or tobacco is depressed the Cubans are told that what they ought to do is to diversify their industries. Prof. James Bryce came over from England last winter and told them so. A French professor of political economy and a German beet sugar expert gave the same advice. Nearly every American gives it.

This advice is very good. It cannot, however, change the foundation fact that the chief wealth of Cuba is and always will be her sugar and tobacco. The only question is the degree to which these can be varied, and even after many years' successful experimenting the value of Cuba's diversified products in any given season can only be a fraction of the value of the sugar crop. But this is no drawback to the individual or to the group whose opportunity lies in getting away from sugar cane cultivation.

For capital on a fairly large scale, but which is not large enough to go into sugar plantations and mills, the cattle industry in eastern Santa Clara, Porto Principe and parts of Santiago, offers the best opportunity. This opportunity has been taken advantage of, and the aggregate of American money which has gone into the cattle raising business is considerable. The Cuban congress has adopted the protective policy. It has increased the tariff duties on fat cattle ready for consumption and removed or decreased the duties on lean cattle which can be fattened on the Cuban ranges, and it also has made tariff concessions on live stock imported for breeding purposes. It will be so long until Cuba raises live stock enough to supply her own market that the question of export need not enter into the calculations of those who are going into the cattle industry.

CHARLES M. PEPPER.

THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

Annual Statement Made by Mr. J. T. Petty.

DEFICIENCIES NOTED

RECEIPTS FROM ALL SOURCES LESS THAN EXPENDITURES.

Objections to Method of Depositing Collections Devoted to Relief of Police and Firemen.

Mr. J. T. Petty, the District auditor, today submitted his annual report to the Commissioners. The report gives in interesting detail the financial operations of the government of the District of Columbia during the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1902, showing the receipts and expenditures for that period, the condition of the revenue account at the close of the year, and the balances which then remained to the credit of the several trust funds and of the various appropriations made by Congress.

Mr. Petty raises the point that it will probably not be necessary for the District to begin this year the repayment of the advances made by the United States to cover the deficiency of 1901. The law authorizing those advances provided that repayment should begin July 1, 1902, but at the last session of Congress another law on the same subject was passed, providing for the payment of the first installment July 1, 1903, from "surplus revenues." Mr. Petty, speaking of the deficiency and the laws, says:

"The fiscal year which ended June 30, 1902, like its predecessor of 1901, is notable for the fact that the receipts from taxes and all other sources of revenue were less than the expenditures, the deficit being $2,491,574.05, if reckoning all appropriations for the year as obligations which had accrued and were chargeable June 30, 1902, or an actual shortage of $1,759,242.46, if considering only those appropriations on account of which advances had been made at that date from the United States treasury.

Requisitions Honored.

"The Secretary of the Treasury, being authorized by the act of February 11, 1901, to advance from time to time such sums as might be required for general expenses, has honored all requisitions of the Commissioners, so that no embarrassment has resulted from the failure to collect sufficient revenue to meet the obligations of the District under the appropriations made by Congress.

"The act provided that all advances made in accordance with its terms should be 'reimbursed to the treasury of the United States out of the revenues of the District of Columbia, beginning July 1, 1902, in four equal annual installments,' but on the date thus fixed for the commencement of this reimbursement period Congress passed another act, of similar import as to advances, but differing otherwise, in that it requires returns to be made from the "surplus revenues' in three years from July 1, 1903. Believing that it was the purpose of Congress in passing the act of July 1, 1902, to repeal that of February 11, 1901, the estimates for the coming fiscal year have been arranged to meet the requirements of the later law, which will also govern in the settlement of the accounts between the United States and the District of Columbia."

Accompanying the report are six tables covering the details of all the financial transactions of the District. The first table is a statement of the appropriations and revenues of the past fiscal year. The amount carried over from 1901 to meet one-half the deficiency of that year is $716,155.38. The joint appropriations made last year amounted to $8,320,255.42, the District's share (one-half) being $4,160,127.71. In addition to this Congress made appropriations to the extent of $1,292,889.78, payable wholly by the District, divided as follows: Permanent system of highways, $2,500; extension of streets, $1,192,389.78; expenses of the excise board, $5,000, and refunding erroneously paid taxes, $3,000. In addition to the above the District had to pay $3,400 for lighting the White House and $28,390 for salaries and care of public buildings and grounds (items carried in the sundry civil act). The total current expenses, including all the items mentioned above and the deficiency carred over from 1901, amounted to $6,110,962.87. The District revenues the past year amounted to $3,619,388.82, leaving a deficiency of $2,491,574.05, as mentioned by Mr. Petty.

Balances of Old Tax Levies.

Commenting on the various features of office work, the auditor says:

"The books of the office have long been cumbered with uncollectable balances of assessments upon both real and personal property, some of which were legacies from the old corporations of Washington, Georgetown and the levy court, while others belong to the succeeding territorial regime, and others still to the temporary form of government by commissioners which immediately preceded the present establishment. Acting upon the decision of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to the effect that the assessments for taxes upon personal property under the act of March 3, 1877, were invalid for the reason that the assessor was not authorized to levy the same, the balances which remained on these accounts have been stricken from the books by order of the Commissioners dated October 1, 1902, but in respect of those upon real property belonging to former levies no action has been taken by this office as there is no warrant of law for their removal in this manner. It is clear, however, that in the interest of good administration the Commissioners should be clothed with authority to revise these lists of arrearages of taxes long overdue and free the books from charges which can never be collected, but inasmuch as all property should bear its proportionate share of the municipal burden there should be coupled with the power of cancellation the authority to reassess and collect, so that in the end no loss would come to the government through improvidence or design on the part of delinquent taxpayers.

Property Account.

"The suggestion in my last annual report that a more systematic method of distributing and accounting for public property is desirable merits renewal by virtue of its great importance. Every custodian of property in the District of Columbia should be debited therewith upon the books of the property clerk or the superintendent of property, as the case may be, to whom returns should be made at stated intervals upon forms so arranged as to show the location or disposition of every article of value belonging to the District of Columbia. Without the safeguard of a proper system of accountability there is always the liability of loss, or the danger of public property being converted to private use, instances of this character, as I am advised, having occurred within a comparatively recent period.

Police and Firemen's Relief Funds.

"Prior to July 1, 1894, the revenue derived from disciplinary fines and from stoppages in the pay of members of the metropolitan police and of the fire department which constituted the police and firemen's relief funds was quite sufficient to meet the allotment of the respective pension lists, but for nearly two years thereafter, or until May 31, 1896, deficiencies occurred from time to time which amounted in the aggregate to $17,000 in round numbers. In the District of Columbia appropriation act of June 11, 1896, authority was given the Commissioners, and they were directed, 'to deposit with the treasurer of the United States, out of receipts from fines in the Police Court, a sufficient amount to meet any deficiency in the police fund or the firemen's relief fund,' and in the act of February 28, 1901, this authority was enlarged by making a similar application of receipts from dog licenses.

"This method of depositing collections with the treasurer, instead of covering them into the treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia, does not commend itself to my judgment. The items thus set apart are naturally tributary to the general fund, and no statement of the revenues is complete or satisfactory from a statistical standpoint which fails to show the entire collections on these accounts. To illustrate: In the fiscal year 1901 the sum of $44,772.93 was realized from fines imposed in the Police Court, while the revenue statement for that year shows but $3,465.55 as having been collected on this account, the difference of $41,307.38 representing the sum which was deposited directly with the treasurer to the credit of the police and firemen's relief funds.

More Serious Objection.

"This criticism is not the only one to which the law quoted is amenable, a more serious objection being its failure to place these funds upon a sure financial foundation, leaving them, as it does, dependent upon collections liable at any time to fall short of the sum required and thereby necessitating a corresponding reduction of allowance in the case of every pensioner upon the rolls. The shortage of $17,000 hereinbefore mentioned compelled a reduction of 40 per cent in each allotment, which proved a great hardship to the widows, orphans and disabled veterans upon whom the loss fell, and which still remains a loss, notwithstanding earnest and repeated efforts since made to secure reimbursement through an appropriation by Congress.

"In view of the character of the beneficiaries it would seem but an act of sheer justice to guarantee the payment of these pensions in full by so amending the law as to authorize deficiencies in the respective relief funds to be met by requisitions upon the general fund of the District of Columbia, covering to the credit of the latter all receipts from fines and dog licenses which are now deposited with the treasurer of the United States."

Mr. Petty says there is no cessation in the growth of the work of the office, 13,182 regular claims having been audited as against 12,774 in the preceding year, while 1,162 vouchers have been examined and passed in accounts for whole and half cost permit work, Rock Creek Park and bathing beach appropriations and disbursements for the Washington City Public Library.

Boyd's and Vicinity.

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

BOYD'S, Md., November 24, 1902.

A very sad accident befell one of the little children of Mr. Jacob Bodman of the vicinity of Poolesville about 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon last. Mr. Bodman was away from home Saturday, and his children got hold of a flobert rifle. They played with it a while and one of the older sisters, aged about eight or nine, pointed it at a tree to shoot when her little sister, six years old, ran in front of the rifle as it was discharged, the bullet entering her head. She fell to the ground immediately. A physician was summoned and stated that the case is a hopeless one. The ball has not been removed on account of the danger of the operation.

This morning early a freight engine, while standing in the round house at Brunswick, leaked a little at the throttle and the engine moved ahead and ran through one end of the round house, tearing out the entire front of the building. The engine was but little damaged.

Mr. Lloyd Dorsey of Germantown, who has been an invalid from lung trouble for some time, but of late had recovered somewhat, is again confined to his bed extremely ill.

Mr. Joseph Morgan of Germantown has accepted the position of baggage master in the depot at Ellicott City for the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. He filled a similar capacity at Germantown, but the position at Ellicott City is a promotion, more salary being attached.

Receiver of Boston Bank.

The controller of the currency has appointed Frank D. Allen permanent receiver of the Central National Bank of Boston.

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Chas. O. Brown, journalist, of Duluth, Minn., writes: "I have been a sufferer from Throat and Nasal Catarrh for over 20 years, during which time my head has been stopped up and my condition truly miserable. Within 15 minutes after using Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder I obtained relief. Three bottles have almost, if not entirely, cured me."

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Nearly new full Upright Grand Piano, latest improvements. Original price, $400—Thanksgiving special at $250, $8 monthly payments, including Stool, Scarf, one year's tuning and free delivery. Also one small Upright Piano, $125, on $5 monthly payments.
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75c. qt.—for plum puddings and mince pies.
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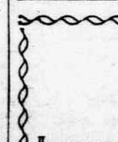

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