WASHINGTON LETTER

Our Regular Correspondent Records the Events of a Week at the Capital.

WHAT MORRILL DID

Presidnet Instructs Admiral Dewey and Otis About Philippines—The Cuban Soldiers a Problem.

Special Correspondence of The Gazette.

Washington, Jan. 2.—President McKinley's instructions to Admiral Dewey and General Otis say in substance: Hoist Old Glory in every seaport of the Philippines, peaceably, if you can, forcibly if you must; and let it be distinctly understood by the insurgents that the authority of the United States will be maintained at all hazards. His instructions to all of our officers in Cuba are equally explicit, concerning the transfer of authority from the Spanish to our troops—allow no unjust treatment of either Spaniards or Cubans by each other, and so far as may be possible prevent either doing anything calculated to humiliate the other.

What to do with the Cuban soldiers is a problem that is receiving much attention from our officials. The men are entirely without clothing or money, and the so-called Cuban government has no money to pay them, although it gets enough from somewhere to maintain a number of ornamental, rather than useful, agents, in Washington, New York and elsewhere. Some of the soldiers have been in the field ever since the rebellion started and never received a cent. It would be unjust, as well as dangerous, to dismiss them ragged and penniless. It has been suggested that this government advance a sufficient sum to pay them all something like $100 each, and repay itself from the Cuban revenues that will be collected by us while the island remains under military control, and the suggestion has been favorably received, and may be carried out. There is an item of $3,000,000, for emergencies, in the special deficiency appropriation made by congress, that could be used for this purpose if the president ordered it done, but this he has not yet decided to do.

Few public men have died in Washington whose loss was more sincerely regretted than Senator Morrill of Vermont, who died last week of pneumonia, after an illness of less than one week. Senator Morrill had been in congress for the last forty-four years and has been identified with much useful legislation. He was instrumental in putting through the house, when he was a member of that body, the first bill against Mormon polygamy; he introduced and carried through both branches of congress the first bill granting public lands for the support of agricultural, scientific and industrial colleges, under which act there are now forty seven colleges, with 500 professors and more than 5,000 students; the war tariff bill, known as the "Morrill tariff," was largely his personal work—in fact, there has been no tariff or financial bill put through congress during the last forty years that he did not have a hand in shaping. The congressional library building, the finest of its kind in the world, is a monument to his tireless industry and perseverance, and almost his last work was to have the senate pass, for the third time, his bill to purchase the square of ground opposite the library building as a site for a supreme court building. Senator Proctor, his colleague, told Senator Morrill's character, in a sentence, when he said of him: "All during his political life he has been outspoken in his expressions of opinion, and in the many years that I have known him I have never heard an unkind word said of him." Funeral services were held in the senate chamber Saturday.

Senator Allison of Iowa is the second republican on the finance committee, of which the late Senator Morrill was chairman, but as he is chairman of the appropriation committee, a position he is not likely to give up for the vacant chairmanship, it is regarded as certain that Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island, who, owing to Senator Morrill's feebleness, performed all the hard work of the chairman during the amending of the Dingley tariff bill and the debate on the bill in the senate, will become chairman of the committee, if Senator Allison waives his right to it. No senator is beter fitted for the place than Mr. Aldrich.

It was not surprising to those familiar with the situation when General Otis cabled the war department that Aguinaldo's so-called government had fallen to pieces by the resignation of his cabinet and his inability to form another, owing to the indisposition of the Filipinos to assist him in his bluff at opposing the rule of the United States. They know that Aguinaldo sold them out to Spain and they believed, doubtless correctly, that he intended to try to do the same to the United States. They displayed more sense than Aguinaldo, as there is no probability of his receiving a cent from the United States, under any circumstances, while there is a possibility that he may be called upon to account for the various sums of money he is known to have stolen from business establishments and church institutions which have been looted by the insurgents.

Only two republican senators have publicly spoken against ratification of the treaty of peace—Hoar of Massachusetts and Perkins of California—and both of them have stated conditions under which they will vote for its ratification. Mr. Hoar says he will vote to ratify if the treaty is amended so as to prohibit statehood for the Philippines, or any portion of them, and Mr. Perkins that he will vote for ratification if instructed by the California legislature to do so.

MUSSELSHELL NEWS.

Many Items of Interest Recorded from the Northern Country.

Special Correspondence of The Gazette.

Musselshell, Jan. 3.—Christmas was observed upon a more extensive order than ever before hereabouts. Aside from the numerous parcels, etc., containing holiday presents coming by mail and express, a large and acceptable holiday trade was enjoyed by local merchants.

Matt Keefer of this place, accompanied by R. M. Jones and W. H. Mosby, as his witnesses, returned last week from a trip to Lewistown, where Mr. Keefer made final proof upon his homestead entry at the land office at that place. All report a long, hard and tedious trip, especially at this time of the year, having been almost six days constantly traveling, going and returning.

The Christmas tree and dance at the hall called forth a large and jovial gathering. Scores of children were present to welcome Santa Claus with his presents, and almost fifty couple joined in the social dance that followed the distribution. Visitors were present from Roundup and Flatwillow.

W. H. Neel, foreman of the Ryan Bros. outfit, is expected home Jan. 15, after a two months' pleasant visit with friends in Leavenworth, Kan.

John Stockwell of this place left on last Thursday's stage for a New Year's visit with his mother and brothers in Billings.

C. B. Wallace was the lucky winner at the Christmas drawing for the gold watch and chain at the store.

The continued cold weather has so far prevented a great deal of work being done upon some of the local irrigating ditches, flumes, etc.

A petition was circulated in this neighborhood praying for the change in the boundary line between Yellowstone and Fergus counties and asking that it be moved farther north. The petition now carries the name of every affected taxpayer and resident, with but one single exception from this immediate vicinity.

Jacobs Bros. have purchased of Wright Harvey the one-half interest of Mr. Harvey in what is known as the Weaver ranch and irrigating ditch, and having previously owned the other one-half interest, the Jacobs Bros. become entire owners of this property.

It is reported that the Ryan Bros. are contemplating again placing 10,000 head of southern cattle upon their extensive ranges in this part.

Sheep and cattle are reported as doing fine upon the adjoining ranges. Good grass and just snow enough to answer the purpose of moisture is what we are favored with at the present time.

LATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

The National Eistedfodd is holding a session in Milwaukee. Nearly 1,000 Welch singers are present.

Nebraska has an even dozen candidates for the United States senatorial plum to succeed Senator Allen.

Chicago is to have a cloud-piercing structure, which will outdo the Eiffel tower. It is to be 1,100 feet high.

Governor Pingree and DeForest Richards were inaugurated as governors of Michigan and Wyomiing, respectively, Monday.

A most remarkable wedding took place recently near Canal Dover, Ohio, in which four brothers were married to four sisters.

Ex-United States Senator Dubois of Idaho was married this week in Chicago to Miss Edna Maxfield Whited of South Dakota.

The governor's office at the state house of Illinois was entered a few nights ago by parties unknown and $580 stolen from a drawer.

W. A. Poynter, populist, was yesterday inaugurated as governor of Nebraska, succeeding Silas A. Holcomb, also a populist, who held the office two terms.

Gillett, the Kansas cattle king fugitive, wants to settle with his creditors for $50,000 cash. He only left his creditors several hundred thousands of dollars in the hole.

The annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers will be held in Cincinnati Jan. 24, 25 and 26, and an effort is being made to secure the attendance of President McKinley.

Brigadier General Sumner has been assigned to the command of the department of Missouri, with headquarters at Omaha. He has been stationed at Denver, but in the readjustment of commands was changed to Omaha

Attorney General Monnett has filed in the state supreme court of Ohio a petition to oust the National Biscuit company from doing business as a trust in that state. The suit is in line with the attorney general's policy of fighting the trusts in Ohio.

Representative Nelson Dingley of Maine is critically ill in Washington with an attack of pneumonia. Because of his age much concern is felt over his condition. Mr. Dingley is of delicate physique, is an unremitting worker and has figured in tariff legislation in the house for a great number of years. He is now chairman of the committee on ways and means and is the leader of the republican majority on the floor of the house.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Continued from Third Page.

legislative assembly the soldiers' home of Montana has been formally opened for the reception of inmates and at the present time I believe about fifty of the old soldiers of the state find in this place hospitable cheer and welcome and protection in their infirmities. The commandant, Captain Hillman, seems to be well suited for the position and everything that can be done to make these unfortunate defenders of our country pleasant in their maturer years, is being done. The report of the board of managers is open for your inspection as to the appropriations and the requirements of the institution, and I ask that you give the same careful consideration.

Insane Asylum.

In my message to the Fifth legislative assembly I recommended that the legislature take some action toward securing for the state a home for our insane and feeble-minded. This recommendation, through the congestion of business, failed to become a law. I have nothing but words of praise for the management of our present asylum, and believe that the persons having the same in charge are as well calculated for the duties imposed upon them as any who could possibly be selected. Their treatment is undoubtedly humane and kind and everything is done that can be done toward giving relief or perfecting a cure in these unfortunate citizens. But the policy of this stated in letting out by contract the keeping of our insane and feeble-minded is one at which the mind will naturally rebel. The number of inmates, according to the last report of the board of commissioners of the insane, is 457. This has been an increase of forty-five during the past year. At the time I entered upon the discharge of my duties as your executive, the cost of keeping the insane was 90 cents per capita per day. This figure, according to my investigation, is the highest figure paid by any state west of the Missouri river. I did not make any investigation as to the institutions lying east of that stream. If this legislature can devise a proper scheme, either for the purchase of the present quarters, or for the erection of new quarters, to be under the control and management of the state, the same will meet with my most hearty and cordial approval.

The mainstay of our present asylum, a man of great integrity and kindly character, Dr. A. H. Mitchell, has gone from us and we must now look to new men to manage this institution if left to private contract.

Penitentiary.

During the past two years a new penitentiary building at Deer lodge has been entirely completed and other improvements in the way of electric lights have been added to the institution. The management is now, as it has been for a number of years past, under contract to Messrs. Conley and McTague, and their conduct and management deserves the highest enconium and praise at my hands, because I believe no better suited persons could be found to control and manage the inmates of our state prison than these gentlemen. This is evidenced by the very few complaints that come to me and by the fact that there are, practically, no escapes from the institution. The prison is about as safe from fire or other disaster as it is possible to be, and the chances or opportunities of escape are reduced to a minimum. It is kept so perfect and cleanly that we have little or no complaint of any kind coming from the inmates.

Omaha Exposition.

During the year 1898 there was held at Omaha, in the state of Nebraska, a Trans-Mississippi and International exposition, designed especially to display the resources of the states lying west of the Mississippi river. The Fifth legislative assembly of Montana appropriated $15,000 for the purpose of making a display of the resources of Montana at that exposition. This sum was subsequently augmented by a further personal donation of $15,000 from the Hon. Marcus Daly of Anaconda, who, in every way possible, gave to the exposition not only his money, but every encouragement and friendly act or advice possible to make of it a complete success. W. H. Sutherlin of Meagher county was designated by me as commissioner to take charge of the matter of securing and installing the exhibit and superintending it throughout the exposition, and it is but fair to say that in every respect Mr. Sutherlin exhibited the qualities necessary to make a successful exhibit of our resources.

Railroad Commission.

In my message to the Fifth legislative assembly I suggested the advisability of creating a railroad commission for the state of Montana. That suggestion I now reiterate and confirm. The railroads traversing our state, during the past year, have responded somewhat to the popular demand and reduced the cost of local passenger travel to 4 cents per mile. This concession our people doubtless appreciate, but in many respects a commission with proper authority can be of great benefit, not alone to the people of the state, but to the railroad corporations as well, in the management and control of the traffic, as well as the cost charges for the transportation of passengers and freight. The enlightened legislation of recent years demonstrates the practicability and the necessity of a railroad commission. Almost every state in the Union has found it necessary to enact laws creating railroad commissions, and giving them powers for the necessary discharge of the duties imposed upon them by law. I commend to your consideration the law with reference to the railroad commission and its powers as passed by the legislature of California. I do not believe that it is necessary to impose additional burdens or offices upon the people of the state in order to create such a commission. The state officers of Montana are perhaps worked as hard as any similar officers in any commonwealth in the Union, but I believe, as far as I can judge from the temper of the people of this state, that if we should impose upon any of those officers the duties of railroad commissioners and prescribe those duties, they would cheerfully undertake and faithfully discharge the trust, without additional cost or burden to the people; but if, in your wisdom you should see fit to make such offices separate, either by appointment or election, I am satisfied that your action would meet with the approval of the citizens of our commonwealth. Trusting that you will give to this question such consideration as the importance of the subject demands, and that, if such meets with your approval, you will pass such laws as will give protection and equal and exact justice to the corporations and to our people alike.

State Bounty Law.

In 1897 I felt called upon to make certain recommendations with reference to the bounty upon gray wolves and coyotes. During 1896, 18,216 claims for the killing of coyotes had been filed with the secretary of state. At that time I pointed out the possibility of paying this bounty with the revenues then at the command of the state. This suggestion in my message was met by the statement that the coyotes of the state had been almost destroyed, and that from that time forward we would see a large reduction in the number of bounty claims for the few coyotes killed. In order, however, to produce more revenue, an additional mill and a half was imposed upon the stock interests of the state for the purpose of paying these bounties. During the past two years it was proven, by the arrest and conviction of at least one person, and the imprisonment of two others at Bozeman, that our state bounty law was defective and that numerous frauds were being perpetrated by reason of the failure of the law to throw sufficient guards around these bounty claims. Coyote skins have been fraudulently imported from Chicago and Salt Lake in order to secure the large bounty our state pays.

The records of the office of the secretary of state show that during 1897 there were 22,082 coyotes and 6,112 gray wolves killed in the state, for which bounty claims were filed. And that, during eleven months of 1898, up to and including November, 20,797 coyotes have been killed and 5,356 wolves, to which should be added the claims that will be filed during the month of December, 1898. This will undoubtedly bring the total number up to the number given for 1897. The total cost of these claims for 1897 is $84,582, and for eleven months of 1898, $78,459. It will thus be seen that the maximum number of coyotes killed had not been reached in 1896, as we were assured at the time was the case. The increase has been more than 4,000 per annum since that year.

I am constrained to believe that the bounty on coyotes should be reduced to $1, for this reason: The present revenue is not sufficient to meet the present demands. The old bounty claims, amounting to about $70,000, remain unpaid; the new bounty claims are continually increasing and the hunters and trappers under these conditions are compelled to discount their claims. Another reason for this recommendation is, that in hunting for the gray wolf, the coyote will be destroyed almost as effectually as he is today. The same poisons and the same traps that are set for the wolf will destroy the coyote, and the hunter who is hunting for the wolf will never allow a coyote to escape if he can prevent it. In my opinion, the bounty on coyotes should be reduced to $1 and the bounty on gray wolves increased to $5. This increased price, with the assurance of a cash payment for their claims, will induce a more systematic and thorough search for these destroying pests, which will eventually result in the destruction of as many coyotes as at present, and at the same time will so relieve the bounty fund as to make it possible to meet the accrued demands; and such a law, if properly guarded with reference to gray wolves, would remove the great temptation now paid as bounty upon coyote claims. Our neighboring states pay only about $1 per capita for such bounty claims, whereas we are paying $3, and the inducement to import fraudulent claims into our state and make them a public charge upon our fund is a constant menace to us, and requires a vigilance not hitherto exercised by our officials.

Investment of School Funds.

Our state treasurer now has something over $200,000 of the permanent school fund of the state for investment. And although I know that the treasurer has exercised all diligence possible to secure its investment under the present existing laws, a very large portion of it still lies idle in his hands, for the reason that he has been unable to find such investments as the constitution and the laws in force require.

I suggest to you the advisability of providing for its investment in the bonds of our state institutions, such, for instance, as the school of mines and the deaf and dumb school, and other institutions under the guardianship and control of the legislature of this state. It seems to me that as to these bonds, we ought to be willing to risk the investment of our own school funds in bonds over the control of which your authority is absolute.

If, in your wisdom, you see fit to pass a resolution, asking congress to submit a constitutional amendment providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, such a course will have my most cordial endorsement and approval, for I am firmly convinced we cannot too soon resort to this more democratic method of electing our senators in congress.

Before closing this message to you, I desire again to reiterate what I have already said as to the necessity of keeping our appropriations strictly within the limits of the revenue at our disposal. Every effort that can be made to reduce the cost of taxation which our people bear in maintaining the state, county and city governments should be put forth by you to minimize these burdens. Extravagant legislation or appropriations should be discountenanced, and the most economical administration of public affairs consistent with efficient discharge of public duties is required, all of which I bespeak of this assembly.

Trusting that you may at once begin the important matter of your legislative duties, so that you will not find a congested mass of undevised matters to confront you in the closing days of the session, and hoping and believing that you will give to each measure that due consideration which the importance of the subject warrants, I submit the matter to your hands, ready and willing to co-operate with you, at all times, in any effort to better the condition of our people and of our beloved commonwealth.

GENERAL STATE NEWS.

A meeting is to be held in Missoula next week for the purpose of organizing a state baseball league.

The Montana soldiers in the Philippines are anxiously awaiting the welcome news to leave for home.

The annual meeting of the Montana Bar association is called to meet in the supreme court room in Helena on next Tuesday.

Theodore Brantly, the new chief justice of Montana, and Wm. T. Pigott, who succeeded himself as associate justice, were sworn into office Tuesday.

It is reported in Great Falls and Fort Benton that George B. McLaughlin, ex-sheriff of Choteau county and ex-Indian agent at the Blackfeet agency, was murdered with three companions several hundred miles north of Edmonton in the Northwest territory while en route to Alaska by the overland or "back-door" route. McLaughlin is well known in Montana, having for a number of years been connected with the River Press of Fort Benton.

Burlington Route—Holiday Rates.

Greatly reduced rates between stations not more than 200 miles apart are offered by the Burlington Route, December 24, 25, 26 and 31, 1898, and January 1 and 2, 1899. Return limit January 4, 1899. 68-5

The Army and Navy

Have covered themselves with glory during the war. The army and navy vestpocket memorandum book published by the Northern Pacific is a compact digest of information relative to the navies and armies of Spain and the United States at the beginning of the war. It has a map of Cuba, illustrations of naval ships, glossary of navy and army terms, translation of Spanish words, etc. Send 10 cents to Chas. S. Fee, Gen. Pass. agent, N. P. R. R., St. Paul, Minn., for a copy. 59-tf

It is now said United States District Attorney Whittemore of Utah will institute mandamus proceedings to enjoin the election commissioners at Salt Lake City from issuing to Congressman-elect B. H. Roberts a certificate of election. The plea will be made in the circuit court that the congressman-elect is not a citizen. It will be argued that the disfranchisement accompanied his conviction and sentence to the penitentiary in May, 1889. The general amnesty issued by President Harrison was based upon the keeping of this pledge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE Seventh Judicial District of the State of Montana.

In the matter of the terms of court in and for the Seventh Judicial District, state of Montana.—ORDER.

It is hereby ordered that the terms of the district court of the Seventh judicial district, state of Montana, for the year A. D. 1899, will be held at the county seats of the respective counties composing all the Seventh judicial district, to-wit: Dawson, Custer and Yellowstone, at 10 o'clock a. m. of the following days, to-wit:

Dawson County—February 15, May 1, September 1, November 13.

Custer County.—March 6, May 15, September 18, December 4.

Yellowstone County.—January 16, April 3, June 12, October 16.

Done in chambers at Miles City, this fourth day of January, A. D. 1899.

C. H. LOUD, Judge.

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