RED LODGE PICKET.

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THE MESSAGE COMPLETE

CLEVELAND'S VIEWS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE.

Cubans Have Only a Government on Paper and Should Not Be Recognized.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 7.—President Cleveland's last annual message was presented to congress today. Following is the full text of the document:

To the Congress of the United States: As representatives of the people in the legislative branch of their government you have assembled at a time when the strength and excellence of our free institutions and the success of our citizens to enjoy popular rule have been again made manifest. A political contest, involving momentous consequences, fraught with feverish apprehension, and creating aggressiveness by insistence as to approaches interests and passion, has been waged throughout our land, and determined by the verdict of free and independent suffrage. Without the occasion [illegible] and plunder [illegible] inhabitants for their own selfish ends. Such a condition of things would inevitably entail immense destruction of property, even if it were the policy of both parties to prevent it as far as practicable. But while such seemed to be the delightful policy of the Spanish government, it now apparently abandoned it, and is acting upon the same theory as the insurgents, namely, that the exigencies of the contests require the wholesale annihilation of property that it may not prove of any use and advantage to the enemy.

It is to the same end that, in pursuance of general orders, Spanish garrisons are now being withdrawn from plantations and the rural population required to concentrate itself in towns. The sure result would seem to be that the industrial value of the island is fast diminishing, and that unless there is a speedy and radical change in existing conditions it will soon disappear altogether. That value consists largely, of course, in its capacity to produce sugar, a capacity already much reduced by the interruptions to tillage which have taken place during the last two years. It is reliably asserted that should these interruptions continue during the current year, and practically extend, as is now threatened, to the entire sugar production territory of the island, so much time and so much money will be required to restore the land to its normal productiveness that it is extremely doubtful that the people can be induced to even make the attempt.

Of Great Concern to Us.

The spectacle of the utter ruin of an adjoining country, by nature one of the most fertile and charming on the whole globe, would engage the serious attention of the government and the people of the United States in any circumstances. In what of fact, they have concern with it which is by no means of a wholly sentimental character. It lies so near to us as to be only partly separated from our territory. Our actual pecuniary interest in it is second only to that of the people and government of Spain. It is reasonably estimated that at least from thirty to fifty million dollars of American capital are invested in plantations and railroading, mining and other business enterprises on the island. The volume of trade between the United States and Cuba, which in 1889 amounted to about $64,000,000, rose in 1894 to about $103,000,000, and in 1895, the year before the present insurrection broke out, amounted to nearly $96,000,000.

Involved in Other Ways.

Besides this large pecuniary stake in the fortunes of Cuba, the United States finds itself inextricably involved in the present contest in other ways, both vexatious and costly.

Many Cubans reside in this country and indirectly promote the insurrection by public meetings, by the purchase and shipment of arms, and by other means which the spirit of our institutions and the tenor of our laws permit, and made these the subjects of criminal prosecution. Some of them, thoroughly Cubans at heart and in all their feelings and interests, have taken out papers and are naturalized citizens of the United States, a proceeding resorted to with a view to possible protection by this government, and not unnecessarily regarded with much indignation by the country of their origin.

On Filibustering.

It follows from the same causes that the United States is compelled to an active policy along the line of sea coast against unlawful expeditions, the escape of which the utmost vigilance will not always suffice to prevent. These inevitable entanglements of the United States with the rebellion in Cuba, the large American property affected, and considerations of philanthropy and with humanity in general, have led to a vehement demand in various quarters for some sort of positive intervention on the part of the United States.

Can't Recognize Belligerency.

It was at first proposed that belligerent rights should be accorded the insurgents, a proposition no longer weighed because untimely and impracticable, an operation clearly perilous and injurious to our interests. It has since been and is now sometimes contended that the independence of the insurgents should be recognized, but imperfect and restricted as the Spanish government of the island may be, no other exists there unless the will of the military officer in temporary command of the insurgents can be dignified as a species of government. It is now also suggested that the United States should buy the island, a suggestion possibly worthy of consideration if there were any evidences of a desire or willingness on the part of Spain to entertain such a proposal. It is urged, finally, that all other methods failing, the existing internecine strife in Cuba should be terminated by our intervention, even at the cost of war between the United States and Spain—a war which its advocates confidently prophesy could neither be large in its proportions nor doubtful in its issue.

The correctness of this forecast need be neither affirmed nor denied. The United States has, nevertheless, a character to maintain as a nation, which plainly dictates that right, and not might, should be the rule of its conduct.

Have Territory Enough.

Further, though the United States is not a nation to which peace is a necessity, it is in truth the most pacific of powers, and desires nothing so much as to live in amity with all the world. Its own ample and diversified domains, satisfying all possible longings for territory, precludes all claims of conquest and prevents any casting of covetous eyes upon neighboring regions, however attractive. Its entire conduct toward Spain and her dominions has constituted no exception to this national disposition is made manifest by the course of our government, not only thus far during the present insurrection, but during the 10 years that followed the rising at Yara in 1868. No other great power, it may safely be said, under circumstances of similar perplexity, would have manifested the same restraint and the same patient endurance. It may also be said that this persistent attitude of the United States towards Spain in connection with Cuba unquestionably evinces no slight respect and regard for Spain on the part of the American people. They, in truth, do not forget her connection with the discovery of the western hemisphere, nor do they under-estimate the great qualities of the Spanish people, nor fail to fully recognize their splendid patriotism and their chivalrous devotion to the national honor. They view with wonder and admiration the cheerful resolution with which large bodies of men are sent across thousands of miles of ocean and an enormous debt accumulated by the country in possession of the gem of the Antilles. Cuba may still hold its place in the Spanish crown, and yet neither the government nor the people in the United States have shut their eyes to the course of Spain in Cuba, or have failed to realize the expense. The conceded grievances which have led to the present revolt from the authority of Spain, grievances admitted by the queen regent and by the cortes voiced by the most patriotic and enlightened of Spanish statesmen without regard to party, are demonstrated by reforms proposed by the executive and approved by the legislative branch of the Spanish government. It is in the assumed temper and disposition of the Spanish government to remedy these grievances, fortified by indications of influential public opinion in Spain, that this government has hoped to discover the most promising and effective means of composing the present strife, with honor and advantage to Spain, and with the achievement of all the responsible objects of the insurrection.

Home Rule Suggested.

It would seem that if Spain should offer to Cuba genuine autonomy—a measure of home rule, which, while preserving the sovereignty of Spain, would satisfy all rational requirements of her Spanish subjects—there should be no just reason why the pacification of the island might not be effected on that basis. Such a result would appear to be in the true interest of all concerned. It would stop at once the conflict which is now exhausting the resources of the island, and leaving it overridden for whichever party may ultimately prevail. It would keep intact the possessions of Spain without touching her honor, which will be upheld, rather than impaired, by the adequate redress of admitted grievances. It would put the prosperity of the island and the fortunes of its inhabitants within the control of themselves, securing the natural and ancient ties which bind them to the mother country and would yet enable them to test their capacity for self-government under the most favorable conditions.

Rights of Cubans.

It has been objected on the one side that Spain would not promise autonomy until her insurgent subjects laid down their arms; on the other side that promised autonomy however liberal, is insufficient, because without assurance of the promise being fulfilled. But the reasonableness of the requirement by Spain of unconditional surrender on the part of the insurgent Cubans before their autonomy is conceded, is not altogether apparent. It ignores important features of the situation; the stability two years of autonomy has given to the insurrection; the feasibility of its indefinite prolongation in the nature of things as shown by past experience; the utter and imminent ruin of the island unless the present strife is speedily composed, and more than all the intense alienation which all ties in Spain, all branches of her government and all her leading public men concede to exist and profess a desire to remove.

In the face of such circumstances, to withhold the proffer of needed reforms until the parties demanding them put themselves at their mercy by throwing down their arms has the appearance of neglecting the gravest opportunity and inviting suspicion as to the sincerity of any professed willingness to grant reforms. The objection on behalf of the insurgents that promised reforms can not be relied upon—must, of course, be considered, though we have no right to assume this, and no reason for assuming that anything Spain undertakes to do for the relief of Cuba will not be done according to both the spirit and the letter of the undertaking.

Overtures Made to Spain.

Nevertheless, realizing that suspicions on the part of the weaker of two combatants are always natural and not always unjustifiable, being sincerely desirous in the interest of both as well as on its own account that the Cuban problem should be solved with the least possible delay—it was intimated by this government to the government of Spain some months ago that if a satisfactory measure of home rule were tendered the Cuban insurgents, and would be accepted by them upon a guarantee of its fulfillment by the United States, we would endeavor to find a way not objectionable to Spain of furnishing such guaranty. While no definite response to this intimation has yet been received from the Spanish government, it is believed to be not altogether unwelcome, and, as already suggested, no reason is perceived why it should not be approved by the insurgents. Neither party can fail to see the importance of early action and both must realize that to prolong the present state of things even for a short period will add enormously to the time and labor and expenditure necessary to bring about the industrial recuperation of the island.

It is, therefore, fervently hoped on all grounds that earnest efforts for healing the breach between Spain and the insurgents in Cuba upon the lines above indicated may be at once inaugurated and pushed to an speedy and successful issue. The friendly offices of the United States, either in the manner above outlined or in any other way consistent with our constitution and laws, will always be at the disposal of either party. Whatever circumstances may arise, our policy and our interest would constrain us to object to the acquisition of the island or an interference with its control by any other power.

Patience Will Soon Cease.

It should be added that it can not be reasonably assumed that the hitherto expectant attitude of the United States will be indefinitely maintained. While we are anxious to accord all due respect to the sovereignty of Spain, we can not view the pending conflict in all its features and properly apprehend our close relations to it and its possible results without considering that by the course of events we may be drawn into such an unusual and unprecedented condition as will fix a limit to our patient waiting for Spain to end the contest, either alone and in her own way, or with friendly co-operation. When the inability of Spain to deal successfully with the insurgents has become manifest, and it is demonstrated that sovereignty is exist in Cuba for all purposes of its rightful existence, and that the struggle for re-establishment has degenerated into a strife which means nothing more than the useless sacrifice of human life and the wanton destruction of every subject matter of the conflict, a situation is presented in which our obligations to the sovereignty of Spain will be superseded by higher obligations, which we can hardly hesitate to recognize and discharge.

Leaves It to Mckinley.

Deferring the choice of ways and methods until the time for action arrives, we should make them depend upon the precise conditions then existing, and they should not be determined upon without giving careful heed to every consideration involving our honor and interest, or the international duty we owe to Spain. Until we face the contingencies suggested, or the situation is by other incidents imperatively changed, we should continue in the line of conduct heretofore pursued, thus in all circumstances exhibiting our obedience to the requirements of public law and our regard for the duty enjoined upon us by the position we occupy in the galaxy of nations. A contemplation of emergencies that may arise should plainly lead us to avoid their creation either through a careless disregard of present duty or even an undue stimulation and illtimed expression of feeling. But I have deemed it not amiss to remind the congress that a time may arrive when a correct policy and care for our interests as well as a regard for the interests of other nations and their citizens, joined by considerations of humanity and a desire to see a rich and fertile country intimately related to us saved from complete devastation, will constrain our government to such action as will subserve the interests involved and at the same time promise to Cuba and its inhabitants an opportunity to enjoy the blessings of peace.

OTHER MINOR FOREIGN MATTERS.

Venezuela No Longer in Controversy—Consular Appointments.

The Venezuelan question has ceased to be a matter of difference between Great Britain and the United States, the respective governments having agreed upon the substantial provisions of a treaty between Great Britain and Venezuela, submitting the whole controversy to arbitration. The provisions of the treaty are so eminently just and fair that the assent of Venezuela thereto may confidently be anticipated. Negotiations by a treaty of general arbitration for all differences between Great Britain and the United States are advanced and promise to reach a successful consummation at an early date.

Consular Civil Service.

The scheme of examining applicants for certain consular positions to test their competency and fitness, adopted under an executive order issued on September 20, 1895, has fully demonstrated the usefulness of this innovation. In connection with this plan of examination, promotions and transfers of deserving incumbents have been quite extensively made with excellent results.

During the past year 35 appointments have been made in the consular service, 27 of which were made to fill vacancies caused by death or resignation or to supply newly created posts, two to succeed incumbents removed for cause, two for the purpose of displacing alien consular officials by American citizens and four merely changing the official title of the incumbent from commercial agent to consul. Twelve of these appointments were transfers or promotions from other positions under the department of state, four of those appointed had rendered previous service in the department, eight were made of persons who passed a satisfactory examination, seven were appointed to places not included in the order of September 20, 1895, and four appointments as above stated, involved no change of incumbency.

The inspection of consular offices, provided for by an appropriation for that purpose at the last session of the congress, has been productive of such wholesome effects that I hope this important work will in future be continued. I know of nothing that can be done with the same slight expense so improving the service.

I desire to repeat the recommendation contained in my last annual message in favor of providing at public expense official residences for our ambassadors and ministers at foreign capitals. The reasons supporting this recommendation are strongly stated in the report of the secretary of state and the subject seems of such importance that I hope it may receive the early attention of congress.

PRESERVATION OF SEAL LIFE.

Report of Commissioner to Bering Sea Is Awaited.

We have during the last year labored faithfully and against unfavorable conditions to secure a full observance of the provisions of the treaty between Great Britain, Russia and the United States, for the preservation of the fur seal, and to protect the interests of our citizens who have been engaged in the business under the license granted by the government of Russia in the Russian waters of the Pacific ocean. The report of our commissioner to Bering sea, which will be submitted to you, will show the results of our efforts in this behalf. Pending the consideration of the report and the action of congress thereon, I do not think it advisable to present the various questions which have arisen in the course of the enforcement of the treaty, and which have been the subject of much correspondence between the two governments. I shall, however, be prepared to do so if any of the results of the present season should make it necessary.

BOLT IS PERMANENT

SILVER SENATORS HAVE BROKEN WITH GOLD REPUBLICANS.

Their Refusal to Attend the Caucus Taken as Evidence That They Are in Earnest.

Washington, Dec. 8. The silver republican senators returned from adjournment upon the republican caucus today and their action has led to no little speculation as to whether the course pursued today is a forerunner of the future or whether they will not at some time return to the party.

The silver senators are very chary about discussing their motives or intentions. They declare that on the subject of the Pacific road bill, both remarks drop and there can be no doubt they consider it a very grave attitude under the circumstances. They say, however, whatever action, or inaction, that is taking, the position they have, they do not intend to place themselves in the attitude of opponents of a protective tariff policy, but rather intend to adhere to a policy in respect to tariff legislation prescribed by their former associates.

Caucus Proceedings.

The most noticeable feature of the republican senate caucus, as seen from the outside, was the absence of men who voted the nomination of McKinley because of the gold standard platform. Those absent on this account were Senators Dubois, Pettigrew, Mantle, Cannon, Squire and Teller. All except Senator Teller were in the city and were invited to attend the caucus. That their absence was intentional was clearly shown by the following letter written soon after the caucus was called to order, by Senator Sherman:

Washington, Dec. 8.—To Hon. John Sherman, Chairman Sir: I hereby respectfully present my resignation as secretary of the caucus of republican senators. I also resign my position as a member and secretary of the republican advisory or "steering" committee of the senate. Very truly yours, FRED T. DUBOIS.

Senator Dubois' resignation was received without comment. On motion of Senator Lodge, Senator Wilson of Washington was chosen secretary. Senator Sherman was placed on the steering committee in the place vacated by his colleague. This committee was also enlarged by the addition of Senator Hansbrough of North Dakota. The Dingley tariff bill was referred to the steering committee, with instructions to investigate the likelihood of getting the bill through and to devise means to that end if possible. It was the prevailing opinion that the best policy would be the passage of the bill, but the opinion seemed to be quite general that this is not within the possibilities.

Legislation Proposed.

Senator Gear brought up the Pacific railroad bill. It was referred to the steering committee. After Senator Lodge explained the status of the immigration bill the caucus decided to stand by that party measure and press it early consideration. The caucus also decided against international agreement on silver by agreeing to the following resolution, introduced by Senator Wolcott:

"Resolved, That a special committee of five members of this caucus be appointed to recommend some plan whereby legislation may be had in this session of congress looking to an international conference with leading commercial nations of the world on the promotion of bimetallism."

End of the Dingley Bill.

The action of the republican senatorial caucus in referring the Dingley tariff bill to its steering committee and the circumstances under which this action was taken are accepted in the senate as practically the end of the agitation in the interests of the measure.

The debate in the caucus developed but there was wide differences as to the advisability of attempting to pass the bill over among the republicans, and the opinion was expressed by some who were on the inside that fully one-third of the republican senators not including the holding senators, were antagonistic to the bill.

THE HOUSE PASSED TWO BILLS.

Related to Postoffice Matters—Mr. Grow on Revenue.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The attendance of members was large in the house today, but the galleries were almost deserted. After the journal had been read there was a hurried consultation of Mr. Dingley and other republican leaders, as a result of which it was decided to proceed with the regular order, the call of committees.

Mr. Loud of California, from the committee on postoffices and post roads, called up the bill to authorize the use of private mailing cards of the same weight and form as postal cards, when a legal stamp is affixed. The bill, he said, had been approved by the postoffice department, as it would tend to popularize postal cards, besides effecting a saving to the government of the difference between the cost of the cards and the stamps. This scheme had been successfully put in operation in England, where in six months the number of such cards mailed had increased from 218,000,000 to 334,000,000.

The bill was passed. It takes effect July 1, 1897.

Mr. Loud also called up the bill to provide a limited indemnity for loss of registered mail matter. It provides that the indemnity shall not exceed $10 for any one registered letter, but not to exceed the actual value of the letter. This bill was also approved by the postoffice department. Mr. Loud said that on the basis of last year's statistics the government could have a revenue of $400,000, with liability of $50,000. There was criticism of the bill on the ground that it trespassed on the rights of express companies, but it passed, 70 to 12.

Mr. Loud then called up the bill of Mr. Sperry of Connecticut to authorize the collection and delivery of mail in towns and villages where no letter carrier service exists by employment, under mutual agreement between citizens, of any person to perform the service at a cost not exceeding 1 cent for each letter or package, at the expense of the beneficiaries. The Sperry bill passed, 101 to 12.

The house then took up the pension appropriation bill.

Mr. Stone of Pennsylvania briefly explained that the bill carried $141,263,880, about $75,000 less than the bill for the current year. The committee, he said, did not feel warranted in making a reduction of the estimates for pensions, but did reduce the amount for attending surgeons, $50,000, and the amount for clerk hire at the various agencies, $20,000. The latter reduction was made possible by the system of payment by check inaugurated this year. There was, he said, no attempt at legislation in the bill.

Mr. Grow on Revenue.

Mr. Grow, republican, of Pennsylvania, ex-speaker of the house, took advantage of the latitude allowed in debate on an appropriation bill to attack that portion of Mr. Cleveland's message relating to the effects from a revenue standpoint of the enactment of the present law. The deficit for the first year's life of the law was $25,000,000; for the second, $45,000,000, and for the first five months of this year $40,000,000. Yet, he said, the president had not seen fit, with these large deficits, to recommend any measure for revenue increase. The necessity for revenue, he argued, could not be denied in the face of the figures submitted by the president himself. It was, he declared, purely a business question. He showed that importations were increasing and the revenues decreasing.

It indicated, he said, a lack of business capacity in the imposition of duties.

Mr. Grow received a round of applause from the republican side when he concluded. When the bill was taken up under the five-minute rule, Mr. Connolly, republican, of Illinois, offered an amendment to the provision requiring examining physicians to state specifically the rating the applicant for pension is entitled to, in their judgment, so as to make the rating fixed by the examining board binding in the pension office if any pension should be allowed.

The amendment was ruled out on the point of order. Without amendment the bill was passed.

The notice given by Thomas E. Watson of contest against J. C. Black of Georgia, who was elected at a special election last spring, was read in the house and referred to the committee on elections, after which, at 4:25 p. m., the house adjourned.

SENATE IS DOWN TO BUSINESS.

Already a Notice Has Been Given of a Set Speech.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The senate settled down to business today. When the letter from the secretary of the treasury was read, answering the senate inquiry as to the number of aliens in the department of the treasurer, Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire remarked that he would be glad to observe that foreigners whose services had been conspicuous in the department had seen fit as a result of the inquiry to take out naturalization papers.

Many papers were presented from municipal bodies urging the passage of the Dingley bill.

Senator Cullom of Illinois gave notice that Thursday next he would address the senate on the Cuban question.

Home resolutions relative to the death of ex-Speaker Crisp were laid before the senate. As a mark of respect the senate at 12:25 adjourned.

FOR THE PACIFIC RAILROADS BILL

Chairman Powers Thinks It Is Possible This Session.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Mr. Powers of Vermont, chairman of the committee on Pacific railroads, heartily approves that portion of Cleveland's message relating to Pacific railroads.

"Something must be done," said he. "We will bring up a bill agreed upon by the committee in session at the earliest possible moment."

Judge Powers says the committee on rules will be asked to give the Pacific railroads committee three or four days for consideration of the bill, and seems confident the time will be granted. Whether the time will be given before or after the holiday recess, he says, depends on circumstances.

"Do you think the bill will pass?"

"I do. I do. I do not see how the house can reject it. It is simply a question of whether the government shall make the best bargain it can for securing payment of its debt or lose all."

IS INDIAN TERRITORY'S DELEGATE

George F. Nelson Knocks for Admission to the House.

Washington, Dec. 8.—George F. Nelson, gold democrat, of Indian territory, is an unpleasant fact for admission to the house to represent that territory. He has a certificate of election from the Indian agent, who is the highest federal official. He bases his claim to a seat upon the ground that each territory is entitled under the constitution to a delegate in congress.

Representative Sherman, chairman of the committee on Indian affairs, declined to call up the case, and other members of the committee also refused.

Nelson today endeavored to gain admission to the floor of the house, which is granted to contestants for seats, but failed.

ASSOCIATION OF UNDERWRITERS.

Ninth Annual Convention in Session at Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 8.—The ninth annual convention of the International Association of Medical Underwriters, composed of representatives of the national medical associations of this country and Canada, opened today at the Palmer house. The president, B. F. Dyer of Boston, died recently, and Vice President Bunker called the meeting to order. Among the cities represented besides Chicago were Montreal, Toronto, Boston, Westfield, Mass., Utica, N. Y., Philadelphia and Lincoln, Neb.

Among the questions to be discussed is one touching the proposition that the accident companies are improperly extending the scope of indemnity. The delegates will compare notes as to what constitutes voluntary exposure under the stipulation of policies.

RETURNS OF THE ELECTORAL VOTE.

Eight States So Far Have Reported to Washington Authorities.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The secretary of state has received so far returns from eight states of eight states of the result of the general election. These returns are from Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, North Carolina, Indiana, Maryland, Ohio and New Jersey. Copies of them have been sent to both houses of congress and they will be published in a joint session, as required by law. Four years ago some difficulty was experienced in getting all the votes from the states before the meeting of the electoral college on the first Monday in January, and on December 5 neither failing, the department of state was obliged to send special messages to Nebraska and Montana to secure the certificates.

BARON DHANIS REPORTED DEAD.

Defeated by Dervishes and Killed in the Congo.

Brussels, Dec. 8.—It is reported that Baron Dhanis, who led the Anglo-Belgium movement against the Mahdists at the time of the Dongola expedition and who was said to have arrived safely at Ladu, north of the territory of the Congo Free State, in August last, has been killed in the Congo after having been defeated by the Dervishes. It is understood that he was preparing to move further northward when the Anglo-Egyptian expedition passed on from Dongola in the direction of Khartoum.

MASSACRE IN THE PHILLIPENES.

Insurgent Prisoners Shot Down in the Streets of Cavite.

Madrid, Dec. 8.—Official dispatches from Manilla announce a terrible massacre of insurgent prisoners on the island of Luzon, of the Philippine group. It appears that a number of prisoners escaped from the fortress of Cavite, a fortified seaport. The fugitives were pursued by troops who killed 60 in the streets. Others were recaptured.

DEFAULT JUDGMENT FOR $671,840.

Claims of Brokers Against Harper, Who Was Short on Wheat.

Cincinnati, Dec. 8.—Judge Buckwalter of the court of common pleas gave a default judgment to Irwin, Green & Co., brokers of Chicago, against E. L. Harper of the Fidelity bank for $671,840. This sum represents the claim of the brokers against Harper at the time his famous wheat deals were stopped by his failure.

CAN MEET THE C. P. COMPETITION.

Permission Granted the Northern Pacific and Great Northern.

Chicago, Dec. 8.—The chairman of the Western Passenger association today granted permission to the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern to meet the competition of the Canadian Pacific and of the Soo line on excursions from points in the northwest to New England.

TWO WATER ROUTES TO SEATTLE.

One Through Flooded Valleys, the Other on the Sound.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 8.—So high have the waters risen that one can take a row boat at South Seattle and by following the flooded valleys intervening go from this city to Tacoma, a distance of 40 miles, the usual hand route. This afternoon the water in White river at the railroad bridge rose to a point six inches higher than the November flood and it is still rising. Miles and miles of the Northern Pacific track are inundated to a depth of several feet between Seattle and Tacoma and to get the road in first class repair again will be like rebuilding it for many long stretches.

No Annexation Treaty.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Minister Hatch of Hawaii today authorized a denial of the report of negotiations for a treaty of annexation between Hawaii and the United States. The report alleged that Secretary Olney had such a treaty before him.

MACEO IS NEAR HAVANA

HE CLEVERLY TURNED THE FLANK OF WEYLER'S SPANISH FORCES.

The Insurgents Expect to Join With Gomez and Strike a Decisive Blow at the Capital.

Havana, Dec. 8.—It is semi-officially admitted that Antonio Maceo, insurgent leader, passed the military lines of Pinar Del Rio Friday near Mariel, a port at the northern extremity. He was accompanied by a son of Maximo Gomez.

There was much excitement here when it became known that Maceo had crossed the military line, with, it is understood, a strong force of insurgents, especially when it is coupled with the fighting between the Spanish troops and insurgents close to the city. It seems evident that the insurgent commander has not only cleverly turned the flank of Captain General Weyler but has succeeded in getting in his rear and crossing the famous military line near the port which has been used as a base of supplies for the Spanish troops in Pinar Del Rio. The importance of this movement can not be exaggerated.

Weyler Is Chasing in Vain.

The exact whereabouts of General Weyler is not known, but he is believed to be hunting for Maceo in the mountains in the extreme eastern part of Pinar Del Rio, while the insurgent chief has seemingly doubled on his tracks, turned the flank of the Spanish general and passed in his rear in the direction of this city, crossing the military line at will and possibly by this time in the vicinity of the capital of Cuba. If Maximo Gomez has carried out the plan attributed to him, that of pushing westward to the support of Maceo, a junction of the two main bodies of the insurgents may be expected shortly.

Maceo's Force Is Large.

Nothing appears to be known of the strength of the insurgent forces with Antonio Maceo in this province. In fact, it was not until the news was being passed from person to person in the streets that the authorities would give a half-hearted admission of the truth of the report that Maceo had crossed the military line. This, it is believed, will alter the whole situation and important events may occur within a short time. There is no doubt that the insurgents have recently been increased in numbers about the capital. The stray bands of 20 to 30 bandits met by the Spanish troops have now swollen the insurgent force of 20,000 to 40,000. It seems to be admitted and believed that Maceo will shortly strike, before Weyler can hurry back from Pinar Del Rio. Indeed, it is currently reported that the captain general has been wounded in an engagement with the insurgents before Maceo crossed the military line, and that he may not be able to return here except as a prisoner of the Cubans.

The authorities naturally are doing all in their power to analyze the crossing of the trocha by Maceo, and intimate that he is, as usual, according to the Spanish, running away from them. This does not alter the fact that he has escaped the hunter, and that the hunter may find difficulty in getting home.

The friends of the insurgents here are overjoyed at the new turn taken in the campaign, and are boasting that Maceo and Gomez will soon be knocking at the gates of Havana. To this the Spanish officials simply say: "Wait and see; the time is not yet." But there is no denying that the supporters of Spain here today are looking much crestfallen and discouraged.

Even a defeat at the hands of the insurgents, it is admitted, would have been better than the humiliation which the Spanish troops have suffered in being so successfully outmaneuvered by the insurgents.

LAND BOOMERS' DISHONEST DEAL.

Used the Names of Soldiers' Orphans to Secure Property.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 8.—Colonel W. R. Hill, a land boomer widely known in Kansas as the founder of Hill City, has been arrested under an indictment returned by the federal court, and is accused of defrauding the government. It is charged that, operating under the federal law which permits every orphan of a soldier in the late war to take up 160 acres of government land, Hill has acquired over 20 quarter sections of Graham and adjoining counties. It is charged that Hill, after securing his own appointment as guardian of soldiers' orphans, would locate claims in the names of his wards. Later, after securing title to the lands for his wards, it is charged, it was his practice to go into the probate court and there file bills for money expended and services rendered. These bills would amount to so much that an order of court could be secured for the sale of the lands in settlement of the indebtedness. The lands so sold are said to have been purchased by Hill in the name of J. P. Pomeroy, formerly of Atchison, but now of Cripple Creek.

RECORDS OF FLYING WHEELMEN.

Bale Thirty Miles Ahead of Rice, Shock a Poor Third.

New York, Dec. 8.—The great throng which until late this evening cheered the wheelmen in the six-day international cycling contest now being held in Madison Square garden were repaid for their hardihood in facing a stiff wind and a nasty mist which fell during the day. When the band began playing at 8 o'clock the riding was most spirited. Teddy Hale, the young son of Erin, had just scored his 702 miles, and Rice had 685 miles to his credit. Schock, during the hours between 6 and 7 o'clock, did some very fast riding. Pierce, who had been plodding between 5 and 7 o'clock, came on the floor refreshed, and went to work and soon jumped ahead of Elkes, and it soon became clear that he intended to crawl up on some of the favorites.

At midnight there were 16 men still in the race. The four leaders had scored as follows: Hale, 770; Rice, 747; Schock, 744; Reading, 703.

INVOLVES THE ANTI-TRUST LAW.

Case Under Argument in the United States Supreme Court.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The supreme court today began the hearing of arguments in the case of the United States against the Trans-Missouri Freight association, involving the anti-trust law. The case originated in the circuit court for the district of Kansas, and was instituted by the government for the purpose of enjoining the further execution of the pooling agreement entered into between railroads constituting the Trans-Missouri association, on the ground that the rule was in violation of the anti-trust law of 1890. The circuit court dismissed the bill, and the decision was sustained by the circuit court of appeals for the Eighth district. The government then appealed to the supreme court.

Attorney General Harmon opened the argument for the law department. He made a strong plea for the construction of the law which would prohibit pooling by all competing lines, which he claims was the intention of the statute with respect to railroads.

MEETING OF NEWSPAPER MAKERS.

Secret Session to Consider Improvement of Trade.

New York, Dec. 8.—Meetings of the manufacturers of newspaper are being held in secret in this city. P. B. Fullerton of the Manufacturers' Paper Company said to a reporter of the Associated Press:

"About a dozen manufacturers, realizing that their business was in a bad condition, have come together for consultation and adopting some arrangement whereby the trade can be improved. Several suggestions have been offered, but as yet no plan has been adopted. It is probable that the outcome of these consultations will be the appointment of a committee which will consider all suggestions and advise some definite plan of action. When a definite plan is formulated I shall have no hesitation in telling all about it."

NATIONAL ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE.

First Annual Convention Has Assembled in Washington.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 8.—The first annual national convention of the Washington Anti-Saloon League opened today at Calvary Baptist church with a large attendance of delegates. The league is a federation of churches, temperance societies and other organizations opposed to the drinking saloon without regard to party lines or denominational differences, and has as its only motto, "The Saloon Must Go." Delegates appointed by the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, the national convention of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America, the National Reform League, the High Court of the Independent Order of Reclabites of North America, the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union and some 50 other bodies, were present at the opening session today, together with representatives of the various local allied leagues scattered throughout the country.

Among the representative delegates present were Congressman Elijah A. Morse, of Massachusetts; Rev. Dr. A. J. Lyncoln, of Philadelphia, the eminent Methodist Episcopal divine; and among the lady delegates, Mrs. Margaret B. Lamb, of the District of Columbia; Mrs. S. R. Morrow, of West Virginia; Mrs. R. H. Jones, of Virginia; Mrs. Emma C. Stanley, of Delaware, and Mrs. Anna C. Hunter, of Pennsylvania—all of whom are presidents of their respective state organizations of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Archbishop Ireland, of Minnesota, who is the president of the organization, is expected here tomorrow.

The opening session was called to order by Hon. Hiram Price, of Iowa, United States commissioner of education, who is president of the organization.

CLEVELAND AND CUBAN VIEWS.

England's Press Continues to Dissect His Meaning.

London, Dec. 8.—The Pall Mall Gazette this afternoon, commenting upon President Cleveland's message, says: "There is nothing in the message unsatisfactory to Great Britain. As far as Cuba is concerned, President Cleveland is neither sympathetic with Spain and insurgents will probably be disappointed at the insurgents."

The Globe says of the message: "President Cleveland is thrusting itself forward in the Venezuelan fashion and the effect of his is that McKinley will be grateful to his predecessor for bequeathing the task of dealing with Spain."

The St. James Gazette says: "The concession of Cuba would only give the United States the right to call upon Spain to enforce her authority, possibly or not, and it is not to be supposed that Spain would be considered as governing the Cuban."

An Expression From Germany.

Berlin, Dec. 8.—The Cologne Gazette, discussing President Cleveland's message to the congress of the United States, says:

"President Cleveland has not allowed himself to be carried away by the prevailing opinion of Americans. What he says seems to be perfectly correct and compatible with the honor of Spain. May the president's well meant message meet with approval in Madrid before there is a change of government in the United States. Perhaps with this favorable situation there may be an agreement reached with the powerful states which will pacify Cuba."

Leading Paris Newspaper.

Paris, Dec. 8.—The Temps says that President Cleveland favorably shows his international moderation, which bears the stamp of honesty," and adds:

"Reference to Cuba, however, will satisfy no one, and we doubt the efficacy of his offer to guarantee the autonomy of Cuba. Spain will not think of agreeing to an arrangement making the United States the sovereign power in Cuba, while the rebels want independence or American annexation. President Cleveland risks displeasing everybody.

"The Venezuela arrangement, however, giving unexpected recognition to Monroeism is a trumpf for President Cleveland."

Spain Is Irritated.

Madrid, Dec. 8.—President Cleveland's message caused a depression on the bourse and the newspapers, especially of the opposition, and independent organs expressed the greatest irritation at America's interference as a humiliation for Spain. The government organs are more reserved in their comments and the ministerial press some satisfaction at its moderation.

According to the Heraldo, the cabinet will meet today to discuss the text of the message. The Military Correspondence says Spain would be more firm if strong enough to punish interference by the United States with her affairs.

Other newspapers characterize the message as provocative, not only to Spain but to the whole of Europe.

MONUMENT FOR A WOMAN CONVICT

Amsterdam Churchman Espouses the Cause of an Unfortunate.

Amsterdam, N. Y., Dec. 8.—Raymond Chrisman, a prominent business man and trustee in the Baptist church, has created a great sensation in this city by erecting in his family lot in Greenhill cemetery a handsome and costly monument for the convict, Florence Hazen. It is inscribed "Florence Viel Chrisman erected to the memory of a wrecked child; dead to the world, but alive in Christ."

She shot and killed her lover, Charles Lansing, in this city in 1895, and is now serving a life sentence in Auburn prison. Chrisman has had himself appointed her guardian and he uses her name and is trying to secure a pardon for her. He claims she is dying of consumption, which led him to erect the monument.

SCOTT JACKSON DOOMED TO HANG.

Governor Will Be Obliged to Sign the Death Warrant.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 8. The court of appeals has refused a new trial for Scott Jackson.

The opinion covers also the appeal of Alonzo Walling. It now devolves on Governor Bradley after receiving notice of the judgment of the court of appeals from the clerk, to fix the day and hour of the execution.

There is said to be no ground for carrying the case to the United States court, and the governor's warrant for the execution of Jackson must issue.

AN ATTEMPT TO WRECK A TRAIN.

Iron Rails Laid Across the Track on a Sharp Curve.

Kansas City, Dec. 8.—A special to the Star from Webster City says an attempt to wreck the passenger train of the Iowa Central railroad near Ballard was made last night. Iron rails were laid across the track on the upper end of a curve where the obstruction could not be seen from the engine until too near to stop. Engineer Swearington, with an extra freight, was just ahead of the passenger. His engine struck the obstruction. Robbery is supposed to have been the motive.

FATAL EXPLOSION OF GASOLINE.

Report That Twelve Men Were Burned in a California Town.

Redding, Cal., Dec. 8.—A report comes from Keswick that there was an explosion of gasoline there this evening, resulting in the burning of 12 men, among them Arthur Dean, who resides with his family in this city. Dean has charge of the electric plant, and it is presumed that the explosion took place in the power house. Two doctors were summoned from here, but how badly the men have been injured is not known.

Bought Five Gold Mines.

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—The sale was announced today of five gold mining locations in Beveridge mining district, Inyo county. The purchasers are H. S. Gillette and Calvin L. Brown of Chicago and the price paid is $200,000. The new owners will erect a milling plant and operate an improved system of reduction.

Mrs. Walter Castle a Patient.

Philadelphia, Dec. 8.—Mrs. Walter Castle of San Francisco is a private patient at the Polyclinic hospital in this city and the patient underwent a surgical operation to prevent a rush of blood to the head.

THE CLOSING SESSION

CONGRESS ASSEMBLES WITH UNUSUAL INTEREST.

In the House There Was Laughter Over the President's Opening Observations.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The reassembling of the Fifty-fourth