OUR IRONCLADS

As Secretary Long Views Them.—He Declares that Our Navy Compares Favorably with Other Navies of the world.—Lack of Money for Armor Plate.—Maine's Big Crop of Statesmen.—Boutelle's Visitor.—The New House Carpet.—Our Fair Cuban Heroine.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 30, 1897.

Secretary Long, in his annual report, expresses his gratification at the progress made in building up our navy. He enumerates the different vessels, with the speed and power of each, and then says:

"The country is to be congratulated upon the results obtained in the rebuilding of the navy. While its ships are not as many—and it is not necessary that they should be—as those of some other great powers, they are, class for class, in power, speed, workmanship and offensive and defensive qualities, the equal of vessels built anywhere else in the world."

On the subject of armor the Secretary says it will be necessary to accept some ships now about ready for the water without their full complement of plates, the appropriation made by the last Congress not being sufficient to fully armor them. No greater example of the lack of wisdom at times exhibited in appropriations could be secured than this one of appropriating money for the building of war vessels and yet not appropriating enough to fully equip them for a sea fight.

The Secretary pays a tribute to the old frigate Constitution, and expresses the hope that funds may be made available to fit the old war vessel out as a training school for cadets. This is a happy idea and meets with the approval of everyone who knows the grand old vessel's history. Seamen trained on her deck must needs be imbued with the glory and staunch patriotism that the old ship represents.

The Senate committee which has been investigating the civil service for the past few months is still at work, and the chairman, Senator Pritchard, of North Carolina, thinks that they will be able to make a report to the Senate on or about December 10. In a recent interview the Senator said:

"A too broad extension is calculated to weight civil service down and rendered it unpopular, thereby endangering its continuance. A good principle to adopt would be that a scholastic examination is proper to determine the fitness of persons for clerical positions, but such a test is not suitable to determine the fitness of a man to fill a position where the duties are executive. The idea that the law is a sort of blanket to cover everything is very unpopular."

This view of the case has a great many sympathizers on both floors of Congress. There will be, undoubtedly, some sort of legislation on the subject of civil service during this session. General Grosvenor is its most outspoken opponent in the House. During the extraordinary session he made one set speech against the system that has been given wide publication, and is viewed by the opponents of civil service as a masterly arraignment of that system. Many Republican politicians attribute the great falling off of the vote in the legislative campaign in Ohio to the fact that President McKinley officially approved the extensions made by his predecessor just before his retirement from office. This was felt especially in the internal revenue department, where some 5,000 Democrats were retained in comfortable berths and placed in a position where they could give both money and political assistance to the Democratic cause. It is understood that the Senate committee will take up the workings of the system in the internal revenue department next, and some rich disclosures are expected.

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Maine, ever since the war, has been a state rich in leaders. In the field of literature and State craft she has on more than one occasion commanded the attention of the world. Her statesmen have not only assisted in shaping the policy of the Republican party, but she has always had one or more who stood ready at all times to carry the banner. In truth, she has too many statesmen for her own piece of mind. It has been hard for the State to find places for all of them. When Blaine was the idol of the Republican rank and file many a man of promise in his own state viewed his power with something akin to envy. George Alfred Townsend says that in those days Blaine got most of the other Republican leaders of Maine close to his standard, with the exception of Reed. And he left him out in the cold so long that Mr. Reed never finds himself uncomfortable in the hottest weather. When Blaine died Reed easily took command. But his position of power, so the knowing ones say, is not a comforting thought to the galaxy of bri[illegible] who come from the pine tree St[illegible]

On this line there is a story afloat respecting the relations between Boutelle and Reed that grew out of a little incident that occurred at the last Gridiron dinner. The Gridiron Club, be it known is an organization of the best newspaper workers at the Capitol. Once a year they give a grand banquet, and invitations are extended to the leading statesmen of all parties. It is understood that none of the speakers or incidents of the banquet will be reported in the press, and as a result the prominent men present at such times talk with great freedom on matters that they are usually reticent about in the presence of a reporter.

At the last dinner, given some time after the Presidential election, a number of supposed telephone messages were read to the banqueters. About that time it was political gossip that Representative Boutelle would be given a place in the Cabinet, and many people thought that Mr. Boutelle was on the anxious seat awaiting the portfolio. One of the telephone men presumedly called up Canton and told the President that Mr. Boutelle wished to talk to him.

"What does he want?" came back the reply.

"He says to tell you that he is still waiting."

A laugh went around the board at Boutelle's expense. A few minutes afterward the young man at the telephone said to Speaker Reed, who was present: "Mr. Reed, what shall I tell the President for you?"

"Oh!" said Mr. Reed, in his dry fashion, "just tell him I'm not waiting."

Boutelle flushed and when, in the course of the evening, he responded to a toast, he referred to the Speaker's reply and said that he had known the gentleman from Maine for a good many years and this was the first time in his career that he had ever caught him not waiting for something. He had a wire edge to his voice as he said it, and these same knowing ones say that it was another illustration that Maine is a small State with a large crop of brainy men, and that it is but natural that at times they should cross swords.

No one can question Boutelle's fighting ability. Time and time again on the floor he has taunted and goaded the Democrats into a state of desperation, and when he had them hot and furious, much to everyone's surprise, forced them to accept some measure almost partisan in its nature. He is one of the men who gain their point through the medium of a fight. He is never conciliatory, and feels most at home when the passions of the men are aroused and it is give and take all along the line. And yet he is a man of most generous impulses, ever ready to assist the needy and with a hearty ready to do or die for a friend at any time. His record during the civil war in the naval service is an admirable one, and he assisted in some of the most important naval maneuvers of the Federal cause. He was one of the ranking officers on board the Sassacus in her important engagement with the Albamarle when that staunch wooden vessel boldly attacked the rebel ram.

Representative Boutelle had that engagement recalled to him during a committee meeting one day last session. His messenger brought him a card, and he failed to recognize the name. Mr. Boutelle was very busy at the time, and he told the messenger to find out who the man was and his business. In a few moments the messenger returned with another card, and on it was written, "The quartermaster of the Albamarle."

"Bring him in," almost shouted Chairman Boutelle. And the Naval Committee witnessed the striking sight of two fine looking, gray haired men clasping hands with brotherly fervor, who, thirty-five years before, had done the best they could to send each other into eternity by the shot and shell route.

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Housewives will be glad to know that every Congress a new carpet is purchased for the floor of the hall of the House of Representatives. It takes 1,400 yards of single-width carpet to cover this floor. It is a pattern made especially for the Government and costs $4 per yard. Fifty-six hundred dollars is quite a sum to pay for a carpet that at best lasts but two years.

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The Cuban girl, Miss Cisneros, recently rescued by the newspaper correspondent, Carl Decker, is still in this city. She is in daily receipt of invitations to visit different cities and be the recipient of receptions and demonstration. She declines them, however, and is spending her time industriously studying English and other branches. She is nothing more than a girl, nineteen years of age, but her experience and suffering has brought to her a prematurely matured look. The newspaper prints give the impression that she is a girl of rare beauty, and in our sympathy for her unfortunate condition we are ready to credit all these illustrations. As a matter of fact, she is not beautiful. She looks like a school girl, her figure is spare, and incarceration in a tropical prison with poor food, has given a sallow hue to her complexion. She speaks but little English, but her face is bright and pleasant in conversation. She will undoubtedly be of great service to the Cuban cause, and her presence does more to inspire enthusiasm at Cuban meetings than any follower of the cause in this country.

AN ELECTRIC SMASH.

Rails were Icy and the Momentum was Too Great.

Detroit, Dec. 4.—Two cars on the Detroit, Birmingham & Pontiac Suburban Electric railway collided this afternoon at the foot of the Trowbridge grade, about midway between Birmingham and Pontiac, killing three persons and seriously injuring as many others. The dead are: John Savage, superintendent of the road; Charles M. Whitehead, motorman; Mrs. John Doty, of Pontiac. The seriously injured are: Thomas Maddox, a stone mason of Pontiac, and Frank McCue, a street railway employe, who was badly injured internally. Physicians of the city have gone to the scene. The accident was caused by the slipperiness of the rails, which were coated with ice and sleet, the grade at that point being very steep.

Within a short time after the accident the dead and injured were on the way to Birmingham and a car was sent on to the Detroit hospitals with the injured. The switch between the two towns is about two miles from where the cars met. There was evidently a mistake in orders.

Superintendent Savage, who was himself running the motor, was crushed beyond semblance of recognition.

A PASSENGER'S STATEMENT.

Pontiac, Dec. 4.—Tom Maddox, one of the injured in the electric railway wreck, said: "I was standing on the rear platform. The car left the top of the hill at terrific speed, but I noticed nothing wrong. There was a crash. I don't know how it happened, but soon I was thrown headlong into a mass of timbers. Oh, it was terrible. I saw six or seven people, badly hurt, lying by the roadside."

VICTORY FOR CUBANS.

6,000 Spaniards Try to Dislodge Insurgents.—Spaniards Forced to Retire with Heavy Loss.

New York, Dec. 3.—The Sun's correspondent at Havana writes:

The fiercest battle fought in the province of Pinar del Rio since the death of Gen. Maceo is just reported here by an official Spanish account published in all the newspapers and by communications from the insurgent lines.

Though the Spanish report boasts, as usual, of a great victory, it confirms, in many details, the Cuban story. Special information from trustworthy sources leaves no doubt that the result was the most serious defeat sustained by the Spanish army since the battle of Cacarajicara, in the same province.

The battle was fought among the hills of Romero, Madama and Los Palados, in which the insurgent Gen. Ducasi was encamped with 3,500 men, well armed with modern rifles and dynamite bombs.

The Spanish columns of Gen. Bernal and Hernandez de Velasco combined to dislodge the insurgents. Several bayonet attacks by the Spanish ended disastrously for them, and they retired to await reinforcements after over 100 Spanish soldiers had been killed.

The Spanish numbered 6,000 when the Aranjuez battalion arrived. With a sacrifice of 67 men, they took at the point of the bayonet the heights of Caimito. Ducasi took it again before noon, and the three Spanish battalions gave up the fight and retired.

The official Spanish report published here by the press censor says: "The losses of the insurgents were immense. We had one major and two soldiers killed and one major, one captain and 19 soldiers wounded." But the Spanish officers under Gen. H. de Velazco confessed that their losses were over 200, and that it was the hardest fight they ever had in Cuba.

Foreign.

San Francisco, Dec. 5.—Toru Hoshi, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from Japan to the United States, was a passenger from the orient on the steamship City of Pekin. He left tonight for Washington, carrying with him important instructions in reference to the Hawaiian treaty of annexation, which will be considered by the United States Senate.

Several months ago he hurriedly left Washington for Japan. He left just after the publication of his correspondence with Secretary Sherman with reference to the Hawaiian question. Dispatches from Washington declared that he was angry with Sherman and the administration for their advocacy of annexation.

"I know," he said, "that my recent trip to Japan has been misconstrued by some of the American newspapers. I believe my relations with the Washington authorities are amicable. My relations with Secretary Sherman are not strained.

"I desire to say positively that Japan is opposed to the annexation of Hawaii by the United States. The recent reports that Japan had withdrawn her opposition are untrue. Japan has certain interests in the Sandwich Islands which the United States should respect. I believe this matter will be amicably adjusted. There may be serious trouble if the United States annexes the islands without regard to our interests there. But I do not believe the United States will act unfairly. Japan is very friendly with this country and there is certainly a way by which the annexation question can be settled satisfactorily to both great nations. I return with certain instructions from my government.

"Japan has in the Hawaiian island about 20,000 of her people. Hawaii has a treaty with Japan permitting the latter to send immigrants there and also imports for the use of the latter. Hawaii has violated this treaty, and our claim for this violation has not been settled. We want our claim settled after annexation if not before that time. Hawaii deported some of our Japanese immigrants. That was in violation of her treaty with Japan. Hawaii has also levied a discriminating duty on Japanese mine imports. That was another violation of the treaty. Hawaii would certainly act on the matter of our claim if the United States would use her good offices."

State News.

Bay City.—The Business Men's association has taken steps to place before the proper authorities the claims of this city for the armor plate plant which the government contemplates establishing in some of the cities of the great lakes. Col. H. S. Raymond, secretary of the association, has written to Secretary of the Navy Long asking for a hearing and has been informed that the communication was referred to the board having the matter in charge.

Saginaw, Dec. 5.—A bold and wholesale robbery of sheep occurred on the farm of C. C. Speer, in Maple Grove township, Friday night. The distance to this city is 30 miles, yet an entire flock of merinos and other fine varieties of much value were driven here killed and disposed of before the owner discovered that a portion of his farm stock had been stolen. It is supposed four men were engaged in the job. They first located the place where the sheep were kept and made all arrangements to expeditiously carry out their plans without creating suspicion. Thirty-seven animals were turned loose into the road and headed toward Saginaw Friday night. Saturday morning they reached Liewelyn's slaughter house on the west side. Soon the sheep had been killed and skinned, and the thieves had left with the pelts in their possession. The latter were sold, and about that time the police were notified of the robbery. The men were quickly identified but they had taken the alarm and fled from their homes. The carcases of the sheep were left at the slaughter house.

Birmingham.—Martin Burg and Charles Krouse, a pair of farm hands, working on Fred Frank's farm, near Troy, Oakland county, got into a fight which ended in Krouse being sent to the house of correction. Acute hankerings for revenge rankled in Convict Krouse's heart. He knew Martin Burg's previous history, which had been confided to him when he and Burg worked side by side on Fred Frank's farm. It seems Burg had deserted a wife in northern Wisconsin, sold out his effects and left her in the lurch. The convict farm hand knew the deserted wife's address. She was written to and informed which Detroit bank held her husband's collaterls. Dickinson and Thurber are the wife's attorneys and soon had the delinquent husband suing for a settlement, as he does not wish to drag the case into the courts.

Saginaw, Dec. 5.—On petition of Charles L. Perrin last night Judge Wilber appointed O. E. McCutcheon receiver of the Commercial Insurance Co. This is a companion concern to the Wolverine, which was placed in Mr. Cutcheon's hands recently. Rowland Connor was president of both companies. The bill upon which the action was taken was similar to that in the former case.

Campbell Warns Public Against 35 Fire Companies.—Declares many of them are Mere Myths.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 3.—Insurance Commissioner Milo D. Campbell issued the following circular today:

"That the citizens of this state may not be unwittingly swindled and defrauded by worthless, irresponsible or unauthorized insurance companies, I shall from time to time warn the public against such as may be found attempting such illegal business within our borders.

"Companies that have any financial standing, desiring to do business in the state, will, and do, comply with our laws.

"Any man desiring to insure his property in companies from outside of the state need do no more than ask his local agent for his certificate of authority to write the policy he offers. He must have such certificate. Otherwise the company is unauthorized.

"Companies that are not licensed to write insurance in this state have no standing here whatever, and should a loss occur, the insured would be without a legal remedy in the state.

"Companies that are authorized may be sued, if occasion requires, in the home court where the fire occurs.

"The agents who solicit for such fraudulent companies, or aid in placing policies for, or who solicit or forward premiums to them, are criminals before the law. Fires have recently occurred in this state, with insurance in such companies, and not a dollar of loss has been recovered, and we have been powerless to assist.

"I herewith give a list of some of these concerns now known to the department. Most of the following are mere myths without legal assistance anywhere, but are placing policies and collecting premiums wherever they can do so, by underground methods."

CAMPBELL'S BLACKLIST.

The companies added to the list previously published are:

Lameuse, of Liege, Belgium; Great Britain Insurance Corporation; National Church Mutual, Lisbon, Ia.; Farmers & Mechanics', West Virginia; Millers & Manufacturers' Mutual, Minneapolis; Commercial Fire, Wilmington; Merchants, New Orleans; United Underwriters, New York; Central Lloyds; South & Central American Lloyds; Protective Fire Lloyds, New York; Traders' Lloyds, New York; Merchants' Fire Lloyds, New York; Tradesmen's Lloyd's, New York; Commercial Lloyds, New York; United Cities Lloyds, New York; Manufacturers & Merchants' Fire Lloyds; Mutual Church Insurance Co., Lacrosse, Wis.; Quebec Fire Association, Quebec; Indiana Insurance Co., Indianapolis; Schuylkill Fire Insurance Co., Chicago; Chicago Insurance Co., Chicago; Norfolk Fire, Norfolk, Va.; Citizens Insurance Co., Evansville, Ind.; Fire & Marine Insurance Co., West Virginia; Mutual Lloyds, New York; Enterprise Fire Lloyds, Bankers & Merchants' Lloyds, New York; Brooklyn Fire Underwriters, Columbia Lloyds, New York; Manufacturers' Lloyds, New York; New York & Boston Lloyds, New York; Merchants' & Guarantee Lloyds, New York; Associated Manufacturers' Mutual Insurance Co., New York.

When does a hen resemble an old tramp in ambush? When she's laying for you.

GOT THE BACKACHE?

If You Have, Here's the Way to Rid Yourself of the Weariness and Pain Attending It.

Some people suffer with headaches, many people are worn out and weary all the time, many more people have lame back and backache. Few people understand the real cause of their aches, and fewer yet know how easily they can find a cure. Just a word of explanation before we prove that what we say is true. The back is the key-note of the kidneys. It aches; that's a sign that the kidneys are not working properly; it is lame; another sign, the kidneys are out of order. The kidneys, you know, are the filters of the blood, but filters sometimes get clogged up. This means in their case that the blood courses through the entire system impregnated with poisonous uric acid, bringing on many a disorder which, if neglected, means disease perhaps incurable. And now about the cure:—Don't take our word for it; read what others say:

Mr. David C. Oaks is proprietor of the well known hardware and paint shop at 220 East Main Street, Kalamazoo. Mr. Oaks has suffered a great deal from kidney ailments; he described his condition and cure as follows: "I had a bad, lame back, which I suppose was caused by my kidneys; was confined to my bed during bad attacks, I might say, from time to time. I have been in that condition for years. The urinary organism was affected, urine being scanty, highly colored, and difficult in passage. I was in a bad shape when I got a box of Doan's Kidney Pills, about which I had heard. I have used now two boxes of them, and the pills have removed all the pain and trouble. There was a marked improvement right from the first, and it has continued right along. Doan's Kidney Pills are the right thing in the right place."

For sale by all dealers—price, 50 cents. Mailed by Foster Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the U. S. Remember the name, Doan's, and take no other.

TIME TABLE.

In effect January 31st, 1897.

TRAINS LEAVE ALMA

NORTH.	SOUTH.
No. 1—12:26 p. m.	No. 2—7:48 a. m.
No. 3—8:00 p. m.	No 4—4:30 p. m.

W. H. BENNET, Gen. Pass. Agent, Toledo Ohio

V. S. HOLLENBECK, Agent, Alma

TOLEDO, SAGINAW & MUSKEGON R'Y

Leave Ashley 6:30 a. m. for Muskegon 1:50 p. m. for Muskegon. Jno. W. Loop, Traffic Manager, Detroit.

Leave Ashley for Detroit at 12:10 p. m. Close connections are made at Owosso Junct'n with all trains of D., G. H. & M. R'y. Ben. Fletcher, T. P. A. Detroit, Mich.

DETROIT, NOV. 21, 1897.

GRAND RAPIDS & WESTERN R R

a. m.	a. m.		a. m.	p. m.
4 45	7 30	Lv..... Saginaw ..... Ar	11 50	9 0
9 02	8 54	.....St. Louis.....	10 30	8 1
6 16	9 01	.....ALMA.....	10 22	8 0
6 58	9 43	At..... Edmore.....	9 30	6 5
8 20	11 05	.....Big Rapids.....	8 00	5 0
	11 50	.....Ionia.....	7 0	4 0
8 25	12 30	.....Howard City.....	6 40	4 0
9 30	2 20	Ar..... Grand Rapids Lv	5 0	3 2
6 40	6 50	.....Chicago.....	9 0	7 0
a. m.	p. m.		p. m.	p. m.

All trains have parlor cars to Grand Rapids.

H. J. Weckell, Agent, Alma. Geo. DeHaven, Gen'l Pass'r Agent, Grand Rapids.

W. O. TAYLOR, Agent, St. Louis.

Grand Trunk R'y System

TOLEDO, SAGINAW & MUSKEGON

In effect MAY 3, 1897.

EASTBOUND.

		Daily	Ex Sun
		a m	a m
Muskegon	Lv	8 15	6 4
Sparta	"	9 18	8 1
Cedar Springs	"	9 46	9 0
	Ar	10 20	10 3
			p m
Greenville	Lv	10 30	1 1
Sheridan	"	10 47	1 5
Carson City	"	11 13	3 1
		p m	
Ashley	"	12 06	5 1
Owosso Jct.	"	1 07	6 3
Detroit	Ar	3 55	

WESTBOUND.

Detroit	Lv	a m 11 30	p m 10 4
		p m	a m
Owosso Jct.	"	2 50	5 0
Ashley	Ar	3 40	6 1
Carson City	"	4 12	8 3
Sheridan	"	4 39	8 2
Greenville	"	5 05	9 5
	Lv	5 05	11 0
			p m
Cedar Springs	"	5 48	12 1
Sparta	"	6 06	12 5
Muskegon	Ar	7 15	2 3

DETROIT & MILWAUKEE DIV.

Arrival and Departure of Trains at Owosso Jct.

EASTBOUND.

	Leave	Arrive
	a m	p m
Detroit, Canada and East	*8 55	*7 2
	p m	
Detroit and Chicago, via Durand	*1 07	*2 4
		a m
Detroit, Canada and East	*6 00	*10 1
	a m	
Detroit, Canada and East	*3 20	*3 0

WESTBOUND.

	a m	p m
Gd Rapids, Gd Haven, Muskegon	*10 10	*6 0
	p m	
Gd Rapids, Gd Haven, Muskegon	*2 45	*1 0
		a m
Gd Rapids " "	*7 25	*8 5
	a m	
Gd Rapids, Muskegon	*8 05	*3 2
		p m
Mixed—Gd Rapids	*8 05	*6 5

* Except Sunday.

† Daily.

Eastbound Connections—8:57 a m train has parlor car to Detroit. Extra charge, 25 cents. Pullman parlor car Detroit to Toronto, connecting with sleeper for the east and New York. Connects with C. & G. T. division at Durand for Chicago and Port Huron and with C., S. & M. division for Saginaw and Bay City.

6:00 p m train has parlor car to Detroit. Extra charge 25 cents, and Pullman sleeping car Detroit to Toronto, Suspension Bridge, Buffalo, Philadelphia and New York. Connects at Durand with C. & G. T. for Pt. Huron and Battle Creek and with C., S. & M. division for Saginaw and Bay City.

3:20 am train has through day parlor and sleeping cars Windsor to Suspension Bridge, Buffalo, New York and Boston.

Westbound—10:10 a m.—train has a parlor car to Grand Rapids. Extra charge 25 cents.

7:55 p. m. train has parlor car to Grand Haven. Connects at Grand Haven with steamer for Milwaukee.

E. H. Hughes, A. G. P. A., Chicago, Ill.

Ben. Fletcher, Trav. Pass. Agt. Detroit, Mich.

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H. H. JAMES & SON, Prop'rs.