Fair and colder till Sunday night; fresh northwesterly winds.

The Times

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CHANGING FLAGS IN CUBA

Eleven Solemn Articles to Govern on New Year's Day.

PROGRAM OF CEREMONIES

A Salute of Twenty-One Guns as the Spanish Colors Are Lowered From Morro Castle—The Details as Arranged—Treatment of Spanish Soldiers Remaining on the Island.

Havana, Dec. 23.—The Spanish and American Evacuation Commissioners held a joint session today which lasted from 9 o'clock in the morning until 2 in the afternoon. The following articles were finally agreed to as governing the Spanish troops who will, owing to the lack of transportation facilities, remain on the island after January 1, the date fixed for the evacuation:

Article 1. The Spanish troops not embarked on January 1 shall remain unmolested in their barracks, houses or camps until such time as they go on board vessels for Spain. Meanwhile they shall enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded by international law to a foreign army in a friendly land. Their barracks, houses, etc., shall be extra-territorial.

Article 2. The Spanish chief of each group of troops shall, previous to their departure from the island, give notice thereof to the nearest American officer.

Article 3. The provincial and municipal authorities shall not be allowed to take the Spanish forces or their property either directly or indirectly, nor to raise the prices of food or anything necessary to the Spanish troops.

Article 4. The employes of the postoffice and the telegraph lines shall continue doing service for the Spanish troops, passing their letters and messages free, as was done before the American occupation.

Article 5. No duties shall be levied at the custom houses on war material belonging to the Spanish government or on the personal property of Spanish officers and soldiers or their families.

Article 6. Physicians shall attend the Spanish sick in the hospitals and supply them with the necessary medicines, etc.

Article 7. The Spanish general-in-chief shall maintain strict discipline among his troops, and if any of them violate private dwellings or grounds he will severely punish them.

Article 8. All crimes committed by Spanish officers or soldiers against the inhabitants will be rapidly investigated by the Spanish military authorities and the accused shall be tried by a Spanish military tribunal. If any crime is committed by the inhabitants against Spanish soldiers, commissions will agree as to the punishment to be inflicted.

Article 9. If damage is done to private citizens or their property by Spanish troops the persons so damaged shall have the right to prove their claims against the Spanish government. It is understood that Spain will be responsible for damages to public or private property, provided the treaty of Paris is not opposed to this.

Article 10. The Spanish troops will punctually pay for all they buy.

Article 11. The Spanish authorities will hasten the embarkation of the troops so as to evacuate the island as rapidly as possible.

The agreement was principally the work of Col. Gaurata, secretary of the Spanish Commission, to whom credit must be given for the extraordinary concessions made by the Americans. Article 8 of the agreement was the subject of a long discussion.

Col. Gaurata also framed the program for the ceremonial surrender of Spanish sovereignty, which has been accepted by the Americans. This program provides that at noon on January 1 the Americans will salute the Spanish flag with twenty-one guns. As the salute is fired the flag will be lowered from Morro Castle and other official places and the American flag raised in its place. The latter will then be saluted with twenty-one guns by the Spaniards. The Spanish and American troops will then march past each other, each saluting the other's flag. The American and Spanish warships in the harbor will also fire salutes.

At noon the commissioners and representatives of both armies will be at the palace to decide any questions which may arise and to receive persons calling to salute the Americans or Spaniards.

A Spanish officer will be at each military building and fort to formally surrender it to American officers. Civil officers will surrender the civil offices and departments.

This program will be officially published before the date of the evacuation by both the Spaniards and Americans. It was also agreed at the meeting today that the Americans should issue a proclamation to the inhabitants recommending the maintenance of order and asking that good treatment be accorded the Spanish troops.

On January 1 Capt. Gen. Castellanos will remove his headquarters to Matanzas and later to Cienfuegos. Gen. Butler will accompany him to Matanzas and Gen. Wade will go with him to Cienfuegos, whence he will sail for Spain.

INSTRUCTED TO PROTEST.

Minister Conger Will Officially Object to the French Extension.

Instructions were sent by the State Department yesterday to Minister Conger, at Pekin, to protest in the name of the United States against the granting by the Chinese government to the government of France an extension of the French extra-territorial area or foreign settlement at Shanghai.

Minister Conger notified the State Department Thursday that the French government had applied for the extension, and that the area desired included territory occupied by American citizens. These citizens have protested to the minister against being included within the authority of France.

The matter is not regarded here as of any great importance, but Minister Conger was directed to make an urgent protest against granting the concession. The British minister at Pekin has already entered a strong protest against the extension.

Mrs. Cody Still in Jail.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Justice Chester at a special term of the Supreme Court today denied an application made by P. C. Dugan, the attorney for Mrs. Margaret Cody, who is awaiting a second trial for attempting to blackmail George J. Gould and Helen M. Gould, that she be released on her own recognizance until the time for her trial.

Her bail was fixed at $1,000 and she was sent back to jail.

Flynn's Business College, 8th and K. Business, shorthand, typewriting—$25 a yr.

THE COMMISSIONERS ARRIVE.

Return of the Men Who Signed the Peace Treaty.

New York, Dec. 24.—The American Liner St. Louis, with the American members of the Peace Commission aboard, arrived at Sandy Hook early this morning, and is expected to reach her pier at the foot of Fulton Street at 8 o'clock.

The members of the commission, it is understood, will board a special train soon after arriving in New York for this city. They are expected to reach here during the afternoon, and an immediate conference with the President will follow.

Nothing official is expected from them or from the White House concerning them until after the holidays. The treaty will be turned over by Judge Day to President McKinley and the members of the commission will probably remain in Washington and participate in conferences with the President in regard to it until it is transmitted to the Senate. It is thought now that this will be done immediately after the holidays.

AUDITOR BECHEL CLEARED.

From His Trial May Develop a Nebraska Sensation.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 23.—Former Auditor W. F. Bechel, of the Pacific Express, was today acquitted of the charge of embezzlement. The jury went out last night and returned its verdict this morning. The case has consumed two weeks and has developed into one of the most sensational criminal affairs ever tried in Nebraska.

Mr. Bechel's attorneys now assert that proceedings will be commenced immediately against the Pacific Express Company for heavy damages. The friends of Mr. Bechel also insist that he should sue for damages those men concerned with the company who promoted the prosecution.

This refers particularly to Erastus Young, auditor of the Union Pacific, upon whose investigation the charges were preferred against all the old officials of the Pacific Express Company. Bechel's friends charge that personal malice inspired much of the prosecution.

The trial developed but one fact clearly, and that is that vast sums of money were spent to corrupt members of the legislature and that this money passed through the hands of the express company officials. Bechel is a politician of great influence in Omaha, having served as president of the city council for many years, and his political friends declare that he will go before the incoming legislature and tell all he knows about the company's operations in connection with the Lincoln lobby.

Corporation managers generally in Nebraska are much disturbed over the revelations in the trial and blame those who inspired the prosecution for all the trouble that the situation promises to make them.

GOV. PINGREE'S TAX IDEAS.

They May Not Be Antagonized by Railroad Companies.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 23.—The attitude of the railroads toward legislation which will carry into effect the principles of Gov. Pingree's taxation theories does not presage any very bitter opposition to the measure.

The St. Paul road, which has considerable mileage in the upper peninsula, has announced that it will decline to make any contribution to a common defense fund to defray the expenses of a representative of the interest of the railroads at Lansing. Such funds have been a feature of past sessions of the Michigan legislature.

The Detroit, Grand Rapids and Western, Chicago and West Michigan and Flint and Pere Marquette railroads are all said to be favorably inclined toward the proposed change in the method of taxing railroads and it is believed the other roads will make no fight.

ARBITRATION AGREED TO.

Three Men Will Settle the Grand Trunk Labor Trouble.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—The differences between the Grand Trunk management and the telegraphers employed on the system, which threatened a general strike, will be submitted to arbitration.

General Manager Hays wrote to Grand Chief Powell, of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, today offering to arbitrate the difference, and Mr. Powell, after a conference with Mr. Hays, this evening agreed to arbitration.

The Grand Trunk will appoint one arbitrator, the telegraphers a second and the two will select a third. The arbitrators will meet in Toronto on January 6, when all questions in dispute between the management and the men will be submitted and the decision of two out of the three arbitrators will be final. Mr. Powell returned to Peoria, Ill., tonight.

The Magowans Are Free.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 23.—The Common Pleas Court of Ohio has set former Mayor Magowan, Mrs. Barnes Magowan and Beryl Barnes free so far as any indictment against the parents is concerned.

Judge Dissette today sustained the demurrer to the plaintiff's petition declaring that the indictment under which Mr. and Mrs. Magowan were held here did not constitute a cause of action under the laws of Ohio.

$671,717 for Foreign Missions.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 23.—The American board of commissioners of foreign missions gave out its annual report today. Its total income for the year from donations, legacies and invested funds was $671,717.

Reduced Rates During the Holidays.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company announces that on December 23, 24, 25, 31 and January 1 it will sell excursion tickets from Washington to Baltimore, Pittsburg and intermediate stations (including stations on the Southwest Pennsylvania Branch and Bedford Division), good to return until January 4, 1899, inclusive, at rate of fare and a third for the round trip. No rate, however, between any two points to be less than 25 cents.
de17,19,21,23,26,28e-18,20,22,24,27,29m

$1.25 To Baltimore and Return. $1.25 via Pennsylvania Railroad.

Tickets on sale Saturday and Sunday, December 24 and 25, good to return until Monday, December 26. All trains except the Congressional Limited.
de22-31-cm

AN INVASION OF ILOILO

Gen. Otis Ordered to Send Troops There at Once.

NO NEWS OF THE FIGHTING

Reports of Trouble Between the Insurgents and Spaniards Not Officially Confirmed—A Desire to Extend American Control of the Philippines—Significant Action.

Secretary Alger has sent orders by cable to Gen. Otis, at Manila, directing him to send a force of United States troops to Iloilo, the capital and principal port of the island of Panay. This action is the first taken by the Administration toward extending its authority over the Philippines, beyond the city and harbor and bay of Manila, and is important as indicating the intention of the Government to place the archipelago under American control sooner than was originally intended.

Iloilo is about 250 miles from Manila. It is the only port in the Philippines remaining in the possession of the Spanish forces. For more than a month it has been threatened by a large force of insurgent troops and at one time, recently, the Spanish commandant considered that further resistance to the insurgents attacks was useless.

The dispatches from Madrid representing that the Spanish troops at Iloilo had made a sortie and repulsed the insurgents with heavy loss has not been confirmed by Maj. Gen. Otis nor Rear Admiral Dewey, and it was said last night that the instructions of the Government to Gen. Otis did not result from these reports.

Just before the Peace Commission assembled in Paris the Spanish government applied to the United States for assistance in protecting the coast towns in the Philippines from the attacks of the insurgents. This appeal was made with particular reference to the situation at Iloilo.

The United States refused to interfere between the insurgents and the Spanish pending an agreement by the Peace Commission as to the disposition, control and ownership of the Philippines, but the cruiser Raleigh was sent to Iloilo on a tour of inspection, doubtless with the intention of affording moral support to the Spanish garrison and to impress the insurgents.

The telegraphic orders to Gen. Otis give him discretion as to the number and character of the force to be sent to Iloilo. The Administration has not decided to direct Gen. Otis to occupy other towns in the Philippines, but may do so at any time.

According to the reports made to the military information division of the adjutant general's office, Iloilo, the capital of the province of the same name on the island of Panay, has a population of 10,280. Its distance from Manila is estimated in one report at 355 miles, but in another at 250 miles. The town of Iloilo is protected by a fort. The number of Spanish troops at the capital is not given in the reports to the military information division.

President McKinley is considering the advisability of sending by telegraph to Gen. Otis the text of the proclamation prepared for promulgation to the inhabitants of the Philippine archipelago, announcing the cession of that territory to the United States by the treaty of Paris.

A copy of the proclamation has been mailed to Gen. Otis, but the President has been advised to have it promulgated immediately. No urgent reason for deciding to follow this advice has been given, and the Administration is not aware of any necessity for haste. On the other hand, there is no reason why there should be any delay, and the President may send a copy of the proclamation to Gen. Otis by telegraph with directions to issue it immediately.

It was said on high authority yesterday that there is nothing startling or of great political significance in this document. No promise of autonomy to the Filipinos is contained. The provisions of the proclamation may be summed up in the statement that it merely announces the acquisition of the islands by the United States and directs those who bear arms to return to their ordinary avocations.

No decision has been reached by the Administration as to when the formal assumption of American control and ownership of the Philippines will be announced. The present inclination of the Administration is to postpone such action until after the peace treaty has been ratified.

A MEDAL FOR MR. M'KINLEY.

The Santiago City Council Makes a Graceful Presentation.

Santiago de Cuba, Dec. 23.—Mayor Barcarda and the members of the city council visited the palace this afternoon and presented to Gen. Wood two ancient gold medals of honor attached to fine gold chains.

The donors requested that one of the medals be sent to President McKinley as a token of respect and esteem from the Santiago officials, while Gen. Wood was asked to accept the other as a mark of the consideration felt for him here.

Gen. Wood, in accepting the gifts, made a graceful reply of thanks on behalf of himself and President McKinley, and expressed his appreciation of the spirit which prompted the presentation.

The medals, which are large, and valuable, and of beautiful workmanship, were in mahogany cases. They were originally given by the Spanish government for distinguished public service. There are no other medals like them in the province.

Moore Case Ready for the Jury.

New York, Dec. 23.—All that remains to be done before the case of Fayne Strahan Moore goes to the jury for its decision as to her guilt or innocence in the robbery of Martin Mahon, for which her husband, W. A. E. Moore, is now under conviction, is the charging of the jury by Recorder Goff.

All the evidence was in and the defense finished at the close of this afternoon's session, the evening session being occupied by Assistant District Attorney McIntyre's summing up for the prosecution.

"The Royal Limited"—Baltimore & Ohio R. R.

Most superb daylight train in the world. Leaves Washington 3 p. m.; arrives New York 8 p. m. Dining car, Pullman parlor and observation smoking cars. No extra fare other than regular Pullman charge.
dec-24-5t

$1.25 to Baltimore and Return via B. & O. Saturday and Sunday,

December 24 and 25, good for return until following Monday. Tickets good on all trains except Royal Limited.
de22-41,em

THE LAND HELD BY FRAUD.

Northern Pacific's Claim to 8,700,000 Acres Declared Illegal.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 23.—The legality of the title of the Northern Pacific Railway to 8,700,000 acres of valuable land in Washington, acquired from the old Northern Pacific under the foreclosure and reorganization proceedings, is attacked in a report made to the legislature by a special investigating committee, including Frank Wilkeson, W. B. Roberts and E. H. Guie.

This committee was appointed in accordance with a resolution passed two years ago for the purpose of examining the legality of transfers of property made by the old corporation to the new company under the final decree of the Federal Court in 1896. The report was filed today with the secretary of state, by whom it will be laid before the legislature, which meets on January 9.

The committee alleges that Congress granted the lands along the line to the original company and not to its successors, and that authority was given by Congress for the issuance of only one mortgage. This was issued on May 21, 1870. It is found that this mortgage was foreclosed in 1875, and it is alleged that Congress has never since authorized the issue of mortgages by the company.

They were issued, it is declared, unlawfully, and through fraud. It is asserted that the foreclosure and sale of the property of the company including the granted lands in Washington did not carry title to them. It is declared that the lands have reverted to the people and it is recommended that the attorney general be directed to take steps to have them opened to settlement.

Finally, it is alleged that the voting trust is illegal under the constitution of the State and that the officers of the companies are keeping the old railroad corporation alive, hoping for favorable Congressional legislation this Winter approving all that has been done.

Chairman Wilkeson, of the committee, was once associated with his father, Sam Wilkeson, of New York, chief engineer in the construction of the road.

RAVAGES OF THE GRIP.

It Causes Suicide and Death and Interferes With Business.

New York, Dec. 23.—With clear and cooler weather today comes the announcement by the health officers that the grip is now in check. The epidemic is running itself out, and new cases are becoming fewer in number.

The disease has played havoc in the public schools. Forty-five thousand children out of 225,000 in the schools of Manhattan are unable to attend. In Brooklyn the same conditions prevail. Fire companies and the ranks of the police show depletion because of the disease. Ten deaths, due to grip, occurred yesterday.

New Haven, Dec. 23.—Physicians here say that the present grip epidemic is the worst they ever experienced. Half of the doctors of the city have been attacked by it. The scarcity of medical help has compelled the professors of the Yale medical school to give up their recitations and lend their aid to relieving the grip sufferers. All the members of the senior class in the medical school have been pressed into service as assistants. Two thousand new cases have been reported in the past three days and it is estimated that there have been 10,000 cases of the disease in the past week. Several deaths from it have been reported.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 23.—One death from grip is reported here today. The disease is as prevalent as at any previous epidemic, but the cases are milder.

Pittsburg, Dec. 23.—Charles Hardwick, forty-eight years old, a grip patient, committed suicide today by shooting himself. The disease is spreading and even now prevails to such an extent that it interferes with business, especially in the big department stores.

OFFICERS REFUSE TO APPEAR.

More Evidence in the Standard Oil Book-Burning Case.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 23.—More evidence was secured today that the books of the Standard Oil Company were burned. Attorney General Monnett took several more depositions before Attorney Mason.

George Fields, an employe of the company, testified that he sent William Moran and John McNierney to the Standard Oil offices after books which were to be destroyed. Moran was then summoned and said that he had burned the books and papers, which had been placed in a box.

An unsuccessful effort was made today to get Standard Oil officials before Attorney Mason. In a signed communication to the press Attorneys Kline, Carrick, Tolles and Goff denounce the charge or insinuation of Attorney General Monnett that they had burned the books of account as false.

A BIG PLUG TOBACCO DEAL.

The American Company Sells Out to the Continental.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 23.—The American Tobacco Company today filed with the secretary of state a certificate of sale of its entire plug tobacco business to the newly incorporated Continental Tobacco Company.

This move has been expected since the formation of the new company. The certificate declares that such an action was deemed advisable by a resolution of the board of directors, and has been assented to by two-thirds of each class of stockholders.

A large majority of the stockholders have signed the assent by proxy through James B. Duke.

ROOSEVELT AT OYSTER BAY.

He Engages in Target Shooting With Baron Von Sternberg.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Governor-elect Roosevelt came to Oyster Bay this morning. He hopes to be free from politics until next Tuesday.

Baron von Sternberg, secretary of the German embassy, is here to spend Christmas with the Roosevelts. The baron and Col. Roosevelt spent the afternoon at target shooting. The baron is an enthusiastic sportsman and was much interested in some of Col. Roosevelt's new guns.

Tomorrow Col. Roosevelt will preside at the Christmas festivities at the Cove School, which his children attend.

Gen. Sheridan Reports for Duty.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Gen. Michael V. Sheridan, recently appointed comander of the Department of the Lakes, today reported at army headquarters in the Pullman building, to enter upon his duties. Four and a half months in Porto Rico had a beneficial effect on the general, and although he weighs thirty pounds less than he did before the war, he says he never felt better.

SEIZURE OF WAKE ISLAND

The United States Will Take It Without Parley.

NEEDED FOR A CABLE RELAY

Orders for the Gunboat Bennington to Do the Work—A Lonely Coral Speck in the Pacific Ocean—No Country Claims It—Gen. Greene Stopped There En Route to Manila.

The mail steamer which will sail from San Francisco for Hong Kong today will carry very important instructions to Commander E. D. Taussig, of the gunboat Bennington, now at Honolulu, or somewhere in its vicinity.

Commander Taussig will be intrusted with the important and interesting duty of seizing an island in the Pacific Ocean and proclaiming authority over it. If his instructions are carried out, Wake Island, a detached and lonely speck in the watery area known as Micronesia, will become a possession of the United States, and thus form another link in the insular chain connecting the American continent with its newly acquired Far Eastern territory.

The proposal to acquire Wake Island has been under consideration ever since the Spanish Peace Commissioners in Paris declined the offer of the American Commissioners to purchase an island in the Caroline Islands, to be used as a cable and naval station. For more than a week the advisability of seizing Wake Island has been seriously discussed by the principal officers of the Administration, and as much information as could be obtained about the place was collected for presentation to the Cabinet at its meeting yesterday, when the decision to send the Bennington there to assert the authority of the United States was apparently reached.

Wake Island is to the north of the Marshall Group, but is too remote to be classified in that or any other collection of islands. Like nearly all the other islands in that portion of the Pacific, it is a coral formation. It is not inhabited, and is anything but a pleasant place of residence, but its geographical situation is such that it affords a natural relay point for a submarine cable between the United States and the Philippines by way of Honolulu and the island of Guam in the Ladrones.

Wake Island is on a direct line between the Hawaiian and the Ladrone Islands, and has an advantage of location for a cable station over Strong's Island in the Carolines. It is 1,250 miles from the Ladrones and 2,100 miles from Hawaii.

No international complications are feared as a result of the annexation of Wake Island. It has been practically a vagrant in the Micronesia ever since its existence became known. In the inquiries made by this Government to ascertain its history the gratifying discovery was made that the United States had better title to the island than any other nation because an American ship had once landed men who claimed the island by right of discovery.

The Marshall Islands, the nearest group, belong to England. Information about the island is as hard to find, however, as is the island itself on an ordinary map. There is no evidence that any nation has ever laid claim to it. Gen. Greene, on his way to Manila, stopped there on July 4 of this year and raised the American flag.

The orders to the Bennington contemplate her departure from Honolulu as soon as possible after the orders to go by tomorrow's steamer are received. She will get these if the steamer is on time and the Bennington is at Honolulu, on December 30. When last heard from the Bennington was in the harbor of Hilo in the Island of Hawaii, making a survey.

The orders direct Commander Taussig to stop at Wake Island on his way to Guam, the island in the Ladrones which was acquired by the United States through the protocol of August 12, and the acquisition confirmed by the peace treaty of Paris. The Bennington will survey the harbor of San Luis d' Apra in Guam Island in anticipation of the establishment of a naval coaling and cable station there.

Just how the assertion of American sovereignty over Wake Island will be made has not been disclosed. In the recent seizures of unoccupied islands in Polynesia commanders of British warships complied with international requirements by posting big notices on rocks in conspicuous places. It is expected that the Bennington will be ready to proceed on her mission within a week after orders from the Navy Department are received. It will take her about eight days to make the voyage from Honolulu to Wake Island.

NO SLOANE DIVORCE SUIT.

Counsel of Parties Concerned Deny Stories of Legal Action.

New York, Dec. 23.—The Sun will print prominently tomorrow the following:

"To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: As a response, once for all, to inquiries being made of us, we, the counsel of the parties interested, have to say that there is not pending, and never has been, any action for divorce between Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sloane, nor any suit of separation nor any legal proceedings of any kind.

"AUGUSTUS C. BROWN.
"DELANCY NICOLL.
"New York, December 23."

Foul Play Suspected.

Loraine, O., December 23.—John Rigo, of Chicago, was burned to death in Dalton's restaurant here today. There were several boarders in the place who escaped.

It is believed that the Chicago man was murdered, as the presence of blood on the body indicated foul play. Three men have been arrested on suspicion.

Big Fire at Pittsburg.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 24.—L. Giesenkamp, Son & Co.'s carriage and hearse factory was almost destroyed by fire at 1 a. m.

The loss is estimated at from $30,000 to $75,000.

SAGASTA'S LIFE IN DANGER.

The Transaction of Public Business in Spain Postponed.

Madrid, Dec. 23.—The condition of Prime Minister Sagasta became worse this afternoon and he is now seriously ill. His lungs are greatly inflamed.

[illegible]h anxiety regarding the outcome [illegible]his sickness is felt in political circles, and the transaction of public business has been postponed.

Senor Sagasta rallied slightly later, but his condition is still serious. Six physicians, including Dr. Candela, the principal physician of the court, who attended at the request of the Queen Regent, held a consultation this evening and concurred in the diagnosis of bronchial pneumonia, with an unfavorable absence of expectoration.

The greatest sympathy is expressed for the prime minister by the public. Throughout the day a large number of distinguished persons visited Senor Sagasta's residence and inscribed their names in the visitors' book. The Queen Regent sent twice to make inquiries regarding his condition. All the ambassadors have called to express their sympathy.

Senor Sagasta's friends augur his recovery from the manner in which he resisted previous attacks, but his condition is now aggravated by the mental strain and anxieties of the past few months. Senor Groizard, minister of justice, is acting as prime minister.

TROUBLE IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Mass Meeting of British Subjects Called to Resist Oppression.

Cape Town, Dec. 23.—There is great excitement among the British residents of Johannesburg arising from a policeman shooting an Englishman named Edgar. The accounts of the shooting differ, but the act was apparently indefensible.

The policeman was arrested for murder, but the charge was subsequently reduced to culpable homicide. He was then admitted to bail. This increased the exasperation. According to one report, the British agent has demanded that the charge of murder be reinstituted.

A mass-meeting has been summoned for tomorrow to appeal to Great Britain through the British consul to terminate the oppression and injustice to British subjects in the Transvaal.

THE JEW-BAITERS SNUBBED.

Premier Dupuy Defends the Recall of M. Regis From Algiers.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The Jew-baiters received a snub in the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon. The government's recall of Mayor Regis, of Algiers, for countenancing anti-Semitic excesses and the appointment of his successor led to interpellations on the subject.

The arch Jew-baiter, Edouard Drumont, who represents Algiers in the chambers, expressed himself as scandalized by the recall of M. Regis, and wanted an explanation of the government's action. He warned France that another Cuba would spring up in Algeria, which would in a few years be lost to France, as Cuba and the Philippines had been lost to Spain, if the government's policy were followed.

After other speeches had been delivered on both sides of the question Prime Minister Dupuy protested against M. Drumont's comparison of Algeria with Cuba. Mayor Regis, he said, had been an agent of disorder and had sought to obtain the recall of Gov. Laferiere. The Jews, he added, had admittedly tried to obtain undue advantages in the colony, but the remedy for this was legislation.

Anti-Semitism was an ugly and dangerous malady which belonged to a past age. Its adherents had not proposed a single legislative measure. They displayed incapability for governing. M. Drumont was inciting the colony to civil war.

M. Dupuy was loudly applauded. The chamber agreed that his speech should be placarded throughout Algeria and expressed confidence in the government by a vote of 406 to 16.

Germany Is Willing.

Berlin, Dec. 23.—The Kolnische Zeitung makes the semi-official announcement that the German government will not object in the slightest to a publication of the contents of the secret dossier in the Dreyfus case.

It has been long rumored that the dossier contains letters from Emperor William to a French traitor.

SOLDIERS FREEZE TO DEATH.

Several Hundred Perish in Snow on the Czar's Errand.

London, Dec. 24.—A dispatch to the Telegraph from Vienna says that several hundred Montenegrin soldiers who were proceeding to Podoritza, in Montenegro, to receive a number of rifles presented by the Czar to Prince Nicholas, were overtaken by a snowstorm in a defile and all of them were frozen to death.

A relief expedition was sent out, but was unable to save them.

The Kaiser Got Dissatisfied.

Berlin, Dec. 23.—Letters exchanged by the Kaiser and Emperor Franz Josef of Austria, presumably over the threat of Austria's premier, Count Thun, to retaliate for the expulsion of Slavs from Prussia, were caused by an additional declaration of Count Thun.

He stated that he secured consent to his first speech against Germany in advance from the foreign minister, Count De Golochowski. Therefore Germany regarded the matter seriously and the Kaiser wrote for an explanation. Emperor Franz Josef's answer leaves the situation unsatisfactory.

A Strike Stops Paris Shopping.

Paris, Dec. 23.—Clerks in the grocery stores and other supply houses here struck today for a twelve-hour working day.

As a result Christmas traffic has been demoralized. While there has been no disturbance as yet by strikers, squads of police are guarding employers' property.

An American Derelict Sighted.

Queenstown, Dec. 23.—The British steamship Magda, from Philadelphia, reports that on December 11 she passed a waterlogged and abandoned American vessel in latitude 38.40 north, longitude 63 west. The vessel was directly in the track of liners and dangerous to navigation.

GEN. MILES NOW FEARED

His Investigation of Army Meat Causes Alarm.

GEN. EAGAN IS INDIGNANT

He Asks for a Verbatim Copy of the "Embalmed Beef" Testimony—The Cincinnati Interview—It Creates a Commotion in Military Circles, as Forecasting Aggressive Action.

Brig. Gen. Eagan, the commissary general of the army, sent a letter to the War Investigating Commission yesterday requesting that he be furnished with a verbatim copy of the testimony given by Maj. Gen. Miles concerning what the witness called "embalmed beef," and asking the privilege of appearing before the commission to give testimony concerning Gen. Miles's statement.

Gen. Eagan says he will deny the charges made by Gen. Miles, and after giving his testimony before the commission he will take the matter to the President in order to secure justice for his department. He expresses a desire to have a full investigation of the subsistence department in the war so that the charges that poor food was served, and very little of that, can be probed to the bottom.

Gen. Eagan is also indignant over statements concerning the food supply at Santiago contained in the reports from Col. Theodore Roosevelt to Gen. Leonard Wood, made public by the adjutant general on Thursday. It is probable that Gen. Eagan will make a statement in reply to Col. Roosevelt when he appears before the investigating commission.

The statement given out by Gen. Miles at Cincinnati, so closely following his incriminating testimony before the Alger Relief Commission, was made the topic of discussion in military circles yesterday, and the war office factions find in this business new material upon which to feed their old-time feud. Gen. Miles is feared in the bureaus whence arise the source of contention, and particularly in the commissary department. Gen. Eagan's action was not unexpected, his friends in the service having urged him to make a show of indignant defense against the charges lodged against his management of the commissary department.

Gen. Miles has assumed the aggressive attitude which his friends have repeatedly urged him to take, and that he is able to hold up his end of the controversy is clearly proven by the commotion his recent utterances have made in the War Department. At Cincinnati the general reiterated some of the statements he made before the Alger Relief Commission, which did not find their way verbatim into print at the time. To the interviewer he said:

"It is my duty to investigate any wrong existing in the army, and that I am now doing in the regular military manner. The work is not completed, and until it is I will have nothing to add to the statement I made before the War Commission."

Gen. Miles had particular reference to his investigation of the fresh beef contracts, and on this head he said:

"My suspicions were aroused several months ago and I at once started an investigation into the matter of sending meat to the army in the West Indies. The part in my testimony relating to 27 tons of refrigerator beef and 198,000 pounds of canned fresh beef which was unfit for food, is only an item. This quantity was sent to one town in Porto Rico. How much more was sent I do not know."

"How about the beef supply in the army in Cuba?"

"It was just as bad. The conditions there were no better than they were in Porto Rico. It was the same thing at Tampa and the same thing at Jacksonville."

"Will you give a little more light on what you meant by this assertion in your testimony before the War Commission yesterday: 'Gen. Miles suggested that the food was sent to his large army under pretence of an experiment.'"

"I think that sentence is sufficiently plain. 'Pretence' is the precise term to be used. It is absurd to say that these enormous quantities of beef were in reality sent to an entire army simply as an experiment. To expect that beef can be exposed to the tropical sun for sixty hours without spoiling is out of the question."

"You think, then, if it was the intention to experiment with beef for the army in the tropics it would have been better to limit the experiment to a few companies, say, instead of the whole army?"

"Yes, or it might do for one man to try it on his own stomach, but to feed an army, that was more than an experiment.

"As I stated in my testimony, I believe the action of these chemicals was largely responsible for the sickness in the army. I have medical authority for this statement, and I believe it to be true.

"I have the testimony of a large number of officers and men upon this matter, some of which I gave in my testimony before the Commission yesterday. My inquiry is still in progress, and some of the most important information I have received has been acquired in the past few days."

Gen. Miles also cleared up a misapprehension as to the circumstances leading to his appearance before the Alger Relief Commission as a witness. It appears that he refused to volunteer testimony and took the stand only after he had received two invitations to appear, the second one being in a message from Gen. Dodge, president of the Commission.

One of the Sultan's Aides Murdered.

Constantinople, Dec. 23.—The Pera quarter is greatly excited over the murder of Ghani Bey, an Albanian, one of the sultan's aides-de-camp, by Hatuz Pacha, business representative of Razhib Bey, one of the sultan's chamberlains.

The murder was committed in a pastry cook's shop. Ghani Bey was notorious on account of his lawlessness in Epirus and in Constantinople. He had extorted money from various persons, threatening them with death and inspiring general terror.

The foreign embassies had made several complaints of his actions to the porte and demanded his punishment, but always without success.

A Disastrous Fire at Plymouth.

London, Dec. 23.—A disastrous fire started in the Palace Theater at Plymouth today. The military was called out to assist in preventing the spread of the flames and to preserve order.

Holiday Rates on B. & O.

To and from points between Washington, Baltimore, Pittsburg, Wheeling and Parkersburg, December 23, 24, 25, and 31, and January 1, good to return until January 4, inclusive, at rate one and third fare.
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