WRECK IN WASHINGTON

Explosion and Fire Destroy Supreme Courtroom.

CAUSED BY LEAKING GAS

FLAMES CONSUME PRICELESS DOCUMENTS.

Works of Art, Library and Records Almost Total Loss—No Intelligent Estimate Can Be Given, But Estimated at $200,000 On Building—No Duplicates Exist.

Washington, Nov. 6.—An explosion and fire at 3:15 this afternoon wrecked the supreme court room and the rooms immediately adjoining it on the main floor of the capitol. The damage is enormous. The entire central-eastern part of the great marble pile, from the main floor to the subterranean basement, practically is a mass of ruins. The force of the explosion was so heavy that the coping stones on the outer walls, just east of the point where the explosion occurred, were bulged out nearly two inches; windows in all that part of the building were blown out, and locked doors were forced from their hinges quite 120 feet from the scene of it.

Fire followed the explosion so quickly as to seem practically simultaneous with it. The explosion shook the immense structure to its foundations, and was heard several squares from the capitol. It occurred in a small room, tightly inclosed by heavy stone walls, in the subterranean basement immediately below the main entrance to the old capitol building. In the room was a 100-light gas meter, which was fed by a four-inch main. Very little gas is used in that part of the building, but at the time of the explosion the gas had not been turned off at the meter. The meter itself was wrecked and, the gas pouring from the main, caught fire. The flames emanating from the explosion darted up the shaft of the elevator, which had been completely destroyed by the force of the explosion, and communicated with the record room of the supreme court, the office of the marshal of the court and the supreme court library. Before the flames could be subdued the priceless documents in the record room had been almost totally destroyed, and serious damage had been done in the marshal's office and some minor rooms in the immediate vicinity.

LIBRARY BADLY DAMAGED.

The library of the supreme court, located immediately beneath the supreme court room, was badly damaged by fire, smoke and water, practically destroying the great reference library of law books. The library contains about 25,000 volumes, and was used not only by the justices of the supreme court, but by members of congress and lawyers practicing before the supreme court. Mr. Justice Harlan said tonight that the library was very valuable. Many of the works it contained would, he thought, be difficult to replace. Librarian Clarke, after a cursory examination necessarily made by the light of lanterns, expressed the opinion that many of the books could be saved, although they had been drenched by water from the streams poured into the library for two hours or more after the explosion occurred.

The most serious damage, in the opinion of the justices of the supreme court, is to the records stored in the subbasement. These include all of the records of cases and opinions rendered by the fathers of judiciary of the government. Apparently the documents in this room are either totally destroyed or so badly damaged by fire and water as to be useless. Justice Harlan said that while the loss of the records was irreparable, it was fortunate that the original records of the court, which are kept in the office of the clerk on the main floor, were not injured. As documents for reference at this time and later, Justice Harlan thought these were of far greater value than the records destroyed. Fortunately, the clerk's office was not in the least damaged by fire, and the explosion did no damage to it except to blow one window out.

MAY SAVE PRICELESS RECORDS.

Mr. James McKenney, clerk of the supreme court, expressed the hope after making an examination of the old room that some at least of the documents, priceless, from the viewpoint of the profession, could be saved. Tonight, however, owing to the inadequate lighting facilities in that portion of the building where the explosion and fire occurred, it was impossible for him to make an intelligent or thorough investigation of the damage. The supreme court room was damaged principally by water and smoke, the fire not reaching that point. Adjoining the court room, however, both the marshal's office and the senate barber shop burned like tinder.

Various stories have been offered as to the cause of the explosion. It seems beyond doubt to have been due to escaping gas. At seven minutes after 4, Lieutenant Mearns of the capitol police force detected an odor of gas from the corridor adjoining the supreme court room. Not being able to locate it, he proceeded to Statuary hall—the old hall of the house of representatives—thinking the gas might be escaping from a burner in that vicinity. While endeavoring to locate the escape of the gas the explosion occurred. Only a few persons, principally officers of the capitol police, were in the building at the time, but several of them had narrow escapes. Before the fire department, which responded to an alarm sent in by a policeman three minutes after the explosion had arrived, C. F. Gilem, chief electrician of the capitol, and R. W. Tayloe, chief engineer of the house side, ran a stream playing into the supreme court record room, which by that time was a roaring furnace. Within a few minutes after the arrival of the fire department, the flames were under control, although, as a precautionary measure, streams were poured into the marshal's office, the library and the subterranean basement for two hours.

GAS BAFFLES FIREMEN.

The firemen were unable, however, for a considerable time to extinguish the flame of gas which shot out of the fracture in the main in the meter room. From this main the fire swept through an orifice in the basement floor caused by the explosion and attacked the consultation room of the supreme court justices on the main floor. Some damage was done to the furniture and fittings of this room, but it was inconsiderable as compared with the damage elsewhere. The private room of the justices practically was undamaged. It was evident that the fire could not be extinguished until the gas from the main was cut off. That this might be accomplished, the firemen turned two streams upon the main, checking the flow of gas and at the same time cooling the pipe. Electrician Gleim, leaving the smoke heat, entered the meter room and cut off the gas at the main valve at the main.

Throughout the lower central portion of the old capitol building doors, windows and fittings in committee rooms and other apartments are badly damaged. Just north of the crypt an archway almost over the meter room was completely blown out, and great masses of masonry were torn from the floor and hurled to the ceiling with such force as to burst the stone and plaster of the walls above. Ponderous flagstones were wrenched from their resting places and throughout the corridors the wainscoting on the ceilings and walls of the corridors were utterly ruined. No damage was done to the main foundations of the building, as these are of solid masonry deeply imbedded, and 25 feet 4 inches thick.

The electric lighting apparatus, including dynamos, boilers and wirings was not damaged. In order to enable the firemen to work without peril from live wires, Electrician Gleim cut off the current from all wires except one circuit, which lighted the lower western part of the building. Within 20 feet of the scene of the explosion a solitary incandescent lamp, marking the exact center of the capitol structure and hanging directly over the bier in which it was proposed to lay the remains of George Washington, burned brightly.

WORKS OF ART DESTROYED.

Among the losses which will be most sincerely regretted are those of bust of Chief Justice Marshall and other distinguished members of the supreme court, which were arranged on small pedestals about the supreme court chamber. In the smoke and ruin which followed the explosion these valuable works of art were either badly damaged or wholly destroyed, and with their destruction the country has suffered an irreparable loss. Many of them have been treasured as exhibits in the supreme court chamber for half a century.

The capitol building has been damaged a number of times before by fire, but it is believed that tonight's fire will prove to be the most disastrous in the history of the building. On two occasions prior to this fires have been started by explosions of gas. Seventeen years ago a large amount of damage was done to the same part of the building by an explosion of this kind, and in 1876 there was an explosion of gas that killed two men and came near killing another.

No intelligent estimate of the money loss by the explosion and fire can yet be made. In the opinion of capitol officials and mechanics who examined the structure tonight the loss will reach probably $200,000 to the building. The loss on the library and records, as stated above, can scarcely be estimated in dollars and cents. A million dollars could not replace them, because of many of them no duplicates are in existence.

COURT PROVIDED FOR.

Arrangements were completed tonight by Librarian Clark of the supreme court and Colonel Richard Bright, sergeant-at-arms of the senate, by which the sittings of the supreme court will not be interrupted. The court will convene tomorrow in the room of the senate committee on District of Columbia, one of the most spacious rooms in the capitol. How long the sessions of the court will be held there will be determined by the justices themselves.

MORE VICTIMS DUG FROM RUINS

ELEVEN BODIES RECOVERED AT DETROIT.

Injured By Fall of Wonderland Building Improving—Mass-meeting Subscribes $1,000 For Relief.

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 6.—Three more victims were today dug from the ruins of the new Wonderland building, which collapsed yesterday. This makes the death list so far 11. The bodies rescued today were identified as Peter Pfeifl, carpenter; Frank Wolf, tinner, and Max Fett, who was Wolf's helper. All the injured at the hospitals are today reported on the improve, excepting Edward Fischer, who is expected to die. A mass-meeting of representative citizens was held at noon in the mayor's office, and over $1,000 was subscribed for the relief of the families of those who were killed. The loss on the property was estimated today for the first time. It is believed that $102,000 will entirely cover it. What caused the catastrophe is still unknown, and probably will be until the coroner's inquest next week. A prominent local architect, in an interview today, stated that he did not believe in the theory that the steel work was faulty, but said he did believe that it was not heavy enough.

All three bodies discovered today were in the center of the building, buried under tons of debris. Frank Wolfe was found strangled to death by a heavy steel girder, which lay across his throat, being otherwise uninjured. Both the other bodies were frightfully mangled. In addition to those known to be dead, there are still missing Fred Miller, Charles Mielke and O. Mullin.

A DEATHLY CALM PERVADING

TROUBLE ANTICIPATED IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Armed Negroes Maneuvering In Secret—Three Hondred Parade the Streets at Midnight.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 6.—A special to the Constitution from Wilmington, N. C., says: While no clash has occurred today, rowdyism prevailed which came near precipitating a conflict last night and there pervades the community an air of suppressed excitement and apparently deadly calm, such as soldiers say precedes a fearful battle. The strain has become almost unbearable. Every citizen is on the tip-toe of expectancy and the wildest of rumors are afloat. The negroes, while outwardly quiet, are maneuvering in secret. They have recently received another supply of arms, as shown by 300 of them parading the streets at midnight last night with their rifles and other arms. They give it out that their various orders have sworn death to the Red Shirts.

But few white citizens slept soundly last night. Lawless bands of armed negroes gathered in the northern portion of the city. An outbreak was momentarily expected. A number of white women in that section were nearly prostrated with fear. Some were thrown into hysterics. White men guarded the houses and the Wilmington light infantry and naval reserves rendezvoused all night at their armories.

Street cars were stoned by negroes last night, so white people were compelled to desert them and walk. The police force was unable to command order.

YALE ENCOURAGED.

Crippled Half-backs Again Fit to Brave Gridiron.

New Haven, Conn., Nov. 6.—Despite yesterday's poor showing, the Yale eleven is much encouraged tonight over the fact that the crippled half-backs, who, for the past week, have been unable to play, are again fit for the game. De Saulles will go into the practice game tomorrow, and though he probably will not play the entire game of two halves, his presence as field captain of the eleven will tend to give that team play which has been lacking under Sullivan's playing at quarterback. The latter is somewhat out of condition and will need a rest. Benjamin is in good condition again, and Marvin, Corwin, Townsend and possibly Gilmore also will be on the field for work. Provided faculty conditions are passed off, Durston, the giant half-back, and Hubbell, the much-needed end, will also be permitted to join in the work of the eleven.

Movement of Steamships.

New York, Nov. 6.—Arrived: La Gascogne, Havre.

Lizard, Nov. 6.—Passed: La Normandie, New York for Havre.

Queenstown, Nov. 6.—Sailed: Umbria, for New York.

Dowhead, Nov. 6.—Passed: Cufic, New York for Liverpool.

For Constipation take Karl's Clover Root Tea, the great Blood Purifier. Cures Headache, Nervousness, Eruptions on the face, and makes the head clear as a bell. Sold by Nelden-Judson and other druggists.

PUT YOUR X BY THE ROOSTER

DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

There is but one Democratic ticket. It is headed by the rooster and should be marked as above.

IMPORTATION OF THUGS

New York Police Commissioners Warned of the Scheme.

FLOATERS REGISTERED

EVIDENCE OF CONSIDERABLE COLONIZATION.

Superintendent of Elections Takes Measures to Prevent Prostitution of the Ballot—Claims of Chairmen of Opposing Parties On Eve of Election, By States.

New York, Nov. 6.—State Superintendent of Elections John E. McCullough sent a letter to the board of police commissioners today in which he says: "I am reliably informed that it is proposed to import into the Sixth assembly district thugs, crooks and panhandlers from New Jersey, Connecticut and the City of Troy, prominent among those of that city being some of the men identified with what has been generally known as the 'Hat Shea gang.'

"I desire to notify you that it has been reported to me that floaters have been registered from the so-called Raines law hotels and cafes in the Second, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth assembly districts, who have surrendered their registration certificates for a consideration to certain persons in such districts, and that other floaters and imported crooks and ex-convicts will be given these certificates of registration to vote during the day of election. I also desire to notify you that I have every evidence of a considerable colonization of colored crooks who have been driven out of Chicago by the reorganization of the police force of that city and from Philadelphia, Pittsburg and other nearby cities who have settled within the boundaries of what has become known as the Tenderloin district and an investigation of the colored clubs located in the Twenty-seventh, Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, Thirty-first and Thirty-second street districts, by the detectives under your command will, I am convinced, lead to the apprehension and conviction of many of these violators of the law.

"I shall deliver into your custody for service before the day of election additional warrants granted by the magistrates of the city of New York against persons accused of violations of election laws. My deputies have been instructed to make no arrests upon election day for any alleged offense committed against the elective franchise until the person so accused shall have cast his ballot, if he shall demand the right to do so, and I have no desire to interfere with the rights of any citizen entitled to exercise such right, but rather to protect every citizen in the exercise of his right."

NEW YORK

Democrats Held Five Meetings—Republican Estimates.

New York, Nov. 6.—Democratic meetings were held in five different theatres tonight and all were well attended.

Congressman Lemuel E. Quigg, chairman of the Republican county committee said tonight that he believed Roosevelt would have 100,000 plurality in the state and that he would get it above the Harlem bridge. "I am inclined to think," continued Mr. Quigg, "that Greater New York will break about even. We are going to get a big vote down the east side."

The Republican county committee gave out the following statement tonight: After careful consultation with each of the assembly district leaders of the Republican party of the county of New York and with their authorization the estimated vote to be cast in New York county for Roosevelt is 138,-000. In view of the decreased registration we believe that the Democrats will not be able to poll a vote for Van Wyck in excess of 140,000. We believe that the Greater City of New York will give Roosevelt a majority. We shall carry the Fifth, Eighth, Tenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-first, Twenty-third, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-ninth, Thirty-first, Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth assembly districts. We believe that we will elect four members of congress and four state senators in the county of New York. We believe that the entire judiciary ticket of the Republican party will be elected. Reports from election district captains show that the vote for the judiciary ticket will exceed the vote for the state ticket by from 10,000 to 15,000. The estimates here made are based upon closest canvasses that are to be made in the election districts. If these estimates are correct as we believe them to be Roosevelt will carry the state of New York by not less than 109,000.

NEW JERSEY.

Result Said to Hinge On Vote of Essex County.

New York, Nov. 6.—It is generally conceded that the result in New Jersey, so far as the legislature is concerned, will hinge on the vote for assembly in Essex county. It is claimed by the Republicans that the gubernatorial result will also hinge on this vote. They claim that the Democratic majority in Hudson county will be balanced by Republican majorities in other counties, Essex excepted, and that as Voorhees will have from 5,000 to 10,000 majority in the latter county, he will be elected by that number.

While the Democrats admit that Essex will decide the complexion of the legislature, they will not agree that the election of governor depends on it. The homes of both Senator Smith and Mr. Crane are in Essex.

With the majorities of Essex and Hudson coupled, the Democrats claim that at the lowest estimate Crane will be elected by over 10,000 majority.

William H. Courtey, chairman of the Democratic state committee, said today: "The Democrats will have a majority of 10,000 in the state and a majority in the legislature on joint ballot."

Chairman Franklin Murphy of the Republican state committee said: "Mr. Voorhees will certainly have from 5,000 to 10,000 in the state. I never saw the conditions more favorable to a big majority."

PENNSYLVANIA.

Democratic State Chairman Estimates Jenks' Plurality at 35,000.

Philadelphia, Nov. 6.—Republican State Chairman Elkin has prepared an estimate by counties, giving his views of the result of next Tuesday's vote for governor. He claims that the Republican candidate, William A. Stone, will be elected by a plurality of 121,000 over George A. Jenks (Democrat) in a total estimated vote of 850,000. To Rev. Dr. Silas C. Swallow, the "honest government" candidate, he allows a total of 149,700 votes, claiming that Swallow, who carried ten counties in the contest for state treasurer last year, will not have a plurality in any county.

Mr. Elkin concedes that Jenks will carry 29 of the 67 counties, and acknowledges a stand-off in three others. He claims that the next legislature will be largely Republican in both branches, and predicts the failure of the fusion movement. Mr. Elkin compiled his figures from estimates given him by the chairmen of the various county committees and members of the state committee, in their respective counties. He believes that in Philadelphia county Stone will receive 110,000 votes, against 45,000 for Jenks and 40,-000 for Swallow, and in Allegheny county, 42,000, against 17,000 and 8,000 for the other two candidates respectively. Mr. Elkin says that the business men and laboring men of the state "hesitate to cast a ballot that will renew the agitation for free trade, free silver and Bryanism."

Continuing, he says: "If the great states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania should elect Democratic governors this year, the result would certainly be followed by a Democratic president in 1900."

On the congressional contests the state chairman says: "While we do not expect the next delegation to congress will contain as few Democratic members as the present, yet we believe a good showing will be made by the Republicans throughout the state on this issue."

In an interview tonight, Democratic State Chairman Garman said: "I estimate that 1,000,000 votes will be cast, divided about as follows: Jenks, 430,-000; Stone, 295,000; Swallow, 175,000, which will leave Jenks at least 35,000 plurality. I do not care to give figures as to counties, but our whole effort has been to have cast for Jenks as many votes as were cast for Bryan in 1896, which was 422,600, and my advices indicate that we will exceed that figure." National Committeeman Guffy also expressed confidence in the election of Jenks.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Three Congressional Districts Conceded to Be In Doubt.

Boston, Nov. 6.—The close of the campaign finds three of the usually Republican districts somewhat in doubt. They are the Fifth, Seventh and Tenth, while, owing to a split in the party, the usually overwhelmingly Democratic Ninth district, now represented by John F. Fitzgerald, is also uncertain. In the Fifth district, Joseph F. Flynn has been making a vigorous fight for Congressman Fox's seat, and it is generally conceded that the contest will be close.

The result in the Seventh, Ninth and Tenth districts will be close. The Republicans concede that the vote for Bruce, for governor, will exceed 100,-000, although the Democrats claim 150,-000. Last year Governor Wolcott's vote was 185,075, and the combined vote of Williams (Democrat) and Everett (National Democrat) was 93,021.

RHODE ISLAND.

Republicans Probably Win By Decreased Plurality.

Providence, R. I., Nov. 6.—In the First congressional district, Melville Bull, Republican, will probably be re-elected over Joseph Hogan, Democrat, by a decreased plurality. In the Second congressional district, A. S. Capron will probably be re-elected over L. F. Garvin, Democrat, by a decreased plurality.

IDAHO.

Silver Republicans Claim State By 6,925 Plurality.

Boise, Ida., Nov. 6.—Chairman Bassett of the silver Republican state committee this evening gave out a statement by counties of pluralities claimed for the fusion state ticket. It shows a net plurality of 6,925. Chairman Morrison of the Republican committee claims the state, but declines to make figures.

Roosevelt's Final Jaunt.

New York, Nov. 6.—Colonel Roosevelt left Jersey City tonight for his final tour through the state. The colonel will make his first speech of the day's campaign at Hornellsville in the morning. He said he expected to reach New York on the return trip on Tuesday morning and would go at once to Oyster Bay, where he would vote.

NIBLACK GOES TO MANILA.

Commander of Winslow Assigned to Dewey's Flagship.

Washington, Nov. 6.—Lieutenant Niblack, formerly in charge of the naval military branch of the navy department, and just detached from the command of the torpedo boat Winslow, which has gone out of commission, reported at the navy department today, en route to Manila. He sails from San Francisco on the 19th, having been assigned to duty on Admiral Dewey's flagship, the Olympia. It was in large part owing to the indefatigable work of Lieutenant Niblack that the naval militia was developed to the point where it became of such value to the service during the war.

SMALLPOX IN HOLGUIN.

General Wood Asks For Cots and Vaccine Lymph.

New York, Nov. 6.—General Wood, commanding at Santiago de Cuba, has sent a cable dispatch to the Central Cuban Relief association which reads: "I find in Holguin district, just evacuated by the Spaniards, long-standing smallpox scattered throughout the district, and am making every effort to stamp it out. Dr. Woodson of the army is in charge of the work. Please send him to Gibara by first government transport 1,000 cots and 200 half-ounce bottles of vaccine lymph."

Agent Warner of the Red Cross, who reached Gibara in the latter part of September on the schooner Mary E. Morse, reported on his arrival the terrible spread of smallpox which had been raging unchecked for a long time, and called for vaccine virus. Enough for 1,000 vaccinations was sent at once, as well as a quantity of quinine. The facts were telegraphed to General Wood in reply to his messages, and he was told that the supplies asked for would be sent to the Red Cross agent at Gibara for Dr. Woodson's use.

MORE FIGHTING AT PANA.

Miners and Negroes Exchange Shots In Illinois.

Pana, Ills., Nov. 6.—There was a renewal of hostilities at noon today between the union miners and the imported negroes from Alabama. A negro attacked James Boyle, a union miner. This started the battle in which 25 or 30 shots were exchanged. Two negroes were slightly wounded. Major Butler sent a detachment of soldiers and a Gatling gun to the scene immediately. The women and children were greatly frightened and ran for places of safety. Further trouble is not anticipated. No arrests were made.

Heroes Welcomed Home.

Columbus, O., Nov. 6.—The Fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, the only volunteer regiment from this state that participated in a battle in the war with Spain, was given a royal welcome on its arrival today. An escort composed of the Seventeenth United States infantry and a large number of civic organizations, that made an imposing procession, met the regiment at the depot and headed a parade through the streets. Never has a larger crowd of people thronged the streets. The regiment was reviewed by Governor Bushnell at the capital.

Killed a Woman at Lexington.

Lexington, Ky, Nov. 6.—Private William Kane, company E, Third Kentucky, whose home is at Carlisle, Ky., shot and killed a woman named Maud McClure at a house of ill-fame here tonight. Kane snapped the gun in the woman's face several times. He claimed not to know it was loaded, but other women in the house said he had threatened to kill the McClure woman.

Stop that Cough! Take warning. It may lead to consumption. A 25c bottle of Shiloh's Cure may save your life. Sold by Nelden-Judson and other druggists.

GOVERNMENT OF CUBA

Hard Nut For Administration to Crack.

UNDER ONE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL WADE PROBABLY WILL COMMAND.

Consensus of Opinion Among Influential Cubans Is That United States Government Is Dilly-dallying Too Long With Spain Over Evacuation.

Washington, Nov. 6.—The government of Cuba has given the administration much concern, and its form is not yet definitely determined upon. Since issuing the order designating the troops to go to Cuba, there has been considerable talk at the war department about the probable commander of troops and the organization of a government, civil and military. The probabilities now are that Cuba will be designated as one department and placed under the command of one officer. The general impression seems to be that the officer will be Major General Wade, now chairman of the Cuban military commission, whose duties as a member of this commission have fitted him for the office. The president and Secretary Alger have great confidence in General Wade, and believe he combines the military and civil qualities necessary for the supreme command in Cuba when our occupation is complete.

There has been an intimation that General Brooke, who has been in command in Puerto Rico, might be selected for command in Cuba, but such is not the present intention. General Brooke, who ranks all the major generals in the volunteer service, commands only about 6,000 troops in Puerto Rico, less than some brigadier generals who are in command of divisions, and much less than several generals in command of corps. It is generally understood that General Brooke does not care to remain any longer in Puerto Rico than the department actually thinks his services are required. There has been some suggestion that General Merritt might return and take command in Cuba, but the administration thinks the selection of General Wade will be better. General Wade ranks all the volunteer major generals now in service, and would rank General Lee in command of the Seventh corps, although the latter will be in actual command of the district of Havana.

It is possible that the department of Cuba will be divided into districts, some of greater and some of less importance. The districts would be Havana, Santiago and Cienfuegos. It is possible that each province will be designated as a district. The command of the Second corps is still unsettled. General Lawton was at one time selected for the place, but it was found that two officers, at least, ranked him, and this proved rather unsatisfactory.

IRRITATING DELAY.

Island Growing Poorer and Depopulated and No Solution.

Havana (via Key West), Nov. 5.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The international agreement between Spains spiritual loss of sovereignty in Cuba and the assumption of full military control by the United States, seems indefinitely prolonged, with the immediate hope of relief to a country which daily grows poorer and more depopulated. On all sides the question is asked, "How much nearer is the final solution of the problem than it was on the day the protocol was signed?"

The feeling among the better classes of intelligent and influential Cubans, may be pretty accurately summed up in the following observations made today by a representative Cuban merchant of Havana, to the correspondent of the Associated Press:

"It seems to me that, and I think my views are shared by many, that the United States government is dilly-dallying too long with Spain over the evacuation question. Of course the problem is a difficult one, but the delay is surely unnecessary. The United States has sent here an assortment of commissions, each more self-important and mysterious than its predecessor, and each veiling its operations with a cloud of secrecy, which, so far as my experience goes, really serves the purpose of obscuring issues and concealing very small achievements.

NOTHING ACCOMPLISHED.

"Almost nothing has been accomplished. The spirit of jealousy fills not only the individual members of all the commissions, but also exists between the different commissions collectively. These rivalrys seem to engross the attention of commissioners much more than the serious questions affecting the welfare of Cuba and the dignity and good faith of the United States. First we were told that the date of occupation by the United States troops would be Nov. 1, then Dec. 1 was fixed upon, and later we were informed that the date for occupation would be left indefinite. So far as evacuation is concerned, Jan. 1 was named as an ultimatum date; but now it is rumored that Feb. 1 has been agreed upon. The fact is, the country at large, whether Cuban, foreign or Spanish, is getting disgusted. The people are losing faith and confidence owing to the lack of formality displayed by the American representatives. To all questions asking information on these points, the American commissioners, with a superior smile and an assumption of gravity to cover their ignorance, reply vaguely and unsatisfactorily.

DYING OF STARVATION.

"Unless the Washington government forces its lethargic commissions into greater activity, Cuba will be an immense graveyard and its fields barren before the United States takes possession. The daily records of mortality show that the population in all parts of the island is dwindling steadily. Entire villages are dying of starvation. On all sides the Spaniards continue robbing and plundering. In the meantime these sage, gossiping commissioners from the United States, are sipping cool drinks by day and seeking shelter by night with mortal dread of fever, yet absolutely impervious to the demands of humanity.

"The situation created by this uncertainty is still further aggravated by the fact that no one dares sow crops or cultivate lands until the present chaotic conditions show some rays of light to guide efforts. There is no work for idle hands. Day by day the number of beggars, thieves and prostitutes increases, while the number of those able to relieve distress shrink in the same proportions. Thus far the United States has sent in the name of humanity a mere pittance of a million rations, and the Red Cross society has sent two cargoes of supplies, as to whose disposition there have been many unfavorable comments. How far can such relief be expected to go? The present conditions cannot be much longer protracted without subjecting the United States to well-deserved criticism. More than that, the elements most in sympathy with the United States are slowly but surely falling off and joining the ranks of the opposition.

INCREASE OF CRIME.

"As you are aware, Senor de Castro, the civil governor, only yesterday issued orders for the arrest of 261 criminals recently released from jails and the penal colonies at Ceuta, and on the Isle of Pines. This step was rendered necessary by the increases, the alarming increases, in burglaries, highway robberies and assaults. While the blockade was on the city was ruled with an iron hand and cases of assault and robbery were almost unknown. To-day, with the release of criminals and the increase of poverty, the list of murders and hold-ups is a grave affair. In addition to the already numerous paupers and unemployed, driven to beg from sheer necessity, there are many discharged soldiers entirely without means of support. Their number reaches into the thousands. Many boys and young girls of genteel extraction have been thrown on the streets to beg, to live as beggars, as thieves, and to be brought up in jails and houses of ill-fame. Do the people of the United States realize these things? Does the government of the United States, morally responsible before the world for the future of Cuba, intend to tolerate indefinitely a delay which day by day makes these bad conditions worse?"

LETTER FROM GOMEZ.

Has No Fear For the Independence of Cuba.

Washington, Nov. 6.—Following is an extract from a letter received by Senor Quesada from General Gomez, written Oct. 20: "I have full confidence in the solemn promises made by the congress of Washington, and for that reason I do not have any fear as to the independence of Cuba. Some time must elapse before our ideal will be realized, but after so many struggles and privations, we can wait a little longer. The military occupation by the United States is to a certain extent necessary to prepare and hurry the evacuation of the Spanish and bring about harmony among the different factions in Cuban politics.

"During this military occupation the republican government will be organized. Its decisions will be finally accepted by all; order will reign everywhere.

"Those who speak of annexation try to satisfy, above all, their spite, propagating unfounded fears as to personal security and private property.

"The final success of our struggle has required necessary destruction of property, which the enemy used to its advantage, but we have never attacked individuals.

"The struggle against Spain is now ended. We commence now a more delicate and difficult task, namely, to make our republican political system triumph and to reconstruct the country.

"It is not an easy labor, and all men who love their country should contribute to it. For that reason, I cannot retire now, notwithstanding my 61 years.

"Most of the officers and soldiers went into the field obeying my orders; I cannot abandon them until their future is assured. They have lost everything they had; they have a right to some compensation, and, above all, to their salaries. The new government must secure them. Their abandonment cannot occur until the Spaniards have evacuated. My men cannot be abandoned, without bread or work, to the mercy of their enemies. A solution could be found, perhaps, in the plan which the American government is said to have of creating a national civil guard, formed in the majority of Cuban soldiers. This organization would offer the advantage of not exposing the American troops to the deadly climate of the island, and at the same time the United States would have people who know the country thoroughly. In the meanwhile, and until the evacuation occurs, food must be provided for my soldiers.

"The evacuation should be as rapidly as possible, and afterward everything will be arranged, for the American government will fulfill its moral pledges to us. Some people have tried to make us suspicious, so as to bring about trouble, but before doubting of the faith of the American people, we must wait for acts which shall give the lie to their solemn pledge."

CASTLEMAN COMPLIMENTED.

Puerto Ricans Petition McKinley to Retain Him On Island.

Ponce, Nov. 6.—A large and representative body of Puerto Ricans have drawn up a petition addressed to President McKinley, asking the government to retain in Puerto Rico Colonel John B. Castleman and the First Kentucky volunteers. General Henry has cabled to Washington that the compliment is thoroughly deserved, but that the regiment ought to go north. It is understood that orders to move will be issued so soon as the Fifth regular cavalry arrives.

REVENUE TAX CONSTRUED.

Commissioner Replies to Query of Board of Trade.

Washington, Nov. 6.—The commissioner of internal revenue, in response to inquiries by members of the Chicago board of trade with respect to the liability of dealers in produce, etc., holds as follows: That in case of a broker who is a member of the board negotiating a sale of grain or produce on the exchange, as a broker for a principal, the principal afterward assuming the trade, the broker is required to deliver and pay a 10-cent stamp on his note or memorandum of sale, and the principal is required to pay tax on the sale at the rate of 1 cent on each $100 of the amount or fractional part of 100 in excess of $160. When a member of the board of trade, not a broker, or not acting as a broker, makes a sale of grain or produce on his own account, and said sale is afterward assumed by a commission merchant for account of the seller, but one sale has occurred and the commission merchant is the only person required to pay a tax on the transaction, which is at the rate provided for in the second paragraph of schedule A.

GIFT OF $10,000.

Made to Catholic University of America For Fellowship.

Washington, Nov. 6.—The Catholic University of America, through its rector, the Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Conaty, D. D., was the recipient on Saturday of a gift of $10,000 for the establishment of a fellowship in the faculty of divinity. The donors are Mary G. Wendoline, Byrd Caldwell, Marquise de Merinville and her sister, Mary Elisa Breckinridge Caldwell, Baroness von Zedtwitz. The Baroness von Zedtwitz, who is in Paris, cabled to her sister in Washington her desire to unite with her in the establishment of this fellowship, which is in perpetual memorial of their deceased parents and is independent of the scholarship founded a few days before by the Marquise de Merinville.

OREGON SHEEPMAN KILLED.

Stabbed By Employee In Row Over Wages.

The Dalles, Ore., Nov. 6.—A messenger from Antelope, 65 miles south of The Dalles, arrived here today, bringing news that Phillip Brogan, sr., was murdered last evening by Frank Forrester, who has been in the employ of Brogan as a packer for his sheep camp. The men had a dispute over wages in a saloon, and Forrester drew a knife and stabbed Brogan. The latter died within five minutes. Forrester escaped, and although a sheriff's posse is in pursuit, he has not been captured. Brogan is a wealthy sheepman, and lives in The Dalles. There is much excitement here over the killing.

An Important Difference.

To make it apparent to thousands, who think themselves ill, that they are not afflicted with any disease, but that the system simply needs cleansing, is to bring comfort home to their hearts, as a costive condition is easily cured by using Syrup of Figs. Manufactured by the California Fig Syrup company only, and sold by all druggists.

CONTROL OF SENATE

Determined Largely By Elections On Tuesday.

THIRTY TERMS EXPIRE

ELEMENTS OF DOUBT FOR MANY RE-ELECTIONS.

Senate Officials Profess to Believe That Existing Anomalous Condition of Upper House Without Majority Will End With Coming Election—Retiring Members.

Washington, Nov. 6.—The control of the United States senate will be determined very largely by the result of the elections next Tuesday, when 22 states elect legislatures which will in turn elect senators. The present party strength in the senate is as follows: Republicans, 43; Democrats, 34; Populists, 6; silver Republicans, 8. This gives a majority to no one party, and it has been proven a fruitful source of doubt in legislation influenced by party lines.

The terms of 30 of the present senators are about to expire, and in most of those cases the legislatures chosen next Tuesday will elect successors. In seven cases, however, legislatures have already been chosen and senators elected, viz.: Aldrich of Rhode Island, Daniel of Virginia, McComas to succeed Gorman in Maryland, Hanna of Ohio, Money of Mississippi, Proctor of Vermont, and the legislature of Maine, which has been elected, but which has not yet chosen a senator. In Oregon, also, Simon has been elected to fill a vacancy. These changes, already made, give a net gain of two in the Republican vote—McComas of Maryland and Simon of Oregon. The remaining 23 senators are yet to be chosen. Those who are about to retire—Allen, Populist, of Nebraska; Bate, Democrat, of Tennessee; Burrows, Republican, of Michigan; Cannon, silver Republican, of Utah; Clark, Republican, of Wyoming; Cockrell, Democrat, of Missouri; David, Republican, of Minnesota; Faulkner, Democrat, of West Virginia; Gray, Democrat, of Delaware; Hawley, Republican, of Connecticut; Lodge, Republican, of Massachusetts; Mantle, silver Republican, of Montana; Mills, Democrat, of Texas; Mitchell, Democrat, of Wisconsin; Murphy, Democrat, of New York; Pasco, Democrat, of Florida; Quay, Republican, of Pennsylvania; Roach, Democrat, of North Dakota; Smith, Democrat, of New Jersey; Stewart, silver Republican, of Nevada; Turpie, Democrat, of Indiana; White, Democrat, of California, and Wilson, Republican, of Washington.

In several of these cases the election of the present incumbents is expected, but in quite a large number of them doubt exists. The Republican managers are placing reliance on the fact that they need only a few votes to secure them a clear majority, while the Democrats, Populists and silver Republicans would have to carry most all of the doubtful legislatures in order to prevent a Republican majority. The states considered most in doubt are West Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, North Dakota, New Jersey, Indiana, California, Washington and Nebraska, conflicting claims being made in each state. Among senate officials the opinion prevails that the anomalous condition now prevailing of a senate without a majority will end with the coming election and that the legislators then chosen will give assurance of majority rule in the upper branch of congress after March 4 next.

INTEREST IN OHIO.

Republicans Expect Strong Endorsement of Administration.

Cincinnati, O., Nov. 6.—Special interest is taken in the election in Ohio because of the public utterances that the president's native state should show a strong endorsement of the administration at this time by returning Republican congressmen. This is what is known as the "off year." The dominant party has heretofore lost in Ohio at the congressional elections following a presidential election and if the Republicans hold their own on Tuesday it will be a marked exception to the rule. The present apportionment of the Ohio congressional districts was made while McKinley was governor in 1892. Under this apportionment the Republicans, in 1894, elected 19 and the Democrats only two members of congress. During the administration of President Cleveland in 1894, there was a tidal wave in favor of the Republicans. At the presidential election in 1896 the Republicans elected 15 and the Democrats six of the Ohio congressmen. As this is the historical "off year" the Democrats claim that they will make several congressional gains and the Republicans claim they will hold their own at 15 to six and possibly make it 16 to five. The only state officers to be elected are secretary of state, judge and clerk of the supreme court, food commissioner and member of the board of public works, and none of these places carry with them such patronage as the places filled last year when Governor Bushnell was re-elected. Next year there will be elected a governor and a full state ticket together with members of the legislature with no national issues involved, but the campaign will be more animated than this year. During the present canvass the only issue in the president's state has been the support of his administration.

Repair Ship Vulcan Arrives.

Newport News, Va., Nov. 6.—The repair ship Vulcan arrived in Hampton Roads late last night. She started from Santiago with the Maria Teresa, together with the tugs Merritt and Leonidas. The night the Teresa went down she lost track of the two tugs and after a fruitless search for them, started for Hampton Roads. The men on the Vulcan were gratified to learn that the Merritt had arrived at Charleston, as they feared that she had been lost.

Alma Eldredge was talking for McKinley when the majority of Utah Republicans were for Bryan.

Ex-Governor Farnham Injured.

Bradford, Vt., Nov. 6.—Ex-Governor Roswell Farnham was severely injured by falling from a railway station