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 Half Rate for Children.
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WEATHER INFORMATION.
 Washington, December 22.—Weather conditions and general forecast:
 The storm central Monday night over Lake Superior has moved rapidly to the mouth of the St. Lawrence and has caused light snow in the lake regions and New England. A strong wind of forty miles an hour, with a pressure of 29.12 inches and causing a south-westerly wind of the North Atlantic States, and the temperature has remained stationary on the North Pacific coast.
 A marked rise in pressure Monday afternoon in Manitoba has moved southward and is entering tonight in Southern Minnesota. Middle and North Atlantic States, and a decided fall in temperature Wednesday afternoon or night in the East Gulf States, except in Florida. It will be colder in the lower lake region.
 Storm signals are displayed from Delaware Breakwater to Eastport.

General Observations.
 Observations taken by the United States weather bureau at 8 p. m. yesterday, 70th meridian time:

Station	Temp.	Rain.
Ahler, Texas	52	.00
Amarillo, Texas	46	.00
Atlanta, Ga.	44	.00
Cornus Christi, Texas	54	.00
Davenport, Iowa	29	.00
De Soto, Mo.	42	.00
El Paso, Texas	48	.00
Galveston, Texas	51	.00
Indianapolis, Ind.	32	.00
Kansas City, Mo.	38	.00
Memphis, Tenn.	38	.00
Montgomery, Ala.	38	.00
Nashville, Tenn.	39	.00
New Orleans, La.	56	.00
North Platte, Neb.	32	.00
Oklahoma City, Ok. T.	31	.00
Omaha, Neb.	29	.00
Parkersburg, W. Va.	30	.00
St. Louis, Mo.	36	.00
St. Paul, Minn.	4	.00
Vicksburg, Miss.	16	.00

Forecast.
 East Texas—Generally fair; light variable winds.
 Louisiana—Colder in northern portion; light variable winds, becoming easterly.
 West Texas and New Mexico—Fair; light northerly winds.
 Oklahoma and Indian Territory—Fair; light variable winds, becoming northeasterly.

TREATY OF PEACE.
 President and Cabinet Fully Discuss the Prospects of Ratification.
A SPECIAL BILL IS NECESSARY
 Should Opposition Develop It Would Be Made a Rider on Another Bill.
SENATOR PERKINS OPPOSES EXPANSION
 Will Vote Against the Treaty Unless the Legislature Instructs Otherwise.
SENATOR DAVIS WILL URGE PROMPT ACTION
 Effort Will Be Made to Prevent Any Amendments to the Document as It Now Stands.

(Special Dispatch to The Post.)
 Washington, December 27.—President McKinley and his cabinet discussed the peace treaty today. Prospects of ratification rather than the terms of the treaty formed the basis of discussion. The text of the treaty was not even read, though certain provisions were carefully looked over, especially those relating to the open door policy and payment of \$20,000,000.

It was the unanimous opinion of those at the cabinet meeting that the treaty would be ratified during the present session of the senate. It was agreed to send the treaty, the report of the commissioners and a message from the president to the senate on January 1. In his message, the president will point out the necessity for the immediate authorization to pay \$20,000,000 to Spain as contemplated by the treaty. This will require action by both houses of congress. A special bill will be introduced for this purpose and if there should be delay in action upon it a rider, having the same object in view will be attached to one of the annual appropriation bills.

"I shall vote against the treaty brought back from Paris by our peace commissioners, unless I am instructed to vote otherwise by the legislature of my State," was the declaration made by Senator Perkins of California today. "I have very strong convictions on this subject," continued Senator Perkins, "and I am not endeavoring to draw an unnecessarily dark picture when I predict that a general reaction against expansion is now going on all over the country, and before a great while we will be brought face to face with the realization of the fact that we have a more momentous problem to solve right here at home, without going to the far-off Philippines in search of material with which to establish a colonial policy."

"Not the same day it is presented," replied Senator Perkins with marked emphasis. Secretary Hay today received visits from some of the members and officers of the Paris peace commission. Mr. John Bassett Moore, upon whom, as secretary, devolved some of the most delicate and weighty work required by the commission, is now engaged settling up with the department the records of the proceedings and winding up its existence. He will return to New York and resume his duties as professor of international law at Columbia university.

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GENERAL MILES MAKES A HIT.

under any circumstances. The friends of the treaty urge that, if a peace treaty, it is more important to have it ratified unconditionally than would be the case with an ordinary agreement between nations and that for this reason they are confident it will not be modified and that in the end will secure the votes of a number of senators who possibly would prefer its amendment. The opponents of the treaty say they do not anticipate a long debate in the senate.

Senator Caffery expects to address the senate on the subject of imperialism when

EMBALMED BEEF CONTROVERSY
SWIFT, THE CHICAGO PACKER INTENDS TAKING A HAND IN IT.
 Egan Again Going Before Investigators and Demand that Miles Be Made to Give Proof.

(Special Dispatch to The Post.)
 Washington, December 27.—The Chicago packer, the men who furnished the most serious to take a hand in the controversy between Miles and Egan concerning the "embalmed beef" furnished the army. Swift has already requested that his representative be given a hearing before the war investigation commission and it is probable that his request will be granted.

MOBILE AT HAVANA.
 Transport with Texas Arrived Safely.
 Havana, December 27.—The United States transport Mobile, having on board two battalions of the First Texas and the Second Louisiana, has arrived here from Savannah, Ga., where port was the last December 24.

The charge which most greatly concerns Mr. Swift is that chemicals were used in the preservation of his meats and that these chemicals caused sickness among the soldiers.
 General Egan makes no bones about his intention to prove the matter of spoiled beef to the very marrow. At his own request the general will be called to give additional testimony before the investigating commission. He believes his personal reputation, as well as his efficiency as an officer of the army, is involved, and he purposes making General Miles substantiate those charges or take the consequences.
 The matter has by no means died out nor is it likely to do so for Miles made his statements with deliberation and does not appear at all disposed to retract anything; he isn't talking on the subject at all.
 Washington, December 27.—There were but three members of the war investigation commission at its office today, and after a short informal discussion on the regular session was deferred until tomorrow. No witnesses have been summoned from Havana, and was expected here today, but will not reach here now until the first week in January.

CUBAN OCCUPATION
 Rigorous Steps to Be Taken to Prevent American Soldiers from Drinking.
THE SELLER WILL BE PUNISHED
 Property of Offender Will Be Confiscated Besides Being Imprisoned.
NEW POLICE FORCE BEING ORGANIZED
 Cubans, as Well as Spaniards, Being Enlisted for the Service.
SEVERAL SERIOUS AFFRAYS OCCURRED.
 A Number of Guerrillas Killed and Women and Children Have Been Shot—Taking Precautions.

(Special Cable Dispatch to The New York Herald and The Houston Post, Copyrighted, 1898, by James Gordon Bennett.)
 Havana, December 27.—While the conduct of the American volunteers in Havana province has generally been good officers are given cause of complaint because of the violent effects the Spanish liquor has on men who are unused to anything stronger than plain whisky. It has been found impossible to prevent the soldiers drinking when liquor is obtainable, and for this reason it has been decided to place the responsibility upon the seller instead of the drinker.

On recommendation of John McCullough, one of the first promulgations will be the announcement that the sale of intoxicating liquor of any sort to American soldiers in uniform will result in the confiscation of property belonging to the seller and his imprisonment.
 The availing in the area who will form the police force continues, about 400 having already sworn allegiance to the United States. The force will be ready for complete service about January 1. The cubans will object to the enlistment of Spanish soldiers in this force, but McCullough and General Ludlow have received to ask no questions concerning men for enlistment if his record is good and he comes up to the mental and physical requirements. As most cubans were inclined to being back, but when they saw that they would be taken at their word they made a rush to secure a chance of earning \$30 a month. About 400 from Havana's camp at Manzanillo have already sought employment.

Senator De Castro, the civil governor of Havana, writing his second with General Ludlow, has issued an order forbidding any further firing of firearms or the spreading of libelous reports in the public thoroughfares. He also prohibits the assembling of crowds in the streets of Havana after 6:30 p. m. on either the president or representatives of the United States, who will meet tonight and arrange for a particular demonstration.

The Havana wards which have already been evacuated were the scene of demonstrations and noisy celebrations today.
 A cab driver was shot last night for refusing to enter the territory within Spanish jurisdiction with Cuban and American flags on his vehicle. An omnibus driver and two women were shot by assassins today and the body of a lieutenant guerrilla has been found near Zoraida de Guay. He was taken from the table by a band of Cubans and killed. Several guerrillas were reported to have been killed at Saucé Springs after the evacuation of that place by the Spaniards and before the American occupation of the town.
 Reports show that twelve more persons have been wounded, four of them being intentional wounds. Among the wounded are three children and a lady, whose arm has been amputated.

The Spanish troops today still further contracted their lines and withdrew to the extremity of the peninsula on which the city of Havana is built. They now occupy scarcely two square miles. The United States troops have moved from the suburbs into the city proper and tonight are patrolling General Park and the Prado.

ROYAL TOWN
ABSOLUTELY PURE
 Makes the food more delicious and wholesome.

AMERICANS FIRED UPON
Attacked by Spaniards While Attempting to Put Down a Riot.

Chicago, December 27.—A special cable to the Tribune from Havana says: The American troops were fired on in Havana tonight. The whole city is in uproar and serious rioting is threatened.
 A detail of company M, Tenth regular United States infantry, while quelling a riot which broke out on Bombay street at 6 o'clock this evening, was fired upon.

The regulars returned the fire and sent volley after volley into the crowd of rioters as they fled out of the street. Two Spanish sailors were wounded and a Spanish marine was killed by the Americans. None of the other persons' names could be secured. A number also were wounded in the melee which caused the interference of the American troops. Three Cubans were fatally shot. Three Spaniards who were carried away by friends were wounded, but it is not known how seriously. None of the American soldiers were wounded.

In the small riots that occurred in various parts of the city today twelve persons were wounded, several fatally.
 A Spanish soldier, marching with his company to the wharf, attempted to pull down a Cuban and an American flag waving over the door at 108 San Lazaro street. This started the fight. The Spaniards were fired on from the house-tops and windows. They returned the fire, riddling the front of the buildings with bullets. The soldier who attempted to take down the flags fell on the steps of a house and was badly injured. The Spanish soldiers withdrew, carrying their injured comrades.

Residents of San Lazaro say the withdrawal of the Spaniards was due to the appearance of an American officer, who persuaded the Spaniards to retire.
 The town tonight is practically in the hands of the Americans. The Spaniards tonight are supposed to still hold possession of the strip of ground between the Prado and the port, but their soldiers have been withdrawn to within a few blocks of the port.

Three companies of the Tenth regular infantry, who were hurried into town this afternoon, are on guard in the streets tonight. It is expected that the entire Tenth regiment will have to be brought in together with the Eighth, which has been encamped at the troops, only two miles out, in anticipation of such an emergency as exists.

through the treasury department that preparations were being made to take a large quantity of coffee into Cuba labeled "corn" and carried on the manifest as "corn."
 Mr. Meiklejohn told the correspondent tonight that until noon on January 1 officers of the United States could not do anything to prevent smuggling at Havana, except to give the Spanish officials the benefit of the reports as to the intentions of the coffee importers. If the Spanish officials then choose to let the coffee in as corn or let it in free of all duty, there is no way which the United States could interfere. He said, however, that after January 1 the utmost vigilance will be used to prevent smuggling and instructions will be sent to officers in charge to make most thorough inspections of all imports and not to accept as evidence manifests or invoices.
 Major Thomas Swift, First Texas volunteer infantry, now at Savannah, Ga., will repair to the city without delay and report to the adjutant general for temporary special service.

SMUGGLING IN CUBA.
 Officials Notified that Importers Intend Violating the Law.
 (Special Dispatch to The Post.)
 Washington, December 27.—Colonel T. H. Biles, in charge of the collection of customs of Cuba, and directly in charge of the Havana custom house, has been instructed by Assistant Secretary of War Meiklejohn to direct all his subordinates through the island to exercise the utmost vigilance to prevent smuggling.
 Information reached the war department