The Washington Times.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1901.

Publication Office.

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THE TIMES COMPANY,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Circulation Statement.

The circulation of The Times for the week ended October 26, 1901, was as follows:

Sunday, October 20	20,496
Monday, October 21	58,715
Tuesday, October 22	20,148
Wednesday, October 23	20,520
Thursday, October 24	20,451
Friday, October 25	20,245
Saturday, October 26	20,814
Total	256,305
Daily average (Sunday, 20,496, excepted)	20,316

The American Navy.

Within the present week the Construction Board is expected to present to the Secretary of the Navy the naval construction programme for the year. As our information stands today, it will probably recommend four first-class battleships of fifteen thousand tons displacement, carrying the maxima of armor and armament; four armored cruisers of fourteen thousand tons displacement; twelve small gunboats for use in the Philippines, and a number of auxiliary vessels—training ships, colliers, and so on.

It has been hinted that one or more members of the board have doubts as to the ability of American ship yards to undertake the construction tentatively planned, in addition to the work already contracted for. If there be any foundation for such a view, it is matter for regret. In that case, ways must be found to increase our naval productive capacity, either by the encouragement of more private plants or the establishment of Government yards. In any event the question of American naval expansion must not be paltered with.

It would be the height of folly for Congress and the country not to understand at once, as we hope they do, that the march of political and economic events soon or late must bring us face to face with the necessity of fighting for the Monroe Doctrine, as an alternative to its abandonment and the overrunning of Central and South America by European Powers. Already population in Continental Europe is fast outgrowing the ability of the home territories to feed it. Hitherto the emigrating surplus has gone to strengthen the producing and fighting power of the United States and the British possessions. The tendency of such a movement of the masses to weaken the countries of their birth, and to augment our and England's competition with them in the struggle of world life, is causing alarm, and is exciting Governments to the adoption of measures preparatory to an ultimate struggle for the privilege of expansion in the only direction at present worth the price of war, and that, it is needless to say, is Central and South America.

Because we accept this eventuality as practically certain, there is, therefore, no reason why we should harbor unfriendly feelings toward any of the European States or peoples. Perhaps they feel the same stern force of a necessity to insure their prosperity and to find means of sustenance for their peasants and artisans that we feel for our producers and manufacturers when we deliberately invade and capture their home markets with our machinery, rails, coals, implements, tools, shoes, bicycles, and various other products. There are no means at the command of our Continental competitors for turning around and invading our home market. There is an attractive continent to the south of us, no part of which could successfully resist European conquest and colonization, and some day that will be attempted, and then the issue will be abandonment of the Monroe Doctrine or a fight to a finish.

The time must come when the forces now ceaselessly at work will lead up to and make feasible a coalition, not so much against us per se as against our American policy. When that time comes we shall not have England to fight, but Continental Europe. England has possessions enough; the others are lacking in them. England might not interfere to prevent her Old World neighbors from descending upon Brazil, or Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Venezuela, or Colombia, but it would not be to her interest to promote such enterprises. Why we need the greatest navy on earth is because, evade the truth as we may, we are taking the bread out of the mouths of the central and western European millions, on the one hand, and telling their Governments that they shall not acquire or colonize territory in the Western Hemisphere on the other. This, and the other fact that we have the greatest extent of coast line, and the most exposed, of any nation in the world, warn us to be up and doing, and not to allow Governments which very conceivably in the future may be enemies, to beat us in the race of building battleships, cruisers, and gunboats.

When the hour of trouble comes, it will bring sea and not land fighting with it; that is, if we are wise in advance. There are two reasons for this. In the first place the casus belli is nearly certain to be the invasion of a country or countries to the south of us, with a view to conquest. That will bring the Monroe Doctrine to issue and an American fleet to the scene. In the meantime our shore line from Puget Sound to and through the Nicaragua Canal, and thence to Nova Scotia, will have to be protected against an international navy of enormous strength. With a navy of superior fighting power, officered with men like Dewey and Schley, the country would be spared the horrors of a war on land, the bombardment of great seacoast cities, and the march of slaughtering European armies into the interior. Incidentally, we are compelled to admit that with modern and constantly improving means of transport, it would not be particularly difficult to land in this country an army which would be able to work havoc for weeks or months before it could be successfully opposed, with the organized military forces we have or are likely to have at command for the next twenty years. But a great American navy could prevent the landing of such a force, and, indeed, preclude the idea of despatching it at all.

Shall we balk at the cost of the navy every public man in the country knows is vital to our future? The nation that cheerfully spends a hundred and forty million dollars a year in pensions, on account of a war which ended more than a generation ago, and which has kept on increasing appropriations while the survivors of that struggle have been fast diminishing, should not hesitate to spend money surely and imminently demanded for a measure of national defence. And it will not.

The November Elections.

Elections will be held next Tuesday in Maryland, Nebraska, Iowa, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia, but only in the two States first named is there any doubt of the result. The Democrats will carry Mississippi, Kentucky, and Virginia, as usual, and the other States will go Republican by sufficient majorities. The ticket supported by the Democrats and decent Republicans in Pennsylvania ought to be successful at the polls, but it will not be. Decency has no influence in the Keystone State.

Next in interest to the fight in New York City between the Tammany cohorts and the Citizens' Union is that being waged in Maryland for the control of the Legislature which will choose a successor to Senator Wellington. As the matter stands both parties have an equal chance of success.

Legislatures will be elected in Ohio, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Kentucky, and Nebraska, but except in the case of Nebraska there is no doubt of the outcome. Senator Foraker will triumph in Ohio, and the Democrats in Kentucky will arrange to provide a successor to Mr. Deboe.

Mr. Bryan lost Nebraska last fall by 8,000 majority, but it may be that he will regain the State this year. The Democratic task in Maryland is to overcome the Republican majority of 14,000 which was rolled up for McKinley in 1900.

England and Russia.

Inasmuch as nothing is quite impossible, we shall not indulge ourselves in surprise at the spectacle of a leading English periodical offering to its readers an elaborate paper advocating an Anglo-Russian alliance. The article in question is understood to be the composite work of several well-known writers, all on confidential terms with members of the Ministry. If this be true it is all the more significant.

The text clearly indicates that the purpose of its publication is to throw a spray of very cold water into Berlin, and, at the same time, to remind St. Petersburg that, after all, the British Lion is not as black as he has been painted, largely with a German pot and brush. The growing hostility of the Kaiser's Government to that of Great Britain is reviewed, the statement is made that Germany is already stronger on the sea than either Russia or France, and the rather remarkable suggestion is offered that, after all is said and done, Russia would rather see England mistress of the briny deep than Germany.

The authors declare that there is no insuperable difficulty to prevent England and Russia from arriving at a mutual understanding; that the present Czar's father was anxious for one, and why should not the son be? On Russia's own terms we have not a doubt that Nicholas would be only too glad to divide things with his uncle; but the terms might be rather high. However, John Bull has become used of late to paying dearly for his whistle, and that might not stand in the way. The alliance article proposes a modus vivendi which is richly worth consideration. It is not pitched in the jingo key that we have been wont to hear from British voices when singing songs of defiance to the wild and untamed Muscovite. There is nothing in it like, "While we're Britons true the Russians shan't have Constantinople!"

On the contrary, Russia may have a good deal and welcome, in the view of the English writers, and let bygones be bygones. For example, they say that if Russia will abstain from any attempt to dislocate the status quo in Egypt, why should not she have her destined way and sway in the Balkans? If Russia would be good and not bother British interests along the shores of the Persian Gulf, why not co-operate with her to develop railway communication between the Caspian Sea and that gulf, and why not give her a port? Again, if Russia would consent to give Japan a free hand in Korea, she might be permitted to fix her Manchurian and Mongolian position by direct negotiations with China.

It sounds like a pretty scheme of concession, and has the aroma of retirement from the dictatorial attitude which the Lion has maintained toward the Bear ever since the latter began to get his growth. If the London journal be inspired, as gossip has it, we shall hear more about it. The astute diplomatists of St. Petersburg are always open to business.

National Bank Circulation.

At the Bankers' Convention lately held in Milwaukee the most important proposition brought forward was that of allowing the national banks to issue circulating notes upon their general assets. The proposal is not a new one. In fact, it has been strongly urged for years by those who approach the whole subject of national finance from the bankers' standpoint. But at this convention the matter was given such prominence that it has led to a great deal of journalistic comment, the most of which appears to be decidedly adverse to the scheme. The "Chicago Tribune" very pointedly suggests that the banks are doing well enough already, and should be satisfied. Our Chicago contemporary intimates broadly that the change would be in effect the substitution of a doubtful currency for one which is absolutely safe and sure. Referring to the rapid increase of gold certificates, the amount of which exceeds two hundred and seventy-seven million dollars, the "Tribune" says:

"There is no question that paper money behind every dollar of which there is a gold dollar is the convenientest and safest currency. It will circulate in any part of the world as freely as does a Bank of England note. The world's stock of gold is increasing so rapidly that the day will come when that ideal currency can be enjoyed by all the great commercial nations. But the American bankers are not hoping for the coming of that day. They are after the privilege of issuing notes against the assets of their depositors because there is more money for them in such a currency than there is in one based on gold."

There is a great deal of truth in this excerpt. As against the present currency of the country, there is nothing that can fairly be urged in favor of bank notes. Such notes are not and cannot be full legal tender. The Federal Constitution will not permit it. Up to a certain point this makes but little difference, so long as the Government will accept them for public dues. But if the notes could be issued by the banks upon their general assets, the amount would be limited only by those assets, which aggregate many thousands of millions of dollars. In issuing the notes the banks would be controlled entirely by considerations of profit to themselves, and no one can say how large the issues might become.

As it is, the bank note circulation has more than doubled since 1882, the amount now being about three hundred and fifty million dollars. With the privilege of issuing upon their general assets, the amount might easily run into the thousands of millions. The effect of this would be to expel gold from the country. The United States can keep no more money in circulation than its proportional share of the world's total stock of money, unless it be in a form that will not leave the country. Our greenbacks, our silver, and the bank notes must remain here because they cannot be used at their face value anywhere else. But the gold can. Therefore, as soon as the issue of bank notes became so great as to give us more than our distributive share of the world's money the gold would begin to flow out.

The reduction of the gold stock would necessarily affect the credit of the bank notes, for it would make their redemption upon demand more difficult and doubtful. In a crisis it would be no answer to a demand for redemption that the notes were secured by the bank's assets. The person demanding redemption would say that he knew nothing and cared nothing about the assets; that he wanted "money" which no man could refuse to take. In the midst of a financial panic there is not a business man in the United States who would not prefer legal tender Government paper to bank notes which were not legal tender. Unless gold is needed for export there is no point in asking for the redemption of a greenback, for within the country for business purposes it will do everything that gold will do. But a bank note will not, for any man can decline to accept it in satisfaction of his money demands.

No attempt has ever yet been made to show how bank notes are better than legal tender paper, and for the excellent reason that they are not better, but worse. They are all right in fair weather, but dangerous in a financial storm. As the "Tribune" observes, our currency is all right now, and the banks would better let "well enough alone."

Oil as Fuel.

The "New York Times" says that the increasing use of crude oil promises, temporarily at least, to have an important influence upon the coal trade of the United States. Very likely this is so. Anything that is placed in direct competition with coal as fuel must affect its commercial value. It may lower the price or it may simply prevent an advance; but in one or the other of these ways there is bound to be some effect, proportioned to the extent of the competition. What this will be and how long it will continue are purely matters of conjecture. There seems to be no way of ascertaining with any sort of exactness the quantity of oil that can be made available. The opinion has been expressed by many who have given some study to the subject that oil will very largely supplant coal. There are too many elements of uncertainty involved to justify us in placing much dependence upon this prediction. There is nothing yet in sight to support it, and the probabilities seem to be rather strongly the other way.

Much has been said respecting the comparative cheapness of oil, but the New York newspaper referred to directs attention to the fact that tests have been made only in sections where the oil is relatively cheap and the coal relatively dear. Where the oil gushers most abound there is little or no coal, and that which is mined anywhere near is generally of poor quality—mostly lignites of low heating power. Under such circumstances the cost of transportation is also a most important item to be reckoned with. However, there is no reason to doubt that the use of oil as fuel will continue to increase as long as the supply lasts, and, as before observed, this will be sure to affect the price of coal in some way. Whether it is actually made cheaper, or only prevented from rising in price, as it might under an increasing demand, the consumers will have no reason to complain. Fuel is one of the great necessaries of life, and it is not likely ever to become too cheap to suit the great consuming public, either for household use or for manufacturing and commercial purposes.

Trade conditions in Germany have reached such a point that "Bradstreet's" speaks of the "industrial crisis" in that country. There can be no doubt the situation is bad enough, and that it is getting worse. It does not result to any considerable extent from American competition, but is mainly a reaction from the extraordinary activity of the last few years. Whatever may be the real cause, Germany is bound to adopt measures which she thinks will bring her relief. The opinion is widespread there that the United States is the cause of at least a part of the trouble, and it is therefore not surprising that her future policy, as it has been outlined, is calculated to interfere seriously with our export trade to that country. The new German tariff may not be a wise measure, but it will hurt us just the same.

Within the space of six weeks and two days from the time of President McKinley's sad death the vile wretch who took his life has been arraigned, indicted, tried, sentenced, and executed. What a contrast to the hideous legal farce that followed the assassination of another American President! Justice has been done upon the murderer. Let him be instantly forgotten, and his crime forever remembered as a warning to the nation to take better precautions in the future for the safety of its Chief Magistrates.

The proceedings in the Court of Enquiry yesterday were the reverse of sensational. Captain Lemly continued his cross-examination of Admiral Schley, and straightway made it so plain that he intended to thrash over old straw, to no purpose, that he soon succeeded in emptying the house.

The Honor of the Navy.

(From the Philadelphia Times.)

Admiral Dewey will do his part to redeem the honor of the navy; the removal of Crowninshield will accomplish much; but there must be a new head to the department who will bring back to the civil administration of the navy the traditions of honor and manliness that have been the source of its strength and that made possible the triumphs of Manila and Santiago.

An Annexation Party.

(From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.)

An organized annexation party is beginning to take a share in the affairs of Cuba. A few years hence nearly all Cubans will be for a union with the best Government and with their best friends and customers.

FOREIGN TOPICS.

The Russian Government is making preparations to place the banking institutions of the country more nearly under a central administration than they now are. In present circumstances the banks might be called upon to assist in any enterprise in which the Government might be interested, without guarantees of assistance, should the enterprise thus supported prove disastrous. Enquiry into several of the bank, works and factory scandals in Russia has revealed the fact that in not a few instances the directors of one institution have been responsible for the management of the affairs of others. Falsified statements of the accounts of banks and other undertakings of an industrial or agricultural character have been issued with a recurrence which has attracted the attention of the Russian Government authorities. It has been found that several of the recent bank failures on a large scale in Russia are directly attributable to the failure of large industrial and other concerns whose management was more or less vested in the hands of the very individuals responsible for the conduct of the bank's affairs.

The law in Russia concerning what is styled "directorial ubiquity" is so manifestly loose that the Government authorities have now determined to alter its provisions very considerably. It has been announced in St. Petersburg that the head of the department of trade at the Ministry of Finance will shortly leave the Russian capital for Warsaw, where he will preside over a commission of members of the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce, appointed, in accordance with M. de Witte's instructions, for the purpose of drafting regulations for the conduct of banking institutions, limited liability companies, and commercial and industrial undertakings generally on a company basis. The head of the department of trade will subsequently preside over the deliberations of similar commissions in several other large towns of the Empire, including Odessa.

The Russian Empire contains more than sixty-five independent racial groups. It is a veritable Tower of Babel. Even with the omission of Siberia and Central Asia there remain in Russia in Europe and the Caucasus alone forty-six different peoples. In the northwest the Finns, in the west the Lithuanians, and the east, on the banks of the Volga, numerous groups of Uralo-Altaic populations, the Tcheremisa, Mordva, Votiaki and Permians. In the southeast there are the Tartars in Crimea and Greeks on the Sea of Azof. Add to this the sporadic groups of Germans and Jews. All these numerous elements have in a great measure commingled.

The history of Russia is the reverse, properly speaking, of that of the United States. While in America there is an Aryan invasion proceeding from east to west, in Russia there is an Aryan invasion going from west to east.

The centre from which the Slav emigrations set forth seems to have been the region of the Dnieper and Galicia. The upper tributaries of the Dnieper were settled first. The Slavs then reached the Baltic and founded Novgorod the Great. Later (from the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries) they invaded the basin of the Volga and founded successively Moscow, Nijni-Novgorod, Saratof and many other cities. This movement is still going on. The American "far west" has a counterpart in the "far east" of Siberia. Nearly 220,000 Russian colonists settle there every year.

But, while the Aryans of America have almost exterminated the autochthonous population of the redskins, the Russian emigrants have commingled with the ancient autochthonous populations of Eastern Russia. The Russian people are thus in their sum a total mixture of Slavs and Finns.

It seems rather paradoxical to find a brewers' organization coming forward with a "temperance" scheme, but that is what the brewers of Birmingham, England, have just done, and, moreover, the scheme itself is one of the most interesting propositions ever made for the reform of the liquor trade.

For a long time it has been generally admitted that Birmingham, like London, has a good many more public houses or saloons than is good for its people and not long ago the licensing justices, of which body Arthur Chamberlain, the brother of the Colonial Secretary, is chairman, decided to wipe out about 100 by quashing their licenses. Then the brewers came forward with their proposal.

The new scheme is that a committee, to be composed partly of magistrates and partly of the brewers, should decide just which public houses it would be best to close, and that the committee should fix a fair price for each of these houses, which the owners would be obliged to accept. The brewers argue that the closing of these houses would substantially increase the business of those that remained, and on this theory it is proposed that their owners should put up the money necessary to pay off those whose places were closed.

The British Admiralty is taking the most lively interest in the working of the personnel bill in the American Navy, with a view to the possible amalgamation of the line and engineer officers of the British service. Arnold-Forster, secretary to the admiralty, recently requested special reports on the matter, and Vice Admiral Fitzgerald has written to the "London Times" on the same topic.

The admiral's letter is a spirited defence of the navy against many recent criticisms, but he admits that the line officers must wake up and become expert mechanics, as well as good seamen, in order to master the complicated machinery of the fighting ships, or else the engineers will oust them from their present predominant position.

"I am not prepared," he said, "to advocate the amalgamation of the engineers and executives, in imitation of the Americans. We are certainly not ripe for it yet. Moreover, it is just as well to wait and see how it turns out with them. But if an amalgamation is to be eventually avoided, it can only be by our executives becoming practical mechanics. All real work is now done by steam, electricity, and hydraulics. 'Touch the blooming button,' as Jack says, 'and let her go up.' I doubt not that he who is the most expert in touching the 'blooming button' at the right moment will be the victor in future naval battles, just as the best sailors won of yore."

The christening of Mme. Ella Russell's first-born son in London, a week ago, afforded an opportunity for a delicious bon mot in T. P. O'Connor's paper, "Mainly About People," whose editor was among the guests of the American prima donna at Long, where the ceremony took place. After a eulogistic description of the christening party, "T. P." continues:

"And now here was the conundrum of the day. The father of little Camille—for so was the infant christened—is Italian and Count di Righini; his mother an American, Mme. Russell. As he was born at sea on a German vessel, which landed him at Cherbourg in France, what is his nationality?

"The answer is so simple that it will occur to anybody. At least it was the answer given by one of Mme. Ella's friends, and guests. 'He is an Irishman, of course.'"

The Austrian Government has determined to treat carrier pigeons belonging to another Power as spies. It is alleged that pigeons can be so marked by the senders as to convey a message without carrying any note under the wings in the usual way. German military authorities have been practicing with pigeons in a way complained of by the Austrian authorities by letting them loose from Austrian territory and marking them with secret signs known only to the German military authorities.

The question of submarine transit of the channel is occupying the minds of inventors in France.

M. Goubet, inventor of a submarine boat, has made a perfect model of a passenger boat, twenty-five meters long, to run by electricity on a steel wire cable at a uniform depth of fifteen meters. Passengers can be carried in saloon compartments, with electric light and every convenience. The passage would be as easy as a railroad with no vibration.

Perfect safety is ensured by an iron weight, which, in case of need, can be dropped and the boat will rise to the surface. The estimated speed is twenty knots. Capital is the only thing required, says the inventor.

OUR WAR COMMUNICATION.

The Operations of the Signal Corps Service in the Field.

The relation of scientific electricity to modern warfare is the subject of the annual report of Brig. Gen. A. W. Greely, Chief Signal Officer of the Army, which has been made public by the Secretary of War. A recapitulation of the work done by this branch of the service in Cuba, China, Porto Rico, and the Philippines forms an interesting feature of the report, as showing the relations of the signal service with the progress of the American army during not only the past year, but, in fact, since the beginning of hostilities in 1898.

General Greely states that the work of the corps has steadily increased. Great demands for Signal Corps men in the Far East have resulted in a reduction of the force in this country, and civilians have frequently been used by the army. A brief statement is made of the work of the corps in China, and it is commented upon that the American army which went into Peking carried with it the first telegraph line of the allied forces.

The British army furnished many requisite supplies for the use of the corps in establishing the line between Peking and Taku. The United States military telegraph line was operated from Taku forts to Peking from August, 1900, to March 15, 1901, at which time the line was sold for $1,575, and the proceeds converted into the treasury.

The telegraph line operated in Cuba consists of 3,418 miles, an increase of 162 miles over the previous year. General Greely says that the Cuban telegraph system compares favorably with that of the United States.

The report gives to Major William A. Glassford the credit for the reconstruction of the Porto Rican telegraph lines after they were destroyed by the cyclone of August 8, 1899. The military telegraph system in the island, says General Greely, has been maintained, operated, repaired, and reconstructed without entailing a dollar of expense to the treasury of Porto Rico. Moneys received from commercial messages from May 1, 1900, to February 1, 1901, were turned into the United States Treasury, as is required by law in the case of commercial receipts of the military telegraph lines in the United States.

General Greely devotes considerable space to a consideration of the proposed trans-Pacific cable, upon which question he says:

"In connection with the proposed American-Pacific cable recommended by the President for the favorable consideration of Congress, the Chief Signal Officer invites attention to the fact that the subject of the rights, privileges, and immunities of submarine cable property in time of war was brought to notice during the Spanish-American war, and should properly be a matter of consideration for an international cable conference. Such a conference for the protection of submarine cables was held at Paris in 1884, and its proceedings, transmitted to Congress by the President on January 9, 1889, were subscribed to by the United States and by twenty-five other principal nations of the world.

"Article XV of this conference, however, specially states that 'the stipulations of this convention shall in nowise affect the liberty of belligerents,' which leaves cables in time of war without adequate regulations to meet the complicated conditions.

"In view of the present enormous extension of submarine cables, aggregating in the British Empire alone the value of $60,000,000, such a conference could properly consider other international cable matters. A standard international cable code could replace numberless codes now in use. A single code constructed on scientific lines would materially increase the working capacity and efficiency of submarine cables. It should avoid words liable to telegraphic errors, whether transmitted by the European or American alphabet, and those which badly transcribed lead to errors in reading. By selecting suitable code words the speed of code messages could be increased from 20 to 30 per cent with equal or improved legibility.

"The United States and its remote colonies should be connected by a Pacific submarine cable, as is recommended by the President to Congress in his special message of February 10, 1899. It is only a matter of time when Luzon shall be connected with Japan and Tonkin and the Chinese Empire. The Philippine islands are now only accessible telegraphically over a short cable of about 600 miles of the Eastern Extension Company between Manila and Hongkong. The experiences of the War Department in connection with the relief of the legation at Pekin show clearly the tremendous disadvantage under which the United States would labor without its own cable facilities in case of an extended war in the East.

"An American trans-Pacific cable is a military and commercial necessity if American interests are to be safeguarded in Asiatic regions. Such a cable, while of great value militarily, will especially foster industrial interests and facilitate commercial operations. As it is officially known that an American cable can only enter Japan from the east and not from Russia, China, nor the Philippines, the only possible route is that already recommended to Congress by the President via Hawaii and Guam. In connection with cable operations in Cuba and the Philippines the Signal Corps has had practical experience in the construction, installation, and operation of cables such as has never been enjoyed by any other body of officers and men outside of the few experts of the great cable corporations of the world."

The Journey of the Oregon.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES: In your evening edition today you say:

"About the only reason thus far given by Secretary Long for rewarding and honoring Crowninshield with the command of the European Squadron is that to the present head of the Bureau of Navigation belongs the credit of bringing the Oregon from the Pacific Coast and making her a part of the fleet operating in Cuban waters. Crowninshield is said to have suggested it. To a layman it seems like a perfectly natural suggestion. After the destruction of the Spanish fleet at Manila, the great battleship was not needed in the Pacific, and she was needed on the Atlantic side. The thought of having her make the passage around Cape Horn was all well enough, but it was hardly a service which calls for the recognition that is to be bestowed."

If you will spare a few moments for research, you may be jolted by the discovery that the Oregon began her voyage on March 19, just seventy-five days before the destruction of the Spanish fleet at Manila. D. B. WOOZY.

Washington, Oct. 28.

[The statement in The Evening Times to which our correspondent objects, and properly objects, was based upon a semi-official announcement by Secretary Long which appeared in the evening papers of the 26th inst., as follows:

"Regarding the reported friction between Rear Admiral Crowninshield and Mr. Roosevelt, Secretary Long said:

"'When the war with Spain broke out the Oregon was at San Francisco. When the battle of Manila occurred, resulting in a complete victory, there was no work for the vessel to do in the Pacific, and Rear Admiral Crowninshield suggested that the Oregon should be sent around to join the fleet in the West Indies. President Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, agreed at once that the idea was an excellent one, and the project was carried out, how successfully everyone knows.'"

While it is a strange thing that the Secretary of the Navy should make so gross a mistake in discussing the movements of one of his warships, The Times does not offer it as an excuse for its own blunder. It should have verified the statement as it has been compelled to verify many others emanating from the Navy Department during the past four years, and it deeply regrets that it did not do so. The facts are that the Oregon left San Francisco on March 19, 1898, and reached Key West on May 25. The Battle of Manila took place on May 1.]

One Magnate's Power.

(From the New York World.)

The most prosaic account of J. Pierpont Morgan's trip across the continent reads like a fairy tale. It was not a "record breaker;" there were too many stops. But the power of a financial magnate was hinted when the traffic of a great railway line was switched through a "cut-off" at night so that he might sleep undisturbed, and the speed of the modern engine shown in dragging him 227 miles in 3[illegible] minutes.

MASS MEETING IN BALTIMORE.

Attorney General Rayner Unable to Speak at Music Hall.

The largest Democratic meeting that will be held in Maryland during the present campaign takes place at Music Hall in Baltimore tonight. Attorney General Isidor Rayner was invited to address the meeting, but was compelled to decline on account of his duties at the Schley Court of Enquiry, and the work he is obliged to do at night in abstracting the case for the argument next week.

It is understood that Murray Vandiver, Chairman of the State Central Democratic Committee of Maryland, telegraphed Mr. Rayner yesterday asking whether he would not send on a letter to be read by Bernard Carter, who will preside at the meeting, endorsing the Democratic ticket. It is also understood that Mr. Rayner has written such a letter endorsing the ticket and Senator Gorman's candidacy for the United States Senate.

As it is well known that Mr. Rayner has not entirely agreed with Mr. Gorman in the past in reference to party management in Maryland, and especially during the Cleveland Administration, Mr. Rayner being a warm friend and adherent of ex-President Cleveland, he was asked last night at the New Willard whether this report which had gained credence in Washington was true. Mr. Rayner said:

"Had I been able to do so, I certainly would have spoken at the meeting. I am heartily in favor of the Democratic ticket in Maryland, as I have always been. I think that our nominations are excellent, and believe the ticket will win.

"So far as Mr. Gorman is concerned, of course, I do not know whether he is a candidate for the United States Senate or not. It looks to me, however, as if the Democratic party in Maryland is almost a unit for his return. He has served his State well in the Senate, and I am strongly in favor of a Democratic Senator. And if Mr. Gorman is the choice of the party, as he appears to be, I would be glad to see him in the Senate, and have so expressed myself in a letter to the chairman of the committee."

At the meeting tonight at Music Hall Mr. Bemore Carter, one of the leaders of the Maryland bar, will preside, and Arthur P. Gorman and Gov. John Walters Smith will speak.

HAWAIIANS FAVOR WILCOX.

Home Rulers Want Him as Governor in Place of Dole.

HONOLULU, Oct. 22 (via San Francisco, Oct. 29).—At a large meeting of the Executive Committee of the Home Rule party, Robert W. Wilcox, present Delegate to Congress, was the unanimous choice of the party for next Governor of Hawaii. There were fifty-two out of sixty-five members of the committee present, and three other names were canvassed. None was received with any favor except that of Wilcox. Resolutions were adopted, and will be forwarded to President Roosevelt. The Home Rulers favor F. W. Beckley as Delegate to Congress in place of Wilcox.

The Home Rulers comprise all the natives and many of the half-breeds. Numerically, they easily outnumber all other parties combined, and, if they stand together, they can elect anyone they nominate. Wilcox is their ideal, and they desire to have the President remove Dole and appoint Wilcox Governor.

W. BOURKE COCKRAN HURT.

Thrown From His Horse Near His Home on Long Island.

NEW YORK, Oct. 29.—W. Bourke Cockran was thrown from a horse while riding near his home at Port Washington, L. I., shortly before 5 o'clock this afternoon. He had started out on his favorite horse at 3:30 o'clock. It is not known exactly where he went, but when on his way home the animal became frightened at some object in the road. Some persons at a distance noticed the actions of the horse and saw the rider fall heavily to the ground. They ran up and found Mr. Cockran unconscious in the road. A stretcher was hastily improvised and the injured man was carried to his home and placed on a bed. Several physicians were summoned, and Mr. Cockran was finally restored to consciousness. It was impossible to learn the exact details of the accident, as Mr. Cockran is the only one who knew, and he is in no condition to answer questions.

DEMORALIZED BY THE WAR.

Business Along the Coast of Colombia Suffering Severely.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 29.—Passengers from Bocas del Toro report business on the coast of Colombia completely demoralized by the revolution. Martial law prevails in Bocas, and no one is allowed to enter the town unless he can give an explanation.

There are about 5,000 revolutionists between Bocas and Colon awaiting an opportunity to capture the seaports. They have made no attempt to interfere with the traffic of the Panama Railroad, although they could do so if they wished. Public sympathy in the isthmus, it is declared, is with the revolutionists. The latter entertain the hope that the United States will intervene in some way.

The Government has hard work to keep up its forces, and has not only resorted to conscription, but has taken some of the revolutionist prisoners into its ranks.

Even with these additions, more than one-third of the Government forces on the isthmus are boys of from twelve to fifteen years old. Gen. H. O. Jeffreys, of Virginia, U. S., is directing the movement of the Government forces on the isthmus.

Congress and the Navy.

(From the Pittsburg Dispatch.)

Apart altogether from what the verdict of the Schley Court of Enquiry may be it is reasonably certain that a Congressional investigation of the whole matter will follow. The promotion of Crowninshield, in itself, is sure to create comment in Congress, and will provide an opportunity for a thorough enquiry into the entire case. The necessity for this may be open to question, but, judging from the attitude of members of Congress, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to prevent it. It should not, however, be undertaken unless upon the most urgent reasons and with an assurance of some tangible result. The case of Crowninshield should be disposed of in a less circuitous manner when his promotion is definitely announced.

Postponing Reciprocity.

(From the Pittsburg Dispatch.)

There is an unreadiness upon the part of Congressional spokesmen to undertake the responsibility of reopening the whole protection controversy. The idea seems to be an amplification of Senator Hanna's Ohio battle cry: "Let well enough alone!" At the same time there is a general recognition of the fact that reciprocity, as outlined in the last speech of the late President, must some day be considered. For the moment the exigencies of the present are permitted to brush aside the necessities of the future.

The Surplus Question.

(From the Chicago Chronicle.)

The people should insist that no surplus should be accumulated, and that taxes should be reduced until barely sufficient to supply the needs of a government economically ordered and administered. That is the kernel of the surplus question.

The Bipartisan Senate.

(From the New York Tribune.)

With Mr. Jones adding his vote to the Republican column, and Mr. Teller his to the Democratic, the Senate again becomes bipartisan, containing no member who cannot be fairly characterized either as a Republican or as a Democrat.

Letting Well Enough Alone.

(From the Philadelphia Ledger.)

After due consideration, the American people have concluded that Senator Hanna's advice to "let well enough alone" is good only in the sense that he should be passed by in the constant search for something better.

NO APOLOGY TO MAKE.

Assistant Secretary Taylor's Reply to Countess Russell.

Regarding the trip which Earl Russell of England, it is reported, contemplates making to this country, and his right to land here under the laws regulating the immigration service, H. A. Taylor, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, yesterday afternoon gave out the following statement:

"Assistant Secretary Taylor, of the Treasury, was somewhat astonished and considerably amused last evening to receive a long cablegram from London signed 'Mabel Edith, Countess Russell,' with reference to the Earl Russell case. It seems from the cable message from the 'countess' that she has received information, probably through the London papers, that Assistant Secretary Taylor had stated that the divorce of Earl Russell was properly granted and that due notice of the application for the divorce had been served upon her. The 'countess' denies that she received any notice except what she saw in the London newspapers. She says the divorce was a fraud and invalid, and says to Mr. Taylor, to use her own words, 'I am entitled to public apology from you through press.'

"This demand indicates that the 'countess' desires the widest publicity in the matter, and rather makes it incumbent upon Mr. Taylor to make public response. Mr. Taylor declines to make any apology, for, he says, he never made the statement attributed to him. He knows nothing about the divorce except from common rumor. He doesn't know what sort of notice, if any, was served upon the 'countess,' but presumes that the notice provided for by the statutes of the State where the decree of divorce was issued was given, probably by publication in the newspapers. It is not the custom of the Department to pass upon the eligibility of persons seeking admission to the United States until the matter is properly submitted to it through the immigration officials at the port where the landing is sought.

"In the case of Earl Russell, who, it is reported, is intending to come to this country, a letter had been sent from the Immigration Bureau to several of the ports, calling the attention of the officials to the fact that a protest had been received against his admission, and requesting the boards of enquiry to take notice of that fact. Upon further consideration the Department, thinking this notice might be regarded as instruction to detain the earl on the ground that he had been convicted of bigamy in England, rescinded the letter referred to, and, upon the advice of the solicitor, informed the immigrant officials that unless there were other reasons for detaining the earl, he should not be debarred. The position of the Department is that the earl, having received a decree of divorce recognized as valid by the laws and courts in this country, entirely freeing him from his former wife, and giving him the privilege of marrying again if he so desired, could not properly be kept out of the country for doing what our courts had declared he had a perfect right to do.

"This is the history of the case as far as it has progressed. Assistant Secretary Taylor says he is glad that the 'countess' has requested his statement to be made through the press, as a correspondence by cable would be rather expensive. He declares that nothing could be further from his intentions than to injure the already lacerated feelings of the irate 'Mabel Edith, Countess Russell,' and therefore he avails himself of the medium which she names of indignantly repudiating the words which some meddlesome or malicious informant has put into his mouth."

The following is a copy of the cable message referred to above:

"Taylor, Assistant Secretary Treasury, Washington:

"Statement made by you regarding divorce granted Earl Russell, America, entirely untrue. No papers were served on me. My first notice came through London papers. Divorce was obtained by fraud. Was proved by Judge Curler, Lords. I am entitled public apology from you through press.

"MABEL EDITH, COUNTESS RUSSELL."

INSPECT THE OBSERVATORY.

The Board of Visitors Preparing an Annual Report.

The board of visitors to the United States Naval Observatory convened in this city at the Arlington Hotel yesterday for the purpose of preparing recommendations to be presented to the Secretary of the Navy. Yesterday afternoon, after a short opening session, the board went upon a tour of inspection to the Naval Observatory buildings and grounds. The board will remain in session for several days, and it will be some time before their report is submitted to the Secretary of the Navy.

The members composing the board are Prof. C. A. Young, of Princeton, President; Prof. Armond Stone, University of Virginia, Secretary; Prof. W. R. Harper, University of Chicago; Prof. E. C. Pickering, of Harvard University; Prof. C. F. Chandler, Columbia University, New York, and Pro. Asaph Hall, Ann Arbor University, Michigan. All the members of the board are present, with the exception of Prof. Harper, who is unavoidably detained in Chicago.

WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS.

Capt. L. C. Andrews Reports on Two Government Reservations.

The annual report of Capt. L. C. Andrews, of the Fifteenth United States Cavalry, Acting Superintendent of the Sequoia and General Grant national parks in California, to the Secretary of the Interior, was made public yesterday.

As in the case of all large Western Government reservations, Captain Andrews has under his command, to assist in protecting the two parks from the ravages of squatters and poachers, several troops of the Fifteenth United States Cavalry, which body of troops, according to his statement, has rendered excellent service during the past year. A detailed account of the repairs made in the Sequoia Park, is given, accompanied by a statement of its general condition at present. Captain Andrews pays especial attention to the General Grant reservation, saying:

"I regret that the Department has not been able to send a representative here this season, to go over the ground with me before I submitted this report. That the future polic