

TO ADJOURN EARLY

SO SPEAKER REED IS QUOTED AS SAYING.

Will Soon Finish Up all Business Before It, and Ought to Adjourn About the Middle of May. Mills Speaks for Two Hours—Concentrating Their Forces.

Washington, March 25.—Speaker Reed is quoted as saying yesterday that the house will be able to finish up all the business before it in a short time, and that congress ought to adjourn by the middle of May. The feeling in the senate for an early adjournment is growing and the impression is now that this congress will wind up its ball of yarn by the 1st of June.

Although the main Cuban resolutions have been recommitted to conference the subject came up incidentally yesterday on Mr. Mills' resolution for the forcible occupation of the island of Cuba in order to aid the Cubans in securing local self-government.

Mr. Mills spoke for two hours in support of the resolution. He was unsparing in his arraignment of Gen. Weyler as an "atrocious scoundrel and villain," and in his recital of Spain's bloody record in the old and new worlds.

Mr. Morgan also spoke briefly in further support of the Cuban resolution.

Mr. Mills' resolutions went to the calendar after the speeches. The rest of the day was given to the legislative appropriation bill, which is not yet completed.

The displacement of the Cuban resolution has no apparent effect in diminishing the attendance in the senate galleries yesterday, as it was expected that Mr. Mills' resolution proposing the use of the army and navy in taking possession of Cuba and holding it until the people had established local self-government would occasion further debate.

Their Visit Significant.

Genoa, March 25.—Emperor William and Empress Augusta arrived here yesterday evening on their way to Naples. Great political interest attaches this visit to Italy, of the German emperor. It has been generally expected that when he met King Humbert, the Emperor Francis Joseph would be the guest of the king of Italy at the same time. It is assumed in all public discussion of the visit that the subject of the discussion between the three emperors will be the relations between the three countries of the dreibund. The result of the recent visit of Count Golchowsky to Germany was all in favor of the maintenance of the dreibund. The work begun there, it is expected will be completed during Emperor William's stay, though it is freely surmised that the German emperor desires some modification in the triple bonds which will leave him freer to place Germany in accord with Russia in the far east. After a royal reception the emperor and empress sailed for Naples.

As It Stands.

Washington, March 25.—The conferees of the two houses on the Cuban resolutions held a session yesterday, but without reaching a conclusion and adjourned until to-day. The entire time was spent in canvassing the situation and in trying to arrive at common ground upon which the two houses can stand. The senate conferees explained fully the difficulties they had encountered in the senate and made it clear to the house members of the conference that it would be necessary for the house to yield something to prevent leaving the question in the air between the two houses. The house conferees accepted this explanation and expressed a willingness to make concessions, agreeing, as they did, fully with the senators that it would place both houses in a ridiculous attitude to have the matter fail in conference after both houses by such extensive majorities had agreed, each in its own way, upon an expression friendly to Cuba.

No Chance for Peace.

New York, March 25.—A dispatch from Rome says: On account of the excessive pecuniary demands made by Menelik it is improbable that peace will be concluded. Signors Ricotti and Rudini, who are in accord with the king, will refuse the payment of any money indemnity.

The German emperor will have a most enthusiastic reception at Genoa. Naples, too, is preparing to receive his majesty in magnificent style. King Humbert will go on board the royal yacht Hohenzollern to meet his distinguished guest.

The diplomatic corps is extremely well satisfied with the speech made by Rudini.

Going to London.

London, March 25.—It is reported here that the British ambassador, Sir Julian Pauncefote, will shortly come to London, to discuss with the government certain features of the Venezuelan question.

Probably Settled.

London, March 25.—It is understood that France and Great Britain will have settled their Egyptian difficulty before the next meeting of the Egyptian debt commission on Friday next. Explanations of a satisfactory nature are proceeding.

Baron de Courcel, the French ambassador here, who was suddenly recalled to London after he had left his city on leave of absence, will return to France on Saturday, and the marquis of Salisbury has arranged to start for Beaulieu on Thursday.

Another Mistake.

Havana, March 25.—Another terrible mistake attended with loss of life and resulting in many soldiers being wounded has taken place. In some manner unexplained two columns of Spanish troops opened fire upon each other at mid-day. According to the few details received here the columns of troops commanded by Gen. Godoy and Col. Holguin, at the Santa Rosa plantation, near Esperanza, province of Santa Clara, mutually mistook each other for insurgent forces, owing, it is said, to the thickness of the sugar cane. Each detachment opened fire upon the other, and for ten minutes shots were exchanged, resulting in the killing of seventeen soldiers, among them being Lieut. Col. Fumayo of the Navar battalion. In addition, five officers and several soldiers were wounded. Two of the latter have since died; six other mortally wounded and thirty-two seriously injured.

Lieut. Col. Fumayo died while leading his troops on and shouting, "Long live Spain."

Owing to the fact that the meeting between the columns took place at mid-day the explanation furnished by the Spanish commander is considered unsatisfactory, and a court martial will follow.

Arkansas Fued.

Little Rock, Ark., March 25.—The Bankston-Seaman feud broke out afresh Saturday at Walnut Lake, details of which have just reached here.

On the night of July 4 last Ike Bankston was found in a wardrobe in Miss Sadie Seaman's bedroom. A shooting affray took place and Bankston fled. A family feud has existed since, both sides going heavily armed. Saturday morning Isaac Seaman and his father, Josh Seaman, and Ike Bankston met at Walnut Lake and a regular battle followed, two dozen shots being fired. Old man Seaman was fatally wounded and his son shot in the leg. Friends of both sides are becoming interested in the affair and further trouble is expected.

Miss Seaman is a respectable young school teacher. Bankston is a young farmer and bears an unsavory reputation.

Restrictions Removed.

Washington, March 25.—Senator Hill's bill to remove the restrictions against the appointment as officers of the army or navy of persons who held commissions in the regular army or navy before the rebellion, and who subsequently took part in the war on the side of the confederacy, which passed the senate during the height of the excitement over the Venezuelan boundary question, passed the house yesterday after two hours debate, with but one dissenting vote, that of Mr. Boutelle, of Maine. The democrats, except Mr. Cummings, of New York, who spoke, as he said, as one of 800,000 northern democrats who fought in the union army, and Mr. Wilson, of South Carolina, who was drawn into the debate by Mr. Boutelle, refrained entirely from participation.

Dr. L. S. Jameson.

London, March 25.—The trial of Dr. L. S. Jameson and his fellow prisoners, charged with violating the foreign enlistment act in making a raid into the territory of the South African republic, was resumed at the Bow street police court yesterday morning. Although there was a full attendance, there was less excitement. Seated on the bench were the Duke of Abingdon, chairman of the British Chartered South African company; Lord and Lady Monkswell, Lord and Lady Deerpark, Ladies Foley, Annaly, Finlay, Kinnaid-Buller, Ribblesdale and Bruce; Admiral Field and Mrs. A. Paget. After some evidence the case was again adjourned.

Concentrating Their Forces.

New York, March 25.—A dispatch from Cairo says: Dispatches which have arrived from the front state that the vanguard of the Egyptian army, under Collission Bey, occupied Akahesh on Friday, the Dervishes having evacuated the town and fallen back to concentrate on Dongola.

Col. Hunter will leave Sarrah to-day for Akahesh, which will probably be reinforced on the same day by three regiments of infantry.

Negotiations are progressing for forming a corps of 4000 men from the Arab tribes, which will be commanded by Sir Edward Zoghah.

A Grand Work.

New York, March 25.—Brown Bros. Co., treasurers of the American Relief fund, yesterday received the following cablegram from Constantinople in acknowledgment of a remittance of \$15,000:

"Philippolis, March 25.—Your two remittances most timely; thanks. Distribution by Harpool committee reaches 45,000 souls. Over 1000 have died of exposure and starvation there alone. We are supporting fifteen other centers. Need appalling. A nation is threatened with extermination."

Russia Kicks.

London, March 25.—The Vienna correspondent says that Russia refuses to assent to the Egyptian debt commission paying the expenses of the Dongola expedition.

For a New Court.

Washington, March 25.—Congressman Little, of Arkansas, yesterday introduced a bill in the house providing that the court over which Judge Kilgore presides in the Indian Territory, shall hold a court at Duncan, in that territory. Little says he has received a long petition from the people of that town asking for the court and showing that such a court would be most convenient to them, and on that account he introduced the bill.

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.



THE second talk of Dr. Kedzie was upon the "Simple Chemistry of the Farm." Everything in the earth is made up of about 65 kinds of matter, but 99 to 99 per cent of the mass of organic matter is composed of four only, carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen. Adding silicon, aluminum and calcium, the seven will make up almost all of the mass of the world. In addition we have the various metals, which are of such value in the arts, and potassium, phosphorus and sulphur, which are essential for all animal and vegetable life.

In plants we find but thirteen forms of matter, including sodium, magnesium and chlorine in addition to those named above. The first four come almost entirely from the air, while the nine mineral substances all come from the soil. Not all are of equal value, as many are in great abundance, while others are rare. Silicon is abundant in plants, but is the base of sand, and with aluminum, which is not found in agricultural plants, and is common in clay, makes up the great mass of our soils. They form the framework of our soils, and are nearly, if not quite, soluble. They hold the lime, magnesia, potassium, phosphorus and sulphur, which are more soluble, and enter the plant in solution in water. These last cannot be dispensed with, as no plant can grow without them.

Upon Thursday morning Dr. Kedzie gave a talk upon "Soil Exhaustion." In the early days the valleys of the Mohawk and the James were thought to be inexhaustible, but after cropping for a number of years the yield obtained was so small that the crop was not profitable, and when that condition was reached they were exhausted. There are two causes for soil exhaustion: (1) unsuitable physical conditions, such as too wet or too dry, too loose or too compact, so that they are not in condition to grow crops, and (2) when plant food is lacking. The soil is not a mine to be worked out. It must be cultivated with reference to its continued fertility; anything else is robbery. All soils have a supply of reserve matter in an insoluble form that will be gradually drafted into service. Potash is derived from the decomposition of the mineral ingredients of the soil. Feldspar, one of the constituents of granite, contains over 16 per cent of potash, and as it weathers it decomposes and produces clay, setting free a large amount of potash, of which 13.86 per cent is available as plant food. The greatest danger is from the exhaustion of the soil nitrogen. While it exists in immense quantities in the air, it is in a free state—in that form it is of no value to most crops. As a rule about 8 1/2 pounds of combined nitrogen per acre are annually brought down in rain or snow, but this is insufficient for farm crops. The humus of the soil, as a result of nitrification, yields up a large amount of combined nitrogen. Nitrates are easily washed out of the soil, but it can be largely prevented if some crop is kept upon the land, as winter rye, which will take it up. Fallow land develops nitrogen, but a large amount is washed away.

In his fourth lecture Dr. Kedzie spoke regarding "Manure and Fertilizers." He considered barn-yard manure as the best material for use as a fertilizer, and the pivot of successful farming. By means of charts, the loss of the manurial elements when it is exposed to the weather was shown. When kept for a year under the eaves of a barn, more than four-fifths of the ammonia and nearly as much of the potash was lost. In the open air, but away from the eaves, the loss was slightly less, but was more than two-thirds for the above elements. Only about one-fourth of the phosphoric acid was lost under either condition.

Wood ashes came next in value as a fertilizer; 100 pounds of wood ashes free from dirt will contain 8 pounds of potash and 5 1/2 pounds of phosphoric acid and will be worth nearly 50 cents per bushel. As they are seldom pure, one-half the above will be a high price. Leached ashes have lost part of their potash, but are generally one-third as valuable as the unleached. There is little value in coal ashes.

All the remains of vegetables and especially of animal materials are of great value as fertilizing materials, as well as for their physical effect upon the soil, as the capacity of the soil to hold water depends largely upon the amount of vegetable matter it contains. The lack of nitrogen can be helped by growing leguminous crops, such as clover and peas, as they have warts or tubercles upon their roots which have the power of utilizing the free nitrogen of the air.

(From Farmers' Review special report of South Haven (Michigan) farmers' institute.)

Michigan Horticultural Convention. Condensed from Farmers' Review (Stenographic Report.)

Mr. Williams, of Douglas, continued his remarks as follows:

In Douglas, my land consists of 60 acres, elevated 40 to 45 feet along the river. The country is gently rolling. We did not try to use a windmill because our land is so sandy that an attempt to build a reservoir would be a failure. So we have purchased a 10-horse power engine and 600 feet of 4-inch iron pipe. With the assistance of

these we are enabled to irrigate by ditches. We were at first greatly puzzled to know how to get over the ravines and ditches in the field, for we could not be all the time moving that heavy iron pipe. We finally hit on a plan to make water run up hill. We did that by means of a big home-made hose constructed of duck. We put this duck hose on the end of an iron pipe and lead the water where we want it. It is so constructed that we can couple it quickly. We have about 300 feet of this hose in use, and it answers the purpose very well, but of course will not stand much pressure. We have had little experience in trying this on bearing fruit trees. We tried it on 400 peach trees, and those trees bore fruit much more heavily than usual. We also watered an orchard of cherry and plum trees with strawberries between the rows. The strawberry plants were about ruined when we began the watering, but they revived at once. Most of our irrigating this last year has been on young growing trees and on common field crops, such as peas, beans and potatoes. We now have our machinery and fields ready to begin operations the coming year. While we realize that some of our work is yet in the experimental stage, yet we are not discouraged for the future. We believe that if the profit to our young trees could be shown, it would be seen that watering them was very profitable.

Q.—How do you irrigate corn?

A.—We run the water along the rows of corn and can thus water about four acres per day. In watering trees, we can water about eight to ten acres per day. The cost of running the engine and tank is \$5 to \$6 per day.

Q.—What is the total cost of a plant like yours with capacity to water twenty acres?

A.—We have machinery to irrigate eighty acres, and the cost for engine, pump and pipes would fall between \$900 and \$1,000 ordinarily, but we got a second-hand engine. A \$1,000-plant should irrigate about eighty acres.

Q.—In surface irrigation, at what time of day is it best to make the application of water?

A.—At any time of day. If we could run our plant all night, we would make the application during the latter part of the day.

Professor Tracy.—I would like to say that it is not so much the contour of the land as it is the character of the soil that concerns irrigation. Some people think that because they have a stream that is in a good position for irrigating therefore they can surely irrigate.

Q.—Is it possible to irrigate from a two or three-inch well, where you have to draw the water for seventy feet?

Professor Taft.—I think so, and if you can't do it with one well, drive three or four and have a reservoir. But that 70-foot lift is rather a hard question to consider.

Professor McClell.—There is one place in Illinois where irrigating is being done, and that is at the insane asylum at Kankakee. They have there one pump, and they pump water from the river. They have not done any experimenting. They got a man from the West who was perfectly familiar with the work of water. I happened to be there this fall, and saw them irrigating a cabbage field. They were running the water between every two rows, each row being forty rods long. The water must have been six to eight inches in depth. They had watered that field from one to three times, and they said that was enough. They said in a general way that there was no doubt but that their crop was at least double that of last year. They used so much water each time that the ground was too soft to walk on. One could not step on it without sinking down some distance. The water ran between the rows, which were rounded up pretty well. They seemed to retain the moisture for a long time.

Cost of Handling Ear Corn.

A gentleman from the country says that the cost of carrying ear corn one year, or longer, is probably greater than many figure it, on account of the shrinkage. For instance, the cost of 1,000 bushels of corn at 21 cents is \$210; interest at 7 per cent for a year, \$14.70; expense of crib, \$20; cost of the corn at the end of one year, \$244.70. But it is estimated that the shrinkage will amount to 20 per cent, or 200 bushels; therefore, there will remain but 800 bushels to sell. So \$244.70 actually represents the cost of 800 bushels at the end of one year, or a fraction over 30 cents a bushel, without figuring anything for insurance or risk in holding—showing that 21 cents now is equal to about 30 cents a bushel one year from now.—Ex.

Watch the Peach Trees.

Those of our readers who have peach orchards will do well to begin their work during the fair weather of late winter. Experiments have shown that the first work to be done is to pick off and burn the mummified fruit that may still be found hanging on the trees. The reason for this is that the diseases that are likely to affect the peach and for which we spray may have a foothold in this old fruit. The leaves are gone and so will not prove a menace to the new crop. The work is all the more necessary if the trees were affected during the last season.

How to Irrigate.—Prof. Emery writes: Much depends on the season at which water should be applied to crops. On lands in which clay predominates the water should not be used until the grain is far enough advanced to shade the ground, otherwise the surface soil will bake, to the great detriment of the crops. Manifestly where water is used on crops, it is desirable to get the seed into the ground early, so as to hasten the period of development of the grain, when water can be used without detriment.—Ex.

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