

SPAIN STUBBORN.

She Must Remove All the Restrictions ON AMERICAN COMMERCE.

Cleveland Getting Data for a Proclamation.

Called Down Once Before.

Cuba and Porto Rico Would Suffer Most by a Retaliative Measure.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Unless the Spanish Government within a very short time indicates its purpose to remove the restrictions now placed on American commerce with the Spanish West Indies by the imposition of the maximum tariff on a merchan commodity, it is probable the President will issue a proclamation imposing "discriminating flag duties" upon Spanish, Cuban and Porto Rican imports into the United States.

The intention of this purpose on the part of the President is distinctly conveyed in a request received by the Treasury Department from the Department of State to furnish it with detailed information as to the amount of such imports and a list of the vessels carrying the Spanish flag which trade with our ports.

A paragraph of the old Morrill tariff act, which still stands on the statute books, imposes a duty of 10 per cent, in addition to all other duties upon goods brought into the United States in ships of foreign countries, unless they are expressly relieved from the additional duty by treaty.

It is a singular fact that the only country which has so far felt the force of this revision of the law is the very one against whom it is to be again used. In 1886 our relations with Spain were so strained that President Cleveland issued a proclamation reciting that Spain had failed to carry out the first article of the commercial agreement signed at Madrid February 13, 1884, which stipulated that the differential flag duties should be relieved at once from the United States products entering Cuba and Porto Rico.

Being satisfied that higher and discriminating duties had been imposed, he therefore revoked the suspension of the discriminating customs duties imposed in the ports of the United States upon Cuban and Porto Rican products coming under the Spanish flag.

The effect of this action by the President was almost instantaneous, for in fourteen days thereafter he issued a proclamation stating that by an agreement entered into that day (October 27, 1886), Spain had removed the source of complaint, and he consequently again restored her to treatment under the favored nation clause of our treaties.

Treasury officials, at the request of the State Department, are engaged in collecting statistics showing the volume of the trade that would be affected by a repetition of his action in 1886 by the President. It appears that the Spanish colonies would get much the worst of it. The tables show that during the fiscal year ended June 30 last, Cuba alone exported to the United States goods to the aggregate value of \$75,678,261 and took from us goods to the amount of only \$19,855,237.

Porto Rico sent us in the same time goods valued at \$3,145,634, and received in return goods to the amount of \$2,705,646.

With the direct trade with Spain the case was reversed, for exports to that country were \$13,104,076, against imports amounting to \$4,255,876. The tariff differences between Spain and the United States are being watched with keen interest by other sugar-producing countries, particularly Hawaii and Brazil, as the execution of Secretary Gresham's threat to discriminate against Cuban products will create a heavy demand for raw sugar, now brought almost exclusively from Cuba.

Mr. Hastings, the Charge d'Affaires of the Hawaiian legation, is an interested observer of the Spanish negotiations, the Hawaiian sugar planters having been giving close attention to Cuba of late, many of them visiting the islands and studying the Cuban processes of making sugar. One of them wrote Mr. Hastings recently of the antiquated methods prevailing, and other Hawaiian planters pointed out to him that the Cubans got but twenty-five tons of cane and two tons of actual sugar to the acre.

The thought that double this yield could be obtained, and that Cuban plantations could not exist if cut off from the United States markets.

Being dependent upon this country for their product, Hawaii would expect to benefit if Cuba was shut out. The Hawaiians expect soon to conclude European treaties. Minister Thurston has written to Mr. Hastings briefly from Lisbon to the effect that his trip to Spain is proving entirely satisfactory. The Minister has visited many European countries for the purpose of inducing them to renew their treaties of commerce and amity with the new republic of the Pacific. He has also sought to make arrangements for immigration to Hawaii of the better class of laborers. While he gives no exact details, the tenor of his letter indicates success. He will return to Washington about January 15.

NOT WANTED THERE. Two Sloggers Driven Away From Buffalo. BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 26.—The two lightweight pugilists, Johnny Van Heest and Solly Smith, who have been sojourning in Buffalo ever since their 15-round fight here in October last, suddenly vanished from the local firmament this afternoon at the request of Police Judge King,

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During the early part of the proceedings, ex-Wardman Shalvey, who was Policeman Hassey's partner in the Twelfth Precinct, was examined, and he told about his collections of bribe-money from saloon-keepers, proprietors of disorderly houses and policy-shops. He accused Captains Webb (retired), Doherty, Eakins and Schultz of receiving the bribes. During Schultz's regime he said that the price on policy-shops was raised 10 per cent, and in nine months he paid over to Schultz about \$4500.

Detective Sergeants Phil Reilly and Jake von Griscutze were called after recess, and said they attended the races at Saratoga during their vacations, and that they received money from the owners of the track for keeping "crooked persons" away from it, but they denied ever having divided the money they got with police officials in New York.

Inspector Williams was then called, and every one was on tiptoe of excitement. He was dressed in full uniform and seemed to be as unconcerned as if he were going to testify against an ordinary drunk to Mr. Goff. He said that he learned the trade of ship carpenter, and previous to 1866, when he joined the force, he had charge of shipyards in China and Japan. When he left there he was worth from \$15,000 to \$20,000 and had property in Japan. He accounted for his transactions in real estate and swore positively that he was never directly or indirectly connected with the sale of Hollywood whisky.

The inspector had frequently been accused of having an interest in the company which handled the brand of liquor, and it was stated that by displaying the company's sign in a prominent place the proprietors of saloons were protected from arrest or annoyance for violation of the excise law.

Williams denounced Schmittberger as a liar, and said he was prompted to lie by a promise of immunity given him by the committee. He met Mr. Goff's attacks stubbornly, and frequently aroused merriment by his answers to several questions. After seventy minutes of fencing Mr. Goff asked for an adjournment until to-morrow morning, and the majority of the spectators said that Williams was the "toughest" witness that the investigator had met as yet.

It is expected that the examination of the inspector will occupy the whole of to-morrow's session.

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