NEWS OF VIENNA.

Warm Contest for Political Honors—General and Personal.

Special Correspondence of The Star.

VIENNA, Va., April 27, 1907.

With four candidates in the field for congressional honors the contest is being waged with remarkable vigor. Reports received from every county in the district indicate that Judge Charles E. Nicol of Prince William is in the lead. Fairfax, Prince William and Alexandria counties will give Nicol a very large vote. It is declared by Nicol followers that with the assistance of Alexandria city and Loudoun, Fauquier and Culpeper counties, the judge will easily win out. The friends of R. Lindsay Gordon of Louisa county claim their man will carry all the southern counties. The Ryan advocates say with Loudoun and Fauquier counties for their man and the farmer vote in the remaining counties, Ryan can't be beaten, while Carlin, who is from Alexandria, is being lionized by a very heavy following, who can't see how he is going to lose.

In the delegateship contest Fairfax county is being thoroughly canvassed by three candidates. At this time it looks as if Messrs. Williams and Oliver were in the lead. Efforts have been made to get the last two named together in a joint debate, but so far without success.

John F. Jerman has sold to Mr. T. L. Lovell of Boston for Mrs. C. Freeman thirty-five acres of land on the outskirts of town, for $3,200.

A large audience witnessed the closing exercises of the Vienna public schools yesterday.

Material is on hand to be used on the spur of the Old Dominion, to be built by private capitalists, from Vienna to Prospect Hill. Active work will be commenced at once.

The officials of the Falls Church railroad expect to put a schedule in operation on the new line from Clarendon to Washington in a few days.

Francis G. King and May E. Money of this place were married in Washington Wednesday. It is understood the young couple will reside in Washington.

At a meeting of the democratic executive committee of Fairfax county it was decided to hold the primary election for member of the house of delegates and for county and district officers June 19.

The condition of Mr. H. M. Fitzhugh of Fairfax, who recently sustained a stroke of paralysis, is gradually improving.

$50,000 for Home Missions.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 27.—The general board of home missions of the United Brethren Church closed its meetings Thursday. The board appropriated $50,000 for home mission work for the coming year and $2,000 for the education of deaconesses at Dayton.

The general board of foreign missions of the church began its session at Westerville Thursday. Reports of the officers showed that there was an increase of 52 per cent in the amount raised for the work compared with the previous year.

Special Panel for Burnham.

NEW YORK, April 27.—An application made by the district attorney for a special panel of jurors to try Frederick A. Burnham, president of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association, who has been indicted for forgery and larceny, was granted by Justice O'Gorman in the supreme court yesterday.

William Rand, jr., counsel for Burnham, said he favored the idea of a special panel to try Burnham, but he asked that the trial be not called at once because of the physical condition of the defendant. Mr. Burnham is very ill with diabetes, he said, and it would be nothing short of murder to bring him into court at this time.

The special panel was ordered to report for duty May 13.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 27.—At an executive meeting last night of the Metal Workers' Union, the men declined to consider the proposition of a nine-hour day and an advance of 5 per cent made to them by the Employers' Association, representing seventy-six firms, but postponed definite action to call a strike to enforce an eight-hour day until next Monday.

WELCOME TO BRYCE

No Ambassador Received With So Much Cordiality.

SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE

How It Was Drawn Away From This Country.

CAREER OF FRANK STEINHART

Nine Years Ago Was Private Soldier, Now is Under Ten Years' Contract at $25,000 a Year.

BY WILLIAM E. CURTIS.

Written for The Star and the Chicago Record-Herald.

No ambassador or plenipotentiary to this country, or to any other country, ever received a more cordial welcome than Mr. James Bryce. The attention he has received from all classes and in all parts of the country is unprecedented. If his official duties had permitted him to accept all the invitations that have been sent him, every day and almost every hour since he landed at New York would have been occupied by official and personal courtesies. This has been a tribute to the man as well as to the nation he represents. Other ambassadors have been warmly welcomed, but none so cordially as Mr. Bryce.

Mr. Bryce is not a stranger in the United States. He has been here several times before, and had many acquaintances and personal friends among our scientific and literary men, our statesmen and politicians. He has written a standard work upon this country. His "American Commonwealth" has probably been quoted as an impartial authority upon American institutions as much as any other book ever published. In his comments and criticisms upon our national institutions and customs he has shown an understanding that has seldom been attained by a foreigner. Few Englishmen, although they are supposed to be our cousins, have ever been able to perceive and appreciate our national characteristics so distinctly and so thoroughly as he.

How the Trade Was Lost.

There is another reason why we should be partial to the Bryces, although it pertains to the French and German embassies equally as well. Mrs. Bryce is half an American, a sort of stepdaughter of Uncle Sam. She was a Miss Ashton, daughter of Thomas Ashton of Fordbank, near Manchester, England, and her mother was Miss Wheelwright, daughter of William Wheelwright, originally of Boston, whose statue will be found in both Chile and the Argentine Republic, for he was the father of their foreign commerce and their internal improvements. He built the first railway in Chile and the first in the Argentine Republic, and founded the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, which has one of the largest fleets of any company in the world, and for many years had a monopoly of the traffic between England and the west coast of South America. It continues to run a fortnightly steamer between Panama and Liverpool by way of the Straits of Magellan.

In 1826 Mr. Wheelwright was wrecked on the coast of the Argentine Republic and found his way to a small town called Quilmes, barefooted, hatless and starving. He remained in the country and engaged in business, built a railroad from Quilmes to Buenos Aires, and in 1839, foreseeing the immense trade that might be developed between the two American continents, came to New York and endeavored to interest Aspinwall, Garrison, Astor, Vanderbilt and other financial magnates of that day in the organization of a steamship line. They rejected his proposition. He then went to England, where he secured the necessary capital, built a fleet of steamers and turned the entire course of South American commerce from its natural channel. When that company was organized there were twice as many ships from the United States in the harbors of Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Ayres, Valparaiso, Callao and other South American ports, as from all the other countries in the world combined. Today our flag is seldom seen at a masthead in these waters. Mr. Root says that while he was circumnavigating the southern continent last year he saw but one American ship in a voyage of more than nine thousand miles, and his experience is the same as that of every traveler. The statistical reports give us less than 1 per cent of the carrying trade of South America.

Frank Steinhart's Career.

The President has appointed James Linn Rogers, formerly a newspaper man at Columbus, Ohio, and more recently consul general at Shanghai, to be consul general at Havana, and he will take charge of that office on the 1st of July.

Mr. Frank Steinhart, who has been consul general at Havana since March 26, 1903, retires to take charge of the interests of Speyer Bros., the New York bankers in Cuba, with a ten-year contract at a salary of $25,000 a year. The contract was signed nearly a year ago, and Speyer & Co. have needed the services of Mr. Steinhart ever since, but at the request of Secretary Root he continued to perform his consular duties during the recent crisis and will remain several months longer because of his extraordinary influence over the Cuban leaders and his exceptional knowledge of men and affairs on that island.

Mr. Steinhart has had a remarkable career. He was born in Munich. When he was ten years old his parents came over to this country and settled at Allentown, Pa., where he attended the public schools until 1880, when, at the age of seventeen, he enlisted as a private in the 10th Infantry of the regular army. He served with his regiment at various military posts in the west, was promoted for good conduct and efficiency until he became first sergeant of his company, and, at the end of his first term, reenlisted. Shortly after his reenlistment in 1885 he was transferred to military headquarters at Chicago as a clerk by Gen. Schofield and served in the same capacity under Gens. Terry, Ruger, Miles, Merritt and Brooke. When the Spanish war broke out in 1898 he went in charge of the clerical force of the headquarters of the 1st Army Corps, Gen. Brooke commanding, to the camp at Chickamauga, then to Porto Rico, and finally to Havana, where he was made chief clerk of the military government under Gen. Brooke.

When Gen. Brooke was recalled he remained in the same relation under Gen. Wood, and, upon the withdrawal of the military government and the establishment of the republic, he was designated as agent for the War Department in Cuba and custodian of archives and government property belonging to the United States upon that island.

His knowledge of events, orders, precedents and other matters occurring under the military government caused him to be frequently consulted by the officials of the republic, and in that way he made the acquaintance and gained the confidence of President Palma and other prominent Cubans. They became accustomed to go to him for advice, as well as information, and without any desire or ambition on his own part he became the power behind the throne. President Palma consulted him about all matters of policy and business, official and personal, and while he had no relation with the Cuban government, and no office or desk among its officials, he spent a great deal of his time at the palace by invitation and ultimately came to occupy closer relations with President Palma than any other man in Cuba.

In the meantime, in March, 1903, after Gen. Bragg had been recalled for expressing his opinions of the Cubans so freely, and Mr. Rubiee had been transferred to Vienna at his own request, Mr. Steinhart was appointed consul general of the United States upon the recommendation of Gen. Wood and other military officers who were familiar with his valuable services there. His intimate relations with the palace continued after his appointment, although his official duties would not permit him to devote so much attention to Cuban affairs as formerly.

Would Have Averted Downfall.

President Palma continued to consult him and usually acted upon his advice, and it is believed by many of his supporters and friends in Havana that his failure to do so in one instance resulted in the downfall of the Cuban republic.

Two active politicians, Senors Montalvo and Freyer-Andrade, leaders of the moderate party, were ambitious to become members of the cabinet, and were supported by many influential Cubans. Steinhart, who thought he understood their purposes, opposed their appointment, and when he was leaving Havana for his annual vacation succeeded in obtaining a promise from President Palma that he would not yield to the pressure they were bringing upon him. During Steinhart's absence, however, both men succeeded in securing portfolios; they took charge of the political features of the administration; they planned and carried out the frauds that were committed at the elections, and thus brought on the revolution which drove the Palma government from power. Had President Palma kept his pledge to Steinhart he might still be sitting in the executive chair of the Cuban people.

Upon Steinhart's return to Havana his intimacy with the president was not resumed. Montalvo and Andrade had succeeded in poisoning Palma's mind against him, but when the crisis arrived and Palma discovered how he had been betrayed by his own cabinet and involved in entanglements that he could not escape, he sent for the American consul general, confided to him the perils of the situation, and asked him to notify the President of the United States that the government forces were not able to suppress the rebellion or protect life and property. From that moment until Secretary Taft arrived at Havana and proclaimed a provisional government Steinhart remained at President Palma's side, and he has since been equally valuable as an adviser to Governor General Magoon.

An extraordinary memory and an acquaintance with every man of affairs in Cuba makes Mr. Steinhart invaluable as an information bureau to a stranger carrying the responsibilities Gov. Magoon has assumed, and the latter told me once that he had never yet asked for information that Steinhart was not ready to give him offhand or obtain for him within a few hours. He knows the history of every event that has occurred in Cuba since the beginning of the revolution for independence; he knows the record, the relations and the character of almost every man in the island, and possesses a keenness of penetration which enables him to detect the motives and foresee the purposes of the Cuban politicians with almost unnatural accuracy.

While soldiering in the army and serving as a clerk at headquarters, Mr. Steinhart spent his leisure time in studying law and languages. He is able to speak, read and write English, German, French and Spanish, and can read Italian, Greek and Latin also; while he has gone far enough in law to be admitted to the bar. At the same time he has shown unusual shrewdness in financial affairs, and has invested and reinvested his small savings with such success that he is already well-to-do. Speyer & Co., the New York bankers and promoters, who have very large interests in Cuba, had occasion to consult Mr. Steinhart frequently while he has been in charge of the consulate, and his advice and information have been so sound and valuable that nearly a year ago they asked him to take charge of all their investments on the island, with a salary of $25,000 a year, a position in striking contrast with that of the private soldier who came to Cuba with Gen. Brooke nine years ago.

Horse Speculators Complain.

In a letter from Havana recently I told the story of the manner in which horse stealing was licensed by Secretary Taft last fall and of the almost universal frauds that were attempted by members of the insurgent forces and people who claim that their horses were stolen. The commission of army officers of which Maj. Kernan of the general staff is chairman requires every horse to be produced for inspection in order to estimate its value and to prevent "ringers." This precaution, however, is not satisfactory to the speculators, who are trying to make something out of Secretary Taft's order. A man named Antonio M. de Villa writes to one of the Havana newspapers complaining of the painful manner in which he and other claimants have been treated and of the arbitrary methods of the commission. He declares that the people of Cuba have been deceived. He says:

"They believed in all good faith that when the owner of a stolen horse once established his claim before a municipal judge there would be nothing more to do than to receive the indemnity without delay. But the appraisements made by the municipal judges have been set aside and commissions have been appointed to go to the place where the claim is filed and oblige the owner of the stolen animal to produce the animal and the robber, the commission making its own appraisement and repudiating the valuation of the owner as though it had been fraudulent."

The average appraisement by the municipal judges of the horses stolen has been $165; the average by the commission has been $52 per animal; hence the speculators are making a terrible outcry.

IN THE JUVENILE COURT.

Judge DeLacy Deals With Large Number of Young Offenders.

Before the Juvenile Court of the District yesterday were seventeen cases, involving twenty-three juvenile offenders, three children to be committed to the care of the board of children's guardians, two husbands charged with non-support of their minor children and one husband brought in on an attachment for failing to pay a stated sum to his wife for the support of his family. The court began its session shortly after 10 o'clock, it being Saturday, and the session lasted continuously until after 2 o'clock.

James Lee, a fifteen-year-old colored boy, was one of the first to be tried, and he was called upon to answer a charge of carrying a revolver. Lee, the testimony showed, took a heavy part in a play given at True Reformers' Hall, 12th and U streets. After the show, it is stated, the boy left the hall flourishing a weapon. On his way home he was stopped by Policeman Holmes of the eighth precinct and questioned. The pistol was found on the boy, it was testified.

Judge DeLacey cautioned the boy that displaying a weapon must be confined to the play and adjudged him guilty of the charge. Lee will be on probation for a year and the gun that played such an important part in the case was ordered destroyed.

A gang of eleven boys were defendants in another case before the court, but owing to the absence of material witnesses the trial was continued until Monday. The boys gave their names as Walter Hughes, Roland Unglobb, Robert L. Burton, Clarence Bunn, Joseph Kuns, John Pettle, Elmer Smith, James Sullivan, Paul Sullivan, Howard Miller and David Miller.

It is alleged that the boys entered a vacant house on 2d street southeast owned by Margaret Mockabee of Hyattsville and began playing. Considerable damage was caused. Policeman Skinner of the fifth precinct learned of the matter and he ordered the boys to report at the Juvenile Court to answer a charge of destroying private property.

GRADUATES OF OLD PENNSY.

Program Adopted by Alumni Association for Annual Meeting.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Washington Alumni Association of the University of Pennsylvania held Wednesday evening at the University Club a new form of entertainment was decided upon for this year for the annual celebration of the resident alumni.

John E. Rayburn, mayor of Philadelphia, an alumnus of the Pennsylvania University, has placed his magnificent steam yacht "Gretchen" at the disposal of the Washington Association for a day during the month of May for an outing on the Potomac. In view of the fact that Dr. H. C. Yarrow, president of the Mount Vernon Ducking Association, is also president of the Washington Association of the University of Pennsylvania a trip down the river on the "Gretchen" was proposed, the objective point being an island in the river near Quantico called "Chapawamsic" and owned by the Mount Vernon Ducking Club. The proposition was enthusiastically received and May 12 was selected as the date for the outing, which promises to be the crowning entertainment given by the graduates of "Old Penn" residing in Washington.

It is planned to leave the city about 10 or 11 o'clock, Sunday, May 12. Dinner will be served on the island, which is one of the most beautiful on the lower river and famous as the home of one of the most exclusive shooting clubs in the tidewater section of Maryland or Virginia. It is planned to reach Washington on the return trip about 8 o'clock, thus permitting every alumnus of the university to enjoy a day's outing under exceptionally pleasant circumstances and at the same time renew allegiance to his alma mater.

In addition to Dr. Yarrow, president of the Alumni Association, there were present at the meeting Dr. James G. McKay, secretary-treasurer, and the executive committee composed of Dr. M. G. Lloyd, Dr. A. B. Crane and Edgar C. Snyder.

Western Maryland College Won.

WESTMINSTER, Md., April 27.—The ninth annual contest of the Oratorical Association of Maryland Colleges was held in Alumni Hall of Western Maryland College last night. The judges awarded the first prize, a gold medal, to John Hunt Hendrickson of Western Maryland College, and the second prize, also a gold medal, to Lewin Wethered Barroll of Washington College. The other two speakers were H. W. Lippincott of Agricultural College, and Alton S. Arnold of St. John's College. These contests were inaugurated at Western Maryland College in 1899, and this occasion had the special interest of beginning the circuit of the membership for the third time. Of the eight previous contests, Western Maryland College has won first place six times, Washington College once and St. John's once.

HAMILTON, Ohio, April 27.—The night force at the Champion Coated paper works, 450 in number, struck last night. The men demand eight-hour shifts. The plant has been run on two shifts, the day force working eleven hours, the night thirteen hours. Nearly 1,000 men and women are employed.