

WASHINGTON.

Washington, March 2, 1900. The republican leaders of the House are still shaking from the fright given them by their narrow escape from a humiliating defeat on the Porto Rico tariff bill.

Senator Aldrich explained the gold standard bill agreed upon by the Conference Committee, to the Senate, but he did not attempt the impossible task of defending the measure, which ought to be officially entitled "A bill to put money in the pockets of the rich at the expense of the poor."

Within 24 hours of the time that the House was passing the bill to rob the poor Porto Ricans by imposing a duty upon the products they have to sell the Senate was taking the first step towards making Hawaii a State, by passing the bill providing a territorial government for Hawaii.

The House Military Committee has endorsed two pet schemes of the administration to provide promotion for favorites—that to give the Adjutant General of the army the rank, pay and allowance of major-general, which will be in the nature of a reward to Gen. Corbin for his subservience to Alger, and his underhand attacks upon Gen. Miles, his superior officer; and that authorizing the President to select a retired brigadier general for promotion to major general, which is intended to give Gen. Shafter the difference between the pay and emoluments of a brigadier general and a major general, retired, as a reward for the Cuban campaign, the greater part of which he spent lying in a hammock. "Funny" old world.

Representative Bailey, of Texas, made the closing speech on the democratic side against the Porto Rico tariff bill, and it was a powerful plea for the maintenance of the Constitution as its farmers intended it to be maintained. His last words, which were received with uproarious applause by the democrats and the occupants of the galleries, were: "When emotional statesmen were asking who would haul down the flag, I dared to say that I would take it down from any place where the Constitution could not follow it. Do you desire to present the anomaly of a government restrained by the Constitution in one quarter of the globe, and possessed of a despotic power in the rest of the world? How long is the Constitution to shield us and our children if its protection is withheld from the humblest inhabitant? Let me borrow the words of Lincoln: 'This republic cannot endure one-half free and one-half slave.' We must all be citizens, or in time we must all be subjects. I did not want to assimilate these alien and inferior races, and I pray God to deliver us from the task. But if you will take them, they must share our destiny with us."

The bill providing for the ship sub-

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FRANK J. CHENEY. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December 1886.

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sidly job has been favorably reported to the Senate. The report which was made on the bill will be widely circulated by the republicans for the purpose of trying to create a public sentiment for the \$200,000,000 job, but it is very doubtful whether they will try to push the bill through until after the Presidential election, as a word has been passed around among the republicans in Congress to keep the total of appropriations made at this session of Congress down as much as possible, with the understanding that the money can safely be made to fly at the next session, which will not be held until after the Presidential election.

Of course, the disagreeable weather in Washington had nothing to do with the departure for Cuba, via Florida, of Secretary Root. He is going to make an "official inspection" of Cuban ports, using a government transport after he reaches Tampa. What part his wife, son and daughter, who accompanied him, are to take in the "official inspection" is a question which he may be able to answer. To some persons this trip looks like a winter junket for his family at public expense.

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"The Lion of Africa."

The "Lion of Africa," as General Pietrus Amoldus Cronje is known throughout the country, from the Limpopo river to Cape Town, has justified the designation by his grim life and death struggle at Paardeberg Drift.

His people regard him as a demigod. He is really a short, rough, tough, wily, good natured Dutchman, with a big beard and an incessant pipe. He is intensely religious, and in the Boer war of 1882 he deliberately squatted on an exposed position while Krugersdorp was being shelled. "Come into a safe place, General," said a comrade. "Nay," replied Cronje, complacently puffing his pipe, "if the Lord means me to be taken I shall be shot wherever I sit.

To him the Boers are the chosen people, and in fighting the British, it is said, he has repeatedly referred to his "smiting the Amelekites. A SOLDIER FROM HIS YOUTH. He lives on a farm near Potchefstroom, about 60 miles west of Johannesburg, and in time of peace, as superintendent of Natives, he lives quietly, performing his duties in the way least troublesome to him. But wonderful stories are told of the courage and resources which he displayed in the old days, when the Boers were trekking north, fighting their way through swarms of hostile savages and defending the laager camp against fierce onslaughts.

Cronje has been a soldier from his youth. He began his military career in the ranks and has worked his way up to the second place in the Boer army solely by his merits as a fighter and tactician. He was already a field cornet at Laing's Nek, in 1881, and was second in command to Joubert in the notable affair at Majuba Hill. His chief distinction in the Boer war of independence was gained, however, in the siege and capture of Potchefstroom, the town near which his homestead is situated. The place was defended by a small British garrison under Colonel Winslow. Cronje led the Boer forces to the attack and Winslow surrendered. The Boer leader was accused by the British of resorting to unfair methods during the siege.

"THE CONQUEROR OF 'DR. JIM.'" As time passed, Cronje rose in rank, and when the Jameson raid occurred, in the closing days of 1895, he was placed in the responsible position of commander of the Boer force, which was sent to head it off. This he did effectually. Cronje rounded up Dr. Jameson and his followers in the little village of Dornkop. He had no artillery, but his whole force was armed with rifles, and was made up of first-class marksmen. By their commander's orders the Coers picked off the British artillerists, rendering their guns useless, and bringing the raid to a premature close. As a reward for his management of the Jameson affair Cronje was appointed to succeed General Joubert as Superintendent of Native Affairs, and he now holds that civil position under the Transvaal government.

HIS RECENT VICTORIES. Soon after the declaration of war, in October last, he was made second in command of the united forces of the two Boer Republics, and was assigned to the district on the western border of the Transvaal and Orange Free State. It was by the forces under his command that the British gar-

rison in Mafeking and Kimberley were shut in.

But General Cronje's operations have not been confined to the investment and occasional bombardment of these two British towns. When General Methuen started to the relief of Kimberley in November he encountered Cronje's force at Gras Pan, on the twenty-fifth of that month. The resulting encounter was practically a drawn battle. Three days later there was another and more desperate encounter on the Modder river. This encounter brought Methuen's advance to a halt, and two weeks later—on Dec. 12th—Cronje defeated Lord Methuen in the decisive battle of Magersfontein, in which the Highland Brigade was slaughtered and its commander, General Wainwright, killed.

He held his position at Magerfontein until Roberts' advance in overwhelming superior numbers forced him to retreat to Paardeberg Drift, where he was forced to surrender unconditionally on Tuesday morning. Philadelphia Record.

Business of the Week

In its epitomization of the past six days in business, Dunn's Weekly Review says:

Besides the 81 commercial failures for \$9,931,043 which we report today, there were in February six banking failures for \$620,121, and receivers were appointed for the United States Flour Milling Company, with \$25,000,000 of stock and \$15,000,000 of bonds authorized at its organization last April, and for the Third Avenue Railroad Company after liens for several millions had been placed upon the property. Unless separated from such events, commercial failures could not be compared with benefit. The manufacturing failures for \$4,257,638 were larger than in February of 1896 or 1895, but more than half the amount was in two classes, four large lumber and one clothing failure making 38 per cent. of the whole. The trading failures were larger than in February of last year only, but 20 per cent. of these defaults were made in five failures. In most branches the comparison with previous years is encouraging, and analysis brings out in strong light the remarkably low average of liabilities in the smaller failures which constitute the great majority, indicating sound business conditions and unusually satisfactory collections. The rise of cotton to 9 1/2 cts., the highest point since January, 1893, has done much to stimulate business, drawing from southern plantations and country towns more than double the quantity marketed last year, distributing millions to producers whose purchases of supplies are thus increased, and swelling beyond all expectation the purchases for export. Heavy selling of cotton by people who had none, but felt certain that 9 cts. would mark the limit of the rise, had placed them quite at the mercy of holders. But the markets both for goods and for cotton have been affected all over the world, and the country will reap some benefit in a larger excess of merchandise exports over imports. The

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market for goods has been pushed to greater activity, though they have risen only 3 per cent. since the year began, while the material has risen over 25 per cent.

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Table with columns for stations (NORTHUMBERLAND, CATASKILL, etc.) and times for EAST and WEST directions.

STATIONS. SCRANTON, BERTHOOD, TAYLOR, etc.

For Catskill, Philadelphia, Reading, Pottsville, etc. For Williamsport, weekdays, 7:30 a. m., 3:30 p. m.

For Danville and Milton, weekdays, 7:30 a. m., 3:30 p. m.

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Pennsylvania Railroad.

Time Table in effect Nov. 19, '99.

Table with columns for stations (Scranton, Hazleton, etc.) and times for A.M., P.M., and F.M. directions.

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