

HARD ON CRIMINALS.

Rev. Cyrus F. Wixon Advances a Startling Idea.

He Favors the Extermination of All Lawbreakers Guilty of Capital or State Prison Offenses by Means of Chloroform.

Rev. Cyrus F. Wixon, a retired Methodist clergyman, of Newburg, N. Y., recently announced at a meeting of a Chautauqua circle that he was in favor of the extermination of criminals. Asked how he would exterminate them, he replied to a New York Herald reporter:

"The guillotine is too bloody, hanging is too violent and electrocution is too uncertain and expensive. We don't know how much the criminal suffers. When a criminal has committed two offenses I would chloroform him. I don't think it is right that a hundred thousand criminals should be saddled on the pockets of taxpayers. Criminologists say that crime is hereditary. Yes, I would chloroform them."

Rabbi Hartog Veld asked Mr. Wixon if he did not think there was a chance for reform.

"There is not one criminal in a hundred that is ever reformed," replied Mr. Wixon.

"You are older than I," rejoined Dr. Veld, "and though I have had experience as a prison chaplain I will not contradict you," and then the matter was dropped.

Rev. Mr. Wixon is a mild-mannered, benign looking gentleman, about 65 years old. When asked to define the line of offenses which he considered called for the death penalty he replied:

"As to what classes of people should be subjected to capital punishment, I would include those whose offenses are adjudged capital now, also state prison offenses. Capital punishment should be inflicted in those cases after the second offense. I may add that there are some state prison offenses which I consider should be capital crimes, such as polygamy and cases of great violence."

In response to a question as to how he would carry out this proposition Rev. Mr. Wixon said:

"In the first place it would be necessary for some of the laws on our

SIR REDVERS BULLER.

Commander in Chief in South Africa Is Twelfth on the List of British Generals.

The list of field marshals in the British army is headed by the queen's cousin, the duke of Cambridge; and her son, the prince of Wales, is second. Her son-in-law, Prince Christian, is among those who hold the rank of general; and her son, the duke of Connaught, is third.

It is needless to say, remarks the Youth's Companion, that not one of these is ever called upon for active service in the field. When there is a war, great or small, a trained soldier is



SIR REDVERS BULLER. (From the Latest Photograph of the British Leader in South Africa.)

chosen, and it is the British policy to give opportunity to as many as possible to distinguish themselves. Lord Wolseley won his reputation in the Ashanti war in Egypt; Lord Roberts in India and Afghanistan; and Lord Kitchener in the Sudan.

Now the command in South Africa went to Sir Redvers Buller, the twelfth on the list of generals—a man who has seen service in China, in Canada, and in the Ashanti, Kafir and Zulu wars. He can append a long string of letters to his name—"K. C. M. G.," "G. C. B.," and the two magic letters which he doubtless prizes more than all the rest, "V. C." For Sir Redvers won the Victoria cross by two most conspicuous acts of personal bravery on one day during the Zulu campaign.

He is not a young man, for he has passed his sixtieth birthday. Nor is he a popular commander in the usual sense of that term. He is tall and powerfully built, and looks the soldier he is—a commander who will stop at nothing, and who expects the men under his command to exhibit the same cool bravery that characterizes him.

His manners are abrupt and his disposition is combative. The story is told that he had a controversy with Lord Charles Beresford, during the Nile campaign, as to the proper channel to take in descending a cataract. Sir Redvers carried his point and the steamboat passed the cataract safely.

"You see," said Sir Redvers, "mine was the right course."

"Oh," replied Sir Charles, "it was my choice, too. I only recommended the other because I knew you would oppose whatever I said."

PRESIDENT OF SENATE.

William P. Frye Will Occupy the Position on Account of Vice President Hobart's Death.

William P. Frye was born at Lewiston, Me., September 2, 1831; graduated at Bowdoin college, Maine, 1850; studied and practiced law; was a member of the state legislature in 1861, 1862 and 1867; was mayor of Lewiston in 1866 and 1867; was attorney general of the state of Maine in 1867, 1868 and 1869; was elected a member of the national republican executive committee in 1872, and reelected in 1876 and 1880; was elected a trustee of Bowdoin college in June 1880, re-



WILLIAM P. FRYE. (Presiding Officer of the United States Senate.)

ceived the degree of LL. D. from Bates college in July, 1881, and the same degree from Bowdoin college in 1889; was a presidential elector in 1864; was a delegate to the national republican conventions in 1872, 1876 and 1880; was elected chairman of the republican state committee of Maine in place of Hon. James G. Blaine, resigned, in November, 1881; was elected a representative in the Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh congresses; was elected to the United States senate as a republican, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of James G. Blaine, appointed secretary of state, took his seat March 18, 1881; was reelected in 1885, in 1888, and again in 1895, receiving every vote with one exception, in both branches of the legislature; elected president pro tem. of the senate, February 7, 1896, was a member of the commission which met in Paris, September, 1898, to adjust terms of peace between the United States and Spain. His term of service will expire March 3, 1901.

SAVED BY AGUINALDO.

American Prisoners Would Have Been Shot to Death Had Not the Insurgent Leader Interfered.

Manila, Dec. 1.—When the landing party from the United States battleship Oregon took the town of Vigan, province of South Ilocos, last Sunday it found there an escaped prisoner, A. L. Sonnenshein, who furnished the first authentic account of the experience of Lieut. James C. Gilmore, of the United States gunboat Yorktown, who with a party from the Yorktown was captured by the insurgents near Baler, on the east coast of Luzon, last April, while making an examination of the mouth of the river in an armed boat.

Sonnenshein was imprisoned at Abra for a long time with Lieut. Gilmore and seven sailors, but contrived to escape, carrying a concealed note, written in naval cipher, dated Abra, November 19, addressed to "any naval officer" and saying: "You may have perfect confidence in anything the bearer says." The note was signed "Gilmore." According to Mr. Sonnenshein, when Gilmore's launch entered the river from Baler harbor, under cover of Ensign W. H. Standley's gun, the landing was received with three volleys. Two of the Americans were killed and two mortally wounded. Every man was hit, Lieut. Gilmore receiving a flesh wound in the leg and his foot stuck fast in the mud. It was a choice between surrender and being slaughtered.

Gilmore asked the terms of release. The insurgents proposed that he should procure the delivery to them of the arms and munitions of the Spanish garrison, undertaking, if this was accomplished, to send the Spaniards and Americans to the Yorktown. A sailor of Lieut. Gilmore's party carried this proposition to the garrison. The Spanish commandant replied that it was an insult to Spanish arms and expelled the sailor, a soldier firing upon him as he went. The Americans were then bound hand and foot and taken to San Isidro, where Luna ordered their execution. They were marched to the plaza and in the presence of a great crowd were aligned to be executed. Lieut. Gilmore said: "As an American officer and gentleman I protest against being shot with my hands tied."

Aguinaldo interfered and prevented the execution. When Gen. Lawton approached San Isidro last June the Americans were removed to Abra, where they were kept confined in cells for two months. Subsequently they were allowed greater liberty, but the report that Lieut. Gilmore was given a house and servant is untrue. He had the same quarters as the men, and the Americans were given the same allowance as the Spanish prisoners.

A POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

Silver Republicans Plan to Make One with Anti-Expansionists in Eastern States.

Chicago, Dec. 1.—The silver republicans in conference here Tuesday and Wednesday planned, it is announced, to ally themselves with and make use of the "anti-imperialism" agitation, especially in eastern states, where the silver issue does not attract. Co-operation with Edward Atkinson's following will be sought. The purpose of the silver republicans is to gain, if possible, with this new foothold in eastern states, so that their party can more truly claim to be a national organization and thus become a more effective whip for holding the democrats to the Bryan and 16 to 1 line. This is one reason why the silver republicans went to hold a big national convention of 2,000 or more delegates next year. Confirmation of this plan came Thursday from Fred J. Dubois, former senator from Idaho, and chairman of the silver republican executive committee.

"There is no place for the republican anti-imperialists of New England to go except into our party," Mr. Dubois said. "The assured composition of the United States senate for several years convinces them that silver legislation cannot be passed for many years yet. On imperialism and kindred questions they are one with us. I am satisfied they will come to us."

A NEW WAGE SCALE.

Miners' Strike of Four Months' Duration Practically Ended by Its Acceptance.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Dec. 1.—The conference between the officials of the Susquehanna Coal Co. and a committee of the striking miners, which has been in session the past two days, ended last night. A new scale was promulgated. It is satisfactory to both sides and will terminate the long strike. The strikers now await the sanction of the officers of the United Mine Workers before returning to work. Organizer Benjamin James, who is in Nanticoke, wants the ten firemen who left their posts during the strike reinstated in the old positions. The company objects to this. The officials say they cannot overlook the action of the firemen, but as a compromise will give them other employment. It is likely that the point in dispute will be amicably settled.

The new wage scale is looked upon as a victory for the company. The prices for digging a car of coal are the same as the old scale. A few minor concessions are granted the men. The 4,000 strikers have been idle since August 5 and it is estimated that they have lost in wages \$462,000.

Pierced by a Ramrod.

Pittsburg, Dec. 1.—After serving in the Spanish war and handling an old gun hundreds of times during the past eight years, Private James Starkey, of Hampton battery B, N. G. P., lost his life yesterday through the premature discharge of a cannon on Monument Hill, Allegheny, while firing a salute during the ceremonies incident to the unveiling of the Spanish cannon presented to Allegheny. Two other members of the firing squad were burned by powder and slightly injured. The ramrod used in filling the gun was forced almost through Starkey's chest.

A YEAR'S WORK SUMMARIZED.

Annual Report of the Secretary of Agriculture is Made Public.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The annual report of Secretary Wilson summarizes an immense amount of valuable work done by the agricultural department during the past year.

He comments particularly on the successful extension of the weather bureau service around the Caribbean sea, giving timely storm warnings to the vessels of the navy and merchant marine.

The department has gathered much information regarding the plants which supply India rubber and gutta percha and expects during the coming year to locate in our island possessions zones suitable for the culture of these plants. The United States now imports about \$30,000,000 worth of rubber annually and it is thought that a large portion of this supply can be raised in our new island possessions. The same is true of Egyptian cotton, of which we import \$5,000,000 worth annually, while he thinks that \$200,000,000 worth of tropical products which we now import each year can all be raised in Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines.

Irrigation work in the west has been carried on and much alkali land has been reclaimed. The secretary's recommendations in this line include irrigation experiments in the east and south outside of the arid region.

The secretary strongly recommends a more rigid inspection of our export dairy products, to counteract the injury that has been done to this trade by unscrupulous dealers in the past.

Regarding seed distribution the secretary says that there is no need for the department to come into competition with the sales of seedsmen, but that there is room for valuable work in the collection and distribution of such foreign seeds and plants as are adapted to this country, but would not be secured by private enterprise.

Tea growing experiments in South Carolina are commended, and he notes that 3,600 pounds of good tea were raised in the gardens at Summerville in the past season.

Turkistan alfalfa introduced by the department has been found a valuable forage plant in the northwest for resisting both cold and drought. Its introduction, it is said, probably will add millions of dollars to the annual hay product of the country.

A valuable quality of rice has been introduced from Japan. It is superior to the domestic product and should it succeed in Louisiana, hundreds of thousands of dollars would be added yearly to the rice growing industry.

TAKES WOOD'S ADVICE.

Secretary of War Orders a Reduction of the Army in Cuba.

Washington, Nov. 30.—Gen. Leonard Wood had a two hours' conference with the secretary of war yesterday. After the conference Secretary Root announced that his recommendations as to the removal of troops from Cuba had been approved and that orders would be issued putting them into effect.

Gen. Wood said that in his opinion all the rumors of impending trouble in Cuba were groundless, that there was no real prospect of a revolt, and that whatever friction and discontent did exist among the Cubans was due to the recent talk of a civil governor for the island. When asked about the report of his selection for this position, Gen. Wood said:

"I do not know a thing about it. I have heard nothing of the plan for a civil governor except what I have seen in the papers. It has not been offered to me and I have not been asked for any suggestions on the subject. Whatever discontent may have arisen among the Cubans on this subject grows, I think, from their misunderstanding of the term civil governor. I rather take it that they understand it to mean a permanent American government for the island."

Concerning his mission to Washington, he said that it was merely for consultation about the reduction of the American force in the island.

"I have recommended a reduction of about 20 per cent. of the force in my department," said Gen. Wood, "that is to say the recall of the Fifteenth infantry and the removal of a squadron from each of the cavalry regiments. I think that this is perfectly feasible. When I say that Santiago is quiet, it is a fair indication of the situation throughout the island. Every revolution that has started there has started in Santiago province, and in the last war 70 per cent. of the troops were drawn from that province."

It is stated that the president has decided on the reward to be allotted to Gen. Wood when his term of service in Cuba is over. It is said that Gen. Wood is slated to succeed Gen. Sternberg as surgeon general of the army when the latter retires in June, 1900.

Important, if True.

New York, Nov. 30.—Wall street heard with incredulity the denial by high railroad officials of the report that the Pennsylvania railroad had obtained control of the Baltimore & Ohio. A Wall street news bureau yesterday published the following statement, which was regarded by many in Wall street as substantially correct: "We can state on excellent authority that the control of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad is now in the hands of Pennsylvania railroad and allied interests."

Young Gridley is Provided For.

Washington, Nov. 30.—J. V. Gridley, a son of the late Capt. Gridley, who commanded Admiral Dewey's flagship at the battle of Manila, was yesterday designated for appointment as a lieutenant in the marine corps by President McKinley. Young Gridley is too old to enter Annapolis, and the only opening for him in the navy lay in the appointment to the marine corps, but he lacked the necessary education, and, worse than all, the money for study. President McKinley and Admiral Dewey will pay his expenses in preparing for examination.

SIX KILLED AT A CROSSING.

Passenger Trains on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Road Collided at Paterson, N. J.

New York, Nov. 30.—The eastbound Buffalo express on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, while standing outside the station at Van Winkle street crossing at Paterson, N. J., last night, was run into by a swiftly moving accommodation train bound from Phillipsburg, N. J., to Jersey City. At least six people were killed and there are now 20 injured at the hospital in Paterson, of whom some will probably die, while some of those not seriously injured were able to go to their destinations. The dead:

Alexander Craig, of Scranton, Pa., business manager of the Scranton Tribune.

Esther S. Craig, his wife.

Esther Craig, their 15-year-old daughter.

Jessie Craig, their 11-year-old daughter.

Mrs. May Roe, wife of David Roe, of Ithaca, N. Y.

Walter J. Walbrook, 19 years old, of New York City. Mr. Walbrook was a student at Cornell.

The Buffalo express was No. 6, in charge of Conductor Capwell. The Phillipsburg train was No. 96, in charge of Conductor Burke, with Engineer Reardon. The Buffalo express was waiting for a local train to move that had been delayed at the station, and the Phillipsburg accommodation was following the express but a short distance behind. The two rear cars of the express were broken to pieces, most of the passengers on them being either killed or injured. The engine of the Phillipsburg train was completely wrecked, the engineer and fireman escaping by jumping.

Apparently the engineer of the Phillipsburg accommodation did not notice that the express drew up some 300 feet west of the depot. The express was 45 minutes late and the accommodation was following very closely. When Engineer Reardon saw the lights ahead the distance was too short to avoid a collision. His train was going at full speed. The engine plunged into the rear car of the express, a Pullman coach, and plowed through the heavy timbers almost its entire length. This car was lifted from the track and pushed to the next to the last car, also a Pullman, carrying off its end and almost completely telescoping it. The engine of the Phillipsburg train was torn to pieces. The wreckage caught fire, but the flames were soon extinguished.

From the wreck came groans, shrieks and prayers for death or deliverance. It was intensely dark at the scene, and as the broken wood was taken out of the wreck it was thrown to the sides of the tracks. Then it was set on fire to furnish light for the rescuers.

The rescuers took men and women out of the wreckage in rapid succession and they were hurried away to the hospitals. In many cases it was necessary to chop away the wreckage about the injured in order to get them out. One man was found standing out.

SWEEPED BY FLAMES.

Nearly \$2,000,000 Worth of Property is Destroyed in the Quaker City.

Philadelphia, Nov. 30.—Nearly \$2,000,000 worth of property was destroyed by two fires in the heart of the business section of this city yesterday. The greater of the two fires started in the department store of Partridge & Richardson at the southeast corner of Eighth and Filbert streets, and before the flames had been put under control they spread to adjoining property and caused a loss of about \$1,700,000. While this fire was in progress another broke out four blocks away at No. 419 Market street. The loss at this fire is estimated at \$110,000. The losses of the two fires are more than covered by insurance.

The eighth street fire started in the basement of Partridge & Richardson's store from an electric spark and soon the entire building was a mass of flames. The two stores south of Partridge & Richardson's were soon gutted, and then the flames attacked the big building of the J. B. Lippincott Publishing Co. The building was completely ruined. In this building, stored away in vaults, is nearly \$500,000 worth of manuscripts and plates, and it is not yet known whether they were destroyed.

ALL AT ONE TIME.

National Conventions of Democratic, Populist and Silver Republican Parties Will be Held.

Chicago, Nov. 30.—The special meeting of the national committee of the silver republican party adjourned yesterday to meet again at the call of the chairman, after having taken action that practically assures the fusion of the party with the democratic and populist parties, the indorsement of the democratic platform and the presidential candidate of that party.

Chairman Towne gave out the following official statement of the action of the committee:

"A resolution was unanimously adopted that a national convention of the silver republican party be held and the executive committee was instructed to confer with the democrats and populists in an effort to secure, if possible, the holding of all three conventions at the same time and place, and at the earliest practicable date, to the end that complete co-operation of the reform forces may be had."

Welcomed Home Their Braves.

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 30.—The First Tennessee regiment arrived here Wednesday from San Francisco, where it was mustered out upon its return from the Philippines. The regiment came in three sections. When the first section approached the city bells were rung and whistles blown, and this was repeated upon the arrival of the other sections. After breakfast at the depot the regiment formed in line and the parade through the principal streets began. A reception and ball were given last night and swords and other gifts presented officers of the regiment.

LARGE PROBLEMS

Secretary of War's Report Deals With Them.

OUR NEW POSSESSIONS.

Outline of the Government's Plan for Insular Government.

THE HEALTH OF OUR ARMY.

Death Rate Among the Soldiers is Less Than That of Several American Cities—A Cable Should be Laid from San Francisco to Manila.

Washington, Dec. 2.—The first annual report of Secretary Root, just made public, begins with a recital of the policy followed in reorganizing the army in accordance with the necessities arising from the discharge of the state volunteers and of the men enlisted for the war, and gives statistics of the past and present strength of the organization, covering in that respect matters dealt with in the reports of the major general commanding and of the adjutant general.

The operations in the Philippines are next taken up and the report points out that the outbreak of last February was provoked by the insurgents and was from our standpoint unavoidable. Frequent references are made to the report of Gen. Otis to show the magnitude of the task set for him with the inadequate forces at his command when the outbreak came, and a high tribute is paid to the courage of the troops, who in the face of great hardships voluntarily consented to forego an immediate return to their homes upon the expiration of their terms of service.

A chapter tells of what has been done in Cuba by the army during the past year. Order has been maintained, distress has been alleviated, sanitation has been instituted and in all respects satisfactory progress has been made, and the part played by our troops now is but the restraining influence of their presence.

In Porto Rico the year has been devoted to administering and improving the civil government of the island and instructing the people in the rudiments of self-government.

The health of the army has been remarkably good and the report shows that the death rate among the soldiers in the Philippines from disease is only 17.2 per 1,000, considerably less than in Washington, Boston, San Francisco, New York and Baltimore. The soldiers killed in battle and dying of wounds numbered 477 and the entire mortality was 843 for the past ten months.

The secretary deals at great length with the problem of insular government. He recalls the fact that the treaty of Paris places in congress alone the determination of the civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants of the territories ceded to the United States. He argues that this limitation deprives these people of the right to have the islands treated as states, or as territory previously acquired has been treated, or even to assert a legal right under the provisions of the constitution, which was established for the people of the United States themselves. Nevertheless he assumes that the intention is to give them to the greatest possible extent individual freedom, self-government in accordance with their capacity, just and equal laws, an opportunity for education, for profitable industry and for development and civilization.

Concerning Cuba the report says the control which we are exercising in trust for the people of Cuba will not be continued any longer than is necessary to enable the people to establish a suitable government to which the control shall be transferred, which shall really represent the people of Cuba and be able to maintain order and discharge international obligations.

Extended statements as to government in the Philippines is waived because of the full report which will be presented by the Philippine commission. Reference is made to the negotiation by Gen. Bates of the treaty with the sultan of Sulu and it is pointed out that it is not only subject to congressional approval, but the sultan has been informed that such approval did not carry with it the consent of the United States to the existence of slavery in the islands.

A strong recommendation is made for the laying of a Pacific cable as a matter of great military and political importance. The cost of such a cable is placed at not exceeding \$8,500,000, running by way of Hawaii, Wake Island and Guam from San Francisco to Manila.

One of the most important chapters of the report deals with the subject of army reorganization and on this point the secretary makes some most radical recommendations, pointing out the inadequacy of the present system and insufficiency of the force.

A New Trust is Planned.

Pittsburg, Dec. 2.—An attempt is being made to consolidate all of the iron and enameling factories in the belt which reaches from the Allegheny mountains to the Mississippi river. It is proposed to effect a consolidation of the leading companies that make enamelled ware, such as bath tubs, wash stands, and laundry and bath room equipment and then buy out the smaller concerns. The capital stock will be about \$10,000,000.

Molders' Strike Renewed.

Pittsburg, Dec. 2.—The strike of iron molders for a minimum wage rate of \$3 a day was renewed Friday at five of the largest foundries, and operations were suspended at 25 other foundries last night.



REV. CYRUS F. WIXON. (He Favors the Extermination of All Habitual Criminals.)

statute books to be repealed and new legislation would be needed. That is, laws should be enacted that would be in harmony with the infliction of the penalty I have prescribed.

"I think that the motive for the line of legislation I propose is the protection of property and the safety of the citizen. The present legislation on this subject is a failure. In support of this statement I will say that while the population has increased 20 per cent, crime has increased 33 per cent.

"I do not think it right, after a brief period of incarceration, to turn criminals loose upon the community, to the great danger of the public. Neither do I consider it the proper thing to do to support them in penal institutions at the expense of the honest taxpayers of the land. And I certainly do not consider it wise or just to allow criminals to disturb the rate of wages outside of prisons by self-support. Above all things I would urge that the execution of the death penalty should speedily follow conviction."

When the question was put to Mr. Wixon as to his opinion on the subject of heredity in crime, he said:

"Specialists and experts in criminology have repeatedly emphasized the fact that crime is incurable and hereditary."

"There are others, who have labored for the reformation of the criminal and lower classes, who tell us that not to exceed one per cent. are ever reformed. If it is not our desire to maintain this class of people at the expense of those who are honest, what are we going to do about it? Perhaps my views are not in harmony with those of clergymen generally. In fact, I do not know of any other clergyman who holds them. And they are not likely to prove popular with the clerical brethren. But while I feel that I am in the right about it I am fully satisfied."

New King of the Gypsies.

At Yetholm, in Scotland, a man named Faa was crowned king of the gypsies in succession to his late mother, who was known as Queen Esther. The crown of tin and tinsel was placed on his head by the village blacksmith, whose family is said to possess the hereditary right of crowning the gypsy sovereigns. The "king" rode in a carriage drawn by six asses.

Paris Exposition Fees.

The admission fees to the Paris exposition will be before ten a. m., two francs, or about 40 cents, to the entire exhibition; between the hours of ten a. m. and six p. m., a franc will be the charge, and after six p. m., on week days, two francs, while on Sundays the fee is not to be raised for the evening hours.