

NEARLY \$3,000,000

Loss of Property by a Great Fire at Montreal.**A Conflagration in the Business District that Destroyed a Dozen Stores and Warehouses—Firemen Badly Handicapped in Their Work.**

Montreal, Jan. 24.—One of the most disastrous fires from which this city has ever suffered began at 8 o'clock last night, and notwithstanding the efforts of the entire fire department the progress of the flames was not checked until 1 o'clock this morning. By that time it had destroyed property valued at between \$2,500,000 and \$3,000,000 and was still burning.

Included in the property burned is the splendid board of trade building which cost over \$500,000, with over 100 tenants, and half a dozen large firms and two scores of smaller concerns. The narrow streets, antiquated buildings and the inflammable nature of the stocks they contained made a combination which the department was powerless to overcome. The fire practically burned until it came to open space, which gave the firemen an opportunity for effective work.

The fire started at 8:05 p. m. in the premises of Saxe & Sons, wholesale clothiers, on the corner of LeMoine and St. Peter streets. The streets in the locality were deserted at the time and the fire apparently had a good headway before the first alarm was sent in. The firemen on arriving found the building, a three-story stone structure, a mass of flames.

Second and third alarms were sent in, but before reinforcements reached the scene, the flames had leaped across St. Peter street, which is very narrow, and attacked the five-story stone building occupied by H. A. Nelson & Sons, fancy goods. Here it spread as rapidly as it had in the Saxe building. In almost an instant the building was a roaring furnace.

The warehouse of Beardmore & Co., tanners, adjoining Nelson's to the south, was next attacked and from there the flames communicated to the establishment of Silverman, Boulter & Co., wholesale hatters and furriers. Here another inflammable stock added zest to the flames. In the meantime the flames had continued down St. Peter street on the side on which it started to the corner of St. Paul street, licking up the premises of J. Bourdeau & Co., hats, caps, etc. St. Peter street for an entire block was a mass of flames on either side.

In the meantime a great fight was being made to save the board of trade building, erected eight years ago at a cost of \$600,000, and adjoining the Nelson building on the north side. For a long time the efforts of the brigade were successful, a plentiful supply of water keeping the exposed portions cool. But the flames had extended along the north side of St. Paul street, going west from Silverman, Boulter & Co.'s, licking up half a dozen concerns on its way, until it reached the big wholesale fur establishment of James Coristine & Co. This building extended all the way from St. Paul street to the board of trade building, and the flames appeared to go through it like a tinder box.

When the rear wall of this building was reached it was seen that the board of trade would have to go. Solid sheets of flames sprang out and up and seized hold of the big building in a dozen different places, driving the firemen back.

By this time every piece of fire fighting apparatus the city possesses was in use. Two water towers, which had failed to keep the blaze from the board of trade building, were shifted around to St. Paul street, but here again they were too late.

From the north side of St. Paul street the flames leaped across the street and destroyed the premises of Thomas Davidson & Co., H. Levy, dry goods, and half a dozen other smaller concerns.

On LeMoine the extensive wholesale grocery house of Laporte, Martin & Co. took fire. After the firemen had abandoned all hope of saving the board of trade building, they concentrated their efforts mainly on this building, for the spread of the flames in this district would mean the loss of the entire wholesale dry goods section. The building was saved.

Caucus in Detroit.

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 24.—Gov. Longino received a telegram last night stating that J. E. Gibson, the Indiana building contractor, who, it is charged, attempted to bribe the governor several weeks ago to secure for him the state house contract, and who forfeited his \$5,000 bond Tuesday, had been captured at Detroit. Two officers bearing requisition papers left last night to bring the prisoner back to Mississippi.

Will Ask McKinley to Attend.

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 24.—Mayor Weaver, Postmaster Baker and Henry T. Jefferson started for Washington last night to carry to the president a message from the executive committee of the 28th triennial convocation, Knights Templar, inviting him to attend the grand encampment in Louisville, August 27-30.

Creditors May Get 3 Per Cent.

Indianapolis, Jan. 25.—Receiver Clark, of the Chosen Friends, says the total liabilities of which the receiver has accurate knowledge at present are \$774,874. In addition to all these claims there are protested checks for large amounts which will bring the total indebtedness far above \$800,000. To meet this heavy indebtedness the receiver has in his treasury at present \$2,000 in cash. Every asset upon which the order has a claim will have to be fought bitterly in the courts before it can be realized upon.

WEST POINT'S HORRORS.

They are Described by the Last Witness that Appeared Before the Congressional Committee.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The committee which is investigating the hazing of Cadet Booz had before it yesterday the last witness who will be called on to testify. He was F. H. Cunningham, a teacher at Hamilton Institute, New York City, who formerly was a cadet at West Point. He was the test mate of Cadet MacArthur, who was severely hazed, according to the testimony adduced at West Point, and he also was supposed to have furnished material for an article on hazing which appeared in a New York newspaper. Before beginning his testimony Mr. Cunningham stated that it would not be voluntary, but would be given because he was summoned. Mr. Cunningham entered the academy in June, 1898. He testified that his tentmate was MacArthur. He described the hazing of MacArthur in July, 1898. He said he reeled into the tent after being hazed and went into convulsions. He was writing and moaning so that he (Cunningham) covered him with a blanket to prevent his moans from being heard by the officer of the day.

Witness said he would distinctly class MacArthur's writings as convulsions, not cramps as MacArthur had testified. MacArthur was urged to go on sick report next day, but refused. He was hazed because he was a son of Gen. MacArthur, although he had never exhibited undue pride in the relationship. The worst hazers were Barry, Dockery and Duval. Witness said one reason why he left the academy was his feeling that hazing exerted a brutal influence. MacArthur had said to him that "another night like that would make him feel like resigning."

Witness named Cadets Hill, Haskell and Kessel as cadets who suffered from convulsions and needed medical assistance as a result of hazing. A cadet officer told witness that a cadet had choked Kenzel to prevent him uttering cries. Cadet Crown had "qualified on prunes," breaking the record by eating 135. They made him sick. One of the academy instructors lectured against hazing and the classes decided against "hazing," etc. As they left the lecture some one shouted "brace" and every one "braced" and that ended the agreement to stop hazing. Commenting on a statement by Gen. Ludlow "that college hazing at West Point hazing was the same, the witness said:

"I refute that statement. I went through college before I went to West Point, and I know there is nothing in the colleges like hazing at West Point."

He described hazing as torture. He gave a graphic account of the agony suffered in certain forms of hazing, which sent a shudder through the listeners. Men were hung on bars, their feet up, so that when they dropped from exhaustion the knees struck on the wooden floor several feet below. The fainting man was again hoisted up and again repeatedly dropped.

Cunningham said the object of "calling out" was to place a trained upper class man against an untrained lower class man. The result was inevitable. In conducting a fight the purpose was to cut up the face of the lower class man before knocking him out. An upper class man had said to the witness that a certain fight was not correct, as the lower class man's face was not cut sufficiently.

CUBAN'S REVENGE.**They Burn Cane Fields Owned by a Man Who Refused to Assist Them in Fighting Spain.**

Santiago de Cuba, Jan. 25.—Fifteen hundred acres of sugar cane were burned Wednesday as the result of political friction, on Joseph Rigney's plantation, near Manzanillo, the richest plantation in this province. During the war of the Cuban insurgents against Spain Mr. Rigney refused to pay tribute to the Cubans. For two years he supported a Spanish garrison, but ultimately the Cubans destroyed the property with the exception of the mill, valued at \$1,000,000. This year the plantation was fully equipped to produce sugar to the full capacity of the mill.

Mr. Rigney's loss is about \$100,000, but it will not seriously cripple the business. A considerable quantity of cane from the burned fields is still valuable.

Two plantations at Guantanamo have lost heavily during the week from similar fires. Burning cane is a popular method of getting revenge among the Cubans.

Were They Buried Alive?

Washington, Jan. 25.—Adj. Gen. Corbin has received a cablegram from Gen. MacArthur in response to his inquiries as to the case of First Lieut. Brewer, of the Twenty-seventh volunteer infantry, who was reported to have been buried alive by Filipinos. Gen. MacArthur says that Brewer and Sergeant Schraeder, of his regiment, disappeared September 11 last, and neither has since been heard from.

Claims to be Neutral.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The steamship Caracas, which arrived in this country Tuesday from La Guyara, brought official communications from Dr. E. Blanco. They make strong representations as to the strict neutrality which the Venezuela government has observed all through the asphalt controversy, which is set forth as being solely an issue between the rival companies themselves, and not one involving the government. Surprise is expressed at the threatening attitude of the United States.

A FIERCE CRUSADE.

Women Wreck Saloons at Wichita, Kan.**Mrs. Nation and Three Followers Use Hatchets in Demolishing the Fixtures of Bar Rooms—They are Arrested—Mrs. Nation Horsewhipped.**

Wichita, Kan., Jan. 22.—Mrs. Carrie Nation came back to Wichita yesterday after her recent incarceration under a smallpox quarantine and the net results of ten minutes' work by her during the afternoon are two wrecked saloons, the pieces of which are being sold for souvenirs.

Mrs. Nation was assisted by Mrs. Julia Evans, Mrs. Lucy Wilhoit and Mrs. Lydia Muntz, all of the local W. C. T. U. organization. With hatchets concealed under their cloaks they entered the saloon of James Burns and did not leave a complete piece of glass or a working slot machine in the place. All showcases, both for liquors and cigars, as well as the plate glass windows and doors, were broken into smithereens.

Next they ran to John Herrig's saloon and had everything in the front room, including the plate glass windows, broken when he appeared with a revolver, placed it at Mrs. Nation's head and said that he would blow out her brains if she did not desist. She yielded before the pointed revolver and with her companions ran to the Carey hotel bar, where she made her first attack on the saloons of Wichita, three weeks ago. Three policemen met her and she struck at Detective Sutton with a poker. He shoved her aside and a youth struck her in the face. A policeman struck the youth and knocked him down. The police then overpowered Mrs. Nation and her friends and took them to the city prison, followed by 2,000 people.

Chief of Police Cudbon discharged the prisoners after they reached the jail, and is heartily condemned by the citizens. The women made him a promise not to wreck any more saloons before noon to-day.

After leaving the city building Mrs. Nation began a street lecture to the immediate crowd that had surrounded the city building, saying that she expected to begin saloon wrecking again at noon to-day when her truce with the chief of police expires.

Shaking her fist at the crowd she said: "Men of Wichita, this is the right arm of God and I am destined to wreck every saloon in your city."

The women procured a wagon and rode through the streets singing "Nearer, My God, to Thee" and other hymns. They halted in front of the saloons they had smashed and held prayer meetings. The damage done by the women is estimated at between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

The affair created intense excitement and thousands of people viewed the wrecks.

Mrs. Nation caused a new sensation last night by slapping Sheriff Simmons on the face, taking hold of his ears and giving him a rough handling generally. Mrs. Nation was at the Union station in the act of buying a ticket to a neighboring town when the sheriff pulled at her sleeve, saying: "You are my prisoner, madame." Mrs. Nation turned her face about and, seeing Simmons, gave him a violent slap across the face. She followed this up by taking hold of his ears with both hands and wringing them viciously. The station was full of women, who began screaming and tremendous excitement followed, as the sheriff, who is a very small man, struggled with his powerful antagonist. A policeman came to his rescue and with the aid of some bystanders they succeeded in picking up the woman in their arms and placing her in a cab, which was driven to the county jail.

Last night Mrs. Wilhoit was arrested at her home without making any resistance and locked in jail, where she was placed in a cell next to that of Mrs. Nation. When Mrs. Wilhoit was ushered into the steel cage Mrs. Nation cried "Hallelujah" and burst into prayer. Half an hour later Mrs. Evans was arrested at her home.

It is said that a complaint for insanity will be lodged against Mrs. Nation. Wichita, Kan., Jan. 23.—Mrs. Carrie Nation and her colleagues in Tuesday's saloon smashing crusade were arraigned in the city court yesterday and waived a preliminary hearing. Judge Kirk fixed their bond at \$1,000 each, which was given, and the women were released. John Herring, into whose saloon Mrs. Nation and her followers entered by the windows they had smashed, was the complainant, and the specific charge was malicious destruction of property.

Enterprise, Kan., Jan. 25.—A street fight occurred Thursday between women led on one side by Mrs. Carrie Nation, the saloon wrecker, and on the other by Mrs. John Schilling, wife of the manager of the saloon wrecked on Wednesday. As a result of the fight Mrs. Nation, who was horsewhipped, swore out warrants against Mrs. Schilling and her husband, and Mrs. Bittner, charging them with assault, and Mayor Hoffman swore out a warrant against Mrs. Nation, charging her with disturbing the peace. All were arrested, taken before Judge Holt and all but Mrs. Nation released on bond. Mrs. Nation was found not guilty and was released. The other women will be tried to-day.

Reported the Constitution.

Havana, Jan. 2.—The central committee of the Cuban constitutional convention reported at Monday's session of the convention the proposed constitution. The document contains some modifications of the original draft. The members of the central committee are not unanimous with reference to several features of the scheme and there is likely to be considerable discussion before final acceptance. The proposed constitution does not contain any provisions regarding the future relations between the United States and Cuba.

SENATE'S WAR TAX BILL.

It Aims to Effect a Total Reduction of \$40,000,000.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Senator Aldrich, chairman of the senate committee on finance, yesterday reported the war revenue reduction bill back to the senate. The committee reports a complete substitute for the bill as it passed the house. Senator Aldrich made a statement explaining the changes, which are as follows:

Stamp taxes repealed: Promissory notes, mortgages, bills of lading for export, powers of attorney, protest, charter party, telegraphic dispatches, telephone messages, passage tickets costing less than \$30, express receipts, freight receipts, bonds except bonds of indemnity, legacies to religious, charitable, literary or educational institutions.

Special taxes repealed: Commercial brokers.

Taxes reduced: Conveyances, insurance, cankers capital, proprietary medicines, cigars, tobacco and beer. The statement says that the purpose of the committee has been to repeal such of the taxes imposed by the war revenue act of 1898 as are most annoying and burdensome to taxpayers, to retain such as would be kept as a permanent part of our revenue system, or at least retained until all war taxes can be repealed, and to reduce all others as fairly as possible by some general plan of reduction. Pursuing this general plan, it has been possible to reduce taxes affected approximately one-half.

Taking the estimates of the treasury department as a basis, the reduction of revenue effected by the bill will be nearly \$40,000,000, a reduction somewhat less than was produced by the bill as it passed the house of representatives.

The committee's substitute provisions in regard to cigars, tobacco, beer, etc., reduce the beer tax to \$1.50 per barrel and on snuff and tobacco to nine cents a pound.

All insurance companies are to be required to make annual returns to the commissioner of internal revenue; the returns required being such as will enable the commissioner to levy and collect from the companies the taxes required to be paid by them.

In case of non-payment of the special taxes levied against insurance companies, it is provided that the delinquent company shall, besides being liable for the payment of double the amount of such special tax, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall pay a fine of not more than \$500. The commissioner of internal revenue is authorized to examine books and accounts of companies he suspects are making false returns.

CLEVELAND GETS IT.

G. A. R. National Council Decides to Hold This Year's Encampment in the Ohio Metropolis.

St. Louis, Jan. 22.—A vote was taken yesterday by the national council and Cleveland was selected as the place in which to hold the next annual G. A. R. encampment. The vote stood: Cleveland 5, Denver 2, Pittsburg 1. Denver could not meet all the requirements and Cleveland was selected because satisfactory guarantees of that city's ability to care for the encampment were furnished to the committee. The date set for the encampment is the week beginning September 9.

As a result of this action representatives of Denver, formerly selected, announced that they intended to take up the matter with various state departments and would also hold an encampment the second week of September.

The meeting of the council held Monday was the result of the failure of Denver to satisfy the council at its December meeting of the city's ability to meet the requirements of a one-cent per mile railroad rate. Cleveland, Pittsburg and Denver sent delegations to yesterday's meeting to plead for the sending of the encampment to those cities.

The Cleveland delegation offered the written pledge of the chairman of the Central Passenger association of one cent per mile to the encampment, promised to raise the necessary money to meet the expenses of the encampment, offered free quarters in 100 school houses for the old soldiers; to arrange the line of march to suit and produced written pledges. The delegation representing Pittsburg pledged a one-cent rate, hotel accommodations, subscriptions and met the other requirements.

Denver's applicants for the encampment honors produced letters from Chairman McLeod, of the Western Passenger association, promising one-cent rate on six railroads.

Individual members of the council declared the Denver people were mistaken when they thought they had the promise of the Pennsylvania and New York departments to go to Denver and were certain that none of the departments would refuse to attend the encampment at Cleveland.

A Confession of Weakness.

London, Jan. 22.—In a strong editorial appeal for strengthening the navy of Great Britain and placing it on an adequate war footing, the Times says: "Our fleet should be of sufficient size, force equipment and readiness for war as shall leave no reasonable doubt as to the result of a naval conflict between Great Britain and any other two naval powers."

Troubles Never Come Singly.

London, Jan. 22.—The following statement as to the condition of Dowager Empress Frederick, eldest daughter of Queen-Victoria, appear in the Daily Chronicle: "It is with sincere regret that we announce that the Empress Frederick's condition has become materially worse. There is a serious development of the disease from which she is suffering and her physical pain is intense. All idea of any journey in pursuit of health has been abandoned and it is improbable that she will ever leave Cronberg."

DEPORTED AN EDITOR.

Gen. MacArthur Sends the Publisher of a Manila Sheet Back to This Country.

Manila, Jan. 25.—Gen. MacArthur has ordered the deposition to the United States of George T. Rice, editor of the Daily Bulletin, a marine journal. Rice will sail on the Pennsylvania next Monday. The order characterizes him as a "dangerous incendiary and a menace to the military situation."

Rice's offense was the publication of allegations that Lieut. Commander Braunerreuther, captain of the port, had charged excessive piloting and moorage fees, a percentage of which he had kept for himself.

The report of Col. Mills, who investigated the allegations, completely exonerated the captain of the port and indicted the editor and the merchants who had given him the information and who were misled by figuring the rates upon the net instead of the gross tonnage, the latter being specified under the Spanish law.

Rice was summoned to the office of the governor general's military secretary and was called upon to promise that he would publish no more such articles. He declined to give such a pledge, but insisted that the article was truthful and took up a defiant attitude when threatened with deportation. The deportation order was then issued. Rice's home is in Red Wing, Minn.

A BREAK FOR LIBERTY.

Inmates of a Mexican Prison Overpower Their Guards, but are Shot While Trying to Escape.

Mexico City, Jan. 25.—News has been received from Acapulco of a partly successful attempt made by desperate prisoners confined in Castle San Diego to effect their escape. Recently the guard was replaced by a detachment of artillerymen under Lieut. Trujillo, and the prisoners noted that the force had been somewhat diminished. A few of the bolder spirits suggested that they attempt to overpower the guards at an hour when all the gates were open and the plot was carried into effect by a simultaneous rush on the sentinels, who, taken by surprise, were unable to prevent the exit of the prisoners as they poured out into the streets.

A sentinel stationed on the roof of the castle with a repeating rifle killed several of the escaping prisoners and wounded others. Panic spread through the city as the prisoners fled in every direction, but many of them were captured and several returned voluntarily.

A HANDSOME GIFT.

Invitation to the President to Attend a Masonic Function Is Engraved on a Solid Gold Plate.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Among the callers at the White House yesterday was Capt. O. J. Humphrey, of San Francisco, who was presented to the president by Senator Perkins. Capt. Humphrey visited the executive mansion as the special envoy of California commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, of San Francisco, to present to President McKinley an invitation from the commandery to meet with it upon its visit to the Pacific coast the coming spring.

The card of invitation, which he handed to Sir Knight McKinley perhaps rivals in splendor anything of the kind that was ever presented to a president. It is a solid gold plate $\frac{3}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and about one-eighth of an inch in thickness. In the upper right hand corner is an enameled Maltese cross, with the usual insignia of the order, having in the center a fine diamond of about one carat in weight. The "card" is beautifully engraved.

White Has Fears.

Chicago, Jan. 25.—Dr. R. A. White, of the Stewart Avenue Universalist church, in a speech before the congress of religions at the Fullerton Avenue Presbyterian church yesterday declared against the subsidizing of great American universities by millionaires. "Institutions which have been so endowed and subsidized are to lose their power of spreading education, are to become narrow and restricted and finally, are to suffer absolutely disintegration," were the views Dr. White expressed. He declared that events at various universities had caused a suspicion in the public mind that an autocratic influence had already been thrown over professors and students.

The Story of a Mutiny.

Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan. 25.—Advices which have been received here regarding the mutiny of Venezuelan troops in the Hoyo barracks at Caracas, say that the mutineers numbered 300. The outbreak took place January 14, and the colonel, two officers and four men were killed. The mutineers escaped, without arms, by different roads and got outside the capital. Half of them were subsequently arrested near Caracas and the others surrendered the next day. There was no political cause for the outbreak. The men had been badly fed.

A Big Purchase of Land and Cattle.

Caracas, Venezuela, Jan. 25.—A Hamburg syndicate has purchased the estate of the late President Crespo, in the Orinoco district. It has an area of 10,000,000 acres and upon it there are 80,000 head of cattle. The syndicate intends to control the meat market of the West Indies and also the packing industry.

Western Railroaders are Sore.

Chicago, Jan. 25.—As the result of the abandonment of Denver and the selection of Cleveland for the next encampment of the G. A. R. for 1901, western roads have decided to make unusually low rates to Colorado tourist points next summer and especially during the period of the G. A. R. encampment. Much bitterness has developed among the western roads over the loss by Denver of the Grand Army encampment, which they believe to be due in part to the suggestions of the Central Passenger association roads.

THE PHILIPPINES.

The Taft Commission's Report Is Published.

IT SPEAKS OF PROGRESS.

Work of Pacification Is Slowly but Surely Advancing.

MANILA AND ITS SALOONS.

Number of Grogshops in the City Has Greatly Decreased During Past Year—Commission Advocates Passage by Congress of the Spooner Bill.

Washington, Jan. 26.—The president yesterday transmitted to the senate a report of the secretary of war enclosing the report of the Taft Philippine commission. In his message of transmittal the president says: "I earnestly recommend legislation under which the government of the islands may have authority to assist in its peaceful industrial development."

The commission gives a gratifying account of the progress made in the pacification of the country and the gradual subsidence of guerrilla warfare. Information received subsequent to the date of the report confirms the favorable anticipations of the commission.

On January 2 the commission reinforced the views contained in their report by the following dispatch to the secretary of war: "If you approve ask transmission to proper senators and representatives of following: 'Passage of Spooner bill at present session greatly needed to secure best results from improving conditions. Until its passage no purely central civil government can be established; no public franchises of any kind can be granted and no substantial investment of private capital in internal improvements possible. All are needed as important steps in complete pacification. Strong peace party organized with defined purpose of securing civil government and relief from inevitable restraints of military rule long before subject can be taken up by new congress.'"

The report shows that the islands are estimated to contain about 73,000,000 acres of land, of which less than 5,000,000 are held in private ownership. The section of the report on the liquor traffic in Manila indicates that the powers of the commission are ample to deal with that subject and the success which they have attained will compare favorably with the results in this country. Many false statements have been made regarding the use of intoxicating liquors in Manila. The fact is that this traffic is more effectively regulated and kept within bounds in Manila than in any city of similar or greater size in the United States.

In November, 1898, the spread of venereal diseases among soldiers led the military authorities, in order to maintain effectiveness of army, to subject known prostitutes to certified examination and confinement of diseased in special hospital, expense of which was paid from fund in custody of an army officer derived solely from fees charged for examination of from 50 cents to \$2, according to place of examination. This system has greatly reduced the percentage of disability from this cause.

Known prostitutes are not permitted to land. A number have been deported. General moral condition of city is greatly improved. Crimes of violence now comparatively few. Gambling has greatly decreased. Native vino shops in Manila in August, 1898, numbered 4,000. Now reduced to 400. American saloons, including hotels and restaurants, reduced from 234 in February, 1900, to 88 now. Of these only 48 are licensed to sell spirituous liquors.

"Any statement of the conditions prevailing in the islands during the last six months which ignores the effect of the American election as a controlling element in the situation is inadequate. Since the result was announced there has been a great decrease in insurgent activity. Intense interest was felt by the insurgents before the election in the issue, and intense disappointment since, which will certainly effect the collapse of the insurrection in the near future."

One of the longest chapters in the report concerns the friars in the Philippines. The commission gives the history of the expulsion of these friars from their places by the rebels and declares that the burning question agitating the Filipinos is whether they shall be permitted to return. Regarding the return of the friars the commission says it would be an assistance to the American cause if the Catholic church were to substitute American priests, but this is a question of church policy with which the commission has nothing to do. Says the report: "It is enough to say that the political question will be eliminated if the friars are not sent back."

The brief recommendation of the president in the message sent to the senate asking legislation in the interest of the Filipinos caused general surprise among senators and occasioned speculation upon the probability of an extra session of congress immediately after March 4. Senators generally say they have had no intimation from the White House that a special session of congress may be desirable, but they unite as one man in saying that no Philippine legislation is possible during the remaining five weeks of the present session. The Spooner bill, vesting all power for the government of the Philippine archipelago in the president, is the only Philippine bill.