

PEACE MAY NOW BE NEAR

The Powers Would Be Glad to Intervene at Present.

AN ARMISTICE IS PROPOSED

Turkey Asks Greece to Stop Fighting for Five Days.

Edhem Pasha Sends Request to the Greeks Under a Flag of Truce. Situation at Volo--Two Hundred French Sailors Patrol the Streets. Loyalty to the Sultan at Janina. The Porte Denies That the Anglo-Armenian Society Has Been Invited to Discuss Reforms.

London, May 3.—A special dispatch from Athens announces that Edhem Pasha has sent an officer with a flag of truce to the Greek headquarters, asking for an armistice for five days. Volo, May 3.—A majority of the inhabitants have migrated from this port to Athens and the island of Euboea. The town is calmer owing to the arrival of the Greek squadron and French, British and Italian warships. Two hundred French sailors are patrolling the streets in order to reassure the inhabitants. The Greek treasury of Thessaly, comprising one hundred chests of money, which has been lying at the French consulate was transported on board a Greek warship today to be conveyed to Athens. The Turks are approaching in the direction of Velestino, where 18,000 Greeks are encamped and skillfully entrenched. A detachment of Evzones is guarding the railroad station here. The French flag has been hoisted over the hospital.

LOYALTY TO THE SULTAN.

London, May 3.—A special dispatch from Janina, Epirus, says: "After traveling two hundred miles across the country I found the greatest loyalty to the sultan and hatred of the Greeks everywhere. The Greek prisoners are bitter at the prospect of a Greek war. They are all well treated by the Turks. Sixty wounded Turks and twenty-two Greeks are in the hospitals here. The sanitation of the army is excellent. There are only forty-one sick men."

Athens, May 3.—It is reported here that the island of Mytilene, off the coast of Asia Minor, has revolted in favor of Greece and that the Greek fleet will be sent there forthwith. The ministers of war and marine have left Pharsalos for Athens after a long conference with Prince Constantine and the headquarters staff. The diplomatic situation may be summed up as follows: No request for mediation has been or will be addressed by Greece to the powers unless the ministers of war and marine report upon the state of the Greek forces at Pharsalos and elsewhere. The powers have not offered mediation, although they do not conceal the fact that a request for intervention would be highly acceptable to them.

The minister for foreign affairs, M. Skoulof, says the military situation has great improvement in both Epirus and Thessaly, and that the victory of the Greeks over the Turks at Velestino was brilliant. Rome, May 3.—Official dispatches from Athens received here today say that the Greek premier, M. Ralli, continues negotiations with the view of securing the intervention of France, Russia and Great Britain in favor of an armistice.

Constantinople, May 3.—Word has been received here that a Turkish detachment from Trikalka has occupied Kardis. In some of the influential Turkish circles the opinion is expressed that the war with Greece will soon terminate. They point out that while Turkey was forced into the war by Greek aggression, and the counsels of certain of the powers, Turkey will gain any advantage by crushing Greece for the benefit of the Slav element in the Balkans, and it is thought that the success attained by the Turkish troops in Greece are all the Turkish government could desire. Finally, it is said that, under the circumstances, Europe might intervene.

It is officially reiterated that the reported Turkish reverses at Velestino are unfounded. In spite of the talk of peace, the preparations for war show no signs of ceasing. The whole of the Landsturm, or Mustahfiz (second reserve), belonging to the Third Army corps, stationed in the Salonica district, has been called out.

The following official announcement was issued today: "The Imperial government, confirming its previous message, mentioning the victorious march of the Ottoman troops at Velestino, states that all rumors to the contrary which have been circulated during the last few days are unfounded. There is also no truth in the report that the Albanians intended to wage irregular warfare in Thessaly and devastate the country."

SCENES AT VOLO.

Experience of a London Times Correspondent. London, May 3.—The Times will tomorrow print the following dispatch from its Volo correspondent, dated 3 p. m. today: "When I arrived at Velestino yesterday afternoon, I had just seen the Turkish infantry advancing in two columns, intending to cut the railway. The Greeks, 12,000, and under General Smolenski, by whose side I watched this encounter in the rear of the Eighth regiment, under General Gannikosta, gradually advanced one battalion to hold the railway, the other to support the artillery, which had mountain guns on the right center. The center regiment of infantry, under Colonel Geggli, advanced to a low plateau on the left, where two batteries were in position. General Smolenski had ordered the shelling to begin when the enemy were well within range; consequently the guns did not open ere before 5.30 p. m. The Turks were evidently about 14,000 strong. Their cavalry reconnoitered the wood, where the Greeks were concealed, but the batteries remained silent until 6 and at that time the fire fell short of being effective, though the Greek practice was the best I have yet noticed. The Turks ran away from the shell, but continued to advance in good order. Our right was really never engaged, and the railway station was defended by only a small force, with two Krupp guns. Toward the end the large Krupp center was seen to advance in the distance, but sunset, at 6.45, caused a temporary cessation. "Trains are running to Pharsalos now, and I managed to get through. Returning on horseback in the darkness to Volo, I was captured by the Greek outposts, thanks to the fault of headquarters to issue regular passes. I was treated in much civility, but was held until a late hour. "Having met reinforcements on the way to Velestino, I went out again today, when the Greeks brought up nearly the whole Pharsalos force. Save in the sharp struggles during the night, the Greeks were successful, holding their ground. The Turks mounted a battery on a hill facing the Greek left, approached the end of the wood and burned a small village. Nearly all the fighting today has been on the extreme right, in the direction of Lake Kalia, and the Eastern Volo road. Whoever gains this road commands Volo and could cut off retreat here. "The trains still run to Velestino, the officials displaying the greatest coolness and courage. In one case a railway director is working a locomotive. "More decisive fighting is expected tomorrow (Tuesday). As yet the Greek losses have not been heavy. The Red Cross society, formerly much in evidence, is now conspicuous by its absence, and this fact causes comment."

SENATOR TILLMAN AROUSES A DEBATE

After a Silence of Many Weeks He Stirs Up a Rumpus.

SIMPSON ATTACKS SPEAKER REED

For the First Time This Session the Factions of the Democratic Party Are Forced to Put Themselves on Record--Mr. Bailey Denounces the Spectacle Presented by His Friends

Washington, May 3.—Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, was heard from briefly and pointedly in the senate today after a silence of many weeks, and as usual his remarks served to arouse a lively controversy. It occurred during the consideration of the "free homestead" bill. Mr. Morgan presented some sharp remarks of the South Carolina senator about "gobbling" and stealing public lands. The incident was closed by a statement from Mr. Tillman disclaiming any purpose of being discourteous to the Alabama senator.

An agreement was reached for a final vote on the free homestead bill at 3 p. m., tomorrow. Early in the day Mr. Morgan endeavored to secure a vote on his Cuban resolution. It went over, however, at the request of Mr. Hay of Maine, in order that speeches in opposition may be made. "The issue was made," as Speaker Reed put it in the house today on the speaker's policy of postponing the appointment of a committee on the Kansas bill, brought it on another attack upon the speaker which moved Mr. Reed to challenge him to propose a resolution instructing the speaker to appoint the committee. The Kansas evaded this challenge, but Mr. Lewis, a new member from Washington, took up the gauntlet which the speaker had thrown down and moved the adoption of a resolution of the tenor suggested by Mr. Reed. Then Mr. Fleming (Democrat, Ga.), offered a substitute embodying the instructions in different terms and Mr. Dingley, the Republican leader, to make the issue plain, as he said, presented another substitute directing the speaker to appoint the committee "immediately."

SPEAKER SUSTAINED. When the vote was taken on the proposition the speaker was sustained by practically the solid vote of his party, assisted by 38 Democrats, under the leadership of Mr. Bailey. The resolution was defeated, yeas 12, nays 123. For the first time this session the factions in the Democratic ranks were forced to put themselves on record and 32 Democrats with all the Populists supported Mr. Lewis. Mr. Low, of New York, was the only Republican to put himself on record in support of the resolution while eight Democrats and five Republicans answered present. Mr. Bailey denounced in strong terms the spectacle which the Democrats were presenting by their dissentions.

Messrs. Cockran (Missouri) and Wheeler (Alabama), of the Democrats, spoke for the resolutions, while Mr. Dingley voiced the Republican policy. A senate resolution appropriating \$50,000 for the congress of the Universal Postal Union was adopted and Mr. Shovalter, the Republican chosen at a special election to represent the Twenty-fifth Pennsylvania district, was shown in.

FOR EUROPEAN MISSIONS.

President McKinley Will Doubtless Make Selections Soon.

Washington, May 3.—The president now has under consideration the claims of aspirants for two of the most important European missions, Russia and Spain, and it is believed, has arrived at a point where he will be able soon to send in the nominations for these places. While it is not known definitely who the nominees will be, there is reason to believe that the Russian mission may go to General J. H. Wilson, of Delaware, a man of distinguished record during the war, and also when a shining light in the legal and literary world. As a successor to Hannis Taylor, United States minister at Madrid, the name that stands at the head of the list is believed to be that of ex-Speaker Bryant, of the Illinois legislature, whose claims have been so strongly urged upon the president as to encourage his friends in the claim that his nomination is at least likely.

BLOODLESS DUEL FOUGHT.

Col. Jerry Busk and W. L. King Exchange Shots.

Chicago, May 3.—Colonel Jerry Busk, of Kentucky, and William L. King, of Illinois, who quarreled last night in the Lansing hotel, met by appointment yesterday afternoon in a secluded part of Lincoln park to fight a duel. Each had seconds. After five shots had been exchanged without any casualties their wounded honor was appeased. The shooting was at ten paces. King is a son of W. W. King, the well-known Boston lawyer. King's second was J. S. Evans. Busk was the challenger. Dr. A. W. Baer was in attendance as surgeon, and is authority for the story of the fight. Colonel Busk is a native of London, Va., and served on General A. P. Hill's staff in the rebellion. He was given the lie by King.

TINY WHISTLE DOWN HIS THROAT.

The Difficult Operation Performed on a Child.

Paterson, N. J., May 3.—On Tuesday last George Devers, the 3-year-old son of George Devers, manager of the Eden theater, swallowed a tin whistle. On Thursday an X-ray picture was taken by Meyerowitz, of New York, and the whistle accurately located. The boy's condition became critical today, and Dr. John C. McCoy performed the operation of oesophagotomy at the General Hospital. It is thought the boy will live. This operation, it is said, has been performed 136 times since the year 1860, and has succeeded in only forty cases. The whistle in this case was lodged in the oesophagus directly behind the breast bone, in a very difficult place to reach.

WOMEN LURED TO DEATH

Two Females Were Shot and Wounded in the Back--Public Suspicion Has Turned from Crouch.

Sackett's Harbor, N. Y., May 3.—Two women also died this morning. Mrs. Wilbur Crouch and Mary Daly were found dead in a carriage, riddled with bullets. Private Allen, of the Ninth United States Infantry, who had been with them charged Wilbur Crouch with the murder of the women. The authorities brought in Mary Daly one, a murderer, for they did not wake up to the importance of a thorough investigation until three days after the murder was committed. Crouch claimed that he was innocent and a search of his room brought no incriminating evidence. Public opinion changed when efforts were made to reconcile Allen's story with conditions that must have existed if it was true in every detail. Allen and the two women were, according to the shooting was done. It was a covered carriage and the top was up. He said Crouch seized one of the reins and began to shoot. That being so Crouch would have been in front of the three. Both of the women were shot in the back. Mrs. Crouch receiving the fatal wound in the neck. In Allen said Crouch shot at him while he was lying in the bottom of the carriage. No one has yet found a bullet mark on the carriage. It has been found that the team hired by Allen had been driven from the highway into a field near the road. In this field were tracks made by a woman's shoe. It is evident that the woman was running when the tracks were made. Closely following these tracks were others made by a man. In that vicinity were found 45 unused pistol cartridges and several empty shells. At the roadside near where the tracks were found in the field was a cap that had been worn by Mrs. Crouch and looks of her hair.

The day before the tragedy Allen had sent a boy to a hardware store in the village to purchase a revolver. The weapon was sold and delivered to Allen. Two pistols, one 22 and the other 32 calibre, were found, one in the highway and the other in the carriage. Allen claims that when Crouch began shooting he took to the woods and in doing so accidentally shot himself. Two bullets have been extracted from his body, one of 22 and the other of 32 calibre. The bullets that killed the women were of 32 calibre. It is claimed that the small pistol found in the carriage was owned and carried by Mrs. Crouch.

These things lead to a belief in the minds of many people that Crouch is not the guilty party. One theory is that Allen had an accomplice; that they met at an appointed place on the road and the woman accompanying him to escape from the snare laid for them, were shot and afterwards placed in the carriage as found. It is claimed that Allen had threatened suicide and that his wounds may have been self-inflicted. It has been ascertained that Allen was secretly married in this city last September to a young woman employed at Madison barracks. He gave his name as George Allen Haynes. His wife left for Chicago a few days after the marriage, and he began paying attention to Mary Daly, to whom it is said he was engaged to be married. Coupled with Allen's declaration that he would commit suicide was the statement that Mary Daly wanted him to marry her.

With these clues furnished by villagers, the officials set to work three days after the murder to run down the criminal and find the evidence to convict him. Their efforts have not been rewarded with success. The murder is a mystery still.

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE GROWING.

Gold Clause in Contracts Dispensed with in the West.

Chicago, Ill., May 3.—Dunlap Smith, real estate dealer, announced that his firm has decided to strike the gold clause from their form of contract and to require nothing but the repayments shall be in the every-day currency of the country. "During the last few days we have made loans amounting to \$25,000 on these terms, which seem to be popular with borrowers," said he. "We made one loan carrying 5 per cent. interest on these terms." The change may be taken as an indication of growing confidence in the future.

Twelve Years for Cononath.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., May 3.—John Cononath, charged with the murder of Jacob Gilletta, a countryman, to death. Judge Bennett sentenced the prisoner to twelve years in the penitentiary.

The Herald's Weather Forecast.

New York, May 4.—In the Middle states and New England today, partly cloudy to fair weather will prevail, preceded by fog and light rain in eastern Long Island and the New England coasts with slightly lower, followed by slowly rising temperature, light northeasterly and northwesterly winds, becoming variable. On Wednesday, in both of these sections, fair and warmer weather will prevail, with light northeasterly to southwesterly winds, becoming southerly in the western district of this section.

AIM AND SCOPE OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE

Subject of Miss Parloa's Discourse in Y. M. C. A. Hall.

HOUSEKEEPER'S DUTIES DEFINED

The Speaker Explained Why a Thorough Knowledge of Domestic Science Is Invaluable to the Woman Who Is at the Head of a Household. It Makes Her the Mistress of Her Little Kingdom.

Miss Marie Parloa will this afternoon give the first of a series of twelve lectures on "Domestic Economy" in Young Women's Christian Association hall. The course is under the auspices of the Young Women's Christian association. Last night Miss Parloa introduced her course by a talk in Young Women's Christian association hall on the "Aim and Scope of Domestic Science" which was listened to with great attention. Miss Parloa speaks in a conversational way and is highly interesting. She said in part last night: "Today we hear a great deal about the new woman, the scientific woman, and the up-to-date woman. From what one reads and hears it might be supposed that the housewife of the future has reached the place where she can solve most of the problems that perplex her less progressive sisters. When the housekeeper is told that she must know how to combine the various food principles, so that each member of her family shall have just the right proportion of each, that it shall be prepared in the most healthful and scientific manner, and that to be able to do this she must have a knowledge of physiology, botany and chemistry; that she must have a knowledge of the substances with which she has to deal, that she may be able to detect adulteration, and so on, biology, bacteriology, etc.; that she must know all about household sanitation—how to clean, how to disinfect, how to begin to do that life is indeed a complex affair, and she longs for the days of her grandmother, when life and living were so simple and untroubled. But when we hear the word science, but when her grandmother's days spent in ease and peace?"

HOUSEKEEPING EASIER.

The life of the housekeeper of today, when compared with that of a few generations ago, is ease, and to a great extent women have it in their power to make it what they will. Nearly everything connected with the house can be made outside, often cheaper and better than at home. The food supplies can be ordered by mail, and the housewife can have the conveniences for supplying water, heat and light are such as to lighten the housekeeper's very little. Our houses are constructed on more sane principles and on plans that shall make the work as light as possible. The modern American woman is better equipped, both mentally and physically, and modern conveniences have made life easier. But even in her present improved condition, she is sadly in need of a kind of instruction which Miss Beecher felt every girl should have; and we go farther and say that practical as well as theoretical instruction should be given. All educators agree that theory and practice should go hand in hand, when possible. We all know that one kind of demonstration will teach more than several hours of theoretical study. Domestic economy is a very elastic word, and it means a great deal. Among the books on this subject which I have in my possession, there are some that are only elementary and cover the most ordinary duties of the housekeeper, while Miss Beecher's treats of everything imaginable, inside and outside the house, and makes a complete course. In teaching domestic science the conditions of life should always be taken into consideration. The laws of health, chemistry, physiology, bacteriology, sanitation, etc., are the same the world over, but domestic laws and domestic customs must always be different, and every country needs a special treatise on domestic economy. So far as I know, we have nothing simple and comprehensive enough for our schools or households, but that, like all good things, will come in time.

AIM OF DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

The aim of domestic economy is to teach women such things as shall make them mistress of themselves and of the affairs which surround them. It is not a lot of most women. The scope of domestic economy is almost limitless: 1. It teaches physiology as it relates to health and food. 2. Hygiene. 3. Chemistry as it relates to food, water and the preservation of the substances used in the structure and furnishings of our homes, also in the care and selection of our clothing. 4. Bacteriology, in its relation to food and the sanitary conditions of the home. 5. The selection, preservation and preparation of food. 6. The general arrangement and management of household work. 7. The proper use of the income. 8. The most essential subjects, but the list might be extended indefinitely, to such things as study of form and color, care and training of children, care of the garden, lawns, plants, shrubs, etc. This may seem appalling, but no woman should be discouraged or place herself in an antagonistic attitude toward this most important science. The world science should not have such a repellent word. The knowing how and why is all that is meant by the word, and nearly all intelligent people want, at least, to know why, and once knowing why, they have more than half learned. The great trouble with domestic science is that it has not been made simple enough, and that we do not know how to make haste slowly.

IT IS UNIQUE.

The position of the American housekeeper is unique. Her conditions are constantly changing. She has something new to learn every day. The house that she has to keep is quite unlike the house that is being built today. New materials are being used, and new methods of treatment have been applied to the old materials, making it a new study. All the conveniences of water, gas, electricity, bath rooms, heating, etc., most added and greater care is required in the work, but also added care and dangers. These cares and dangers can be reduced to a minimum under intelligent guidance. Service in America is much more expensive than in the old countries, and we require a greater variety of services from one person than is demanded in the old countries; hence the greater friction. The style of living among people of about the same position or means in the old countries is much more uniform than in this country, where every family is a law unto itself; hence a servant trained in one family finds little difficulty in understanding or discharging the same class of duties in any other family. Our tables are supplied with a greater variety of food, nearly all of which is prepared in the house, while in European

HONOR FOR COLONEL HAY.

The New Ambassador Rides in the Royal Coach at London.

London, May 3.—Colonel John Hay, the newly appointed United States ambassador to the court of St. James, received unusual distinction today while presenting his credentials to Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle. The royal carriage drove up to Colonel Hayes' residence with a coachman and two footmen in the royal scarlet livery, to convey Colonel and Mrs. Hay to Paddington station. At the station they were met by the Marquis of Salisbury and the master of ceremonies, the Hon. Sir William James Colville, who accompanied them to Windsor. At the Windsor railroad station Colonel and Mrs. Hay found a royal carriage in waiting to convey them to the castle, where the luncheon served to Colonel Hay first had an audience with the Marquis of Salisbury, and then presented his credentials to her majesty. The audience was brief and formal, but the queen was specially gracious and exchanged with the ambassador mutual expressions of good will and amity between both nations. Mrs. Hay was then received in audience by the queen, being presented by the Countess of Erroll, the lady in waiting. As the wife of an ambassador, Mrs. Hay took precedence over the Portuguese and Chinese ministers, who also presented their credentials upon this occasion. Colonel and Mrs. Hay remained three hours at Windsor castle, returned to Windsor railroad station in a royal carriage and were met at Paddington railroad station by a royal carriage, which conveyed them to their residence.

TARRED TWO WOMEN.

A Mob of Masked Men Assumes Charge of Morals in W. Va.

Parkersburg, May 3.—Two defendants in West Virginia, in this case were set upon by twenty men on Friday night, coated with hot tar, and so badly injured that they may die. The men thought their victims were bad in character, and therefore not to be tolerated in the community. The women are Mrs. Charles and their names are Ida Duncan and Bertha Merriman. They were occupying a house on the outskirts of the city and were alone when a crowd of men, estimated to number twenty, broke down the doors, stripped them to the skin, and with whiskey brushes, applied hot tar to them. They were warned to leave the town on penalty of death. When news of the assault became known in town physicians were sent to relieve their sufferings. The hot tar had lacerated them in many places and efforts to remove it tore off the skin in patches. The Merriman woman can scarcely recover. The Duncan woman is not in so pitiable a plight as her companion. It is reported tonight, however, that both may die. The tar had been heated until it was of the consistency of molasses. The men who applied it were masked, and gave no heed to the screams of their victims. Thus far there is no clue to the identity of the masked men.

ROCKAFELLOW'S CASE.

The Wilkes-Barre Banker Is Again on Trial.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., May 3.—The case of ex-banker F. V. Rockefeller was called in court this afternoon. The prosecutrix is Mrs. Annie Mier. One proceeding in February, 1893, his bank failed to open. An examination of the books showed that there was very little money on hand. There were nearly 800 depositors, and their books called for nearly half a million dollars. When a distribution was made, the depositors received about six cents on the dollar. Rockefeller was arrested, tried and convicted of embezzlement. He was sentenced to two years and six months in the Eastern penitentiary. After serving his time he was arrested again. The ex-banker is now 72 years old, but stands the ordeal well. He claims he has no money. Mrs. Mier, the prosecutrix in the case now being tried, alleges that she gave Rockefeller \$1,000 on the day before the bank closed. It was after banking hours, but Rockefeller reopened his bank and accepted the deposit.

MILLER'S FRIENDS RELEASED.

Three Negroes Accused of Blowing Up a Hungarian Shanty Set Free.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., May 3.—James Miller, John Bird and George Jordan, three of a party of seven colored people who were charged with blowing up a Hungarian shanty on the Lehigh Valley railroad, by which six lives were lost, were brought into court today on a nolle prosequi and discharged. Noise Miller, the leader of the party, was convicted of murder in the first degree, but he died in prison before the sentence could be carried out. Frank Shaffer, another of the party, was also convicted of murder in the first degree, but the board of pardons changed the death sentence to life imprisonment.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Weather Indications Today: Probably Light Showers.

- 1 (General)—Turkey Asks for an Armistice. Increased Imports for April. Congressional Proceedings. Georgia Citizens Do Not Want a Colored Postmaster. Miss Parloa on Domestic Science. 2 (Sport)—Base Ball. Cycling in Europe. Bicycle Gossip. 3 (State)—Legislature Asked to Regulate Marriage. 4 Editorial. Washington Gossip. 5 (Story)—The Wedding of Kate Carnegie. 6 (Local)—Excellent Showing of the Lackawanna Hospital. Mormon Missionaries Seeking Proselytes. Jennings Case Must Head the List for Second Week of May Term. 7 (Local)—Semi-annual meeting of the Providence Presbyterian Church. 8 (Local)—West Side and City Suburban. 9 Lackawanna County News. 10 Neighboring Counties. Financial and Commercial.

IMPORTS FOR APRIL

Volume Almost Unprecedented in the Country's History.

FIGURES FOR NINE MONTHS

Retroactive Clause Did Not Save Loss in Receipts.

Importation of Free Goods--Wilson Law's First Month of Good Showing Brought About by Prospect of High Protective Tariff--Careful Analysis of Figures Prepared by the Treasury Department Showing Amount of Imports for April.

Washington, May 3.—A careful analysis of figures, prepared by the treasury department, showing the amount of imports or foreign goods for the month of April, indicates that the so-called retroactive clause of the Dingley bill really had very little effect on the importers of the country. The prominent fact in the official record is that the volume of imports reached an amount almost unprecedented in the history of the country. Incidental to this is to be noted, not only the apparent small effect of the retroactive proposition, but that the first month of tolerable showing for the Wilson law was brought about by the prospect of a high protective tariff. At the time the retroactive clause was proposed, members of the ways and means committee explained in private conversation that the proposition, seeming of doubtful validity, was made rather as a "safety-valve" to prevent large anticipatory importations than in the serious belief that it would become a part of the new law. This fact was published in dispatches to The Tribune at the time. It now appears that only that the finance committee of the senate will strike the retroactive clause from the bill, but that the provision has also failed of the only effect which Chairman Dingley and his colleagues had really hoped for it.

THE RETROACTIVE CLAUSE.

The retroactive clause provided that the new rates should be levied upon merchandise imported after April 7 which had been paid before that date. Contracts which had been made prior to April 7 were not meant to be subject to the proposed law, unless the importer should admit in his sworn statement that the goods had been purchased as provided in the act prior to April 7. Thus it was made easy to evade the threatened law, supposing any importer had feared that such a law could ever be made constitutionally effective. The figures reported from the various custom houses for the month of April show that the importers believed that the retroactive clause would never be enacted, or that it was perfectly safe to take the chances on its constitutionality. The importations of merchandise for the month, though exact compilations of the figures are not yet completed, are known to amount to at least \$800,000. The amount of imports for March was \$76,372,881. The customs receipts for the two months may not show the corresponding difference from the fact that the importations of prominent articles on the free list, such as wool, hides, etc., was enormously large.

THE IMPORTATIONS OF FOREIGN GOODS FOR THE LAST NINE MONTHS IS SHOWN BY THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

Table with 2 columns: Month and Amount. Rows include August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April (estimated).

THE INCREASED IMPORTATIONS.

An unfortunate feature of the increased importations is the fact that they have been mostly of goods on the free list, as already described. The effect of the pending tariff bill with the extensive probable transfer of many articles from the free to the dutiable list is shown by the record of free importations issued by the treasury department. For the last nine months these importations have been as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Month and Amount. Rows include August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April (estimated).

The receipts of customs during the time since a Republican administration took office, is shown by the following table:

Table with 2 columns: Month and Amount. Rows include November, December, January, February, March, April.

It is regarded as probable that the imports for the present month will not amount to a much larger figure than those for April. From the fact that goods for the spring and summer trade have for the greater part arrived in port. Another circumstance which will prevent a large increase is the probability that the pending tariff bill will become a law without unnecessary delay. The constant declarations of the Republican managers that the bill will be on the statute books, while not believed by the best informed persons to be strictly true, will have its effect upon the increased rush of importations for the month, in all probability.