

PEACE PLAN PROPOSED

Mr. McKinley Considering New Autonomy Proposals.

OFFERED BY THE SPANISH

Another Phase Appears in the Cuban Question.

Acceptance Favored by Members of the Cabinet, but the President Not Committed—He Has Soundings Congressmen, Showing a Disposition to Be Influenced by Them—Situations and the War Prospects.

New York, March 28.—A Washington special to the Commercial Advertiser contains the following concerning the new phase in the Cuban question:

"That the president has conducted his negotiations with Spain in a spirit of firmness and dignity is evident from the advice received here from Madrid. The tone of the note presented by Minister Woodford, as indicated in last week's dispatches from Washington and confirmed today in the despatches from the Spanish capital, meets with general approval among members of congress and the administration will be supported strongly in following up the policy which it has outlined.

At the same time, without departing from this policy in its ultimate purpose, the president is considering with some seriousness the plan for a temporary arrangement which shall permit a peaceful solution of the Cuban question. The plan is one which has been proposed by the Spanish minister, and its substance is this: Ample relief supplies will be sent by the United States to the starving people of Cuba and an appropriation for this purpose will be asked from congress. The sending of this relief will not be antagonized by Spain. On the contrary, the Spanish authorities will be glad to distribute the supplies if it is desired. The reconcentrados will be allowed to leave the walled towns and to return to their homes and the policy inaugurated by Weyler is to be abandoned. Spain will offer to the insurgents a plan of autonomy as complete in every way as that now enjoyed by the people of the Spanish flag will continue to float and there will be certain other evidences of Spanish control. Spain will have a short time in which to put this scheme for autonomy into practice. The insurgents will be led by the United States to accept the Spanish offer with the understanding that Spain's good faith is to be guaranteed by the United States. Should the insurgents agree to the plan then there will be an armistice and both sides will lay down their arms. It may be assumed that the war would soon be at an end. Should the insurgents refuse the proposition and insist on continuing their struggle for independence, then the United States government will wash its hands of the whole business and inform the insurgent leaders that they will have to carry on their struggle at their own risk.

This is substantially the plan as proposed by the Spanish minister. There are details which it is not now necessary to touch upon. It is supposed that it would afford a modus vivendi. The plan has not been formally accepted by the administration. It is supported by a majority of the cabinet and is not unfavorably regarded by the president, but it is not believed that he will adopt it unless he finds congress in a complaisant mood. In the last two days he has talked the question over which several leading senators, to all of whom he has said that in his view the scheme had merit, and to some of whom he has intimated that he did not see how the United States could well reject so fair a proposition. Some of the senators with whom he has spoken favor the scheme; others criticize it as a compromise craftily suggested by the government at Madrid.

It should be said that the plan is part of a scheme which the president has in mind for gradually bringing to an end the Cuban troubles. After securing Spain's consent to the distribution of government supplies and the liberation of the reconcentrados, he would proceed in due time to request a complete disarming of both the Cuban and Spanish troops. Should this proposition be accepted to, it is calculated that Spanish supremacy in Cuba would disintegrate, and that independence would be a matter of only a short time. It is supposed that the enlisted men in the Spanish army, who were drafted from the Pvenenes, who are mostly half-grown boys, and who have been unpaid and unfed for months, would seize the opportunity to break away from their military control and scatter over the island, settling down with the native Cubans on terms of mutual good-will, and intermarrying. This is a project which appeals to the fancy of those members of the administration who are peaceably inclined.

Should it be formally proposed in the senate it is believed that it would have the support of a majority in that body. With few exceptions—Republican senators disagree. It is believed that it would have practically a unanimous support among Democrats and Populists. Senator Gorman heartily approves it from a political point of view. The Populists and the silver senators also regard it with favor. A change has come over the silver contingent since it has been learned upon them that a war with Spain would not necessarily force the United States to a silver basis. At first they believed that this would be the inevitable outcome of hostilities, but now they realize the probability that a war would only result in fixing the gold standard more firmly. It has been noticeable in the last few days that their belligerent spirit is modified. The reason for this is not far to see. They hope that the Republican administration will bring negotiations to a lame and impotent conclusion and that when the fall elections come around the Spanish flag will be flying in Havana and Cuban independence will be as far off as ever. Such outcome as this they are sure would work disastrously to the Republican party at the

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ALLEGED BRIBERY AT PHILADELPHIA

Official Inquiry Resumed Yesterday by Judges Gordon and Breyer.

THE SCHUYLKILL WATER CASE

Mayor Charles F. Warwick and Dr. William P. Pepper Tell of Their Acquaintance with Mr. Green. Episode of the Opinion That Was in the Hands of Green at Philadelphia at the Hour It Was Given in Harrisburg.

Philadelphia, March 28.—Judges Gordon and Breyer yesterday resumed their judicial inquiry into the alleged bribery and improper influences by which the Schuylkill Valley Water company's bill leasing the city water works was pushed in council up to a vote on final passage, but which was then indefinitely postponed. At the last session Councilman Walker admitted receiving \$500 for his vote in committee and Councilman Clay charged Nelson G. Green, of New York, counsel for the company, of having told him that it cost \$15,000 or \$20,000 to get the bill through the water committee.

Mayor Charles F. Warwick, and Dr. William P. Pepper, ex-provost of the University of Pennsylvania, told of their connection with Mr. Green. Dr. Pepper said he met him through Judge Henry Green, of the Pennsylvania Supreme court, who arranged a conference at the witness' office. Judge Green took no other part in the conference than to introduce Nelson G. Green. The latter endeavored to secure witness' influence in favor of the bill, but without success.

GREEN WELL POSTED.

Mayor Warwick said he was introduced to Nelson G. Green by Judge Green. After the latter had left the mayor's office Nelson Green spoke of the Schuylkill Valley bill. The witness then explained that at the time council was endeavoring to pass a big loan bill in which \$3,000,000 was to be used to improve the water supply. Council's right to borrow the money was questioned and the matter was ultimately carried to the Supreme court, where it was decided that the people must first authorize the loan. This was in May of last year. At 10 o'clock on the morning that the decision was handed down in Harrisburg, Nelson G. Green came into witness' office and told him the decision of the Supreme court, at the same time handing him a copy of it. The mayor after glancing at it handed it back, whereupon Nelson Green told him the court had just handed it down. The mayor asked him by what right he had the opinion in his possession at the hour it was being handed down in Harrisburg, and demanded that he hand it over to him. Green put it in his pocket and would not allow the mayor again to look at it. The inquiry was then adjourned until Friday morning, the district attorney saying the introduction of other testimony might interfere with the trial of Peck and Smith tomorrow. Smith is charged with attempted bribery in connection with the bill. Judge Green and Nelson G. Green are not related.

LOPER ARRESTED.

Vice-President of the Guarantors' Finance Company Under Bail on Charge of Conspiracy.

Philadelphia, March 28.—Richard F. Loper, vice president and general manager of the Guarantors' Finance company, was placed under arrest this afternoon charged with conspiracy to cheat and defraud the People's bank. The warrant was sworn out by Albert Tabor, receiving teller of the People's bank. When the bank closed its doors on March 25, it was said that Loper was indebted to the institution to the extent of \$600,000, and that he had given securities which were practically worthless. Cashier John S. Hopkins, of the People's bank, who made the loans to Loper, committed suicide Thursday morning. March 24, after he had learned that application had been made for a receiver for the Guarantors' company. Mr. Loper subsequently entered bail before Magistrate Jermon in the sum of \$25,000. His bondsmen are Henry C. Ellis, treasurer of the Guarantors' company, and Gilbert Ritter. President McKanes, of the People's bank, tonight issued a sworn statement in which he agreed to personally make good all losses of the bank's proceeds. He says an examination reveals that the bank is insolvent due to unauthorized and unlawful transactions between the dead cashier, John S. Hopkins, and Richard F. Loper. The amount of these transactions will reach about \$700,000. It is understood that the capital stock of the bank, which is \$750,000, shall be paid in by the Guarantors' company. In addition President McKane consents to the appointment of Thomas W. Barlow as temporary receiver for the bank.

THE MOSQUITO FLEET.

Will Be Made Up of Tug Boats and Other Small Vessels.

Washington, March 28.—It was learned today that the navy department has determined upon the formation of an additional naval fleet to be known as "the Mosquito fleet," to be composed of tugs, steamers and other small vessels, which may be obtainable and which are to be used as a sort of mobile defense of seacoast cities. It was further developed in this connection that the naval militia of the several states, to be called upon to man this auxiliary fleet.

CABINET MEETING.

Time Spent in Consideration of Messages from Minister Woodford.

Washington, March 28.—The special cabinet meeting, which was called today was largely devoted to the reading of the president's message sent to congress at noon. After it had been

despatched to the capitol some time was spent in the consideration of late messages from Minister Woodford. Although the details of these dispatches are not made public, it is known they are reassuring in character and give a basis for the belief that the present strained relations may yet be satisfactorily relieved. Although refusing to enter into the details a member of the cabinet said of the meeting today that the conditions were more hopeful than three days ago. Notwithstanding these hopeful signs the negotiations have not passed the danger point, nor is it believed that this government will accept any compromise that does not involve prompt cessation of hostilities, even if the question of the future government of Cuba be left to future negotiations.

FAMILY SLAUGHTERED.

Terrible Tragedy Reported from Paris—Six Victims of a Robber.

Paris, March 28.—A terrible tragedy is reported from Bernal, in the department of the Eure. A robber named Callard murdered a family of six persons last evening. He shot and killed the husband, wife and three children and a paralytic bedridden woman 71 years of age. He was arrested.

WESTERN FLOODS.

Indian Territory, Illinois and Indiana Are Inundated—Much Damage to Property.

Ardmore, Ill., March 28.—A destructive wind storm, accompanied by a heavy downpour of rain, struck this city yesterday. In the path of the storm, which was not over 100 yards wide, sixteen dwellings were moved from their foundations. The home of Rev. McCullough was wrecked and Mrs. McCullough was severely injured by flying debris. Much minor damage was done throughout the town. All streams are swollen and considerable damage is believed to have been done in the surrounding country.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., MARCH 28.—The

Wabash and White rivers are on a rampage. In some portions of Southern Indiana the Wabash is said to be ten miles wide. Much live stock has been drowned in the lowlands. The Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern road has lost heavily, many hundreds of feet of roadbed having been washed away. From Clay county comes news of the coal mines being overflowed. In one mine men were thrown out of employment.

MASCOUTAH, ILL., MARCH 28.—The

reports from above indicate that the great levees twenty miles up the Kaskaskia are expected to be swept away. Many farmers are abandoning their homes in the lowlands, taking their families and live stock and leaving. Between Fayetteville and St. Liberty the Kaskaskia is now about four miles wide and all overland traffic has been abandoned. Specials say that the situation is critical in the towns and villages south of Springfield, Ill.

BLAZE UP THE VALLEY.

Between 12:15 and 3 o'clock this morning the northern sky was lit up with the reflection of some large conflagration which appeared to be about ten miles off. Telephone inquiry to Arzhead and Peckville located the blaze at the "Ridge," and it was judged from its size and duration that it must be the Blue Ridge breaker or a number of houses.

TWO HUNDRED STRIKERS WORK.

Biddeford, Me., March 28.—According to reports from Biddeford, the York cotton mills in Saco opened today, but out of 1,500 striking employes only 200 went to work, and in several departments there was not enough help to start the machinery. The strikers are still out of 1,500 looms were started. The management hopes to get most of the men back in the course of a few days.

SARATOGA CITIZENS PATRIOTIC.

Saratoga, N. Y., March 28.—The officers of the Saratoga Citizens' corps have arranged all the necessary details in anticipation of being called in event of hostilities with Spain. The corps is attached to the National Guard.

FANNY DAVENPORT ILL.

Chicago, March 28.—It was acknowledged today by those in attendance upon Fanny Davenport, the actress, that the patient was at death's door and slender hopes of her recovery are entertained.

NO ARMISTICE.

Washington, March 28.—Concerning the reports of an armistice it can be stated positively that there will be no agreement of the kind for a period of eight months or any other period.

SIR JOHN ARNOI DEAD.

London, March 28.—Sir John Arnoi, baronet, proprietor of the Irish Times, is dead. He was born in 1817, was knighted in 1859 and was created a baronet in 1884.

WORDS OF WISE MEN.

Of all sorts of flattery that which comes from a solemn character and stands before a sermon is the worst kind. Success is a nameless, unreasoning, unjustifiable attitude of mind towards a person or a course of action, which comes from a man's habit of making a list of his own virtues and of the faults of others, and of comparing himself with the latter.

Upholstery Department

WILLIAMS & McANULTY Carpets and Upholstery, 120 Wyoming Avenue.

Gerson's SPRING OPENING Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 29, 30, 31

FRENCH PATTERN HATS Straight from Paris come to us, these the most beautiful models in Spring Millinery we have ever seen. The enormous advantage of our New York Wholesale House, (674 Broadway), gives us for securing the cream of the choicest Paris creations enables us to make the surprising offer of about one hundred Imported Pattern Hats, including such names as Josse, Virot, Felix, Heitz-Boyanne, etc., etc., (used by our New York trimmers as models), worth from \$20 to \$25. Of these you may take your pick at the absurd price of \$9.50.

A Paradise of Flowers. Hundreds of kinds. Over one hundred styles of Roses alone. Superb specimens of coloring, exquisitely perfect in the minutest petal and leaf. Marvelous values. Nothing like them ever seen. "Would take this whole page to describe them. We quote but a few: Sweet Peas, Silk Velvet Pensies, Sundry Polypies, Velvet Geraniums, Large Daisies, Roses, all colors, Buttercups, Outlets, all colors, End Foliage, Tinted Foliage, Shaded Carnations, Corn Flowers. ALL GO AT 25c. ACTUAL VALUES ARE 50c, 62c, 75c, 89c and \$1.00.

Ribbons. A myriad new effects in the scarce new weaves and all the hard-to-get tints of Burnt Orange and Turquoise. Priced fully a third under others. No. 80 (5 inches wide), all silk satin sheen Taffeta fancy ribbon, worth 75c yard, to go at 25c. No. 60 all silk, satin and gros grain ribbon, in all the new shades, worth 50c yard, to go at 25c. Gauze Trimming Ribbons at cut prices. Every color.

In Untrimmed Hats. Every new and original thought in Untrimmed Hats. All the new things and vast quantities to pick from. New shapes in Chip, Fancy Straw, Hair and Rough Braids in all colors. Usual price 75c and \$1.00. Here at 39c. Manila Braid Hats in all the new shops and colors. Regularly \$1.50. Here at 98c. Also all the Fancy Mix and Satin Braid Hats, usually sold at \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.50. Our price, 95c, \$1.25, \$1.48.

GERSON'S, The Largest Exclusive Millinery Store in the State, 413 Lackawanna Avenue.

CITY'S FISCAL YEAR.

It Comes to an End Next Monday at Noon.

The city's fiscal year ends next Monday noon and to the noisiness of the date is due some anxiety as to the fate of many unapproved ordinances, resolutions and other papers which have been waiting one week for final consideration by the mayor.

Among the measures are several of importance, a number of which are still awaiting the mayor's decision at one time. To a Tribune reporter Mayor Bailey yesterday said he would finally dispose of nearly all the papers before him by Thursday night. He declined to intimate what measures would not be given final disposition on or before that day, but they are presumed to be the two Nineteenth Street district ordinances, one creating the district and one providing for the sewers. Other papers he may be undecided about or have determined not to approve, but they are none of them important. That Mayor Bailey will sign the ordinance granting the Dunn Street Sprinkling company the exclusive right to sprinkle the streets, is presumed.

NEW YORK DENTAL PARLORS

"TEETH MADE PERFECT." ORIGINALATORS OF PAINLESS DENTISTRY. We have all the latest discoveries for alleviating pain. We extract teeth, fill teeth and apply gold crowns and bridge work without the least particle of pain, by a method patented and used by us only. NO CHARGE for painless extracting when teeth are ordered.

MAKE A GOOD SHOWING.

Deposits of the Pupils in No. 36 School. The pupils of No. 36, Franklin avenue, commenced depositing in the Dime Deposit and Discount bank, March 14, 1898. Their deposits have been as follows:

- Miss Dyer's deposit, \$5.05; Miss Osland's, \$4.83; Miss DeGraw's, \$4.64; Miss Short's, \$3.24; Miss Rose's, \$5.87; Miss Wormer's, \$2.81; Miss Amsden's, \$2.40; Miss Schimpf's, \$10.66; Miss Smith's, \$5.57; Miss Porcher's, \$5.90; Miss Cliff's, \$4.56; Miss Stevenson's, \$12.41.

A SIGNIFICANT ORDER.

Received by the Twentieth Separate Company of Binghamton. The commanding officer of the Twentieth Separate company, of Binghamton, N. Y., has received this significant telegram, signed by General Oliver, commander of the Third brigade:

MOOSIC POWDER CO.

MOOSIC POWDER CO. Rooms 1 and 2, Com'lt B'ld'g. SCRANTON, PA. Mining and Blasting POWDER Made at Moosic and Rushdale Works. LAFIN & RAND POWDER CO'S ORANGE GUN POWDER Electric Batteries, Electric Exploders, for exploding blasts, Safety Fuse and Repugno Chemical Co's HIGH EXPLOSIVES WOLF & WENZEL, 240 Adams Ave., Opp. Court House. PRACTICAL TINNERS and PLUMBERS Sole Agents for Richardson-Bornton's Furnaces and Ranges. LADIES Clean your Kid Gloves with MILLER'S GLOVEINE. For sale only by Mears & Hagen, headquarters for dressed and undressed kid gloves in all the most desirable shades. General Office Scranton, Pa.

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"TEETH MADE PERFECT." ORIGINALATORS OF PAINLESS DENTISTRY. We have all the latest discoveries for alleviating pain. We extract teeth, fill teeth and apply gold crowns and bridge work without the least particle of pain, by a method patented and used by us only. NO CHARGE for painless extracting when teeth are ordered.

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Hood's Pills. Hood's Pills should be in every family medicine chest and every traveler's grip. They are invaluable in the stomach, bowels, biliousness, and all liver troubles. Hood & Company, Lowell, Mass.