

CONSIDERING ARMY BILLS

Important Measures for Reorganization and Increase of Army.

MR. HULL IS CONFIDENT

He Expects to Pass His Army Bill Before the Holidays—The Bill Drafted by General Nelson A. Miles—Has Not Been Before the Committee But Will Be Considered in the Near Future.

Washington, Dec. 9.—The house committee on military affairs began consideration today of the important measures and the reorganization and increase of the army to meet the conditions arising out of the war. Such progress was made that Chairman Hull said at the close of the meeting that he expected not only to report the bill to the house before the holidays, but also to pass it by that time. In order to expedite the work daily committee meetings will be held, beginning next Monday. General Ames and General Schofield, the present and the late commanding chiefs of the army, were invited to be present on Monday to offer suggestions and recommendations. Following them the various heads of staff, bureau, the adjutant general, commissary general and quartermaster general will be heard.

More than usual interest attached to the meeting today in view of the effect of this legislation upon the future status of the army. The bill immediately under consideration was the Hull bill introduced by Chairman Hull and having the approval of Secretary Alger. The other army bill, drawn by General Miles, was not before the committee, so that no comparison of their provisions was attempted.

THE MILES BILL

The Miles bill probably will be introduced in the house on Monday and referred to the military committee, so as to be taken up after the holidays are over. For today, however, the committee confined its attention to going over the various provisions of the Hull bill. Mr. Hull explained the plan of the measure in so shaping the arms of the service as to bring the total effective force up to 100,000 and led to general discussion. No decisions were reached and no votes were taken on any of the features of the bill, the whole subject going over.

TROOPS FOR HAVANA.

First Body to March Through the City Will Be the 202d New York.

Havana, Dec. 9.—The first United States troops to march through the streets of Havana will be the Two Hundred and Second New York regiment, with band playing and colors flying, on Sunday from the San Jose wharf, after landing there from the transport Minnowaska, through the heart of Havana to the western railroad station. The line of march will be through the Prado and Central park. These troops will be sent to Pinar del Rio province, General Davis, with the general headquarters staff and one battalion, will be at Pinar del Rio, the regimental headquarters, and the Second battalion will be at Guanajuato. The Third battalion will be stationed at Mariel and the Higgins signal company will be quartered at the city of Pinar del Rio. The troops will remain on board the Minnowaska tonight.

FILIPINOS AT WASHINGTON.

The Cortez Brothers Desire the Gift of American Citizenship.

Washington, Dec. 9.—The brothers Cortez, wealthy Filipinos, who have just arrived in Washington from Manila, called at the state department today and were received by Secretary Hay, who listened with interest to their statements of events and conditions in the Philippines. The callers brought with them letters from Generals Merritt and Otis, Consul Wildman and other American officers at Manila, speaking in terms of high praise of the valuable services rendered the United States troops and navy by these men and telling of the heavy sacrifices made by them to assist our forces.

RATIFICATION OF PEACE.

Treaty May Be Ready for the Senate About Monday Week.

Washington, Dec. 9.—A member of the cabinet said after today's meeting that the treaty of peace would be signed undoubtedly by Monday and that it might be ready for submission to the senate within a week from that time. The American commissioners will not tarry in Paris after the signing of the treaty any longer than may be necessary to make the ordinary preparations for return and they will sail for home by the 17th inst.

STEEL COMBINE.

The Federal Company Not Contemplating More Purchases.

THE ROPE BROKE WITH ANDERSON

Horrible Scene at the Hanging of the Murderer of Matt Saunders, of the Olive Pecker.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 9.—John Anderson, the condemned murderer of Mate Saunders, of the schooner Olive Pecker, was executed in the city jail at 3 p. m. today. He marched from his cell to the scaffold unsupported and with firm step ascended the steps without assistance. After prayer by Rev. J. B. Merritt, chaplain of the Seaman's Bethel, who kissed him good bye, Anderson made a short speech, saying he had forgiven the men who swore his life away and would die at peace with the world and God. He spoke pleasantly to and smiled at the death watchers and the crowd below, and in a firm voice said "I am ready." At 3:06 the trap was sprung and Anderson's body shot downward. The rope parted just inside the knot and his body fell to the cobble stones.

MILLER BEATS WORLD'S RECORD

Scenes at the Six Day Bicycle Race at Madison Square Garden.

New York, Dec. 10.—Before midnight Miller had beaten the world's record many times in the last few days and his friends believe that he will be able to finish ahead of his own record until the race is ended. Large crowds thronged Madison Square Garden all day and at midnight thousands of enthusiasts remained to cheer on the famed six day riders. Miller began to gain over his opponents early in the evening and at 8 o'clock he was only five miles behind his record of 1897. He then left the track, remaining off 35 minutes. At 9 o'clock Thurville withdrew from the race with 1,225 miles to his credit. At midnight Miller had 1,789 miles and six laps to his credit, about five miles ahead of his record at the same period last year. Waller, the second man, had 1,749 miles and eight laps to his credit. He took about a half an hour's rest tonight and when he returned to the track he appeared to be in good condition. Miller, however, has such a good lead that unless he should weaken or meet with an accident he is a sure winner. Pierce was almost 23 miles behind Waller at midnight and looked very tired. Should anything happen to Miller, Waller will probably be the winner.

EXPLOSION EXPLAINED.

Another Inflammatory Article on Subject of the Maine.

Madrid, Dec. 9.—The Imperialist today publishes another inflammatory article on the subject of the Maine charges. The paper intimates that the explosion was the outcome of an intense desire "upon the part of certain factions in the United States to see the outbreak of war, which was unpopular with the majority of Americans."

PENNSYLVANIA PENSIONS.

Washington, Dec. 9.—These Pennsylvania pensions have been issued: Original—Melvin D. Fanning, Wetons, Bradford; Marshall Preston, Scranton, 10 to 8; Miss B. Vanice, Hornbrook, Bradford, \$14 to \$17.

CABINET TALKS OF TERRITORY

CUBA, PORTO RICO AND THE PHILIPPINES CONSIDERED.

New Postal System to Be Established in Cuba—Cablegrams from Dewey and Otis at Manila Are Received Giving Views as to the Number of Troops Required for Duty in the Philippines.

Washington, Dec. 9.—The discussion of the details of the administration of government affairs in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines under the treaty of peace which is about to be signed in Paris, occupied a large part of the time today in the cabinet meeting. The establishment of a new postal system in Cuba was regarded as a pressing necessity. The present purpose is to fashion the new system, as far as practicable, upon our own model. Cablegrams were read from Admiral Dewey and General Otis, at Manila, giving their views as to the number of troops that it would be necessary to keep in the Philippines during the administration of military government. Further messages were not made public, but the information received, it is stated, was entirely satisfactory to the president. Nothing has been heard from Paris up to the close of the cabinet meeting. An official dispatch authorized that the sale of the Philippine islands to any other nation has been considered by this government, and it is stated, that the published statement to the effect that their sale to Japan had been under discussion altogether false. The cabinet also talked over an elaborate tariff measure which is now in preparation here to go into force, as now planned, contemporaneously with the entire relinquishment of the island by the Spanish on Jan. 1. This tariff measure, it is said, will show an average reduction all along the line of about 50 per cent. from the Spanish tariff rates. The understanding now is that there will be no export duties, and that in other respects the burden of taxation will be reduced. Postmaster General Emory Smith remained in consultation with the president almost the entire afternoon, talking over the scheme of postal administration of Cuba. There are two projects connected, one to establish a United States system similar to that now operating in Porto Rico under direct administration and full control of the United States and the other to give the Cubans an independent postal system, to be established in connection with the United States government, but to be operated and administered and all expenses paid by the Cubans, this government merely furnishing equipment at cost prices and assuming only a supervisory connection with it. A decision on this point will be reached shortly. Postmaster General Emory Smith will send several representatives of the postoffice department to secure information as to the conditions and needs and will report to him without delay. This commission may consist of as many as four experts thoroughly familiar with the respective operations of the internal administration of the postoffice, of mail transportation, of inspection and registry.

SMALL POX SCARE OF BEDFORD

Committee of Indignant Citizens Pass Resolutions Condemning the Correspondents, Etc.

Bedford, Pa., Dec. 9.—Indignation was never greater than at the present moment in Bedford. Indignation justly caused by the false reports that have been given the press concerning the prevalence of small pox in Bedford. Stories have gone abroad that the whole town was afflicted with the dread disease, that the residents were quarantined and barricaded. Two hundred cases reported have dwindled down to seven. Two in the borough and five outside within a radius of nine miles. These seven cases are conceded to be small pox in a very mild form, though no alarm has been felt by the citizens, the patients being entirely under control and not permitted to mingle with other members of the family. The stories arising from interviews with Dr. W. B. Atkinson, of Philadelphia, who was sent here by the state board of health, are answered by Dr. W. T. Hughes, an old practitioner and eminent physician of this district. The greatly exaggerated account of the small pox scare in Bedford, given out by Dr. W. B. Atkinson, of Philadelphia, is an outrage and an imposition upon the people of the community. At a town meeting held this afternoon a committee was appointed of the town council and board of health and prominent citizens. Judge J. M. Reynolds was made chairman. The following resolution was passed and voted that it should be given to the press: "The people of this town have been greatly startled by unfounded reports of the prevalence here of small pox. No greater wrong to any community can be imagined than that perpetrated in this instance and deep indignation prevails among the people who collected in an informal meeting this afternoon and severely denounced the statements purporting to come from Dr. Atkinson. There are two cases in this town and seven outside. Five families in all being effected, and these are entirely under care and control. Dr. Atkinson did not see more than five families, he stated, and to say that 120 patients were under his eye is entirely false. There is not the least alarm or apprehension felt among the people and they are simply doing the publicity given these false reports. That some cases of a peculiar skin affection have existed in different parts of the county may be admitted, but they are not small pox and the town has not been quarantined or restricted as was published."

TRAGEDY AT DU BOIS.

Three Persons Killed, Three Wounded and One Dies of Shock.

Du Bois, Pa., Dec. 9.—Three persons killed, three wounded and the mother of one victim dying of the shock caused by her son's death. All this resulted from two wrecks on the Clarion River railroad near Portland Mills in Elk county, Wednesday. A train loaded with pulp wood was being hauled down the steep grade near Portland Mills and the rear end was left on the top of the hill, owing to the slippery tracks. While the front end was descending the rear of the train became unmanageable and dashed down the hill, crashing into the front section. Both sections were wrecked and brakeman Thomas Breshearn, on front section, was instantly killed. A dinky engine with a crew of five men was ordered back to clear up the wreck and bring back Breshearn's remains. The work was completed and while the train was returning the engine jumped the track and rolled over an embankment. Of the crew on board at the time, the engineer, Harry Carman, was fatally injured and died a few minutes after being extricated. Foreman Daniel Myers was rescued and has since died of his wounds. Sowers, Cassidy and McKnight, were all badly injured. McKnight's arm being crushed. When young Carman's invalid mother was acquainted of her son's death, she lapsed into unconsciousness and her death is momentarily expected.

LONDONIAN SURVIVORS.

They Arrive in Boston from Baltimore—List of the Missing.

Boston, Dec. 9.—The surviving members of the crew of the steamer Londonian rescued from the wreck by the steamer Vedamun, reached this city today from Baltimore. The names of those who are supposed to have been lost, besides Captain E. B. Lee, First Officer Murray, and Third Officer J. Cotter, of London, are: Carpenter, Wickham, a Russian; Boatwain Bohem, Able Beaman Carlson, Petersen, Hennessey, Crowley, Corness, Webb, Johnson, Hendrickson, Howard, Neilson, First Engineer Strafford, of Hull, England; Third Engineer Slater, of Crew; Pirman, J. Ashford, of London; Chief Steward Nichols, of Hull, England; Second Steward D. Darnell, also of Hull; Engineer Steward H. Waterman, of London; Second Cook Charles Martin. The names of the two Londonian were Daniel Cowan and Thomas Doyle, both of this city. In addition to these there was a young stowaway, whose name is supposed to be Cresce. This young man was a native of Calcutta, and had been in Boston for about five years, and was on his way to India by way of London. Second Officer Gittings, of the Londonian, in talking of the disaster today, said that the report from Baltimore that after the forty-five men had been taken on board the Vedamun, the steamer was soon lost sight of, and it was supposed that the remainder of her crew remained on board, was an error. The second officer states that they left the Londonian at about 10 o'clock and that boat was seen on the wreck by the King Arthur when she sighted her abandoned and carried the first intelligence of the disaster to Liverpool.

EXPLOSION IN POWDER MILL

Three Men Are Killed and Eight Injured.

The Press Mill and Four Grinding Mills at the Dupont Mills at Wilmington Explode with Terrible Effect—Cause of the Disaster.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 9.—Three men were killed and eight injured, three of them probably fatally by the explosion of a press mill and four grinding mills in the Hagley yard of the Dupont powder works, a few minutes after 10 o'clock today. The dead are: ROBERT McILHENNEY, about 45 years old, married; Lewis widow and four children; JOHN WRIGHT, about 50 years old; married; JOHN MOORE, 40 years old, married; leaves widow and five children. The seriously injured are: Thomas McCann, aged 30 years; unmarried; John Mulhern, 35, married; seriously burned. Samuel Stewart, 42, married; Thomas Knox, aged 30; married; James McLaughlin, aged about 45; Michael Maloney, aged 40; unmarried. Of the injured men, Stewart, McCann and Mulhern are in a serious condition. Immediately after the explosion the telephones were brought into service and every Wilmington physician who could be communicated with, was summoned to the scene of the explosion to render aid to the wounded. The explosion occurred in the press room of the Hagley, or lower yard works. A car load of powder that was being wheeled into the room was accidentally overturned, and the car wheels running into the loose powder causing a friction that set the powder afire. The explosions quickly followed, all the powder that was in the press room going off in the five successive detonations. CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION. The press mill was wrecked. The cause of the explosion is thus explained: John Mulhern was driving two horses attached to a car on a track. The car contained perhaps a ton of powder. The horses shied and overturned the car. Immediately there was an explosion, the shock being directed toward the press mill, very close to the car. The press mill exploded and was followed by five of the grinding mills in the immediate vicinity. Mulhern escaped. He was thrown some distance and was badly blackened. Mulhern's assistant, Thomas McCann, was seriously burned. He inhaled flames and his recovery is very doubtful. The operators at the press mill were McIlhenney and Wright and the explosion caused their instant death. The forces of the explosion carried portions of the bodies across the Brandywine creek, a distance of 100 yards from the mill. At the time of the explosion Moore, who was employed as a carpenter in the yard, was within a few feet of the press mill. The back of his head was crushed and he died a few minutes later. The shock of the explosion damaged property and shattered windows in all directions.

TRIAL OF STEELE.

The Cashier Upon the Witness Stand—States That He Was Never Benefitted.

Philadelphia, Dec. 9.—The government rested its case at noon today in the trial of William Steele, the cashier of the wrecked Chestnut Street National bank, charged with conspiracy with President William M. Singery in the misapplication of the funds of the institution and making false reports of the bank's condition to the comptroller of the currency. Edward R. Moxey, a government expert in the employ of the comptroller of the currency, testified regarding the falsity of the reports received from the Chestnut street bank. He instanced the reports of May and July, 1898. In the former the total loans and discounts were given as \$2,737,123, whereas on examination he found the figures should have been \$2,215,709. The checks and cash items were found to have been \$628,397 more than reported. Similar misstatements were embodied in the July, 1897, report. The defense then opened, counsel for the defendant stating that he would prove that in all financial circles Mr. Singery was looked upon as a very wealthy man, fully able to meet any obligations. Counsel asserted that his client had never profited one dollar by reason of the overdrafts and any act of his in carrying these overdrafts was the result of unbounded confidence in his superior officer, under whose instructions he was acting. Cashier Steele took the stand and his testimony in general was an admission that he knew all the time of the condition of the bank and of excessive loans being made to Mr. Singery. He also stated that this condition was known by the directors and also by the officials in Washington. His testimony in regard to the officials at Washington was ruled out. Mr. Steele laid particular stress upon the fact that he never benefited in any way whatever by the manipulation of the bank's funds by Mr. Singery and that he never at any time contemplated or intended to withhold the true condition of the bank from the directors and the officials at Washington. He disclaimed any intention to defraud the bank. He always considered Mr. Singery as a very wealthy man and one who was entirely able to meet all his obligations.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

- Weather Indications Today: Fair; Westerly Winds. 1 General—Congress Considers Army Bill. Three Killed, Eight Injured, in a Powder Mill Explosion. The Cabinet Considers Our New Possessions. Critical State of Affairs in China. 2 General—Testimony Before the War Inquiry Commission. Financial and Commercial. 3 Local—Religious News of the Week. Her Point of View. 4 Editorial. Comment of the Press. 5 Advertisements. 6 Local—Free Kindergarten Promoters Entertained. Busy Day in Criminal Court. 7 Local—First Anniversary of Scranton's Big Downtown Store. Pinkerton Man After the Durycy Plends. 8 Local—West Scranton and Suburban. News Round About Scranton. 9 Local—Social and Personal. Musical Question Box. 10 Sunday School Lesson for Tomorrow. Religious Work in the Colonies. 12 General—Thirtieth Regiment Leaves Another Member by Death.

SENATOR QUAY'S STAR WITNESSES

Ex-Judge James Gay Gordon and Ex-Postmaster General John Wanamaker to Be Subpoenaed.

Philadelphia, Dec. 9.—Counsel for Senator Quay in the conspiracy charges for which he is to be tried next week, today subpoenaed ex-Common Pleas Judge James Gay Gordon and ex-Postmaster General Wanamaker as witnesses for the defense. This news is interesting in view of the known opposition of both of these men to Senator Quay politically, and in view of the charges recently made by Senator Penrose in which he stated that the charges against Senator Quay were the result of a conspiracy to defeat him for re-election to the United States senate and in his place name a person favorable to Messrs. Wanamaker and Gordon. Subpoenas were also served upon several persons in Judge Gordon's law office.

CUBAN EXTREMISTS ARE SATISFIED

Anxious to Assume the Responsibility of the Outrage at the Spanish Club.

Santiago de Cuba, Dec. 9.—The extremists of the Cuban Republican party seem anxious to assume the responsibility for the outrage at the Spanish club Wednesday evening, when Juan Castillo, a former Cuban officer, accompanied by two negro subordinates, rode into the club rooms and with their machetes smashed several lamps and did other damage. El Porvenir, the organ of the extremists, when Juan Castillo, a former Cuban officer, accompanied by two negro subordinates, rode into the club rooms and with their machetes smashed several lamps and did other damage. El Porvenir, the organ of the extremists, when Juan Castillo, a former Cuban officer, accompanied by two negro subordinates, rode into the club rooms and with their machetes smashed several lamps and did other damage.

CHAIRMAN MOTT'S EDICT

The Czar of the L. A. W. Suspends Riders with a Ruthless Hand.

Baltimore, Dec. 9.—The six day bicycle races now pedaling at Madison Square Garden, New York, came under the ban of Chairman Mott, of the L. A. W., in his weekly bulletin announced today. Fines of \$50 each and suspension until paid "for competing in unsanctioned races," are imposed on the following: Frederick Michael, Switzerland; Teddy Hale, Ireland; Etienne Stephane, Ulysses Monochan, Theodore Joyeux, Paris; Frank Cline, Australia; Charles Miller, Chicago; James Naven, New York; Henry Pilkington, Ireland; Frank Walker, Boston; Fred Foster, New York; Lewis L. King, Bloomfield, N. J.; E. J. Smith, Saratoga; Ed. Bacon, New York; Oscar Julius, Sweden; Earl Stevens, Buffalo; Magnus Gross, Brooklyn; Charles Neal, New York; James Rafferty, Jack Burke, New York; John Lawson, Minneapolis; Oscar Aronson, New York; Stephen Fallon, Jersey City; A. G. Blizen, New York; Frank Albert, New York; Louis Pimm, Philadelphia; Bert Leslie, Chicago; Joe Rice, Wilkes-Barre, are fined \$50 each and suspended until paid for competing in unsanctioned races. Charles Thurville is fined \$15 additional, making \$20 in all, for the same violation of the rules. The track at Madison Square Garden is fined \$1,000 and suspended from the sanction privilege until paid. Eddie McDuffee, Boston, and Edward Taylor, New York, are suspended until fine is paid for competing in unsanctioned races.

DR. ATKINSON'S REPORT.

A Different Version of the Bedford Small Pox Epidemic.

Philadelphia, Dec. 9.—Dr. William F. Atkinson today submitted to Health Officer Lee a lengthy report, covering his investigation of the alleged epidemic of small pox at Bedford. In his report Dr. Atkinson says he saw persons walking along the streets, just outside of Bedford, with small pox lesions showing from their faces, and that in one house in Bedford he visited, a young man came to supper with well developed symptoms of the disease. The worst feature of existing conditions, he says, is that the people of the village have not only been mingling freely among themselves, but they have been allowed to visit at other points in the state, carrying the germs of the disease with them and possibly spreading it broadcast. The board of health will, it is said, act at once in the matter of establishing proper quarantine regulations.

UNION LODGE MEETING.

Officers Elected at Last Night's Meeting in Masonic Hall.

Union Lodge, No. 231, Free and Accepted Masons, held its annual meeting last night in Masonic hall. Officers were elected as follows: Worshipful master, Louis G. Schuartz; senior warden, William H. Hubler; junior warden, James F. Wardle; treasurer, E. F. Kinsey; secretary, Frank S. Hall; representative to the Grand Lodge, Ellery Thornley; trustees, John Bacon, Alexander Dunn and Ellery Thornley.

Hanged for Assault.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 9.—Jordan Webb, colored, who committed a criminal assault upon Mrs. Lucy Bowden, an aged lady, in September last, was hanged at Courthouse, Southampton county, today. He admitted his guilt just before his execution.

SITUATION IN CHINA

British and American Interests Reported in Peril.

Shanghai, Dec. 9.—John Barrett, formerly United States minister to Siam, has returned here after visiting Peking and the principal Chinese ports. He says the situation in China is of the most critical nature, and that Manchuria is no longer Chinese, but Russian territory. He asserts that New-Chwang, the chief northern port for the movement of American products, is also practically Russian and is liable to be closed any day. The only permanent safeguard to the paramount American and British interests, Mr. Barrett asserts, is immediate and united action by the interested governments to defend the integrity of the Chinese empire, to enforce reforms in the government, to prevent further cessations of ports and provinces and to insist on the "open door" policy in all parts of China, including the spheres of influence claimed by Russia, Germany and France. Otherwise, Mr. Barrett, contends, the impending partition of the Chinese empire is likely to curtail seriously the field of trade by affecting disastrously American and British influence in Asia.

MAHER DEFEATS DUNKHORST.

Philadelphia, Dec. 9.—Peter Maher bested Ed Dunkhorst in a one-sided six-round go at the Arena tonight. Peter did most of the landing and in the second round sent the Syracuse man to the boards twice. In the fifth round a hard left on the jaw sent him down again but the bell sounded before the ten seconds were up. Maher went at his man in the sixth in hurricane fashion and landed almost at will but Dunkhorst managed to last out to the end.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Forecast for Saturday: For eastern Pennsylvania, fair; fresh westerly winds.