

CHRISTMAS AT HAVANA

Disturbance Caused by Liquor at Montserrat Place.

UNKNOWN MAN KILLED

The Holiday as Lively as the Troops Could Make It--Turkeys Seven Dollars a Piece, and Lean and Scarce--Army Rations Supplemented by Fruit and Canned Goods. A Cactus Christmas Tree--General Lee's Modest Dinner--New Year Parade.

Havana, Dec. 25.--The United States troops have begun this evening a regular patrol of the city of Havana in order to guard against possible disorders. Today, however, passed in comparative quiet. The Harbo tested on Friday by Captain General Jimenez Castellanos, prohibiting crowds from assembling in the streets, has been generally observed.

Last night there was some disturbance, said to have been caused by liquor, in Montserrat place. A shot was fired about midnight from a roof at a group of people below, and many shots were returned at figures vaguely seen on the roof. An unidentified man was killed and three were wounded in other affairs.

Christmas at Camp Quemados was as lively as the troops could make it with smaller material. Turkeys, at seven dollars a piece, were scarce, and everybody said that, with the heat at summer temperature and the hedge rows brilliant with flowers, the day did not seem much different from the Fourth of July.

One battalion reached camp yesterday, the other two marching today a distance of eight miles over a dusty road.

CACTUS CHRISTMAS TREE.

All the regimental bands and the men were granted leave within a mile radius of the camp. Company F of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana regiment, had a very fine tree with a report for everybody stuck on the points, as for instance, hard tack, beans, salt pork and candles. The officers of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana indulged after dinner in songs and speechmaking, with several solo dances.

SOLDIERS' CHRISTMAS.

Regiments at Savannah Celebrate as Civilians. Savannah, Ga., Dec. 25.--Christmas in the camp of the Seventh army corps came as near to being a civilian celebration as is possible in military life. Practically all army restraints were suspended except morning and afternoon calls and the men were left to enjoy themselves in their own fashion.

REGARDING WHEAT SUPPLY.

Statistician of Agriculture Answers Sir William Crookes. Albany, N. Y., Dec. 25.--J. R. Dodge, for many years statistician of the United States department of agriculture at Washington, has written to the Country Gentlemen an exhaustive answer to the address of Sir William Crookes, before the British Science association, in which the latter predicted a great wheat famine. He takes Sir William to task for presenting inaccurate figures.

600,000 average in the last eight years. He assumes the present annual requirement for bread is 2,224,000,000 bushels of wheat, while the official and export estimates of the period since 1890 average more than that figure, the compilation of such estimates for seven years by the department of agriculture averaging 2,177,845,000, an excess of over one hundred and fifty millions; though the eminent scientist is almost as lame in his statistics of consumption as he is those of production, really minimizing both. He makes the supply of year only 1,623,000,000, while in the statement quoted above the product of 1897, the smallest of seven years, is given as 2,214,000,000.

It is a very unreliable forecast that understate production nearly ten per cent. "It would be uncharitable to hope for a scarcity of bread rations; still our wheat growers would not feel very dependent over a prospect of good prices.

Mr. Crookes' view is a distinct encouragement to them and similar views have been put forth before, sometimes apparently in the hope of raising prices. Unfortunately, when exaggerated, a temporary rise of ten per cent. is followed by the result of natural reaction, and from a crop of 2,000,000,000 of bushels, stimulated by temporary advance in value, by a fall of twenty to thirty per cent., as between 1891 and 1895. It is hard to convince people, scientists as well as plain people, that honesty is the best policy, and truth as statistics cannot safely be departed from. The practice of stock exchange, as well as that of market prices, to secure a temporary advantage, can never add the cause of science or of rural economy."

PEACE IN THE QUAKER CITY

Police in the Place Busier Than They Have Been for Many a Day.

Philadelphia, Dec. 25.--The "peace and good will" season of the past twenty-four hours have kept the police of this city busier than they have been for many a day. The gravest case which called for their services may result in a triple murder. It occurred tonight in a respectable court near Eleventh and Race streets.

Mrs. Mary Johnson and Mrs. Alice White, both colored women, twenty-eight years old, were shot in the head and body and Charles H. Moore, a thirty-year-old white man, was shot in the back by George St. Clair, colored.

Mrs. White is not expected to live through the night and the other two victims are in a critical condition. The shooting occurred in Mrs. Johnson's house. According to her statement, St. Clair, who lived nearby, accompanied by a colored friend of his from Washington, name unknown, forced an entrance while the women were sleeping, and picked a quarrel over a trivial matter, finally drawing a revolver and firing three shots, all of which took effect. Moore, who was unknown to the parties, was looking for another house when he accidentally stumbled into the place while St. Clair was shooting. The pistol was promptly turned on him and he was shot in the back.

St. Clair and his companion escaped, and up to a late hour had not been captured. Plumes found four victims during the Christmas period. Mrs. John Ford and her infant daughter were burned to death at their home in a fire caused by the explosion of an oil lamp, and Miss Mary Coyle, aged 79 years, met death from a like cause. She fell down stairs with a lighted lamp in her hand.

John McNay was sandbagged by two men who followed him from a Camden saloon early this morning and robbed him of \$16. He will recover.

Miss Emma Lamparter, also of Camden, was walking to the ferry after a night's shopping, when she was "held up" by a negro, who fired at her with a revolver. The bullet grazed her cheek, but her assailant was frightened off without booty.

SITUATION IN PHILIPPINES.

Business Prostrate in the Southern Provinces--News at Manila. Manila, Dec. 26.--The steamer Union, which returned here from Iloilo with native and Spanish soldiers and was refused a landing at this place, has been detained by the American officials.

Private advices from the southern provinces say that business is suspended in all the leading towns, that supplies are scarce, and that foreigners are only permitted to travel when special permits have been issued to them. At Zamboanga, the headquarters of the so-called Philippine government, near here, the native soldiers are levying on the villagers for supplies of food, the people are half-starved, and universal dissatisfaction prevails.

BANQUET TO GRENFELL.

American Representatives Are Received with Enthusiasm. Cairo, Dec. 25.--A farewell banquet was given by the Egyptian government to General Sir Francis Grenfell, recently appointed governor of Malta, who now retires from the supreme command of the Anglo-Egyptian forces in Egypt. The presence of Mr. Thomas S. Harrison, United States agent and consul general, and Ethelbert Watts, United States vice consul general, led to an Anglo-American demonstration. General Grenfell and James Russell Russell, secretary of legation at the British agency, spoke warmly of Anglo-Saxon friendship.

JUDGE DAY IS NOT AT ALL AMBITIOUS

HE HAS NO POLITICAL PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

Would Not Be Candidate for Governor of Ohio Under Any Circumstances--Contradicts a Rumor Afloat While He Was in Paris. Also Corrects the Talk Regarding Large Compensation for the Commissioners--Americans Were Well Treated in Paris.

Canton, O., Dec. 25.--Judge Day, president of the peace commission, and Mrs. Day reached their Canton home in time to take Christmas dinner with the family. They arrived at 10 1/2 this morning over the Pennsylvania railroad. There was no formal greeting arranged for them, but a committee of the Stark county bar, several personal friends and members of their family were at the station to meet them. The judge is in excellent health and spirits and the trip abroad has evidently been beneficial. Mrs. Day is also in excellent health and, notwithstanding sickness on the return voyage, comes to her home in much better health than when she last departed from it.

Judge Day, when asked as to his plans for the future, said he expects to remain in Canton and resume the practice of law in the firm of which he was a member before entering the cabinet of President McKinley. The work of the commission ended when the treaty was delivered to the president, and he does not expect to visit Washington again in connection with any duties on that commission.

Asked as to whether he had any desires which the state of Ohio could satisfy, he said: "If you refer to political desires, I have not. My only ambition is to be allowed to pursue the practice of my profession."

NOT A CANDIDATE.

Later in the conversation he authorized the direct statement that he was under no circumstances would he be a candidate for governor, as has been reported during his absence in Paris. While he talked freely on many matters connected with his work in Paris, Judge Day did not feel at liberty to give an interview in detail on the work of the commission. He said the talk of \$100,000 compensation for the commissioners, or of any such amount, which that amount was ridiculous and preposterous.

The president fixes the composition of the commissioners and none of them, it is safe to say, accepted the duties as a speculation. Some of them had been paid a large fee in connection with the case, but they performed the duties in the capacity of regularly retained attorneys. There is no actual precedent on which to base an estimate, but the prediction is ventured that the composition of the commission will not exceed \$15,000 each, and a reasonable expense incurred on the trip and in Paris. These expenses, however, will not include those incurred for the wives and families of the attaches of the commission, because all Mr. Foster on the journey entirely independent of the commission and were in no way a charge upon the official party. It is probable that the stories of large payments were suggested by payments in treaty negotiations of the past, notably the Berlin sea matters, in which Mr. Foster's work in connection with the China and Japan treaty. In the case of Mr. Foster there is no parallel to the Paris commission. He was retained for a large fee to perform certain duties. In the case of the Berlin sea, the commissioners were paid very moderate sums for their work, but associated with them were a number of attorneys of note in the capacity of counsel books, and after the Americans had reached a conclusion in their own counsels as to the concessions that could be granted, there was no deviation and the matter was carried to the local office. The personal relations between the representatives of the two governments was at all times friendly and cordial. The Americans had great respect for the ability of the Spanish members and believe that nothing was left unsaid or undone that could better the case. The president of the Spanish commission was remarked as a man of great ability by the Americans and won their respect for the able manner in which he conducted the Spanish case.

A number of friends have called on Judge Day since his return and to them he has talked entertainingly. The French government, through its commissioners very well. There was but two critical periods in the negotiations, the first regarding the Cuban debt, which was an open question for more than a month during which time the American position was presented to the other was upon the Philippine cession, and after the Americans had reached a conclusion in their own counsels as to the concessions that could be granted, there was no deviation and the matter was carried to the local office. The personal relations between the representatives of the two governments was at all times friendly and cordial. The Americans had great respect for the ability of the Spanish members and believe that nothing was left unsaid or undone that could better the case. The president of the Spanish commission was remarked as a man of great ability by the Americans and won their respect for the able manner in which he conducted the Spanish case.

PUSHING EUROPE BACK.

America's Success in Foreign Markets Changes Wonder. London, Dec. 25.--It is no exaggeration to assert that the foremost topic compelling attention in Europe in general and in Great Britain in particular, overshadowing the dreary details of domestic politics, is the remarkable, aggressive commercial prosperity which the United States is manifesting. Harp is a newspaper review or a public speaker in the last month has failed to notice with what giant strides America is coming into the first place in the alignment of the Powers. It is certainly the chief subject of conversation in Lombard street and on the Continental Bourses.

SOLD TO THE TRUST.

Black Plate Plant of the Reeves Company Changes Hands. Canalover, O., Dec. 25.--The black plate plant of the Reeves iron company, which manufactures plate for the tinning plant here, owned by Philadelphia capital, has been sold to the American tin mill trust, now forming, with headquarters at Chicago. Negotiations are also pending for the sale of the tinning plant. The Reeves mill will be shut down Jan. 1, when in vacation will begin.

PUSHING EUROPE BACK.

London banks recently drew an American business man into a private office, and said in an awe-struck tone: "This is the first time in the history of finance that New York has been in a position to dictate money rates to London, Berlin and Paris." The bank manager added that London's purchases of American securities were a feather's weight compared with the balance of trade in New York's favor.

PEACE REIGNS AT PINAR DEL RIO

RECONSTRUCTING A FERTILE PROVINCE OF CUBA.

The Picturesque Welcome to General Davis--No Brigandage in the District--The American Camp Work Begins in the Tobacco-Raising, Sugar-Growing Province.

Pinar del Rio, Dec. 19.--The reconstruction of this great tobacco-raising, sugar growing province has begun. Absolute peace exists and the people are at work. General Davis, before he left Havana, was told that brigands would probably overrun the province, that petty dictators were taxing the villages, that insurgent chiefs had occupied the towns and would not yield paramount authority to the Americans, and that he would be infinitely vexed by obstacles in every step toward the restoration of civil order among a restless people.

When General Davis, his staff, a battalion of the 202d New York regiment and a signal corps company reached the borders of the province in the journey by train from Havana, they were received at Santiago de las Vegas by a colonel and a hundred and fifty Cuban norsemen aligned near the station. A few yards behind them were a hundred and twenty-five young Cuban women on horseback. Around and behind this cavalcade the townspeople were gathered--shaggy-haired old men, women in black, troops of children with flowers and small Cuban and American flags. As General Davis and his staff appeared on the platform there was a passionate burst of "vivas!" and bare chests flashed in the medley of color. The cheering was so prolonged and so genuine that the Americans were moved by it. The colonel placed himself and his men at General Davis's disposal. The alcalde of the town made an address. The general, who knows some conversational Spanish, but not enough for a public speech, replied through an interpreter that the Cuban people had won liberty through great trials and sufferings, and that the Americans were there to aid in conserving that liberty.

AMERICANS DETAIN STEAMER

Vessel Carrying Spanish and Philippine Soldiers Held at Manila. Manila, Philippine Islands, Dec. 25.--The steamer Union, which returned from Iloilo with native and Spanish soldiers and was refused a landing, has been detained by the American officials.

Private advices from the southern provinces say that business is suspended in all the leading towns, that supplies are scarce, and that foreigners are only permitted to travel when special permits have been issued to them.

ASK FOR CONSULAR REFORM.

Western Business Men Anxious for Changes in the Service. Washington, Dec. 25.--Henry A. Garfield, president of the Cleveland chamber of commerce, has been in Washington for the relations committee of the senate and the foreign affairs committee of the house, unless, so far as the house is concerned, the Adams bill, which was favorably reported at the last session of congress, is deemed a satisfactory basis. Commercial organizations of the East and West are co-operating in the movement.

LOST HER SACHEL.

Mrs. William Smith's Misfortune in a Pullman Car. Trenton, N. J., Dec. 25.--Mrs. William L. Smith, of East Liverpool, O., who reached Trenton yesterday on a visit to her father, Richard Barlow, reported to the local police that a satchel containing \$1,500 in money and diamonds was stolen from her on the train. She was riding in a Pullman car and missed the satchel at Allegheny, Pa., where she left the car at Rochester, reported to have been substituted for her own at her seat while she was in a toilet room of the car.

SALVAGE FROM SPAIN'S FLEET

Large Quantity of Material at the Washington Navy Yard. Washington, Dec. 25.--There is now at the Washington navy yard a quantity of marine machinery from Cervera's fleet. This includes launch boilers, torpedo-boat engines, hand pumps and a mass of other matter from the Colon and Maria Terest that would be classed as junk except for its historic interest.

NEW USES FOR TROCHAS.

The people near Pinar have torn the wire from the trocha and inclosed yards and fields with it. The principal storekeeper has painted advertisements on two of the forts. The town is well fed on chickens, fresh beef, fruit and vegetables. The country is exhausted, but the reclamation has begun. Palm huts are building on wasted farms. The country people are now living chiefly on radishes, sweet potatoes, sugar cane and chickens, and quilt shot or trapped in the thickets.

HUNTSVILLE TROOPS.

They Will Move for Fort Tampa on Tuesday. Huntsville, Ala., Dec. 25.--Christmas was observed at Camp Force, and by a general order issued Saturday, only those duties necessary to the public service were performed. The First United States Infantry has been ordered to move to Havana. First battalion leaves tomorrow for Fort Tampa and the second battalion goes to Charleston Tuesday. The Third battalion will go to Fort Tampa on Jan. 4.

GERMANY AND FERNANDO PO.

Berlin, Dec. 25.--In official circles here it is said that there is no truth in the report that Germany has proposed to buy the island of Fernando Po, the Spanish penal settlement in the Bight of Biafra, Western Africa.

KILLED HIS SWEETHEART.

Frank Nulty Shoots Mamie Renly with Whom He Had Quarreled. New York, Dec. 25.--Mamie Renly, 17-year-old girl, was shot in the head and killed today at her home on Eighth avenue by Frank Nulty, a postoffice clerk, 39 years. At the same time Nulty shot himself through the head and was taken to a hospital, and it is believed he will die.

RUSSIA BUYING AMERICAN STEEL.

Washington, Dec. 25.--Ambassador Hitchcock at St. Petersburg, has been the secretary of state today that he had been officially informed that a contract for six hundred thousand tons of rails for the Eastern Chinese railroad has been awarded to the Pennsylvania and Maryland companies.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: Fair; Colder; Northwesterly Winds.

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DON CARLOS STILL IN THE RING

He Has Good Health and Does Not Intend to Abdicate.

London, Dec. 25.--The Venice correspondent of the Times says: "Don Carlos, who is in perfect health, desires me to deny absolutely the report that he contemplates abdicating. On the contrary, he says he is more resolved than ever to fulfill his role to the end. He authorizes me to assert that he has asked no audience of the pope and has requested nothing else of his holiness."

IN THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS.

Commissioners Formally Submit the Treaty of Peace.

Washington, Dec. 25.--President McKinley received from the American peace commission late this afternoon the treaty of peace between the United States and Spain. In presenting this document to the president, the commissioners of the commission, said it represented the earnest efforts of the American representatives at Paris, and that it would redound to the peace, credit and glory of the American nation.

POWER FOR GENERAL OTIS.

Will Decide the Question of Sending an American Force to Iloilo. Washington, Dec. 25.--The administration has determined to confide to the judgment and tact of General Otis, in command of the United States forces in the Philippines, the question whether or not troops shall be dispatched to Iloilo, where recent Spanish reports have stated that a conflict is in progress between the insurgents and the remaining Spanish troops. Some days ago General Otis asked the war department for any precise instructions were to be given in dealing with the situation at Iloilo. The matter was fully discussed by the president and Secretary Alger, and, as a result, the decision was reached to let General Otis deal with the situation by the exercise of his own discretion.

FAKE MUTUALS.

Soon after assuming the duties of the office at the end of the year, mutual fire insurance companies which had sprung up within a short time, and had branched out extensively in underwriting, not without success in companies doing business on the mutual plan. The annual reports received from these companies showed that an enormous amount of business had been absorbed by salaries and expenses, while the fire losses paid were entirely disproportionate to the amount of losses sustained. At the same time, the fact that these companies had been started by a brood of promoters, who organized the companies solely for the purpose of obtaining a charter, and a sizable portion of the public. To obtain charters both fraud and perjury were resorted to. The list of alleged subscribers to the charters, which amounted to obtain a charter was composed in some cases of persons who had no property whatever, or of obliging individuals who loaned their names simply as an accommodation. A strict investigation was at once set on foot with the result that two of the more prominent promoters were convicted and sent to jail for perjury. Since that time no companies of this character have presented themselves to the department in relation to the number of thirty-three have been forced out of existence by the strict rules of the department regarding solvency. During the few years that they flourished the promoters and managers drew several million dollars from the confiding public, very little of which was contributed by the insured. The payment of losses, however, complete the companies were stipulated in the report of the receivers appointed for the companies when they were dissolved.

ILLEGAL BROKERS.

It was also soon discovered that a large number of persons were doing business in the state as brokers without securing brokers' certificates of authority. While thus depriving the state of its lawful revenue, these brokers were tempted to be unbusinesslike and to be unscrupulous in their dealings with the insured. A large number of policies in companies that were utterly bogus. Determined steps were taken to put an end to this practice, and a number of arrests were made, the result being seen by the large increase in the revenues of the state from the taxation of persons taking out brokers' licenses to avoid the punishments imposed by law for not having them. An example of what was accomplished by a strict watch on the part of the state is shown by the fact that a large fire in Pittsburg, an investigation

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Dec. 25.--Forecast: + v. fair, cold; light, northwesterly winds, becoming easterly.

REVENUES.

The revenue department has increased very greatly during the past four years. The receipts from fees for 1898 will exceed those for 1886 by very nearly \$2,000,000. The revenues of the department will amount to less than the same expenditure for 1886. The total expenses of the department for 1898 will amount to about \$16,000,000. As these fees were designed solely to maintain the department and pay its immediate expenses, without any intention of creating revenue for the state, I deem it proper to suggest that there be a uniform reduction of the amount of burden from the companies for filing annual statements, for licenses, and such matters, of at least 50 per cent. With the companies paying their expenses in capital stock as well as upon the gross premiums received, which tax produces a very large revenue to the state, it is manifestly an intolerable burden upon the insured. The amount that will be turned into the state treasury for this year on account of this source will be about \$2,000,000, as compared with \$727,756 for 1885. The department is that much more than self-sustaining.

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