# SCRANTON, PA., MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 26, 1898.

# **CHRISTMAS** AT HAVANA

1 an SI CENTS.

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 Bando issued on Friday by Captain General Jiminez 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 affrays

Christman at Camp Quemados was as lively as the troops could make it with called for their services may result in slouder materials. Turkeys, at seven dollars anlece, were scarce, and every-body said that, with the heat at summer perconature and the hedge rows brilliant with flowers, the day did not seem much like Christmas.

All the company messes of the Fortyninth Iowa, the First North Carolina, the Fourth Virginia, the Second Illinois and the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana regiments had extra "spreads" out of company funds, with gifts from well-to-do members. The army ration was employmented by fruit, canned potatoes and sometimes this ton "the Sixth Missouri regiment, the last to arrive, had no chance to prepare an extra dinner, so the men dined

on fresh heef, rice and beans. One bottation reached camp yesterday, the other two marching today a distance of eights miles over a dusty coad.

CACTUS CHRISTMAS TREE. All the regimental bands and the radius of the camp, Company F. of

000.000 average in the last eight years. He assumes the present annual requirement for bread is 2,324,000,000 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 ...partment of agri-culture averaging 2,477,845,000, an excess of over one hundred and fifty millions; though the eminent scientist is almost as lame in ms statistics of consumption as he is those of production, really, minimizing both. He makes the supply of year only 1,021,000,000, 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 understates production nearly ten pet cent.

Scranton

"It would be uncharitable to hope for a searcity of bread rations; still our wheat growers would not feel very despondent over a prospect of good

prices. "The Crookes view is a distinct enouragement to them, and similar views have been put forth before, sometimes apparently in the hope of raising prices. Unfortunately, when exaggerated, a lowed (as the result of natural reaction, and from the effect of increase of per cent., as between 1891 and 1895. If 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 exchanges, as well as that of bucket shops, to secure a temporary advantage, can never aid the cause of science or of rural economy."

# PEACE IN THE QUAKER CITY

Race streets.

colored.

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

Phliadelphia, Dec. 25.-The "peace and good will" season of the past twentyfour hours have kept the police of this city busier than they have been for many a day. The gravest case which a triple murder. It occurred tonight in a disreputable court near Eleventh and

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 didate for governor, as has been rethirty-four-year-old white man, was shot in the back by George St. Clair, Mrs. White is not expected to live Judge Day did not feel at liberty to

shooting occurred in Mrs. Johnson's \$100,000 compensation for the commishouse. According to her statement, St. sioners, or of any sum approaching Clair, who lived nearby, accompanied that amount was ridiculous and preby a colored friend of his from Wash- posterous.

ington, name unknown, forced an entrance while the women were sleeping, and picked a quarrel over a trivial mat- it is safe to say, accepted the duties as ter, finally drawing a revolver and firing three shots, all of which took ef- idea of a large fee such as would have fect. Moore, who was unknown to the been paid, had they performed the duparties, was looking for another house ties in the capacity of regularly rewhen he accidentally stumbled into the tained attorneys. There is no actual men were granted leave within a mile place while St. Clair was shooting. The precedent on which to base an estimate, pistol was promptly turned on him and but the prediction is ventured that the was abot in the back

# 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 famlly. They arrived at 10.15 this morning over the Pennsylvania railroad. There was no formal greeting arranged for them, but a committee of the Stark temporary rise of ten per cent, is fol- county bar, several personal friends and members of their family were at the station to meet them. The judge area, stimulated by temporary advance is in excellent health and spirits and in value), by a fall of twenty to thirty the trip abroad has evidently been beneficial. Mrs. Day is also in excellent health and, notwithstanding seasickness on the return voyage, comes to her home in much better health than when she left 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

again in connection with any duties on that commission. Asked as to whether he had any de-

sires 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 under no circumstances would be be a can-

ported during his absence in Paris. While he talked freely on many matters connected with his work in Paris, through the night and the other two give an interview in detail on the work victims are in a critical condition. The of the commission. He said the talk of

> The president fixes the compensation of the commissioners and none of them. a speculation. None of them have an

ompared with the balance of trade in PEACE REIGNS A New York's favor. James Bryce in a speech before the Leicester chamber of commerce sound-ed a warning to British manufacturers. He emphasized the fact that the ex-RECONSTRUCTING A ports of the United States and Germany had increased £24,000,000 and £21,000, 000 respectively between 1891 and 1897.

while Great Britain's decreased £15. 969,000. He further pointed out that the The Picturesque Welcom ausiness of the United States was de-Davis-No Brigandage celoping along many important lines trict-The American ( which Great Britain, he added, should have held against all competitors. Mr. Begins in the Tobac Bryce unhesitatingly asserted that the Sugar-Growing Provin United States could produce rails cheaney than Great Britain, and said saw no possibility of opening new Pinar del Rio, Dec. 19,markets except in China.

struction of this great tobs Great Britain seems to have become reconciled to the capture of the iron sugar growing province ha solute peace exists and th markets by the United States. American firms are uniformly successful in at work.

General Davis, before he bidding against the British companies. was told that brigands wo The Carnegie company and the Illinois Steel company have opened extensive offices in London, and are making inoverrun the province, that tors were taxing the villa surgent chiefs had occupie roads upon the British preserves. Coland would not yield pa onel Hunsiker, the Carnegie representhority to the Americans, and tative has contracted for 30,000 tons of would be infinitely vexed by obstacles plates for the Coolgardie road, Ausin every step toward the restoration of tralia, and the company was unable to ivil order among a restless people. undertake the contract for 30,000 tons When General Davis, his staff, a bat-

more talion of the 202d New York regiment A dispatch from Berlin says it is a and a signal corps company reached fact that the Russian government has the borders of the province in the jourordered \$0,000 tons of American ralls, ney by train from Havana, they were and the prospect of American competireceived at Santiago de las Vegas by a tion for the contracts in connection colonel and a hundred and fifty Cuban with Russia's extensive railroad alarms

norsemen aligned near the station. manufacturers here and elsewhere, few yards behind them were a hundred Consuls assort that all Europe and twenty-five young Cuban women swarming as never before with the on horseback. Around and behind this agents of American manufacturers of cavalcade the townspeople were gathsteel, street railroads, electrical apparered-shaggy-haired old men, women in atus and all kinds of machinery, who black, troops of children with flowers are leading the commercial invasion, and small Cuban and American flags, was delivered to the president, and he doca not expect to visit Washington AMERICANS DETAIN STEAMER As General Davis and his staff appear-

ed on the platform there was a passionate burst of "Vivas!" and bare ma-Vessel Carrying Spanish and Philipchetes flashed in the medley of color.

pine Soldiers Held at Manila. The cheering was so prolonged and so Manila, Philippine Islands, Dec. 25.genuine that the Americans were moved by it The colonel placed him-The steamer Union, which returned here from Hoilo with native and Spanself and his men at General Davis's ish soldiers and was refused a landing, disposal. The alcalde of the town made

has been detained by the American an address. The general, who knows officials. some conversational Spanish, but not Private advices from the southern enough for a public speech, replied provinces say that business is suspend- through an interpreter that the Cuban

ed in all leading towns, that supplies people had won liberty through great are scarce and that foreigners are altrials and sufferings, and that the lowed to travel only with special per- Americans were there to aid in conserving that liberty. mits.

In Majolos, 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.

ASK FOR CONSULAR REFORM.

Western Business Men Anxious for Changes in the Service.

Washington, Dec. 25.-Henry A. Garfield, president of the Cleveland cham-ber of commerce, has been in Washing-as one of the Americans with General ton for the last few days in connec- Davis, he regarded the Cubans as men tion with consular reform measures and brethren, and that in all his travwhich the Cleveland chamber of com- els he had not seen so fine a country. merce and other commercial institu-The Americans then swept tions taroughout the country intend to through wide spaces of deserted coun-

AT	THE NEWS THIS MORNING	METHODS OF
DEL RIO	Weather Indications Today: Fair: Colder: Northwesterly Winds.	INSURANCE
CUBA.	1 General-Christmas at Havana. Judge Day Is Not at All Ambitious, Peace Reigns at rmar del Rio, Methods of Insurance.	A Stricter Watch Will Be Kept on Them.
in the Dis- Camp Work acco-Raising, acc.	2 General-Methods of Insurance (Con- cluded), In the Theaters, Market Reports.	
	3 Local-Christmas Day at the Churches, Revenue Report for the Year, Two Persons Killed.	
-The recon- bacco-raising, is begun. Ab- he people are	<ul> <li>4 Editorial. Comment of the Press.</li> <li>5 Local-Corporal Reese Laid at Rest. C. Smith Case Heard. Miss Bryant Still Alive. Poor Board Case Argued.</li> </ul>	REVIEW OF FOUR YEARS
eleft Havana, ould probably t petty dicta- ages, that in- ied the towns tramount au- and that he	<ol> <li>Local-West Scranton and Suburban,</li> <li>Our Exports to the Dominion. Up and Down the Valley.</li> <li>General News of Soldier Boys at Camp MacKenzie.</li> <li>(Local)-Christmas at the Churches</li> </ol>	What Has Been Done by the State in Protection of the Citizen Against Fraud or Incompetence in the In- surance Business – What Yet Needs

Tribune.

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(Concluded)

# DON CARLOS STILL IN THE RING

## He Has Good Health and Does Not Intend to Abdicate.

London, Dec. 25 .- The Venice correpondent 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." promised Don Carlos a loan of 39,000,000 francs in three instalments-the first when he has ten thousand men under arms; the second when he has captured Bilbao, capital of the province of Biscay, and the third, two months after operations are commenced.

IN THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS.

# **Commissioners Formally Submit the** Treaty of Peace.

MISTOOK SURGEON FOR GENERAL Washington, Dec. 25 .- President Mc-Surgeon-Major William L. Knedler Kinley received from the American had become separated in the crowd peace commission late this afternoon from General Davis, and one of a comthe treaty of peace between the United mittee of priests began to read him an States and Spain. In presenting this address of welcome, thinking the physnomentous document Judge Day, as ician was the general. Major Knedler chairman of the commission, said it who at first did not perceive the drift represented the earnest efforts of the of the address, was unable to find an American representatives at Paris, and opening to stop the padre before the that it was submitted with the hope welcome had been concluded. The docthat it would redound to the peace. tor then, through a Cuban who could credit and glory of the American na-

tion. Accepting the treaty from the hands of Judge Day, the president responded with heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the commission as a body and to the members individually. He spoke of all that had been accomplished and syggest that there be a uniform re-From the train they could see of the happy method by which difficult questions had been adjusted. The formal ceremony of delivering the treaty to the president occurred in the blue room and lasted half an hour. POWER FOR GENERAL OTIS.

awanna County Grand Jury-Able and Fointed Recommendations by Insurance Commissioner Lambert. secial to the Scranton Tribune. Harrisburg, Dec. 25 .- In compliance with the request of Governor Hastings, Insurance Commissioner James H. Lambert has furnished him with the

to Be Done-A Roast for the Lack-

TWO CENTS.

following resume of the operations of the department during the past four years and suggestions as to needed legislation:

The insurance department is not as conspicuously in the public eye as some other departments of the state governhis holiness." Rome, Dec. 25.—The Agenzza Italiano asserts that a German syndicate has can most truthfully say, for the record abundantly sustains the assertion, that there are today many less perils men-acing the people of Pennsylvania from dishonestly conducted insurance organizations than at any time before, and that individuals who had taken advantage of a loose construction of the laws or a suplne administration of them to evade responsibility have been taught to understand that operations formerly carried on with comparative safety are now dangerous and certain of detection. This improved condition is due to the application of new and just interpretations of the statutes and to department rulings and require-ments obviously essential to effective supervision.

REVENUES.

The revenues of the department have increased very greatly during the past four years. The receipts from fees for 1898 will exceed those for 1895 by very nearly \$20,000, while the expenses of the department will amount to less than the same expenditure for 1895. The total expenses of the department annually amount to about \$16,000, while the receipts from fees have reached the sum of \$70,000. As these fees were designed solely to maintain the department and pay its immediate expenses, without any intention of creating revduction of the amount of fees exacted from the companies for filing annual statements, for licenses, and such matters, of at least 50 per cent. With the companies paying a tax upon their cap-ital stock as well as upon the gross premiums received, which tax produces a very large revenue to the state, it is manifestly an injustice to burden them with fees in excess of the amount necessary to cover the expenses of the department. The marked increase of revenue from this source is due almost entirely to the increased energy with which the laws have been enforced against brokers and delinquent com-panies doing their utmost to evade the payment of taxes and the fees re-quired. The amount that will be turned into the state treasury for this year on account of fees received will be about \$55,000, as compared with \$57.-

279.76 for 1895. The department is that

100

the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana regiment, had a cactus tree, with a percent fur everybody stuck on the points, as for instance, hard tack. beans, salt pork and candles, The officers of the One Hundred and Sixtyfirst Indiana indulged after dinner in songs and speechmaking, with several sofo duncers

At El Velado, the Eighth and Tenth regular infantry regiments dined well at the expense of the company funds.

Major General Lee and his staff partook of a modest dinner. General Lee had a number of live turkeys available but as the birds are very lean. he decided to keep them on the chance of improvement, for the New Year's feast after the flag raising. General Lee spent most of the day on horseback, studying the best route for the Vear's day parade. The streets are too narrow to allow the troops to march past the palace, so that the route will probably he through the Prado and Central Park to Cerro, the Havana suburb. General Lee expects to have eleven thousand men, including the Cubans, in the military procession

Major General Butler will go to Matanzas and Cienfuegos tomorrow night m official business. The American troops are about to take possession of the San Ambtosias bospital.

C. S. Beaver, the United States postal agent in Hayana has complained to the postmaster general of the irregularity in the arrival of the mails from the United States.

#### SOLDIERS' CHRISTMAS.

#### Regiments at Savannah Celebrate as as Civilians.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 25.-Christmas in the camp of the Seventh army corps ame as near to being a civilian celebration as is possible in military life. Practically all army restraints were suspended except morning and afterneon calls and the men were left to enjoy themselves in their own fashion. The Third Nebraska, Colonel W. J. Bryan's old regiment, had a fund of 11,000 seri from home for a Christmas tinner. This was apportioned among the companies. The Second Louisiana also had \$1,000 for a Christmas dinner, and this regiment spent Christmas at sen, having sailed yesterday at the same time as the First Texas.

REGARDING WHEAT SUPPLY.

#### Statistican of Agriculture Answers Sir William Crookes.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 25.--J. R. Dodge for many years statistican of the Unit-Washington, has written to the Country Gentlemen an exhaustive answer to the address of Sir William Crookes, before the British Science association, in Egymin which the latter predicted a great wheat famine. He takes Sir William rison, United States agent and consul to task for presenting inaccurate fig-

Li Cane He says: "Sir William Crookey de slaves that there is already a deficit of eral Grenfell and James Ronnell Rodd, wheat area of 31,000 square miles, or secretary of legation at the British approximately 20,000,600 acres, rather coressonably, in view of the fact that friendship,

this area at the present rate of yield Mr. Harrison, who was received with nottid produce nearly 260.000.000 bush- intense enthusiasm, made a stirring to dictate money rates to London. Her ets, while the European deficiency, speech, sparkling with humor, in the which is the principal one in the world, course of which he reciprocated their ed that London's purchases of Ameriis by the Beerbohm record only 210,- friendly expressions

St. Clair and his companion escaped, not exceed \$15,000 each, and a reasonand up to a late hour had not been able expense incurred on the trip and captured.

in Paris. These expenses, however, will Flames found four victims during the not include those incurred for the 'hristmas period. Mrs. John Ford and wives and families of the attaches of her infant daughter were burned to the commission, because all such went death at their home in a fire caused by on the journey entirely independent of the explosion of an oll lamp, and Miss the commission and were in no way a Mary Coyle, aged 70 years, met death charge upon the official party. It is from a like cause. She fell down stairs probable that the stories of large paywith a lighted lamp in her hand. ments were suggested by payments in

Mrs. Kate McNichol, aged 42, was tertreaty negotiations of the past, notably ribly burned by the upsetting of an oil the Bering sea matter and Mr. Foster's work in connection with the China lamp at her home and died tonight. Griffith Harvey, an 82-year-old col- and Japan treaty. In the case of Mr. ored man, fell from a third story win-Foster there is no parallel to the Paris dow of his home last night and died commission. He was retained for a from a fractured skull. large fee to perform certain duties. In

John McAvoy was sandbagged by two the case of the Bering sea, the commen who followed him from a Camden missioners were paid very moderate saloon early this morning and robbed sums for their work, but associated him of \$46. He will recover. with them were a number of attorneys

Miss Emma Lamparter, also of Camof note in the capacity of counsel lookden, was walking to the ferry after a ing after large interests and as such night's shopping in this city, when she were paid liberal fees. was "held up" by a negro, who fired at WELL TREATED IN FRANCE.

French government treated the com-

missioners very well. There was but

the first regarding the Cuban debt,

PUSHING EUROPE BACK.

kets Causes Wonder.

her with a revolver. The bullet grazed her cheek, but her assailant was fright-A number of friends have called on Judge Day since his return and to them ened off without booty. he has talked entertainingly. The

# SITUATION IN PHILIPPINES.

#### Business Prostrate in the Southern two critical periods in the negotiations. Provinces---News at Manila.

which was an open question for more Manila, Dec. 26 .- The steamer Union. than a month during which time the which returned here from Hoilo with Americans never swerved from their native and Spanish soldiers and was position presented to the Spaniards, refused a landing at this place, has The other was upon the Philippines been detained by the American officession, and after the Americans had cials.

reached a conclusion in their own Private advices from the Southern councils as to the concessions that provinces say that business is suspendcould be granted, there was no deviaed in all the leading towns, that suption and the Spanlards finally acceptplies are scarce, and that foreigners ed. The personal relations between the are only permitted to travel when sperepresentatives of the two governments clal permits have been issued to them. was at all times friendly and cordial. At Malolos, the headquarters of the The Americans had great respect for so-called Philippine government, near the ability of the Spanish members and here, the native soldiers are levying believe that nothing was left unsaid or on the villagers for supplies of food, undone that could benefit the Spanish the people are half-starved, and unicase. The president of the Spanish versal dissatisfaction prevails. commission was remarked as a man American volunteers to the number of great ability by the Americans and

of 603 attended an enthusiastic meetwon their respect for the able manner ing of the newly formed Philippine Dein which he conducted the Spanish velopment association here yesterday cause, evening. O. F. Williams, the United States consul at Manila, presided, Definite action upon the part of the organ ization was postponed pending the de-America's Success in Foreign Marision of General Otis on certain mattors.

BANQUET TO GRENFELL.

## American Representatives Are Re ceived with Enthusiasm.

overshadowing the dreary broils of domestic politics, is the remarkable, ag-Cairo, Dec. 25 .- A farewell banque was tendered this afternoon to Lieutengressive commercial prosperity which d States department of agriculture at ant General Sir Francis Gronfell, the the United States is manifesting. Har irecentiv appointed governor of Malta, ly a newspaper review or a public who now retires from the supreme speaker in the last month has failed command of the Anglo-Egyptian forces to notice with what giant strides Amer-

ica is coming into the first place in the alignment of the Powers. It is cer-The presence of Mr. Thomas S. Hartainly the chief subject of conversation general, and Ethelbert Watts, United in Lombard street and on the Conti-States vice consul general, led to an | nental Bourses, Anglo-American demonstration.

The manager of one of the greatest Gon-London banks recently drew an American business man into his private officagency, spoke warmly of Anglo-Saxon and said in an awe-struck tone: This is the first time in the history of finance

that New York has been in a positio lin and Paris." The bank manager add. can socurities were a feather's weight

tirge upon congress

They will ask for a heating before the foreign relations committee of the tall chimney of a ruined sugar censenate and the foreign affairs committee of the house, unless, so far as the house is concerned, the Adams bill, marking the spot where houses once which was favorably reported at the last session of congress, is deemed to be a satisfactory basis. Commercial allegiance to the proposed order of organizations Joth East and West are co-operating in the movement.

# LOST HER SATCHEL.

## 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 Pullmancar and missed the satchet at Allegheny, Pa., where she discovered that a similar satchel had been substituted for her own in her seat while she was in a toilet room of the car.

The matter was reported to the conductor and a description was elegraphed back of a man and w man who left the car at Rochester, Pa. Mrs. Smith's husband is a pottery manufacturer at East Liverpool.

# 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 quantily 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 associations The best of the machinery has been

ordered shipped to the naval academy at Annapolis, where it will serve as suvenirs, and some of it may be put in sufficient repair to act as models for the engineering classes. The remainder will be broken up or sold at auction.

SOLD TO THE TRUST.

### Black Plate Plant of the Reeves Company Changes Hands.

Canaldover, O., Dec. 25 .- The black London, Dec. 25.-It is no exaggera plate plant of the Reeves fron comtion to assert that the foremost topic pany, which manufactures plate for the ompelling attention in Europe in gentinning plant here, owned by Philadeleral and in Great Britain in particular. phia capital, has been sold to the American tin mill trust, now forming, with headquarters at Chicago. Nego tiations are also pending for the sale of the tinning plant. The Reeves mill will be shut down Jan 1, when invoicing will begin.

Great concern is fell by the employee st the plant will be abandoned at this point by the trust. In that event, however, it is believed it will be leased by the Reeves people and converted into a sheet mill.

# Mr. Invin's Proposal R ejected

St. Petersburg, Dec. 25.-41 is semi-offi-fally anonunced that the minister of nance, M. De Witte, is unable to accept he proposal trecently communicated by the United States charge d'affaires, H. H. D. Pierce), of William M. Ivins, of New York, the representative of a group of financiers, to make a large toan to Russia. company.

try. occasionally the blackened walls and trale, weedy and shrub-grown fields, and at intervals colonnades of palms had been. At each of the towns the senior Cuban officer made known his things under the American protectorate. Pinar del Rio City gave a recention as enthusiastic as that given at Santiago de las Vogas. The Cuban tration has determined to confide to the commander turned over the municipal judgment and tact of General Otis, in and provincial buildings.

PINAR D

PROVINCE OF C

letter or by messenger with the im- er troops shall be dispatched to Hoilo, portant towns in the province. Not an where incident of brigandage or injury to per- stated that a conflict is in progress beonal rights has been reported. The tween the insurgents and the remainmost flagrant crime has been the dis- ing Spanish troops. appearance of some chickens. The General Otis asked the war department Spanish residents, some of whom are if any precise instructions were to be the well-to-do men of the city, had given for dealing with the situation at lived in the interregnum between Span- Hoilo. The matter was fully canvassed ish evacuation and American occupation unharmed.

### 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 revivification has begun. Paln huts are building on wasted farms The country people are now living chiefly on radishes, sweet potatoes sugar cane and chickens, and quail shot

or trapped in the thickets. Pinar del Rio City has many empty iouses. The population was 12,000, of which number 7,000 have been buried. The women are all in black.

Following General Davis' instructions, the American officers and privates are careful to return the salutes of the Cuban soldiers, who, armed and unarmed, are coming and going at all times. They subsist largely on gifts Some, forced by necessity, of food. have sold their rifles. Mausers captured from the Spaniards are selling for five or six silver dollars. In Havana Mausers are surreptitiously sold for \$20 or \$25.

The battalion of the Two Hundred

and Second New York regiment, under Major Wood, is camped on high ground about a mile outside the city. The landscape of rolling country and distant mountains is most beautiful The men have been working hard cutting grass and organizing the camp They have not missed having bread and beef since they left Havana Forty-two head of cattle brought from Texas for the camp are grazing near by. Guard duty is light. One post of three men is maintained at the railway station, and another h at El Globo hotel, where General Davis is avenue by Frank Nulty, a postoffice staying. The men expect to be replaced by Regulars in the spring and ty shot himself through the head and allowed to go home. Dreadful stories was taken to a h are told of the malaria that develops lieved he will die. around Pinar del Rio with the beginning of hot weather.

Russia Buying American Steel. Washington, Dec. 25. - Ambassador Hitchcock, et St. Petersburg, cabled to the succedary of state today that he has been officially informed that a contract for eighty thousand tons of rails for the Eastern Chinese railroad has been awarded to the Permsylvania and Maryland

## Will Decide the Question of Sending an American Force to Iloilo.

Washington, Dec. 25 .- The adminisommand of the United States forces General Davis has communicated by in the Philippines, the question whethrecent Spanish reports have Some days ago

> by the president and Secretary Algerand, as a result, the decision was reached to let General Otis deal with the situation by the exercise of his own discretion.

The reply was sent to General Otis several days ago, and it will be for him to decide whether a United States force will go to Hoilo, and how many men will constitute the force. HUNTSVILLE TROOPS.

# They Will Move for Port Tampa on Tuesday.

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 Port Tampa and the Second battalion goes to Charlestown Tuesday. The Third bat-talion will go to Port Tampa on Jan. 4. Second battalion, Second engineers, has been ordered to Hayana. Lieutenant E. P. Burks, of the Six-

teenth infantry, has been announced as provost marshal at Huntsville.

#### Germany and Fernando Po. Berlin, Dec. 25,-In official circles here t

said that there is no truth in the report at Germany has proposed to buy he Island of Fernando Po, the Spanish penal ent in the Bight of Biafra, Western Africa. KILLED HIS SWEETHEART.

# Frank Nulty Shoots Mamie Remly with Whom He Had Quarreled.

New York, Dec. 25.-Mamie Remty, a 7-year-old girl, was shot in the head and killed today at her home on Eighth clerk, 19 years. At the same time Nulwas taken to a hospital, and it is be-Nulty was formerly a suitor of the

girl and recently they quarreled.

# \* WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Dec. 25.-Forecast for Monday: For eastern Pennsylvania, fair; colder; light north-\*\*\*\*\* \*

much more than self-sustaining. FAKE MUTUALS. Soon after assuming the duties of office attention was given to certain mutual fire insurance companies which had sprung up within a short time, and had branched out extensively in underwriting not warranted in companies doing business on the mutual plan. The annual reports received from these companies showed that an enormous amount of money was ab-sorbed by salaries and expenses, while the fire losses paid were entirely dis-proportionate to the amount of losses reported. An examination disclosed the fact that these companies had been started by a brood of promoters, who organized the companies solely for the purpose of extracting money from the gullible portion of the public. To ob-Tuesday. Huntsville, Ala., Dec. 25.—Christmas was observed at Camp Forse, and by a general order issued Saturday, only posed in some cases of persons who

had no property whatever, or of oblig-ing individuals who loaned their names simply as an accommodation. A strict investigation was at once set on foot panles in question to the number of thirty-three have been forced out of existence by the strict rules of the department in regard to solvency. Dur-ing the few years that they flourished the promoters and managers drew sev-eral million dollars from the confiding public, very little of which eacaped the clutches of the managers and went back to the insured in the payment of losses. How complete the companies were spontated is shown by the report of the receivers appointed for the com-

panies when they were dissolved. ILLEGAL BROKERS.

It was also soon discovered that a large number of persons were do-ing 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 write business in companies not licensed to do basiness in the state, and likewise yielding to yielding to the blandishments of outside brokers, who offered large commissions, wrote 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 resuit being seen by the large increase in the revenues of the state from the number of persons taking out brokers censes to avoid the pu posed by law for not having them. As an example of what was accomplished in this way: After the report of a large fire in Pittsburg, an investigation

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