

# THE OREGON MIST.

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## TELEGRAPHIC RESUME

### Events of the Day in a Condensed Form.

#### OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS

Items of Importance From Domestic and Foreign Sources—Cream of the Dispatches.

Fire destroyed a block of ten houses in Pittsburgh, Pa., rendering ten families homeless, and causing a loss of \$5,000.

The Commercial and Savings bank, of San Jose, Cal., has closed its doors. The depositors, it is said, will be paid in full.

The defenses at Esquimaux, B. C., are again being strengthened. Seven new heavy breech-loading guns have just arrived from England.

The collapse of the rear of a frame factory building in Chicago resulted in seriously injuring five persons and nearly 100 others had narrow escapes.

Four men were killed and one injured by the blowing up of an engine on the Delaware, Susquehanna & Schuylkill railroad at Gun Run, Pa.

There have been floods in the Alpine districts of the Tyrol and in Bohemia, with avalanches and landslides on the railways. It is feared that many lives have been lost.

A project is on foot in Vancouver, B. C., to hold a championship professional regatta at the time of the meeting of the Northwest Pacific Association of Amateur Oarsmen.

In Oakland, Cal., two children, aged 10 and 5, were run down by an electric car and instantly killed. The children were daughters of Frank E. Booth, a commission merchant doing business in San Francisco.

James Duggan, a well-known citizen of Denver and five others have left there for the Alaskan gold fields. The party will number fifty and they will go in a chartered vessel, and carry supplies for a two years' stay.

President Cleveland held his first tri-weekly reception to the public at the White House, after a suspension of nearly two years. About 200 persons took advantage of the opportunity to shake hands with the president.

In San Francisco 800 painters went on a strike. They ask for an increase of 50 cents a day, making their wages \$3 instead of \$2.50. The strike was ordered by the Painters' union, and was decided upon some days ago.

The president has pardoned Nathan Blinn, convicted in Oregon of smuggling and conspiracy, but whose sentence was suspended, and F. M. Sausbury, convicted in Oregon of misusing postal envelopes, and fined \$500.

South Australia, which feared the construction of the British Pacific cable because it might injure its land line, will be conciliated by the offer of compensation to maintain revenue from the transcontinental line at the average level of the past five years.

John L. Sullivan and Parson Davies are preparing to head a movement to place pugilism on a paying basis again. Sullivan believes sporting men should organize and refuse to cast their ballots for legislators or congressmen who would not agree to let prizefighters go unobscured.

Robert Edgren, the well-known university hammer-thrower, has broken the world's record for throwing the 16-pound hammer. On the Berkeley campus, in Berkeley, Cal., he threw the missile which has made him famous 147 feet and 7 inches. The world's record was 145 feet.

The disreputable women who infest Morton street and St. Mary's Place, in San Francisco, are in a state of terror on account of the murder of two of their class within a month. Both women were strangled to death in their rooms, and in both cases the murderers have escaped.

The National Armenian relief committee of New York will send \$10,000 to Constantinople. It is stated by the committee that the distribution of money is being now made among the Armenians, and at the present time the greatest obstacle to the work of relief is lack of funds rather than opposition by the sultan.

A dispatch from Barcelona says that the merchants of the city have agreed not to sell American products in the event of Cleveland approving the Cuban belligerency resolutions. They have also opened a subscription toward a fund, which is to be devoted to the purchase of warships.

Recent advices fully confirm the report of the overthrow of the pro-Japanese government in Corea and the establishment of a distinctly Russian ministry, the members of the late cabinet having, with one exception, been put to death with horrible barbarity, inclusive of cannibalism. The fortunate member of the late government to save his head was the minister of war, who is believed to have come to America in exile.

Delegates from the various commercial organizations of San Francisco held a conference as to the best means of protecting San Francisco's trade with Eureka and other North Pacific ports against Portland's competition. A committee was appointed to wait upon the O. R. & N. and North Pacific steamship companies, and ask them to discontinue their services between Portland and Eureka and intermediate points.

The plan for the reorganization of the Oregon Short Line & Utah Northern Railway Company, agreed to by all

contending interests, has been officially issued. It calls for a foreclosure and a new company to be known as the Oregon Short Line Railway Company. It preserves the entire system, and also the control of a block of Oregon Railway & Navigation stock, which is secured by \$15,000,000 collateral trust bonds, the new Short Line Company paying the assessment upon the Navigation stock.

An attempt was made to wreck the Union Pacific, Butte & Salt Lake express one mile from Pocatello, Idaho. When within a short distance of the last switch, Engineer Andrews saw a man throw the switch and run away. The engineer immediately reversed his engine. The train left the track, but fortunately the cars remained upright, and no one was injured. There is a deep fill, at this point, and had the train not been promptly stopped, it would have dashed down the steep grade. No motive is known for the deed.

The strike of 12,500 Berlin joiners was ended this week. The workmen have obtained higher pay and shorter hours.

While sitting in his cabin at Elizabethtown, N. J., Jeff Bailey was blown to atoms by the explosion of 85 pounds of giant powder.

The British colonial office has been asked to sanction a chartered company to exploit Ashantee, but it is unlikely it will consent.

To escape arrest for embezzlement of government funds, Frank Mapes, postmaster of Kansas City, Kan., committed suicide at his residence in that city.

The Anglo-German loan of 100,000,000 francs has been issued at 94, with interest at 5 per cent. The contract stipulates that the customs administration is to remain unchanged.

According to a report on the organized militia of the United States, just prepared by the war department, the United States in case of need, can put 9,467,984 men in the field.

The senate of Cambridge university, London, by a vote of 186 to 171, has rejected the proposition to appoint a committee to consider the question of conferring degrees upon women.

During February, the exports of gold coin and bullion amounted to \$2,188,700, and the imports to \$11,559,059. For the eight months, the exports were \$55,642,992 in excess of the imports.

Two hundred fishermen, belonging to Revel, near St. Petersburg, Russia, with their horses and carts, have been blown out to sea on floating ice. They have only one day's provisions with them.

A disastrous collision between a freight train and a snowplow occurred on the Berkshire division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, near Kent furnace, Milford, Conn. Two men were killed and seven or eight others injured.

A Moscow correspondent of the London News believes it true that the port has decided upon the expulsion of the British and American missionaries in Asia Minor. "Such a measure would be consonant with the wishes of Russia," the correspondent adds.

At the request of the state department at Washington, the United States embassy at Berlin has formally invited all the German universities to send delegates to the Princeton celebration in October next. Some of them, including the university of Goettingen, have accepted.

One hundred students of Muhlenberg college, Allentown, Pa., participated in an anti-Spanish demonstration. They paraded the college corridors and camps, singing patriotic songs and cheering, and ended by burning the Spanish flag and hanging General Weyler in effigy.

The Pope Manufacturing Company's building, Boston, was completely gutted by fire, necessitating a general alarm. The loss is between \$350,000 and \$400,000. The block was a five-story structure of brick, profusely ornamented with terra cotta trimmings. Seventeen thousand bicycles and parts were destroyed in the flames.

Lord Dunsraven presided at a meeting of the Yacht Racing Association held in London. Before the meeting was called to order, the question of the advisability of making a reply to the New York Yacht Club in regard to the expulsion of Dunsraven was informally discussed, and it was decided that it would not be good taste to do so. The matter was dropped.

A terrible tragedy occurred in Seneca Falls, N. Y. It was the murder of a highly respectable young girl, Miss Mary Mansel, by Thomas Felkinton, a farm hand. Felkinton, immediately after the murder, and with the same weapon with which he committed the murder, took his own life. The girl received two bullets in the head, one entering the brain.

The Gonalls will not be compelled to pay taxes on \$10,500,000 assessed in New York for the year 1895. Five suits had been filed against the estate of Jay Gould and his sons and daughters to enforce the finding of the commissioners of taxes and assessments. The defendants pleaded non-residence. The corporation counsel has announced that it has been decided to abandon the suits.

The whole of the republic of Honduras has been placed under martial law, pending the settlement of the civil revolt in Nicaragua, in which the president of Honduras has espoused the cause of the Zelaya government against the rebels. The near approach of the contending forces in Nicaragua to the Honduras frontier, and the disposition of the president of Guatemala to interpose for the settlement of the war, are the considerations that made the step seem advisable of placing the country under martial law.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

### Items of General Interest From All Sections.

#### DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS

All the Cities and Towns of the Pacific States and Territories—Washington.

New Whatcom is determined to have a federal appropriation for a fish hatchery.

There are 120 women and 400 men in the Stollacum asylum. There are 254 at Medical Lake.

Last year the Stanwood creamery produced 18,852 pounds of butter, and the Monroe creamery, 20,000 pounds.

Attorney-General Jones has rendered an opinion to the effect that the faculty of the state normal school has the power to expel pupils.

Mrs. Isaac G. Morgan died in Seattle, at the age of 63. Her remains will be embalmed and sent to San Francisco to be cremated.

The amount of timber standing on the left fork of Gray's river, Wahkiakum county, is said to be 350,000,000 feet. This, after a careful estimate by competent cruisers.

W. E. Peck, of Cosmopolis, has received legal notice that he is one of the few heirs to a large estate in New York state. The will is to be probated the last of this month.

A burglar entered the residence of Judge Arthur in Spokane, smoked some of the judges best cigars, took what small change he could find and made off with the judge's trousers.

The Bellingham Bay Improvement Company, of New Whatcom, is putting in new boilers and making other improvements with the view to extending its cargo capacity. A large timber planer will be added.

The Fidalgo cannery has completed one building and a second is well advanced. The Anaortes cannery has finished one building and work is being pushed on a second. Machinery, net material, etc., are beginning to arrive.

Although a persistent search has been made to discover the whereabouts of George W. Lytle, who left St. Joseph's hospital, Fairhaven, over a year ago, no trace of him has yet been found. Relatives and friends are still searching for him, but it is doubtful if they find any clue till the waters beach his remains.

A suit has been instituted in the superior court of Franklin county by J. B. Hubrick for \$900 damages on account of a non-compliance on the part of the railroad company to open their draw across the Columbia during the flood. Mr. Hubrick was tied up for nine days with the steamer Uncle Richard, and claims \$100 per day.

The Tacoma council has voted against the adoption of the amendments of the proposed charter providing for levying taxes for support of the public library and parks, and against the section prohibiting the city treasurer from investing public funds in city warrants. The amendment taking confirmatory power from the council was approved, as were those abolishing the board of public works.

The reduction made by the county commissioners of Thurston will result in a monthly saving of \$10 in the auditor's office, \$10 in the treasurer's office, \$10 in the sheriff's office, \$10 in the clerk's office, \$10 on the janitor, \$20 at the jail, and \$40 in the surveyor's office, a total of \$110 per month. County Surveyor Ruth will probably contest in the courts the right of the commissioners to cut off his per diem.

A number of Indians have made a great catch of muskrats on the Colville river bottoms during the past few days. Stephen H. Hockett, aged 66, died on Kalama river last week, of consumption. He came to Washington in 1853. His wife died in 1883. At his own request, an autopsy was held on his body, after death, and showed that his lungs had been suffused with a large quantity of water.

A Spokane newsboy, Ralph Delaney, was tried in the police court of that city the other day for stealing newspapers, on complaint of the Spokesman-Review. After the evidence, which showed the boy's guilt plainly enough, was all in, the attorney for the defense moved a dismissal of the charge on the ground that the paper or papers alleged to have been stolen were not the property of the Spokesman-Review at the time, as they became the property of the subscriber as soon as they were delivered at his door. On this technicality the case was then dismissed.

It is expected that the Solo creamery will be in operation by April 1.

Coco county is calling in its warrants issued up to January, 1891.

The Bandon lighthouse recently put to work, has a foghorn in connection with it.

Artesian water has been found on a farm near The Dalles at a depth of thirty feet.

The widow of the late Samuel P. Sturgis, of Pendleton, has received the \$5,000 for which his life was insured.

The beacon light in the new lighthouse at Bandon was for the first time flashed out over the Bandon bar last week.

The contract for carrying the mail between Ashland and Klamath Falls has been sublet to Austin Bish for \$2,200.

Circuit court for Baker county has adjourned until March 19. In the case of the Baker City National bank vs. C. H. Stuller, a verdict was ren-

dered in favor of the plaintiff for \$2,545.40.

The council of Grant's Pass has passed an ordinance prohibiting noisy parades through the streets by God's Regular Army.

Spring is backward on Young's river, but a big hay crop is expected and no hard times are troubling the Young's river people.

The order of the mayor of Milton, closing churches and prohibiting other public gatherings because of scarlet fever, has been revoked.

The Nehalem valley is in a prosperous condition, and stock is looking very fine, the winter having been mild. The ground is yet too wet for plowing, but the farmers anticipate a good season.

The Caldwell lumber mill at Grand Rapids was broken into and all of the circular saws were stolen. No trace of the thieves has yet been discovered. The loss will amount to several hundred dollars.

Umatilla's county court refuses to offer bounties on squirrels or to furnish poison to the farmers for fighting the pests, on the ground that the state law does not authorize such action regarding squirrels, though other animals are expressly mentioned.

A very large gray eagle was killed near Philomath a few days ago. It measured seven feet and one inch from tip to tip, and had a beak four inches long; the distance between its eyes was three inches, and it was four inches across the top of the head. It was perched on the top of a barn when killed.

A petition to the Umatilla county court sets forth that Robert Kinsman built a mine trap on the Wild Horse road in the shape of a tunnel under the public highway for the purpose of allowing his hogs to pass from one field to another. The man trap will be investigated.

Fred Paul, the young man of Walla Walla, who left that city last week in rather an abrupt manner in order to keep from fulfilling a matrimonial engagement, and whose whereabouts has since been a mystery both to the interested young lady and the young man's parents, has been found at last on the Umatilla reservation.

Jonathan Stout, who died at his home near McMinnville, was 81 years old. He crossed the plains to Oregon in 1852; in 1855 he went to Yamhill county and settled on the homestead where he died. His wife died soon after they arrived in Oregon. He was the father of eight children, five of whom are still living.

Horace Dunlap returned to Lakeview last week from his trip to New Orleans, where he took two carloads of mules. He did not find the market as good as expected, but will try it again in the near future. Next time he will take mares, as he knows what he can do with them. He followed the Southern Pacific road, going via Los Angeles, El Paso, San Antonio, Houston and other Southern points.

The Star mail service between Fraser and Leyburn has been ordered discontinued.

Special mail service from Southwick to Crescent in Latah county has been ordered discontinued March 31 next.

The mines closed down by the recent freeze-up are gradually resuming work. They will be running in full blast again shortly.

A petition is to be circulated in the Cour d'Alenes asking the Oregon Railway Navigation Company to run Sunday passenger and mail trains.

It is scarcely possible to read a paper published anywhere in Idaho without reading of new mine discoveries or increased prosperity in the mining industry. This year will unquestionably show a largely increased gold production for the state. In many cases placer mining will be carried on a larger scale than ever before, with more modern methods and better appliances. New mills are being constructed for in many districts, and from the Cour d'Alenes to the Owyhee more men will be engaged in prospecting than ever before. The fact is patent that all the discoveries yet made in Idaho amount to almost nothing compared with future possibilities.

The largest popular nonpolitical convention ever held in the state has closed its labors in Helena. It was the immigration and mining convention, called for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization that shall work for the development of Montana by securing the immigration of desirable farmers and the enticement of capital in mining enterprises. Every county was represented. For two days there was a series of papers by specialists from all over the state, setting forth the resources of their respective sections. Never was there such a resume of the advantages of Montana prepared. Emphasis was laid on the fact that there are thousands of acres of tillable land in the state. A very large percentage of the farm products and supplies used in the larger cities are imported from other states. The city of Butte alone sends outside \$800,000 annually for butter, eggs and flour. Scarcely 10 per cent of the pork products consumed in the state are produced at home. Resolutions were adopted declaring that no more inviting field for immigration exists than Montana. The state had an abundance of the finest grazing lands and a great number of rich valleys, which will produce crops in abundance. Besides, the state is rich in precious metals. A permanent bureau will be organized for the preparation of authoritative statements and the dissemination of information and literature among farmers and capitalists.

## WILL NOT INTERFERE

### The European Powers Would Not Help Spain.

#### THAT IS IN THE EVENT OF WAR

Madrid Dispatches Say Mexico's Position Makes Her the Vanguard Against Yankee Encroachments.

London, March 18.—The Berlin correspondent of the Times says the Hamburger correspondent, who is often used as an official mouthpiece, believes the powers would refuse to intervene in support of Spain in the Cuban affair against the United States.

Madrid, March 18.—The attention of the newspapers of this city has been attracted to the fact that long interviews have been taking place between the Mexican minister here and the Spanish minister for war and minister for foreign affairs. The papers declare that the ties between Mexicans and Spaniards tighten daily, and that Mexico's position makes her naturally the vanguard against "Yankee encroachments upon Latin America."

The press and public there express disappointment and impatience at General Weyler's failure to suppress the Cuban insurgents.

Havana, March 18.—Dr. Jose Manuel Delgado, the American citizen reported to have been shot and nearly killed by Spanish troops under the command of General Melquiades, arrived yesterday. The captain-general has promised prompt inquiry into the circumstances, and has given assurances that the guilty persons will be most severely punished. Dr. Delgado is said to have been bound hand and foot and shot without trial and without any justification. The doctor was left for dead, and eight of his father's employees were killed. The United States consul-general, Ramon O. Williams, has taken the matter in hand.

#### THE SALVATION ARMY.

General Booth Formally Welcomed Back to England.

London, March 18.—The Salvation Army in London was in a state of excitement today, the occasion being a mass meeting at the Crystal Palace, to formally welcome back to England, upon his return from his journey around the world, General William Booth, commander-in-chief of the army.

General Booth, in his address, referred immediately to the action of Bellingham Booth, in America, saying he had returned to meet one of the heaviest trials he had ever been called upon to face; but even darkness had a silver lining. The Salvation Army, he asserted, stood about a man true to him, and assurances of unceasing devotion had been pouring in from every quarter of the globe.

At the conclusion of his address, the Booth-Tuckers, who have been commanding the army in India, were called to the front of the platform. Two officers of the army held over them the stars and stripes, and the Salvation Army blood-and-fire ensign. The general took each of them by the hand and dedicated them to the new work in America in a few words, which greatly stirred the immense audience of 20,000, all of whom joined in an outburst of cheers for the American flag.

#### RIVALRY OF NEWSPAPERS.

One Editor Swallowed Poison to Get Ahead of the Opposition Paper.

Omaha, March 18.—A special from Midvale, Neb., says:

Because a rival paper "scooped" him on an important item a week ago, John Merchant, the editor of a Midvale weekly, wrote a thrilling account of his own suicide for publication in last Monday's issue of his own paper and swallowed poison half an hour after his contemporary had gone to press.

Merchant was evidently in earnest in his effort at self-destruction, for he locked himself in his office to give the fatal drug time to take effect, and refused admission to his foreman, who rushed to his assistance as soon as he discovered what his employer had done.

Appalled at his obstinacy, the foreman lost no time in bursting in the door. Then he summoned a physician. With the latter's help the newspaper man was finally saved. The opposition came out late with an extra giving a full account of the affair, including its happy termination, but Merchant is much consoled by the thought that the original and really only authentic announcement was on the street in his own paper several hours before his rival was able to reach his subscribers.

#### The Carson Mint Robbery.

Carson, Nev., March 18.—The case of John T. Jones, charged with the robbery of the Carson mint, will go to the jury soon. During the trial the attorney for the defendant expressed his willingness to submit the case to the jury without argument, but counsel for the government would not consent. The United States district attorney opened and spoke particularly of Jones' rapidly acquired wealth since his employment in the mint. Jones said this was made by dealing in mining stocks, but the evidence and looks of the bank and brokers show that he actually lost in such details during that time. To this the attorney for the defense replied that the prosecutions' own witness said the fact that Jones had made large sums of money by stocks was a matter of common knowledge, and that it is very common for people to handle their stock transactions through other people.

#### CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

Condensed Record of the Doings of the Nation's Lawmakers—Senate.

Washington, March 14.—Senators Sherman and Hill were the conspicuous figures in the Cuban debate in the senate today. The New York senator forcibly urged the mercenary character of the pending resolutions, while Sherman upheld them with another graphic arraignment of Spain and Weyler. It was the fourth day of the debate on the conference report, and yet there was no evidence of a near approach to a final vote, although Sherman announced that he would press for a vote at the earliest moment. Mitchell introduced a joint resolution in the senate allowing the engineers to use \$20,000 of the unexpended balance for the cascade locks, to be used for making a protection wall. He made a brief talk, asking the committee on commerce to report the resolution as speedily as possible.

Washington, March 16.—The excitement of the Cuban debate gave way to Cockrell today, his elaborate speech on the financial question occupying four hours. There was a spirited reference to Cuba early in the day, when it developed during an explanation by Lodge that the committee on foreign relations had received from Secretary Olney a statement by Senor de Lome, the Spanish minister, giving the Spanish view of the case. This brought out animated suggestions from Hoar and Wolcott that the senate be put in possession of this important testimony. Cockrell's speech was an elaborate presentation of the financial question from the silver standpoint, so much so that Hoar stated that it was the ablest silver speech he had ever listened to.

Washington, March 12.—The senate had an hour of spirited Cuban debate today, after the early part of the day had been given to set speeches by Lodge on immigration and Pugh on silver. The Cuban discussion was mainly important in bringing out the full reading of a statement of the Spanish side of the case by Senor Dupuy de Lome, the Spanish minister. This had been referred to some days ago, but could not be made public. Today, however, Morgan read a letter from Secretary Olney saying the Spanish minister gave his permission for the public use of the statement. It claimed to detail the insurgent methods of guerrilla warfare, the burning of cane-fields and the disorganized character of the insurgent bands.

#### House.

Washington, March 14.—In the house today, during the morning hour, on motion of Johnson, a resolution was adopted by which the claim of Coleman, republican, of the second Louisiana district, to the seat of Buck, was decided in favor of the latter. Daniels called up the contested election case of Aldrich-Robbins, from the fourth Alabama district, in which the republicans recommended the seating of Aldrich. Three hours and a half, he said, were to be allowed on each side for argument. Moody denounced the crimes against honest elections in Alabama. Several others spoke on the subject, but it went over.

Washington, March 16.—Provisions for putting several craft of the navy into condition for service as soon as possible was made today by the house committee on naval affairs. Commodore Hichborne, chief of the bureau of construction and repairs of the navy department, made a request for a special appropriation of \$250,000, to be available for use immediately, explaining that several gunboats and other craft could be put in shape to go into commission, if needed, for comparatively small expenditures, and the department considered it advisable that the work should be done at once. To partly balance the allowances for Commodore Hichborne's bureau, the general appropriation therefor was cut down from \$14,000,000 to \$12,500,000. There are twelve boats which the department will put into condition for service, and for which the appropriation is asked. Some of them are new craft, and others old ones now out of commission.

Washington, March 18.—This was suspension day in the house, and several bills were passed. The most important was the Oklahoma homestead bill, which relieves homesteaders in Oklahoma of the payment of the purchase price of their homesteads. The house also decided, at the request of Hitt, chairman of the committee on foreign affairs, to consider the resolutions censuring Ambassador Bayard on Friday. A bill was passed granting to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company the right of way through the Sac and Fox Indian reservation. Bills were passed granting to Spokane, Wash., and to increase the rank and pay of the judge-advocate of the navy when appointed from the navy.

#### The Hungry Miners.

Erie, Colo., March 18.—If the coal war has been a boon to consumers, it has been death to the miners, bringing a reduction of income, and bare subsistence in all cases, and destitution in not a few. It may result in actual distress in many families. The winter has not been a favorable one for coal miners. The weather has been mild and the demand correspondingly light. Hence the miners earned small wages, not to exceed \$35 per month. Many have earned nearer \$10 or \$12 a month. The outlook here is anything but bright, and while there is as yet no starvation, it is only a matter of a short time when there will be hungry men, women and children unless a speedy turn of affairs is taken for the better.

—The Columbia river of Canada is 1,400 miles in length; the Columbia of Oregon is 600.

## PEACE REIGNS AGAIN

### Italy Has Passed Out of Its Impending Crisis.

#### ALL RIOTING REPORTED ENDED

Italy Breathes Freer Because of the Change From Blank Despair to Great Hope in the Future.

Rome, March 16.—Out of the storm of popular anger, which swept Italy when news of the defeat of the army under Barateri arrived, but little remains of the feeling against the Italian commander. All rioting has ceased. The reserves who fled from the country sooner than go to Africa at the call of the government for the class of 1872, are returning, and it is not thought any steps will be taken to punish them. Negotiations with Menekle have been opened. It is anticipated that peace will be concluded before long, and the war office has countermanded the instructions sent to various points for the hurrying forward of reinforcements to Africa. The new cabinet is settling down to work and the financial situation is brighter than anticipated. Under these circumstances Italy breathes freer than for some time past, and there is a feeling of gratitude for those who have aided, in Berlin, during the past few days, in bringing about the change from blank despair to great hope in the future.

The conferences which have taken place here recently, between the Marquis di Rudini, the new premier, and the Duke of Sermoneta, their audiences with King Humbert and the constant exchange of telegraphic messages between this city and the German capital, have been coincident with the meetings in Berlin of the Austrian minister for foreign affairs, Count Goluchowski; the German foreign minister, Baron Marschal von Bieberstein; the Italian ambassador to Germany, Count Lanza di Busca, and the imperial chancellor, Prince Hohenlohe, supplemented by audiences with Emperor William. Out of all these exchanges of views it is believed has grown a healthier state of affairs.

#### A FIVE HOURS' BATTLE.

More Desperate Fighting Reported in Nicaragua.

Managua, Nicaragua, March 16.—Desperate fighting, lasting five hours, has occurred at Pital. The rebels made a stubborn resistance, but were finally beaten. Two hundred were killed and wounded. There is great rejoicing here, church bells ringing and cannons fired.

New York, March 16.—A dispatch to the Herald from Managua says:

One thousand rebels were defeated at Pital, near Momotombo. The battle lasted four hours. The government troops were commanded by Generals Paiz, Pablo and Reyes. The rebel loss was heavy. The enemy was pursued by the government troops. An engagement in which the rebels were defeated also occurred Thursday, at El Jalliton, between La Paz and Nagarote. The insurgent loss was thirty-five killed and eighty wounded. Forty-two prisoners were taken by President Zelaya's men. One cannon and a quantity of arms and provisions were captured. The principal families of Leon have fled to Honduras.

#### TO LEARN THE FACTS.

Secret Agent Said to Have Been Sent by Cleveland to Cuba.

New York, March 16.—A Herald special from Washington says: A rumor is current that President Cleveland has sent an army officer to Cuba as a secret agent of the government to supplement the reports of the consular officers by professional reports of the military operations in the island and the condition of the insurgents, as viewed from a military standpoint. It is said that reports from this officer have already arrived; that more are to follow, and that the president will make use of the information they contain in deciding upon the course to be followed by the administration, or in framing any message he may send to congress. No official confirmation of this report could be secured in either the state department or the war department, but for obvious reasons, if any army officer had been detailed for this duty, the administration would wish to keep the fact secret.

#### Subject to Taxation.

Olympia, Wash., March 18.—The supreme court today affirmed the judgment in the case of Thurston county respondent, vs. the Sisters of Charity House of Providence, appellants. The sisters are the owners of a block of land in Olympia, whereon is situated St. Peter's hospital. The remainder of the land is used to raise vegetables for the use of the hospital. In 1891 the entire property was assessed, and a tax levied thereon at the established rate. In 1894 suit was instituted to collect the tax so levied, the same being delinquent by foreclosure of the tax lien, and sale of property to satisfy the tax, penalty and interest. The defendant objected to entry of judgment, because the premises were used exclusively for the purposes of a hospital for the sick, and was exempt from taxation. The county then canceled the tax upon the building, but not upon the land. Judgment was obtained from this tax; hence this suit. The supreme court, holding that the revenue law of 1891 in exempting this class of public buildings did not exempt the land also.

—The world-famed Orontes river is only 240 miles long.