

AMERICANS IN CUBA

The Government Waking Up to Their Condition.

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Atkins, of Boston, Reveals to the President the True Conditions That Prevail on the Island.

Washington, May 15.—There was a sudden and violent outbreak of Cuban sentiment today at the capitol, and during the early hours the drift of opinion was strongly toward speedy and radical action by both congress and the executive, but later there was some what of a reaction upon its becoming known that the president, while keenly alive to the situation, and anxious to learn everything possible that could guide his conduct of our Cuban and Spanish relations, felt that further information was necessary, and for the immediate present the question was not one of recognition of the belligerency or independence of the Cuban insurgents, but of relief for the American citizens, destitute and helpless in the towns of the Pearl of the Antilles.

The foreign relations committee, it should be stated, while agreeing upon the necessity of relief for the suffering Americans, is favorable to more radical measures, and a number of its members are earnestly desirous of instant action by the executive in aid of the insurgents, but have not succeeded in converting the administration to their views that present action is appropriate and imperative.

The event of the day was a report to their colleagues by a subcommittee which yesterday examined the state department's Cuban reports. This statement, though not given to the public, was so far disclosed in character as to give rise to a good deal of excited comment among senators and members.

The report, based upon facts presented by the United States consuls in Cuba, it is said, brings out in strong relief the destitution which exists not only among the Cubans, but among Americans and pacificos now in the island who were driven from their farms and into the towns by Weyler's orders, and are thereby prevented from supporting themselves.

For several days past, the subject matter of this report has been under discussion quietly among a few of the friends of Cuba in congress, and they have lost no opportunity of impressing upon the president their convictions that it is his duty, as the chief executive, to delay no longer in taking active steps to terminate the present condition of affairs in Cuba. These representations, however, have not been sufficient to induce hasty action. The president is moving steadily and with all speed that safety and sound judgment warrant in the collection of facts touching the conditions that exist upon the island today. To this end, Mr. Callahan is now in Cuba, officially on another mission, but also charged with the observation of the conditions that prevail. When he has reported to the president and the latter has obtained what he regards as a sufficient store of information, based on facts that cannot be questioned, he will be ready either to take himself, or to suggest to congress, such action as these facts warrant.

Meanwhile, he has under consideration the best means of affording relief to Americans suffering as a result of the conditions on the island. Today, the president saw, by appointment, Edwin W. Atkins, of Boston, who is largely interested in Cuban sugar plantations. Mr. Atkins gave him a faithful picture of the economic conditions that prevailed in Havana and in other parts of the island when he left.

Committee's Report. The senate committee on foreign relations today had the Cuban question under consideration on the basis of the subcommittee appointed yesterday to confer with the president and Secretary Sherman. The report was prepared by Davis and Foraker, Republican members, Morgan, the Democratic member, declining to participate in it.

The report consisted of a concise statement of the contents of official reports from the American consuls in Cuba, bringing information up to within a week. This report confirms the newspaper reports as to the situation on the island, and even goes farther in depicting the deplorable situation than do most of the newspaper stories. Especial stress is laid upon the condition of American citizens. It is positively stated that hundreds are in a starving condition and wretchedly clothed. Deaths are daily reported. Americans are scattered in all parts of the island, and are shown no consideration whatever because of their American citizenship.

The Americans are generally persons who reside on the plantations, but who have been driven from their homes to the towns, and, being among strangers and without employment, are compelled to subsist on almost nothing. They are not allowed to return to their plantations, even to pick berries or secure the least article of subsistence. They are theoretically under the care of the Spanish army, but the army is without a commissariat. They have no means of leaving the island. Their condition is pronounced wholly deplorable.

The committee was especially impressed with this recital, and the opinion was generally expressed that the situation should be remedied, if possible. It was considered as placing even a worse aspect upon the question of our relations with Cuba than the imprisonment of Americans, of which there are now comparatively few instances.

The report also indicates a generally wretched condition of all the inhabitants of the island, because of scarcity of food and money, especially in the centers of population, and because also, of the pressure of the most malignant diseases, such as yellow fever, small-pox and dysentery.

The reports indicate that the Spanish army is not so strong now as it was a year ago, largely on account of these ravages, while they indicate no diminution of the insurgent forces. The reports were from various consuls, including Consul-General Lee.

FIGHTING IN EPIRUS.

Greeks Suddenly Become Active in the West—Reports Conflicting.

London, May 17.—Except for the fighting in Epirus, the Turko-Hellenic situation is unchanged.

It is tolerably certain that only a few Greek troops remain in Domokos, the bulk of Constantine's army having withdrawn to Lamia, where it will be in closer communication with General Smolenski. This probably explains the reported movements of the Turkish army, as a number of Edhem Pasha's troops have been marching from Trikala to Volo. Without doubt the results of the feast of Bairam are very welcome to the fatigued men.

The fighting in Epirus has been undecided. It is believed that Nicopolis is not yet captured, but only the heights commanding the town. The Greeks made a pretext of giving protection to the peasants, but they evidently had information as to the reasons for the apparent inactivity of the Turks in Epirus. This is the seventh time the Greeks have attempted to advance to Janina and have met with a repulse which the Turks have never followed up.

Evidently there is something wrong with the Turkish forces at that point. The recent report that a number of officers were taken from Janina to Constantinople in chains may perhaps explain it. Possibly Turkey is holding her forces there through fear of a movement from Bulgaria.

The Situation Complicated. London, May 17.—The correspondent of the Times at Athens says: The resumption of offensive operations in Epirus greatly complicates the situation and tends to hamper the negotiations for peace. The evident intention of the Greek commanders is to capture the Turkish positions there in order to show that they have not been defeated.

In an interview today, M. Ralli, the premier, repeated his statement that humanitarian motives are responsible for the delay in Epirus, but he did not deny the advantages which might be hoped for from the capture of Prevera and the occupation of the adjoining Turkish territory.

"We are still at war," he said, "and until an armistice is concluded Greece retains her liberty of action. We cannot allow our activity to be confined to Thessaly, where the Turks are predominant. The powers have hindered us from acting in Crete, but Greece cannot be barred everywhere nor compelled to restrict her operations to a limited area."

"We have done our best to obtain an armistice, and until it is accorded us, we must act where and when we can. If we have not already prosecuted the war at various points and among the islands of the Aegean, it is only because we have taken into consideration the sufferings to which the Greek population might be subjected."

The government apparently thinks that a renewal of the war will hasten, instead of retard, the armistice. This calculation may prove to be correct; but it is more likely that Turkey will seize on it as an excuse for delaying the armistice and will deal a crushing blow to Thessaly.

A Desperate Engagement.

Arta, May 17.—Desperate fighting has been in progress all day near Filipadisa. Two brigades of Greeks, with many guns, two companies of spearmen and a squadron of cavalry, attacked the Turks, who were almost without artillery. The Greeks forced the first Turkish line of defense, but met with a stubborn resistance at the second. In several places the bayonets were so close to the cannon that the former could not be used. The battle still continues as this dispatch is being sent.

Secured a Salary Bill.

Salt Lake, May 17.—A special to the Tribune from Helena, Mont., says: Secretary of the Senate John Bloor was convicted today by a jury of having secreted the "malay bill" so preventing its passage the last night of the session, and the punishment was fixed at one year's imprisonment. He was denied further bail and is now in jail. The bill in question had passed both houses the last day, but was never signed by the speaker of the house. It would have cut down the salaries of the county officers and the member and salaries of the deputies 35 per cent.

Eight and a Half Cents for Wool.

Hopewell, Or., May 17.—The largest individual clip of wool in this county, belonging to William Penland, about 420 sacks aggregating 150,000 pounds, was sold about a month ago, the terms of sale being made public today. The purchase price was 8 1/2 cents per pound. Mr. Penland's clip last season sold for 6 1/2 cents a pound. This wool will be baled and shipped East the first of next week. Frank Lee, of San Francisco, is the buyer. There is about 1,000,000 pounds of wool now in the warehouses here. The quality is excellent.

To Meet the Common Danger.

Vienna, May 17.—At a convention of Austrian manufacturers today, it was resolved to call upon the government to undertake to conclude international agreements with the European powers with a view "of effectually meeting the common danger to European economy arising from the prohibitive tariff policy of the United States."

Drank Embalming Fluid.

Burlington, La., May 17.—William Watt and Charles Feideraire, brickyard employes, are near death's door from drinking embalming fluid. Last night a farmer named Brach came to town for a coffin. He got drunk, and on his way home he and the coffin and a jug containing embalming fluid were thrown from the wagon. The brickyard men rescued Brach and his coffin, but secured the jug, which they supposed contained whisky.

Terrible Railway Accident.

St. Petersburg, May 17.—A terrible railway disaster befell the military train last evening between Eliva and Rockenhaven, on the Valkie Jurjev line. Sixteen cars were smashed. Two officers and nearly 100 soldiers were killed and sixty others were seriously injured.

A Heavy Chinese Loan.

Peking, May 17.—A preliminary contract for a loan of \$50,000,000 was signed here today in aid of a British

PEARL DIVERS OF CEYLON.

Marco Polo Tells of Charmers Who Keep Away Sharks.

When you leave the island of Sella and sail westward about sixty miles, you come to the great province of Maabar, which is styled India the Greater; it is the best of all the Indies, and is on the mainland.

In this province there are five kings, who are our own brothers. I will tell you about each in turn. The province is the finest and noblest in the world. At this end of the province reigns one of those five royal brothers, who is a crowned king and his name is Sonder Bandi Davar. In this kingdom they find fine and great pearls; and I will tell how they are got.

The sea here forms a gulf between the island of Sella and the mainland. And all round this gulf the water has a depth of no more than ten or twelve fathoms, and in some places no more than two fathoms. The pearlfishers take their vessels, great and small, and proceed into this gulf, where they stop from the beginning of April till the middle of May. They go first to a place called Bettelair, and then go sixty miles into the gulf. Here they cast anchor and shift from their large vessels into small boats. The merchants divide into various companies, and each of these must engage a number of men on wages, hiring them for April and half of May. Of all the produce they have first to pay the king, as his royalty, the tenth part. And they must also pay those men who charm the great fishes, to prevent them from injuring the divers while engaged in seeking pearls under water, one-twentieth part of all that they may take.

These fish-charmers are termed Abrahman; and their charm holds good for that day only, for at night they dissolve the charms so that the fishes can work mischief at their will. These Abrahman know also how to charm beasts and birds and every living thing. When the men have got into the small boats they jump into the water and dive to the bottom, which may be at a depth of from four to twelve fathoms, and there they remain as long as they are able. And there they find the shells that contain the pearls, and these they put into a net bag tied round the waist, and mount up to the surface with them, and then dive anew. When they can't hold their breath any longer they come up again, and, after a little, down they go once more, and so they go on all day. These shells are in shape like oysters or sea-hells. And in these shells are found pearls, great and small, of every kind, sticking in the flesh of the shellfish.

In this manner pearls are fished in great quantities, for hence in fact come the pearls which are spread all over the world. And the king of that state hath a very great receipt and treasure from his dues upon those pearls.—St. Nicholas.

Finding Water in the Desert.

The Western man who got water in the desert by the aid of a reed and a sponge evidently got the idea from the bushmen of the Kalahari desert in Africa. These people often live scores of miles from places where water comes to the surface. During certain times of the year sharp storms pass over the Kalahari, covering the apparently arid region with the brightest verdure and filling for a few short days the water courses with roaring torrents. The bushmen find water by digging in the bottoms of these dried up river beds. They dig a hole three or four feet deep and then tie a sponge to a hollow reed. The sponge absorbs the moisture at the bottom of the hole, and the natives draw it up into their mouths through the reed.

Strange Himalayan Tribes.

MM. Olafsen and Phillips, two Danish officers who recently explored the Pamir country north of the Himalayas, found there unknown tribes who are few worshippers and ignorant of the uses of money. Their animals are all dwarfed, the cows being the size of oxen, the donkeys of large dogs and the sheep of small ponies. Women are sold for five or six cows or fifteen sheep apiece. Their chief article of barter is furs.

KEEP IN SHAPE.

From the largest cities down to the smallest towns this is the month for the beginning of out-door sports of all kinds, and also the beginning of the season when sprains, bruises, hurts and mishaps are as plentiful as huckleberries. Every Spring this is a common experience, and the common experience has settled down to this: that the best thing to do is to be provided with a supply of St. Jacobs Oil for emergencies of the kind as an especially sure cure for the worst sprains, the blackest bruise, sportsmen, athletes, ball players and oarsmen have known this for many, many seasons, and reference to it is now only a reminder to get your supplies. Hard strains and overwork of the muscles will bring pains and aches and sportsmen know what's best and are never without the sure cure in the use of the great remedy.

Working Three-Horse Teams.

The true economy of team work is better understood by Western farmers than by the average of farmers in the East. It is to the Western farmer that we owe the idea of cultivating hood crops with two horses, requiring no stoppages, while the man may if he chooses ride behind and manage the team, so that none of the grain is destroyed. It is rather more difficult to turn two horses on a cultivator at the end of the row. Therefore, this plan is best adapted to large fields where the rows are long. But three horses will on heavy plowing do nearly twice as much as will two horses. Now that horses are cheap, it is the farmer's interest more than ever before to make horse labor accomplish all it will, with as little as possible of the much more expensive human labor.—Cultivator.

Smut in Corn.

It is a general rule in farming that the same crop should never be grown on land two years in succession. With most crops exhaustion of the kinds of plant food required by the crop makes the soil imperative. The second crop is so far inferior that it does not yield a profit. But corn derives its nutrition so largely from the air that it can be grown in succession so far as the supply of plant food is concerned. But it is found in the West where this policy has been mostly practiced that the smut on stalks and ears is so greatly increased as in some cases to take one-fifth or more of the crop. The smut spores live in the soil through the winter, and are ready to attack the corn very early if planted on the ground where corn was grown the year before.—Ex.

Ammonia for House Plants.

Every housekeeper has her bottle of "household ammonia," or some preparation of ammonia beside her kitchen sink or in the bathroom. It is very useful in many ways as the house-

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

THINGS PERTAINING TO THE FARM AND HOME.

Pointers on How the Farm Can Be Made to Pay—Advantage of Having Wells in Barn Basements—How to Prevent Pests from Decaying.

To Make the Farm Pay. One of the greatest hindrances to profitable farming is a desire to go too fast at first, and to purchase things one could get along without. The obliging agents tell you that you need not trouble about the money; your note will do just as well; but you will find that you must pay big interest for the privilege of going into debt, and you are always at a disadvantage with your creditor.

Have the money ready to pay, and you can then make your half of the bargain. Take good care of your farm and your stock and they will furnish the money for the necessary outlays. I will just say to young men who expect to make farming their occupation, that they may expect hard work and plenty of it, and they will not need to join any baseball line for exercise; but if they take care of their health and habits it will not hurt them. I have tried it for over sixty years, and am to-day a well-preserved man. I can truly say that with the blessing of our heavenly Father upon the labors of myself and family, I have made farming pay, and what I have done others can do.—John Laramour, before Bloomingburg, Ohio, Institute.

Wells in Barn Basements.

Every basement barn built for housing stock should have a well under it. In this way water of proper warmth can always be secured for cattle, and a tub or kettle kept full all the time will add greatly to their comfort. It is well for all stock to run out of doors in cold weather for a while each day, but the animals ought never to be forced to drink water nearly or quite down to the freezing temperature. We have scores of times seen cows turn away from the water under a hole in the ice because they were so chilled that further drinking of icy water was impossible. Much of the lack of thrift of cattle in winter is due to drinking ice cold water, and will be remedied by having a supply of water from a well in the barn basement.—American Cultivator.

To Prevent Pests from Decaying.

It is the rapid alternation from cold to heat and from dry to moist that makes pests decay so rapidly. This is, of course, worse on sandy soil, through which the air rapidly percolates, while in the heavy soil the air does not enter. The best preservative for posts in any kind of soil is to thoroughly dry them and then char their surface. After rubbing off the flakes of coal dip the charred ends in oil, taking care that both the charring and the oiling come up above the point where the posts enter the soil. Posts treated thus have been found sound after fifteen or twenty years, when, without this treatment, posts on sandy soil had rotted at the junction with the ground after eight or ten years service.

Live Stock Points.

New South Wales ships annually 200,000 beef cattle to Europe, while Queensland ships 950,000. These and the beefs from Argentina are the ones that mostly come in competition with our cattle in European markets. It is not hard to raise a colt by hand. In case of a very young one left without mother's milk, add a little warm water to some fresh cow's milk and feed that. If the foal has not yet learned to drink, put the warm milk into a long-necked bottle, so that the liquid will drain through slowly. The colt, tasting the milk upon the moistened rag will begin to suck it. After a little time the young animal will learn to drink, and after that all is plain sailing. The colt will soon drink out of a shallow pan. Give the milk four times a day. To teach the baby horse to drink, pour just a little milk down its throat, so that it will taste it and want more. With patience the thing is soon accomplished.

Don't Turn Livestock in upon Tender Green Pasture while the Ground is Soft.

If you do you will ruin both ground and grass. Let the grass get a good start and the ground become solid. When pigs are three weeks old they need more food than the sow's milk generally yields. Give them skim-milk with a little wheat middlings and linned meal in it. This is good for pigs till they are six months old.

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holder knows. It has also another use. Fill a teacup with tepid water in the morning and add to it three drops of household ammonia. Pour this on the soil of the geranium, or other rapid growing plant in your window. An application of this kind once or twice a week will add wonderfully to the growth and appearance of the plant. It is, in fact, a concentrated liquid fertilizer that is effective, cheap and handy. For a number of plants twelve or fifteen drops to a quart of water is sufficient. Twice a week on a sunny morning is enough.—Agriculturist.

Rings in Bulls' Noses.

Two recent attacks by bulls on their owners in Connecticut call attention to the danger which always exists even from bulls that are regarded as gentle and entirely safe. The fact is, no bull over one year old is to be trusted. Even without meaning malicious attack, he is liable in mere play to make a wound bringing blood. Then, however gentle he may have been before, the sight of the red fluid will infuriate him. The only safe way is to put a stout ring in every bull's nose when he is a year old. Then with a cord through this and a stout stick with hook at the end to catch the ring and hold the animal at a distance, the most vicious bull may be safely led.

Durham or Shorthorn Cattle.

The valuable breed of Shorthorn cattle originated in Durham, England, and there are yet old-fashioned farmers who speak of them altogether as "Durham" cattle. Until comparatively recent times it was a fair-milking breed, giving a good mess of extra rich milk. There are yet some strains of the Shorthorn in which the tendency to milk production is retained. Those who have such cows need wish no better. But, as a rule, most of the modern Shorthorn cattle have been bred to make beef, and in some of the cows this tendency is so strong that they begin to fatten within three or four months after dropping their calf.

Toads in the Garden.

We once knew a good farmer who when he found a toad on any part of his farm took pains to catch it and remove it to his garden. He said that in this way his garden became so stocked with toads that they destroyed thousands of insects with no cost or trouble to himself. It is a very interesting sight to see the toad helping himself to insects. Sluggish as he appears, whenever an insect comes within reach of his long tongue it is darted out and that insect is soon more. They will eat potato bug larva, but we never saw them attack the malodorous bugs that attack melons, squashes and cucumbers.

Bush Lima Beans.

Many farmers so much dislike the necessity of pulling the Lima beans that they allow them to grow trailing on the ground. When thus grown, more or less of the beans are mildewed, at least on their pods. But there are now several varieties of bush Limas. Some of these we have grown, and while retaining the high quality which makes the Lima bean so desirable, they are as easily grown as are the ordinary field beans. In most of the bush Limas there will be found plants that tend to grow tall, showing that they are sports of the upright growing Lima. But it is easy to clip such upward growth. It was perhaps by doing this that the bush habit of growing was originally established.

The Cabbage Flea.

One of the worst pests of the cabbage grower is the little flea, which gets into his beds of seedling plants almost as soon as they are up and eats the leaves. It works only a few days; as the plants get larger the leaf is rougher and less tender. Frequently sprinkling with fine, slaked lime will kill the flea. After this is done it is well to spray the bed with water in which a very little spirits of turpentine has been diluted. The odor of this is very strong, and the quantity required to give an odor is so small that no harm will come to the plants. Most insects are directed to plants by their organs of smell, which are very acute. Any strong odor will get them off their scent, and thus protect the object of their search.

Egg Shells for Laying Hens.

The avidity with which laying hens will eat crushed egg shells shows how necessary they are in the hen's economy for egg production. There is no better way to supply lime required for egg shells than to give them the gizzard also act as grit, enabling it to digest food. The only care in feeding is to crush the shells thoroughly, so that its likeness to the egg may not be seen. Where egg shells are thrown out without being crushed, the fowls soon learn the habit of picking at the shells on eggs, and from this they quickly become egg eaters, a habit which once formed is never forgotten.

Kaffir Corn for Cows.

I have thoroughly tested this feed and find it far ahead of any other for cattle and horses, especially milk cows, which if fed wholly on this will produce more, golden butter during the entire winter. If the fodder is well seeded it is best to remove part of the tops, else the cows will get too much grain. Give a small amount to each cow three times a day.—F. W. B., Decatur County, Kansas.

Skipping Rope.

One favorite amusement of school girls is attended with much danger—rope-jumping. Most girls know that there is danger in too violent exercise, or in exercise continued too long. Girls are, perhaps, less ambitious to jump a thousand or several hundred times without stopping than they were a few years ago. They know that death or permanent injury has resulted from such foolish attempts. But the danger is not alone in excessive jumping. It lies even in its moderate indulgence. Physicians say that the nerves of the limbs or of the spine may be paralyzed by jumping the skipping rope. The delicate nerves of the foot are liable to suffer permanent injury from the jar of jumping and the amusement puts a strain on other nerves of the body, which may cause paralysis. It seems hard to check girls in the enjoyment of this graceful and exciting sport, but when so many dangers are involved, it is a duty to give warning. Parents and teachers can see the need of caution better than the children.

A man should work every day, or not at all.

When a busy man rests on Sunday, he is upset for several days.

A SCIENTIST SAVED.

President Barnaby, of Hartsville College, Survives a Serious Illness Through the Aid of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

The Hartsville College, situated at Hartsville, Indiana, was founded years ago in the interest of the United Brethren Church, when the state was mostly a wilderness, and colleges were scarce. The college is well known throughout the country, former students having gone into all parts of the world.



PROF. ALVIN P. BARNABY.

A reporter recently called at this famous seat of learning and was shown into the room of the president, Prof. Alvin P. Barnaby. When last seen by the reporter Prof. Barnaby was in delicate health. Today he was apparently in the best of health. In response to an inquiry the professor said: "Oh, yes, I am much better than for some time. I am now in perfect health; but my recovery was brought about in rather a peculiar way." "Tell me about it," said the reporter. "Well, to begin at the beginning," said the professor, "I studied too hard when at school, endeavoring to educate myself for the professions. After completing the common course I came here, and graduated from the theological course. I entered the ministry, and accepted the charge of a United Brethren Church at a small place in Kent county, Mich. Being of an ambitious nature, I applied myself diligently to my work and studies. In time I noticed that my health was failing. My trouble was indigestion, and this with other troubles brought on nervousness. My physician prescribed for me for some time, and advised me to take a change of climate. I did as he requested and was some improved. Soon after, I came here as professor in physics and chemistry, and later was financial agent of this college. The change agreed with me, and for a while my health was better, but my duties were heavy, and again I found my trouble returning. This time it was more severe and in the winter I became completely prostrated. I tried various medicines and different physicians. Finally, I was able to return to my duties. Last spring I was elected president of the college. Again I had considerable work, and the trouble, which had not been entirely cured, began to affect me, and last fall I collapsed. I had different doctors, but none did me any good. Professor Bowman, who is professor of natural science, told me of his experience with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People and urged me to give them a trial, because they had benefited him in a similar case, and I concluded to try them.

"The first box helped me, and the second gave great relief, such as I had never experienced from the treatment of any physician. After using six boxes of the medicine I was entirely cured. Today I am perfectly well. I feel better and stronger than for years. I certainly recommend this medicine." To allay all doubt Prof. Barnaby cheerfully made an affidavit before LYMAN J. SCUDDER, Notary Public. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are sold by all dealers, or will be sent postpaid on receipt of price, 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$3.50 (they are never sold in bulk, or by the 100), by addressing Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y.

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