

AMERICANS IN CUBA

Senate Becoming Alarmed for Their Safety.

INFORMATION IS ASKED FOR

Caffery Speaks Against the Immigration Bill—House Considers Agricultural Bill.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Senator Cannon of Utah, today presented the following resolution to the senate, and it was adopted:

"Resolved, That the president is requested, if in his opinion it is not incompatible with the public interest, to transmit to the senate at his earliest convenience a statement showing what measures are in force by this government in the island of Cuba and in the waters contiguous thereto to protect the lives, liberty and property of American citizens now dwelling in Cuba."

Among the other measures reported to the senate today was the pension appropriation bill. It was placed on the calendar.

At the close of the morning business, the immigration bill, the unfinished business, was taken up, and Caffery of Louisiana was recognized for a speech in opposition to the measure. Caffery said:

"The pending bill is as mild a form of antagonism to immigration as conditions will permit. The educational test is of no very stringent character so far as the test is concerned. It is, however, the beginning of a new departure. From the foundation of the government we have invited the hardy, adventurous people of the Caucasian family to our hospitable shores. The grand transformation of this continent from the wigwam of the savage and the lair of the wild beast to the myriads of homes of a happy, industrious people, has been the work of white immigrants; yet we are about to smite the hand that has uplifted us; to give a sting to gratitude.

"Many whose ancestors are foreign born are now clamoring for restricted immigration. It is just and proper to hold this continent against the Mongolians. The exclusion of Chinese is justified by a wise policy and by the principle of retaliation. Their doors have been closed to the world, but their arrogance and selfishness are not the role for wise nations to play in the world's grand theater.

"Not to admit to this country Irishmen, Swedes or Italians who cannot read or write is Chinese, not American. No danger to our institutions has ever arisen from admitting immigrants who cannot read and write. This government is the outgrowth of the labor of countless immigrants, who will be disqualified by the pending bill. He who is vigorous in body, sound in mind, honest and industrious is a good citizen. No immigrant, not a pauper or insane; diseased or criminal should be turned away from our shores."

At the conclusion of Senator Caffery's speech the senate at 12:30 P. M., on motion of Chairman Davis, of the foreign relations committee, went into executive session.

Senator Frye made a most spirited speech in support of the Hawaiian treaty, urging upon the senate the importance of accepting the islands while opportunity offered, and denouncing as folly any refusal to embrace the opportunity.

In the House.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The house today entered upon the consideration of the agricultural bill. The bill carries \$3,332,402 being \$135,500 in excess of the amount for the current year. Wadsworth, Republican, of New York, chairman of the agricultural committee, explained that the increases were due to a constantly growing demand for inspections of meat and meat products for export.

Under the latitude allowed for debate, Williams, Democrat, of Mississippi, submitted an extended argument in favor of the establishment of the postal savings bank system.

Representative Dearmond, Democrat, of Missouri, sarcastically commented on Hanna's election and the telegrams of congratulations sent him.

Mahoney, Republican, of New York, replied to Dearmond. He recalled what he termed the victory of Democratic bosses in the Chicago convention in 1892, when they forced the renomination of Cleveland over the protests of the state of New York. The result was that he had been repudiated by his party, and had gone out of power unhonored and unused.

Cannon, Republican, of Illinois, also expressed gratification that the majority and political decency had triumphed in Ohio. Here the incident closed.

Explosion on the Marblehead.

Washington, Jan. 17.—Commander McCall, of the United States ship Marblehead, reported to the navy department from Port Tampa that while at small arms target practice yesterday four men from the Marblehead were injured by an explosion, two very seriously. The injured were removed to a marine hospital near by. No details as to the cause of the explosion are given.

News of Andree.

Stockholm, Jan. 17.—Professor Nordenskiöld, the arctic explorer, has informed the Swedish academy of sciences that the foreign office has received intelligence that several persons worthy of credence saw Professor Andree's balloon early in August in British Columbia, seven miles north of Queenella lake, in the District of Cariboo. The professor regards the news as being of sufficient importance to call for a closer investigation.

AGAINST MR. CORBETT.

Senate Committee Decides That He Is Not Entitled to a Seat.

Washington, Jan. 17.—The senate committee on privileges and elections today decided to make an adverse report on H. W. Corbett's claim to a seat in the senate from Oregon. The vote was four to three, on party lines, except that Senator Burrows, Republican, who was absent, was counted, upon his authority, as being in opposition to Corbett.

There were two votes, the first being upon the motion to declare Mr. Corbett entitled to his seat, which was supported by Messrs. Chandler, Hoar and Pritchard, Republicans, and opposed by Messrs. Caffery and Pettus, Democrats, Allen, Populist, and Burrows, Republican, of Michigan. Senator Spooner was paired with Turpie, the former for and the latter against the motion. The motion was then made to declare Mr. Corbett not entitled to his seat, and was carried by the above vote, reversed.

The voting was preceded by quite a general discussion, based upon a report prepared by Senator Pettus, on behalf of the opposition. This report took the position that the question involved is practically the same as that involved in the Mantle case, and this case should be allowed to stand as a precedent. Senator Pettus made an argument in favor of establishing a principle of action in such cases, and allowing it to stand, taking the position that there was danger in not taking the same course every time the political complexion of the senate changes.

The friends of Mr. Corbett are not sure of a single Democrat, Populist or silverite in favor of seating him, and with Burrows and one or two other Republicans opposed to him, they fear an adverse vote in the senate. The opposition of the fusion element is drawn together, because of the well-known gold views of Senator Corbett. The case is made more partisan on that account.

Shot at by Her Brother.

Chicago, Jan. 17.—A special to the Times-Herald from Valley View says: General Cassius M. Clay's young wife barely escaped death at 11:30 this morning at the hands of her brother, Clem Richardson, at whose house she has been boarding ever since she left the general two months ago. He fired two shots at her with a large pistol, at a distance of 30 paces, and then fired a shot at Mrs. Bryant, her mother-in-law, who was with her. Dora ran to the home of her sister, Mrs. Kelly, a mile distant, where she is tonight. Clem declares that he will kill Dora if she does not leave the Kelly house.

Discussed at Cabinet Meeting.

Washington, Jan. 17.—The principal subject under discussion at the cabinet meeting today was the prospects of the Hawaiian annexation treaty. The situation in Cuba was briefly discussed. A cablegram from Consul-General Lee sent from Havana last night tended to convey assurances of peace and quiet. General Lee's cablegram also stated, it is learned, that while he did not anticipate another outbreak, yet he would not be surprised at one. The cabinet discussion showed that while the president decided not to send a warship to Cuba at present, he intends to keep one or more vessels within reasonable distance of Havana.

Damages for Sealers.

Washington, Jan. 17.—The president today submitted to congress the report of the committee appointed under the terms of the treaty of 1896 to adjust the claims of British sealers for losses sustained through the seizure of sealing vessels in Behring sea. In his letter of transmission, President McKinley coincides with Secretary Sherman, that our treaty obligations demand prompt and favorable action by congress. The president recommends an appropriation of the total amount necessary to satisfy the award of the commissioners, which is \$471,151.

Two Weeks Adrift.

Newport News, Va., Jan. 17.—After drifting for two weeks, the barge Coal King, Captain Nelson, was towed into port this afternoon by the tug C. W. Morse. The Coal King left Boston December 31, in tow of the tug Luckenbach. January 1, her hawser snapped. Owing to the darkness, the barge's signal of distress was not seen by those on the tug, which, with two other barges in tow, proceeded on her voyage. The men on board suffered no inconvenience, being plentifully supplied with food.

Chicago Pension Frauds.

Chicago, Jan. 17.—Gross abuses of the pension fund of the Chicago police department were disclosed at today's meeting of the senate committee investigating the Chicago civil service commission and police force. A list was shown of over 60 ex-policemen now on the pension rolls of the police department, who, it is maintained, are perfectly able to do duty as officers, but who have been retired, it is alleged, to make room for others who had a political pull.

Shot His Sweetheart and Himself.

Cincinnati, Jan. 17.—Louis Alfred, a compositor at the Enquirer office, today shot his sweetheart, Minnie Packton, at her home, inflicting fatal wounds, and then killed himself. Jealousy was the cause.

Eder Lynching Investigation.

Genoa, Nov. 17.—Progress is slow in the Eder lynching case, and efforts to secure state evidence have proved futile. Two persons accused of participating in the lynching, Mason Grummas and Olie Hogener, were placed on the stand, but firmly protested their innocence. Minor evidence was given against a number, and a batch of subpoenas were sent today to Dayton and to the Diamond Valley mills.

ADVICES FROM SYDNEY.

Recent Happenings in Australia and the South Sea Islands.

San Francisco, Jan. 17.—The following advices arrived today per steamship Alameda from Sydney, via Honolulu:

A very severe shock of earthquake was experienced over the whole of the north of the island, and as far south as Christ church, New Zealand, December 8. Its duration was from one to two minutes, and the vibrations were from north to south.

A terrible storm broke over the Fiji islands November 11 and again December 13, the wind attaining a velocity of 85 miles per hour for some time. Several small vessels were blown ashore and wrecked. The Union Company's steamers had a narrow escape from similar fates, but put to sea and cruised about until the storm subsided.

The mountain tribes of Goodenough island recently attacked Thompson's station there, and after looting the store, murdered four boys and spared a number of other employees. The magistrate and a force of 14 armed police visited the scene for the purpose of avenging the murders.

At the Macquarie islands, December 5, four men were drowned by the accidental swamping of their boat.

The bark Loongana, which arrived December 14, brought the news of the drowning of Brother Bernard, a missionary, and 18 natives, near the Gilbert islands. The missionary's party, in three canoes, struck a shoal and all were lost.

As a result of a conference between the ministers of agriculture of the various colonies, a trial shipment of apples and pears will be forwarded to London in the near future.

Reports from the country districts of Victoria show that the cyclonic storm of November 18 did immense damage, scores of buildings being blown down, and many persons being injured.

December 3, Jack Griffiths, of Cobarr, who held the world's record, and Professor Bax, of New Zealand, engaged in a club-swinging contest for the world's championship at Newcastle. Two-pound clubs were used, and, according to the conditions, the evolutions per minute were to be counted. After both had swung the clubs for 40 hours continuously, the match was declared a draw.

Percy Cavill, upon his return to Sydney with the mile and five-mile championships of the world to his credit, was accorded a reception by the swimming association. McKun, a New Zealand amateur, recently ran half a mile in one minute 59 seconds. November 20, H. Craemer established a new world's record for the mile walk at Auckland. His time was 6 minutes, 27 3-5 seconds.

CAUGHT BY A CAVE-IN.

Five Men Entombed in a Tunnel Near Anaconda.

Anaconda, Mont., Jan. 17.—At an early hour this morning the discovery was made that five men were entombed in a tunnel which the Anaconda Copper Mining Company is constructing for water-fluming purposes under a bluff about half a mile beyond the city limits. A large quantity of powder, which had been carried into the tunnel for the use of the night shift, was exploded by some means now unknown, wrecking the face of the tunnel, which is about 180 feet long, and resulting in a slide of earth, which closed the tunnel completely at a distance of about 40 feet from its entrance. From the moment of the discovery of the accident, diligent effort has been made to reach the miners, concerning whose fate the deepest anxiety has been felt. At 10 o'clock tonight, those engaged in the rescue work felt sure that the noise of the "miner's signal" reached them from within the tunnel.

It was proposed to drive a three-inch pipe through the mass of earth that had filled the tunnel. This plan was followed and a 20-foot length was successfully driven. A second section was attached, and, to the joy of the anxious spectators, it penetrated the mass of earth.

Immediately, at 11 o'clock, communication was established with the imprisoned men. Four of them were reported alive and well and one dead.

The work of reaching them is going on vigorously. The men through the improvised speaking tube, reported that they suffered neither thirst nor hunger, but they wanted candles. It is not learned how the explosion occurred.

New Canadian Mining Laws.

Washington, Jan. 17.—In a few days the treasury department will make known the details of the arrangements recently concluded with Canadian Minister of Interior Sifton respecting the transportation of goldseekers and freight to the Klondike. It is learned that the Canadian government is about to issue new customs and mining regulations for that region.

Ordered to Egypt.

London, Jan. 17.—The morning papers announce that the first battalion of grenadiers, now at Gibraltar, has been ordered to get in readiness for service in Egypt. The other line battalions are under similar orders. There is evidence of preparations for an important campaign.

A Filibuster Captured.

Havans, Jan. 17.—The Spanish gunboat Algeria has captured off the coast of Cuba, near Manzanillo, a fishing smack from Jamaica having on board a cargo of war material, medicines and clothing.

President of the French Senate.

Paris, Jan. 17.—M. Loubet was re-elected president of the senate today. M. Scheurer-Kestner was defeated for re-election to the vice-presidency.

A STATE OF WAR EXISTS.

Hannis Taylor So Declares in Speaking of Cuba.

New York, Jan. 17.—The chairman of the organizing committee of the Cuban-American League makes public a letter from Hannis Taylor, former United States minister to Spain, in which he says:

"In every city of the United States a Cuban-American league should be instantly formed whose primary purpose should be to arouse public opinion to demand the instant passage of the senate belligerency resolution now pending in the house of representatives. When that demand is opposed by the worn-out pretext that the insurgents are not entitled to such action until they have first established a completed fact government, the answer should be promptly made that the law of nations requires no such thing, and that the resolution in question need only recognize the fact that there is now in Cuba a state of war.

"Who can deny the truth of that assertion, when he remembers that Spain has hurled in vain against the insurgent host over 200,000 men and has expended in vain over \$300,000,000? At the end of three years Spain's military power in Cuba is nearly at an end, while the army under Gomez is in actual possession of nearly the entire eastern portion of the island. And yet, in the face of these facts, the house of representatives, muzzled by five present administration, refuses to recognize the incontestable fact that a state of war actually exists in Cuba today.

"That denial is now prolonging unnecessarily the present conflict. In the present state of the cause of Spain, there can be no doubt of the moral support that the passage of the belligerency resolution would give to the insurgents."

The Cuban-American League has sent out a circular requesting the mayor of every city in the United States and the sheriff or ranking officer in every county to at once appoint a committee in every city and township or county to organize a local branch of the league.

SEA TO BE HARNESSSED.

Thomas A. Edison, Jr.'s Plan to Utilize Power of the Waves.

New York, Jan. 17.—Thomas A. Edison, jr., has invented a machine for utilizing the wave power of the sea. When in place the machine will be miles out at sea and will consist of a series of gigantic air pumps. The air compressed by these will be used to run dynamos.

For \$25,000,000 Mr. Edison can construct a plant, he says, that will furnish 1,000,000-horse power, enough to supply the entire state of New York. He says that a powerful syndicate has the matter of immediate construction of the plant under consideration. His plans are said to be practically complete.

The Edison wave machine is a series of gigantic air pumps. The piston of the machine stands upright upon a platform which is pierced by a long piston rod. Upon the lower part of the piston rod is a big flat float, which rests upon the water and is movable by the rise and fall of the sea. A wave passing under the float would elevate the piston power, fully compressing the air already contained in the cylinder. This pressure will be transmitted directly to the storage tank for compressing air. By an arrangement of oscillators sufficient air will be admitted behind the piston to return it quickly to its position upon the water, where it will be ready to receive the force of the next wave.

MAY BE PUNISHED.

Burning of the Two Seminole Indians Being Investigated.

Earlboro, I. T., Jan. 17.—Excitement is still intense here over the recent burning at the stake of two Indians, and the subsequent fear of an Indian uprising. Here public sentiment has favored the lynchers. At Wewoka, the capital of the Seminole nation, the sympathy is all the other way, for it is believed the lynchers tortured and killed at least one innocent man.

United States Commissioner Walter Jones is holding court in Wewoka, and the deputies of the court are busy issuing subpoenas and warrants in an endeavor to bring the lynchers to justice. An eye-witness of the hanging and burning of the Indians has volunteered his testimony.

As no attempt was made by the lynchers to hide their identity, it is probable the leaders will be arrested. They can only be tried on the charge of kidnapping and taking the murderers by force to the Seminole nation. The killing of the Indians comes under Oklahoma jurisdiction.

The Indians are sullen. White men state that a general outbreak will not occur, but that there is danger that the Indians will avenge themselves by killing, one by one, the leaders of the mob.

The Chinese Loan.

London, Jan. 17.—The Chinese loan negotiations are progressing. Great Britain has informed China that she is willing to find the money required, and the details are being discussed. The amount will probably be £20,000,000.

Suffocated by Smoke.

New York, Jan. 17.—In a fire, which occurred at Thomas Roberts' hotel, in West street, and which did \$15,000 damage, Leslie Stanley and his wife were suffocated by smoke.

Baltimore Houses Collapsed.

Baltimore, Jan. 17.—Two unfinished houses on Twenty-second street collapsed this afternoon and eight workmen were injured. Two are expected to die.

IMPROVING WILLAPA HARBO.

Captain Taylor Says It Can Be Done at Small Expense.

A Washington correspondent says: In his report recommending the improvement of Willapa river and Mailboat slough, Captain Taylor, of the corps of engineers, says:

"Willapa river empties into the Pacific ocean through Willapa harbor about 25 miles north of the mouth of the Columbia river. The entrance to Willapa harbor from the ocean has for many years maintained a depth of over 18 feet at mean low water, and at the present time has a depth of about 21 feet at mean lower low water.

"The mouth of the Willapa river is considered to be in the harbor about 13 miles in a direct line from the ocean bar. From the ocean bar to this point the depths are ample for any class of vessels, ranging from 27 feet to as much as 70 feet at mean lower low water. Near its mouth the Willapa river is joined by the North river, which flows in a course nearly at right angles to that of the Willapa. Just above the junction of these two streams is a bar having a ruling depth of water over it of about 16 feet at mean lower low water. The bottom of the river at this bar is lumpy, and the material forming it appears to be fine, hard sand and silt. The bar separates the deep water of Willapa harbor from the deep water of that part of Willapa river below Mailboat slough, which is a small cut-off channel, leaving the Willapa river about one-half mile above South Bend, the principle city on this harbor, and joining it again about 1 1/2 miles below the city. Immediately above the lower end or mouth of Mailboat slough is another bar, having a controlling depth of about 14 1/2 feet at mean lower low water. These two bars have existed with about the same depths which they have today since the earliest recorded surveys of this harbor were made, except that the upper bar has scoured away from two to three feet since 1892, when the government began the construction of a dike closing the upper end of Mailboat slough.

"The principal businesses of Willapa harbor are the lumber business and the fish and oyster business. Located at South Bend are three sawmills, whose combined aggregate daily capacity is about 150,000 feet. It is reported that two of these mills are to be rebuilt with largely increased capacities.

"The lumber is mostly shipped to San Francisco in small schooners, as deep-draft vessels are denied charter for cargo from this harbor on account of the two bars above mentioned. It is claimed that, were these two bars removed, the mills located on this harbor would be able to compete with mills of Puget sound, Columbia river and other deep-water Pacific coast ports in the foreign lumber trade. Whether the lumber business of this harbor would be so extended or not may be questioned, but there can be no question but that the present trade would be materially benefited, as the vessels which now carry the lumber experience delays on account of these bars. One flood tide is required for loaded vessels to cross the two bars. Before the harbor throat (distant about 19 miles from South Bend) is reached, the tide is ebbing. As insurance companies prohibit vessels towing to sea on an ebb tide, they are forced to lie at anchor in a rather poor roadstead, called North Cove, for about 24 hours. During the winter southwest storms frequently spring up, and vessels may be barbound from one day to a week after leaving South Bend.

"I am of the opinion that the most advantageous and economical method of improving these bars is to dredge a channel through them to a depth of 20 feet at mean lower low water. Near the lower shoal mud flats, which are covered at a two-foot stage of tide, extend about 1 1/2 miles to the north and about one mile to the south. At high tide this forms a wide expanse of water, and for this reason the channel through the lower shoal should not be less than 200 feet wide. The channel through the upper shoal may be reduced to 100 feet in width. The waters of the Willapa river carry but little sediment in suspension, its course is short, and for 12 miles above South Bend it is a tidal stream. For these reasons it is believed that a dredged channel would be fairly permanent."

The estimated cost of this improvement is as follows: Dredging at lower shoal, 250,000 cubic yards, at 20 cents, \$50,000; dredging at upper shoal, 100,000 cubic yards, at 20 cents, \$20,000; engineering, contingencies, etc., \$7,000; total, \$77,000.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 70c; Valley and Bluestem, 72c to 73c per bushel. Four—Best grades, \$3.75; graham, \$3.30; superfine, \$3.25 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 35c to 36c; choice gray, 33c to 34c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$10 to \$10.50; brewing, \$20 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$18 per ton; middlings, \$22; shorts, \$19. Hay—Timothy, \$12.50; clover, \$10 to \$11; California wheat, \$10; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9 to \$10 per ton. Eggs—15c to 18c per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 55c to 60c; fair to good, 45c to 50c; dairy, 40c to 50c per pound. Cheese—Oregon, 12 1/2c; Young America, 12 1/2c; California, 9c to 10c per pound. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.75 to 3.00 per dozen; broilers, \$2.00 to 2.50; geese, \$5.50 to 6.00; ducks, \$4.50 to 5.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10c to 11c per pound. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 45c to 55c per sack; sweets, \$1.25 per cental. Onions—Oregon, \$1.75 to 2.00 per sack. Hops—5c to 16c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4c to 6c. Wool—Valley, 14c to 16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7c to 8c; mohair, 20c to 22c per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, \$3.50; dressed mutton, 6 1/2c; spring lambs, 5 1/2c per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.00; light and feeders, \$3.00 to 4.00; dressed, \$4.50 to 5.00 per 100 pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75 to 3.00; cows, \$2.50; dressed beef, 4 1/2c to 6c per pound. Veal—Large, 4 1/2c to 5c; small, 5 1/2c to 6c per pound.

Seattle Market.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 30c; ranch, 16c to 18c. Cheese—Native Washington, 13c; California, 9 1/2c. Eggs—Fresh ranch, 22c. Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, 10c; spring chickens, \$2.50 to 3.00; ducks, \$3.50 to 3.75. Wheat—Feed wheat, \$22 per ton. Corn—Whole, \$23; cracked, per ton, \$23; feed meal, \$23 per ton. Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$22; whole, \$22. Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6 1/2c; cows, 5 1/2c; mutton sheep, 8c; pork, 6c; veal, small, 7c. Fresh Fish—Halibut, 5c to 6c; salmon, 3c; salmon trout, 10c; flounders and sole, 8c to 4c; ling cod, 4c to 5c; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2 1/2c to 4c. Fresh Fruit—Apples, 40c to 90c per box; pears, 25c to 75c per box; oranges, \$2.25 to 2.50 per box.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Novala 11c to 13c; Oregon, 12c to 14c; Northern 7c to 8c per pound. Hops—12 1/2c to 16c per pound. Millstuffs—Middlings, \$22 to 24; California bran, \$18.50 to 19.50 per ton. Onions—New red, 70c to 80c; do new silverskin, \$2.25 to 2.50 per cental. Eggs—Store, 20c to 22c; ranch, 23c to 25c; Eastern, 15c to 19c; duck, 16c per dozen. Cheese—Fancy mild, new, 11 1/2c; fair to good, 7c to 8c per pound.

Trade Conditions in the Leading Cities of the World.

The wheat traders are at sea and are watching three things closely, as they have a directly opposite bearing on future prices. One is the Argentine prospects. The others, the cash demand and Leiter's position on the cash wheat that he holds. From the news Saturday from Argentine, London and Paris, the prospects are that there will be a good exportable surplus in that country. A direct cable from Rosario to parties in the trade here from one of the best posted men on the Argentine situation estimated the exportable surplus at 46,000,000 bushels, or about two months' supplies for the leading consuming countries of Europe. A number of characters have been made in London to load wheat in Argentine and freights have advanced sharply. Arrangements have been made to ship \$7,500,000 in gold from London to Argentine; also \$250,000 from France. The Argentine wheat will be available in the latter part of March, as it takes about six weeks for freight steamers to make the trip. Argentine offerings in European markets had a depressing effect, European buyers using it as a club to break prices in this country. On the weak spots they bought liberally, export purchases for the week aggregating nearly 2,000,000 bushels. So long as the Argentine prospects remain good, it will be used as the bearish factor. St. Louis traders in close touch with the foreign situation have been selling May and July on a liberal scale. The latter is about 10c under May. Were they to start to cover the difference might be reduced, as no one but the bears have been selling the new crop futures. The situation in regard to supplies in Europe and abroad is not strikingly bullish, stocks January 1 being 71,620,000 bushels, or 7,585,000 bushels less than last year, which is about one week's supplies. The increase during December was 1,130,000 bushels, while for the same month in 1896 the decrease was 10,000,000 bushels. In the United States and Canada the stocks, compiled by the Daily Trade Bulletin, aggregate 85,389,000 bushels. The decrease in December was only 626,000 bushels, a striking contrast with the reduction of 7,712,000 bushels in December, 1896. The net increase in the world's available supply during December was 494,000 bushels, while for the same time in 1896 there was a reduction of 17,712,000 bushels. The world's available is 157,000,000 bushels, as compared with 184,618,000 bushels January 1, 1896.