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PUBLIC DEBT STATEMENT.

Shows a Decrease of Nearly Seven Millions in February.

WASHINGTON, March 1.- The monthly statement of the public debt, issued today, Shows that at the close of business February 28 the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$1.118.886.685, a decrease since February 1 of \$6.786.163. This decrease is largely accounted for by the increase in the amount of cash on hand.

Receipts and Expenditures. The monthly comparative statement of the receipts and expenditures of the United States shows that the total re-ceipts for the month of February were \$45.631,255, and the expenditures \$27,798,472, leaving a surplus for the month of \$7,892,-793. The receipts from customs were \$19,-882,252, a gain as compared with February, nearly \$3,000,000; internal revenue 767,457, an increase of about \$1,500,000. The expenditures charged to the War Department amounted during February to

Navy Department, \$4,045,724, a decrease o CLEVELAND IS SICK.

Ex-President Takes No Interest in

426,083, a decrease of nearly \$6,000,000;

Public Affairs. NEW YORK, March 2 - The Journal and Advertiser says that ex-President Cleveland is seriously ill at his home in Princeton. He is not confined to his bed. but he seldem leaves his room, on the upper floor of his home. He rarely sees visitors, and takes practically no interest in any events of the world at large.

Alvin Jeslyn Is Dend. PITTSBURG, March 1 .- Charles L. Davis (Alvin Joslyn), the well-known character actor and owner of the Alvin Theater, of this city, died tonight, aged 52 years.

Help to Bookkeepers

Using the eyes upon columns of figures is harder upon the eyes than reading. Every figure has to be considered separately, while in reading we take in whole words at a giance. Watching the keys of a typewriter is a severe strain upon the eyes. If your eyes tire at your work, or if you are subject to headaches, a pair of glasses to use at your work will do you worlds of good.

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OREGONIAN BUILDING

FAIR-CRAVEN SUIT.

Little Progress Made at the Trial Yesterday.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1.-Ex-Judge sullivan, who was at one time the attor-Sillivan, who was at one time the attorney of Mrs. Craven, was on the witnessstand in the sult of Mrs. Craven against
the Fair heirs today, but owing to the
constantly recurring arguments, objections, etc., of the opposing attorneys, little was accomplished. Finally, after much
questioning, the fact was brought out that
in 1992 Mrs. Craven showed to Judge Sullivan "a paper resembling in many respects the marriage contract now in evispects the marriage contract now in evi-dence in support of Mrs. Craven's claim." Before Judge Suillvan was excused the Fair attorneys moved to have all of his

IMPRISONED MINERS.

was denied by the court.

Four Were Rescued, but Died of

Their Injuries. REDDING, Cal., March 1 .- Of the eight miners who were imprisoned by yester-day's cave-in in the Iron Mountain mine, four were afterwards rescued, but have died from their injuries. The dead are: David E. Ross, A. Cavanaugh, R. Castilion and Alfred Oates.

The four still entombed are: J. Mc-Broom, R. McCalliop, A. Van Buren and J. Oates. While the work of rescue is being rapidly pushed, it is without expectation of finding them alive. They have been imprisoned over 60 hours, and, even if uninjured by the falling rock, have undoubtedly died for want of air.

Buried With Military Honors. WASHINGTON, March 1.-The bodies of % soldiers who died in Cuba since the end of the Spanish war were buried with military honors at Arlington Cemetery today.

BRITISH WENT WILD

The Country Swept by Tornatioes of Excitement.

ENTHUSIASM KNEW NO BOUNDS

Thrilling Scenes in the Metropolis -Joubert Assembling a Force

LONDON, March 2, 4:30 A. M.-Britons feel that they are living in the presence of momentous events. Tornadoes of patraotic excitement are whirling through the been stirred by the emotions of yesterday, and London's £,000,000 were raised to a high pitch of patriotic exultation. It was a inderful sight. Old men have nothing in memory with which to compare the day. Some likened it to Lucknow, others talked of the fall of Sebastopol. It was a time of singular abandon. The usual concentionalities of society ceased to control, nd every one knew everybody else, ali

Lord Lansdowne chose the moment to announce estimates exceeding £61,000,0.0, and rather startled the public by unfolding the programme of the War Office to send out, in addition to the \$0,000 troops now affoat, 56,000 fresh soldiers. Lord Roberts will ultimately have a force of

An order has reached Woolwich for the construction of 224 new guns, from three-pounders to 12-inch guns. Of these, 140 are to be naval guns. Already 25,000 work-men are employed at the arsenal, and 3000 more will be engaged. These decisions to send out more troops and to increase the home armament meet with universal ap-

The Boers seem to have gotten quite away from around Ladysmith without losing a gun or their baggage. Van Reenan's Pass is only about 20 miles from Lady-smith. The enemy had artillery in action Tuesday, and they utilized probably both railroads in retreating, sending the heavy pleces to Pretoria and the lighter ones nto the Free State. Dr. Leyds says that General Joubert

is assembling 50,000 men at Winburg, 70 miles northeast of Bloemfontein, Colonel Albrecht, according to a dispatch from Paardeberg, affirms that the Boers have Whether Lord Roberts is at Bloemfon-

teln now or not, he doubtless will soon be dating his dispatches there and using the town as his advanced base. Lord Kitchener's mission is to combine the forces under Generals Clement and Gatacre and to advance along the line of the railroad to Bloemfontein. The rail-way will simplify immensely the perplex-

of transport. The conditions at Ladysmith, some of which were explained by Charles Williams and cabled to the United States, are now better understood, as the military authorities no longer retain their special information. It appears that since the middle of January the horse have book half-starved and altogether too weak to drag gurs of to carry cavalrymen. Hence the impossibility of dashing out to help General Buller attack the Boers. Those half-starved animals were carefully saved

The disposition to find fault, though mildly, with the passivity of Sir George White, disappears as the facts become known. No one is in the mood now to riticise anybody, although two or thre of the morning papers gently refer to the fact that the War Office, at the outset of ostilities, rejected Lord Dundonald as fit to be a soldier, whereas it was he who organized the Colonials.

Emperor William, Emperor Francis Joseph and King Humbert have telegraphed congratulations to the Queen.

IN LONDON'S STREETS.

Seenes of Jubilation Almost Unprecedented.

LONDON, March 2, 2 A. M .- Until midnight London gave itself up to the wildest expressions of joy. From the Mansion House to the West End all the leading thoroughfares were constantly paraded by cheering crowds, intermittently bursting into patriotic songs. Bands marching through the streets assisted with strains of jubilation, and the same exultant notes were to be heard at every place of public gathering throughout the metropolis.

The West End clubs, cafes, the restaurants and the public buildings were all

brilliantly illuminated, and their interiors. even to the tables, were beautifully deco rated with flags, bunting and ingeniou

arrangements of electric lights.

At all the music halls patriotic songs were given, the people rising and joining amid scenes of unbounded enthusiasm. Hardly a person could be met with who was not wearing the National emblem in the shape of a tricolored rosette or ribi The biograph representations of leading Generals and heroes of the war were greeted with tremendous acclamations. One striking feature of the rejoicing was the great number of American flags inter-twined with the British,

At 11 o'clock, when the theaters and music balls poured forth thousands, the jubilation was redoubled. In Trafalgar Square every available inch of space was occupied by a surging, singing, cheering crowd. All joined in singing "God Save the Queen," applauding every reference to Lord Roberts, Buller, White, Baden-Powell and the rest. The scene at this point was almost without precedent, and

is not likely to be forgotten by those who Even now at 2 o'clock in the morning

there comes from Mansion House Square every few minutes the sound of vigorous cheering. Everywhere groups of people are to be seen, and, although noisy, they are perfectly orderly.

Great throngs remained in the vicinity

of the war office until 11 o'clock last even ing, when it was announced that no fur-the news was at hand for publication. From every part of the Empire there is a constant influx of telegrams, describ-ng the rejoicings. The news was reing the rejoicings. ceived with great enthusiasm at Dublin, where, however, the jubilant spirit of the Trinity College students carried them beand the bounds of discretion. A large ody of them marched to the Dublin Mansion House, where they scaled the garden ills, and captured a green flag flying in the grounds. A policeman and the ser vants of the Mayoral household struggled desperately to recover the trophy, and eventually wrested it from the invaders. vera! of whom were injured. Other enstables soon arrived on the scene, and

the exception of three, all were rescued managed to escape. Later in the day isolated assaults were committed, chiefly in the neighborhood of College Green. A strong force of police kept the students within the college grounds, and cut them off from the exsted crowd that assembled in front of the

dozen students were arrested, but with

college building. The three students were arraigned and small fines were inflicted. No further disorders occurred. re overbearing and less pleasant neigh-Great rejoicings are reported at Malta

and also at Gibraltar, where an effigy of President Kruger in chains was paraded.
Lady White, wife of Sir George White,
and Lord and Lady Lansdowne, all of whom attended the performance at the Albambra, were cheered for several minutes. At all the theaters there were scenes of enthusiasm, vocal manifesta-tions and the waving of flags.

THE FIGHTING RENEWED. floer Force Concentrated on the

British Front. PAARDEBERG, Feb. 28.-It is understood that some 7000 Boers are concentrating on the British front. The British cavalry is in touch with them to the eastward, and skirmishing began this

It appears that an action was about to begin with the Boer reinforcements at the moment of General Cronje's surrender, but Lord Roberts forbade it until all the prisoners should be in safe keeping. Lord Roberts addressed the Canadians afterwards, expressing in the strongest terms his pleasure and appreciation of their splendid work and courage. He attributed to them the greatest share in the Boer gurrender. Commandant Albrecht describes the

British strategy up to the battle of Ma-gersfentein as "stupid and almost insane." He says there were only 4000 men in Magersfontein trenches, and that only half of these were engaged in actual fighting. He praises the strategy of Lord Roberts, but says that the war is by no means ended; that there are still 75,600 republicans in the field. General Cronje's surrender, according to Albrecht, was "due to a blunder in locking up his men in a hole instead of occupying kopjes."

Commandant Wolmarans, however, considers it hopeless for the Boers to confighting in the present circum-

Roberts and Kitchener at Kimberley. KIMBERLEY, March 1.—Lord Roberts and General Kitchener arrived here to-day and were warmly welcomed by the municipal officers and thanked for the successful relief of the town. Lord Roberts said that it had given him great the successful relief of the town. pleasure to assist Kimberley in her time of need, and that he was glad he had an opportunity to visit the town. He fould he had a day off, so had come, but would he had a day off, so had come, but would have to leave tomorrow. There is great excitement and rejoicing here over the re-

CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE. Comment of the London Papers on

the Turn of the Tide. LONDON, March 2, 5 A. M .- The edito

rials in the morning papers are not only jubilant, but are written in a tone of confidence in the future which contrasts strangely with the gloomy forebodings of the previous six weeks. General Buller's misfortunes are almost forgotten, al-though it is everywhere recognized that the relief of Ladysmith is largely due to

he strategy of Lord Roberts.
The Times says: "The change wrought a Natal within 24 hours is indeed dramatic. The siege of Ladysmith will be memorable in military annals upon many unds. Seldom has the absolute confidence of a General in his men been more strikingly displayed than in the case of General Buller, and never has that con-fidence been more completely justified. There is good reason to trust that we have at least reached the turning point in the war, owing to Lord Roberts' brilliant

closes, and the invasion of British colo-nies has been rolled back."

The Daily Chronicle says: "All is not over. No doubt there are hardships to be orne and battles to be won, probably merous as any that have gone before. Still we are well on the road to success."

The Daily Mail says; "Almighty God, whose arm is strength, has blessed the efforts of General Buller's army with com-plete victory, and the cause of freedom

has triumphed once more." The Daily Telegraph says: "The darkest week in living memory has been followed by the most joyful week this generation has known. The war has exposed our weaknesses. We shall amend them. The relief of Ladysmith retrieves all the early errors of the campaign, and is the triumph of our most characteristic qualities and an evidence of the victorious vitality of

SPENCER WILKINSON'S VIEWS. He Belleves the Chapter of British Reverses Is Closed.

LONDON, March 2.-Spencer Wilkinson

the Morning Post, says: "Lord Roberts has taken the true measure of the Boers, and has thereby shown his mestery of what Napoleon called the divine part of the art of war.' No doubt the chapter of British reverses is now closed. He would be a bold strategist who suld now offer to the Boer leaders a plan of campaign promising ultimate success Lord Roberts will soon have a force of 80,600 men. The Boer Commander-in-Chief can now hope for but little from stratenough while detaining one British army to strike with effect against the other. may possibly attempt to hold General Buller at the passes leading out of Natal, where a small force, at some risk to itself, can cause considerable delay. Meantime may gather his forces in the Fre-

State for resistance to Lord Roberts. "If Lord Kitchener is at Arundel, it would seem to imply an intention to re-store the railways and to open direct mication with Bloemfontein. statement that a force of Boers

under Commandant Dutoit has crossed the Vaal River at Fourteen Streams accounts, perhaps, for a portion of General Cronje's army, and portends further trouble for

"It looks possible that the Boer forces may now collapse altogether, although that must not be counted upon. Lord Roberts, nowever, will soon have troops enough to deal with any guerrilla warfare, and alto-gether there is no need for further uneasi-

"The Nation is proud of its troops and of their Commander-in-Chief. It is grateful to the colonies for their magnificent proofs of imperial unity. There will be no relaxation in the determination to carry the war through to the end."

BERLIN, March 1.-Special editions of the Lokal Anzeiger scattered broadcast announced the relief of Ladysmith. The press generally makes but little com-ment, evidently being disconcerted by the sudden change in the situation. The papers outside of Berlin, however, continue as virulently anti-British as ever, In military circles open admiration is

expressed for the strategy of Lord Rob erts, and the opinion is gaining ground that the beginning of the end is approach-Parliamentary circles the consensu of opinion is that the latest developments will make the attainment of peace more difficult, and will render the British, in case they completely vanquish the Boers.

Report of the Senate Committee on Commerce.

Reasons for Decline of the American Merchant Marine-Scheme of Proposed Compensation.

WASHINGTON, March 1 .- The report prepared by Senator Frye upon the ship-ping bill, reported by the committee on commerce of the Senate, was made public today. The report begins by asserting "the self-evident value of a national mer-chant marine," explains and deplores our almost entire dependence upon foreign limost entire dependence upon foreign shipping for our ocean carrying, sug-gests the danger of reliance upon the merchant ships of other Nations which may become involved in war, the pos-sible complete exclusion of American exports from their regular foreign markets in such contingency, and points out that the wholesale transfer of the tonnage of a belligerent Nation to a neutral flag a beingerent Nation to a neutral flag would unquestionably involve such ship-ping in difficulties, seizures and deten-tions. The British-Boer war has material-ly reduced our means of transportation and embarrassed our ocean mail service. our war with Spain is referred to

Three prime reasons are given for the lecline of the American shipping in the foreign trade, namely: (1) The greater cost of building ships in the United States than elsewhere: (2) the greater cost of operating American ships, as compared with foreign ships; and (3) causes based on foreign legislative encourage-

The suggestion that this situation may be overcome by the free admission of foreign-built ships to American register is met by pointing out that if such admis-sion were unconditional it would result in destroying existing American ship-yards on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, All competent authorities, the report All competent authorities, the report states, agree that this bill, if enacted, will merchant marine. The passage of this bill, it is claimed, would probably effect a reduction of \$25,000,000 a year in ocean rates on American commerce, through the

rates on American commerce, through the additional shipping and the competition that would be created;
"Foreign opposition," the report says, "is being concentrated upon the bill because foreign shipping interests clearly see that they will be seriously injured by the replacing of American for the foreign vessels now in our foreign trade. eign vessels now in our foreign trade.

"The maximum annual expenditures are fixed at \$0,000,000 in the bill. About \$1,500,-000 is now being paid to American ships under normal conditions for carrying our malls, a sum which should be deducted from the additional expense of the operation of this bill.

"The provisions of the bill, from every 3000 for work in the mines.

future development of our markets for agricultural products is in Northern and temperate Asia, the committee believes our grain fields and cotton plantations our grain more in proportion from the real more in proportion from the Asia, who are alleged to have a few and afterward burned the naenactment of the law than the seaboard shipbuliding and shippowning States." Computations are given showing the exact amount vessels of various rates of speed would get under the bill, as compared with the cost of operating them. A 21-knot ship making 88,200 miles per an-num would get over and above the cost of coal and the handling of it a net compensation under the bill of \$22,932, while α 10-knot ship, making 42,000 knots per annum, or less than haif the distance of the fast ship, would receive a net compensation over the cost and the handling of the coal of \$15,120 per annum. The

fast steamships received the lowest net compensation under the bill. A computation is given as to the amounts that tank vessels, such as are used by the Standard Oil Company, would receive in compensation if admitted to American registry under the bill. These vessels carrying oil can only take an outward cargo, and, as they are for eign-built, they would, because of carrying cargo one way, receive only 25 per of the compensation allowed under

EMPLOYED REBELS' TACTICS

American Force Ambushed and Killed Many Filipinos.

MANILA, March 2, 9 A. M.-Colonel Anderson, with the Thirty-eighth Infantry, employing the insurgents' own tac-tics, has ambushed the enemy near Ba-tangas. Through spies, Colonel Anderson learned that a detachment of insurgents would pass a certain road. He posted his soldiers, concealed among the trees lining the road, and when the enemy ar-rived the Americans volleyed, killing 34 insurgents, wounding 30 and capturing several. Some arms and ammunition were captured. The effect of this blow has

Ambushed by Rebels.

MANILA, March 1.—One hundred insur-gents, seven miles from San Fernande mbushed 10 men of the Third Cavalry who were escorting a provision train The Americans were scattered, and while returning to camp one man was killed. The insurgents captured four horses and a quantity of provisions.

MESSAGES FROM OTIS. But No Report of Any Military Oper. attons.

WASHINGTON, March 1.-Three cable nessages from General Otis were received at the War Department today. One contained a long list of casualties among the troops in the Philippines since the last re-port. A second announced the arrival at Manila today of a Government transport from the east coast of Tayabas province with eight American and 410 Spanish soldiers recently released from captivity strength.

among the insurgents. The third message states that since the recent opening to commerce of the island ports, 13,000 tons or hemp and 70,000 bales of tobacco had been received at Manila, and that large shipments of the commodities named will soon be made to the United States and other countries

The fact that General Otis has not re ported any military operations since the departure of General Bates' expedition to Southern Luzon to complete the plan SOME OF ITS PROVISIONS of opening the hemp ports in that quarter is accepted by the War Department officials as an indication that the campaign is progressing satisfactorily, and that our forces have not met with any serious opposition by the insurgents in recent move-

Secretary Root has made a positive de nial of the published report that he was worried at the long silence of General Otis in regard to military operations in the

General Otls is expected to return to the United States on leave of absence soon after the arrival of the Philippine Com-mission. It is desirable that he should mission. It is desirable give it the benefit of his knowledge of affairs in the Philippines. General MacArthur will assume temporary command of the military forces on the Islands when General Otis

BUSH FIRES IN AUSTRALIA.

Vast Tract Burned Over-Seven Persons Perished.

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 1.—The steamer Aorangi, from Sydney, today brings an account of the most disastrous bush fires in Victoria experienced in the The humiliation of our reliance upon for-eign vessels bought and chartered during district has been devastated, and the damage is estimated as \$2,000,000. The fire broke out simultaneously in various parts of the Colony, and burned for two days and three nights, finally burning itself out the morning of January II. The whole country between Dunkeld and Mort Lake is a mass of blackness. Seven persons perished in the flames, which swept over a tract 40 miles long and 30 miles wide, con ming 1,000,000 acres of grass, six wool warehouses, 2000 sheep and 1000 cattle and

The latest news from Noumea prior to the sailing of the Agrangi was to the effect that the plague had again broken out among the kanakas. In almost every case the disease has proved fatal to the kanakas, but in the majority of cases cures are effected among Europeans. In involve a large increase in the American five weeks the mortality has been nine Europeans and 54 kanakas and Asiatics, So far, owing to the strict measures taken by the authorities to prevent the pest ex-tending to the country, it has only been reported at Neponi. The village of Neponi has been quarantined. One case of bubonic plague is reported from Tasmania, and there was also one case at Sydney, but both recovered. There was tremendous scare all through the Australian Colonies. and rigorous quarantine regulations have been enforced, with the result that no other plague cases have made their ap-

pearance No definite conclusion has yet been reached in regard to the question of the identity of William Creswell, an inmate of the Parramatta insane asylum, with Sir Roger Tichborne,

strikingly displayed than in the case of General Buller, and never has that confidence been more completely justified. The signod reason to trust that we have at least reached the turning point in the war, owing to Lord Roberts' brilliant strategy."

The Dally News says: "To surround the enemy has been found impossible. To pursue him is probably as impracticable. The enemy's principal army, therefore, has been driven away, but not destroyed. With this relief the first chapter of the war closes, and the invasion of British coio-2000 Japanese as agricultural laborers, and

"The provisions of the bill, from every point of view," adds the report, "are overwhelmingly in favor of new and more vessels, more shippards and greater facilities for ocean transportation. While deemed unnecessary, a provision has been inserted under which a vessel cannot receive full compensation unless she carries one-half of a cargo. This completely answers the criticism to the effect that a vessel might run under the bill for the answers the criticism to the effect that a and same answers the criticism to the effect that a and same arrived on by his widow, won was vessel might run under the bill for the carried on by his widow, won was compensation given without carrying a white woman in the islands. Through the winter work with the carried on by his widow, won was compensation given without carrying a white woman in the islands. Through the winter work with the winter work with the winter work with the work with

volunteered to remain alone at the tive village of Yemiu to compel the ple to evacute their land, which is claimed both by the French Company and by the natives.

The Premier of New Zealand has protested to the Australian Premiers against the acceptance of the Eastern Extension Company's Cape cable offer, on the ground that it would prejudice the Pacific cable

The New Zealand Government has intronumber of hours of working women and children to 45 a week. Sir John Forrest, the Premier of this Colony, stated that the only difficulty which prevented Western Australia join-ing the commonwealth was the desire of

following federal union. PRUSSIAN SECRET DECREE. Forbade Answers to Inquiries of United States Consuls.

the people of Western Australia to have full fiscal freedom during the five years

BERLIN, March 1 .- Considerable astonishment was caused in the Reichstag to-day by a detailed statement respecting a cret decree issued by Baron von Rheinbaden, Prussian Minister of the Interior, while Provincial Governor of Dusseldorf, forbidding answers to the inquiries of United States Consuls wherever a possibility existed where German interests might thereby be injured, even though the in-quiries should be merely of a general na-ture. Herr Kunert, Socialist, who brought up the matter, gave the date of the de-creee as July 24, 1899, and called the attention of the Reichstag to the fact that, by the general Prussian decree of 1804 covering the subject, questions put by foreign Consuls, if general in their nature, may be answered. Herr Kunert also charged the Government with conniving been salutary. The enemy in that locality at the Agrarian campaign of abuse against the United States. No one contradicted either of the charges.

> French Cannon Factory Burned. LE CREUSOTE, France, March 1.-Fire broke out yesterday evening in the famous cannon factory here whence the Boers obtained their powerful "Long Toms, Two enormous buildings, containing gun materials, stores and a number of artillery models, were destroyed. The losses are estimated at nearly 1,000,000 francs. A large number of workmen have been thrown out of employment.

> > France's Naval Policy.

PARIS, March 1.—In the Chamber of Deputies today, while the naval estimates were under consideration, M. Lockroy, ex-Minister of Marine, made a notable speech. explaining his views regarding the proper naval policy for France to follow. He declared it necessary for France to make great monetary sacrifices for her navy, as her foreign policy depended upon her naval

STRONG CRITICISM

Effect of the House's Action on the Coming Campaign.

COMMENT OF THE EASTERN PRESS

Senate Will Probably Pass the Puerto Rico Bill-The Case With Hawait.

WASHINGTON, March 1.-The Senate committee follows the lead of the House committee in regard to Puerto Rico and the Republican majority of the Senate will vote to put the amended For-

aker bill through, The comments in the Eastern papers are based according to the political affiliations, the protection papers applauding the action of the House, while the other pa-pers are generally strong in their criticism. The Washington Post, which is a very firm friend of the administration, says that the House has made the coming

ilcal campaign uncertain. The paper "The House has repudiated and rejected, by a vote representing almost the full Republican strength of that body, the President's solemn and religious injunc-tion regarding Puerto Rico. What a spec-tacle is this presented to the country, a Republican House overruling the solemn and just decree of a Republican President? The country has no knowledge of any changed conditions since the President's message was written. It knows of no change of policy or sentiment on the part of the executive. Our duty is as plain and pressing today as it was in December last. There was a ring of gen-uine, generous Americanism in the President's utterance. It was the recommen-dation of a Christian, a patriot and a statesman, yet the House of Representatives, moved by an influence mysterious and inexplicable, proclaims to the nation that Mr. McKinley was wrong; that we really do not owe such a duty to Puerto Rico he so clearly and earnestly indicated. Verily this is a spectacle, not only for the

country, but for the world." The politicians who have been discussing the thing say that the people will understand before election the necessities which governed Congress in levying the tariff on Puerto Rican products, and that in less than six weeks there will be a change of sentiment throughout the coun-

One of the principal things operating to pass the bill was the fear that labor would be much disturbed if it was not established, by some such legislation as the Puerto Rican tariff, that the people of the ceded Islands are never to be recognized as citizens of the United States nd have no possibility of entering into competition, either in this country or in

the islands, with American labor.

The Hawalian bill was not amended, and the tariff laws of the United States, under the bill passed today, extend to those islands. It is certainly a discrimipation in favor of Hawaii compared to Puerto Rico, although there is no differ-ence in the status of the islands, as free

trade has been enforced with Hawaii under the reciprocity agreemen Promotion of Corbin The bill to make Corbin Major-General has called out a vigorous criticism of him in certain quarters. His past record has been searched to show that he is not entitled to any such distinction, and it is also pointed out that the Adjutant-General, as chief clerk to the Secretary of War, is not entitled to any higher rank than other bureau officers. Those who are opposing the bill also say that it will a further division between the ine and staff of the army, as this prominence given to Corbin will make him practically commanding officer of the army, no matter who may be Major-General of the line, and it will encourage the ill-

War's office. The friends of Corbin intend to push the bill through if any army legislation is adopted this session Hotel-Keepers' Opportunity, Democratic leaders are generally very nuch exercised over the report that came from Kansas City that the hotels there intend to charge \$30 a day for ordinary rooms. It is feared that this action will

feeling that exists between the Major-General commanding and the Secretary of

keeping away a large crowd, and consecause a number of people to become disgruntled,

A Log-Raft Bill. Representative Loud, of California, has introduced in the House a bill similar to that recently introduced by Senator Perkins, which prescribes that it shall be un-lawful to tow rafts of logs on the open waters of the Pacific Ocean, but contains the provision inserted by the Senate committee, that such rafting shall be permis able in Puget Sound and in the bays and rivers along the Coast. In other respects the bill is identical with the Senate meas-

ure as reported. Oregon Pension Bill. The House committee on invalid pensions has taken up and reported the bill recently passed by the Senate to pension Mary J. Freeman, of Portland, Or., at \$12 a month. The bill was reported by Rep-resentative Calderhead, who merely adopted the report made by the Senate com-The bill now goes on the calendar, to await its turn, and when called up

will undoubtedly pass. Military Rule in Alaska. It is evidently the intention of the Administration to have enough troops in Alaska to preserve the public peace during the big rush which is promised for that territory this year. In addition to the already ordered there. ments have been made to send more to several places. This will mean military rule of that great territory, the same as we have had military rule over Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines since the Spanish War. Considering the fact that we have also denied the right of the people of Alaska to self-government, quite a howl should go up from those who talk of the "consent of the governed." Alaska. It is recognized, however, that the peace and good order and protection of life and property in Alaska depend upon an adequate military force, and the man would object to it would make him-

self ridiculous. Germany and the Peace Conference,

BERLIN, March 1.-During the debate the Reichstag today on the Foreign Office estimates, Herr Grandnauer, Social-Democrat, requested to be informed as to the attitude of the Government in regard to The Hague Peace Conference. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count von Bulow, replied:

"Our aims are always directed toward peace, and it will not be broken by us. I can give no guarantee of the action of others. Therefore, we must be armed. We gladly participated in the labors of the conference, but could not agree to obligatory arbitration, and can only de-

