

TRADE WITH PORTO RICO GREAT GAIN, NOTWITHSTANDING LAST YEAR'S STORM.

Imports From the Island Have Tripled and Exports to the Island Quadrupled.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—Imports into the United States from Porto Rico have tripled and exports to that island from the United States have quadrupled in the five months since the enactment of the new Porto Rican tariff act, as compared with the corresponding months of 1899 and 1900, when Porto Rico was under the Spanish flag.

These figures are especially interesting because of the fact that it was supposed when the act went into effect that the commerce of the first year would be very small by reason of the hurricane of last year, which proved so damaging to the chief industries that it was thought the island would in the present year have little to sell and consequently little with which to buy.

The table which follows shows the imports from and exports to Porto Rico in its commerce with the United States during May, June, July, August and September of 1899, 1900, 1901 and 1902, respectively, and the total for each period, and this enables a comparison to be made by the entire period both with 1899, when the island was under the American flag, but subject to the general customs laws of the United States, and with 1898 and 1897, when it was Spanish territory.

Table showing trade statistics for Porto Rico from 1897 to 1902, including monthly and total figures for exports and imports.

The following table shows the exports from the United States to Porto Rico of 15 representative articles during the five months ending October 1, 1900, compared with the same months of 1897.

Table comparing exports from the US to Porto Rico for five months ending Oct 1, 1900 vs 1897, listing various goods like cotton, sugar, and machinery.

LONDON STOCKS CHEERFUL.

Americans Showed Marked Activity and Closed Higher. LONDON, Oct. 28.—The stock exchange last week had a rather active and decidedly cheerful experience. The Anglo-American agreement regarding China was cordially received and had the effect of encouraging a fair amount of buying.

EASIER CONDITIONS IN GERMANY.

Money is Accumulating and Interest is Lower—Too Few Cured. BERLIN, Oct. 28.—October is drawing to a close under conditions of increasing ease in the money market. The rate of the prolongation of money has fallen to 4%, and there are instances of loans at 3%.

ALASKA TELEGRAPH LINE CERTAIN THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE SYSTEM NEXT YEAR.

Captain Greely, of the Signal Corps, Reports Good Progress of Project—Conditions at Nome.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—It is now certain that Alaska will have a telegraph and cable system controlled by the United States by the end of the Summer season of 1901. A military telegraph system was authorized at the last session of Congress, though not until the closing days of the session, when an appropriation of \$400,000 was inserted in one of the general appropriation bills.

The brilliant success of the Hamburg loan shows that the advisors of the imperial treasury had formed a totally false judgment of the conditions of the German market.

NEARLY A MILLION.

Optimistic View of McKinley's Popular Plurality.

Chicago Times-Herald. With only two full weeks remaining before the casting of the ballots, all signs point to the re-election of President McKinley by a majority of over two to one in the Electoral College, backed by a popular plurality approximating a round million.

Table showing popular plurality by state for the 1900 election, listing states like Alabama, Arkansas, California, etc.

specification in Alaska, having spent six weeks in the Yukon Valley and two weeks at Nome. His trip was made solely for the purpose of informing himself of the progress that has been made on the system and learning just what will have to be encountered before the line is completed.

During the two weeks that General Greely was at Nome he took in the entire situation as fully as possible, and in speaking of conditions at that new mining camp said: "I was lying off Nome during the very violent storm of September 12 and 13, which did such enormous damage to the city."

Never in the history of the Republic has there been such a popular plurality as this rolled up against a political party. Grant's plurality of 72,991 in 1872 was the nearest approach to it. It is in that year that Bryan will be cast for his own issue, absolutely foreign to the election.

Shakespeare in the Bible.

In Shakespeare's name lies the key to a wonderful cryptogram. The spelling "Shakespeare" was the poet's nom de plume, while "Shakespear" was his name, as evidenced by the "Shakespear" in each of the two spellings last given as 10 letters—four vowels and six consonants.

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MR. SHURTLEFF'S SUIT RIGHT TO REMOVE GENERAL APPRAISER CONTESTED.

His Contention Before the Court of Claims—How Mr. De Vries Came to Be Appointed.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—(Special to the New York Evening Post.) The next term's calendar of the Court of Claims will contain the case of Ferdinand N. Shurtleff against the United States. Mr. Shurtleff is the former member of the Board of General Appraisers at New York, who was removed from office in the Spring of last year, and who has brought suit against the United States for \$3,224.23, the balance of salary due from the date of his removal to the date of the filing of his petition to the court.

Mr. Shurtleff says that he was appointed by President Harrison in 1890 without his own knowledge or solicitation and to his surprise, but assumed that the President must have chosen him because of his 12 years of experience in the customs service. At the time of his appointment, he was engaged in private business on the Pacific Coast; but, on looking up the law creating the Board of General Appraisers, he discovered that he was practically for life or good behavior, as no appointee could be removed except for incompetence, neglect of duty, or refusal to accept the office.

Later, he learned that James S. Sherman, of New York, had been named as his successor, but refused to qualify. Mr. Shurtleff went on drawing his salary and attending to his duties. On May 15 he received another letter from the President, dated May 15, 1893, by Assistant Secretary Spaulding, and repeating the exact language of the February notice. The next day, Israel F. Fischer appeared and claimed to be his successor by appointment of the President, and was permitted to take part thereafter in the functions of the office.

Mr. Shurtleff continued to come to the office regularly until November 1, 1893, when he was notified by the Assistant Secretary that he was still a member of the board, never having been vacated his office. When the next month's pay-day came around he forwarded his check to the Assistant Secretary, but received it back from Assistant Secretary Spaulding, who had received compensation for the period covered by the voucher. Mr. Shurtleff, who is more than 70 years old, regards his treatment as not only a gross insult, but as a gross violation of the law.

The answer of the United States, made through one of the Assistant Attorneys in the Department of Justice, is based upon the principle that the power of removal is absolute and that the President, Congress having repealed the tenure-of-office act—the Constitutionality of which was questioned at best—so as to leave no bar whatever to the free exercise of his discretion. Justice Peckham's statement of the Supreme Court's decision in the Parsons case is cited to show that, even where the law prescribes certain conditions, the President has such legislation is not to grant to the incumbent an assured tenure for that period, but to limit the duration of its terms. This principle, the government's counsel says, has never been departed from in the history of the court.

There is a story, however, indirectly connected with the affair, which never has been told in print, and which has a certain picturesque side. This deals with the removal of Mr. Shurtleff from California, the latest appointee to the board, came to be chosen. On the resignation of Judge Wilkinson, about a year ago, the President took a fancy to "reorganize" the services of Mr. Bynum as a Gold Democrat in 1896 by appointing him to Mr. Wilkinson's seat. Mr. Wilkinson was a Democrat, and the place was held by a Republican. The President's action was a very good opportunity for the President to show what brand of Democracy he was. All in all, conditions in California were not so good as they had been in 1896, and the President was not so anxious to have the party workers, and the Democrats, in the highest terms of the efficiency not only of the military, but of the marine hospital officers, who so soon controlled and stamped out the dissent that threatened Nome and other sections, and declares that as a result of the combined efforts of both services, Nome City is now as healthful a mining camp as exists anywhere.

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