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A Woodlark Turkish Bath Cabinet
ABSOLUTELY CURES Rheumatism, malaria, blood diseases, kidney and liver complaints. Makes fat people thin without dieting or medicine. Costs 2 cents for a bath.
Cabinets in four styles—\$5.00, \$7.50, \$10.00 and \$12.00
Freight paid to any railroad station. Send for book and testimonials.
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THE EQUITABLE LIFE
IS THE STRONGEST LIFE
ASSURANCE.
DOUBLY SURE.
SURPLUS. STRENGTH.

Imperial Hotel Co.

SEVENTH AND WASHINGTON STREETS, PORTLAND, OREGON.
CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT.
European Plan: \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 per Day

THE NEW "VAN" STEEL RANGE

HAS NO ASBESTOS LINING! HAS NO NICKEL TRIMMINGS!
HAS NO MALLEABLE IRON!
The only range without any of these three objectionable features.
Made for people who want the best.
W. G. McPHERSON 47 FIRST STREET

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1901 Models—Are Beauties in Construction and Finish.

Ladies' and Gent's Wheels	\$25.00
(Equal to other makes selling at \$35.)	
Ladies' and Gent's Wheels	\$35.00
(Equal to other makes selling at \$50.)	
Ladies' and Gent's Cushion Frame Wheel	\$50.00
Gent's Racing Model	\$50.00
Boys' and Girls' Wheels	\$22.50

These wheels continue to be the favorite with riders this season.

HONEYMAN, DeHART & CO.

FOURTH AND ALDER STREETS

THE PORTLAND

PORTLAND, OREGON

AMERICAN PLAN \$3.00 PER DAY and upward.

COST ONE MILLION DOLLARS
HEADQUARTERS FOR TOURISTS AND COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS

Special rates made to families and single gentlemen. The management will be pleased at all times to show rooms and give prices. A modern Turkish bath establishment in the hotel. H. C. ROWERS, Manager.

Bispham and the Pianola

The stimulation of the highest artistic playing by the Pianola is surprisingly close, and is far beyond anything of the kind hitherto known, many of the possible effects being quite beyond the capacity of most pianists.
DAVID BISPHAM, Operatic Tenor.

M. B. WELLS, Northwest Agent for the Aeolian Company
Aeolian Hall, 325-355 Washington Street, cor. Park

The Bailey's Great Speed

NEW LONDON, Conn., April 25.—On the official speed trial of the torpedo boat Bailey, which took place off this harbor today, the boat eclipsed all records for her trial, maintaining an average speed of 30.2 knots during the entire trip, and at one time reaching a mark of 31.25. The naval board and builders all express themselves as highly pleased with the performance of the little craft.

Life of Roumania's King in Danger

LONDON, April 25.—The Vienna correspondent of the Morning Leader asserts that a man named Petroff attempted to enter the royal carriage at Bucharest, the Roumanian capital, with a view of murdering King Charles, but was prevented by the sentries after a severe struggle. The correspondent adds that Petroff is believed to be an emissary of the Macedonian committee.

IN HANDS OF ROOT

Cuban Delegation Turned Over to War Secretary.

CONFERENCE HELD IN SECRET

The Commissioners Met the President and Later Were the Guests of Honor at a White House Dinner.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The Cuban delegation from the convention framing a constitution for the new island republic saw President McKinley twice today, once in the early part of the day, when there were expressions of friendship and again at night, when the members of the delegation were the guests of honor at the state dinner at the White House. The real business which brought the delegation here was not transacted, the President in the forenoon interview at the White House saying to the delegates that he would confer with Secretary Root, who would act as his representative in the conference over the Cuban situation. The delegation and Secretary Root were closeted for some hours in the afternoon in a discussion of the relations of the island to the United States. Secretary Root observed as to the conference, the statement being made that after results were reached some news as to the conclusions might be made public.

Matters of importance were not touched upon in the interview between the President and the delegates, the conference being almost wholly informal. Senator Tamm, in his address to the President, spoke of the desire of the Cubans to have the closest possible relations with the United States. He also spoke of the gratitude which Cuba felt for the United States for the assistance rendered in her liberation. In response, the President expressed his pleasure at meeting the delegation and desired through them to extend his kindest wishes to the people of the island. He said that his interest in Cuba always had been great, and its welfare always would be the subject of his most earnest consideration. Concerning the object of the delegation's visit, the President said he would confer with the Secretary of War, and the Secretary, having an intimate knowledge of the situation, would confer with the delegation.

The Cuban delegates began their rounds by going to the War Department at 11 o'clock for the first formal meeting with Secretary Root, and then being escorted by him to the White House. At the hotel, to accompany them on their rounds, were United States Army officers, Captain Sawtelle and Lieutenant Oyster. Shortly before 11 the delegates appeared in a body at the entrance of their hotel, and were photographed, along with the Army officers.

Previous to the arrival of the delegation at the War Department, General Wood entered the Secretary's office, and was there when the visitors were shown in. The delegation first met the Secretary of Assistant Secretary Sanger, and then were shown to Mr. Root's private office by Colonel Sanger. Captain Sawtelle and Lieutenant Oyster, the Secretary of the War, and the Secretary, having an intimate knowledge of the situation, would confer with the delegation.

The most complete meeting of the day was a conference in Secretary Root's office, lasting from 3 to 5 o'clock. The present were the four Cuban delegates, their interpreters, Secretary Root, General Wood, Assistant Secretary Sanger and Senator Gonzales, general secretary, who acted as interpreter. The Army officers acting as escort for the Cubans were also present. The business was not completed, and the conference will be resumed tomorrow. The members of the delegation will take home favorable reports of our intentions, and Secretary Wood expects to leave here tomorrow night, going to New York, thence to Cuba. It is not known when the Cuban will return, but the belief was expressed that the delegation would be here again to meet them at the meeting tomorrow.

The attention shown them and with the cordiality with which their views on the conditions of moment to them were received. The observation was made by some of the guests, at least, that the tariff is the key to the situation, and the opinion is expressed that if sufficient concessions be made by this Government in the duties on sugar and tobacco, the main features of the Platt amendment may be adjusted to the common satisfaction of the United States and the Cubans.

STARVATION IN PORTO RICO

Borda Again Describes Conditions in the Island.
NEW YORK, April 25.—When Dr. L. S. Rowe, of the Porto Rican code commission, reached here several days ago he said that conditions in the island were much improved, despite statements made by "a small element of the population in a spirit of pessimism." To this assertion of Dr. Rowe an exception is taken by Wenceslaw Borda, Jr., member of the commission chosen by the Planters, Bankers and Merchants' Association of Porto Rico to present to the United States Government the ideas of that organization regarding the state of affairs on the island, particularly in connection with the Hollander revenue law.

"Our people are starving," said Mr. Borda in an interview, "and the island is in a worse condition under the rule of Governor Allen than it ever was before, even when Spain held sway. So hopeless is the state of affairs that fathers sell their daughters to keep them from dying of hunger. These people who say the country is flourishing are the officeholders, representatives of the class of professional politicians into which Governor Allen has fallen—the lowest class of all the island's inhabitants.

"The tax law to which we object was framed by Professor Hollander, a man with no practical knowledge of Porto Rico. It was passed by the insular legislators a few minutes before they adjourned. Governor Allen signed the measure immediately, although he had a right to wait for 10 days, while we who objected to the law had every reason to object. He did not wait, and he would wait, we called a mass meeting of business men from all over the island. It was by that meeting that we were able to get the law repealed. Those who appointed us represent 60 per cent of the money interests of all Porto Rico, and they are not politicians. The mission on which we have been sent here involves the life or death of our corporate success or demotion in Porto Rico."

Mr. Borda and his associate, Mr. Balboa, have filed 18 objections to the Hollander law, and the United States is expected to take up the matter in the near future. Mr. Borda said that he had no intention of seeking a third nomination for the Presidency. Mr. Bryan's announcement that he would not run in the Presidential election was a relief to him, as he had been speculating on his future plans as a political leader. Mr. Bryan said: "I am not planning for another Presidential nomination, for if I were I would not be editing a paper; if I ever become a candidate again it will be because it seems necessary for the advancement of the cause of the people. I do not care to do anything but what I can do for the people, and I do not care to be a candidate for the Presidency."

Porto Rican Emigration Ceased.
COLON, Colombia, April 25.—Contractor McDonald's efforts to induce Porto Ricans to emigrate to Ecuador have been unsuccessful. The steamer Capatzen, which has arrived here with only 90 Porto Ricans on board. Her future trips have been abandoned.

RETURN OF CONGER

Minister to China Has Arrived at San Francisco.

HE IS ON HIS WAY TO IOWA

Will Accept the Gubernatorial Nomination if It Is Offered to Him—Intends to Return to China.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 25.—Edwin H. Conger, United States Minister to China, accompanied by his wife, daughter and Miss Pierce, arrived from China this afternoon on the steamer Nippon Maru.

EDWIN H. CONGER.



THE UNITED STATES MINISTER TO CHINA WHO ARRIVED AT SAN FRANCISCO YESTERDAY.

Owing to quarantine regulations and the necessity of giving personal supervision to the landing of his baggage, Mr. Conger did not reach his hotel till 8 o'clock in the evening. Mr. Conger's arrival was awaited with considerable interest, not only on account of his connection with events in China, but from a political standpoint. There was a great desire to know what position Minister Conger would assume with reference to the coming gubernatorial nomination in Iowa. To a representative of the Associated Press Mr. Conger, when asked if he cared to make any expression on the Governorship matter, said: "I do not wish to make any declaration at this time. I have not yet had time to read the correspondence which has met me here. So far as I am at present advised, I see no reason to change my position as expressed about two months ago, before I left China. I received two telegrams from the United States; one asked me if I were a candidate for Governor, answered, 'I am not.' The other telegram asked whether I would accept the nomination if tendered me. I replied that I would accept if the nomination came to me, but that I was in no sense a candidate. I do not care to nor will I say anything further in the matter until I reach Des Moines. I do not know what the situation in Iowa is and do not care to say anything definite until I am fully advised. My present intention and desire is to return to China and finish my work."

Touching events in China, Mr. Conger turned in his interview particularly anxious to know what had been done by the powers in the matter of indemnity. He was asked for his opinion as to the amount of indemnity China could pay. "Under \$300,000,000," he replied, "qualifying his answer by the statement that it would be necessary for China to practice economy. The time of payment, too, should extend over a long term of years. Concerning events in China, Mr. Conger said that there was nothing new to be said in that direction, as everything that happened had been told fully, together with many things that never occurred. Tales of brutality had, he thought, been exaggerated. Of course, there were cases of outrage by individual soldiers which were not sanctioned by officers. These were not incidents of war, which found some palliation in the fact that the Chinese had killed 40,000 native Christians and 100 Europeans.

Asked in regard to his future plans, Minister Conger said he would remain in this city until Saturday morning, when he would leave for his home in Des Moines. At the expiration of his 90 days' leave of absence he intended to return to China. He would go back sooner if anything important should come up. When told that it was planned by the citizens of Des Moines to give him a public reception, he said that although he did not care for public demonstrations, he would accept a reception at Des Moines. He belonged to the people of Des Moines. In fact, the entire people of Iowa had always been kind to him, giving him everything that he asked for, refusing him nothing. In return he had been compelled often to refuse the people of Iowa favors.

EXPLOSION AND FIRE

Terrible Disaster Near Frankfurt, Germany.

CHEMICAL WORKS BLEW UP

Nearly Two Hundred Persons Were Killed or Injured—Troops Called Upon to Aid in Checking the Flames.

FRANKFURT, Germany, April 25.—One of the most destructive explosions on record occurred this evening at the electro-chemical works, near Grolsheim, where smokeless powder is manufactured. Most of the boilers exploded. The noise was so tremendous that it was heard at great distances, including Frankfurt and Mayence. The factory became a mass of flames immediately, and a northeast wind carried the sparks to neighboring villages, where several houses were set on fire. Eighteen cylinders, each containing about a hundredweight of smokeless powder, were in the room where the explosion occurred. The troops were immediately ordered to Grolsheim to prevent the fire spreading to the large reservoirs near by. Five brigades from every place in the neighborhood hurried to the scene, but owing to the dangerous nature of the fire and the fears of a renewal of the explosion, the greatest difficulty was experienced in stopping the progress of the flames. Only after five hours of strenuous effort was the configuration in some extent controlled and the danger lessened, so as to make it possible to begin the work of extricating the bodies. It is feared that nearly 200 persons have been killed or injured. Hospitals have been improvised in the vicinity. The flames spread with frightful speed to the adjacent buildings, and then over the River Main to Schwabenheim. When a second explosion took place the fumes and gases of burning chemicals made it impossible to stay in the vicinity. The last explosion occurred at 7:30 P. M., and when it was ascertained that no further danger was anticipated, the inhabitants were allowed to return to their homes. At 8:30 the fire was still burning in the center, and the work of extricating the bodies from the debris was being carried on by torchlight, gaslight not being obtainable. All railway traffic will be stopped during the fire, except for trains carrying the injured, but it has since been resumed. Four sheds for dressing wounds of the injured have been erected.

Roosevelt is a Master Mason.

NEW YORK, April 25.—Vice-President Roosevelt is now a Master Mason, having taken the third degree last night in Matinecock Lodge, No. 894, at Oyster Bay, L. I. The ceremony was witnessed by 200 Master Masons, including Grand Master Charles W. Mead, of the grand lodge of this state, and his entire staff, who did the work of the degree. Visiting brethren were also present from New Jersey and Massachusetts.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT NEWS.

- Federal Government.**
The Cuban commissioners met the President, and were turned over to Secretary Root. Page 1.
The Interior Department decided two oil test cases. Page 2.
The President made a large number of appointments. Page 2.
Philippines.
General Callies ordered eight American soldiers to be shot. Page 3.
An insurgent force was defeated in Bulacan Province. Page 3.
The military situation in Albay Province is bad. Page 3.
Foreign.
Nearly 200 persons were killed or injured by an explosion near Frankfurt, Germany. Page 1.
Stead predicts trouble between England and America over the canal. Page 3.
Delcasse was entertained by the Czar. Page 3.
Domestic.
Travis is the amateur golf champion of the United States association. Page 3.
The worst of the Ohio River flood is over. Page 2.
Young Cudahy identified Callahan as one of the kidnappers. Page 3.
Another injunction suit has been filed against the smelting trust. Page 3.
Pacific Coast.
River and harbor committee will reach Oregon latter part of June. Page 4.
Receiver's report on defunct New Wascom, Wash., bank indicates that the president wrecked it. Page 4.
John W. Gos, of Portland, is named as creditor for \$10,000 in bankruptcy petition of New York man. Page 4.
Spokane Republicans nominated Dr. C. G. Brown for Mayor. Page 4.
Good strikes have been made in Gold Hill, Southern Oregon, and Burnt River, Eastern Oregon, mining districts. Page 4.
Commercial.
Domestic and foreign commercial news and quotations. Page 11.
Portland market quotations. Page 11.
New York stock market transactions. Page 11.
Corn sales in the Chicago pit suffered violent fluctuation. Page 11.
Marine.
Otto Gildemeister may be brought to Portland for repairs. Page 5.
Lost City of Rio de Janeiro carried no mail. Page 5.
Portland and Vicinity.
Board of Trade will organize a company to bore for coal and oil. Page 12.
Paris Commission will spend \$15,000 for improvements to City Park this year. Page 8.
Mrs. W. F. Lord writes from Argentina of Oregon's opportunity to secure a linen manufacturing factory. Page 8.
Northern Pacific is said to have declared war against the Tacoma Eastern, owned in Portland. Page 8.
Henry B. Thibault, of Salem, appointed receiver of the Gilbert Iron bank in Salem by Judge Bellinger. Page 8.
Extension of the Columbia Southern Railroad into the interior of Oregon is demanded. Page 10.
State monument to be unveiled at Champeau, May 2, completed. Page 7.
Secretary Gage's plan to deposit Treasury surplus in reserve cities would benefit Portland. Page 12.