RAILROADS AND CANAL

SENATOR MORGAN CALLS FOR AN INQUIRY.

First Step of the Contest Between Nicaragua and Panama Routes Taken in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The first notes of the contest between the Nicaragua and Panama routes for the isthmian canal were heard in the Senate today. Morgan offered and secured the adoption of a resolution which indicated his purpose to have the committee on interoceanic canals inquire into the relations alleged to exist between the transcontinental railroad companies of the United States and Canada and the Panama Canal Company, in explanation of the resolution Morgan declared that the alleged relations were a "wicked monopoly," which had already cost the people of the Pacific Coast millions of dollars. The relations involve the control by the Panama Canal Company of the Panama Railroad Company and the agreement existing between certain of the United States railroads and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

In the course of his invocation the chaplain referred to "that body of able and accepted men who send forth reports of the proceedings." Among the oldest Senators and officials of the body it was noted that this was the first time in the history of the Senate that the reporters and correspondents ever were prayed for in the United States Senate.

A resolution offered by Stewart was adopted, ordering the Secretary of the Interior to inform the Senate whether leases for large tracts of land on Indian reservations have been made or are in contemplation.

Proctor was relieved, at his own request, from duty on the immigration committee, and his colleague, Dillingham, was appointed to fill the vacancy thus made.

Morgan then offered the following resolution:

"That the committee on interoceanic canals has leave to sit during the sessions of the Senate to execute the resolution of the Senate passed on the 21st of May, 1900, which is hereby continued in force, and that said committee is further empowered to make inquiry and report with reference to any agreements or concert of action between any railroad companies in the United States or Canada or Panama or any American line of ships to control transportation or rates thereof for cargoes or passengers passing across the Isthmus of Panama and in regard to any matter referred to said committee by order of the Senate."

The resolution, at the conclusion of Morgan's statement, was adopted. On motion of Morgan, the Senate then adjourned until 2 P. M. tomorrow. The postponement of the hour of meeting tomorrow is due to the desire of many Senators to attend the wedding of Miss Foraker, daughter of Senator Foraker, of Ohio, which occurs at noon tomorrow.

PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT.

Bill Introduced in the House by Congressman Cooper.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, chairman of the House committee on insular affairs, today introduced a bill giving a complete form of civil government for the Philippines, to begin January 1, 1904, with a Governor appointed by the President, a Legislature of two houses, and with two Philippine commissioners to represent the Filipino people at Washington. In other respects the Cooper bill follows that of Senator Lodge, heretofore summarized, but in the important features of establishing a civil government after January 1, 1904. Cooper's measure enlarges on the bill drawn at the War Department and introduced by Lodge.

In framing a form of civil government for the Philippines Cooper follows recommendations of the Philippine Commission. Section 5 continues the authority of the commisison until January 1, 1904, at which time the new civil government is to come into existence.

The upper branch of the Legislature is called the Council, and is to consist of five native Filipinos, appointed by the President. The lower House is called the House of Delegates, and consists of 30 members, elected every two years by the vote of the Philippine people. The qualifications of voters are that they shall be over 21 years old, shall be able to read and write Spanish or English; shall possess taxable property and shall have resided for one year in the islands.

The Cooper bill makes complete provision for executive, legislative and judicial branches of administration in the Philippines. The executive branch of the government is to be conducted by a Governor, assisted by a cabinet or board of executive officers, consisting of a secretary of administration, attorney-general, treasurer, auditor, commissioner of interior and commisisoner of education. The Governor is to be appointed by the President for a term of four years, and Manila is made the headquarters of the central administration. The members of the Governor's Cabinet also are to be appointed by the President for terms of four years. No person holding a military or civil position under the United States is eligible for membership in the Legislature. As to the powers of the Philippine Legislature, section 25 provides that the legislative power "shall extend to all rightful subjects of legislation not inconsistent with this act or with the laws of the United States locally applicable."

Owing to the mixed character of the inhabitants of the islands—natives, Spanish and American—the following section is important as defining citizenship:

"All inhabitants continuing to reside in the Philippines, who were Spanish subjects on April 11, 1899, and then resided therein, and their children born subsequent thereto, shall be held to be citizens of the Philippines, except such as have elected to preserve their allegiance in accordance with the provisions of the treaty of peace, and they, with the citizens of the United States who reside in the Philippines, shall, after January 1, 1904, constitute a body politic under the name of 'The People of the Philippines,' with governmental powers as herein conferred."

The two commisioners who are to be sent to Washington are to be selected at the first session of the Legislature by joint vote of the two houses. When in Washington, the Philippine commissioners shall be entitled to official recognition at all departments, upon presenting their credentials to the Department of State. The foregoing civil government features of the Cooper bill distinguish it from the measure framed by the War Department, and introduced by Lodge. Cooper incorporates in his bill substantially the provisions as to franchises, mining and land regulations, homesteads, etc., in the Lodge bill.

The Reciprocity Treaties.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. — The Senate committee on foreign relations today referred the reciprocity treaties to a subcommittee consisting of Cullom, Foraker, Spooner and Bacon, with instructions to ascertain the legal status of the treaties. When the subject of treaties was broached the question was raised that the time limit provided in the Dingley law had expired before the treaties had become operative, and that, before any action was taken, it would be necessary to find out whether the several extensions that had been made were a compliance with the law.

Army Reorganization.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Hull, chairman of the House committee on military affairs, said today that there would be no move at this session of Congress for a revision of the present Army organization or for any broad general legislation affecting the Army. There will be several bills of a special character," he said. "One of the special measures will be framed when the Army board now in session determines on the four large posts for great assembling camps for the regular Army in various parts of the country. Another bill provides for numerous retirements in accordance with recommendations of the War Department. But these and other measures do not touch the general organization of the Army, which will be let alone, so far as I am aware, during this session of Congress."

Panama's Company's Offer.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—M. Edward Lampre, secretary-general of the Panama Canal Company, accompanied by M. Boeufve, chancellor of the French Embassy, today called on Admiral Walker, president of the Isthmian Canal Commission. M. Lampre confirmed the offer of $40,000,000 for the properties of the Panama Canal Company submitted last week by M. Boeufve. There are some matters of detail yet to be arranged, and it is, therefore, expected that the formal proposition will not be transmitted to Congress before the latter part of the week.

Privilege for Mrs. McKinley.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—A bill granting to Mrs. McKinley the postal franking privilege for all her correspondence was favorably reported by the House committee on postoffices and postroads. Similar privileges heretofore had been granted to Mrs. Tyler, Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Garfield and Mrs. Logan.

Waiting for the House.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The Senate committee on interoceanic canals has decided to defer all effort to secure action by the Senate on the question of a canal across the Isthmus of Panama until after the House shall have disposed of the bill now under consideration.

Permanent Census Bureau.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The House committee on census today ordered a favorable report on the bill creating a permanent census bureau.

THE RATIO AT MANILA.

Merchants and Others Object to the Change.

MANILA, Jan. 7.—Numerous meetings of merchants and others have been held recently, at which resolutions were passed urgently requesting Congressional action to meet the financial situation here. Since the ratio was officially changed January 1 for the first quarter of 1902, to be $2 10 Mexican silver to one American gold dollar, business transactions of any sort have become difficult. The majority of the business houses have raised their prices 5 to 10 per cent and some houses refuse to accept any but American coin, which is difficult to obtain, owing to the vast speculative shipments of coin during the past few months. Some banks refuse to recognize the government ratio and are fixing their own ratio at one American gold dollar to two Mexican dollars. Even the government's American employes, whose salaries are payable in Mexican dollars, object to the change, owing to the large increase in prices. The leading banks refuse to handle government checks because of frequent long delays over trifling irregularities. The postal authorities refuse to accept Mexican dollars for American dollars at any ratio.

Commissioner Ide, who has been in the hospital, suffering from dysentery, is going to Japan on a two months' trip.

WANTS A NAVAL STATION.

Porto Rico Alarmed Lest It Be Located at St. Thomas.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Jan. 7.—The Porto Rican Legislative Assembly has adopted a joint resolution, urging the establishment of a United States naval station in Porto Rican waters, and offering to cede the possession of any property, buildings and appurtenances belonging to the Government of Porto Rico that may be required and necessary for the construction of a naval station, leaving the adjustment of title thereto to subsequent legislation. It is recommended that Porto Rican municipalities make similar offers. The policy of the insular government has heretofore been to claim the lands, the titles of which were disputed by the Federal and insular governments, hoping to sell them to the Navy Department. Porto Rico is now alarmed lest the naval station be located at St. Thomas, D. W. I.

A Brilliant Meteor.

PARK CITY, Utah, Jan. 7.—A brilliant meteor was witnessed here at 7 o'clock this morning. In the dim light of the morning a huge ball of fire, which seemed about the size of a hogshead, first made its presence known by the whizzing sound, which accompanied its progress through the air. It was travelling in a northeasterly direction, and to the startled people who watched it, seemed in close proximity to the earth. It left a trail of sulphur and smoke behind which was distinctly visible for from 10 to 15 minutes after the phenomenon had passed beyond the range of vision.

Where the French Were Defeated.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—On the shores of Lake George, near the scene of the defeat of the French in 1754 by Colonial troops, supported by the Mohawks, there is soon to rise a heroic bronze statue of Sir William Johnson and King Kendrick, his Indian ally, to whose sagacity the victory was largely due. This is the work of the Society of Colonial Wars. Frederick Depeyster, Samuel P. Avery and W. G. Langdon, the committee to select a design, have completed their task, and the statue is now being cast in the works of the Henri-Bonnard Company from a model by Albert Weinert.

Miss Roosevelt at Yale Promenade.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—Alice Roosevelt will be the belle of the junior promenade at Yale on January 21, says a special to the Press from New Haven, Conn. She has accepted an invitation to attend as the guest of Clive Duval. Miss Roosevelt will be chaperoned by her mother. It is expected that her aunt, Mrs. William Sheffield Cowles, will also be present. While there they will live in the New Haven House.

Suit Against Distillery Company.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 7.—John H. Pitney and Senator Lindsay, of Kentucky, today petitioned Vice-Chancellor Emery for an order to compel the officers of the Distilling Company of America to answer the questions pertaining to that organization which they declined to answer in New York in September last. The petitioners also ask that the company be compelled to declare a dividend.

Automobiling in Arizona.

GRAND VIEW, GRAND CANYON, Ariz., Jan. 7.—The automobile party which left Flagstaff Saturday, reached her Sunday, having been delayed by lack of water and poor fuel. The distance is 72 miles, and the actual running time was 9½ hours. The object of the trip is to demonstrate the practicability of the automobile as a means of transportation over the mountain road to the Grand Canyon.

A Jamestown, N. Y., Failure.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., Jan. 7.—H. W. Gokey & Sons, one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the city, is financially embarrassed. The shoe factory of the company has been closed pending an adjustment of the company's affairs.

Stops the Cough and Works off The Cold.

Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets cure a cold in one day. No Cure, No Pay. Price, 25 cents.

EIGHTY-FOUR MILLIONS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES.

Census Bureau's Report on the Population of the Entire United States.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. — The Census Bureau today issued a report announcing that the population of the entire United States, including all outlying possessions, was 84,223,069 in the census year 1900. This is itemized as follows:

Continental United States or United States proper	75,994,575
Philippines	6,961,339
Porto Rico	953,234
Hawaii	154,001
Alaska	62,592
Guam	9,000
American Samoa	6,400
Persons in the military and naval service of the United States outside of the territory of the United States proper	91,319

These figures are based on the enumeration of June 1, 1900. The report says:

"A census of the Philippine Islands was in progress in 1896, when the insurrection broke out, and returns for over two-fifths of the population were found stored in Manila. These were carefully tabulated, and the foregoing estimate is based upon the result. The figures for Porto Rico are taken from the census of 1899, made by the War Department in consultation with the Census Office. The figures for Hawaii and Alaska and for persons abroad in the military and naval service are from the results of the 12th census. Those from Guam are an estimate made in a report of the War Department, and those from American Samoa an estimate reported to the Census Office by the acting Secretary of the Navy.

"The total population of the United States at the close of the 19th century was about 84,250,000. As the population of the United States at the beginning of the century was about 5,333,000, the nation has grown nearly 16-fold in 100 years.

"There are but three countries which now have a greater population than the United States, namely, China, the British Empire and the Russian Empire. China and the British Empire have each of them probably between 350,000,000 and 400,000,000, or together nearly one-half of the total population of the earth. The Russian Empire, with about 131,000,000 people, has more than half as many again as the United States, and has been increasing during the century just closed with greater rapidity than any other European power. Its growth, like that of the United States, has been partly through the natural increase of its population and partly through great accessions of territory. It had about 38,000,000 people in 1800, and has increased more than three and a half times during the 19th century.

"France, including its dependencies, is the fifth country of the world in order of population, and has about 83,600,000, or almost the same number as the United States. Of these, over 25,000,000 are in African dependencies, nearly 17,000,000 in Asia, and 2,000,000 in Madagascar. These five most populous countries together include over two-thirds of the estimated population of the world, which is placed by the best authorities at between 1,500,000,000 and 1,600,000,000."

SCHLEY'S APPPEAL TO PRESIDENT

Object of the Admiral's Visit to the White House.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. — The object of Admiral Schley's visit to the White House yesterday was to request the President to entertain and consider an appeal for the reversal of the action of Secretary Long and the disapproval of the majority judgment of the court of inquiry. The interview was satisfactory, the President granting the Admiral's request.

The interview with the President was arranged in advance, and at its conclusion Admiral Schley left the White House in a satisfied state of mind. He had been given a full opportunity to present the case from his standpoint, and to acquaint the President with many details with which the latter could not have any knowledge. While Admiral Schley would not make any statement regarding the matters discussed, holding that any interview between a naval officer and his Commander-in-Chief should be regarded as confidential, it is understood that he brought to the President's attention many of the alleged injustices and discrepancies of the majority report of the court of inquiry.

Admiral Schley's interview with the President was the result of his determination to exhaust every means in his power to overturn the judgment which has been rendered against him. His new appeal will be different from that submitted to the department, bringing out some new facts which have an important bearing upon the controversy.

Messrs. Raynor and Teague, counsel for Rear-Admiral Schley, came over from Baltimore today, and were closeted for several hours with their client. The following statement was given out by Admiral Schley's counsel at the conclusion of the conference:

"Admiral Schley has concluded, after mature and careful deliberation, to appeal from the majority decision of the court of inquiry to the President of the United States, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy. The action having been determined upon, nothing more can be divulged at this time, the regulations of the Navy being such that the nature of the proposed appeal cannot be revealed except by the President after the formal documents have been filed with him."

Mr. Raynor stated that it will take some time to prepare the appeal, and that it will not be filed with the President until after the return of Admiral Schley from his visit to Savannah, about the 20th inst.

FIRST FORMAL LEVEE.

Reception at the White House to the Diplomatic Corps.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. — President and Mrs. Roosevelt gave a reception at the White House tonight in honor of the diplomatic corps. It was the first formal evening levee of the season, and the first at which President and Mrs. Roosevelt have been the host and hostess. A full representation of the diplomatic corps made the affair notably brilliant. The floral decorations were handsome and elaborate.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt received their guests in the Blue room. Their entrance was announced by a fanfare of trumpets by members of the United States Engineer Band, stationed in the long corridor. Assisting the President and Mrs. Roosevelt were Mrs. Root, Mrs. Knox, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Hitchcock and Miss Wilson. The diplomatic corps, accompanied by the ladies of the legations, assembled in the Red parlor, and, headed by Sir Julian Pauncefote, the dean of the corps, passed the receiving party. After them were received the higher officials of the Army and the Navy, the members of the Supreme Court, many Senators and Representatives in Congress, and a large number of resident society folk of Washington.

President Roosevelt gave each visitor a hearty handclasp and a cordial welcome, while Mrs. Roosevelt, though refraining from grasping the hands of the visitors generally, was charming and gracious in her manner. She carried a large bunch of white and purple orchids. All the members of the diplomatic corps wore the full insignia of their rank, which, with the brilliant uniforms of the Army and the Navy, and the handsome toilets of the ladies, made the scene a memorable one. The hours of the reception were from 9 to 11 o'clock. Music was furnished by the Marine Band and the United States Engineer Band.

THE CABINET MEETING.

Discussed the Panama Company's Offer and Schley's Call.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—At the Cabinet meeting today the proposition of the Panama Canal Company to transfer its property to the United States for the sum of $40,000,000 was discussed. The formal proposition of the company will not be presented to the President for two or three days. It is expected that the Isthmian Canal Commission will make a supplementary report to the President, which will embrace the latest proposition of the Panama Company.

The President during the meeting spoke of Admiral Schley's call upon him yesterday and stated in substance that he would give his best attention to any communication which the Admiral through his counsel might see fit to make.

Mason Amends Tariff Bill.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Senator Mason today introduced several amendments to the proposed Philippine tariff bill. The amendments suggest as a substitute for section 1 of the bill the provisions of the tariff bill enacted by the Philippine Commission. It is also provided that Filipino exports or imports from or to the United States shall pay only 50 per cent of the rate charged on articles coming from or exported to foreign countries. Another provision places American woods and articles of manufactured woods, fish, meats, dried fruit, grains, vegetables and seeds and forage on the free list. Another amendment strikes out the provision in the pending bill requiring the payment of a tonnage tax on vessels coming into the United States from the Philippines.

Decided Against Effinger.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The Secretary of the Treasury has rendered a decision on the appeal of John Effinger against the action of the Collector of Customs at Honolulu, in assessing duty on merchandise brought into that port from Pango Pango, Tutuila. The Secretary sustained the Collector, holding that Tutuila is foreign territory within the revenue laws of the United States.

Cuba's Customs Revenue.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The division of insular affairs of the War Department made public today a statement showing that the total customs revenues for the Island of Cuba during the 11 months ended November 30, 1901, were $14,353,000, as compared with $14,565,202 for the same period of 1900 and $13,378,557 for 1899.

CANNOT TAKE HIS SEAT IN PARLIAMENT.

COLONEL ARTHUR LYNCH, WHO AIDED THE BOERS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—Colonel Arthur Lynch, who was recently elected to the House of Commons to represent Galway, will be prevented from taking his seat, cables the London correspondent of the Journal and American. More than that, as soon as he sets foot on English soil he will be arrested on a charge of treason. Colonel Lynch does not deny that he aided the Boers, but says he will take his seat unless prevented by force. He was elected by an overwhelming majority in the Galway district of Ireland in the last Parliamentary election. He is a Colonel of the Second Irish Brigade in the Boer army. He is an Australian by birth, an author and journalist, and once before ran for Parliament in Ireland, where he has had his residence for some years.

WITH ORIENTAL SPLENDOR

RETURN OF THE CHINESE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS TO PEKIN.

Foreigners Witnessed the Ceremonial, a Thing Never Before Heard of in the Flowery Kingdom.

PEKIN, Jan. 7.—The Imperial Court entered the Forbidden City at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon. It was the most brilliant scene Pekin ever witnessed. The procession consisted of 1000 gorgeously attired noblemen, mounted upon glitteringly caparisoned horses. The Emperor, the Empress Dowager, Prince Chun and several Princes were borne in yellow chairs, their escort carrying hundreds of gay banners and silk umbrellas. The troops of General Yuan Shi Kai, Governor of Pe Chi Li, preceded the Emperor.

The chief significance of the event was the complete effacement of the traditional deification of Chinese royalty. The foreigners were given greater facilities of witnessing the ceremonial than would have been afforded them at most European courts.

The scene at the Chien gate when the Emperor and the Dowager Empress entered the temple to offer thanks for their safe journey was nothing less than revolutionary when viewed in the light of all Chinese customs. The horseshoe wall, forming the ancient gate, was crowded with Europeans, diplomats, army officers, missionaries, ladies, photographers and correspondents. When the Emperor and Dowager Empress arrived at the temple, the procession halted and their majesties alighted from their chairs, which were covered with imperial yellow silk and lined with sables. The Emperor proceeded to the temple of the god of war on the west side of the plaza, with hundreds of foreigners peering down only 40 feet above him, and dozens of cameras were focused upon the Son of Heaven. When he returned his chair was borne through the gate.

Then the chair of the Dowager Empress was brought to the doorway of the temple of the Goddess of Mercy, on the east side of the plaza, and the Dowager Empress appeared. Amid a great scuffling of attendants, she proceeded into the temple on the arms of two officials, followed by a company of Buddhist priests bearing offerings. The spectators then heard the booming of the temple bell. After an interval of five minutes, the Dowager Empress reappeared. Standing in the doorway of the temple, she looked upward. Directly overhead were the German Minister, Dr. Munn von Schwarzenstein, the secretaries of the German Legation, the officers and ladies of the American garrison and the correspondent of the Associated Press. The Dowager Empress saw the foreigners and bowed low. She advanced a few steps and bowed again in acknowledgment of the salutations of the foreigners. She returned to her chair looking upward to the semi-circle of foreign faces and bowing repeatedly.

In the meantime the Chinese soldiers, Manchu banner men and minor officials who had crowded the plaza were reverently kneeling. The two arches at the sides of the ancient gateway framed hundreds of faces of Chinese coolies, who, emboldened by the presence of foreigners, ventured to gaze upon their rulers. This incident constituted a most sharp contrast with the old regime, when neither diplomats nor natives were permitted to view the passage of royal personages along the streets.

The expression of the Dowager Empress seemed almost appealing as she faced those who had humbled her and brought her down from her former arrogance, and this confirmed the impression that she is returning to Pekin with anxiety for her safety.

The streets from the Machiapo Station to the gateway of the Forbidden City, a distance of four miles, were swept and garnished early this morning. The great plaza between the temples of Heaven and Agriculture was sprinkled with yellow sand. Residents were compelled to remain indoors. The soldiers and police formed a close cordon along both sides of this entire distance. A sharp wind bringing sand from the Mongolian desert blinded the spectators.

The special train bearing the Emperor and Empress Dowager, composed of 22 cars, was preceded by a pilot engine and arrived here shortly after noon. The cars had been decorated with yellow silk dragons by the British railroad officers. Two companies of Chinese cavalry mounted on white horses and two companies astride horses from Australia were drawn up at the sides of the station. Two thousand officials, Princes, Viceroys and Taotais, in a kaleidoscopic field of silks and furs, in which gleamed an occasional yellow jacket, were massed upon the platform. When the Emperor appeared the entire assemblage prostrated itself and remained kneeling until His Majesty had taken his place in his chair. At the station the Dowager Empress summoned Traffic Manager Foley and Superintendent Moffat, of the railroad, the latter having driven the engine which drew the special train, and presented them to the Emperor, who thanked them for their services.

The imperial cavalcade then moved off at a swift trot, the Chinese cavalry in the lead. Then followed the great body of officials riding shaggy Mongolian ponies, the Manchu banner men, the umbrella-bearers, the spearmen, General Yuan Shi Kai, in his newly bestowed yellow jacket, and the Emperor, with white bearers carrying his chair and a guard of infantrymen marching on either side. Then came the Dowager Empress, with an equally conspicuous entourage. The latter was followed by the Boxer chief and Prime Minister, Jung Lu, in a yellow chair. The Dowager Empress, Prince Chun and the lesser officials were carried in yellow and green chairs. While their majesties passed, the soldiers lining the route of the procession knelt down, holding their guns at present arms, and the buglers sounded their instruments continuously.

Although the streets were kept empty, thousands of Chinese crowded the elevations along the line of march, a thing never permitted before. The soldiers of the American garrison stationed here witnessed this spectacle from the parade ground opposite the entrance to the palace. The British garrison, including its officers, was kept in its quarters. This occasioned much lamentation. The majority of the foreign Ministers here, including the British, American, French and Russian representatives, absented themselves from the spectacle, but the ladies of the Legations were entertained by Chinese officials on balconies all along the line of march. It appears that the Dowager Empress ordered that every courtesy be extended to the foreigners at Pekin, and that the efforts to exclude them from witnessing the passage of the imperial cortege emanated from local officials.

Two Yellow Jackets Conferred.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—It is announced in a special dispatch from Pekin that an imperial edict has been issued conferring yellow jackets on Yuan Shi Kai, Viceroy of Chi Li, and on Tsen Chun Huan, Governor of Shan Si, who protected the flight of the Chinese court from Pekin. Both these officials are privileged to ride on horseback in the Forbidden City.

CLASH AT NIU CHWANG.

Serious Trouble Between American Sailors and Russian Soldiers.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—A serious clash has occurred between American sailors of the United States steamship Vicksburg and the Russian soldiers at Niu Chwang, China. There have been three fights and as a result one Russian soldier is reported wounded. The matter was made the subject of complaint by the Russian Ambassador at Pekin to United States Minister Conger, and Mr. Conger, in turn, has informed the State Department. Secretary Long has cabled Commander Berry, of the Vicksburg, to use every effort to prevent further collisions. The Vicksburg is in Winter quarters in a mud dock at the mouth of the river and cannot be released before Spring.

BOER AND BRITISH LOSSES.

Those of the Dutch Were Twice as Great as Their Opponents.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—A published review of operations in South Africa during the past year, based upon official reports, gives an interesting comparison of Boer and British losses.

The review says that the total reduction of the Boer forces, in killed, wounded, taken prisoners and surrendered, amounts to 18,220 men. Out of this total only 7993 rifles were secured. British columns are supposed to have taken all the Boer artillery, amounting to 27 guns, exclusive of the two captured by General Dewet at Zoefontein. The capture of Boer stock has been enormous, considering the great hauls made during the earlier years of the war. During the last year a total of 29,882 horses were captured, while of other stock, such as cattle, oxen and sheep, 366,821 head were captured.

The British casualties from actual fighting amount to only half of those sustained by the Boers, namely, 9113 men, of which 1513 were taken prisoners and have since been released. During the last year 4040 men died of disease, 15 officers and 342 men were accidentally killed, and 25,800 men were invalided home.

Kitchener's Report.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—Lord Kitchener, telegraphing from Johannesburg, Monday, January 6, reports the occurrence of a number of skirmishes in various parts of the war field. The most serious were at Amersfoort, January 3 and 4, when Major W. H. Plummer and Colonel J. S. Pens were in contact with Commandant Christian Botha's and Commandant Opperman's commands. They drove the Boers from their positions after considerable fighting, during which the Somerset Light Infantry suffered severely. Major Valentine and 18 men were killed and five officers and 28 men wounded. The Boers left nine men dead on the field.

Colenbrander surprised Field Cornet Louw's laager at Waterval January 5, killing five men and capturing 29. Lord Kitchener mentions other minor surprises and captures. General French reports that the Boers in Cape Colony are so reduced in numbers as to require only an elaborate police system to keep them in check.

The week's totals of Boer casualities are 36 men killed, nine wounded, 261 made prisoners and 72 surrendered.

Wilde's Play Produced in London.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—"The Importance of Being in Earnest," by the author of "Lady Windemere's Fan," as the programme read, was revived tonight by Alexander at the St. James Theater. This is the first time that one of Oscar Wilde's plays has been produced in London since his celebrated trial. The play was received with great enthusiasm by a packed house. The interesting statement was made by the managers of the theater that it was Oscar Wilde's dying request that his plays be produced in the future under the authorship title used in tonight's programme.

Sold Military Secrets.

VIENNA, Jan. 7.—The trial began behind closed doors here today of Captain Carina, of the Austrian Cavalry, on the charge of divulging military secrets to the French Government, in payment for which he is alleged to have received £2000. Captain Carina pleaded not guilty and said he had never possessed nor had access to the information which he was accused of selling.

Sale of Rhodesian Copper Mine.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—Negotiations of a tentative character have been opened by an English firm for the purchase of the British Chartered South Africa Company's copper properties in Rhodesia. It is understood that Americans are interested in the proposed deal. It is said the price of the properties is $3,000,000.

BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENTS.

One in Particular Must Be Made to Save Law From Repeal.

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—(To the Editor.)—On January 3 you published an article copied from the New York Journal of Commerce, relating to amendments to the National bankruptcy act as contemplated by the Ray bill, so far it is appertains to section 57 G of that act, in which the deductions as drawn by that paper are at variance with the true status of the case, when they claim that the work done in advocacy of the change by the credit men of the country has been repudiated by the commercial world. Basing this assertion on the results as shown through a circular issued by the executive committee of referees in bankruptcy, addressed to 13,000 merchants on the subject, to which circular but 781 replies were received, indicating that a change in the section referred to was desired. If the Journal imagines that the replies to this circular indicate, as they assert, that 94 per cent of the business community are in favor of the act and the section as it now stands, and that only 6 per cent indorse the work of the credit men for a change, they may easily disabuse their minds by delegating a representative to interview, say, 100 jobbers of the City of New York, or any other city, taking them as they come from door to door, and propounding this simple question:

Do you wish that section of the bankruptcy act to remain in force, which has by the United States Supreme Court been decided to require that you must pay back to the trustee all moneys received by you in the ordinary course of business during four months prior to the failure before you can file your claim for the balance due you? And further, are you satisfied to pay all back moneys received, not only within the time named, but within an indefinite period, as a recent construction of the act by a New York Federal Judge would require, as the time of cleaverage is fixed, not by months or years, but from the date that the debtor was actually insolvent?

As a simple illustration, we will suppose Smith borrows $5000, with which he purchases a stock of general merchandise, opens a store and carries on business for three years, during which time he has paid for goods $30,000. At the expiration of the time named he is unable to meet maturing obligations and goes into bankruptcy. Of the $30,000 he has paid out, parties to whom he has paid $10,000 are no longer selling him goods, and not creditors; but parties to whom he has paid during that time $20,000 he is owing various sums at date of failure, and in order that these may file their claims and participate in the assets before they may file their claims, they must pay in to this trustee the sum of $20,000. For, while the debtor had in his pocket the $5000, he was solvent, but the day the goods went on the shelves and the fixtures were paid for, from that moment he was insolvent, as he could not liquidate for 100 cents of what he owed.

If the investigation, as suggested, is made, I venture the assertion that not 94 per cent will be found who are satisfied with the present section of the act, but that percentage will go on record as anxious for the change sought for by the credit men, and incorporated in the Ray bill. The only argument possible for the retaining of the section is the prevention of fraud in payment, and which has been covered as fully as can reasonably be expected by section 60 B, which provides that "all payments made or securities given within four months, where the recipient shall have reasonable cause to believe that the same was intended for a preference, shall be voidable, and the trustees may recover its value in a suit at law."

And in cases where fraud is practiced the creditor will certainly take good care that he is paid in full, and not in part, and therefore will be not governed by the provisions of 57 G, but must be proceeded against under section 60 B.

The article referred to also states that the referees in bankruptcy had gone on record as opposed to any changes in the section referred to. Let us see if these are the facts in the matter. At the convention held in August last the following resolution in reference to 57 G was offered by Mr. Eastman and adopted: "The association cordially accepts the invitation of the Hon. George W. Ray, chairman of the judicial committee of the House of Representatives, and that the investigation therein requested be made by the executive committee, but that its report take no position as expressing the views of the association touching the questions involved in section 57 G." This is the circular referred to by the Journal that was sent out for information. At the same convention the following resolution was introduced and adopted: "Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention of referees in bankruptcy that the amendments proposed by the Ray bill are advisable, save and except as to section 57 G, concerning which there is such a difference amongst us that we express no opinion thereon." Further, the chairman of that committee, William H. Hotchkiss, referee from Buffalo, in his speech made in New York City, December 3, says: "I do not wonder that protests have multiplied and become strident-tongued. The business world is rightly aroused. The practical result of this mad theory is and has been bad, and is getting worse. The time has come to amend, and to amend quickly."

Does this sound like an adverse report on the change in section 57 G? Mr. Brandenburg, in charge of bankruptcy matters in the Department of Justice at Washington, one of the best authorities on that subject, goes on record as saying that he will recommend a change in that section, as from his investigations he finds that it is universally demanded. And it would seem that, of the commercial community, only those could be opposed to such change as were influenced by sinister motives. Such protests coming possibly from a few who are opposed to any National bankruptcy act, and who feel certain that if the present section can be kept in force a sufficient length of time, such general dissatisfaction will follow that the repeal of the entire act will be called for as a relief from the obnoxious results of section 57 G.

W. B. ROBERTS.

Automobile Stage Line.

FORT BENTON, Mont., Jan. 7.—County Commissioner French, of Harlem, has decided to put in a new automobile stage line between Harlem and Sandusky in the early Spring. He expects to have machines made for Montana roads that will stand the strain. He is now arranging for such a machine, and hopes to have the first automobile stage line in Montana before Summer comes.

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