ANTI-IMPERIALISTIC ERRORS

A REVIEW OF RECENT STATEMENTS MADE IN WASHINGTON AND BOSTON

(Charles H. Ames in Boston Transcript.*)

I have been asked by the Transcript to make some comment upon two recent and noteworthy expressions of so-called anti-imperialistic sentiment, viz., the Tremont Temple meeting of last week and the speech of Senator Hoar. Moved solely by the conviction that much of the strong and sweeping criticism of the Administration and of the American Army in the Philippines is due to misinformation and the natural passion of sympathetic and eloquent men for strong statement, and that it may be worth while at this particular time to criticise in some respects the current censure, I venture to comply. I regretted my inability to attend the Tremont Temple meeting, and am dependent on the reports in the papers for my knowledge of the proceedings. All good citizens must be earnest in their desire to have every alleged atrocity by Americans in the Philippines, or anywhere else, unsparingly investigated, and proper punishment visited upon the guilty.

Being, however, cognizant of the course hitherto pursued by the authorities in the Philippines in the court-martialing and punishing of offenders, I have not been one of those who believed President Roosevelt or Secretary Root or General Chaffee to be in need of special stimulus to do their duty in regard to reported outrages. The call for this meeting was to come in "a generous spirit, free from passion, prejudice and partisanship."

Reading carefully all that was reported of the meeting, I gladly recognize the evidence that many of the speakers made effort to express themselves in a very temperate way, but others seemed not to do so, and therefore not to have helped to a right understanding of the case.

One speaker is reported as saying: "There is no longer any reasonable doubt that we are engaged in the Philippine Islands today in exactly the same business that Butcher Weyler was engaged in in Cuba, six years ago, only we have enlarged upon the business and perfected his methods!" That this statement was accepted by the audience is indicated by the note that it was followed by "applause." The speaker also stated: "There is no longer any doubt that we have caused the destruction in these last three years of more lives in the Philippines than was caused in any one century of Spanish misrule!"

This most positive statement that we are today doing just what Butcher Weyler did in Cuba six years ago, I can assume to refer to nothing else than the so-called "reconcentration policy" of Weyler in Cuba and of our Army in certain places in the Philippines, for it is almost solely by this policy that Weyler is known in America.

I beg to ask if the speaker had any knowledge of any "reconcentration camps" whatever existing today under American, or any other, control in the whole extent of the Philippine Islands. If, as I believe, there is not one—his statement is the more to be regretted at a time like this, when the National honor is in question. Many readers of the Transcript will recall the words of the well-known newspaper correspondent, Stephen Bonsal, upon this subject. Mr. Bonsal visited fifteen or more of the camps of "reconcentrados" established by General Weyler in Cuba, and gave a full account of their horrors—the camps being established for the direct purpose of the extermination of the Cuban people—whereby more than 400,000 Cubans were done to death. Mr. Bonsal also visited the so-called "reconcentration camps" in the Philippines and placed on record his indignant declaration that to compare the two was "like comparing night to day," and was, in fact, "simply ridiculous."

A full exposition of the American procedure was made, showing it to be a most justifiable, wise and effective, as well as humane, military expedient. It consisted in bringing down to the coast from their homes in the mountains the inhabitants of certain sections who were found to be—often under coercion—furnishing food and shelter to the forces in arms against us; until, by reason of the failure of this source of support, these forces were compelled to surrender. This removal of the people to the coast was effected in a way as humane and considerate as was possible. The people were ordered to bring with them all their food supplies, and where transportation was lacking it was supplied by our forces. Where this food supply was found to be insufficient it was abundantly supplemented by supplies from our own stores.

Sanitary conditions were not only made possible, but were enforced by our troops, and, as a matter of fact, the physical condition of these people was, during their period of retention, better in many instances than they had before enjoyed, and their death rate was lower and their condition of health better than before. These are facts.

To contrast the proceedings at the Cuban camps with these is certainly, as Mr. Bonsal declared, like comparing night with day.

The American method was adopted in but few places. Whether or not Mr. Bonsal visited every one of them I cannot, unfortunately, say; but if, as I feel justified in believing, his statements are true of them in general, what are we to make of the declaration of the Tremont Temple speaker at a time when careful statement is particularly desirable? There was noticeable in these speeches the general assumption that active hostilities are still going on in the Philippines. This is, I submit, not what the community had a right to expect from persons who offer themselves as intelligent critics of Philippine affairs.

Inconsistent with temperate speech at this meeting seem to me the words of another speaker to the effect that our effort in the islands was to "make slaves" of their people, and in regard to our Army, that it had been sent there "indirectly to do a miserable, a selfish, an un-American thing," and had done it "in a cruel, a low and beastly and un-American way." The remarks are sweeping in their implication. There is no discrimination.

They seem to me, indeed, "wild and whirlwind words," uncalculated to throw real light upon the situation, or to commend themselves to serious and reflective men. Though in large areas of the islands no shot hostile to Americans has ever been fired, though for a year and a half hostilities have been practically confined to a few provinces, though at this moment they have been reduced almost to non-existence, little or nothing of this could be gathered from the references to the situation. A prominent Boston morning journal, in commending some course, assured the public that, if adopted, it "would end the war"! Everywhere it is the picture of war and subjugation and outrageous cruelty.

If it seem to any one ungenerous to descend to criticism of a little intemperateness of speech at a time when every heart should burn with indignation at unspeakable wrong—and when, if ever, vigor of speech is in order—let me remind him that it is not a case where there is no question about the facts—of which the speakers, are eyewitnesses or personally cognizant, but that the very question is as to the full and clear establishment of the facts because of which our indignation is evoked.

In many cases besides the one I have cited, I sincerely believe the current statements are false. The story of proved atrocities in any war is whether we shall take statements and sift them or assume the worst and impute false motives or base ideals or callous indifference to men or Administration in power.

I have lately had some opportunity to observe the methods of instruction in vogue at West Point, and to learn at least something of the spirit of the instructors there. Unjustifiable in its spirit seem to me the reported words of one of the speakers: "We know they have been training men there a good deal as they train bulldogs."

I commend to the speaker the recent exposition, by a member of the West Point faculty, Colonel Egerton, of the West Point theory of what war is and how West Point men are trained to regard it. The speakers and auditors of that earnest meeting must, like the rest of us, have turned from the next morning's account of it to that other account, long and circumstantial, in the same issue, of the burning alive of the negro, Dudley Morgan, at Long View, Tex. An account of a more frightful atrocity in any part of the world has seldom been printed. Let it be remembered that this is in our own country, and in the general section of it from which—in the debates of Congress—come the most indignant and scathing denunciators of our horrible cruelties to the Filipinos.

May not some things beside "charity" "begin at home"? May we not in general more hopefully look for reasonable self-restraint to enlisted men—officered by trained American soldiers—even while fighting in a Philippine jungle a half-savage foe, than to a frenzied Texas community bent on lynching a negro? I look with interest for the announcement of the meeting to be called to denounce the Texas horror. At such meeting does any one suppose that Senators Carmack and Tillman and their associates in the present denunciation of the Administration would take a prominent part?

If the statement of the Illinois statistician be true, that in America during the last 15 years 25,000 negroes—men, women and children—have been shot, hanged or burned without trial, could we wonder if from even the less civilized countries of Europe there came protests against our awful barbarity? Should any one say that these were all isolated cases, occurring here and there beyond the control of National or even state authority; and even in their terrible aggregate not be taken as representative of the vast majority of the American people? I reply that a similar statement in regard to the outrages in the Philippines by American soldiers is true.

Owing to the vast distance of those islands from us and the natural inability of our people to realize their great extent, or to picture to themselves the nature of their varied peoples, save almost wholly after the similitude of the people they know here at home, there is here in the consciousness of the people no natural corrective of false statement. The wildest misstatement is often accepted unchallenged and becomes the basis of permanent belief.

The authorities in the Island of Luzon reported that in the northern part of the island not a hostile shot had been fired for a year and a half. An anonymous Congressman was reported by a pseudonymous newspaper man to have made a visit to the Philippines, at some date not mentioned, and to have given as the reason for the firing of no hostile shot in that section for the period stated, that there was no one left to fire it—only women and children—all the men having been massacred by our troops. This statement was believed by many, and has been quoted to me more than once as unquestionably true. The most preposterous things are believed. What but first-hand knowledge can prevent the mischievous misleading of many by the fervid statements delivered with such impressiveness and seeming authority, comparing our course in the Philippines to that of General Weyler in Cuba—and to our disadvantage? A returned soldier recently testified that "dum-dum" bullets were issued to our troops and used against the natives. Our indignation was unavoidable—till the falsity of his statement was conclusively proved in the Senate committee itself. Another returned soldier gave circumstantial account of such infamy on the part of certain American officers as caused all men who read it to clench their teeth with instinctive rage. The papers later recounted the proof of the absolute falsity of his testimony, and gave assurances that the perjurer will feel the heavy hand of the law.

It is well remembered at such times as these that there are other kinds of assassination than those effected by bullets or bolos. When we know that the most innocent man may in a moment be placed in danger of lynching by the cry of "stop, thief!" and the violent accusation of some terrible crime, it is all the more needful that men burning with natural and honorable indignation at alleged outrages should be sure of their facts, and especially upon whom they venture to charge responsibility, lest their own influence for good be weakened when sorely needed.

That this is the sober and sincere reflection of both speakers and auditors at the Tremont Temple meeting, I do not for a moment doubt.

As to the speech of Senator Hoar, I came to its reading with high anticipations. I expected to be moved by its eloquence, its lofty moral sentiment and its noble diction, even if I could not accept his general point of view. All these one always finds in his utterances, but my enjoyment of them was sadly diminished by what I cannot help regarding as the falsity of so many of his premises. In such grave matters a conviction of its truth is a prerequisite to enjoyable eloquence. I feel that our senior Senator has in many and very important matters been misled and deceived, and greatly do I deplore it. Senator Hoar admits that in this debate and in denouncing what he deems one of the most foolish and wicked chapters of history he believes the men who are responsible for it are neither foolish nor wicked. There are no men with whom on other matters he is in so much accord—whose judgment he so trusts—or to whose patriotism and humanity he would be more willing to commit the honor of the Republic. It is a difference of opinion—of ineffaceable prejudgment. Such differences and between just such good men the Civil War and the War of the Revolution produced. Our senior Senator has in his mind an image—not of what those who go to the islands find—an aggregate of many and various tribes, an intelligent few, an almost utterly unintelligent and irresponsible multitude—but of "a people," a brave and aspiring people, fighting for independence; weak and doubly deserving our love and care, but whom we are crushing, subjugating. By this preconception he judges everything. Against it no presentation of opposed facts can prevail.

Some of the points of his speech which seem to me misconceived are the following: He can see no reason why we should not deal with the "Filipino people," as we have with those of Cuba. You, Mr. Editor, in your editorial of Wednesday, have ably and fully answered that. You have shown the totally different genesis of our relations to each, and of our resulting responsibility to each, as well as their complete difference in race and geographical relations to us.

Senator Hoar cites with delight and admiration the bringing of a body of Cuban teachers to the United States for a brief period—"a Summer school"—and calls it one of the most delightful lessons in all history of the gratitude of a people to its liberator, and of the affection of the liberator-Republic to the people it had delivered, and pictures as a "most fit subject for poetry or for art" the president and professors of old Harvard welcoming the young men and women of Cuba "to the delights of learning and the blessings of liberty." He says: "Contrast this scene with another. It is all you have do show that you have brought back, so far, from the Philippine Islands. You have no grateful youth coming to sit at your feet. You do not dare to bring here even a friendly Filipino—with unfettered lips, to tell what his people think of you or what they want of you."

We brought 600 Cuban teachers here—a journey of a few days, and for one brief stay. And we did well. But I place in splendid contrast with it the immeasurably nobler, more heroic, more enduring benefaction—the sending ten times as far twice the number of American teachers to stay and labor a term of years, under difficulties not imaginable here, for the children of the Malay race. For this splendid deed, to the beneficent effects of which we already have abundant testimony and the influence of which shall never end, and in comparison with which the Summer picnic of the Cuban teachers is the veriest trifle, our senior Senator has not even one word of mention. Nor does he know, I suppose, that already a small number of Filipino lads are studying in this country, and that the able man who is at the head of the educational work in the Philippines months ago outlined a plan, which he hopes to live to see carried out, of sending to this country, not hundreds, but thousands of Filipino youth, distributing them among the schools of the whole country, and bringing them back, after a term of years, to their own land to mingle again with their own people, and thus to powerfully reinforce those who are striving there to sow the seeds of good citizenship. But the distance is enormous. Time and much money will be needed to bring it about. It cannot be effected yet, but it is definitely contemplated and planned.

From many parts of the islands I receive letters from the teachers who went out from America. In not one of them have I ever detected a despondent note. They glory in their work and see it grow under their hands. From one received this very day I quote, so quietly and effectively does it, by implication, answer a vast amount of Senator Hoar's contention. It is from a man acquainted with both the Spanish and the native tongue of his island:

"I can truthfully state that the vast majority of the natives want peace, and are willing to accept the sovereignty of the United States, but want a government, either civil or military—of course the civil very much preferred. I have walked unarmed and alone across the narrowest part of this island. . . . I had a hard time here at first. I had to go to the priests to explain our object, they being suspicious of us, as all Protestants. Now I number seven firm friends among the padres, and in very many places they are helping us a great deal, and the feeling is gradually changing—and they can be made very loyal—I am sure, in time. . . . I have never found a more interesting work. In my humble judgment the teachers have generally found it better than they expected. There are exceptions, of course."

All through Senator Hoar's speech I find the phrases of assumptions utterly at variance with the facts of my observation and experience, *e. g.*, "When we elected to make war for the principle of despotism, instead of a policy of peace"; "From the Philippines you have brought home nothing of glory"; "What soldier glories in a wound or an empty sleeve, which he got in the Philippines?" etc. The Senator says in one place, "I believe the American Army, officers and soldiers, to be made up of as brave and humane men, in general, as ever lived." Yet in another place he refers to the horrors of Andersonville, and other awful things of the Civil War, and asks if there was anything in them worse than that reported from the "reconcentration camps" in the Philippine Islands! How an army made up of "as brave and humane men, in general, as ever lived" could be made the instrument of such horrors does not appear. Are we not justified in feeling confident that it could never be made to appear?

When I think of what I saw of our work in the Philippines—its honesty, its intelligence, its earnestness and purity of purpose, for the best interests of civilization—and when I recall what I myself saw in Cuba—even after the surrender of Santiago—of the fell purpose and horrid handiwork of Spain—I confess that when I read Senator Hoar's words that according to the evidence "there was nothing in the conduct of Spain in Cuba, worse than the conduct of the Americans in the Philippine Islands," I marvel; and relying on what is to me superior evidence, I reject that on which Senator Hoar relies.

He cites again the story of the "carloads of maniac soldiers" brought home from the islands. I, too, recall a story told on shipboard—with great impressiveness—of a whole shipload of insane soldiers, several hundreds in number, brought home from the Philippines, crazed by privation and debauchment. When the effect of the story was at its height—a quiet auditor, who proved to be the Government surgeon in charge of that very shipment of insane men, simply announced the actual number, 15 or 18 in all, gathered from all our troops in the islands, a number which he thought not abnormally large, considering the inevitable conditions. Yet the story of the shipload of insane men, with the presumption of other shiploads yet to be sent home, is doubtless still doing its disquieting work in the country.

It is well to call to mind, in the light of most recent events, the sequel to equally violent and equally baseless assertions at the opening of the Spanish War. Ex-Governor Boutwell declared in a speech at Springfield, Mass., that the country had been betrayed into a needless and awful war with Spain; that it had been a "debauch of blood and lust"—that the American people had been utterly deceived and that there had been "no such people in Cuba as we had been told—and no such suffering."

But the stories were true—and the war went on to a successful and, for us, most creditable issue.

The answer to Governor Boutwell and all those who denounced the war, is the telegram of Estrada Palma, the first President of the Cuban Republic, to President Roosevelt.

In an equally honorable way I believe will America acquit herself in the Philippines. With a task infinitely more difficult her success, if achieved, will be correspondingly creditable.

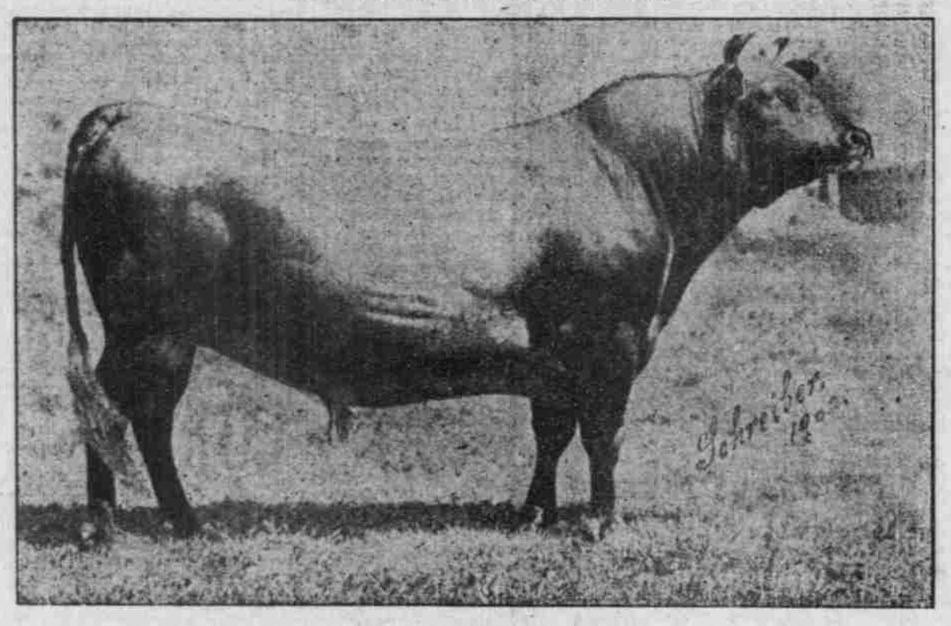
As I write these very words there is placed in my hands the "Outlook" for May 31, with the 20-page article by Governor Taft on "Civil Government in the Philippines." A glance through its pages shows that here is the overwhelming—the absolute answer—to most of the misconceptions in regard to the practical results of our occupancy of the Philippines. I contrast the theoretical fears of Senator Hoar with the actual achievement of Governor Taft.

In his peroration Senator Hoar gives a series of contrasts between our course in Cuba and our course in the Philippines. His indictment would be awful and crushing if it were true, as Governor Boutwell's would have been, but I cannot escape the conviction that not one sentence of it will receive the full substantiation of history.

I have not consciously said one word to help to cover up offenses or lessen the demand that offenses shall be punished, but to call attention to the mischief of too sweeping statements and the danger with which we are always confronted, of not being able to discern the forest for the multitude and nearness of the trees.

*Mr. Charles H. Ames is secretary of the firm of D. C. Heath & Co., of Boston, and spent several months in the Philippines last year. He was in Oregon last Summer, and ascended Mount Hood with the Mazamas.

PRIZE BULL SOLD FOR $7500



FLYING FOX BOUGHT BY THOMAS W. LAWSON, OF BOSTON.

Thomas W. Lawson, the Boston millionaire, of yachting and copper fame, has added another to his list of distinctions by purchasing Flying Fox, the famous prize bull, for $7500. The animal was sold at auction last week at Coopersburg, Pa., by his owner, T. S. Cooper. Flying Fox was the champion winner of the Island of Jersey August, 1899. He was sire of the champion bull over the same island, April, 1902. He sired four prize winners and four sweepstake winners at the Bull Show, April, 1902. He sired four first and fourth prize yearlings at the Royal Show, May 8, 1902.

A Gleam of Reason.

Boston Herald, Anti.

The statement from Washington that Senator Lodge, chairman of the committee on the Philippine Islands, has said that steps will be taken to prosecute the witness, O'Brien, for perjury, is one that will meet public approbation if the facts warrant the step. His allegations of immoral conduct and of cruelties on the part of Army officers are quite too serious to be made with impunity, if untrue. If O'Brien has been lying in his testimony, as the later evidence of Captain McDonald makes it appear probable, he should suffer a severe penalty. No one will object to the rigors of the law in such a case. It may be that O'Brien thought that he could gain some notoriety for himself by manufacturing sensational yarns. If so, he should be made an example of the heinousness of such a proceeding. Thirteen witnesses, besides O'Brien, have testified to witnessing administrations of the "water cure," and their evidence has not been contradicted. If it could be shown that all of them were untrustworthy, the country would experience a great relief. Unfortunately, this is unlikely to happen. But no falsehoods are tolerable in this business. The country wants to know the truth, only the truth, and all the truth.

Sporting Notes.

Portland sports are wondering what ailed Al Neill in his recent encounter with Jack O'Brien at Chicago. The Philadelphian pounded Neill all over the ring and put him clear out of business in the third round.

Local sports are anxious to see a good boxing match, and their wishes may be gratified, as Tim Hegarty and Billy De Coursey are about to be matched for a mix-up late this month.

"Hez" Brown has been elected captain of the Whitman College baseball team for the season of 1902. Fred Lasater, the speedy sprinter, will captain the college track team next year.

The Hayes Valley Athletic Club, of California, is endeavoring to match Tom Tracey and Young Gibbs for July at 142 pounds.

Steam From Mount Rainier.

TACOMA, Wash., June 9.—Many persons in Tacoma today saw two columns of steam rising from the apex of Mount Rainier. The question of the melting of the snow by the heat of the sun, the lifting and driving of the snow from the summit by the wind and several other possible explanations of the phenomenon were discussed; but none of them answered or explained what they saw.

Omaha Church Dedicated.

OMAHA, June 8.—With solemn ceremonies, the newly constructed Church of the Sacred Heart was dedicated today by Bishop Scannell, of this diocese, assisted by Right Rev. John G. Glennon, of Kansas City; Bishop Spalding, of Peoria, and a great number of clergymen of Nebraska churches. Pope Leo sent a special message granting his blessing.

Cornell Crews Selected.

ITHACA, N. Y., June 8.—Coach Courtney has finally picked the 'varsity and freshmen crews which will represent Cornell in the Poughkeepsie regatta June 21. In the 'varsity eight Van Alstyne, of Whittier, Cal., will row No. 4.

Professor of Chinese at Columbia.

BERLIN, June 8. — Professor Friedrich Hirth, holder of the chair of Chinese philology at the University of Munich, has accepted the offer of the Chinese chair at Columbia University, New York, and will begin his lectures there next October.

Liberty Bell Leaves Charleston.

CHARLESTON, S. C., June 8.—The Liberty bell left here today for Philadelphia on a special truck attached to a passenger train and accompanied by an escort of a committee of Councilors of Philadelphia.

CANAL BILL IN SENATE

EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO REACH A VOTE SATURDAY.

House Programme Contemplates Consideration of Pacific Cable and Senate Irrigation Bills.

WASHINGTON, June 8.—The greater part of the time in the Senate this week will be given to the interoceanic canal bill. An effort probably will be made by the supporters of the Nicaragua route to secure an agreement to vote on the bill next Saturday, but the probabilities are all against success. Senator Harris, of Kansas, will open the debate tomorrow in support of the Nicaragua route, and he will be followed by various other Senators for and against the measure. Senator Fairbanks has given formal notice of a speech Wednesday. He will support the Spooner bill.

Tomorrow in the morning hour Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, will speak on the bill creating a National park in the Southern Appalachian Mountains, and in accordance with the agreement reached yesterday the morning hour of other days will be devoted to consideration of Senator Nelson's bill for the abolition of the London dock charges until a vote shall be taken upon it. Saturday after 4 o'clock the Senate will listen to eulogies on the character of the late Representative Stokes, of South Carolina. Friday the nomination of General William Crozier, to be Chief of the Ordnance Bureau, will be considered in executive session.

It is probable that Senator Hale will call up the naval appropriation bill during the week, but he has given no notice of such intention.

The House Programme.

The House programme for the week contemplates consideration of the Pacific cable and the Senate irrigation bills, which the rules committee is anxious to have disposed of before the time set for taking up the Philippine Government bill. Special rules have been prepared for consideration of both measures. The cable bill will be given two, and the irrigation bill three, days. The cable bill provides for an American-built and an American-laid cable to connect our insular possessions in the Pacific with the Pacific Coast. It carries a direct appropriation out of the Treasury for this purpose. The prospects for its passage are not considered bright. Mr. Corliss, the author of the bill, professes confidence that it will pass. The opposition to the measure believes the cable to the Philippines should be laid by private enterprise.

Some of the House leaders, including Mr. Cannon, chairman of the appropriation committee, it is understood, will oppose the irrigation bill, but the friends of the measure are very hopeful of its passage.

Tomorrow is District of Columbia day. All the appropriation bills except the general deficiency, which will not be ready until next week, have passed the House.

SPAIN BUYS OUR GOODS.

No Prejudice Against United States Products.

WASHINGTON, June 8.—Spain holds no prejudice against United States goods, according to an extract from the annual volume entitled "Commercial Relations of the United States," which was made public at the State Department today by Frederick Emory, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign Commerce. This extract gives the information contained in the annual reports of United States Consular officers in Spain and in Italy. Our trade with Spain, it says, could be greatly enlarged if a favorable commercial treaty were negotiated. United States Minister Storer, who is about to return to Madrid, will endeavor to negotiate such a treaty. The extract says:

"American goods, according to Vice-Consul Wood, of Madrid, are to be met with in the most unexpected places in Spain. They consist of plows and other agricultural implements, pumps, condensers, steelworking machinery, hardware of all kinds, spouts, faucets, mining machinery, bicycles, typewriters, hairclipping machines, electric motors and fans, firearms and cartridges, dental goods, lumber, phonographs, etc. There is no prejudice against United States goods, and inquiries are constantly received for them."

Consul Ridgeley, of Malaga, says our trade could be more largely developed if we had a favorable commercial treaty with Spain and if we would send enterprising commercial salesmen with a knowledge of the Spanish language.

Consul-General Lay, of Barcelona, thinks that a still better way to develop our commercial relations with Spain would be to establish a permanent exhibit of American articles, and he is now endeavoring to open such an exhibit, either in Barcelona or in Madrid. The introduction of any article into Spain is more difficult than in most countries of Europe, as the people as a rule are not quick to see the advantages of modern appliances.

Consul Smith, of Leghorn, Italy, says that the importations at that port from the United States doubled in value last year, substantial advances being made in most items, especially in sulphate of copper, which has risen from $10,000 to $125,000 in three years, and coal, which has been used in the Italian Navy with satisfactory results.

Consul Cramer, of Florence, also reports the popularity of our coal, which is employed by the Italian railway companies and by factories. Our goods are to be seen in shop windows, he says, and also many imitations of genuine American products made in Germany.

Consul Caughey, of Messina, says that an American company is about to erect a hotel there.

The Vice-Consul at Milan, H. H. Smith, gives valuable advice to United States exporters as to trade methods in Italy and the means of extending our commerce. Our Consulate, he reports, has time after time attempted to initiate trade relations between American firms and Italian dealers, but the transaction usually fails through on the question of cash payments. The United States houses think it is too far away to give credit, and the Italian dealer thinks he is too far away to pay cash without an opportunity of seeing and testing what he buys. Personal visits at opportune times, he says, are an effective method of gaining trade, and if the importer is treated well the Italian will remain a satisfactory customer.

UPRISING OF NEGROES.

Threatened Trouble in Mississippi Frustrated by Whites.

MERIDIAN, Miss., June 8.—A threatened uprising of negroes north of Meridian has been frustrated by the determined stand of the whites. A call for negroes to band themselves against the whites was signed by a negro preacher named Ruffin. Ruffin instructed that a mob of 50 negroes form northeast of Meridian and start through the county, killing all whites, destroying their farms and burning their houses. As soon as the whites learned of the plan of the negroes, who outnumbered them two to one, they armed themselves with Winchesters. In a short time they had so intimidated the negroes that it is now thought the uprising is a an end. The whites, however, are still armed and will be on the alert until all danger has passed.

FOUGHT A BAND OF ITALIANS.

Three St. Paul Men Shot Down by Railroad Laborers.

ST. PAUL, June 8.—A fight with pistols and shotguns late today between three citizens and about 30 Italians employed in a camp on the Chicago Great Western road, at the end of the Concord street-car line, resulted in the serious injury of four men, one of whom will die. N. Marcotte, of Minneapolis, was shot in the hands and chest. His injuries are not serious. Fred Wayman was wounded in the abdomen, but is expected to recover. Joseph St. Dore, an Italian laborer, has several wounds on his face, and it is thought he will lose his eyesight.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberge, Mr. and Mrs. Marcotte and Mr. Wayman were passing the camp after a fishing trip, when the Italians made disrespectful remarks about the women. Roberge and Marcotte retorted. A shot was fired, followed by several others. The Italians hid behind trees and from their position of vantage began a fusillade of shots. None of the shots took effect, and the shooting ceased for a while. Finally some of the laborers ran into the camp building, from where one of them fired three shots from a shotgun. Each shot brought down a man, Roberge, Marcotte and Wayman falling in the street. The police arrested 20 of the Italians. It is not clear which side began the shooting.

"Pug" Ryan Captured.

CRIPPLE CREEK, Colo., June 8.—"Pug" Ryan, who escaped with several other prisoners from jail at Leadville a week ago today, was captured in this city last night by Police Captain "Nick" Williams and Detective O. H. Barber. The officers got the drop on Ryan and he surrendered without a fight. Ryan is to be tried on a charge of murder. He is said to have been the leader of a gang of desperadoes who had a fight several years ago with a posse of Breckinridge officers, in which two of the latter were killed.

Fight in a Courtroom.

ALAMOSA, Colo., June 8.—Herschel Smith and his son Orval, accused of being connected with the murder of Porfiro Gallegas, a Mexican sheepman, last February, had their preliminary trial last night. Herschel Smith was given bail in the sum of $10,000 and Orval's bail was fixed at $15,000. Both furnished bail. At the close of the trial the two Smiths made an attempt to whip Earl Hart, the principal witness. The officers had to draw revolvers before they could quiet the Smiths.

Attempt to Lynch a Negro.

HATTIESBURG, Miss., June 8.—An attempt was made by a mob late last night to attack the County Jail here to secure Walter Blankhead, a negro, charged with having attempted to assault a white woman living near Hattiesburg. A company of militia ordered out by Governor Longino repulsed the mob. Further trouble being feared, additional troops have been dispatched to relieve the militia now on duty.

Lynchers Pardoned.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 8.—Governor Jelks today pardoned three of the four white men convicted of lynching Robin White, a negro, and sentenced to 10 years in the penitentiary. The case is famous as the only instance in Alabama where a white man had served one year.

Half-Witted Man Kills His Wife.

VALLEY VIEW, Ky., June 8.—John Laffon, a half-witted man, killed his wife at his home this afternoon, braining her with an ax. Laffon made his escape and a posse is now hunting for him.

The Pressed Steel Car Merger.

ST. LOUIS, June 8.—K. K. Bixby, chairman of the board of directors of the American Car & Foundry Company, said today that the talk of a merger of his company with the Pressed Steel Car Company, of Pittsburg, had not reached him in the form of a definite proposition by either company.

"If definite negotiations were on," he said, "I would know of it. Nothing can be done until June 27, when the annual meeting of the American company takes place in New York. The question of consolidation will then be taken up, but I do not anticipate that even then any action will be taken."

Baron Shibusawa at Chicago.

CHICAGO, June 8.—Baron Eiichi Shibusawa, one of the foremost financiers of Japan, arrived here today on his way to London, where he will represent the Tokio Chamber of Commerce at the coronation of King Edward. The Baron and his party will remain in Chicago several days. Before he returns to Japan it is his intention to make an extended tour of this country, Great Britain, France and Germany. The steel manufacturing plants and shipbuilding plants will occupy his attention, especially while in the United States.

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