

LAND LAW INQUIRY

House Committee Decides
Against Holding It.

SUSPECTS A SCHEME IN IT

Railroads and Stockmen Interested
In Repeal of Existing Laws—President is Noncommittal—Easy to Get Desired Information.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 18.—After a brief discussion in the House public lands committee today it was decided to abandon the resolution providing for the appointment of a public lands commission to make reports on the present land laws, and to make recommendations as to granting and the erection of fences on the public domain. While no vote was taken, it was the sentiment of a majority of the committee that this resolution should not be rushed through this late in the session, when there was no opportunity to consider its provisions.

Several members believe that the resolution is being pressed by railroad interests, with a view to securing the appointment of a commission that will recommend the repeal of the timber and stone, desert land and commutation homestead laws, it being alleged that the repeal of these laws would enhance the value of lands now owned by land-grant railroads, which they desire to sell. It is apparent that, as now constituted, the House committee will not report the bill for repeal of these laws, and a favorable report from a special commission would do much to further such legislation.

Another intimation made in committee was that the creation of this commission, which would consider the question of fencing the public domain by stockmen, would serve as an excuse for not requiring the removal of such fences as now remain in defiance of departmental orders. Moreover, members of the committee generally looked upon the proposed commission as a luxury at the rate of \$200 a month and expenses, and suggested that what information is desired for the use of Congress, in addition to that possessed by members from public land states, could be readily obtained at any time by the inspectors and special agents of the Interior Department.

When the statement was made that the President in his message recommended the creation of a public land commission the reply was made that the President merely suggested the feasibility of such a commission, and in his conference with Western members Monday evening declined altogether to make any recommendation whatsoever regarding the pending resolution. The committee concluded that there was a "nigger in the woodpile," and, as no one was willing to champion the resolution, no report was or will be made.

SENATORS' RIGHT TO OBSTRUCT.

They Will Not Have It Destroyed by Closure Rule.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 18.—The Senate today indulged in one of its interesting colloquies over a moot question, although the matter did have a little life by reason of the Quay resolution, which simply attempted to get an expression of the Senate. The Senate never will adopt a closure, although there seem to be two or three men in the body who favor it. At one time or other every Senator finds himself in the minority, and under such conditions he makes up his mind never, under any circumstances, to be for closure, because it takes a great weapon out of his hands when he wants to defeat some measure or compel the Senate to grant his request for something. Notwithstanding all the disadvantages of the rule of unlimited debate, it has been determined that upon any vital question a vote can be had by holding continuous sessions and excluding all other business, and that, no matter how much talk may be indulged in, a determined majority can finally win. Such was the case when the Sherman silver purchase act was repealed. The minority at that time was as strong and as well organized as it could be, and yet it was forced to yield.

It is only in the short sessions that a minority can defeat a majority. The limitation of the Congress expiring on March 4 makes it possible for any measure to be talked to death. In a specially called session of a new Congress or the long session of Congress measures cannot be defeated when a majority really wants them.

TO CIRCUMVENT HENDERSON.

Way to Pass Omnibus Public Building Bill Despite His Opposition.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 18.—Speaker Henderson has shown hostility to the omnibus public building bill reported to the House a few days ago. It has been decided to abandon that bill, and a similar measure will be reported to the Senate within a day or two and be passed. It will then be reported with a special rule in the House, providing for its immediate consideration without opportunity for amendment. In this way it is probable that provisions may be inserted for public buildings at Oregon City and Baker City, Or., and that the appropriations for Tacoma and Spokane may be increased beyond \$100,000, as Senators Simon and Turner are members of the Senate public buildings committee.

No Sawmill for Bremerton.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 18.—Representative Day today offered an amendment to the naval bill appropriating \$5,000 for a sawmill at the Puget Sound navy-yard. The amendment was rejected on the statement of Chairman Foss, of the naval committee, that the bill already carries enough for this yard to keep all workmen busy throughout the coming year, and that there was no immediate necessity for such a mill.

Renewed Suit Against Irish League.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Lord De Freyne has recommenced his action against John Redmond, John Dillon, Michael Davitt and other leaders of the United Irish League, which he dropped six months ago. Lord De Freyne in June last obtained a writ against those Irish leaders on the charge of conspiracy in connection with the tenant troubles on the De Freyne estate, Roscommon County. He asked for damages, but did not persist in the action. Redmond believed that today's action on the part of Lord De Freyne is due to the influence of the extreme landlord party, which is hostile to the agreement reached at the 1899 Irish landlord and tenant

JUSTICE IN VENEZUELA.

Decision in Favor of American Disproves Claim of Allies.

CARACAS, Feb. 18.—The Supreme Court today rendered its decision in the suit brought by the heirs of Henry Rudloff, an American citizen, against the Venezuelan government for damages for the annulment of a concession given in 1892 to build a market in Caracas. Judgment was given in favor of Rudloff's heirs. The claim for the large amount of \$700,000 to be paid by the Venezuelan government was admitted. The United States Legation watched the case very closely. Today's decision is interesting, inasmuch as the German and British Legations have maintained that justice for foreigners does not exist in Venezuela.

NATURE OF RUDLOFF CLAIM.

Had Contract to Build Market, Which Government Annulled.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Rudloff claim was one of the largest brought by American citizens against the Venezuelan government, and had it not been settled, would have constituted the largest before the mixed commission provided for in the protocol signed here yesterday by Secretary Hay and Mr. Bowen, Venezuela's representative. The decision is a source of intense satisfaction to the officials here.

The contract price of the proposed market was \$700,000, the claim for a like amount, and the judgment of the court shows that it was granted in full. Much work had been done by the American concessionaires toward the construction of the proposed market when a change of administration occurred in Venezuela. Then the concession to Rudloff was annulled because of the objection of the government to having such an establishment controlled by foreigners. Probably not more than half the amount of the claim allowed had been expended when the work on the market was stopped by government action.

WILL NOT GO TO THE HAGUE.

Bowen's Leave Exhausted and Policy Keeps Him Away.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—It does not seem at all probable at this time that Herbert W. Bowen, the United States Minister to Venezuela, will go to The Hague in connection with the movement to have that tribunal determine whether or not the European allied governments which maintained a blockade of Venezuelan ports shall have preferential treatment in the payment of the claims of their citizens against Venezuela. If Mr. Bowen's pleasure in the matter were consulted, the likelihood is that he would participate in the proceedings before The Hague tribunal, but he is not willing to resign his position as Minister to Venezuela for that purpose, and the rules of the State Department prohibit the granting of more than 90 days' leave of absence in any one year to diplomatic officials.

The impression also obtains that the department is not overanxious for Mr. Bowen to attend, as his presence at The Hague might cause a belief that the United States is overzealous in behalf of Venezuela.

TO MAKE FOREIGNERS PAY.

Motiv of Castro's Increase in Venezuelan Customs Duties.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The following cablegram was received at the State Department today from Mr. Russell, who is in charge of the United States Legation at Caracas during the absence of Minister Bowen:

"The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela has decreed 30 per cent increase in duties on all imports, as a war measure."

Just why this decree was issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, instead of President Castro, in the ordinary course, puzzles the officials here. The action reverts to the cabinet, and is regarded as a keen stroke of political finesse, for practically it amounts to placing the indemnity which Venezuela is to pay the powers wholly upon the shoulders of the foreign merchants, who conduct all of Venezuela's import trade. The increase mentioned—30 per cent—is the same figure as the percentage of customs duties at La Guayra and Puerto Cabello to be assigned to the claimant nations.

READY FOR THE OTHERS.

Bowen Prepares to Sign Protocols With Peace Powers.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Mr. Bowen this afternoon called upon the representatives of the powers here, the Mexican and French Ambassadors, the Ministers from Sweden and Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain to inform Bowen formally of the signing of the American-Venezuelan protocols. With each envoy a copy of the American protocol was left. Mr. Bowen stated that Venezuela desired that the remaining protocols should in all essentials conform to it. It is expected that several days will elapse before any one of the peace powers is ready to sign its protocol.

In diplomatic circles, and among State Department officials, much attention is being paid to the provisions of the third of the protocols—The Hague protocols, which will have to do exclusively with the setting in motion of the tribunal's cumbersome machinery. These protocols, in addition to deciding the scope of the arbitration, will stipulate the number of arbitrators to be selected. In order that Venezuela may go to The Hague on the same footing as the peace powers having claims against her, it is estimated that the rough draft of The Hague protocol will be decided upon at a joint conference between Mr. Bowen and the representatives here of the powers. It was informed in reply that the matter would be referred to the Caracas authorities, and that, while awaiting the reply, the Panther was to wait outside. This incident created fresh excitement here.

KEPT WAITING OUTSIDE.

German Cruiser Anxious to Enter Lake Maracaibo.

MARACAIBO, Feb. 18.—The commander of the German cruiser Panther early this morning sent a request to Fort San Carlos for authorization to enter the Lake of Maracaibo. He was informed in reply that the matter would be referred to the Caracas authorities, and that, while awaiting the reply, the Panther was to wait outside. This incident created fresh excitement here.

Three thousand troops have arrived here, and will be transported to Caracas.

French Claimants to Unite.

PARIS, Feb. 18.—The Temps in its financial article today says: "The National Association of French holders of foreign bonds has addressed a circular to the French holders of Venezuelan securities saying that 'owing to the recent events which appear to make necessary a general revision of the financial affairs of Venezuela, the holders of divers Venezuelan securities are invited to submit lists of their holdings in order that a committee may be created to represent and safeguard their interests.'"

Jusserand to Act for France.

PARIS, Feb. 18.—Foreign Minister Delcasse has given Ambassador Jusserand, at Washington, practically a free hand in the conclusion of the Franco-Venezuelan protocol. Queen Wilhelmina will designate an umpire in case of a disagreement between the arbitrators.

Havoc by Cyclone at Cadix.

CADIX, Feb. 18.—A cyclone visited this city today and did great damage. Many persons were injured, and a schooner and several fishing boats were sunk.

Olds, Wortman & King

STRIKING reductions on double-faced Taffeta Ribbons this week,
all colors, 4-inch width, was 40c a yard, now 29c

Blankets

This Is the Weather Plenty of Warm Ones
Are NeededCome in and see what bargains this Riddance Sale of Portland
Woolen Mills' goods affords. Here are prices:

\$3.50 Blankets per pair	\$2.45
4.00 Blankets per pair	2.95
4.50 Blankets per pair	3.40
5.00 Blankets per pair	3.87
6.00 Blankets per pair	4.75
7.25 Blankets per pair	5.65
9.00 Blankets per pair	6.98
10.00 Blankets per pair	7.75

Great
Corset SaleRoyal Worcester
Make for only 49c

Bias-gored black saten, made by the best and most celebrated corset manufactory in the world. They are all brand new, just received, and will be found in the latest style and both elegant and comfortable. Sale price while they last 49c

Ring Demonstration Sale
and Great Jewelry Reductions This Week

All the newest novelties and pretty fads in jewelry. Cuff links, stick pins, shirtwaist sets, watch chains, fobs, brooches, fancy buckles, chateaine purses and many other articles in the daintiest styles of plain, chased, enamel, scroll and jeweled work. Opera glasses, leather and pearl barrels, sterling-silver tweezers, bon-bon tongs, souvenir spoons, orange forks, curling tongs, etc., all in profuse variety. Greatly reduced this week. Come in and make your choice and see the beautiful

W. L. & Co. Gold Filled Rings for
25c, 50c, \$1.00 and \$1.50Great Sale of
Embroideries, Edges and
Insertions Wide and
Medium Wide

For 8c, 10c, 15c, 20c and 25c a Yard

All Swiss made, new, fresh and snowy white, the daintiest kinds of nainsook and cambric, suitable for trimming undergarments as well as light summer dresses for ladies and children. There is a big lot of it that was procured by us through a lucky chance at a great reduction, and we are making no advance on the price asked us. You are therefore getting a big bargain on every yard. Prices, per yard

8c, 10c, 15c, 20c and 25c

ALL WILL ACT TOGETHER

POWERS TO INFORM TURKEY OF
PLANS FOR MACEDONIA.All Join in Russo-Austrian Demand—
Russia Admits Warning Turkey
to Prepare for Trouble.

VIENNA, Feb. 18.—It is semi-officially stated that the Russian government is forming the Porte of the intentions of the signatory powers with regard to reforms in Macedonia will be the presentation of a note by each Ambassador to the Porte. The note, if not identical in terms, will be so in effect. They will state that the powers join in the Russo-Hungarian proposals.

In explanation of the somewhat sudden change in the attitude of the Bulgarian government, it is reported that Russia has replied to the Bulgarian note protesting against Turkey's mobilization, saying that Russia cannot intervene at Constantinople, more particularly as the Porte is only following Russia's advice to prepare for every eventuality. This reply, it is asserted, was a decided shock to Bulgaria and considerably modified her views as to a possible conflict.

Germany Joins Other Powers.
BERLIN, Feb. 18.—It was semi-officially announced today that Germany had instructed her Ambassador at Constantinople to endeavor to persuade the Porte to execute the Austro-Russian programme of reforms proposed for Macedonia.

BURDEN OF TAXES GROWS.

Programme of Parliament Touches
John Bull's Pocket.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Taxation is the word which sums up the programme of the new session of Parliament, cables the London correspondent of the Tribune. Fifteen years ago landowners would have accepted a 20 per cent purchase with a feeling of relief. They are now counting upon a 25 per cent purchase and expecting cash in return. Their antipathies may not be fulfilled literally, but the intervention of the state in the transfer of land will be an expensive process. Economy is whistled down the wind in the King's speech when an increase of expenditures for the empire is inevitable and London taxpayers are singled out for increased burdens.

The new educational bill implies a higher school rate for the metropolis, and the London dock bill, while essential to the prosperity of London, will involve a largely increased local taxation. The famous cream-colored horses with their gaudy trappings may precede the state chariot on the opening day of Parliament, but when the King's speech is read the long-suffering taxpayer identifies himself with Isaac, crouching under his burdens and longing for rest.

ITALY PREPARES FOR WAR.

Debate on Naval Appropriation Stirs
Up Fighting Blood.

ROME, Feb. 18.—The Chamber of Deputies debated today the military estimates. In the course of the discussion reference was made to the defeat of the Italian fleet by the Austrian fleet at Lissa in 1866 and Vice-Admiral Morin, Minister of Marine, said:

"We have worked 36 years preparing for the day of trial."

This remark caused a sensation, the members of the Left shouting: "Do you want war?"

"Yes, we want war," retorted the Deputy of the Center, Minister Morin continued that, while Italy did not want war, she was prepared. He opposed a reduction in the navy owing to Italy's geo-

graphical position. A large number of emigrants were leaving the shores of Italy, he said, and they must be protected. The Minister pointed out that Great Britain, France, the United States and other powers had almost doubled the expenses of their navies, while Italy had cut down her naval expenditure by \$2,000,000.

RACE FEUD IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Causes Appeal From Chamberlain
for Union-Sprigg Is Hoisted.

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 18.—Colonial Secretary Chamberlain and his party arrived today and met with a hearty reception from a crowd of about 10,000 persons awaiting them at Green Market Square. A number of addresses were presented to Mr. Chamberlain. During the reading of one of these Prime Minister Sprigg arrived on the platform and was hoisted with much vigor. Mr. Chamberlain, in the course of his speech, made a powerful appeal for the union of the races. He admitted, however, that since his arrival in Cape Colony he had become less hopeful of immediate satisfactory results from his visit, as he found that the antagonism of the two races had become chronic. Rebellion was exalted into heroism and loyalty was discounted and ostracized, even the public joining in the propaganda tending to intensify the separation of the races.

On leaving the platform Premier Sprigg was again made the subject of a hostile demonstration.

TO TAKE KAISER'S LIFE.

German Plots With Spanish Anarchists
for Assassination.

BARCELONA, Feb. 18.—The newspapers today publish an account of an anarchist meeting, recently held here, at which a German engineer, who had been in Barcelona for a fortnight, and who has started for England, declared he pledged himself to make an attempt on the life of Emperor William of Germany.

Cause of Scandinavian Crisis.

PARIS, Feb. 18.—The correspondent of the Figaro at Stockholm telegraphs an account of an interview he had with King Oscar on the differences between Norway and Sweden. The King, referring to the strained relations between the two countries, is reported as saying:

"I do not deny the existence of serious differences between the two countries or that the actual situation is delicate. Their constitutions are not the same, and their traditions are different. The union of the two countries was badly devised. My grandfather did not know the Norwegian language, and our trouble is due to that cause."

Heads of Rebels Adorn Fez.

TANGIER, Feb. 18.—A dispatch from Fez dated February 17 states that a column of troops under command of El Menehbi, the Moroccan War Minister, has defeated a section of the Hainia. Many heads of the killed have arrived at Fez.

Burglars Steal Sacred Jewels.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 18.—Burglars entered the Cathedral of St. Isaac last night and stole three diamonds, valued at \$50,000, which they took from the frame of a picture of the Savior.

Bereford Accepts Command.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Lord Charles Bereford announced at Woolwich tonight that he had been offered and would accept the command of the Channel squadron.

Railway Expressmen Organize.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Feb. 18.—The organization of the Order of Railway Expressmen of America was practically completed tonight and it is stated here that its membership will include between 15,000 and 20,000 employees of the several express companies throughout the United States.

Millinery Department

Connolly In
Spring
Turbans

Ladies who desire something elegant, exclusive and in the most approved fashion, will be delighted with our first showing of the Connolly Turbans. We have the exclusive agency in Portland for these turbans, which are the most popular and finest made, and continually receive them in the latest styles. This year they are exceedingly smart and pretty.

HOMESTEADS IN ALASKA

STRICT PROVISION BY SENATE FOR
ACTUAL SETTLEMENT.No Commutation Allowed, and Claims
Must Not Be Over One Mile Long
—No Scrip Filing Allowed.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 18.—The Alaska homestead law, as reported and passed by the Senate, is a very different and far more comprehensive measure than the bill as it passed the House, and, because of the changes, the House will either be obliged to accept the Senate amendments or the differences will have to be adjusted in conference. The Senate retains the provision of the House bill limiting homesteads in Alaska to 200 acres, but adds a number of important provisions and limitations. In its report, the Senate committee says:

"The present law, which allows a homesteader to take 80 acres, is entirely inadequate for the conditions of the country and the efforts of those who go there for settlement. A large part of the land in Alaska is suitable for agricultural purposes, but is not suitable for such purposes in the limited area of 80 acres allowed by the general homestead law of the United States, and still less so in an area of 80 acres, as allowed by former legislation of Congress.

"It is believed by the committee that in enlarging the amount of land which each settler may in good faith take to 320 acres a sufficient amount would be set apart to enable that settler to engage profitably in the occupation of agriculture in that district. The committee has seen fit to increase the limitations of the homestead act, as set forth—that is, that the commutation clause of the homestead act, which is applicable to the states of the United States and the territories, shall not be allowed in Alaska. This is done for the purpose of preventing settlers upon these tracts from taking land for the purpose of speculation and paying \$1.25 per acre for land in other parts of the country subject to homestead entry dispose of their rights and holdings for speculative purposes.

"It has been thought proper in cases where a person shall desire to make entry on 320 acres of land, as allowed in this bill, that he shall make it in a compact, rectangular form, not more than one mile in length. This precludes the possibility of monopolizing the streams and narrow valleys by any one homesteader.

"All this land is by the operation of this proposed bill, taken out of the operation of the law which allows the entry of land of like character in the United States and territories by means of the various classes of land scrip which may now be applied to that purpose.

"The necessity of legislation of the sort proposed by this bill is pressing and immediate, and the committee recommends that the bill be passed."

The essential features of the Senate bill are as follows:

"That all the provisions of the homestead laws of the United States not in conflict with the provisions of this act, and all rights incident thereto, excepting the commutation provisions thereof, and excepting also the provisions relating to the acquisition of title through soldiers' additional homestead rights, are hereby extended to the District of Alaska, subject to such regulations as may be made by the Secretary of the Interior; and no indemnity, deficiency or lieu lands pertaining to any land grant originating outside of the District of Alaska, and no scrip or warrant of any kind whatsoever shall be located within, taken from, or exercised on any lands in said district.

"Provided, That no entry shall be al-

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A mercerized soft-finish fabric of fine texture, over which is woven lustrous figures, dots, stripes and floral designs. 35c and 50c.

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New fast-edge Linens in Center Pieces, Tray Cloths, and Bureau Scarfs, 25c to \$3.00.

A new supply of Columbia Shetland Floss in black, creme, white and colors.

A full and generous supply of the famous Hemenway Silks.

New Golf Blouses

Various little betterments are noticed this year in the Ladies' Golf Blouses. The pure white and white and black blouses are particularly effective. On sale at Men's Furnishing Department. Prices \$5.00 and \$5.50.

Muslin Underwear

In answer to many inquiries we are pleased to announce the arrival of the new Universal brand Night Gowns and Skirts. Also Infants' Long and Short Dresses in the newest French styles.

Ruffled Net Curtains \$2

English Bobbinet, ruffled, with lace edge and lace insertion. Dainty Curtains that will add a light, airy finish to any room. On special sale today at \$2.00. Also new Scotch Lace Curtains at \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50.

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lowed extending more than 160 rods along the shore of any navigable water; and along such shore a space of at least 80 rods shall be reserved for entry between all such claims; and that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to authorize entries to be made or title to be acquired to the shore of any navigable waters within said district; and no patents shall issue hereunder until all the requirements of the revised statutes have been fully complied with as to residence, improvement, cultivation and proof.

"If any of the land so settled upon, or to be settled upon, is unsurveyed, then the land settled upon, or to be settled upon, must be located in a rectangular form, not more than one mile in length and located by north and south lines run according to the true meridian; that the location so made shall be marked upon the ground by permanent monuments at each of the four corners of the land located, so that the boundaries of the same may be readily and easily traced; that the record of said location shall within 90 days from the date of settlement be filed for record in the recording district in which the land is situated.

"And provided always, That no title shall be obtained hereunder to any of the mineral or coal lands of the District of Alaska. And it is further provided, That the right of any homestead settler to transfer any portion of the land so settled upon as provided by section 228 of the Revised Statutes of the United States shall be restricted and limited within the District of Alaska as follows: For church, cemetery or school purposes to five acres, and for the right of way of railroads across such homestead to 100 feet in width on either side of the center line of said railroad, and all contracts by the settler made before his receipt of patent from the Government for the conveyance of the land homesteaded by him or her, except as herein provided, shall be held null and void."

It is well known that the interests of the Standard Oil Company have been taken care of for years by certain Senators. The peculiar clauses of the present tariff law on the subject of petroleum and of the Wilson act, which preceded it, are evidence of this. It is not at all improbable that Mr. Rockefeller may consider himself on sufficiently familiar terms with some Senators to send them telegrams asking that a bill be killed. For that matter there would be no impropriety in his doing so. He has the same right as any other citizen in this matter. He has declined to be interviewed on the subject of telegrams. The incident affords a good illustration of the advantage of publicity in trust affairs.

German Dock Laborers Win.

BREMERHAVEN, Germany, Feb. 18.—The strike of about 100 dock laborers employed by one of the contractors of the North German Lloyd Company, which began Monday on account of the dismissal of one of their comrades, has been ended by the reinstatement of the dismissed workman.

Advertising is a mirror in which trade reflects. A poor reflection is caused by a poor mirror.

Ames Not Fighting Extradition to Avoid Prosecution.

CONCORD, N. H., Feb. 18.—The hearing on the petition for the extradition of ex-Mayor Ames, of Minneapolis, was today postponed until tomorrow upon request of counsel for Mr. Ames.

Following the postponement, District Attorney Hamblett, counsel for Mr. Ames, told the newspapers that no attempt would be made to postpone by dilatory methods the return of ex-Mayor Ames to Minnesota, and that his client would not oppose extradition in any way if it was found that his physical condition was such as to permit of his return at this time.

"Habeas corpus proceedings will not be instituted," said Mr. Hamblett, "unless



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