

CUBAN QUESTION UP AGAIN

Senators the Friends of the Oppressed Islanders.

FOUR RESOLUTIONS READ

or Recognizing Insurgents as Belligerents and Calling for Information—Allen Would Save Rivera.

Washington, April 3.—The Cuban question was revived in the senate today after a long period of comparative calm. Four distinct Cuban resolutions were brought forward in rapid succession. The last and most important one came from Morgan. It declared that a state of war exists in Cuba, and announces the policy of the United States to maintain a strict neutrality as between both parties to the conflict, with full recognition of the insurgents as belligerents. Morgan gave notice that he would call the resolution up at the next meeting of the senate, with the expectation of securing final action.

Of the other resolutions two were agreed to. One calls on the president for letters of General Gomez to himself and to Cleveland, and for other information. The other, by Mills, instructs the committee on foreign relations to report what obligations the United States has assumed by compelling Cuba to remain subject to Spain. Both resolutions were passed without opposition. Still another came from Allen, and proposed a protest against the reported purpose of the Spanish authorities to try General Ruiz Rivera, the Cuban officer, by military drumhead court-martial. This led to an animated controversy between Allen and Hoar. The discussion went over to come up with the resolution for the recognition of Cuban belligerency at the next meeting.

The tariff bill, passed by the house, was received by the senate as soon as the session opened today. Without motion or comment, the presiding officer, Mr. Hobart, referred the bill to the committee on finance.

An interesting incident of the session was Senator Chandler's refusal to agree to a final vote on the treaty today. He called attention to the press dispatches in regard to the situation in Crete, and said he did not feel disposed to enter into negotiations with any power whose guns were trained upon a community of Christians struggling to throw off the yoke of Moslemism. He also spoke of England's conduct toward the Boers of the Transvaal as deserving of condemnation, and a cause for hesitation in the negotiations. He said he would probably in the end vote for the treaty, but he was not in the mood for it today.

Appropriation Bills.

Washington, April 3.—The senate committee on appropriations today agreed to report the sundry civil and Indian appropriation bills practically as agreed to before the adjournment of the last session of congress. A few verbal changes were found advisable and an important change was made in the provision in regard to the opening of the Uncompahgre Indian reservation, in Utah.

This provision was presented as a senate amendment at the last session, and agreed to by the house. The house struck it out when it passed the bill at the beginning of the present session. The senate committee again recommends the inclusion of the provision but reduces the number of claims of prisonee one person may take from four, as originally provided, to two.

A change was made also in the provision for the right of inheritance of children born of white fathers and Indian mothers, so as to provide that the mother shall belong to her tribe "by blood." The original provision made it "by blood or descent." The bill probably will not be reported until next week. The deficiency bill was not considered.

Copper Amendment Forgotten.

Washington, April 3.—Through an oversight, during the consideration of the Dingley tariff bill, the house neglected to adopt the amendments to put copper on the free list prepared by the ways and means committee. Consequently there is no provision for copper in the bill. Not having any special mention, copper falls into the basket class at 25 per cent ad valorem.

In the original draft of the bill, the McKinley rate of 1 cent per pound on copper was retained. The subject was brought to the attention of the committee a second time, and as it appeared no copper is imported into the United States and some is exported, the committee saw no reason why it should not be included in the free list. A clause providing for it in the metal schedule was struck out by the house, but the amendment putting it on the free list was not offered.

The Debt Statement.

Washington, April 5.—The monthly statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business March 31 the treasury had less cash in the treasury, amounting to \$1,008,862,200, a decrease for the month of \$8,638,254. This decrease is accounted for by a corresponding increase in the amount of cash on hand.

TARIFF BILL CHANGES.

A General Remodeling by the Senate Committee.

Washington, April 5.—The Republicans of the senate committee on finance are continuing their work day and night on the tariff bill with the intention of reporting it to the senate at the earliest possible day. They are not prepared to give out any results of their investigations and state that they have not reached any conclusions as to the proposed changes. There is, however, a well-defined impression about the senate that the bill will be generally remodeled and the rates considerably reduced in many schedules.

There is a general belief among Western senators that there will be material changes in rates on wools, especially those of the third class.

Among other suggestions urged is a return to the Wilson law of 8 cents a pound duty on hops, instead of 15 cents, as proposed by the Dingley bill. It is claimed that the proposed increase will be an injury rather than a benefit to the producer, and a hardship to the consumer.

There is much contention about the lumber schedule. The American lumbermen interested in Canadian forests appear to be especially concerned over the Dingley rates.

The committee is not receiving any verbal statements except from senators, but is giving close attention to typewritten presentations of fact and argument.

Secretary Gage Will Comply.

Washington, April 5.—Secretary Gage today announced that he had decided to comply with the requirements of section 27, of the pending tariff bill, providing for the retention of samples of merchandise, imported under orders given subsequent to April 1, and which were not purchased and directed by the owner to be shipped for import into the United States prior to April 1. This action, however, will be taken under section 249 of the revised statutes, which authorizes the secretary to exercise a superintendency of the collection of customs duties.

Discussed by Americans in France.

London, April 5.—The Times will publish a dispatch from its Paris correspondent, saying:

The Dingley tariff bill has caused considerable excitement among American business houses here. The questions growing out of it have been discussed at a large meeting of the American chamber of commerce, at which the American embassy was represented by Henry Wignaud, secretary of Ambassador Eustis. The vice-president of the chamber said:

"America sends France 150,000,000 francs' worth of goods duty free, as against 80,000,000 worth sent by France, duty free, to America. The chamber suggests that the United States should reduce the tariff in some important French exports, the natural result of which would be that France would admit many American manufactures at a reduced tariff. The advantage to America under existing conditions by France admitting some articles at the minimum tariff is over 18,000,000 francs. The chamber hopes that President McKinley's request for additional discretionary power may be granted, so that reciprocal commercial relations may be established in order to open new markets for manufactured American products."

SPAIN'S EASTERN WAR.

Madrid Authorities Declare the Philippine Revolt Ended.

Washington, April 5.—The Spanish legation has received official dispatches from Madrid, under date of April 3, announcing the most decisive engagements in the Philippine islands since the insurrection there began. The losses were heavy and 1,630 prisoners surrendered as a result of the shelling of Cavilego. The officials of the Spanish legation are highly gratified at the announcements, and state that the results practically close the conflict in the islands, these being the last of a series of severe engagements.

Sand in Their Powder.

London, April 5.—The Daily News will publish a dispatch tomorrow from its Salonica correspondent who says he has been informed on reliable authority that a large quantity of gunpowder sent to the frontier from Constantinople has been found to consist chiefly of sand. The vali of Manistir has discovered gross abuses in the supply of provisions and accoutrements to the army.

Coinage of Silver Dollars.

San Francisco, April 5.—An order has just been received by Superintendent Dagget, of the mint, from Director Preston for the coinage of 800,000 silver dollars. This, in addition to the regular coinage of gold, will keep the present force employed for some time, and thus render unnecessary a reduction of the number of employes which has been expected to take place.

Turkey Wants to Fight, Too.

Constantinople, April 5.—The fighting between the Christians and the Mussulmans, which is daily reported from Crete, is creating a very bad impression here, and it is believed that the Turkish government will soon propose to the powers that Turkey herself be permitted to take action against the insurgents.

PARTY LINES DRAWN

Dingley Bill Passed the House by a Majority of Eighty-Three.

Washington, April 2.—With tomorrow the duties imposed by the Dingley tariff bill will be in force, and the present law will be a thing of the past, if the last amendment attached to the bill before its passage in the house today shall be in the bill when it is finally enacted, and provided also, that it shall be held to be legal by the courts.

The Republican victory today was complete. They presented an unbroken front to the opposition. On the other hand, five Democrats, one more than was anticipated, gave the bill the approval of their votes. These five Democrats are interested particularly in the sugar schedule. Three came from Louisiana and two from Texas. One Populist, Howard of Alabama, voted for the bill. Twenty-one other members of what is denominated "the opposition," declined to record themselves for or against the measure.

The vote on the final passage of the bill stood: Ayes 205, nays 122; present and not voting, 21—a majority of 33.

The galleries were today crowded to suffocation. After the amendment fixing tomorrow as the date on which this bill should go into effect had been adopted, against the protests of the Democrats, who contended that it was retroactive, and therefore unconstitutional, the first three hours were taken up with short speeches, most of which were made for the benefit of the galleries, and constituents of the speakers.

The Democrats had yielded the question of a long debate over the Grosvenor amendment, in the hope that enough progress might be made with the bill to permit the house to reach the sugar schedule, but only two more pages were read, leaving 140 unconsidered in committee of the whole.

The motion to recommit with instructions to amend the bill so as to suspend duties on articles controlled by the trusts, upon which they based the principal hope of breaking through the Republican ranks, failed of its purpose. Every Republican voted against it. There was a great demonstration on the floor and in the galleries when the bill was finally declared passed.

Arbitration Treaty in the Senate.

Washington, April 2.—The open session of the senate today lasted less than half an hour. It was productive of another Cuban resolution by Mills of Texas, calling upon the committee on foreign affairs for a report on the obligations assumed by the United States in insisting that Cuba should not be annexed to any European power, and should remain subject to Spain.

Hale's objection sent the resolution over. The Morgan resolution calling on the president for General Gomez' letters also went over. The rest of the day was spent in executive session on the arbitration treaty. At 12:30 o'clock the senate went into executive session, and, at 4 o'clock, adjourned.

TERRORS INCREASING.

Rain and Wind Add to the Mississippi Flood Dangers.

Memphis, Tenn., April 2.—A heavy rainfall, accompanied by a strong gale from the west, is adding to the terror of the flood situation. One hundred and fifty miles below Memphis, in the Mississippi delta, there are four breaks, and each is letting in a stream as large as the Ohio river at Cincinnati, or the Hudson at Albany, and this tremendous outflow has caused a fall of only one-tenth of an inch at Vicksburg, immediately below the last break. The rain and wind will cause more breaks. The river is now like an inland sea, and this afternoon a telegram from a point below Rosedale, Miss., announced that the waves were pounding against the levee and that at frequent intervals the water tore itself loose from the main channel and dashed over the embankment. This being true there will be, in all probability, more crevasses before morning. All the forces of nature are against the people. The rainfall increases, and the wind intensifies the danger. On the Arkansas side the levee from Helena to Arkansas City is as full of men as the inner wall of a besieged fortification.

There is a break at Westover, which occurred at an early hour this morning. A thousand men were at work on the levees when the crash came. For a moment a thin thread of water began to trickle from the inner wall of the embankment. Experienced levee men saw the danger and cried out a word of warning, and the laborers rushed back, but in five minutes a gap fifty feet wide and six feet deep was torn in the wall of earth. The break grew until it is now several hundred feet wide. This crevasse is ten miles below Helena, and the water rushing through it will destroy a dozen splendid plantations, and may back up to Helena.

The Laconia circle country, a few miles below Westover, is under water. This circle is surrounded by a levee. The levee in the rear wall went to pieces at a late hour on Monday, and the water rushed in and spread itself over and across some of the most fertile land in Arkansas, cut up into plantations and giving support to no less than 5,000 people.

Paris, April 2.—It is announced here this afternoon that the powers have decided to proceed with a partial blockade of Greece at an early date.

OREGON IN CONGRESS.

Measures Introduced and Championed by Our State Delegation.

Washington, April 2.—Senator McBride has introduced a large number of bills, several of which were pending in the last congress. He hopes to get favorable action on some of them, and expects that those which were favorably reported in the last congress will receive early consideration in this congress.

One bill appropriates \$650,000 for the public building at Portland, and fixes that sum, with what has heretofore been appropriated, as the limit of the cost of the building. This will bring the total cost of the building to \$1,000,000. The bill provides that when the building is completed it shall be used as a custom-house, for appraisers' stores, courtrooms, signal service offices and for the United States surveyor-general.

Another bill fixes the boundary of the Warm Springs Indian reservation on the northern side. It provides that the boundary shall be the same as defined in the treaty of 1855, and as found by Commissioners Fullerton, Dofur and Payne in 1891.

Other bills introduced by the Oregon senator are as follows:

Admitting veterans of Indian wars to the soldiers' homes; removing the charge of desertion from the name of James K. Parker; to reimburse the states of Oregon, California and Nevada for money expended in the rebellion, of which amount Oregon would receive \$305,915; providing for a quarantine station at Astoria, and appropriating \$30,000 for the same; to establish an assay office at Baker City; directing the accounting officers of the treasury to allow Orville T. Porter for all sums stolen or appropriated by his deputy while Porter was marshal for Alaska; to pay William A. Starkweather \$2,170, the amount paid by him for clerk hire while he was register of the land office at Oregon City; to pay Peter Grant Stewart, of Gervais, \$7,500 for land taken by the government at the mouth of the Columbia river in 1852; to pay H. W. Shipley \$2,487 for work done by him in excess of his contract in constructing buildings at the Nez Perce agency, in Idaho; to pay Avery D. Babcock and wife \$2,000 for the use and occupation of their land by the government; to pay D. J. Holmes, of Portland, \$895 for money expended by him on a claim from which he was ousted when it was found the land he occupied was in the Warm Springs reservation; to pay John W. Lewis \$521 balance due him as salary as register of the land office at The Dalles; to pension George Hughes of Portland, at \$50 per month; to pay John Campbell \$1,165 for property taken during the war.

Senator McBride has introduced a bill making Colonel George H. Mendell, late of the corps of engineers, a brigadier-general on the retired list. He recites in the bill the good work that Colonel Mendell has performed, and points out that when General Casey retired Colonel Mendell was next in line for promotion, but that another was made brigadier-general instead.

Another bill by Senator McBride allows persons making claims upon public lands to make proofs before any officer qualified to administer oaths in homestead cases, whether the lands are in the county or not. At present the making of such proofs must be before an officer in the county where the land is situated.

Another bill applicable to all public land states the law to settle accounts between the United States and Mississippi, which allowed for school purposes all lands embraced in reservations which would have been numbered 16 and 36. The states are to be allowed \$1.25 per acre for the loss of such lands.

Representative Ellis has introduced a bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors in the capitol building. This bill was passed by the house at the last session of congress, and was reported in the senate. No one, with very few exceptions, wanted it passed, but men did not want to go on record as opposing it. The bill might have passed the senate if it ever came to a vote, but Senator Hill, of New York, would never allow it to reach that stage. He was always ready to talk it to death whenever it appeared. Mr. Ellis may push it along, and it will no doubt pass the house if it ever comes to a vote again.

All members of the Oregon delegation indorsed Binger Hermann for commissioner of the general land office. His successor, Mr. Tongue, and other members of the delegation called personally upon the president and urged his appointment. Mr. Ellis went among the members of the house, and especially those from the West, and got their signature to a paper in which Hermann was indorsed for the place on the ground that it would be to the interest of the West.

From the Bonanza.

Baker City, Or., April 2.—Albert Geiser, superintendent of the Bonanza mine, brought in about \$10,000 in gold bullion this afternoon. In addition to this, he has shipped sixty tons of concentrates, valued at \$60 a ton. On account of the many improvements which were made this month, the mill was only kept running for fifteen days.

A Russian land owner at Batoum during the big oil strike there had an income of about \$30,000 a day from his wells.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Gowning, Hopkins & Company's Review of Trade.

Trading in wheat this week has not been widespread, but to a great extent was confined within the ranks of the professionals, who are considerably worked up over the increasing amount of bad crop news. St. Louis appears to be the center of the disturbance and has been persistently loading the wires with stories of great harm done. Many traders have been disinclined to give the reports much attention, and in fact have only arched their eyebrows when brought to their notice. Many of those who have been loathe to acknowledge these stories are now changing front and think there must be some fire where there is so much smoke. The country at large, though, is only buying wheat sparingly, but St. Louis professionals appear to be taking hold liberally, and are pinning their faith in the reliability of crop damage in the Southwest. This is just the time of year for a genuine crop scare, and, with the weather conditions as they are, damage tales will multiply instead of diminish.

Statistics are, of course, just as favorable for an advance as at any time recently; in fact more so. Visible stocks are decreasing and the world's stocks are steadily diminishing. The world's shipments are running from 3,000,000 to 3,500,000 bushels below the weekly requirements of the United Kingdom and the continent, but for all that, foreigners are not alarmed over the outlook. They are certainly not taking the wheat from this country in such quantities as one would expect under the circumstances. Cables are merely fractional in quoting changes on the other side. Exports of wheat and flour from both coasts for the week are 100,000 bushels more than last week, and exceed those for the same week in 1896 by about 5,000 bushels. We have had war scares of the opera bouffe order, but war seems to be just as distant as ever.

There has been a fair amount of trading in the corn market this week and speculation has been brisker. Wheat no longer exerts much of an influence upon values.

Market Quotations.

Portland, Or., April 2, 1897.
Flour—Portland, Salem, Cascadia and Dayton, \$4.10; Benton county and White Lily, \$4.10; graham, \$3.40; superfine, \$2.75 per barrel.
Wheat—Walla Walla, 76@77c; Valley, 79c per bushel.
Oats—Choice white, 42@44c per bushel; choice gray, 36@38c.
Hay—Timothy, \$13.00@13.50 per ton; clover, \$11.00@12.00; wheat and oat, \$9.00@11.00 per ton.
Barley—Feed barley, \$17.50 per ton; brewing, \$18@19.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$14.50; shorts, \$16.50; middlings, \$26.
Butter—Creamery, 45@50c; dairy, 30@40c; store, 17½@30c per roll.
Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 50@65c; Garnet Chilies, 65@75c; Early Rose, 80@90c per sack; sweets, \$3.00 per cental for Merced; new potatoes, 6½c per pound.
Onions—\$2.00@2.25 per cental.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00@3.50; geese, \$4.00@5.00; turkeys, live, 11@12c; ducks, \$4.00@4.50 per dozen.
Eggs—Oregon, 9½c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon, 12½c; Young America, 13½c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 11c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@9c.
Hops—9@10c per pound.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.00@3.50; cows, \$2.25@3.00; dressed beef, 4@6c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, \$3.50@3.75; dressed mutton, 6c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice, heavy, \$4.00@4.25; light and feeders, \$2.50@3.00; dressed \$4.50@5.00 per cwt.
Seattle, Wash., April 2, 1897.
Wheat—Chicken feed, \$27 per ton.
Oats—Choice, \$23@24 per ton.
Barley—Rolled or ground, \$20 per ton.
Corn—Whole, \$19 per ton; cracked, \$19@20; feed meal, \$19@20.
Flour—(Jobbing)—Patent excellent, \$5.00; Novelty A, \$4.60; California brands, \$5.35; Dakota, \$5.65; patent, \$6.40.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$14.00 per ton; shorts, \$18.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$18.00 per ton; middlings, \$22; oilcake meal, \$30.
Hay—Puget sound, per ton, \$10.00; Eastern Washington, \$14.
Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 26c; select, 24c; tubs, 23c; ranch, 15@17.
Cheese—Native Washington, 12½c.
Vegetables—Potatoes, per ton, \$16.50@18; parsnips, per sack, 75c; beets, per sack, 60c; turnips, per sack, 60c; rutabagas, per sack, 50c; carrots, per sack, 40@50c; cabbage, per 100 lbs, \$1.50; onions, per 100 lbs, \$2.90.
Sweet potatoes—Per 100 lbs, \$4.00.
Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10@11c; ducks, \$6@6.50; dressed turkeys, 15c.
Eggs—Fresh ranch, 11½@12c.
Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 7c; cows, 6½c; mutton, sheep, 9c per pound; lamb, 5c; pork, 6c per pound; veal, small, 8c.
Fresh Fish—Halibut, 4½@6c; salmon, 5@6c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and soles, 3@4c.
Provisions—Hams, large, 11½c; hams, small, 11½c; breakfast bacon, 10c; dry salt sides, 6½c per pound.