

# GOVERNMENT IS WAKING UP

## The Condition of Americans in Cuba Revealed.

### SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### American Citizens Destitute and Helpless in the Towns of the Pearl of the Antilles—Action Soon to Be Taken.

Washington, May 15.—There was a sudden and violent outbreak of Cuban sentiment today at the capitol, and during the early hours the drift of opinion was strongly toward speedy and radical action by both congress and the executive, but later there was somewhat of a reaction upon its becoming known that the president, while keenly alive to the situation, and anxious to do everything possible that could be done, his conduct of our Cuban and Spanish relations, felt that further information was necessary, and for the immediate present the question was not one of recognition of the belligerency or independence of the Cuban insurgents, but of relief for the American citizens, destitute and helpless in the towns of the Pearl of the Antilles.

The foreign relations committee, it should be stated, while agreeing upon the necessity of relief for the suffering Americans, is favorable to more radical measures, and a number of its members are earnestly desirous of instant action by the executive in aid of the insurgents, but have not succeeded in converting the administration to their views that present action is appropriate and imperative.

The event of the day was a report to their colleagues by a subcommittee which yesterday examined the state department's Cuban reports. This statement, though not given to the public, was so far disclosed in character as to give rise to a good deal of excited comment among senators and members.

The report, based upon facts presented by the United States consuls in Cuba, it is said, brings out in strong relief the destitution which exists not only among the Cubans, but among Americans and pacificos now in the islands who were driven from their farms and into the towns by Weyler's orders, and are thereby prevented from supporting themselves.

For several days past, the subject matter of this report has been under discussion quietly among a few of the friends of Cuba in congress, and they have lost no opportunity of impressing upon the president their convictions that it is his duty, as the chief executive, to delay no longer in taking active steps to terminate the present condition of affairs in Cuba. These representations, however, have not been sufficient to induce hasty action. The president is moving steadily and with all speed that safety and sound judgment warrant in the collection of facts touching the conditions that exist upon the island today. To this end, Mr. Calhoun is now in Cuba, officially on another mission, but also charged with the observation of the conditions that prevail. When he has reported to the president and the latter has obtained what he regards as a sufficient store of information, based on facts that cannot be questioned, he will be ready either to take himself, or to suggest to congress, such action as these facts warrant.

Meanwhile, he has under consideration the best means of affording relief to Americans suffering as a result of the conditions on the islands.

Today, the president saw, by appointment, Edwin W. Atkins, of Boston, who is largely interested in Cuban sugar plantations. Mr. Atkins gave him a faithful picture of the economic conditions that prevailed in Havana and in other parts of the island when he left.

#### Committee's Report.

The senate committee on foreign relations today had the Cuban question under consideration on the basis of the subcommittee appointed yesterday to confer with the president and Secretary Sherman. The report was prepared by Davis and Foraker, Republican members, Morgan, the Democratic member, declining to participate in it.

The report consisted of a concise statement of the contents of official reports from the American consuls in Cuba, bringing information up to within a week. This report confirms the newspaper reports as to the situation on the island, and even goes farther in depicting the deplorable situation than do most of the newspaper stories. Especial stress is laid upon the condition of American citizens. It is positively stated that hundreds are in a starving condition and wretchedly clothed. Deaths are daily reported. Americans are shown no consideration whatever because of their American citizenship.

The Americans are generally persons who reside on the plantations, but who have been driven from their homes to the towns, and, being among strangers and without employment, are compelled to subsist on almost nothing. They are not allowed to return to their plantations, even to pick berries or secure the least article of subsistence.

## FIGHTING IN EPIRUS.

### Greeks Suddenly Become Active in the West—Reports Conflicting.

London, May 17.—Except for the fighting in Epirus, the Turko-Hellenic situation is unchanged.

It is tolerably certain that only a few Greek troops remain in Domokos, the bulk of Constantine's army having withdrawn to Lania, where it will be in closer communication with General Smolenski. This probably explains the reported movements of the Turkish army, as a number of Edhem Pasha's troops have been marching from Trikala to Volo. Without doubt the respite of the feast of Bairam is very welcome to the fatigued men.

The fighting in Epirus has been undecided. It is believed that Nicopolis is not yet captured, but only the heights commanding the town. The Greeks made a pretext of giving protection to the peasants, but they evidently had information as to the reasons for the apparent inactivity of the Turks in Epirus. This is the seventh time the Greeks have attempted to advance to Janina and have met with a repulse which the Turks have never followed up.

Evidently there is something wrong with the Turkish forces at that point. The recent report that a number of officers were taken from Janina to Constantinople in chains may perhaps explain it. Possibly Turkey is holding her forces there through fear of a movement from Bulgaria.

#### The Situation Complicated.

London, May 17.—The correspondent of the Times at Athens says: The resumption of offensive operations in Epirus greatly complicates the situation and tends to hamper the negotiations for peace. The evident intention of the Greek commanders is to capture the Turkish positions there in order to show that they have not been defeated.

In an interview today, M. Ralli, the premier, repeated his statement that humanitarian motives are responsible for the advance in Epirus, but he did not deny the advantages which might be hoped for from the capture of Prevera and the occupation of the adjoining Turkish territory.

"We are still at war," he said, "and until an armistice is concluded Greece retains her liberty of action. We cannot allow our activity to be confined to Thessaly, where the Turks are predominant. The powers have hindered us from acting in Crete, but Greece cannot be barred everywhere nor compelled to restrict her operations to a limited area."

"We have done our best to obtain an armistice, and until it is accorded us, we must act where and when we can. If we have not already prosecuted the war at various points and among the islands of the Egean, it is only because we have taken into consideration the sufferings to which the Greek population might be subjected."

The government apparently thinks that a renewal of the war will hasten, instead of retard, the armistice. This calculation may prove to be correct; but it is more likely that Turkey will seize on it as an excuse for delaying the armistice and will deal a crushing blow in Thessaly.

#### A Desperate Engagement.

Arta, May 17.—Desperate fighting has been in progress all day near Filiada. Two brigades of Greeks, with many guns, two companies of sappers and a squadron of cavalry, attacked the Turks, who were almost without artillery. The Greeks forced the first Turkish line of defense, but met with a stubborn resistance at the second. In several places the bayonets were so close to the cannon that the former could not be used. The battle still continues as this dispatch is being sent.

#### Secreted a Salary Bill.

Salt Lake, May 17.—A special to the Tribune from Helena, Mont., says: Secretary of the Senate John Bloor was convicted today by a jury of having secreted the "salary bill" to prevent its passage the last night of the session, and the punishment was fixed at one year's imprisonment. He was denied further bail and is now in jail. The bill in question had passed both houses the last day, but was never signed by the speaker of the house. It would have cut down the salaries of the county officers and the number and salaries of the deputies 25 per cent.

#### Eight and a Half Cents for Wool.

Heppner, Or., May 17.—The largest individual clip of wool in this county, belonging to William Penland, about 420 sacks aggregating 150,000 pounds, was sold about a month ago, the terms of sale being made public today. The purchase price was 8½ cents per pound. Mr. Penland's clip last season sold for 6½ cents a pound. This wool will be baled and shipped East the first of next week. Frank Lee, of San Francisco, is the buyer. There is about 1,000,000 pounds of wool now in the warehouses here. The quality is excellent.

#### To Meet the Common Danger.

Vienna, May 17.—At a convention of Austrian manufacturers today, it was resolved to call upon the government to undertake to conclude international agreements with the European powers with a view "of effectually meeting the common danger to European economy arising from the prohibitive tariff policy of the United States."

## TO SECRETARY BLISS.

### Hermann Urges Suspension of Proceedings Against Sheepowners.

Washington, May 17.—Commissioner Hermann, of the general land office, has submitted to the secretary of interior, a letter urging the suspension of legal proceedings growing out of the Cascade range reserve act. The letter says:

"It has been represented to this department that great hardships and loss has resulted to the sheepowners of Oregon because of their exclusion from the grazing lands within the boundaries of the Cascade range forest reserve, created by the president's proclamation of September 28, 1893; that the large areas of grazing lands within said reservation have been used for years past as a general grazing ground, and the sheepowners are dependent thereon for the support of their flocks during certain seasons of the year; that the suits instituted by the government against certain parties to restrain them from pasturing their sheep within the reserve are repressive and unjust, and relief is asked."

"A special agent of this office reports that Judge Bellinger, on the 16th ult., in the United States circuit court for the district of Oregon, overruled the demurrer to the amended complaint in the case of the United States vs. Tygh Valley Land & Livestock Company, sustaining his former decision therein (76 Fed. Rep., 693), against an implied license to use such lands for pasturage purposes, and recognizing the right of the government to sue to protect its property from threatened injury. The special agent states that the several cases brought against various persons, to which this ruling applies, will probably be at issue and ready for trial some time next month."

"In view of the legislation now pending (Senator Pettigrew's amendment to the sundry civil bill) respecting forest reserves in general and their management, and the authority therein to be given the secretary of the interior 'to regulate their occupancy and use,' and the probable early action of the department on the subject, I think it would be wise to suspend, for the present, legal proceedings growing out of sheep pasturing within the Cascade forest reserve."

"I therefore respectfully recommend that the attorney-general be requested to instruct the United States attorney for Oregon to stay all proceedings in the above-mentioned cases until further orders."

#### A Ghastly Rehearsal.

Paxton, Ill., May 17.—Frederick William Holman, who is to be hanged tomorrow for the murder of Mrs. Weibkoen Geddes, on December 2, 1896, held a dress rehearsal this morning, and was photographed on the gallows upon which he is to be hanged. He hopes to sell enough of the pictures to pay for sending his body to Grand Haven, Mich., and have it buried beside the remains of his wife. In addition to the murder for which he is to die, Holman is supposed to have killed other women. After being photographed, Holman rehearsed a speech, which he has prepared for the gallows.

#### Universal Stamps Impracticable.

Washington, May 17.—The movement to secure the adoption of a universal postage stamp by the postal congress has collapsed. There were too many difficulties, the chief one being that of currency fluctuations, in the way of adopting such a stamp, and the general committee, after considering the subject briefly, abandoned it as impracticable, and will make an adverse report to the congress.

#### Sacramento Wants Bryan.

Sacramento, Cal., May 17.—The Iroquois Club, of this city, is making strenuous efforts to induce William J. Bryan to stop over one day in this city while en route to Oregon. A committee has been appointed to communicate with the Nebraska orator, requesting that he honor the capital city with his presence and address its people.

#### Cattle Train Derailed.

Enfala, I. T., May 17.—A cattle train jumped the track a mile north of here this afternoon while running at full speed. The engine turned bottom up, and ten cars of cattle were derailed. An unknown negro boy was killed, and Peter McCarty, engineer; C. Overd, fireman, and two other men were badly hurt. Fifty cattle were killed outright.

#### Seven Killed and Several Injured.

Florence, Ala., May 17.—This afternoon, the tippie, at the Pinkney, Tenn., ore mines, about twenty-five miles from here, fell, killing seven men and badly wounding several others. Communication with Pinkney is cut off, and full particulars cannot be had. Physicians have left here for the scene.

#### A New Issue of Short Line Bonds.

New York, May 17.—The directors of the Oregon Short Line & Utah Northern railroad today authorized the issue of noncumulative income bonds, series B, to the amount of \$15,000,000, in accordance with the plan proposed by the reorganization committee.

#### Done by a Firebug.

Springfield, O., May 17.—The Fundeburg mills at New Carlisle were destroyed by fire shortly after midnight. Loss, \$50,000. It was the work of an incendiary.

## THE CASE OF CHAPMAN.

### Allen Brought It Up in the Senate—Antagonized by Hoar.

Washington, May 14.—In the senate today the sugar investigation of 1894 was recalled by the introduction of a resolution by Allen reciting the circumstances of the investigation, the refusal of Elverton R. Chapman to testify, his conviction in the courts as a contumacious witness, and the present efforts toward his pardon. The resolution proposes that Chapman be brought to the bar of the senate to purge himself of contumacy as a prerequisite to pardon. Allen sought to secure immediate action on the resolution, but it went over on objection of Gallinger and Hoar. The latter criticised the resolution as giving away authority of the senate, and said he would propose an amendment with a view to having Chapman punished unless he purged himself of contempt without reference to the question of pardon. The consideration of the resolution will be in order tomorrow.

Morgan made a statement relative to his resolution on Cuba. He said the committee on foreign relations had considered the question of referring the resolution to a committee, and had not agreed. The committee desired, however, that the resolution go over till noon tomorrow, in order to have a statement laid before the senate at that time. On Morgan's suggestion the resolution went over.

A resolution by Butler, requesting the president for information relative to the sale of the Union Pacific railroad, was presented and went over.

The senate bills for public buildings at Deadwood, S. D., to cost \$200,000, were passed.

The senate then took up the calendar and passed bills as follows:

For the relief of certain citizens of Montana, claiming the benefits of the homestead laws; granting to Montana 50,000 acres of land in aid of an asylum for the blind; appropriating \$174,000 to Charles P. Chouteau for extra work on the ironclad Etad.

The immigration and kinetoscope bills were referred, but went over on objection.

#### Ute Boundary to Be Fixed.

Washington, May 14.—The necessary action for settling the vexatious dispute over the eastern boundary line of the Southern Ute Indian reservation in Colorado was taken today when Samuel S. Gannett, of Maine, a topographer in the geological survey, was designated as special agent at \$10 a day to fix the line permanently. His instructions are to locate the intersection of the 107th meridian with the new Mexican-Colorado boundary line. The work will begin immediately and upon its early completion the exact location will be proclaimed. The Utes claim the line is too far west. The surplus of unallotted lands on that part of the reservation lying east of range 14 have been held up from the opening to settlement pending the location for some time. Some 48,000 acres of land valued at \$60,000 are involved in the variance between the present and claimed boundaries.

#### Minnesota Forest Fires.

White Earth, Minn., May 14.—Heavy forest fires are raging in the pine belt about 100 miles east of the agency, and considerable damage is being done to the timber. A party of men was sent from here to save the government saw mill twenty miles east of here. They have returned, and report that the country is all on fire, and that the government saw, shingle and planing mills were destroyed by fire, despite all efforts to save the property.

The men narrowly escaped with their lives. The fire cut them off from their horses and they were compelled to run about eight miles to a lake to save their lives. A number of lumber camps were also burned, with outfits, sleighs, etc. The Indians' sugar camps are burned. A heavy wind is prevailing, and if a rainfall does not come soon the whole country will be on fire.

#### The Postal Congress.

Washington, May 14.—The ways and means committee of the universal postal congress today practically completed the preliminary consideration of the amendments which have been proposed to the international treaty. In doing this they have followed the practice common in many legislative bodies of passing over informally the various amendments which it was known would give rise to any extended discussion, and have acted on such as the delegates were generally agreed on. The more important questions remaining undisposed of relate to the universal postage stamp, the proposed establishment of all branches in postal rates, and the proposition for a reduction in the pay of mails in transit.

#### Ups and Downs of Americans.

Havana, May 14.—Admiral Navarro signed yesterday the legal documents and records bearing on the cases of Ona Melton and William Leavitt, the American members of the Competitor crew, and these will be forwarded to Spain on the 20th. Eduardo Garcia, correspondent for a New York newspaper, has been arrested.

#### Commissioner Calhoun at Havana.

Havana, May 14.—William J. Calhoun, the special commissioner appointed by President McKinley to investigate the death of Dr. Ricardo Ruiz, arrived today.

## BRIEF PACIFIC COAST NEWS

### A Resume of Events in the Northwest.

#### EVIDENCE OF STEADY GROWTH

##### News Gathered in All the Towns of Our Neighboring States—Improvement Noted in All Industries—Oregon.

Fourteen wagon loads of wool were received at Moody's warehouse, in The Dalles, last week from the interior.

The Linn County Pioneers' Association will hold its annual reunion at Brownsville this year, June 9, 10 and 11.

Wall Marsh, of Centerville, Washington county, was badly bruised and several of his ribs broken, by a pugnacious bull.

The telephone line being built between Forest Grove and Hillsboro by Anton Pfanner will, it is expected, be in operation in about a week.

A delegation of Umatilla Indians have been visiting Baker City in quest of deer hides, from which they manufacture moccasins and gloves.

Cattle riding will soon commence at Poplar, in Grant county, as a number of steers are contracted for May delivery, besides some stock cattle.

Jackson county has a woman mail-carrier, Mrs. Vol Stickel, of Eagle Point, who will carry the mail between that point and Big Butte this summer.

Old settlers on the lower Siuslaw, in Lane county, say that growing crops and fruit trees have not looked in as fine a condition as they are now in for nine years.

A clergyman of Medford has turned loose eight Chinese pheasants, one cock and seven hens, near Phoenix. Sportsmen are requested not to molest them, but to allow the species to increase.

The recent warm weather has greatly reduced the quantity of snow in the mountains in Grant county, and many streams that have heretofore been unfordable can be crossed without danger.

Sixteen hundred head of sheep were sheared in Lava, Crook county, last week, and 1,100 head more will be sheared there the latter part of the month. The flocks are in good condition.

The bridge across the Walla Walla river on the Upper Walla Walla road, near Brown's mill, in Umatilla county, has again been repaired by the county, and the contractor says it is as strong as ever, and will not for some time be materially affected by floods.

Not long ago a horse belonging to a Dalles man was taken to the Washington side to pasture, but he soon grew tired of his surroundings, and resolved to beat his way back to his home. After making a number of attempts to board the steamer and being prevented each time, he plunged into the water, reaching the opposite side only a short distance below the landing, none the worse from his rough experience.

#### Washington.

Kittitas county warrants are selling at 93 cents.

An agent is in Port Townsend looking for a location for a colony of farmers from Ohio.

During April the treasurer of Spokane county received \$106,653, and disbursed \$140,726.

Under the new school law in Washington elections will occur on the second Saturday in June.

The contract for building the Ferndale-Blaine road in Whatcom county has been let, for \$12,684.

Government Engineer Clapp says that the work done in improving Gray's harbor has already resulted in much good to the harbor.

The residents of Clallam county will petition the postal department for a daily mail service along the Strait from Port Townsend.

A severe earthquake shock was felt in Waterville one night last week. The vibrations lasted 15 or 20 seconds, and woke many people.

A Japanese drummer, with five sample trunks and as many stories as any other drummer, was working his line in North Yakima last week.

The Spring Creek Creamery Company started up its creamery in Ellensburg the first of this month. The creamery is prepared to handle 5,000 pounds of milk daily.

A good road club has been formed in North Yakima by the wheelmen, and considerable money has been subscribed for the purpose of putting Natchez avenue in condition for bicycling.

Company A and battery B, N. G. W., have decided to keep up their organization, in spite of the small appropriation made by the last legislature, and will meet necessary expenses themselves.

A successful operation of skin-grafting was performed at the St. Joseph's hospital in Tacoma, the other day. The father of a girl from Puyallup furnished the cuticle to replace a part burned from his daughter.