

PROCTOR TO THE SENATE

Describes the Terrible Condition in Cuba.

PROGRESS OF RELIEF WORK

The Senator Tells of the Awful Suffering From Starvation of the Reconcentrados—Victims of Spanish Misrule.

Washington, March 18.—Senator Proctor, of Vermont, who returned last Sunday from an extended trip to and through the island of Cuba, this afternoon made a statement to the senate of his observations on the island. From many points of view the statement was remarkable. It had evidently been most carefully prepared. Every element of sensationalism had been studiously eliminated from it, and except so far as the facts recited were sensational, it bore not the slightest evidence of an effort to arouse the public mind, already keenly alive to the condition of affairs on the island.

Calm and dispassionate to a notable degree, the utterances of the senator aroused a breathless interest. Every person within the sound of his voice was convinced that he was putting his observations into careful terms, lest he might subject himself to the criticism of being emotional.

He spoke in part as follows: "More importance seems to be attached by others to my recent visit to Cuba than I have given it. It has been suggested that I make a public statement of what I saw and how the situation impressed me. This I do, on account of public interest in all that concerns Cuba, and to correct any inaccuracies that have not unnaturally appeared in some of the reported interviews with me.

"My trip was entirely unofficial, and of my own notion; it was not suggested by anyone. The only mention I made of it to the president was to say to him that I contemplated such a trip, and to ask him if there was any objection to it, to which he replied that he could see none."

The senator spoke in very kindly terms of Consul-General Lee and of Consul Brice. Referring to the Maine matter he said:

"It has been stated that I said there was no doubt the Maine was blown up from the outside. This is a mistake. I may have said that such was the general impression among Americans in Havana; in fact, I have no opinion about it myself and carefully avoided forming one. I gave no attention to these outside surmises. I met the members of the court of inquiry on their boat, but would as soon approach our supreme court in regard to a pending case as that board. They are as competent and trustworthy within the lines of their duty as any court in the land, and their report, when made, will carry conviction to all the people that the exact truth has been stated as far as it is possible to ascertain it.

"Havana, the great city and capital of Cuba, is, in the eyes of the Spanish and many Cubans, all Cuba, as Paris is France. But, having visited it in more peaceful times and seen its sights, the tomb of Columbus, the forts, Cabanas, Morro castle, etc., I did not care to repeat this, preferring trips in the country. Everything seems to go on much as usual in Havana, and one sees few signs of war.

"Outside of Havana all is changed. It is not peace, nor is it war; it is desolation and destruction, misery and starvation. Every town and village is surrounded by a trocha, a sort of rifle pit. The purpose of these trochas is to keep the reconcentrados in as well as to keep the insurgents out. From all the surrounding country the people have been driven into the fortified towns and held there to subsist as they can. They are virtually prison yards, and not unlike one in general appearance. Every point is in range of a soldier's rifle.

"West of Havana is mainly the rich tobacco country, east, so far as I went, is the sugar region. Nearly all the sugar mills are destroyed between Havana and Sagua.

"The reconcentrados number about 400,000. They were the peasantry, farmers, some landowners, others renting lands and owning more or less stock, others working on estates and cultivating small patches, and even a small patch in that fruitful clime will support a small family. According to their standard of comfort, before Weyler's order was issued they were well off. When they reached the towns to which they were driven, they were allowed to build huts of palm leaves in the suburbs and vacant places within the trocha, and left to live if they could. For want of space the huts are crowded close together. They have no floor but the ground, and no furniture, and after a year's wear, but little clothing. The commonest sanitary provisions are impossible.

"Torn from their homes, with foul air, foul water and foul food, or none, what wonder that one-half have died and that one-quarter of the living are so diseased that they cannot be saved. A form of dropsy is the result of this condition. Little children are still walking about with arms and chests terribly emaciated.

FRANCE'S DEMANDS.

Some Important Concessions to Be Extracted of China.

Peking, March 21.—France has formulated the following fresh demands:

That China shall not cede any portion of the four provinces, Kwang Tung, Kwang Si, Yum Nan and Kwei Chau; that the railway from Tung Chau Ting (on the northern frontier of Tonquin) shall be extended via Paz, Siam, into the Yun Nan province, and that a coaling station be granted France at Lei Chau Fu, in the Hen Chau peninsula, north of Han Nan. Thus far China declines to comply with any of these demands.

Peking, March 21.—France makes numerous other demands upon China in addition to those cabled last night. They include extensive railroad and coal concessions, exclusive mining privileges and also insist that the director of the imperial postoffice be a Frenchman. Eight days are allowed China to reply and the threats are interpreted to indicate that the French will occupy the province of Hai Nin unless the Chinese comply.

Terrible State of Affairs.

Washington, March 21.—Senator Gallinger was at the capitol today for the first time since his return from Cuba. When requested to make a statement as to his observations on the condition of affairs on the island, he responded:

"You can sign my name to any picture you may draw of utter wretchedness and destitution and hellishness in that country. The reconcentrados are perishing by thousands for want of the commonest necessities of life. The best information obtainable leads to the conclusion that there have been beyond doubt 400,000 deaths as a result of Spain's brutal policy, and many more are occurring from day to day.

Spaniards Worse Than Turks.

Detroit, March 21.—Professor Dean C. Worcester, of the university of Michigan, who has visited the Philippine islands in the interest of science, says that people here are unwilling to believe the things said about the Spanish treatment of the Cubans. They seem too abhorrent, but if they could appreciate that the outrages in Cuba dwarf those of Armenia they would have stopped them long ago.

Extra Work at Powder Mills.

Santa Cruz, Cal., March 21.—The powder works were in full blast Sunday making government powder. It is unusual for the force to be at work Sunday. As extra men are being employed, it is presumed that orders have been received to increase the output. For the past week, the mill has been devoted exclusively to the manufacture of government brown powder.

Wilmington, Del., March 21.—The powder works of the E. I. Dupont-De Mours Company is working day and night on a government order for hexagonal powder for the big guns. The daily capacity of the work is said to be 10 tons of powder. Work is also said to be hurried at the company's plant in New Jersey, near Gibbstown.

More Trouble Brewing.

Mexico City, March 21.—Twelve Guatemalans of the staff of General Morales, the Guatemalan rebel leader, left here yesterday for Vera Cruz, and will disembark at Chapulapico. They will go well armed, and take tents for 120 people. General Morales will follow in a few days, and it is believed that this portends fresh breaking out of the rebellion.

Spaniards are said to be aiding Morales, and will expect if he succeeds to receive favors from his hands.

An Idaho Railway Scheme.

Boise, Idaho, March 21.—A contract has been signed for \$500,000 of bonds of the proposed Moscow & Eastern railway, which has been projected to reach the White Pine belt, lying in Latah and Shoshone counties. The preliminary survey has been made and it is expected the work of constructing the line will be under way by July 1. The road is to be built to a point 40 miles almost directly east of Moscow, upon the Potlatch river, in the heart of a vast body of white pine timber, and said to be the most extensive and finest body of this timber now standing.

Gold and Silver From Sea Water.

New York, March 21.—About 92 ounces of bullion in the proportion of one-third gold to two-thirds silver and valued at about \$540, has been received at the assay office in the cones. It came from the Electrolytic Marine Salts Company, of Boston, and Arthur Ryan, its president, claims that the metal was extracted from sea water at North Lubec, Me. Of the economics of the process nothing was said. Assays will be made and upon them will depend what is to be paid for the bullion.

Plague Riots Expected.

Bombay, March 21.—Two hundred new cases and 216 deaths from the plague were reported today. Five Europeans have been attacked. The Mohammedans at Hubli, on the south Mahratta railway, hearing of the riots in this city, have decided to resist the plague committee's operations. The volunteers have been mobilized, and the infantry has been summoned, but as yet there has been no conflict.

MUST WE FIGHT CUBA?

Palma Declares That Autonomy Will Not Be Accepted.

New York, March 19.—The following proclamation to the people of the United States was issued by Tomas Estrada Palma at the office of the Cuban junta tonight:

"To the American People: The frequency with which there has lately appeared in the public press suggestions made by malicious or misinformed individuals that Cuba would accept or could be forced to accept autonomy or anything short of independence, has impelled us to make a definite and final statement on this subject. From the first, our motto has been 'Independence or Death.' We are now more firmly than ever determined to carry out our programme. As we will not accept, we will not even discuss the proposals of autonomy. After three years of the most sanguinary and uncivilized warfare of modern times, carried on by Spain, we are stronger than ever. It is for us to say what will satisfy us, not for others. Our ideas and our national honor we can confide to the keeping of ourselves alone.

"I cannot think that the American people have forgotten the principles laid down by their own declaration of independence, or can I believe that any true American can be found who would advise us to forsake the idea of republican government for monarchical government, even in its most liberal form. 'There is no way to compel the Cubans to accept autonomy, except by force of arms.

"We have fought three years, not against Spain alone, but against the whole world. Not a helping hand was extended to us, no country gave us equal rights with Spain. The right to arm our people by purchasing weapons in this country and transporting them to Cuba is admitted, but although engaged in lawful traffic, we had to run the blockade to get from these shores and again run the gauntlet in Cuba.

"Our ships and cargoes were seized, subjected to delay, but invariably restored, by the slow and costly process of law. Nevertheless, we never faltered. We always appreciated the fact that the sympathy of the administration was with us. Spain has proven impotent to compel us by force to accept autonomy. She now desires the aid of the United States to compel us to accept.

"I cannot believe that the American nation would ever lend itself to the most treacherous and bloodstained monarchy of history for such a purpose. Should such prove to be the case, how ever, I declare, in the name of the Cuban people in arms, that force alone can compel our submission. We who have seen hundreds of thousands of our race and families exterminated by slow starvation, by a cowardly decree of the most inhuman commander of sanguinary Spain, will fight against anything but independence, no matter who opposes us.

"But if, unfortunately, this incredible proposal be carried into effect, and American bayonets be arrayed against us in our struggle for freedom, and in aid of the Spanish monarchy, we will fight on, sadly, but determinedly, and let history judge whether the vanquished had not a purer idea of free institutions than our victors. In such case we will be exterminated, but future generations will again take up our flag and our aspirations, and Cuba will yet be free.

"Nor will we ever agree to the truce until our independence is established. We will continue to fight, as did the Americans under Jackson at the battle of New Orleans, even after the treaty of peace is signed, if it should be necessary. The Cubans cannot be convinced that the United States will ever try to force us to remain under the Spanish flag, but I have deemed it my duty to appeal to the generosity, the sympathy and the patriotism of the American people that they may understand the justness and firmness of our demand for complete independence.

"TOMAS ESTRADA PALMA."

As Orator by Blanco.

Havana, March 19.—At the banquet given at the palace last night by Captain-General Blanco to the officers of the Vizcaya and Oquendo, General Blanco toasted "the king, the queen regent, the army and the navy of Spain." He said:

"The present generation will never see another banner than that of Spain at the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico. That banner, representing civilization, progress, liberty, humanity and religion, will be eternal, like that of the first American nation."

These sentiments were received with shouts of applause.

NEW NAVAL SQUADRON.

A Defensive Fleet Will Rendezvous at Hampton Roads.

Washington, March 19.—The event of the day in official circles was the issuing of an order for the formation of a new squadron of naval vessels to be stationed at Hampton Roads. The squadron in the beginning will consist of five ships, all the best of their types. Two of them, the battle-ships Massachusetts and Texas, are withdrawn from the fleet at Key West and Tortugas. In ordering this movement, the navy department is not animated by any purpose of yielding to representations or intimations that may have come from the new Spanish minister.

THE OMAHA EXPOSITION.

Oregon Commission Asks for Moral and Financial Support.

To the Loyal Men and Women of Oregon:

The Oregon commission, consisting of the following members: W. S. Mason, J. E. Haseltine, Henry E. Dosch, J. F. Batchelder and R. D. Inman, of Portland; C. C. Beekman, of Jacksonville; J. A. Wright, of Sparta; J. G. Day, of Ollala; Phillip Metchan and E. P. McCormack, of Salem; H. B. Miller and O. J. Olsen, of Grants' Pass; B. F. Alley, of Baker City; J. O. Hantorn, of Astoria; E. J. Frasier, of Eugene; W. E. Hurd, of Granite, and O. N. Denny, of Corvallis, appointed by Governor Lord, organized on the 9th day of March, with W. S. Mason as president, J. E. Haseltine as vice-president, Phillip Metchan as treasurer, Henry E. Dosch as superintendent and J. F. Batchelder as secretary and the undersigned executive committee.

The commission presents to the people of the state the following statement and appeal:

The resources of Oregon are manifold. We have the finest of agricultural, fruit and grazing lands, while our timber forests, salmon fisheries and blooded stock can not be surpassed. Besides this our mineral lands both in Eastern and Western Oregon are richer and broader in extent than in any of the other Pacific coast states. Notwithstanding all this, the resources of Oregon are not known to the outer world as they should be.

For the purpose of advertising to the world these resources, the above commission has been appointed to devise ways and means to have our state represented at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition to be held at Omaha from June 1st to November 1st, 1898.

The exposition is primarily intended to embrace the industrial resources of the states west of the Mississippi river, but Eastern states, the British colonies, Mexico and Central and South American republics will participate, and many Eastern governments will be represented. The buildings and grounds and the arrangements will make the exposition in extent and completeness second only to the World's Columbian fair.

To the intelligent people of this state it is unnecessary to make a detailed statement of the manifold advantages to be derived from an exhibition at Omaha of the various products which go to make up the resources of Oregon, as a means of attracting the agriculturist, the stock and fruit grower, the miner, the manufacturer and the capitalist seeking investments or a new field in which to follow their avocation or invest their accumulated wealth.

Therefore we give briefly the plan which the commission have adopted to accomplish this end, which is as follows:

In the absence of a state appropriation for the purpose of making an Oregon exhibit at Omaha, the commission must rely upon the voluntary contribution of its public spirited people. The commission has made a careful estimate of the cost of an exhibit, and find that it can be carried successfully with the sum of \$20,000.

It is a foregone conclusion that the legislature of 1899, with the business sentiment of the state at its back, will redeem these certificates at their face value.

On this basis the commission will at an early date solicit subscriptions throughout the state.

Certificates signed by its officers will be given for the amount subscribed, the total issue of such certificates and the expenditures thereunder not to exceed the authorized amount of \$20,000.

When the legislature makes an appropriation to reimburse the subscribers, these certificates, properly endorsed, will be full evidence of such subscription and will be paid upon presentation from the funds at the disposal of the commission.

The commission will publish on the first of each month the names of subscribers and the amount of their subscription, and on the 31st of December, 1898, statement in detail of receipts and disbursements.

Mr. H. E. Dosch, our superintendent, is now in Omaha making his selection from the choice space that has been reserved for the Oregon exhibit.

The commission present this appeal for moral and financial support to the loyal people of the state.

W. S. MASON,
J. E. HASELTINE,
H. E. DOSCH,
PHILLIP METCHAN,
E. J. FRASIER,
J. F. BATCHELDER,
Executive Committee.

To Be Boycotted.

Grocers who operate bars where intoxicating liquors are sold are to be boycotted by the Catholic total abstinence societies of Chicago. A resolution calling upon all friends of temperance to refuse to patronize groceries of this kind was passed unanimously by the county board of the federated organizations of total abstainers.

Eternal Fires.

Near the Caspian sea there are several "eternal fires," so called by the natives, where natural gas issues from the ground, and has been on fire for ages.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Trade Conditions in the Leading Cities of the World.

The wheat traders are kept busy these days watching Leiter and Armour, and are unable to see their way clearly in May. They have given up fighting Leiter, and if he is to have any scrimmage it will be with Armour. The latter has been buying in the Northwest and Southwest, and will bring 900 cars of wheat from the Northwest to Chicago. Last week he was the seller of May. There was also liquidation by holders here and in the Northwest, the latter being closely identified with Armour. Shorts in the Northwest have been covering, some large lines having been taken. No one but scalpers has the temerity to sell May short, and they do not stand long, as they know that Leiter controls it, and can put the price where he desires. The attention of the trade is attracted to the July and September. There is a disposition to discount the effects of a possible large crop here and in Europe this year by selling the new crop futures at the wide difference under May. Those who have been bulls on May, if they are in the market at all, are selling July and September. The former has the preference, but there is more risk in selling it, owing to the crop uncertainties. Some traders on July at 90c think that September at 78c is about on a right basis. On the other hand some very good traders who have been and are still long on May are bearish on September and believe it should be sold on all bulges. They are afraid of the short side of July, but think the September a safe sale at 12c under the July. No one is selling May wheat now except Armour and those who have case stuff to deliver. The shorts are getting out, and the market is narrowing so that the speculative shortage by the first of May is liable to be very small. Those who have the wheat bought will get the cash stuff in May. As Chicago is the highest market in the country, May wheat here being 5c over New York and Baltimore, 4 3/4c over St. Louis, 6 3/8c over Toledo, 6 1/4c over cash wheat in Minneapolis and Duluth, it is natural that wheat should be drawn from other than the regular sections and shipped to this market.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 75@77c; Valley and Bluestem, 78@80c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$3.85; Graham, \$3.40; superfine, \$2.35 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 36@37c; choice gray, 33@34c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$17@18.50; brewing, \$20 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$18 per ton; middlings, \$23; shorts, \$18. Hay—Timothy, \$12.50; clover, \$10 @11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton. Eggs—Oregon, 11@12c per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 45@50c; fair to good, 40@45c; dairy, 35@40c per roll. Cheese—Oregon full cream, 12 1/2c; Young America, 13@14c. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00 @3.50 per dozen; hens, \$3.50@4.50; geese, \$6.00@7.00; ducks, \$5.00 @6.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 11@12c per pound. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 40@50c per sack; sweets, \$1.75@2 per cental. Onions—Oregon, \$2.25@2.60 per sack. Hops—14@16c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4@6c. Wool—Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@12c; mohair, 20@22c per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4c; dressed mutton, 7c; spring lambs, 5 1/2c per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.25; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$5.00@5.50 per 100 pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50 @3.75; cows, \$2.50@3; dressed beef, 6 1/2 @7c per pound. Veal—Large, 6@6 1/2c; small, 7@8c per pound.

Seattle Market.

Potatoes—Yakimas, \$14 per ton; natives, \$11@13; sweets, 2c per pound; box of 60 pounds, \$1. Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 27c; ranch, 22@23c; dairy, 18 @22c; Iowa fancy creamery, 25c. Cheese—Native Washington, 12@13c; Eastern cheese, 12 1/2c. Eggs—Fresh ranch, 15c; California ranch, 14c. Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 8c; cows, 7@7 1/2c; mutton, 8 1/2c; pork, 7c; veal, small, 8c. Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 11@12c; dressed, 14c; turkeys, live, 12c; dressed, 16c. Fresh Fish—Halibut, 6@7c; steel heads, 6@7c; salmon trout, 10c; flounders and sole, 3@4c; tom cod, 4c; ling cod, 4@5c; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2 1/2 @4c; herring, 3c. Olympia oysters, per sack, \$3@3.50. Corn—Whole, \$23; cracked, per ton, \$23; feed meal, \$23 per ton. Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$23; whole, \$22. Flour—Patents, per barrel, \$4.25 @4.50; straights, \$4.00; California brands, \$4.65; Dakota brands, \$5.40 @5.75; buckwheat flour, \$6. Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$17; shorts, per ton, \$18@19. Feed—Chopped feed, \$18@20 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$24; oil cake meal, per ton, \$35. Hay—Puget Sound, new, per ton, \$12@14; Eastern Washington timothy, \$15; alfalfa, \$12; straw, \$7.