

# The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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## A NEW GOVERNMENT

Autonomist Administration—Cuba Established.

THE SWEARING IN OF SECRETARIES

General Lee and Other Foreign Representatives Present—Weyler's Latest Scrap.

HAVANA, Jan. 1.—Many people assembled at the palace today to witness the swearing in of secretary Rafael Montero, Marquis of Montero; Senor Francisco Xayas and Senor Laureano Roderiguez, as secretaries of the provisional government.

Marshal Blanco, the captain-general, escorted by a number of his Spanish officials, the consular corps, army and navy officials, politicians, etc., reached the throne room at 9 a. m. A new Bible was opened on a table, and upon it the secretaries took the oath of fidelity to the queen, the monarch, and the Spanish government, placing their right hands on the Bible and kneeling as they repeated the words required. Senor (admiral) president of the cabinet, was first sworn in, and then the oath was administered to the others.

To Marshal Blanco's inquiry, "Do you swear fidelity to Spain, the queen and Spanish institutions?" all replied "We do." Marshal Blanco then addressed the officials, saying:

"Consecrated by the oath just taken, the autonomous government of Cuba is now established in accordance with the royal decree of November 28, 1897. Your names and the places you occupy and the parties to which you belong are ample guarantees of that liberal policy which the government expects the new regime to adopt. The Cuban government should be inspired by high, conciliatory, impartial and just motives. It is our duty to study the necessities of the island, and especially economic questions and the means to restore the property destroyed. Peace and the welfare of Cuba form the best propaganda we can make on behalf of autonomy and against the revolution, which although it was never justified, will hereafter have no pretext whatever to exist.

"May God concede the good luck which, I sincerely wish, may accompany you in the fulfillment of your noble and thorny mission, so that we may together restore to this privileged island, for which I have had great affection for years, the peace and prosperity so much needed. To consecrate the carrying out of our good wishes, let us cry out with hearts full of loyalty to our institutions, 'Long Live Spain! Long Live Cuba, always Spanish!'"

At the conclusion of the ceremony, all attended the celebration of mass in the chapel of the palace. All present knelt at the elevation of the host, except the British and German consuls.

When bidding good-bye to the consular corps, Marshal Blanco shook General Lee's hand warmly, saying in broken English, "Thank you," a distinction which he did not bestow on the other consuls.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies Marshal Blanco remitted the death penalty imposed upon persons convicted of common crimes.

Cablegrams of congratulation were exchanged during the day between Senor Sagasta, premier of Spain and General Blanco.

The new secretaries have expressed thanks to Dr. Congosta, secretary-gen-

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eral of Cuba, setting forth that it is due to his constant activity that the provisional government was established today. For two months Dr. Congosto, who was formerly Spanish consul at Philadelphia, has hardly slept two hours a day, and has surprised everybody here, as most of the officials work scarcely three to four hours daily. For this constant activity and the final success it has met with, Dr. Congosto has been most cordially congratulated by all parties concerned.

The first action by the new cabinet was to send a cable message to the queen regent, offering their respects and pledging their lives to the crown.

All is quiet here. The Official Gazette publishes an edict of Captain-General Blanco raising the embargo on the export of tobacco. The decree provides for the payment of a duty of \$12 in gold per 100 kilos on the basis of all grades except Santiago de Cuba tobacco, which continues to pay the ruling tariff.

Export duty on manufactured tobacco, cigars and cigarettes is abolished, including the 50c stamp duty. On cut tobacco the duty remains as at present, plus 10c stamp duty per kilo. The importation of tobacco from Puerto Rico and other places is prohibited.

### Electric Road Over Chilkoot.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 2.—W. A. Burkholder, of this city, has gone to Alaska to erect an electric transmission plant to operate an electric road over Chilkoot pass. Electricity will be generated at Dyea and transmitted twenty miles to the point where it is to be used. At the pass, the telephage system will be used. In addition to the electric line, the poles will support cables from which heavy cars will be suspended. The motors will be stationary, and the cars will be propelled up the incline by cables on a drum. The machinery has already been shipped, and the plant is expected to be in working order in about three months, when it is supposed that Chilkoot pass will lose many of its terrors.

### In Charge of the Pack Train.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The war department has placed Lieutenant Guy H. Preston, Ninth cavalry, in charge of the army pack trains that are to undertake to get supplies into the Klondike region. Preston has been in Washington some time. His principal assistant will be Lieutenant James Ryan, Tenth cavalry, who gathered up the pack trains at Forts Washakie and Robinson. The animals are already at Vancouver, and will be reinforced by about seventy-five more selected mules from the mountain country, accustomed to a rigorous climate. It is proposed not to burden the expedition with wagons.

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## PRESENTATION AT COURT.

What Happens to Any "Improper Person"—Her Sponsor's Punishment.

A morning journal, much given to romancing, announces that "the precautions taken by the lord chamberlain to preclude the possibility of anyone appearing at a drawing-room whose past will not bear the closest scrutiny, are yearly becoming more rigorous." This is a farrago of the purest fiction, says the London Truth. As a matter of fact, the lord chamberlain takes no "precautions" whatever, and it is difficult to conceive how this official could possibly investigate the antecedents of the hordes of nonentities who now go to court, unless he were provided with a large staff of detectives. All the responsibility of a presentation is now thrown upon the (presumably) "unimpeachable female" who undertakes it. If an "improper person" is presented, the immediate result is the arrival of a shoal of anonymous letters at the lord chamberlain's office. The lady who has made the presentation is then communicated with, and if the ultimate result is unsatisfactory she is punished by being herself excluded from the court for a year or two, or if it is a bad case she receives sentence of permanent banishment. Moreover, if a lady on the state ball or concert invitation list has been so indiscreet as to make an undesirable presentation, her name is struck off forever. It is only in very aggravated cases that presentations are publicly canceled in the Gazette. The usual course is for the lord chamberlain to inform the offender that her presentation took place "by mistake," and that she is to consider it as canceled. Episodes of this description are of frequent occurrence, but they are kept as secret as possible, for obvious reasons.

## "A POT OF THE BEST CHAW."

The Earliest Mention of Tea in the Year 1615.

The earliest mention of tea by an Englishman is probably that contained in a letter from Mr. Wickham, an agent of the East India company, written from Firando, in Japan, on the 7th of June, 1615, to Mr. Eaton, another officer of the company, asking him to send "a pot of the best chaw," says Lippincott's. In Mr. Eaton's accounts of expenditure occurs this item: "Three silver porringers to drink chaw in."

It was not until the middle of the seventeenth century that the English began to use tea. The first importations were from Java and the price ranged from six to ten pounds sterling per pound. In the Mercantile Politician of September, 1658, appears the following advertisement: "That excellent and by all physicians approved China drink called by the Chinese Teha, by other nations tay, or tea, is sold at the Sultaness Head, a cofee-house in Sweetings Rents, by the Royal Exchange London."

Pepys enters in his diary on the 25th of September, 1669: "I did send for a cup of tea, a China drink, of which I had never drunk before." This is proof of the novelty of the drink in England at that date. In 1664 it is recorded that the East India company presented the king with two pounds and two ounces of "tea."

About this time, however, the consumption of tea and coffee became fashionable and the importations large in proportion.

## COLORADO FISH HAVE LEGS.

Singular Creatures That Inhabit the Streams of the Centennial State.

Much consternation and still more wonder was created in the state house the other day, says the Denver Republican, by the discovery in the office of Mrs. Mary A. Shute, secretary of the state board of horticulture, of an axolotl, or fish with legs, which had become metamorphosed into a salamander. All kinds of theories to account for its presence there were broached during the day. Of these theories the strangest appears to be the most tenable. This is that the evolved axolotl was taken up by evaporation from a mountain lake near the City of Mexico, where its species is most abundant, to come to earth again in Denver with the afternoon's abnormally heavy rainfall. In the morning when Janitor Smith opened the windows in order to air the office against the arrival of Mrs. Shute he beheld an object on the sill outside which caused him to spring back in horror. Squatted on the sill was a hideous, dirty-hued green and yellow reptile, about ten inches in length, with a head like that of a bulldog, an enormous mouth, wide open, six web-footed paws and a tail that tapered to a lash and was curled at the end.

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