

Doings at the Capitol.

By Our Regular Washington Correspondent

Mr McKinley, Senator Hanna, and Representative Dick, and Grosvenor got their heads together this week and arranged the programme that will be carried out months hence by the republican State convention of Ohio. Of course, the Ohio republicans will thank these gentlemen for having relieved them of all responsibility in the matter of nominating a state ticket, thus enabling them to turn the convention into a ratification picnic. It was decided that the entire State ticket except Lieutenant Governor Caldwell, should be renominated. He will be turned down because his being the attorney for the State Liquor Dealers Association has got him the enmity of the temperance element. Senator Foraker was not a party to this White House conference, but he dropped in while it was going on and asked whether the bosses intended to have the State convention endorse him for reelection. They assured him that it was, knowing that the republicans would have no votes to spare in Ohio this year and that Foraker had following enough to make trouble if he was antagonized. Mr Foraker then left the Ohio big four to complete their programme.

More crookedness in Cuba! Only a little matter of \$40,000, but doubt as to who got it is given some prominent friends of the administration a bad case of shivers. A stockholder of the Havana Gaslight Co has filed charges saying that a person of influence had collected \$40,000 from that company for securing a 50 per cent reduction in the tariff on crude petroleum used for the manufacture of illuminating gas. The war department is said to be investigating the charge. There are some sensational stories going around about this case which may or may not be true, and there are some known facts. About the first of the present month the President issued an order reducing the tariff on crude petroleum, to be used exclusively, for making illuminating gas in Cuba, from \$1.40 per 100 Kilos to 70 cents, and the order was officially promulgated in Havana on the 18th inst. The order was issued on the recommendation of Gov Lenard Wood, endorsed by Secretary Root. There the known facts end, Gen Wood, of course, should be able in the explanation he has been asked to make by the War Department to say why he recommended that reduction, and the gas company stockholder should be made to tell to whom the \$40,000 was paid. Meanwhile there are naturally rumors as well as fears that Neely's stealing of Cuban postal funds may be pretty larceny compared with other crooked financial work over there by Americans.

What to do with Aguinaldo, now that he has been captured, is greatly puzzling the administration. Representative Warner, of Illinois brought back the gloomiest sort of budget from his recent visit to Cuba. For instance he said: "The Cubans will sign anything or do anything just to get us away from their property and when they have the reins in their own hands you can expect they will assess everybody with any money and have a division of the spoils. They will drive all Spaniards and American sympathizers from the island and for a brief period revel in loot. Law and order will become a mockery and a state of anarchy will reign. Of course, we must turn the island over, but it is a crime against humanity to withdraw at this time. When our troops leave the island you will witness a reign of lawlessness that will startle the world and compel us in the name of justice to take matters in our own hands again."

There has been so much humbug about various acts of the McKinley administration that it was a little difficult for Mr McKinley to do anything in that line striking enough to cause more than a passing comment, but the bit of humbuggy attached to filling the vacancy on the Civ-

Service Commission caused by the recent death of Commissioner Brewer was a coraker of course, it has long been made apparent, but the professed admiration for civil service reform by the administration was cant and hypocrisy of the worst sort, but nobody supposed for an instant that Mr McKinley would appoint a Civil Service Commissioner who had a public record showing him to be in favor of killing the Civil Service Commission. Well, that is precisely what Mr McKinley did. Ex-Representative W A Rodenberg, of East St Louis, Ill, who was this week appointed Civil Service Commissioner, on the 17th day of February, 1900, only a little more than a year ago, voted the Civil Commission, with full knowledge that the appropriation was to be refused, if the necessary votes could be secured, for the purpose of killing the Civil Service Commission and the Law under which it acts. Now, Mr Rodenberg is a Civil Service Commissioner and, unless the senate should refuse to confirm his nomination, which is not likely, will draw \$3,500 a year salary and a liberal allowance for expenses during the remainder of the McKinley regime and he has had the nerve to say in a published interview that he had always been afraid of civil service reform. Such humbug is disgusting.

While Mr McKialley is racking his brains to try to satisfy the demands of the republican bosses for patronage, American interests in China are in a fair way to suffer. According to late advice from Peking, the other powers are considering the advisability of quickly pushing the US out of the Chinese question by ignoring it in future negotiations. If the US should be pushed out of the Chinese diplomatic door, what would become of the "open door" to American trade in China? Mr McKinley may find the filling of a few offices a more important question than this is but when he hears from American people he will discover what a mistake he has made, but unfortunately that discovery will not restore the American trade with China, which is now, in the opinion of those most competent to judge, in jeopardy.

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