

A SERIOUS QUESTION

Bearing on Importation of Goods From Philippines.

DUTIES COLLECTED SEEM TO BE ILLEGAL

An Extra Session of Congress May Have to Be Called to Pass a New Philippine Tariff Law.

Cedar Rapids, Ia., May 29.—During their journey across Iowa, President McKinley and the members of his cabinet spent much time reading and discussing the published reports on the opinion of the supreme court in the insular case. They were much interested in the way the court divided in the two cases.

The decision in the Delima case, if followed in the Philippines, as it is also assumed that it will be, might result in the calling of an extra session of congress. In the Delima case the court decided that the duties collected on Porto Rican goods before congress enacted the Foraker law was illegal and must be refunded.

It is presumed that the court, following the same lines of reasoning, will decide that duties collected on goods from the Philippines were also illegal, and that goods from the Philippines are subject to free entry into the United States until congress acts, as it has already done in the case of Porto Rico.

Such a decision would mean not only the refunding of duties heretofore collected, but would open the ports of the United States to merchandise and goods of every description from the Philippines until congress meets in December. It is plain that importers might take advantage of this to ship goods into the United States through the Philippines, and thus defraud the government of its revenues.

Whether the danger from this source is great enough to warrant the calling of congress in extra session is one which will be decided only after full deliberation.

It is possible, however, that this danger may be already obviated in the enactment of the Spooner resolution, delegating temporarily to the president the power to govern the Philippines. This may be considered an act of congress within the meaning of the Downes case, affirming the constitutionality of the Foraker law. But it is a delicate question and one which the president and his advisers will consider in all its bearings before coming to a conclusion.

SETTLEMENT BY PERU.

Agrees to Pay the Claim of An American Consular Agent.

Washington, May 30.—The state department has succeeded in settling satisfactorily another claim of an American citizen against the government of Peru. Minister Dudley, a Lima, has cabled the department that the claimant in the case is willing to accept the sum of 8,000 silver soles tendered by that government.

The department has authorized the acceptance of the tender and the case is closed. The settled claim was that of a United States consular agent in Peru in 1885, and his claim was based on the destruction of his horses and the pillaging of his property by armed and uniformed men of the party of General Caceres in July of that year.

Coal for Army Transports.

Seattle, May 30.—Quartermaster Ruhlman was today authorized by the quartermaster general to award the contract to supply coal for all army transports loading on Puget Sound for the Philippines and for Alaskan ports during the fiscal year beginning July 1 next and ending June 30, 1902. The contract will amount to nearly \$100,000, figuring on the basis of the quartermaster's business at this port and Tacoma during the past year. It is believed that at least 30,000 tons will be required. The quartermaster general authorized Mr. Ruhlman to award the contracts for the purchase of coal according to his recommendations at the time the bids were opened several weeks ago.

Fined for Cheating the Government.

Chicago, May 29.—Albert Dow, proprietor of the Fertile Valley Creamery Company, was today fined \$10,000 and sentenced to six months in the county jail. Dow is said to have cheated the government out of \$40,000 in revenue payment, which he evaded. This is the heaviest fine ever imposed in a federal court.

Will Visit Windsor.

London, May 30.—The visiting members of the New York chamber of commerce will visit Windsor castle June 1, and will be received by the king. A conference between the New York chamber of commerce and the London chamber of commerce has been arranged for June 3.

Washout on the Great Northern.

Seattle, May 30.—A washout on the Great Northern main line, two miles west of Wenatchee, has been reported here. The track was washed out for a distance of 150 feet, and as a result all passengers on east and west bound trains were transferred at the scene of the trouble. There was no delay in the arrival and departure of trains, however, the transfer being made with little trouble.

MAY GO SCOT FREE.

Chance for all Condemned Murderers in Washington.

Seattle, May 30.—There is serious danger that every condemned murderer in the state of Washington will soon be released from custody. According to Prosecuting Attorney Walter S. Fulton, of King county, the last legislature, in passing a law providing that hereafter condemned murderers shall be executed in the penitentiary, instead of in the county jails, committed a serious blunder in not including a clause providing for the punishment of those condemned at the time the law goes into effect. That the consequences will be the most serious to the administration of justice is Mr. Fulton's fear. Briefly stated the construction placed upon the law by Mr. Fulton is as follows:

The new law provides that, upon the sentencing of the prisoner, he shall be delivered forthwith to the warden of the penitentiary and kept by him in "solitary confinement" until the day of his execution. It is said that the "solitary confinement" clause constitutes an additional punishment than that provided for at the time of the commission of the crimes of the men now in jail. Therefore, it is an ex post facto law, and can not be made applicable to the prisoners now confined. Moreover, the new law, which is valid, insofar as it relates to criminals to be condemned in the future, contains a clause repealing by implication the old law, under which criminals have been hanged, and leaves apparently no avenue of escape, from the fact that criminals now condemned must be given their liberty.

Mr. Fulton will try to induce Governor Rogers to call a special session of the legislature to remedy the alleged radical defect in the law. He says that a law can be drafted which will cover the points desired by the framers of the one passed at the last session, and at the same time make provision for the legal execution of the criminals, who, under existing conditions, must, perforce, be released.

MACHINISTS ARE CONFIDENT.

San Francisco Strikers Expect to Resume Work Soon.

San Francisco, May 30.—The striking machinists report that 22 shops in this city have signed the union agreement. Several of the strikers have purchased small shops and begun business on their own account. The machinists generally express themselves as confident that an adjustment of the differences with their former employers will soon be effected.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers has declared its sympathy with the strike of the machinists, and levied an assessment on its members for the strikers' benefit.

More than 1,000 employees of the Risdon Iron Works, who are now out on strike, were paid off yesterday after returning their tools. The men who worked at the Union Iron Works will receive their pay today. The metal polishers say there are five union shops in the city. The marine painters, who went out on strike last Saturday, are all at work, their demand for \$3 a day having been granted.

In response to a demand that only union sailors be shipped on vessels belonging to the Ship Owners' Association, the latter organization has demanded that members of the Sailors' Union go to sea only on association ships.

May Be Ramagnoli's Body.

Berlin, May 30.—The Lokal Anzeiger reports on the authority of the Buda Pest correspondent that there has just been taken from the river Danube, near that city, a dead body, heavily loaded with chains, which the Hungarian police firmly believe to be that of Ramagnoli, the anarchist reported to have been sent from America to murder the German emperor. The police of every country in Europe and America have been notified of the discovery.

Bear May Have to Give Up Trip.

Seattle, May 30.—It is possible that on account of the machinists strike the repairs on the revenue cutter Bear will not be completed in time to permit her to proceed on her journey north. This will necessitate the abandonment of the voyage to Siberia, and the distribution of the herd of 300 reindeer now awaiting the arrival of the Bear. In this event Lieutenant Berthoff will be compelled to spend the winter on the Siberian coast.

Withdrawal of Germans.

Berlin, May 30.—A dispatch to the Cologne Gazette says the withdrawal of the German marines to Sing Tau has begun and that the German quarter of Pekin has been handed over to the Chinese authorities experimentally for a fortnight.

Amendment Accepted.

Havana, May 30.—The Platt amendment has been accepted by the Cuban constitutional convention by a vote of 15 to 14. The actual report was on accepting the majority report of the committee on relations which embodied the amendment, with explanations or certain clauses. The radicals made a hard fight at the last moment, and on several occasions personal encounters seemed imminent.

BATTLE WITH BOERS

Forces of Dixon and Delarey in a Hard Fight.

BOERS ATTACKED, BUT WERE REPULSED

British Lost 174 Killed and Wounded and the Boers Left 35 Dead on the Field—Latter Still Undaunted.

London, June 3.—The war office today gave out the following dispatch from Lord Kitchener, from Pretoria: "General Dixon's force at Vladfontein was attacked yesterday by Delarey's forces and there was severe fighting. The enemy was eventually driven off with heavy loss, leaving 35 dead. I regret that our casualties also were severe. The killed and wounded numbered 174. Four officers were killed."

On the anniversary of Lord Roberts' entry into Johannesburg the country has been startled by the news of desperate fighting and heavy British losses within 40 miles of the gold reef city. The battle at Vladfontein, on the Durban-Johannesburg railroad, is the most serious engagement since General Clement's reverse at Nagalsburg. It shows General Delarey is in no way daunted by the capture of 11 of his guns by General Babington six weeks ago. The garrison of Vladfontein was apparently largely composed of yeomanry. That their assailants came to close quarters and suffered heavy loss is shown by the number of dead left on the field.

FEAR AN INVASION.

Nicaragua Preparing to Keep Out the Colombians.

San Francisco, June 3.—The steamer City of Sydney, which just arrived here from Panama and other Central American ports, brings the following budget of news:

When the City of Sydney was at Corinto the people were expecting an invasion from Colombia. The government of Nicaragua, in order to make sure that it would not be caught napping, has stationed 500 men at Corinto.

General Bruise, who fled from Nicaragua some years ago, returned to his home on one of the Central American steamships last month. As soon as he set foot on Nicaragua soil he was arrested on a criminal charge.

President Zeleya, of Nicaragua, will probably visit the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company's coal yards, situated on Noasis island, in Panama Bay, recently suffered severely from fire, which was said to be still burning, but under control, when the Sydney sailed, having then burned for 15 days.

San Salvador is to have a man of war. The government has purchased from her British owners the steamship Soy, and will transfer her into a cruiser, renaming her Salvador. The new cruiser is now at Acapulco, and will go into commission at once.

MRS. MCKINLEY'S CONDITION.

Doctors Say She Is Not Out of Danger—Grave Features of the Case.

Washington, June 3.—Mrs. McKinley passed a very comfortable night, and sat up for a while this morning. The three physicians who are in attendance, after a consultation this forenoon, issued the following statement of her condition:

"Mrs. McKinley is recovering from the fatigue of the trip. The illness from which she was suffering in San Francisco still continues, though in less intense form. She is still feeble, and cannot be considered out of danger. Her progress will no doubt be slow, but improvement is looked for."

Mrs. McKinley failed to show any improvement during the day, and tonight her condition is reported as unchanged from the status given in the bulletin issued this morning. One of the grave features of the case is the fact that she continues extremely weak and fails to gain in strength. She is very seriously ill, but has had severe attacks of illness heretofore, and this gives rise for hope that she will yet show improvement.

Rate War at an End.

Seattle, June 3.—The Alaska steamship rate war is at an end, temporarily at least. An agreement was entered into by managers of the recently warring companies restoring the former passenger rates of \$25 first class and \$16 second class. The agreement is to be in force for 60 days, and it is thought will then be extended. The rate war was forced by Canadian lines, which insisted on American steamers keeping away from Vancouver on north bound trips.

Ex-Congressman Price.

Washington, June 3.—Hiram Price, who served many years in congress as a Republican representative from Iowa, and who was commissioner of Indian affairs from 1881 to the beginning of the first Cleveland administration, died here of heart trouble. Mr. Price, who was 87 years of age, was president of the State Bank of Iowa for many years.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

United States Legation Guard in Pekin—Pension Sharps Catch Returning Soldiers.

Instruction sent to our representative at Pekin, governing the conduct of American troops which remain at the United States legation as guard in that city, have been acknowledged by General Chaffee. The force of 160 men will be quartered in the Temple of Agriculture and at the south gate of the forbidden city. The force, which comprises company B of the Ninth infantry, will be under the command of Major Edgar B. Roberts, Ninth infantry, and the force will be stocked with supplies to last until December 31, by which time requisitions will be made on Manila for supplies for the following six months. The reserve ammunition furnished the force includes 100,000 rounds of rifle cartridges and 100 rounds of revolver shot for each authorized weapon. The instruction sent to Roberts cautioned him against any relaxation of military discipline and advised him that he should consult frequently with our diplomatic representative and act when necessary in conjunction with the other foreign command. He was also informed that he might use force, if necessary, against the Chinese in the protection of American interests.

There is considerable speculation about the effect of Mrs. McKinley's illness on society in Washington after her recovery and return. It is reported that two years ago Mr. McKinley was advised to let it be known that his wife was an invalid and could not discharge the duties of the "first lady of the land." It is said that the president favored the idea and suggested it to Mrs. McKinley, but that she refused to entertain it for a moment, and that she has since rigidly performed the duties of mistress of the White House, at considerable personal sacrifice and injury to her health.

An investigation of the practices of pension sharpeners in San Francisco and their methods of annoying soldiers returning from the Far East, has been started by the pension bureau, and prosecutions may be expected in the near future, according to the officials of the law division of the bureau. The sharpeners are not all representatives of the large Washington pension law firms, but many of them are, and their methods are characterized as illegal and outrageous. They meet returning soldiers at the docks and often persuade them to file applications for pensions, even before they have been discharged. Fees have been, in many cases, collected without any service rendered, and the sharper often threatens to take up his case in Washington and make trouble for the soldier unless he paid the fee.

According to present plans the 10,000 regulars who are to be brought back from the Philippines in the plan of diminishing the military force under General MacArthur will not begin their homeward trips until after July 1. The first of the regulars to return will be the Fourteenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-third regiments of infantry, and the Fourth regiment of cavalry.

There is no law or constitutional provision to prevent President McKinley visiting Mexico or Canada during his term of office if he so desires, although the precedents are against it. Never has the president of the United States gone over the boundaries of the country except on two occasions. Andrew Johnson and Secretary Seward once crossed the suspension bridge to view the Niagara falls from the Canadian side. General Grant did the same several years later.

Gov. Charles H. Allen, of Porto Rico, has presented to the president through the state department, his first annual report. The governor expresses the opinion that a scheme of colonial administration such as is found in the Danish, French and English West Indies might be safely instituted with variations dependent upon the future policy of the home government.

Surgeon General Sternberg of the army reports with gratification a decided improvement in the health of the soldiers in the Philippines. The death rate has been rapidly decreasing. The death rate from disease is much lower than in any other army.

FOREIGN TROOPS GOING.

Withdrawal of the Allied Forces From Chinese Territory.

Tien Tsin, May 31.—Two British transports have arrived at Tong Ku to take troops direct to India. Another transport will arrive today to take the Beluch regiment to Wei Hai Wei.

General Voyron, the French commander, expects, now that the evacuation has been decided upon, that France will countermand the order holding her troops temporarily in China. He anticipates the early arrival of French transports.

General Lorne Campbell, the British commander here, says the international situation at Tien Tsin is better than at any time since the arrival of the troops.

Freight Trains Smashed Together.

Everett, Wash., May 31.—An extra south bound freight train was cut in two today at the top of a two mile grade at Edgcomb, intending to double back for the second section cut. The half train left standing started down the grade and dashed into another freight train at Edgcomb, smashing two cabooses and three freight cars into kindling wood. The debris was burned. No one was hurt.

FARMS AND FARMERS

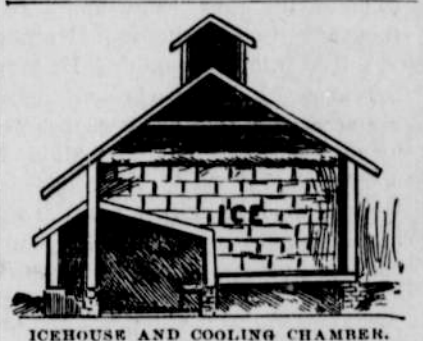


Size of Seed Potatoes.

We have always obtained better results from the use of seed potatoes "about the size of a hen's egg" or as near that as we could judge by the shape of the potato, and cut in halves, as from any seed we had and we have tested them against larger ones cut in halves and in quarters, against smaller ones used whole and against pieces cut to two eyes each. Yet the pieces of two eyes were so nearly equal that we would use that method if the seed cost a high price, by which we do not mean the early price of the Early Rose at a dollar a pound, but if they cost \$3 a bushel. But the potato of that size, scarcely marketable, unless there was a season of scarcity, is as well matured as the potato that weighs a pound, and we think throws as strong a shoot and produces as much. We never made a test by comparing the use of pieces of large potatoes against pieces of about equal weight of the smaller ones, and to learn anything from such a test one would need to continue it for a term of years, using the largest from the largest seed each time. It might be well after selecting as we would, for some years, to change to pieces from the large ones for a season, but we are not sure of it.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

To Keep Milk Cool.

A correspondent of Hoard's Dairyman gives a plan for a combined ice-house and cooling chamber. The cooling chamber is partitioned off in such a manner that it has ice on top and



ICEHOUSE AND COOLING CHAMBER.

on three sides. The dimensions are 12 feet wide, 14 feet long and 12 feet high, with a cooling chamber partitioned off 8 feet long by 6 feet wide. The floor of a cooling chamber should be placed about three feet below the surface of the ground so as to take advantage of the coolness of the earth.

Growing Onions.

The use of good seed for the onion crop is most important, as the labor of preparing the land, weeding the rows and other care necessary is as great for the part of a crop as for a full one, while the cost of fertilizer is not lessened, nor are the onions better or in as good demand if they grow too large. The onion seed deteriorates very rapidly in germinating properties if it is kept until more than one year old, excepting that in very small quantities it may be kept in something practically airtight, as in a tin box with snugly fitting cover. We would not sow onion seed without having it tested, and making sure that not less than 80 per cent would germinate. Those who sow under glass and transplant have at least the advantage of not having to care for any rows that are not filled, and if a part of the seed is too old to sprout the only loss is the price paid for the seed. This practice is growing in favor, and fast taking the place of the old method of setting out the dry sets in the spring to grow the early onions for bunching, as it requires but little more labor to fit the land for one than the other, and the new plants seem to grow as rapidly as the dry sets.—American Cultivator.

Weed Seeds.

If the farmer desires to know how to select good clover seed he should learn to know weed seed as soon as he looks at it. Then if his eyesight is not good enough to distinguish it when it is among the clover seed, let him spend from fifty cents upward for a good magnifying glass, and let him buy no clover and not much other seed until he has examined it, and found it reasonably clear of the weed seeds. It may be hard to find it perfectly pure, but there is no use in buying such seed as a sample sold in Vermont last year, which had 59,310 weed seeds in a pound. Just think of sowing ten, twenty or more pounds of such seed on an acre. The seeds of plantain, sorrel, pigweed, smartweed, curled dock and the foxtail grass were the most abundant in this lot, and each of them might pass for clover seed at first glance, but can be detected under a magnifying glass. It would be a good lesson for the boys to collect samples of each of these and some other seeds in little vials, and label each, that they might study them until they knew them too well to buy them as clover seed.

Sorghum as Fodder.

We plow the ground in the spring after corn planting, says a Kansas correspondent in Prairie Farmer. The latter part of June is soon enough, because if you sow too early it will get ripe and you will have to cut it in the warm weather of August. It is better to plant so you can cut it just before frost. It will keep better and is not liable to sour, as it might do if cut in the warm weather. We sow it broadcast, about two bushels to the acre. Be sure and sow it thick or it will grow big

rank stalks, which will be hard to handle and stock will not eat so well. We aim to feed it out before Christmas or before it freezes too much. Of course, if it is fine, say like millet, it will keep just as good as any hay. We usually cut it with a mowing machine, rake it, put it in big shocks and feed from the shocks just as needed, as it will keep just as well as if stacked. For if it is coarse and rank the stalks will have lots of juice in them and will not keep if stacked. Sorghum fodder is splendid for all kinds of stock. Hogs will eat it with a relish; cattle and horses like it also.

Sowing Clover Seed.

The Department of Agriculture says there are 17,856,000 clover seed in a bushel, which would be 297,600 in a pound. There are 43,560 square feet in an acre, so that one pound would furnish about 6 2/3 seeds to the square foot. And yet we are afraid to advise a farmer to use less than eight or ten pounds per acre, giving fifty-four seed to the square foot, and yet if every seed grew, the small number would place the plants close enough together to produce a good crop. The extra seed, or seven-eighths of the seed cost, is the price we pay for not having well-cleaned, plump seed, and the land in such condition that each one will have a fair chance to germinate and grow.

Parsnips for Milk Cows.

The parsnip is probably one of the best roots ever grown for milk cows, and it has a great advantage in that it may remain in the field until spring when other roots are all gone, and then be used until grass has grown. It is as easily grown as the carrot, and like that root it wants a deep, rich and mellow soil. Many object to growing it even in the garden, because the weeds are apt to get such a growth before the parsnips come up that the labor of weeding is greatly increased, but this may be remedied by mixing a few radish seed with the parsnip seed, which will come up so that the rows can be seen and hoed out long before the parsnips are up. They can be pulled when the parsnips are thinned.

Keeping Country Boys at Home.

The drift of rural population to cities has long been a characteristic of recent times. Every census in recent years both in this country and in Europe has shown the vastly greater growth of cities as compared with rural regions. If there were wider intelligence among farmers in feeding the ambition of the young, if they were to give their children something that they might improve by industry, something that would stimulate ambition and awaken pride, there would in all likelihood be less discontent with country life and less of longing for the untold and unknown life of the city.—Indianapolis News.

Cutting Asparagus.

The question of the propriety of cutting all or certain asparagus shoots as rapidly as they appear and for a continued time often arises, for it is well known that the continued cutting away of all a plant's growth has a weakening tendency at least. As recently stated, most gardeners cut all growth during the first half of the season. But a correspondent recommends leaving all the very light growth, that it may strengthen the plants for the following season, and only cutting that which is strong.—Meehan's Monthly.

Time to Sow Tobacco Seed.

There seems to be a general rule for sowing tobacco seed in each State with reference to the frosts which are likely to occur in the spring. Seed beds should be planted from six weeks to two months, according to the variety of the seed, before the latest date at which killing frost has occurred in the locality. This is for domestic seed. Imported Cuban seed should be planted a month later and imported Sumatra six weeks later than acclimated seed.

Don't Spray Fruit Trees in Bloom.

Professor Beach recently discussed before a beekeepers' convention the spraying of fruit trees when in full bloom. Generally speaking, his conclusion seemed to be that spraying during blooming time was not only wasteful, but decidedly harmful as well, cutting down the supply of fruit to an extent that, if generally practiced, would amount to thousands of dollars to the fruit men all over the state.

Farm Notes.

The market for American apples is now worldwide.

Interest in farming is undoubtedly reviving in New England.

Don't sow alfalfa seed on unprepared soil as you do clover. If it fails with you, manure the land and try again.

The family horse should be raised and trained on the farm. Then you thoroughly understand his disposition and know how far he can be trusted.

The application of sulphur to soils for the prevention of potato scab regardless of the character of the soil is liable to occasionally cause much injury.

Bordeaux mixture has been found of value in stimulating tomato plants to more rapid growth. Increasing their vigor and of particular merit in keeping down the attacks of flea beetles.

Twenty thousand mutton sheep are being fattened at Rocky Ford, Col., on beet pulp, with a little corn added. There is another "waste product" being utilized—turned into mutton.