CONDITIONS IN MANILA

Interview With Mr. Williams, the Late American Consul-General at Manila.

A Merchant From the Island Tells of the Suffering of Soldiers and Residents.

Mr. Williams, late American consul-general at Manila, recently visited Hongkong and furnished the Press of that city with a statement of affairs in the Philippines. The arrival of the transports with supplies both of ammunition and provisions is anxiously awaited. The natives have made themselves useful by providing the fleet with fruit, which of course has been very acceptable.

The best of feeling exists between the Americans and the natives. The organization of the latter is being rapidly proceeded with by General Aguinaldo, who has gathered several thousands of them in and around Cavite. As yet only between 4,000 and 5,000 are provided with rifles. One day last week they captured a couple of bullock carts filled with rifles, etc., from the Spaniards.

The Spanish government in the Philippines have tried hard to wean Aguinaldo and his followers from their allegiance to the Americans. Soon after Aguinaldo arrived the governor-general sent a couple of Jesuit priests to him and promised him all the reforms he asked for, including autonomy for his people, also endeavoring to buy him over to their side. Aguinaldo in reply said he had laid down his arms once before when the government made exactly the same promises. They, however, did not carry out one of their promises and only handed over half the money promised them for laying down their arms. He accordingly declined to negotiate any more. Undeterred by this refusal, the next day the governor-general sent a couple of wealthy natives—members of the provisional council which has been formed—to Aguinaldo. They entreated him as Filippinos not to array himself against "Most Christian Spain" and on the side of those opposed to him in religion. Aguinaldo, however, refused to converse with them on the subject. He informed them that he had allowed the Jesuit priests to return, but he did not intend to treat them in the same way. No harm should befal them, but for making treasonable proposals to him he should detain them until the end of the war, when they would be tried by process of law. The following day two more native members of the provisional council arrived, thinking no doubt that on account of the non-arrival of the others their propositions were being entertained. These also were placed under arrest, and Aguinaldo informed the governor-general that if he wished to quarter the whole of the provisional council on him he was well able to take care of them.

The Spanish government seek to curry favor with the natives by making them governors of provinces, the Spaniards who held the posts having been withdrawn, and bestowing upon them the title of colonel. A Filippino has been made governor of Cavite province on the understanding that he is to protect that side of Manila from attack against any force Aguinaldo might bring against him. The provincial governor, however, sent him word that he did not want any trouble, and accordingly withdraw what troops he had and went to the other side of the district.

Some little excitement was caused at Cavite on the evening of the 20th of May by a report that the Spaniards contemplated an attack on the city, and in consequence the Americans held themselves in readiness to repulse the attack, the Callao being placed in such a position that she could sweep with her guns the narrow neck of land between Cavite and Manila. The evening passed off, however, without incident. On the night of the 23rd there was some musketry firing, but a couple of shots from the McCulloch put a stop to it.

In addition to the hospitals at present in existence at Cavite Admiral Dewey proposes to establish a naval hospital there. So far there has been a remarkable absence of sickness in the fleet. As an instance we may mention that out of the 400 and odd men on the Baltimore not one is laid up. Indeed throughout the whole fleet there are only between 30 and 40 on the sick list.

When the Zafiro left Cavite none of the British residents at Manila had availed themselves of the permission accorded them by Admiral Dewey to remove to Cavite. Apparently Manila is a more desirable place of residence than Cavite, and the British residents will probably not remove until the last moment.

For some reason or other it has been given out as a fact that the Baltimore suffered severely during the naval battle, one Spanish report going to far as to state that she was so riddled with shot that the Americans scuttled her. Consul Williams informs us, however, that beyond the tearing up of some of the slippers (causing some of the crew to receive flesh wounds) by a five-inch shell the Baltimore sustained no damage, whilst some of the vessels were absolutely untouched. The Petrel though the smallest fighter in the fleet, was among the latter.

Alluding to the reported court martialling of the Spanish Admiral, Consul Williams remarked: "I do not believe it. Last week he was out driving and seemed all right, and I cannot think the charge is a serious one. As a matter of fact he does not deserve to be court martialled. He fought bravely. If he had not been a brave man he would not have tackled us a second time, after the severe drubbing we gave him before we stopped for breakfast."

Consul Williams had not heard of the captain of the Callao being shot yet. He says there is great indignation felt towards him in Manila and there is a demand that he shall be executed, but he cannot think the demand will be acceded to, as it would have been madness for him to take any other course than he did.

Another interesting interview was obtained from a Manila merchant, Mr. P., who left the island on account of the disturbances.

"Not only the inhabitants but the Spanish soldiers are considerably pinched for food," says Mr. P. "The poor soldiers are very badly treated indeed. It is a pity to see them going about the streets, as it is apparent to anyone that they do not get anything like enough food. All they get is a little rice and some dried fish, which is doled out to them with a niggard hand. Of course they cannot afford to buy fresh fish, it is so very dear. A small fish which used to cost five or six cents a dozen now costs as much as 50 or 60 cents for one, whilst old salt beef—black unsavory looking stuff—is sold at $1.75 per pound. Small bony chickens are realising $1 or $2 each, people being glad to get them for that sum. Thefts of food by the natives are of daily occurrence. The plan adopted is to go into a provision shop and ask for so much rice, and as soon as it has been weighed out the native grabs it and is out of the shop and away before the unfortunate vendor can regain his property.

"Only the other week the Americans seized two vessels which were loaded with food for Manila. They also purchase all the fresh fish which the natives catch in the harbor, with the result that when the natives return to the city with empty boats they have to invent all kinds of excuses for having come ashore empty handed."

"I hear that the volunteers are threatening to seize the stores because they can get no pay?"

"Yes, and no wonder, for they have been very badly treated by the Spanish authorities. They were promised food, clothing, and good pay, and as many of them belonged to the poorer class who find it difficult to get hold of enough to eat to keep body and soul together, they thought that by offering their services they would at any rate be sure of getting some food. They have, however, had to find their own clothing and food, and have not received a cent of pay.

"Some 700 or 800 Chinese who were induced to join the army by a promise that they should receive a dollar a day have been similarly deceived. They get no pay whatever, and are kept hard at work night and day cleaning the guns, and as they do not get enough to eat they are dying like flies."

"What about the preparations for the defence of the city?"

"Well, something is being done, but in the past everything has been so sadly neglected that it will be impossible to make up the deficiencies in time. The cannon, for instance, include some over a hundred years old which have a coating of rust inches deep. A colonel of artillery to whom these were handed over for the defence of the city in despair took his own life.

House robberies have also begun to be very frequent and they are mostly perpetrated by servants. The latter spend their time day and night in gambling, and when they have lost their money they steal more.

"To give you an instance of what is going on in Manila I may say that I was staying with a gentleman whose servant has been with him for three years. One day we went out and on our return we found the door locked. At once concluding that something was wrong we burst the door open and then we found my friend's wife bound in a chair while the servant was ransacking the house for jewellery and money. Of course we seized him and delivered him over to the authorities, who, however, released him at the end of 24 hours notwithstanding the fact that we caught him in the act, my friend being told, when he protested against this, 'If you want to proceed any further with the matter you must summon him and engage a lawyer.'

"The same thing is going on in Cavite. The Americans send a few men from the vessels, but not sufficient to look after the place properly.

"Hundreds of people now in Manila would only be too glad to get out if there was a vessel to take them. Some people would gladly pay $500 or $600 for a passage."

"By the way, what about the shooting of the captain of the Callao?"

"There was some talk of his being transported to the Carolines, and I did hear, but I cannot say whether it is true or not, that he has committed suicide."

"Did you hear how things were going on in the interior?"

"Yes, on the 14th or 15th of May the natives in the Union provinces rose against the Spaniards and killed them."

Mr. P. added that the Spanish officers in Manila are deplorably ignorant of what is going on in the outside world. A day or two after the battle of Cavite, when a number of war vessels belonging to neutral powers came into Manila harbor, it was the common topic of conversation among the officers and the Spanish merchants in the Escolto that these vessels had come to help the Spaniards against the Americans.

A LITTLE SCENE.

Mr. Richard Hall Vigorously Objects to Col. Gregory's Remarks.

The opposition chose John Bros.' hall for their soiree yesterday and so lengthy were the speeches that it was almost a Cinderella party, and Hon. Mr. Beaven, who came last had to cut his speech short. There was a little difficulty in getting a chairman, for when Mr. George Riley proposed Ald. Humber, the worthy alderman answered quite emphatically "No, thank you." Somebody suggested that Mr. Riley take the job himself, and he did.

Mr. Alexander Stewart in his address announced that he was "opposed to giving away the province for a few miles of railway," a remark that surely nobody could disagree with. Mr. Belyea proved himself a true follower of the opposition party, for though he had been to the successful government meeting in the A. O. U. W. hall the previous evening he "had learned absolutely nothing." The opposition candidates and Hon. Robert Beaven, whom the opposition seem only too glad to have sit beside them, had seats on the platform at first but they seemed to feel uncomfortable there as if a cold wind was blowing down their backs and one by one they slipped back among the audience, leaving the chairman to hold the platform down. Mr. T. Paterson talked railway and then came Col. Gregory, who intimated that he did not like the campaign songs in which he figured. There was a little sensation when Col. Gregory said that Mr. Hall had been put up as a candidate in the interests of the E. & N. railway.

Mr. Richard Hall who was among the audience immediately rose and amid uproar and excitement denied that he had been put up by the E. & N. or in their interest and he added vigorously "If anybody says that, he is a liar."

Col. Gregory thought surely the discussion could be carried on without the loss of one's temper.

Mr. Hall—Well, don't make such assertions then.

Col. Gregory remarked that what he meant was that Mr. Hall, although that gentleman did not know it himself, was an E. & N. candidate. Col. Gregory talked for a while longer and so pleased Mr. Ledingham with his universal knowledge that that gentleman propounded a conundrum to him on the blacksmithing business and seemed disappointed that Col. Gregory did not know that, too.

Mr. Archer Martin rose in the defence of Mr. Joseph Martin and explained that the pair of Martins were not relations but dear friends and that Mr. Archer Martin did not believe the stories that were being told about the other Mr. Martin. He wound up by saying that Mr. McPhillips was to be challenged to meet Mr. Joseph Martin on the platform on Monday night.

This left little time for Mr. Beaven to speak and the meeting adjourned just before midnight.

The Colonist was in error yesterday in stating that all accommodation had been taken on the Charmer for the excursion to Vancouver.

COMMISSIONERS NAMED

Baron Herschell and Four Canadian Public Men the British Government's Choice.

United States Senate Committee Marks Disapproval by Striking Out Appropriation.

Fate of Any Treaty Arranged by the Commissioners Thereby Indicated.

London, June 29.—In pursuance of the agreement signed at Wishington on May 30, for a joint commission to adjust the Canadian-American international questions, it is officially announced that Queen Victoria has appointed the Lord High Chancellor, Baron Herschell; the Premier of Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier; Sir Richard Cartwright, minister of trade and commerce of Canada; Sir Louis Davies, minister of marine and fisheries of Canada and counsel for Great Britain before the international fisheries arbitration at Halifax in 1877 between Great Britain and the United States; and Mr. John Charlton, to be high commissioners.

Ottawa, June 29.—Surprise is expressed here at the announcement that Mr. John Charlton is one of the international commission and that Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador at Washington, is not chosen.

Washington, June 29.—The President is deeply concerned at the action of the senate appropriations committee in striking out of the sundry civil appropriations act the item appropriating $50,000 to defray the expenses of the joint commission to be held at Quebec next fall, in an endeavor to effect a settlement of the many questions at issue between the United States and Canada. This commission had been arranged for by the secretary of state, acting under the direction of the President in answer to what was believed by both to be almost a unanimous popular demand.

Many questions pending between the two governments contain possibilities of serious complications, such, for instance, as the Alaskan boundary question, which on account of the extraordinary developments in the Klondike country; will become of the greatest importance. Then there are questions connected with the Great Lakes boundaries, with transit of goods in bond over Canadian and American territory; and with the supply of bait to American fishermen. The growing fraternal spirit between the United States on one side, and Canada and England on the other, seems to make the time auspicious for an easy settlement of these questions, which have long given trouble to the state department.

Therefore as an outgrowth of the Behring sea negotiations an exchange of notes between the United States and Canada through the medium of the British embassy here during the late winter and early spring finally resulted in an agreement to appoint a joint commission to meet at Ottawa in an endeavor to adjust the open issues.

In arranging for this commission the President was clearly within the constitutional powers, and the action of the senate committee was received with great surprise, indicating a clear purpose to interfere with the free exercise of the constitutional treaty-framing function by the President.

It is not believed by the administration that the opposition to this commission manifested in the senate committee will prevail in the senate when attention has been drawn to the fact that the appropriation of money for expenses does not in any way commit the senate to an approval of the treaty when it is submitted to it, but the President having so far advanced negotiations as to permit the British side to name the personnel of the commission which will represent it, the department of state will be placed in a mortifying position if now prevented from carrying out its part of the agreement through lack of a small appropriation.

The British government signified its approval of the plan for the commission to consider the pending controversies between the United States and Canada and proclaimed atreaty for their settlement. Following this approval, an understanding was reached that the commission would begin its sessions within the next few weeks, during the latter part of July at Quebec.

It is expected that President McKinley will name the American commissioners at an early date, and it is understood that a United States senator, probably Senator Hoar, will be among those designed to represent the United States. It is quite likely, also that John W. Kasson or Mr. John Foster, possibly both, will be on the commission, each to proclaimed a treaty for their settlement tions.

A FISHING TRUST.

British Capital to Control the Supply to Eastern Canadian Markets.

Toronto, June 29.—(Special.)—Information received here is to the effect that a British synidcate will control the fisheries of the great lakes and the industry will pass into the hands of the trust tomorrow. Messrs. W. Vernon Booth and Armor, of Chicago, are interested in several lakes in Canadian territory, including the Lake Winnipeg fishing field.

Some of the largest local dealers here say the effect will be to raise prices, in Toronto, but the local manager of the Georgian Bay Fish Company states just the opposite. He says the purpose of the combination is to control the catch. Every year a great quantity of fish is destroyed because every individual concern aims to supply the whole market. Under the new concern the catch will be adjusted to the demands of the trade.

CAMARA AT A STANDSTILL.

His Ships of War Are Out of Order and No Coal for Him in Egypt.

London, June 29.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Port Said says: "A distinguishe naval officer who has examined Admiral Camara's ships carefully laughs at the idea of Admiral Camara attempting to reach Manila. The Spaniards, he says, are wise to keep the fleet out of the Americans' way. The battleship Pelayo and the armored cruiser Emperado Carlos Quinto are in scandalous repair and are hardly seaworthy, while it will be impossible for the torpedo boat destroyers to get far. The Spaniards cannot keep the engines trimmed.

The Cairo correspondent of the Daily Mail says Lord Cromer has stopped a French firm from coaling Admiral Camara's squadron pending instructions from London.

The Daily Chronicle protests in the strongest manner against permitting Admiral Camara to coal at Port Said for any purpose but to return to Barcelona. It says: "It is impossible to do otherwise afte rrefusing the allow Admiral Dewey to coal at Hongkong."

The Gibraltar correspondent of the Daily News says: "The Cadiz authorities are persuaded that Cadiz is to be the object of the American's attack, but neither measures of defence nor the third squadron will be of use unless Spain can find English or German engineers. Admiral Camara at his present rate of progress cannot reach the Philippines before sixty days. It is reported that he is carrying 4,000 tons of coal and that the second class cabins of the auxiliary cruiser Rapido are stuffed with coal.

THE RACE FOR MANILA.

American Military Commander Anxious to Take Possession Before Spanish Ships Arrive.

San Francisco, June 29.—The speedy steamer Newport, bearing Major General Wesley Merritt, military governor of the Philippines, and his staff, besides the Astor light battery and two companies of the Third U. S. artillery and detachments from the signal corps, is now on its way to Manila. As the vessel drew away from her dock to-day the blowing of many whistles told the people that General Merritt had taken his departure. Great crowds had gathered to witness the event. The Newport will make an effort to overtake the third fleet of transports, which sailed on Monday for Honolulu, where the vessels will coal and take on supplies before proceeding to Manila. Gen. Merritt is very anxious to avoid an encounter with any vessel of the Spanish navy and will issue orders to the fleet at Honolulu to make all possible speed. It is probable that the Newport will not wait for the other vessels of the fleet at Honolulu, but will proceed with as little delay as possible to Manila.

Madrid, June 29.—Despatches received from Manila to-day, under date of June 24, say the Spaniards are determined to fight to the death. There is every reason to believe that when the American troops arrive desperate fighting will occur on land and sea. It is supposed at Manila that the German warships will prevent the bombardment of that place. The Spaniards are said to be actively pushing preparations for the defence of the city.

General Aguinaldo, the insurgent leader, declares that the family of Captain-General Augusti, who are prisoners in his hands, are at Pampanga, and are well treated.

London, June 29.—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Manila says the report that Germany will not permit a bombardment is exciting deep irritation in the American fleet. Admiral Dewey intends to demand capitulation the instant reinforcements arrive. He told Prince Henry of Prussia that he would be glad to see the German officers at Manila, but it would be well to caution them to keep out of the American line of fire.

Two attempts have been made on the life of General Aguinaldo in order to secure the reward placed on his head by Captain-General Augusti.

The United States cruiser Boston has gone to Subic bay to establish there a base for operaitons. Captain-General Augusti has arranged a conference with the foreign admirals, presumably on the subject of protection on the lives of noncombatants.

The situation is growing unbearable. The besieging force gives the Spanish troops no rest, and their work on the line of defence is terrible. They are fighting with desperate resignation. They have no nourishing food, and for days were reduced to eating wild birds and shell fish. Still, with starvation staring them in the face, they hold their posts and fight with the courage of their race.

The population is in a state of terror. The provincial garrisons have been started into surrender. There are now seven German warships in the bay.

VANCOUVER AND VICINITY.

Dominion Day Celebration More Than Usually Attractive—Burnaby Redeems Land Sold for Taxes.

Vancouver, June 29.—The Citizens' Celebration on July 1st and 2nd promises to be a great success. There will be a military review, championship boat race—which will take place early on the morning of the 1st—and lacrosse matches. In the case of the senior event both teams are in fine trim and on their mettle. There are many good entries also for the bicycle races with fast competitors who have not hitherto appeared on a Vancouver programme. In fact the different attractions will be far ahead of any other year. A citizens' and military and naval ball will also be held in the evening of the 1st in the Hotel Vancouver.

The meeting called by the opposition candidates last evening was crowded and excited, the party having drummed up their last available man. A number of those present seemed afraid to listen to Mr. Hagel's denunciation of Jos. Martin as an unfit suppliant for their suffrages. A big quiet vote is certain to be polled for the citizens' candidates, a very large proportion of whose supporters care little about attending excited meetings, but will go quietly to the poll and vote for the men of their choice.

Thompson and Perry, the two negroes charged with attempting assault in Stanley park, have elected to be tried at the fall assizes. Greater police precautions will be taken to prevent the park from being made the resort of bad characters after dusk.

The city council of New Westminster is about to pass a by-law in aid of the re-establishment of the long closed woollen mill of the Royal City, it being considered that there is now an excellent opening for the industry, in view of the Klondike demand for heavy woollens of various kinds.

The Burnaby district council has redeemed under powers contained in the Municipalities Act all properties sold in July, 1897 at New Westminster for government taxes and not since redeemed by the original owners. The council will thus save the loss of over $1,000 of its tax arrears, recovering in addition the sums paid for redemption, with all incidental expenses.

The members of the agricultural commission met to-day at the court house and were sworn in by Mr. Justice Irving. The preliminary meeting were held this afternoon and evening and to-morrow, the programme being arranged for carrying out the work of inquiry and holding a series of meetings throughout the Island and Mainland.

WEST LILLOOET.

A Candidate Found to Contest the Election of Mr. Smith.

Lillooet, June 25.—A. W. Smith was nominated to-day by the government party. Mr. Smith has served the district faithfully the past four years, and will undoubtedly be re-elected.

Eusebius Peters (known amongst the old-timers as "Six toed Pete") was nominated by the opposition party. Peters is a kicker and has done nothing for the welfare of the district

DEADLY COMBAT NEAR

American Troops in Santiago Close to Spanish Lines and a Battle Imminent.

General Pando With Spanish Host Moving to Relief of Beleaguered City.

Cuban Guerrillas Inflict Serious Losses Along the Line of Pando's March.

On board Associated Press despatch boat Dauntless, off Santiago de Cuba, June 28, via Port Antonio, June 28, by way of Kingston, Jamaica, June 29.—The flying squadron hitherto commanded by Commodore Schley has lost its identity by an order issued to-day by Rear Admiral Sampson, and it has been merged in the fleet under the Admiral. The order caused considerable surprise on board the Brooklyn, which has been the flagship of the flying squadron, where it was supposed the squadron would remain intact at least until the fall of Santiago de Cuba. Commodore Schley has been assigned to command the second squadron attached to Admiral Sampson's fleet.

From two Cuban officers picked up by the Vixen to-day it has been learned that General Pando is moving eastward from Manzanillo with 8,700 Spanish troops for the purpose of assisting the beleaguered city of Santiago de Cuba. The Cubans had come to Aerraderos in small boats with despatches from General Rios for Admiral Sampson. They report that General Pando has with him seven battalions numbering 8,700 men and a pack train with provisions. He left Manzanillo, province of Santiago de Cuba, on June 22 to relieve General Linares. The Spaniards were moving at the rate of twelve miles a day when the messengers left and at their present speed it is expected they will reach Santiago de Cuba next Sunday, July 3. The Cubans have a small force hanging on the Spanish flank and rear harassing General Pando's troops at every step. Manzanillo is 127 miles west of Santiago and the roads are in bad condition. The Spaniards say that if General Pando reaches his goal it will be with less than half the force he started with. The Cubans who are harassing him only number about 200 men, but in the passes and in the bush they are at great disadvantage.

At the Front on the Rio Guama, Tuesday, per Associated Press Despatch Boat Dauntless, via Port Antonio, Jamaica, June 29.—The preparation for the general advance of the American army on Santiago de Cuba are being pushed steadily forward, and all branches of the service are being hurried to the front. General Kent's division, consisting of Brigadier-General Hawkins, Col. Pearson and Col. Worth, has joined General Lawton's division, and with the cavalry divisions of General Wheeler and three batteries of light artillery, will now be strung out in the rear of General Lawton's division.

Gen. Lawton, Gen. Wheeler and Gen. Chaffee had had riders out beyond our advance posts several times and yesterday afternoon as already cabled Gen. Wheeler on the crest of the hills forward of the American left actually climbed a tree in order to obtain a better view of the country. He is startling evidence of the wonderful vitality and energy of the great confederate cavalry leader, now 62 years old, and put many younger and less agile officers to blush. Capt. Wright, of Gen. Bates' staff, to-day followed the line of the road running out of Juragua towards Santiago de Cuba to within 23 miles of the city. The road approaches within one and a half miles of our front and can be utilized to bring up supplies and siege guns, tons of which were landed at Baiquiri this afternoon.

As soon as the remaining battalions of the 64th Michigan and 8th Massachusetts, which are to arrive on the Harvard to-morrow, and the 6,000 reinforcements sent out from Tampa, reach here, Aguadores, a town on the coast four miles west of Juragua, will be taken. The place was shelled by several ships of the fleet. Aguadores is on the line of the advance of the army into the interior and close to their railroad It will probably become the base of operations, while the supply base may remain at Juragua.

Captain Wright obtained information on his reconnaissance which is believed to be reliable, to the effect that 3,000 Spanish troops have been sent to reinforce the garrison at Aguadores. General Lawton will probably make a diversion with his artillery as soon as it is placed in position. Heavy rain this afternoon made it impossible to move today beyond Gen. Wheeler's headquarters, but roads will be in condition today and the guns will probably be brought up and the intrenchments shelled by the artillery and by Col. Woods' dynamite guns. The shrapnel fire will be more used by the artillery. The guns are 3.210 inches and with shrapnel, they are effective at 3,500 yards.

The Cubans say the Spaniards are in deadly fear of dynamite, and Gen. Lawton will see how he can terrify them. Simultaneously with the bombardment Gen. Chaffee's brigade will move forward and occupy a position of vital importance in advance of our fronts. The correspondent of the Associated Press is not permitted to divulge its location at present.

The military telegraph line has been completed as far as Gen. Wheeler's headquarters, thus placing the front in direct communication with Gen. Shafter, who still maintains his headquarters on board the Seguranca, where he can keep in close touch with Rear Admiral Sampson. It is probable, however, that he will establish his headquarters at Duragua to-morrow or Thursday.

The troops belonging to Gen. Lawton's division are ready to move in light marching order, while the reconnoitering parties are out. This precaution is considered necessary in order to avoid disaster in case the small parties of troops should collide with the Spaniards in force. But not a single skirmish has occurred.

The Cubans and Gen. Castillo are doing commendable work as advance pickets. They are thrown out by night from half a mile to a mile in advance of our pickets along the front and flanks, thus forming a double cordon about the army. There are now more unan 13,000 men at the front. Drinking water for the troops at the front is obtained from Rio Quama, a stream full of springs running direct from the mountains. The water is remarkably good and is now carefully guarded from pollution. The Cubans and American soldiers bathed in it at first, but strict orders have been issued against such practice in the future and sentinels have been placed to enforce the orders. Strict orders have also been issued against eating the great varieties of tropical fruits, the only exception being made in the cases of milk from green cocoanuts, which is considered healthy and refreshing, and limes. An epidemic of measles which was started on board one or two transports is spreading to the camps and about twenty new cases have broken out to-day. The disease is not dangerous, but the men attacked have been sent to the rear where they can have airy quarters.

A FRENCH CABINET.

M. Brisson Succeeds in Forming What Is Regarded as a Stopgap.

Paris, June 28.—After the successive failures of M. Ribot, M. Sarrien and M. Peytralto to form a cabinet to succeed the retiring ministry of M. Meline, it is announced that M. Henri Brisson has formed a cabinet, with the following distribution of portfolios: President of the council and minister of the interior, M. Henri Brisson; minister of finance, M. Paul Peytral; minister of education, M. Leon Bourgers; minister of justice, M. Ferdinand Sarrien; minister of war, M. Godfrey Cavaignac; minister of marine, M. Edouard Simon Lockroy; minister of foreign affairs, M. Theophile Delisse; minister of the colonies, M. George Trouillet; minister of commerce, M. Emil Maruejoule; minister of agriculture, M. Albert Viger.

St. Petersburg, June 28.—The new French cabinet is not received favorably here. The Novoe Vremya declares the Brisson cabinet is "only a necessary evil," adding, "Its accession will prove the bankruptcy of the present chamber."

The Journal de St. Petersburg expresses the opinion that M. Brisson as premier means that there will be no reconciliation between the conflicting Republican defections and that public opinion will not be satisfied with the present combination, but will look forward to some stable regime."

OPERATIONS ON 'CHANGE

A Professional Market Unsettled by Sales to Realize—War Revenue Bill Gives Trouble.

New York, June 28.—Some of the industrial specialties advanced in the early trading to-day on pool buying, inside support or individual causes, but a realizing movement later in Tobacco and Brooklyn Transit unsettled prices and wiped all but a few gains. The market was very narrow and entirely professional, stocks which were strong yesterday being sold to realize to-day. Sugar, Pullman, Consolidated Gas, Tobacco and Brooklyn Transit, and in a slight degree Manhattan, all enjoyed their periods of strength. Union preferred was quite a marked sufferer from the reports of rate-cutting in transcontinental business. The railroad list was very much neglected, for the most part. The new tax on issued transfers and sales of stock certificates continues to absorb a large amount of attention in Wall Street, where the opinion prevails that unless its literal provisions can be successfully combatted in the courts or legally evaded, they will largely curtail professional speculation and operations by room traders for a quick turn in the price of stocks.

The Evening Post's financial cable from London says: "The principal feature of the stock markets here to-day was the revival of activity in Kafir mines. The other markets were dull and stupid. The failure of Hopkinson & Son, West End bankers, will, it is asserted, have some effect on American and Canadian railways, the firm having stock in pawn, but most people are disposed to view the suspension as unimportant. What prestige the firm held years ago has been lost recently and the liabilities cannot be very large. American securities were dull and drooping, with weakness in Union Pacific stocks. Grand Trunk was lower because of the Hopkinson failure. Argentine bonds were flat. Japan bought gold in the market to-day, and is still unsatisfied. The Paris bourse was dull, and the Berlin markets steady."

Closing prices: Tobacco, 117⅞; Sugar, 126⅞; Spirits, 14⅛; do. pfd., 40; Atch., 13¼; do. pfd., 33½; B. & O., 15; Bay State Gas, 3⅝; C. B. & Q., 104¼; Chicago Gas, 98; C. L. & P., 97; Con. Gas, 198⅝; C. C. C. & St. L., 41¼; D. & R. G. pfd., 50⅛; Gen. Elec., 38¼; Laclede Gas, 51½; L. S., 19; L. & N., 51⅝; Manhattan Elev., 104; Mo. Pac., 35⅛; Michigan Central, 106; Nat. Lead, 34⅝; Nor. Pac., 29¼; do. pfd., 69⅝; N. Y. C. & H., 116¼; N. Y. Ont. & W., 15; Omaha, 77; Pacific Mail, 29; Pullman, 188; Sou. Railway common, 8½; Tex. Pac., 11⅝; Leather, 75; do. pfd., 66¼; Rubber, 25¼; do. pfd., 83¼; U. P., 26⅝; do. pfd., 59⅝; Wabash pfd., 19; W. U., 93¼; Met., 158.

C. P. R. in London, 86¾.

Silver certificates, 59⅝c.; bar. silver, 59¼c.; Mexican dollars, 53c.

Copper dull; brokers' $11.75; exchange, $11.75 to $11.87½. Lead quiet, but firm; brokers' $3.75; exchange, $3.95 to $4.

Wheat—Options opened weak and declined steadily under bearish cables and slightly better crop conditions. A late rally on the enormous reduction in world's stocks, according to Bradstreet's, closed the market steady at ½@1½c. net decline. July closed, 77½c.; Sept., 71½c.; Dec., 71⅝c.

Chicago, June 28.—Wheat closed: June, 77c.; July, 71⅝c.; Sept., 66⅝c. Corn, Sept., 32c. Oats, July, 20⅝c.; Sept., 19½c. Mess Pork, July, $9.47½; Sept., $9.60.

THE RETAIL MARKETS.

A Quiet Week, With Few Alterations in General Quotations.

Except for the advent of new fruits of the smaller kind, and a small reduction in butter, the market quotations remain unchanged this week. The drop in butter is due to the production of the provincial creameries, together with the plentiful supplies now on the farmers' hands.

The current retail prices are as follows:

Flour—Ogilvie's (Hungarian) per bbl.	$ 7.00
Lake of the Woods (Hungarian)	7.00
Snowflake	7.00
Premier	7.75
Three Star	6.50
Superfine	6.25
Hungarian (Armstrong)	6.00
XXXX (Armstrong)	6.50
Strong Bakers' (Armstrong)	6.25
Graham, per 10 lb.	35
Wheat, per ton	$5.00@37.50
Buckwheat, per 10 lbs.	40
Straw, per bale	50@75
Onion, per lb.	5@6
Oats, per ton	30.00@32.00
Barley, per ton	30.00@32.00
Middlings, per ton	23.00@25.00
Bran, per ton	22.00@25.00
Ground feed, California, per ton	25.00@30.00
Corn, whole, per ton	25.00@28.00
Corn, cracked, per ton	25.00@28.00
Cornmeal, per 10 lbs.	35
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs.	40@[illegible]
Rolled oats, 7 lbs.	25
Cabages, per lb.	3@[illegible]
Rhubarb, per lb.	3
Hay, baled, per ton	16.00
Cheese, per lb.	15@20
Eggs, Island, per doz., strictly fresh	25
Eggs, imported, per doz.	20
Butter, fresh, per lb.	20@25
" Creamery (Eastern) per lb.	25
" Dairy (Eastern, per lb.	25
" B. C. Creamery, per lb.	27½@30
Hams, Canadian, per lb.	16
Bacons, American, per lb.	16@18
" Rolled, per lb.	14@16
" Long clear, per lb.	12½
" Canadian, per lb.	14@16
Shoulders, hams, per lb.	12½
Glasgow beef	20
Meats—Beef, per lb.	5@15
Sides, per lb.	8½@9½
Veal, per lb.	10@15
pickets long the front and flanks, thus	10@15
Mutton, carcase, per lb.	9½
Pork, fresh, per lb.	9@12½
Turkeys, per lb.	20@25
Geese, per lb.	15@25
Fruits—Apples, Island, per box	1.75
Lemons, California, per doz.	20@25
Cranberries, per lb. (local)	10
Cranberries, per lb. (imported)	20
Oranges, naval	30@40
" seedlings	20@25
Strawberries, per lb.	8
Gooseberries, per lb.	6@8
Fish—Salmon, per lb.	10@12
Salmon, smoked, per lb.	20
Halibut, per lb.	10@12½
Rock cod, per lb.	6@8
Smelts, per lb.	8@10
Flounders, per lb.	8@10
Lim Cod	6@8