

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1895.

THE REBELLION IN CUBA.

It is very hard indeed, from the reports that reach us, to tell what is going on in Cuba. A few days ago we were informed that the rebellion so-called is an insignificant rising of a few miserable malcontents, who are without arms, without discipline, without money and without leaders. It is, it was confidently asserted, simply impossible for the rebels to do any injury worth mentioning to the Government of the Island. We were told, too, that respectable Cubans refused to give the rebels any countenance, that they were well satisfied with things as they are, and that in the course of a very short time the inhabitants of the islands would have all the improvements and reforms that they could reasonably desire.

But what do we hear now? The latest news is that the rebels were making head against the troops sent to protect the towns at the seat of the insurrection, that they are taking towns by main force, and that they are making their garrisons prisoners of war. Are the accounts of the progress of the insurrection true? It is impossible that reports so contradictory should be all reliable.

An article in the Pall Mall Gazette on "The Insurgents of Cuba by one who knows them," warns outsiders against giving credit to any news relative to the progress of the rebellion that comes from Cuba. The writer says: "The other day there came by way of Madrid a telegraphic message stating that the Cuban insurgents had suffered defeat at the hands of the Spanish regulars at Jovito, near Guanatanamo, and that 47 of their number had been killed. The information may be strictly accurate, for the insurgents, though strong in patriotism for their island home, are weak in arms to defeat the Spanish authorities; but speaking as one who knows the methods employed by the Government of Cuba, I should say it is unsafe to accept without reservation anything that has passed through its hands. Even the Chinese are not more expert in the art of concocting false intelligence or more unscrupulous and resourceful in the tricks of dissembling it. All the channels of communication with the outside world are in their hands. Press messages when they arrive at their destination are vastly different from the messages that are handed in, and it is common knowledge in the island that nothing becomes known to the world through the medium of the telegraph save what the Government desired should become known. There still remains the post, but even letters, so the general impression is, are tampered with. There is nothing for it, therefore, but to adopt the simple device of 'squaring' the officials through whose hands correspondence passes, and it arises from the fact that these said officials are not superior to backwash when the chances of being found out are remote—as in the case of letters sent—not with telegrams—that accurate information does sometimes get out of the country."

If this writer tells the truth, it is surprising how a telegram containing news of "Spanish disasters" could have been allowed to be sent from Havana by telegraph. It is possible that the insurgents and their friends in the United States have learned the art of manufacturing news from the Spanish officials and that the telegram purporting to be sent from Havana was concocted in New York or some other city in the United States? The Spanish authorities would not doubt, if the Pall Mall Gazette's correspondent tells the truth, have suppressed the telegram, for, as he says, "it is common knowledge in the island that nothing becomes known to the world through the medium of the telegraph save what the Government desired should become known." The Government would surely not desire that the world should know that the regular troops suffered disgraceful defeat at the hands of what they have been describing as a rabble; that the rabble has taken possession of towns of considerable size, and that the city of Puerto Principe is in danger of being also captured.

This writer says that the insurgents are brave and enterprising, and that poor and badly equipped as they are they are capable of giving the Government of the country a great deal of trouble. He tells us that in one of the risings a body of insurgents, that never exceeded 7,000 in number, successfully resisted the soldiers for five years, and that the war cost Spain something like 160,000 men, counting those killed by the insurgents as well as those killed in battle.

So miserable is the condition of the rebels that it is surprising that they continue to make any stand worth mentioning against disciplined men. Not one "patrol" in ten, he says, is provided with firearms, and all know how to use machetes to the best possible advantage, knives are poor weapons even to fight against sick soldiers with repeaters. There is, however, one thing in favor of the ill-armed and badly disciplined rebels, they always have enough to eat. The people of the country are on their side, and they cheerfully supply them with such provisions as they have, while the soldiers are generally half-starved because the general Government in Havana is careless. Here is the writer's description of the insurgents:

"They have no uniforms, and very little clothing of any sort. What they do possess of the latter appeared much damaged in the recent skirmish in the dense jungles about Bayamo, and is now in rags. A woollen shawl or coat of any sort, when obtainable, furnishes them with a makeshift tent or blanket to protect them from the exhalations of the rivers and swamps. They have no commissary. What food they have they receive from the country people, who give willingly, or from the trees and fields,

which also do not say them nay. They have no base of supplies, for they need none. They assemble when wanted, fight when ordered, and go back to their wretched cabins when through with the particular work in hand. They know their services are needed in the morning when they see at sunset the day before two thin columns rising unwavering and black into the air with the red glare of the departing sun for a background. The guerrilla force is an easy explanation of Maximo Gomez's ten years fighting. That renowned insurgent can at any time assemble a force under no palm tree which he chooses to make his headquarters in any part of the island save the west."

From the writer's account the Cubans have the best reasons for rebelling. They are very heavily taxed and "the people are virtually without rights, civil, political or religious. The men in office are all sent from Spain and take their orders from the Captain-General, also sent from Spain, and endowed with autocratic power. The English mind cannot bridge the distance between the rulers and the ruled or conceived the depth of the hatred which the latter have for the former or the depth of the contempt which the former feel for the latter."

There have been rebellions in Cuba at intervals since 1812. These rebellions have cost both the people of the Island and the Government of Spain thousands of valuable lives and an immense amount of money. The Pall Mall Gazette's correspondent sympathizes warmly with the insurgents, and he is convinced that they will succeed in the long run.

THE MONEY QUESTION.

The money question is being agitated vigorously in the United States. Both sides are carrying on the controversy with energy and ability. This is what Bradstreet's has to say about the action which bankers' associations have taken in the matter:

Declarations in favor of sound money continue to be made by bankers' associations in all parts of the country. The bankers of Missouri, for example, this week adopted resolutions declaring that the banks of the state have their interests indisputably connected with the financial prosperity of the people of the state, whether they be farmers or manufacturers or wage-earners, that they believe it to be in the interests of the people of the state to use in their business as good money as any other people in the world, and that it is against their interests to use any depreciated dollar, whether it be gold, silver or paper; that they are opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 unless the same ratio; that they favor limiting the coinage of silver so that the government will issue it as money and receive it for public duties may be able at all times to maintain its parity or exchangeability with gold, and that they favor the preservation of the existing standard of values. Declarations of this kind cannot be without effect, even in localities where the drift of opinion is in favor of free coinage.

A REMARKABLE DECREASE.

The following paragraph relative to the decrease in the rateable value of land that has taken place in England is from the Toronto Monetary Times, a non-political paper:

In England the rateable value of land, as shown by a parliamentary paper, has fallen from £238,000,000 in 1870, to £233,654,000, twenty-four years later. At the end of those dates land counted for one-third the rateable value of all property; at the latter it had fallen to a little more than one-fifth, the value of other forms of property having increased. But the decrease of the rateable value of land is not the full extent of the decline in the value of land. If the state had been the owner of the land, the loss would have fallen on it. If the state be, as some contend, entitled to the "unearned increment," it would also, as a corollary, be called upon to bear the burden of the depreciation, which in England, as shown by the assessment, was £30,000,000 in less than a quarter of a century; and the real decrease in value was probably \$10,000,000 more. Then there are other increments besides those on land which, in the same sense, are "unearned." The high rates which land in England can no longer bear have had to be made up by other means of property. Railways have come in for a considerable share of the burden. In some unions they constitute between 30 and 50 per cent of the rateable property and in two unions the latter figure is exceeded.

A NEW LICENSE LAW.

The State of Iowa after having tried prohibition for ten years has been obliged to give it up. Its legislature has enacted in its place a new kind of liquor law which is called the "Millet law." It seems to be, from the description we have seen of it, a kind of license law hedged round with fines and penalties innumerable. Under it the saloon keeper, before he can get a license, has to get up petitions of more than one kind, and after the license is procured he is subject to fines for selling to drunks, to women, to minors, and for disorders and breaches of the peace that take place on his premises. So undesirable is a license of this kind that very few apply for it, and since the enactment of the Millet law the places for the illicit sale of liquor have increased rather than diminished. Prohibition did not prohibit, and it is evident that the license law to regulate the sale will not regulate. The new law compromises between high license and prohibition, and what is the result? "Des Moines," says the Oregonian, "with a population of 50,000 has 91 permits for the sale of liquor in saloons. Not all of them are selling illegally, but more of them are engaged in the illegal sale of liquors—every day, night and Sunday—than Des Moines has ever had regular saloons. Drunkards, minors, and women purchase liquor in these saloons drug stores without limit or requirement, except the pay for liquors. One of them sold \$250 worth of beer one Sunday. Curiously enough the public sentiment seems to be directed only at the Millet saloons, which are making an effort to abide by the law, and while prosecutions are

directed against them, the drug stores are unmolested either by the peace officers or the 'church federation,' which is most active in encouraging prosecutions."

The prohibitionists though beaten in the state have evidently not given up the fight. This, it is said, is singular, for just across the Missouri river in Nebraska high license is in operation and is working successfully.

A CONTRAST.

Canada is a colony of Great Britain. Its people govern themselves. For the purpose of keeping the peace in the colony or protecting the property of men of any nation living in the colony, there is not a single British soldier in the whole Dominion. Canada does not pay a cent of tribute to Great Britain in any form. The Imperial Government does not support or contribute to the support of any Canadian public institution. The people of Canada are loyal to the British Crown and are well content with British connection. There is no murmuring at the treatment Canada receives from Great Britain, and no Canadian out of the lunatic asylums as much as dreams of rebelling against the British Sovereign. There is in Canada perfect liberty of speech, and the press of the country is as free as that of any nation in the world. There is no restraint on the expression of opinion, yet a man might live a score of years in Canada without hearing a word of reproach directed against Great Britain, or seeing in its newspapers a single article which the most ardently loyal subject of Queen Victoria could regard as even tinged with sedition. Native Canadians and native Englishmen are in Canada on a perfect equality, socially and sentimentally, as well as legally. If an English newcomer puts on airs of superiority he is merely laughed at by Canadians and left to find out that his superiority exists nowhere except in his own imagination, which he does sooner or later and generally with a very good grace.

Cuba is a colony of Spain. The people of the island have been kept in a state of pupillage by the Mother Country from its first settlement. The Cubans are very far from being a contented people. Spain has had the utmost difficulty in trying to keep the peace on the island. "The nominal garrison of Cuba," we are told by the London Times, "is about twenty thousand men, and at this moment there are thirty thousand in the island." Ten thousand more troops are to be at once despatched to Cuba. When they arrive there will be a Spanish army of forty thousand men on the island of Cuba. And the work which this large army will have to do will be to keep the inhabitants of Cuba, who are "well under two millions," in subjection to Spain. A few days ago the Senate passed a bill authorizing the Minister for the Colonies to raise in case of need no less a sum than six hundred pesetas or about twenty-four million pounds sterling for the support of the army in Cuba. "Englishmen," says the Times, "can scarcely view without some innocent envy the vigor displayed by the Spanish war office, which has not shrunk from sending to the New World a force almost equalling the entire peace establishment of the Spanish army." What do Englishmen think of the colonial policy which renders such an expensive way of keeping the peace in a large dependency necessary? The English colony of Canada is perfectly tranquil and its continued connection with Great Britain is assured, although there is not a single British soldier in the country for the purpose of keeping the people in order, while the Spanish colony of Cuba is in a chronically disturbed condition, and it requires an army forty thousand strong to keep it in subjection to Spain. The Englishman has, we should say, very little to envy when he contemplates this amazing contrast.

The Cubans have the apparatus for self-government without being allowed to exercise the power of self-government. We learn from the Times that, "Each of the six provinces sends two Senators to Madrid, while two more are furnished by the University of Havana and the Royal Society of the friends of the country. Thirty Deputies chosen in the same manner as in Spain itself represent the Island in the Cortes. Each province has also a Legislature of its own, which, however, is not allowed to legislate, a Governor appointed from Madrid relieving it of all the serious functions of administration. There is over all a Governor-General also appointed by the Spanish Government, who has almost unlimited discretionary powers. Minor local administration is carried on by 153 municipalities which levy local taxation to the amount of considerably over a million and a half (pounds sterling)."

Then the two million Cubans are obliged to pay Imperial taxes to the amount of \$25,000,000. But even this is not enough to meet the demands of government, for we are told that there is a chronic deficit of about \$3,000,000. And the public debt has been piled up until it has reached the enormous figure of, in round numbers, \$185,000,000. The Cubans, then, instead of being allowed to govern themselves are governed by Spaniards, and from Spain. This Spanish administration, the Times tells us, "goes far to neutralize the magnificent resources of soil, climate and natural wealth—resources of which not a tithe has yet been utilized. On the other hand, the discontent of Cuba imposes perpetual sacrifices upon a country whose finances are in no condition to bear the burden."

Added to the political grievances there is a social one which is more irritating and harder to be borne than the misgovernment of the country. The Spaniards are not only the masters of the country but they assert their mastery in the most offensive manner. They despise native born Cubans, and they are at no pains to conceal their contempt for them. This treatment has engendered in the native Cubans—Creeoles—the deepest hatred

of the Spanish strangers. It is this hatred, strong and active, that makes rebellion chronic on the island, and causes the natives of all races to be impatient of Spanish rule. The political and social conditions of Cuba and Canada show in the strongest light the difference that there is between the colonial policy of Spain and that of Great Britain. There can be no doubt that Cuba would have been as contented, as loyal and as prosperous as Canada is to-day if its inhabitants during the last fifty years had been treated as wisely and as justly by the Mother Country as have been those of British North America.

STILL UNSATISFACTORY.

The meeting of the ratepayers on Thursday evening was most unsatisfactory. There was a splendid meeting and there was no mistaking the general feeling, but through neglect or mismanagement no resolution expressive of the opinion of the assembled ratepayers was moved. The Mayor and the City Councilors present, if they had any good reason for rejecting the lowest tender took good care to keep it to themselves. What the members of the majority said was nothing more than a weak repetition of the speeches made at the regular meeting of the City Council at which the lowest tender was rejected at the apparent cost to the city of \$16,000. If the explanations given from their places in the City Council chamber were unsatisfactory, those attempted to be made at the meeting are still more unsatisfactory. The ratepayers have yet to hear a full, clear and a reasonable statement of the grounds on which sixteen thousand dollars of the ratepayers' money were sacrificed by the City Council.

THE AFRICAN GIN TRADE.

There is one state of society regarding which there can be no doubt whatever of the wisdom, the humanity and the practicability of prohibition. Nearly all savage races soon acquire an uncontrollable appetite for strong drink. And the indulgence of that appetite has upon them the most deplorable effects. It brings out and intensifies all that is low and brutal in their nature; it closes their minds to the reception of the teaching of civilized men, and kills in them all desire for improvement in either their moral or their material condition. That men professing to be Christians, after they see the abominable effects produced by habitual indulgence in strong drink on savage tribes, should continue to supply them with it is an evidence of their shortsightedness, as well as of their depravity. The men who expect to make money by trading with these savages are simply fools when they supply them with an article which sooner or later kills them off, and renders them both unwilling and unable to make the exertions necessary to produce or procure the goods in which they deal. It has been proved over and over again that these savages where liquor is concerned possess no self-restraint. As long as the liquor lasts they will do nothing until the last drop is consumed. The mischief they do when intoxicated is not easily repaired, and a succession of drinking bouts destroys their health and makes them incapable of exertion.

The trade in what is called "gin" on the East Coast of Africa has been denounced over and over again, not by missionaries only, but by other humane and sensible men who see in it the greatest enemy to civilization and by consequence to trade. The duty on this gin is very low, and the natives will do almost anything to get it. "Whole towns," it is said, "are upon occasion to be seen in a state of drunkenness, and although the opening of roads has so far facilitated trade as to enable the natives to bring great quantities of palm oil, kernels, sheep, goats, fowls, yams, rubber and other products, to the local markets, European goods for which those articles should be exchanged are nowhere visible. Gin and rum are poured into the country in appalling quantities."

It is there any man of common sense and common humanity who will contend that it is any hardship to deprive these unfortunate natives of the supply of drink, which has proved to be their bane and their ruin. Prohibition has been tried in some of those African countries and the result has been most encouraging. "In South Africa, in those states in which the experiment of absolute prohibition has been tried the result has been in the highest degree satisfactory, and restriction of the sale of liquor to the natives is accepted as one of the fundamental laws of civilization in the new territories now being brought under British jurisdiction."

It has been clearly demonstrated that the extension of the trade in spirits is made at the cost of the trade in other European goods. The native who buys gin buys little else, and in those markets in which the green packing cases of imported spirits are seen other European goods do not appear. It is a case of one trade or the other, but not of both. The spirit trade, like a noxious weed, chokes every other growth in those districts in which it is allowed to flourish. The solution of the material difficulty is to be found in this pregnant fact.

There can be no doubt of this. The Governments of the Dominion and of the United States act upon this principle of necessary prohibition in the laws which they have enacted for the well being of the North American Indians. The fire-water has done them as much harm as it is now doing the native tribes on the Eastern Coast of Africa. Where the prohibition can be enforced the condition of the Indian has become greatly ameliorated, and the progress of decay so plainly visible where strong drink can be procured appears to be for the time arrested. As the country becomes settled, it is found impossible to enforce strict prohibition, but even the restriction that is possible does much good. In Eastern

Africa, however, there is not this difficulty to be met. A strict embargo can be laid upon strong drink of every kind at the ports. Dealers can be prevented from trading in it. There would perhaps be some smuggling, but the illicit trade would necessarily do but little harm compared with what is now done by the unrestricted traffic. Trade generally would become much more healthy, the condition of the native tribes would be improved, and nations calling themselves Christian would be freed from a deep and a deserved reproach.

A CORRUPT STATE.

The ease with which China was beaten by Japan has been a wonder to the whole civilized world. Many who are unacquainted with the character of the Chinese and the circumstances of the country, have tried to account for what appeared to be the mysterious weakness of China, but the solution has been unsatisfactory. A resident of China, who appears to be well acquainted with the policy of the Chinese Government and the structure of Chinese society, in a late number of the Overland Mail, tries to show how it was that the Chinese were not able to offer any but the most ineffective resistance to the well-organized, energetic and courageous Japanese. This is part of what he says:

The utter collapse of China in the recent campaign and the vivid revelation of her weakness and of the incapacity of her rulers suggest the question—Can the regeneration of China come from within her own gates, through the instrumentality of her own people? Opinion is divided over this question even amongst those European residents who, by their long experience of and contact with the Chinese, have had ample opportunity of forming reliable estimates of the national character. In our opinion two things are essential for internal regeneration: one, the creation of a real, beneficent, yet powerful governing race; the other, the development of something approaching a moral tone amongst the masses of the people. At this time of day it is, we take it, unnecessary to set about proving the utter worthlessness of the incapacity of the present rulers of the vast Empire of China. The Manchus have proved an absolute failure in every attribute of true government. They have done nothing to ameliorate the condition of the people, nothing to produce reform in government or administration. They have done worse than nothing. By their system of government throughout the Provinces they have encouraged unscrupulous corruption and oppression. The poor have been ground into a state of stupefying degradation; justice is unknown, the decisions of the judges of the land can be purchased by the litigant whose purse is deepest, witnesses and untold prisoners are tortured with the utmost brutality and cruelty, which place the Chinese as a race below the level of the savages of Darkest Africa, who at least make no pretensions to civilization, no man, high or low, can say that the safety of life or property is assured. Every officer, from the meanest yamen-runner to the Viceroy of a Province, obtains and maintains his position by an iniquitous system of bribery. Honest traders are 'queezed,' badly equipped and armed, badly disciplined, very often unpaid and left to prey upon the already overburdened people. Intellectually, the proud literati are below the standard of the so-called uneducated classes in Western countries; they have learned precepts and maxims which they habitually transgress; their whole method of education is radically wrong and their religion is nothing more or less than rank superstition. There is little or nothing ennobling about the Chinese character, speaking of the race as a concrete mass,—the few bright examples of men and women rising superior to their environment and striving after a higher ideal of existence, serve only to emphasize the dark shadows in the characteristics of the masses. These are the conditions that exist in China at the present time and they have existed for centuries.

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Steamer "Queen" Leaves on Her Second Alaska Excursion of the Year.

The Post-Intelligencer says: "The establishment of the line of trans-Pacific steamers, via Portland, in connection with the Great Northern and Oregon Railway & Navigation Company, has resulted in the usual freight war in which all the trans-Pacific lines will unquestionably engage. Immediately upon the arrival at Portland Monday of the first of the new line of steamers the Northern Pacific steamship agents announced a west-bound rate from Sound and Portland points of \$4 per ton, making a reduction of \$2 per ton, this rate to apply on the next three sailings for the Orient. This rate was at once met by the Great Northern-Oregon Railway & Navigation Company's representative, who, in the interests, F. C. Davidge. Just what will be the attitude of the Canadian Pacific Company and the Oriental Company running from San Francisco is not impossible to determine, both lines having manifested great jealousy as to the attempt of new companies to share the traffic with Japan, China and Korea. The usual rate of \$6 per ton, Mexican silver, is a very low rate ordinarily. When the rate has been reduced to \$4 Mexican there is no revenue in the business for any line, and but for the fact that flour, in bags, serves as a good ballast, it would be unsought at the minimum rate indicated."

TOURISTS FOR ALASKA. There were 140 excursionists aboard the steamer Queen, which left here for Alaska at 8 o'clock last evening. Prominent among them were Lieut. Gen. J. M. Schofield, of the United States army, and party. The greater number of those on board were Californians, most of the other passengers having taken passage from Victoria. Just before the Queen pulled out from the wharf "Yankee Doodle" and a number of other familiar tunes were played on the vessel's steam calliope. Parting salutations were exchanged between the steamer and the Marico just as the vessels were leaving the wharf.

The steam collier Wolligton is at Spratt's wharf to receive two new boilers now being made by the Albion Iron Works. She will also have extensive repairs made to her machinery, the work being, with one exception, the largest of the kind ever attempted here. It is not long ago a large number of improvements were successfully made to the collier Costa Rica. The Wellington's boilers, which have been in course of construction for some time past and which will shortly be ready to be placed in the ship, will be 13 feet 9 inches in diameter and 10 feet 6 inches in length. A large number of mechanics are employed in the work.

A LIGHT FOR PREVOST ISLAND. Tenders are being called by the Marine department for the construction on Portlock point, Prevost island, of a new light tower and boat house. The tenders, which must all be in by July 10, will be received and plans and specifications of the work to be done can be seen at the Marine and Vancouver post offices, as well as at the office of the Marine department here. The light will be red and fixed. Among other things necessity has been repeatedly urged upon the department by Captain Rudin, of the Charmer, than whom no one can better appreciate the requirement.

SEAL CATCHES ON THE JAPAN COAST.

Word has been received that one or two of the sealing fleet on the Japan coast will start for home on July 4. Several letters and the catches reported are as follows: Casco, 1,200 on June 3; Brenda, 770, May 28; Umbrine, 1,100, May 25; Sadie Turpel, 799, June 3; Retriever, 562, May 31; Pioneer, 847, June 1; Annie E. Paine, 1,124, and Mermaid, 1,156, June 4. The reported catches are: Allie I. Algar, 750; Arctica, 740; Bonanza, 850; E. B. Marvin, 700; Edward E. Webster, 630; Idaetta, 341; Jane Gray, 1,120, and Agnes Macdonald, 710.

MARINE NOTES.

Steamer Queen sailed for San Francisco last evening, carrying the following saloon passengers from Victoria: Judge Morrow, Miss F. Guttman, Miss G. Joseph, Miss F. Green, Miss K. Burns, Miss L. C. Gates, G. L. Hayes and wife, Miss C. Leavitt, Miss E. K. Robinson, J. McNeill, R. B. Esley, R. A. Wood, Mrs. P. Lathrop, Miss M. Dwyer and Mrs. F. Everett.

H. M. S. Royal Arthur leaves for Vancouver this morning, where with H. M. ships Nymphs and Wild Swan she will participate in the Dominion Day celebration. At Vancouver she will receive her new flag captain. The Equinox torpedo launches will probably go with her to-day.

There was a big difference between the freight of the two Sound steamers yesterday morning. The Sehome brought for Victoria 78 tons of cargo, while the Rosalie's freight was comparatively small.

THE NALMADE MAIL made its first appearance on Monday, and will be published every Saturday hereafter. The paper is neat, its make-up and contains a considerable amount of general and local news. In politics it will accord hearty support to the Liberal party, with whose platform it is in sympathy. The Mail will no doubt receive considerable support and make for itself a place among the provincial newspapers.

The U. S. Gov't Reports show Royal Baking Powder superior to all others.