

BIG NAVAL INCREASE.

FOUR NEW BATTLESHIPS TO BE BUILT.

Liberal Allowance Made to Increase the Fighting Strength of the United States—Cuban Debate in the Senate Nearing an End.

Washington, March 18.—The naval appropriation bill for the next fiscal year will contain the most liberal allowance for the increase of the navy carried by any bill since the war. Four battleships and fifteen torpedo boats was the decision of the committee on the question of new vessels, which had been the principal point of discussion. The democrats fought hard to secure six battleships, but the republicans stood well together and carried their point. The motion for six battleships was made by Mr. Cummings (N. Y.), and was lost by a vote of 6 to 7, but one republican voting for it.

The four battleships will be of 11,000 tons each and the cost is not to exceed \$3,700,000 each, exclusive of armament, which is thought to be an ample provision, as other ships of the same class have been built in recent years well within that figure. Five of the torpedo boats are to have a speed of 26 knots and to cost within \$850,000 each; the other ten are to have a speed of 20 knots and their cost limit is \$800,000 each.

AMENDING TARIFF LAW.

Action Taken by the House to Correct the Act of 1890.

Washington, March 18.—The house devoted Tuesday to the bill to amend the administrative tariff act of 1890, and passed it without substantial amendment. The purpose of the bill is to strengthen the act of 1890, some weak spots having been developed during the six years it has been in operation. The bill was drawn after extensive hearings, and the advice and assistance of the treasury department, the board of general appraisers, importers and others with practical experience on the subject. One of the most important changes makes increased duties and penalties for undervaluation commence at the point of undervaluation, and not at 10 per cent above the undervaluation as provided by the present law.

THE PACIFIC RAILROADS.

Consultation of Committees to Be Had on the Subject.

Washington, March 18.—In about ten days there will be a meeting or consultation between the two steering committees of the senate to see if time can be given for the consideration of a bill for the settlement of the Pacific railroad debt. The request for time will come from the committee on Pacific roads and if it appears from the views of the two managing committees that time will be afforded then the committee on Pacific roads will make an effort to report a bill at a very early day and bring it up for consideration. If the steering committees do not agree that there will be time to consider the bill then all legislation looking to the adjustment of the Pacific roads problem and the government debt will be postponed for this session and go over until the short session.

RIVERS AND HARBORS.

Several Changes Made in an Important Bill.

Washington, March 18.—It is expected that the river and harbor bill will be reported to the house within a few days.

The first estimate of the bill was about \$12,000,000, but it is now understood that the bill will not of itself appropriate more than \$10,000,000, but it will put a large number of projects under the contract system. The committee in reporting the bill in favor of the authorization of these contracts will say that it has found in the past that about 30 to 50 per cent of the appropriations are saved by the system and that it has proved economical.

To Restrict Immigration.

Washington, March 18.—The house committee on immigration on Tuesday decided to favorably report two important restrictive measures introduced by Mr. McCall (Mass.) and Mr. W. A. Stone (Pa.). The Stone bill establishes as a requisite for admission to the United States that the immigrant shall be provided with a certificate from the United States consul or other authorized representative of the United States at the place nearest his last residence that he is eligible to admission to the United States under the existing laws. The McCall bill, as amended by the committee, excludes all males between the ages of 16 and 60 who are not able to read and write English or some other language.

Cuban Debate Nearly Ended.

Washington, March 18.—The Cuban debate in the senate is drawing to a close, and the expectation is that a final vote will be taken within a day or two—possibly to-day. Mr. Sherman is keeping the question before the senate continuously, so that the speeches are not likely to last much longer. Mr. Mills (Tex.) and Mr. Platt (Conn.) are yet to be heard, but their remarks will not be lengthy.

The Seed Distribution Law.

Washington, March 18.—Regarding the seed resolution, which has now become a law, Secretary Morton says he will execute to the letter the law as construed by the attorney-general. Secretary Morton reiterates his previous statement that he intends to buy the seeds all ready packed.

FIRE AT PEORIA, ILL.

Succession of Blazes Thought to Be the Work of Incendiaries.

Peoria, Ill., March 18.—The fire bell was clanging almost incessantly between midnight and 2 o'clock Tuesday morning. Five alarms were turned in and the entire department kept at work in the southern portion of the city. The fires were all of mysterious origin, and it is supposed that some one starting from Apple street walked up the railroad tracks leaving a trail of fire behind him.

The first fire was in the Hutchinson cooperage works, the largest plant of the kind in the city. The fire started near the engine-room and had secured considerable headway when discovered. The rear portion of the building was badly damaged. No estimate of loss could be given, but it is covered by insurance.

The engines had scarcely returned to their quarters when two alarms called them to the Manhattan distillery, where an immense hay stack was in flames and threatening destruction to the distillery and the other immense stacks. The hay is all baled, and it was a hard fight the firemen had. They had just got the better of this fire when a few blocks away from them, at the cooperage works of Madigan, Walsh & Co., flames were seen to burst, and two more alarms came in rapid succession. The fire here had a big start before discovery, and the forces had to be divided. The cooperage works were practically destroyed. Nothing is known as to the origin here, but it is presumed to have been incendiary with the rest.

A few years ago this was a favorite section for incendiaries, and fires were of almost nightly occurrence there. Thousands of dollars' worth of property were annually burned up in this way.

At 2:45 a. m. the flames from the Madigan, Walsh & Co. plant communicated to the Peoria white lead works on the north. This is a large three-story building, and the fire was in the roof. The firemen soon got it under control, however.

SILVER MEN REPLY.

Answer of Denver Chamber of Commerce to New York Institution.

Denver, Col., March 18.—The Denver chamber of commerce has mailed a reply, of which the following is the concluding paragraph, to a communication received from the New York chamber of commerce:

"We are in full accord with the sentiment that the time is past for any halting or doubtful phrases to express the meaning of political parties upon any public question. The issue is between the producers of wealth and the manipulators of the exchange. Prosperity is impossible without a sufficient and a stable money circulation. This can only be secured by the free coinage of gold and silver. By destroying the latter we have placed a bounty upon the staple products of silver-using lands and compelled them to manufacture for themselves. They are progressive, we are stationary. We cannot improve our condition by praising an honest money that is dishonest, or by denouncing a cheap currency that is not cheap. We earnestly invite the co-operation of all in the effort to convince the people that the free coinage of both gold and silver is the primary essential to permanent improvement, and that the continued degradation of silver can only benefit our foreign competitors, the lenders, the annuitants, the possessors of fixed incomes, and must ultimately destroy as it now seriously injures the welfare of the nation and the citizen."

Chicago Board of Trade.

Chicago, March 17.—The following table shows the range of quotations on the Chicago Board of Trade to-day:

—Closing—				
Articles.	High.	Low.	Mar. 17.	Mar. 16.
Wheat—				
Mar.	61½	60½	61½	60¾
May	63½	62	63	62¼
June	63½	62½	63½	62¾
July	63½	62½	63½	62¾
Corn—				
Mar.	28½	28½	28½	28½
May	29½	29½	29½	29½
July	30½	30½	30½	30½
Sept.	31½	31½	31½	31½
Oats—				
Mar.	19½	19	19	19
May	20½	20	20½	20¼
July	20½	20½	20½	20½
Sept.	20½	20½	20½	20½
Pork—				
Mar.	9.62½	9.45	9.50	9.60
May	9.80	9.62½	9.67½	9.75
July	9.97½	9.82½	9.85	9.92½
Lard—				
Mar.	5.32½	5.25	5.27½	5.30
May	5.45	5.37½	5.40	5.42½
July	5.57½	5.52½	5.55	5.55
S. Ribs—				
Mar.	5.12½	5.05	5.05	5.07½
July	5.32½	5.30	5.30	5.32½

Gov. Matthews Worse.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 18.—There was a pronounced change for the worse in the condition of Governor Matthews Monday night and Tuesday he was worse than at any time since he was forced to leave his office on Thursday. His disease is complicated by an affection of the larynx, which is very painful, his throat being inflamed. His physician thinks the grip has been overcome and that careful nursing will bring the patient through, but the fact is not disguised that the executive is very weak and that his condition is serious.

Monetary Debate in Parliament.

London, March 18.—In the house of commons Tuesday the motion made by Mr. Whitely concerning bimetalism was taken up. The motion recites that it is the opinion of the house that the instability of the relative value of gold and silver since the action of the Latin union in 1873 has proved injurious to the best interests of the country, and it urges upon the government the advisability that it does its utmost to secure an international agreement. It prevailed.

FRANCE IS IRRITATED

PROTESTS AGAINST SOUDAN EXPEDITION.

Lord Dufferin Asked to Explain the Purpose of Sending British Troops Up the Nile—Ill Feeling Toward Great Britain Felt at Paris.

Paris, March 18.—The French government up to this time has not defined its position toward the proposal to dispatch an Egyptian expedition up the Nile. There is reason to believe that the proposal came as a surprise to the French government. French statesmen had been entertaining the hope that an opening of negotiations was near at hand looking to the evacuation of Egypt by the British troops. Next to the sovereignty of Germany over Alsace-Lorraine, probably the greatest source of irritation known to French diplomacy is the British occupation of Egypt. The present move on Great Britain's part is doubly irritating, coming as a check to hopes which French statesmen had allowed themselves to entertain.

The first intimation of the probable course France will take in view of the new conditions in Egypt came Tuesday. A sensation has been caused by the announcement made by M. Berthelot, minister of foreign affairs, in the cabinet meeting, that he had asked the British ambassador, the marquis of Dufferin, for information regarding the proposed advance of British-Egyptian troops up the Nile, and had pointed out to him the serious consequences of such an advance. This warning note may be a preliminary to more decided steps. The prevailing sentiment expressed here is one of indignation at the course adopted by Great Britain, and the general feeling is that France must adopt a decisive tone in dealing with the matter.

France is not deciding upon the course she will pursue without a full understanding with her Russian ally and it is announced that numerous telegrams have passed between Paris and St. Petersburg on the subject. It is understood here that Great Britain also sounded the Russian government before announcing the Egyptian program. But the action of the czar in conferring upon the Negus Menelik the military order of St. George is accepted as peremptory notice that Russia has no sympathy with Great Britain's plans for aiding and relieving the Italians in Africa.

As one of the guaranteeing powers to the Egyptian bondholders, France has more than the usual interest of the other powers in the disposal of Egyptian revenues, and she may refuse to consent to the cost of the Nile campaign being charged to the Egyptian budget. The skepticism semi-officially expressed by the French government as to the alleged necessity of the campaign in the interest of Egypt indicates a purpose to try to restrain the disposal of Egyptian revenues.

The apprehensions aroused in France by a British campaign up the Nile extend beyond Egypt, beyond Dongola and Khartoum and into central Africa and the sources of the Nile, where French colonial expansion has been active or more active than it has been in Tonking and up the Mekong. This French expansion threatens to absorb the valley of the Nile itself, and to push on to the borders of the Italian possessions in Ethiopia, thus forming an obstruction between British Uganda and Egypt. Great Britain has viewed these encroachments with impatience, and French observers do not fail to note that even liberal members of the British parliament express the belief that Lord Salisbury is looking to reoccupying the Sudan and opening the way to the British possessions in South Africa. France fears that the Egyptian advance to Dongola covers a British advance to Khartoum and to Uganda and an interference with her prosperous colonial expansion in central Africa. The British occupation of Egypt is sufficiently galling in itself, but more so in its threats to French plans in Africa beyond Egypt.

London, March 18.—A dispatch from Rome to the Times says that the Marquis di Rudini's statement regarding the new government's policy in Africa has not produced a good impression, and is considered pointless and indicative of an uncertain policy. The comment of the press is mostly unfavorable.

Kitchener Will Command. Cairo, March 18.—Sir H. H. Kitchener, the brigadier-general in command of the Egyptian forces, has been definitely appointed to command the British-Egyptian expedition which will advance April 1 on Wada-Halfa up the Nile and toward Dongola.

Italy Will Continue the War.

Rome, March 18.—The new cabinet, headed by the Marquis di Rudini, met the chamber of deputies for the first time Tuesday. The Marquis di Rudini made a statement regarding the policy of the government in Abyssinia, which may, perhaps, be summarized in the words: "Peace with dignity and honor." He also asked for a credit of 140,000,000 lire (\$2,800,000) to defray the expenses of the African campaign, and to send additional troops to Abyssinia, should such a step be necessary. The credit was granted unanimously and with cheers.

Walter Is Out of Prison. Washington, March 18.—Nothing is known at the state department of the detention in prison in France of ex-consul Waller, as suggested by a Paris newspaper. The records of the department show that he was released Feb. 23, and relatives in this country have had letters from him dated in England.

WISCONSIN REPUBLICANS.

State Convention in Session at Milwaukee—Probable Action.

Milwaukee, Wis., March 18.—Delegates to the republican state convention were coming into the city all day Tuesday. The matter of the Milwaukee delegate-at-large has been disposed of and Eugene Elliott will go to the national convention. The Payne men had secured many proxies in the Milwaukee delegation and felt that they could muster a majority, but the Elliott men rebelled and refused to agree not to go before the convention, even if out-voted in the caucus. There was a long conference, by the leaders, and finally Payne's managers made a proposition to withdraw his name, provided he was returned as a member of the republican national committee. This was accepted and the fight was over.

The convention will adopt a resolution endorsing McKinley for president and declaring that he is the unanimous choice of the party in Wisconsin. Resolutions will also be adopted strongly affirming the policy of protection to American industries as exemplified in the McKinley tariff bill and declaring for "sound money." The convention met in the Academy of Music at noon. John J. Esch of La Crosse was chosen temporary chairman, and John Ewing secretary of the republican state central committee, will be made secretary, and these officers will be made permanent.

Illinois Republican Conventions.

Bloomington, Ill., March 18.—The republican convention of McLean county was held here Tuesday. The convention endorsed the candidacy of William McKinley of Ohio for nomination as the republican candidate for president of the United States. A motion to instruct for Tanner for governor was carried—138 to 44.

Watseka, Ill., March 18.—The republicans of Iroquois county held their county convention Tuesday. Judge C. W. Raymond, president of the Republican State League, introduced resolutions instructing the delegates for J. G. Cannon for congress and McKinley for president. The resolutions were adopted unanimously.

Indiana Prohibitionists.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 18.—The prohibition state central committee held a meeting here Tuesday for the purpose of supplying the vacancies on the state ticket made by the resignations of the candidates for governor and attorney general. After considerable discussion the committee selected J. G. Kingsbury of this city for the first place on the ticket, S. J. North of Milford for lieutenant-governor and C. S. Dobbins of Martin county for attorney general. Members of the committee report that the party will place candidates in the field for congressmen in all the districts and will nominate candidates for the legislature in a majority of the counties.

Burglars Wreck an Iowa Bank.

Burlington, Iowa, March 18.—Burglars damaged the Bradley bank at Moulton, Iowa, to the extent of \$3,000 Tuesday morning at 3 o'clock. They gained entrance through a rear window and attempted to blow open the vault. It is evident they put in too great a charge, for the entire building was wrecked and the vault door blown to pieces. The explosion awakened residents of the town, but the thieves escaped. Bank officials claim no money was taken.

Canadian Cattle Shut Out.

London, March 18.—Mr. Walter Long, president of the board of agriculture, replying in the house of commons to a proposal that the government postpone the permanent exclusion of Canadian cattle until a full report of the protests of the dominion government is received, said that the views of Canada on the subject were well known and therefore the imperial government could not adopt the proposition to postpone the exclusion of Canadian cattle.

Dixon Beats Marshall.

Boston, Mass., March 18.—George Dixon of Boston defeated Jerry Marshall of Australia in seven rounds at Music hall Tuesday night. Marshall hurt his leg in the fifth round and felt unable to continue the bout any longer. The match was under the auspices of the Prescott Athletic club, and was the star event of the season. More than 4,000 people were present. Jimmy Colville officiated as referee.

Menominee River Log Cut.

Menominee, Mich., March 18.—A careful estimate of the amount of logs cut on the Menominee river and tributaries during the winter places the same at upward of 400,000,000 feet, against 370,000,000 for last season. All but about 75,000,000 feet of this amount will be manufactured in the Menominee and Marinette mills.

Nicholson Renominated.

Kokomo, Ind., March 18.—In the republican county primary E. S. Nicholson, author of the well-known temperance law enacted by the last Indiana legislature, was renominated by a majority of forty votes over his leading opponent, ex-County Auditor George O. Roach.

Germany's Colonial Policy.

Berlin, March 18.—There was another animated discussion in the reichstag Tuesday of the colonial policy of Germany, the supporters of the government upholding it and its opponents condemning it most strongly.

Cherokee Bill Hanged.

Fort Smith, Ark., March 18.—Cherokee Bill was hanged here yesterday. He met death bravely.

WORRIES WEYLER.

OUR RECOGNITION OF CUBAN BELLIGERENCY.

Spanish General Losing Sleep Over the Question—The Usual Defeat of Insurgents Reported from Havana—General News of the War.

Havana, March 18.—Captain General Weyler betrays the fact that he is greatly worried about the status of the question of recognizing the belligerency of the insurgents.

Before the serious engagements at Candelaria there were five separate engagements with the insurgents. General Suarez Valdez and General Linars have each had an engagement near Candelaria, province of Pinar del Rio, with the insurgents. The latter are said to have lost 200 killed and wounded. They are being pursued by the troops of the two generals mentioned and by other Spanish troops.

Six thousand insurgents under Maceo tried to penetrate into Sagua. The Spanish garrison, under Colonel Inclan, repulsed the enemy, killing twenty-two and wounding eighty. The insurgents set fire to the suburbs of the town. There are 226 political suspects and prisoners of war in Sagua jail, who will be sent to Havana.

The guerrilla regiment of Sagua fought a band of insurgents at Guayaba, killing four and wounding seven. Several bands of insurgents united again and attacked the guerrillas at the plantation of Carolina, which had already been burned. After an hour's firing the insurgents were dispersed, leaving seven killed and carrying off their wounded. The guerrillas had one killed and three wounded.

It is announced that the insurgents have killed fourteen farm laborers at Palmyria, province of Matanzas, and it is added that the local guerrilla force, which went to the assistance of the men in danger, were fired upon, with the result that five of their number were killed.

The insurgent forces commanded by Pancho Perez have destroyed by fire the cane fields of fifteen estates in the province of Matanzas, involving the loss of 1,125,000 tons of cane.

Five colored men were charged with horrible assassinations of families at Cayabaos, province of Pinar del Rio, last year. They are being tried by court martial.

Insurgents have burned a fine railroad bridge at Coatajales, province of Matanzas.

REFUSE TO TESTIFY.

Illinois State Board of Charities Will Accomplish Little.

Jacksonville, Ill., March 18.—Gov. Altgeld and the members of the state board of charities are engaged in investigating the charges of mismanagement made against the superintendent and employees at the Central Hospital for the Insane at Jacksonville. The principal difficulty which confronted the board in its investigation was the utter refusal of the men who have been spreading the reports to reveal the names of their informants.

Some of the attendants were examined. Their testimony was in defense of their own actions, and they strenuously denied any neglect or abuse of patients. The fact that one of the patients was killed by a train while walking upon a track, and that the death of another was due to burns received in a bathtub during the absence of his attendants from the room, was not denied, and other deaths, which it was charged was due to negligence on the part of attendants, are duly recorded, but in each of these cases the testimony of the superintendent and attendants was positive that the occurrences were unavoidable accidents.

The state board finished the taking of testimony Tuesday night, but no decision was announced.

Districts Instruct for McKinley.

Beloit, Wis., March 18.—The First congressional district republican convention passed resolutions endorsing McKinley for president, Cooper for congress and pledging support to the nominee of the St. Louis convention.

Watertown, Wis., March 18.—The republicans of the Second congressional district adopted resolutions favoring the nomination of McKinley.

Madison, Wis., March 18.—At the Third district congressional convention resolutions were passed endorsing McKinley and instructing the delegates to stand by him so long as Ohio remained true to him.

Fond du Lac, Wis., March 18.—Delegates to St. Louis of the Sixth district were instructed for McKinley. The convention recommended ex-Senator Sawyer for delegate-at-large.

Appleton, Wis., March 18.—The Eighth district convention unanimously instructed the delegates to vote for McKinley.

Manderson Says Nay.

Washington, March 18.—Ex-Senator Manderson of Nebraska, referring to the proposition of Senator Thurston relative to the Nebraska delegation to St. Louis, says that it simply places the cart before the horse. "If I do not go into the convention with my state behind me," he continued, "I will have no status and will not be entered in the race. As I have said before when my state delegation sees an opportunity to make a nomination by supporting another candidate, it will be welcome to do so."

Quay's Stronghold Invaded.

York, Pa., March 18.—The republican county convention adopted resolutions instructing their delegates to vote for McKinley.

THE END IN KENTUCKY.

Legislature Adjourns Without Electing a Senator.

Frankfort, Ky., March 18.—The curtain was rung down on the Kentucky legislature Tuesday afternoon, and no United States senator was elected. Wood G. Dunlap, who was seated by the house, causing the expulsion of Walton and James by the senate, came up from Lexington in the morning and had an interview with the republican nominee, St. John Boyle. Dunlap, however, was still obdurate, claiming that it would be no use for him to qualify, since the republicans would be unable to elect, and he did not qualify.

The joint assembly met promptly at 12 o'clock and took the last and fifty-fourth unsuccessful ballot for United States senator. The democrats refused to answer the roll call, sixty-six republicans being present. Both republicans and democrats refused to answer when the ballot was called to determine a quorum. Two republicans answered the call for absentees, both voting for Boyle. No quorum voting, the joint session was adjourned.

In the house a resolution was read commending the governor for calling out the state troops. Bedlam broke loose, but the republicans were enabled to get a favorable vote on the resolution.

In the senate a strong resolution censuring the governor was passed. Senator Blackburn spoke at the opera house, and announced himself a candidate for re-election in 1898. His term of office expires March 4, 1897, from which date until January in the following year Kentucky will have but one representative in the senate.

THE IOWA MONUMENT.

Legislature Has a Never-Failing Topic—Business Transacted in the House.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 18.—The debate on the soldiers' monument consumed two hours and a half Tuesday and was not finished. Speaker Byers took the floor in the house in the morning to discuss the consideration of the code. He advocated going ahead with the regular work and leaving the code to get along as best it could. The motions to fix the time for adjournment were all voted down.

A resolution passed instructing the appropriations committee to make no appropriations in excess of the revenue to be derived from a two and a half mill levy. A meeting of the ways and means committees of both houses was held for the purpose of considering a proper basis of valuation for raising revenue. The bill providing for state control of private banks was defeated in the house by a vote of 50 to 31.

Prohibitionist Leaders Are Shy.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 18.—John G. Woolley of Illinois, who has practically been conceded the prohibition presidential nomination if he desired it, has written a letter to Chairman Castle of the national committee declining to allow his name to go before the convention, stating that he preferred to loyally follow, rather than lead. Ex-Governor St. John of Kansas has also declined the nomination, which leaves Joshua Levering of Baltimore as the only one mentioned at present. The prospects for a large crowd at the convention are good.

All the Delegates for Morton.

New York, March 18.—The result of the republican primaries held in New York and Brooklyn Monday night shows an evidently solid Morton delegation from these cities. It has been asserted that some of the anti-Platt men were secretly working for McKinley, but the election of the machine republicans leaves no doubt that the winners are out and out Morton adherents.

Kansas Populists in Session.

Hutchinson, Kan., March 18.—Delegates are here in force to attend the populist state convention, which was called to order here at 11 o'clock this morning. Indications point to the election of Chairman Breidenthal and Secretary Semple of the state central committee, ex-Congressman Harris and ex-Gov. Lewelling as delegates-at-large, and it is believed the resolutions will be in line with the Omaha platform.

Claim All for McKinley.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 18.—The McKinley managers in this state announce in advance of the district conventions, which will be held Thursday, that the delegates are pronounced McKinley men, except Henry New of this district, who wants to see Allison nominated, but will vote for McKinley because the feeling of the district is that way.

Judge Clark Withdraws.

Mattoon, Ill., March 18.—The number of aspirants for the nomination for governor of Illinois in the republican state convention has been reduced by one. Judge Horace S. Clark of this city on Tuesday withdrew from the race. He says he does so in the interest of harmony in the party.

Would Be Governor of Missouri.

Mexico, Mo., March 18.—Mayor Cyrus P. Walbridge of St. Louis spoke to the republican county convention here Tuesday, and said he was out for governor of Missouri. He was well received. The convention unanimously endorsed William McKinley for president.

Will Debate the Money Question.

Atlanta, Ga., March 18.—There is prospect of a lively series of joint debates on the financial question in this state at an early date, with Secretary of the Interior Hoke Smith upholding the "sound money" doctrine and ex-Speaker Crisp advocating the free-silver idea.