

THE PLANTER'S LOAN AND SAVINGS BANK. AUGUSTA, GA.

BALTIMORE HAS \$50,000,000 FIRE

City Suffers Most Disastrous Blaze in the History of the South

FIRE RAGED ALL DAY SUNDAY

Toward Midnight the Fire Began Eating Its Way Into the Financial District—Mayor McLean Says the Loss Cannot Be Estimated.

Baltimore, Special.—The most destructive conflagration in the history of Baltimore occurred here Sunday in the wholesale dry goods business district, raging practically unchecked during many hours, completely destroying scores of the largest business houses in the wholesale district, involving losses which cannot be estimated, as the fire was still burning fiercely when night fell.

BROKE OUT ON HOPKINS PLACE. The fire broke out shortly before 11 o'clock this morning in the wholesale dry goods store of John T. Hurst & Co., on Hopkins place, in the heart of the business district, with a series of loud explosions, which were heard in remote parts of the city, and spread with fearful rapidity.

The whole city was notified of the conflagration by a terrific explosion, which occurred some minutes after 11 o'clock. A sharp, spitting roar went up with reverberating thunder. This was followed by a peculiar whistling noise like that made by a shrill wind. The churches in the central part of the city were filled with worshippers, many of whom were frightened, and while no panics ensued hundreds of men and women went outside to see what had happened.

PEOPLE DODGING FIRE BRANDS. Two more explosions followed, and thousands of people hurried to the scene of the fire. Of all the spectators, comparatively few saw the fire brands, which were scattered in all directions.

RAGING WITH UNABATED FURY. 9:20 p. m.—The fire is still raging with unabated fury. The fire department is helpless with the flames steadily traveling eastward on Baltimore and Fayette streets.

THE BLOCK A CAULDRON. All these buildings were swept away by the flames, and the whole block was nothing but a cauldron of fire.

FIRE NEAR COURT HOUSE. 10:20 p. m.—The fire sweeping east on Fayetteville street is within a short distance of the court house, which occupies the block bounded by Fayette, Lexington and Calvert streets.

FINE RUN FOR THEIR LIVES. Wall after wall toppled into the streets, and firemen ran for their lives. All kinds of wires had to be cut to clear the way for the fire fighters.

Infuriated Negro Kills. Tarboro, Special.—Because she would not marry him, Randal Pitman, colored, shot and instantly killed Maggie Battle, a widow, here Sunday and probably fatally wounded her sister, Louisa Barrett. Pitman had called, renewed his suit and as Maggie was about to consent, Louisa protested, whereupon the man drew his pistol, shot both and then made his escape. He has not yet been apprehended.

Minor Mention. George Menches, known as the polygot guide at the capitol in Washington, died last week. He had served as guide there for nearly twenty years, and was most successful in his employment. He came from Wales, and could speak and write in French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, besides having a familiarity with several dialects. He spoke his native Welsh, and naturally had a good command of English. He went to California in 1849 and made a fortune in sluicing gold, which he invested in valuable real estate.

Final Interview. Tokyo, by Cable.—It is believed that the final interview between Foreign Minister Komura and Baron De Rosen, the Russian minister, took place Sunday afternoon. The Baron drove to Minister Komura's official residence and remained 20 minutes. The nature of the conference is a secret as are all the important acts of the Japanese court. It is probable that Baron De Rosen delivered the belated Russian note.

Fire Still Raging at 2 O'clock. Washington, Special.—A dispatch received from Baltimore at 2 o'clock Monday morning says the fire is still raging fiercely. The postoffice building is burning, also the \$4,000,000 court house. The Holiday Street Theatre has been blown up with dynamite and the United States Express offices and central offices of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad are burned.

Telegraphic Briefs. The Russian reply was delivered to Japan at Tokio, and is expected to lead to war.

Raleigh Woman Held in Rome. Rome, by Cable.—Anna Stevens Jackson, of Raleigh, N. C., who, on Jan. 15, after escaping from a house of detention, was found on the railroad tracks, three miles out of Rome, has been placed in an asylum for the insane, pending inquiries which are being made in the United States concerning her identity.

Plan of Organization. New York, Special.—It was announced Thursday night that a plan for the reorganization of the United States Ship Building Company, satisfactory both to the bondholders, represented by Samuel Untermyer, and to the Schwab-Sheldon controlling interests, has been reached, and that in consequence all litigation will come to an end.

Safe Blowers Arrested. Roanoke, Va., Special.—Two men giving their names as William Raymond and James Donohue were arrested here last night by W. G. Baldwin, president of the Railway Special Agents' Association of America, charged with cracking the safe in the National Bank of Rocky Mount, Va., two weeks ago, when \$4,000 in silver was taken. Eleven bags containing \$1100 in silver were found on the men. There is still \$2,900 missing. The men had the money buried near Rocky Mount and went there from Roanoke to get it.

Silk Culture Congress. Washington, Special.—Louis B. Magid, of Georgia, the president of the Silk Culture League of America, announced that he had called a silk culture congress to be held next October at St. Louis. He announced that Secretary Wilson has promised to make an address. Mr. Magid called on President Roosevelt in the interest of the movement for the growth of silk in the United States.

Accident to the Iowa. Norfolk, Va., Special.—The battleship Iowa, while testing her batteries on her way down the coast February 4, blew off the muzzles of both eight-inch guns in her forward starboard turret. Flying fragments smashed one of the ship's whale boats. Both guns are fractured between hoops E and F, and the barrels are badly swollen. None of the crew was injured, and no damage outside that given was sustained by the vessel.

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Edgefield Free Press

NOW OUT OF CUBA

American Army No Longer Occupies the Country

INDEPENDENT AFTER MANY YEARS

The Last Indication of Foreign Occupation Has Been Removed From the Island.

Havana, By Cable.—The last vestige of the American occupation of Cuba disappeared Thursday afternoon when the American flag was lowered from the Cabana barracks, and the last battalion of American soldiers marched to the Tristrama pier and boarded the United States army transport Sumner.

The Sumner had brought the Seventeenth and Ninetieth company of United States artillery from Santiago, and these troops participated with the Twenty-first and the Twenty-second companies, who have been stationed here in the evacuation of Cabana barracks.

President Palma and the members of his cabinet, Gen. Rodriguez, commander of the rural guards, United States Minister Squires and the members of the legion staff took their places in the center of the parade ground. After the soldiers had presented arms, the American flag was slowly lowered from the staff over the barracks, a salute of 21 guns meanwhile being fired from the fortress. The Cuban flag was raised in its place and also saluted with 21 guns. President Palma then addressed Mr. Squires and Major Brown, commander of the American troops, saying:

"We are confronted by one of the most extraordinary facts recorded in the annals of universal history, the departure from our shores of the last troops of the United States which have kept in Cuba, after helping us to secure our independence and the blessings of freedom. They could stay longer, under any pretext whatever, or an unjust demand could be imposed upon us but on the contrary, the government of the United States identified as it is with the liberal spirit and noble character of the American people, willingly proves its disinterestedness and the sincerity of the aid it rendered us by taking these men away and showing at the same time, that we have an independent people, the people of Cuba."

Major Brown replied to President Palma and thanked him for his kindness to the American officers and soldiers. He said he believed he voiced the opinions of his comrades in saying that there were no better people on earth than those of Cuba and expressed the hope that Seno and President Palma would serve many years as President, adding that the first part of his administration was a guarantee for success in the future. After this reply, all troops marched past in platoon formation and boarded the Sumner.

The Sumner will sail tomorrow, leaving the Twenty-first and Twenty-second companies of artillery at Fort Barrancas, Fla. and taking the others to Fort Washington, Md.

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DOINGS IN CONGRESS

Discussion in the Senate on the Treaty Question.

Tillman Speaks Plainly.

After almost allowing the amendment to the urgent deficiency appropriation bill providing for a loan of \$4,000,000 to the St. Louis Exposition to go through without any discussion whatever, the Senate Wednesday changed its tactics just as the vote was about to be taken and entered upon a debate on the loan provision, which continued for about four hours, and which was still in progress when the Senate adjourned for the day.

Mr. Tillman said he wanted to say something on this "loan or gift," the latter he thought, as it was not likely that the government would ever get anything back. In the course of his remarks he said South Carolina had had a share of the deal that had been secured by other cities and he had helped to get it. What he meant was that this expenditure of money was unlawful and unconstitutional.

Mr. Spooner remarked that the Senator from South Carolina had put himself on record as participating in a deal. "What I mean," declared Mr. Tillman, "is that when Congress takes money from the people and gives it away for expositions it amounts to a steal. What I want to know is how far we are to go and how much longer we are to participate in it."

Here Mr. Tillman hesitated. "Steals," interjected Mr. Spooner. "Yes, steal," said Mr. Tillman, defiantly. Mr. Bacon said that as he intended to vote for the amendment he did not want the impression to go out that he was in the wrong. He thought the appropriation a proper one. In reply to a question from Mr. Bailey he said that abstractly he did not endorse the principle, and that if the practice of giving aid to expositions was now being initiated he would oppose the practice. But in view of what had been done in the past he considered it not wise to make the appropriation.

The Senate chamber was again the scene of an interesting political debate with the provision in the urgent deficiency appropriation bill for a loan of \$4,000,000 for the St. Louis Exposition the basis for the discussion.

The controversy was precipitated by Mr. Tillman, who insisted that the official figures to demonstrate that Republican aid had not been a failure in the United States. Tuesday

On the Democratic side Messrs. Gorman and Bailey were the orators. Commenting on the present condition of the country's finances, Mr. Gorman said that the huge expenditures made in preparation for war—\$2,000,000 last year for the navy and \$118,000,000 for the army, in a time of profound peace. He denied, as Mr. Lodge had charged, that he had been an enemy of the upbuilding of the navy. On the contrary, he would have the navy engage ample forces to guard American interests everywhere. But he had had no idea of a navy to compete with that of Great Britain, because our conditions did not require such a navy. He did not want a navy for display, but for service.

"I want economy in it," he said, and he called attention to the effectual and given to Venezuela during the administration of Mr. Cleveland. "We did that," he said, "at the cost of \$16,000,000 a year, and now we pay \$22,000,000 for a navy with which to threaten Colombia." He would reduce the navy from 160,000 men as now authorized to 50,000.

He did not, he said, confess that he would be willing to take money from the excessive expenditures for the army and navy, and give it to the St. Louis fair, the success of which was pledged by the United States.

Some Spicy Remarks. Indiana and Kentucky looked horns in the House Wednesday. The debate, which involved nearly every member of both State delegations, was fast and furious from start to finish. Kentucky demanded of Indiana the return of W. S. Taylor, who might be tried for the assassination of William Goebel. The assault was made by Mr. James, of Kentucky, and the defense was led by Mr. Crumacker, of Indiana. Partisan feeling rose to an extreme tension, and as either side accused the other of plagiarism, the debate was a study in the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill.

Mr. James fired both sides of the House to interest and feeling by declaring at the outset that the "Rough Rider President" was ridiculous in his message to Congress favoring international extradition treaties, when one State could not get from another fugitive from justice. He had, he said, introduced a bill in which the Federal government made extradition compulsory in cases where persons had been indicted for crime. For four years, he said, Governor Durbin, of Indiana, had protected Taylor, who had been regularly indicted in Kentucky for the murder of Goebel, "and yet I notice that when Durbin comes to town," continued Mr. James, "he is wined and dined by this great Don Quixote upon extradition, who absolutely confides to Durbin the right to give the waiting and anxious world the news that Kansas can run for President if he wants to. And when we all read that, we again declare 'the king can do no wrong.'"

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Mr. Williams, of Mississippi, commented on the fact that the Kentucky jury were "corrupt and rotten." In some respect, he said, the speech of Mr. Crumacker was a disgrace to American civilization. It was ridiculous to suppose that all purity reigned in Indiana, and that just across the river all was corruption.

Palmetto Cleanings. Minor Events of the Week in a Brief Form. Hunting a Criminal. For two days officers and other indignant citizens of Bennettsville have been scouring that section in search of John Johnson, who is wanted for criminally assaulting the 10-year-old daughter of John Hooks, at McColl. The crime was committed on January 21, but the girl did not make it known till Saturday when she told a girl associate who was working in the Marie cotton mill with her. The news soon reached Mr. Hooks and he found that she had been seriously injured. She said she had not revealed her condition sooner because the negro threatened to kill her if she told. As soon as the crime became known Chief of Police Hays and a posse of citizens started to hunt Johnson but he had just left town by some unknown route. Blood hounds were put on his track and followed him for several miles, but finally lost the trail.

Checked Her Daughter. About 4 o'clock Sunday morning Patsy Eligan, a negro woman living on Mr. Josiah Hill's place about eight miles from Walterboro, went to the bed of her own daughter, Anita Eligan, and clutching her by the throat, threw her until she was dead. There were two other negro girls in the room but they seemed to know very little about the horrible deed except that they helped carry the dead body of their sister into the adjoining room at the command of their mother. Anita Eligan was about 17 years of age. Patsy was committed to jail charged with the murder of her own child. She denies killing her child, but says she has killed the devil and that she did so at the command of Christ. She is no doubt crazy.

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The State of Georgia, Tuesday

Appropriate to the Day.

To the Christmas dinner let us bring every good and wholesome thought, kind hearts and the spirit of happiness. Let us call to us at that hallowed hour the memory of loved ones not with us now, whether they be dead or living; let us give a thought to the wayward, to the prisoner, about whose very cell the broad charity of to-day twines a piece of holiness; to the sick who lie on hospital beds at this hour; to the men in khaki who bear the flag in our far-off tropic isles, and who may only dream to-night of the snow and home cheer they cannot share; to those on the sea in peril among the winter storms of lake and ocean; to the babes just breathing the first breath of life, Christmas gifts indeed for pale, happy mothers; to the aged who realize that Christmas and death are coming very close together about them; to the men who labor in our great forests where the snow banks up high among God's own Christmas trees; to all men and women and little children, shut out in any way from the cheerful glow of the home fire, or who, having homes, may have but little fire to burn.

As Chickens Come Home. You may take the world as it comes and goes. And you will be sure to find That Fate will square the accounts she owes. Whoever comes out behind; And all things bad that a man has done, By whatsoever induced, Return at last to him, one by one, As the chickens come home to roost.

See as you will, there's a time to reap. For the good and the bad as well. And conscience, whether we wake or sleep, Is either a heaven or hell. And every wrong will find its place, And every passion loosed Drifts back and meets you face to face— Like chickens that come home to roost.

Whether you're over or under the sod The result will be the same, You cannot escape the hand of God. You must bear your sin and shame, No matter what's carved on a marble slab. When the item's all produced You'll find that St. Peter was keeping 'em 'tab. And that chickens came home to roost. —Laporte City (Iowa) Press.

Naval Officer Buys Pew. Commander F. A. Miller, U. S. N., has purchased pew No. 118 in the historic St. John's church, Washington, from a Philadelphian, paying him \$1,000 for it.

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