

On the subject of "reconcentration" he is reported as follows:

Although I am not sufficiently well acquainted with the full military plans to speak with absolute authority, I can say that the whole subject is much misunderstood by our people. As a matter of fact there has never been any thought of establishing "concentration camps" in the ordinary acceptation of the term. All that has been proposed is an insurgent cordon, the establishment of a dead line into which will gradually be drawn all the remnants of insurrection that exist.

What appears to be another colonial venture on the part of the United States is the signing of a treaty between the Danish minister at Washington, Christian Brun, and Secretary of State Hay, for the sale by Denmark to the United States of the Danish West India islands—St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix—lying to the east of Porto Rico. In 1865 a treaty for the purchase of these islands was made by Secretary Seward, but the Senate refused to ratify. Negotiations were renewed by the United States in 1892, and again shortly before the Spanish-American war, but without result, Denmark refusing to entertain them. In 1899, however, it was reported that an informal offer had been made by Denmark to sell for \$3,000,000. At the same time it was said that Germany was in negotiation with Denmark for their purchase; but this was immediately contradicted, it being announced that Germany would do nothing that might be regarded as an infringement of the Monroe doctrine. Rumors of the contemplated purchase by the United States were rife in 1900 and 1901, and on the 2d of December of the latter year it was reported from Copenhagen that the terms of an agreement had been actually reached. But a hitch occurred. These islands are largely inhabited by Negroes, who enjoy, under the Danish regime, all the rights of citizenship that are possessed by the whites. They have an unrestricted voting franchise and full representation in the colonial council. Being an intelligent people, they understand that the tendency of American politics does not promise conditions so favorable to their race, and they object to the sale. Petitions against the sale without a vote of the inhabitants, signed by 34,000 names, were consequently laid before the King of Denmark on the 13th of January, and the American government was sounded by Denmark as to its

willingness to consent to a vote by the inhabitants of the islands. Secretary Hay was reported on the 23d as declining to agree to such a procedure. As reported, he said that "this government desired to acquire the islands and was prepared to make liberal terms, but it could only negotiate with the Danish government and not with its subjects." He is also reported to have been asked to agree to a provision in the treaty for the full American citizenship of the inhabitants and to have refused that concession also. Finally, on the 23d, Denmark communicated its willingness to accept the terms offered by the United States, and on the 24th the treaty was signed at Washington by Mr. Brun for Denmark and Mr. Hay for the United States. The terms of the treaty are as yet not divulged.

In preparation for the colonial system now so significant a feature of the American policy, and also for other commercial reasons, the first step in the organization of a new executive department has been taken. It consists in the passage on the 28th, by the Senate, of a bill for the establishment of a department of commerce and labor, the head of which is to be a member of the cabinet. As originally drawn the bill provided that the department be called "Department of Commerce," but the Senate added the words "and Labor" to the name.

NEWS NOTES.

—Santos-Dumont successfully guided his airship around the harbor of Monte Carlo on the 28th.

—The birthday of the late President McKinley was generally but informally observed on the 29th.

—Members of the American Secular Union organized the National Liberty party at Cincinnati on the 26th.

—The National Traders' association, in annual session at Milwaukee on the 29th, refused to pass a resolution asking congress to retain the sugar duty.

—A consolidation of all the principal glucose factories of the country was reported on the 28th to have been closed at New York, with a capitalization of \$80,000,000.

—James J. Hill, Darius Miller, Edward H. Harriman, George B. Harris and C. S. Mellen, railroad magnates, were examined by the interstate commerce commission at Chicago on the 25th and 26th.

—In the French Chamber of Deputies on the 29th the socialist bill limiting working time in the mines to eight hours a day was adopted in

principle, and the details are now under discussion.

—The supreme court of Ohio rendered a decision on the 24th in favor of the "Nickel Plate" railroad in a suit brought against it by Frank Shaffer, discharged and kept out of railroad employment for joining a strike, who had sued for damages for blacklisting.

—Dr. Felix Adler, of New York, will give a series of public lectures under the auspices of the Chicago Ethical society, in Steinway hall, on the 9th, 12th and 16th of February. His subject is "Outlines of Twentieth Century Morality." The three lectures deal respectively with the new attitude toward others, toward marriage, and toward wealth.

—On the 27th Attorney General Douglas, of Minnesota, argued before the supreme court of the United States the application of the state of Minnesota (see p. 634) for leave to begin original suit in that court to prevent the merger of the Northwestern railroad systems into the Northern Securities company of New Jersey. He was assisted by M. D. Munn, of Minnesota, and opposed by W. D. Guthrie, of New York, on behalf of the railway companies, and by former United States Attorney General John W. Griggs, in behalf of the Northern Securities Co. Decision was reserved.

PRESS OPINIONS.

THE SUGAR TARIFF.

Salt Lake Tribune (Rep.), Jan. 24.—We have done a great deal for Cuba, at costly sacrifices in blood and coin. There is no reason why we should continue our losses to her gain.

Nashville Daily News (Dem.), Jan. 25.—It is hoped that the majority in congress, for the sake of Cuba and the honor of the American people, to say nothing of its own escape from stultification, will pay no heed to the wiles of the beet sugar people.

Chicago Tribune (Rep.), Jan. 27.—Reduce the duties. We have incurred obligations in Cuba. We must discharge those obligations or stand convicted of something so much like oppression that the most ingenious casuist would be puzzled to find the difference.

Indianapolis Journal (Rep.), Jan. 28.—It would be interesting to have a statement from the beet sugar manufacturers showing wherein their own claim is so essentially just and so conspicuously different from begging. If Cuba is asking for charity what are they doing?

Philadelphia Press (Rep.), Jan. 28.—All called to act on this question must put aside all but the broad principle, policy and practice which swayed the nation during the Spanish war, and must continue to direct it as Cuban independence is crowned with Cuban prosperity by reducing the duty on Cuban sugar.

Kansas City Star (Ind.), Jan. 28.—As the United States is the natural market for the island, most of the business would come to this country. A liberal reciprocity policy would build up this enormous trade for the United States. To continue to close American ports to Cuba would strangle this commerce in its infancy.

New York Tribune (Rep.), Jan. 27.—The sugar interests of Louisiana follow the lead of the beet sugar manufacturers in