

WASHINGTON.

THE OUTRAGES ON AMERICANS IN CUBA—THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE—A NEW WAY OF DEFRAUDING THE GOVERNMENT—GEN. SPINNER RECOVERING HIS HEALTH.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Thursday, June 8, 1871.

The American owners of estates in Cuba are still complaining that, through the efforts of the agents of Spain in this city and elsewhere, their claims are constantly misrepresented. The question at issue between them and the Captain-General, they say, is not one of damages at all, but whether they shall be allowed to regain immediate possession of their property 15 months after the Home Government has ordered its release, or wait until the authorities in the island have sold one or two more valuable crops, and obtained the money for them. These men expect to go before the Commission with their claims for damages already done. The crops on some of the larger estates have been sold for from \$200,000 to \$300,000. But what they most complain of is, that while the Home Government has ordered the restoration of their property, the Captain General stands as an impediment in the way of the execution of the order. The statement that many of these estates have been released is true, but this has not been done until the owners have been forced to pay large sums of money, and those who own the estates still held, claim that they have a right to recover them without further loss. What these claimants desire to have our Government do is to inform Spain that her orders have not been executed, and peremptorily demand that she cause them to be obeyed at once.

The Committee appointed by the President, under the recent act of Congress to make inquiries and suggest a system of improvement in the civil service of the Government, has been assigned apartments in the Interior Department. The first meeting will be held on the 20th inst. Col. Cox of the Interior Department, Mr. Elliott of the Treasury, and Mr. Blackford of the Post-Office Department, have accepted their appointments on the Committee. It is not yet known outside of the State Department whether George William Curtis, ex-Senator Cattell of New-Jersey, and Joseph Medill of Chicago, have accepted or not. It is understood that Mr. Curtis will be President of the Commission, and Mr. Elliott or Col. Cox, Secretary.

Another way of cheating the Government has just been discovered, and reported to Secretary Boutwell. Some importers, who buy goods of foreign manufacturers, are in the habit of directing their invoices to be made out so as to represent that a discount of 5 per cent has been allowed, and a commission of 2½ per cent paid. The effect of this is to deduct 2½ per cent from the actual cost of the goods, and reduce the amount of the duty in the same ratio.

Gen. Spinner writes from London to Mr. Graves, Chief Clerk of the Treasurer's Office, that he is recovering his health, and will shortly return to America. Secretary Delano writes to his Chief Clerk that he will probably go from the South to his home in Ohio, and will not return to Washington in several weeks. Many of the prominent Ohioans in Washington will go to Columbus to attend the State Convention to be held there on the 21st inst. Mr. I. M. Price, Chief Clerk of the Division of Issues in the office of the Controller of the Currency, has resigned.

Col. McMichael, Solicitor of the Internal Revenue Bureau, will so far complete, to-morrow, the examination of pending compromise cases, as to be able to commence acting on Saturday on each case as it comes into the office. The order in which decisions of this kind will hereafter be given will be as follows: Letters received on any day from the District-Attorney inclosing papers, &c., will on the following day be submitted to clerks, who will prepare briefs, and on the third day laid before the Solicitor for his examination, so that on the fourth or fifth day after the cases are reported to the Bureau, the decisions will have been made and to the District-Attorneys. That this prompt manner of dealing with these cases will be beneficial to the public service will be more fully understood when it is known that, heretofore, the papers in compromise cases have generally remained in the Revenue Bureau from two months to two years before they have been acted on, while in the mean time the Commissioner has been troubled with letters of inquiry, interested as to when their cases will be acted on, and why there have been such delays. The average number of compromise cases presented is about 10 a month. Col. McMichael will on Saturday have acted on about 300 since May 1. Several railroad cases, in which questions have arisen relative to the abatement and refunding of taxes, will be disposed of next week.

Fifteen million dollars worth of the new Internal Revenue stamps will soon be issued.

Several of the bonds issued from the Printing Bureau, while under the supervision of Mr. Ed. and Clark, have been presented for payment.