

OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, May 11.

The Cuban insurrection lags in Cuba, but is lively in New York. The Spanish Minister is advised by Captain General Dolce, that the rebellion in Cuba is on its last legs. Whether it can be reanimated and prosecuted by American aid we are soon to see. The Administration pursues a cautious course on the subject, and ignores the existence of any organizations in this country for the violation of our neutrality laws.

Our people have got too many irons in the fire. The Administration has its hands full in managing domestic questions. The increase of the public debt, notwithstanding the burdensome system of taxation, begins to alarm the public mind. Is there to be no relief from this intolerable burden? This is a question that presses for an answer. Everywhere industry is paralyzed. People are becoming disheartened. Their earnings are absorbed by taxes for the support of the Government, and for paying the interest on the increasing amount of our public debt. Gold rises, and the cost of living is not reduced, though it was, a year ago, according to the statement of Mr. Wells—the Revenue Commissioner—ninety per cent. higher than it was before the war.

When Mr. Sprague brought to the notice of the Senate the fact that industry is depressed, and labor unemployed, half a dozen speeches were made, in succession, in attempted refutation of the assertion. A Senator from Oregon, Mr. Williams, stated that in his State laborers received in wages three dollars a day in gold. This was considered by the Senate as a triumphant refutation of Mr. Sprague's statement, though, in fact, it only went to prove that in Oregon labor was scarce, and provisions dear. So, on the Western plains, twenty-five cents, in specie, is the price of a cup of water—showing that water is scarce. It is not a proof of the public prosperity.

The experience of the Spring trade is that the people cannot consume domestic and foreign fabrics and pay taxes also. The Fall trade will be worse—worse by reason of accumulated stocks of imported goods and general scarcity of the means to purchase, and an increasing distrust of the future. Mr. A. T. Stewart has had the sagacity to foresee and the frankness to state facts which conclusively show that a very large proportion of the merchants in New York must fail and be bankrupt next fall. His views corroborate those that have been expressed by Senator Sprague.

Secretary Boutwell is endeavoring to stop some of the smaller leaks of the Treasury. Clerks are dropped, and the old furniture of the several offices, when worn out, is to be sold, under his direction, like the surplus gold, to the highest bidder, instead of being disposed of at private sale. This is the principal reform that has been accomplished. The recognition by Mr. Boutwell of the sinking fund loan, is much to be approved. If the one per cent., in gold can be vigorously retained and applied to the reduction of the debt, it will tend to strengthen the public credit in a greater degree than mere declamatory resolutions of Congress.

Many hasty appointments for Consulates were hurried through at the late session, but the commissions for some of the appointees are withheld, for the reason that their fitness is questioned. It ought to be the aim of the Government to elevate the standard of our Consular service instead of deteriorating it by appointing men whose only merit is service in election brawls.

LEO.