

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, July 16, 1899.

Enforcement of the Neutrality Laws—Cuban Officials Satisfied with the President's Instructions.

The instructions issued yesterday by the President to the United States authorities at New York concerning a strict enforcement of the neutrality laws was not unexpected. The Cuban Envoy here, Mr. Lemus, and those of the Cuban Junta who are with him, had intimations of it several days ago. It is thought that the pressure brought to bear by the Spanish Minister, and his frequent complaints of the fitting out and escape of expeditions hostile to the Spanish interest in Cuba, was the immediate cause of the issue of the new orders. No great importance is attached to the action of the President, however, beyond the fact that it puts the military and naval power of the government at the command of the civil authorities as a *posse comitatus* to enforce the neutrality laws. The United States District Attorney and the United States Marshal at New York were expected to look after any infringement of the neutrality laws before their attention was directed to the matter by the President. If they found themselves unable to enforce the law it was their business to call upon the government for aid, which would of course have been granted. There is nothing really new or alarming, therefore, in the turn affairs have taken. The New York officials are simply cautioned to be more careful and to keep a stricter watch. The Cubans are neither discouraged nor demoralized by this order. By a little shrewd management they can get nearly all they want from the United States without fitting out expeditions of a warlike character. They are not so much in need of men as they are of arms, ammunition, war vessels and military and naval stores. These can be purchased and shipped from the United States without any breach of the neutrality laws. According to the rulings of the Navy and War Departments any person can purchase arms or ships from the United States and no questions asked. This gives a chance to Cuba as well as to Spain. Mr. Lemus says the Cubans can get along without men being shipped from the United States if they can only get arms and ammunition. It will be seen, therefore, that there is nothing calculated to do great injury to the Cuban cause by the President's order—at least the Cubans themselves so think, and it is fair to suppose they know best.

Cuban Estates Confiscated.

Information has been received here that the estates of D. Dominique Aldama and his son, Miguel Aldama, of Cuba, have been seized by the Spanish authorities. The elder Aldama is a native of Spain, who has espoused the Cuban cause. He is said to be a man of great wealth.

Further Decrease of the Public Debt.

From the present indications at the Treasury Department it is believed that the next public statement will show another large reduction of the indebtedness, though not near so large as was exhibited on the 1st of the present month. The receipts from customs and internal revenue are considered good for the dull season. Estimating the receipts and expenses of government for the remainder of July on the basis of what they have been to the present date, the debt statement on the 1st of August will show a reduction of upward of \$5,000,000.

Disposal of Bonds Purchased by the Government.

Under the law as it now stands the Secretary of the Treasury is not allowed to place over \$20,000,000 per annum in the sinking fund. This calls for a purchase of about two and one-third million bonds each month. Since Mr. Boutwell's advent in the Treasury he has fully complied with this requirement of the law. The bonds which he is now purchasing are therefore laid aside to await the action of Congress. It is probable that the Secretary in his report will recommend that the surplus bonds be added to the sinking fund also, to cover the years since the sinking fund was created when no bonds were purchased. This dates back seven years, and would require \$152,000,000, which is more than the Secretary will be able to purchase between this and December.

The Yerger Case—Application for Habeas Corpus Suspended.

Owing to the importance of the questions involved in the Yerger case the Attorney General has entered into a written stipulation with Messrs. Phillips and Carlisle for the purpose of initiating proceedings by which these questions will be brought before the Supreme Court in October next for consideration and adjudication. In the meantime the application to the Chief Justice is suspended without prejudice to the petitioners. The District Attorney in Mississippi is directed to facilitate any proceeding necessary for the presentation of the case to the Supreme Court. The Attorney General is authorized by the President to say that no sentence of the military commission will be carried into effect, save that which may be necessary to the safe custody of the prisoners. This agreement meets with the approbation of Chief Justice Chase.

Mail Robberies in New Mexico by the Indians.

The Second Assistant Postmaster General has received advices from Mr. M. B. Duffield, Special Mail Agent of the Post Office Department, dated La Mesilla, New Mexico, July 2, in which he states when he arrived there he found the citizens much excited in regard to the depredations committed by Apache Indians, who have just captured the two last mails between that place and Tucson, Arizona, it being the third mail captured by them within eight days. They killed two drivers and wounded the third. They have killed many men on this route within the last year and have taken many mails. From La Mesilla to Tucson, a distance of 300 miles, there is not one mile that is safe to travel on account of the Apaches, nor has it been since the organization of Arizona Territory. This section of the country, it is stated, is the worst for Indian outrages, and the fewest number of Indians commit the most depredations. A subsequent despatch gives the names of the drivers killed as Estivan and Reycs, and states that the mails are badly torn up and scattered around, and the mail bags are gone.

The Philadelphia Mint.

The mechanical operations in the chief coiners' department of the United States Mint in Philadelphia will be suspended for three or four weeks, commencing with to-morrow, for the purpose of having an entire new set of boilers placed in the institution. During the temporary suspension of operations in the mechanical department of the Mint the receiving and paying departments will continue open for the public convenience.

Indian Commission Escorts.

General Sherman directs the commanding generals of the military departments on the frontier to furnish such military protection and escort as may be necessary to the members of the Commission upon Indian Affairs in their tour of inspection of the Indian tribes upon the reservations about to be made by the sub-committees of the said commission.

Consul to Santiago de Cuba.

Richard P. Dehart, of Indiana, has been appointed United States Consul at Santiago de Cuba.

German Concert in the White House.

The Executive Mansion is nearly deserted; only one clerk is now employed in the President's offices. The ante-room is vacated by the official gentlemen usually in attendance, and in the President's absence their functions are necessarily suspended. There were numerous visitors to-day, however, to see the premises, among them a German society just returned from the Saengerfest, who gave in the East Room to the few listeners a brief concert in chorus, including several of the loudest and most enthusiastic songs of Fatherland.

Another Raid on Pennsylvania Distillers.

The revenue officers of Philadelphia, with the aid of the marines, have been making another raid on illicit distilleries in the Richmond district, this time completely cleaning them out. No particulars are given.

Capture of Illicit Whiskey in Tennessee.

Information has been received at the Revenue Bureau from Tennessee of the capture of an ox wagon in the mountains of Rock county loaded with whiskey from some illicit distillery in Georgia. The owner of the team was selling whiskey from the wagon to all who wanted to buy. When the revenue officers overhauled this perambulating whiskey mill the proprietor abandoned his team and took to the woods. His name is Allen. The team consisted of two pair of oxen. It was taken possession of, but was subsequently recaptured from the officers

and the oxen scattered through the woods. The whiskey in the wagon was poured out on the ground and the wagon abandoned.