

WASHINGTON.

CUBA'S ULTIMATUM TO SPAIN.

Text of the Propositions for the Purchase of the Island.

SECRETARY RAWLINS IMPROVING.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4, 1892.

The Cuban Ultimatum—Text of Minister Siskies' Proposition and the Proposition of Spain—Viability of the Regency.

There has been a great deal published lately concerning the negotiations inaugurated by Minister Siskies with the Spanish government for the settlement of the Cuban difficulty, but it appears from official documents on file in the State Department that very much of it is mere speculation and most of it wide of the mark. The original proposition presented to Regent Serrano and his Cabinet sets forth that "whereas there is now prevailing in the island of Cuba a devastating war, destructive of life and property and inimical to the interests of trade and commerce, the United States in the interests of humanity and with a view to bring the sanguinary struggle to a close offer their services as a mediator." The propositions submitted by General Siskies were in the following terms:—

First—The Spanish government is to acknowledge the independent state of Cuba without conditions.

Second—The Cubans are to indemnify Spain for the Spanish property on the island, such as castles, arsenals, forts, custom houses and other public buildings. The aggregate amount of indemnification, however, is not to exceed \$100,000,000.

Third—Slavery is to be abolished on the island.

Fourth—As soon as these propositions are accepted by both parties hostilities are to cease, and the United States government will guarantee the fulfillment of the agreement to both parties.

About two weeks ago Secretary Fish received a despatch by cable from General Siskies, which was the reply of the Spanish government to the above propositions. After stating that Spain accepted the mediation of the United States, and thanking our government for the interposition of its good offices for the settlement of the difficulty between Spain and the "Ever Faithful Isle," the despatch goes on to say that in lieu of the basis of settlement proposed by the United States Spain offers the following:—

First—The Cubans to lay down their arms.

Second—Spain to grant a general amnesty to the insurgents.

Third—Cuba to pay Spain for all the Spanish property on the island and for all the property of loyal Spaniards destroyed by the insurgents.

Fourth—Suffrage to be granted to all the population of the island, so that the people may have an opportunity to decide whether they will remain with Spain, or whether they prefer to be separate and independent.

Fifth—Spain will guarantee full protection to such of the insurgents as may be selected to come through the lines of the Spanish army, for the purpose of treating with the representatives of the Spanish government for a settlement on the basis of these propositions.

Sixth—The United States to guarantee to Spain the payment of Cuba's proportion of the public debt.

In reply to the above Secretary Fish sent a despatch by cable stating that the government of the United States was glad to know that Spain accepted its mediation in the difficulty which had arisen between Spain and Cuba. Inasmuch as the attempt at negotiation for a settlement had been thus far successful, he trusted the Spanish government would deem it to be for its best interests to accept the proposition offered by Minister Siskies. Mr. Fish in this despatch made no allusion to the substitute presented by Spain, which may be regarded as a refusal on the part of our government to accept it or indeed to take any notice of it. The representatives of the Cubans in this country have already signified to Mr. Fish that under no circumstances will they accept the proposition of Spain. So far as they are concerned the basis of settlement submitted by General Siskies is their ultimatum. Since the reception of Spain's substitute and the reply of Secretary Fish thereto about half a dozen telegrams have passed between Minister Siskies and Secretary Fish. They are merely advisory of the situation, however, and report no material progress. Judging from their contents Mr. Fish is of opinion that Spain will ultimately accept the original proposition offered by the United States. It appears that recently Serrano, as well as a majority of his Cabinet, are convinced that the wisest and best thing for them to do is to take the Cubans at their word and get the hundred millions, of which poor Spain stands so much in need. The trouble is, however, that heretofore the Spanish people have been kept in profound ignorance as to the true proportions and condition of the insurrection in Cuba. They have been led to believe through their press, which is controlled by the government, that the rebellion was insignificant, and that in a short time everything would be quiet and Cuba would become once more the "faithful Isle." Serrano and his counsellors are in reality afraid to reveal the true state of affairs, which the acceptance of the proposition of the United States would do. It is thought, therefore, that, as already stated in these despatches, final action will be postponed until a king is selected.

Condition of Secretary Rawlins.

The condition of Secretary Rawlins' health this morning is improved. Although he has been very low his physicians think he will soon be able to attend to his official duties. Dr. Bliss, one of his physicians, says the Secretary is improving, but feels restive under his confinement to bed and insists that he will go out to-morrow.

Improving Condition of the Internal Revenue.

A comparative statement of the receipts from internal revenue sources for the months of July and August, 1892 and 1891, shows that during the latter the receipts exceeded the former \$5,703,996.

Duty on Ground Gannister.

Acting Secretary Richardson has decided that ground gannister is liable to a duty of five dollars per ton. Gannister mixed with clay is used for lining iron furnaces.

The Indian Peace Commissioners.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has received a despatch from Commissioners Bruce, Dodge and Bishop stating that they had held a council with the Kiowas and Comanches at Fort Hill, which was very satisfactory. They report more of the Kiowas and Comanches are coming in and quietly locating upon the reservations.

Weekly Currency Statement.

The receipts of fractional currency for the week ending to-day amount to \$271,000.

Shipments to the Assistant Treasurer at New York.....	\$45,000
Shipments to the Assistant Treasurer at New Orleans.....	25,000
To national banks and others.....	38,000
The Treasurer holds as security for national bank circulation.....	342,892,000
And for public deposits.....	20,041,000
Mutilated bank notes burned during the week.....	175,500
Total amount burned.....	15,923,144
Currency issued for bills destroyed during the week.....	146,770
Total amount issued therefor.....	15,769,385
Balance due for mutilated notes.....	153,759
Bank circulation outstanding at this date.....	299,737,660
Fractional currency redeemed and destroyed during the week.....	242,200

New Yorkers to Return Home to Vote.

The citizens of New York State resident here held a meeting this evening, public printer Clapp presiding, the object of which was to facilitate the return to New York of her citizens at the coming election. A Committee on Organization was chosen, as well as one to ascertain the names of New Yorkers employed in the department. It is expected that a permanent organization will be effected.