

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

New York, Sept. 28.—A dispatch to the Herald from Madrid says:

The figures published by an agency which gives the expense of the war as two thousand million pesetas, is short of the exact figure by nearly two thousand millions.

Before beginning the war with the United States the disbursements had been two hundred millions.

Porto Rico during the war cost ten millions, while in Cuba money was absorbed in such prodigal manner, that to use the words of Senor Rocero Glron, expressed a few days ago, "the island of Cuba has been an immense abyss in which a number of millions have vanished in a manner which will astonish the taxpayers as it did me."

The case of the Spaniards in Cuba and Porto Rico seeking repatriation free of cost has been reconsidered and they will be given a free passage, arrangements having been made with the Spanish Transatlantic company to convey them at the same price as soldiers.

Negotiations for repatriation continue to form a weighty problem for the government. Today, the case appears thus, that with the hospitals available, including numerous offers of private hospitality there are at the disposal of the government 10,000 beds. From Cuba and Porto Rico 22,000 sick are announced and these will arrive here during the next ninety days. That is but one problem out of many.

New York, Sept. 28.—The U. S. transport Massachusetts, Capt. Robinson, which sailed from Santiago Sept. 23rd, arrived today and proceeded to an anchorage off Liberty Island. On board were Capt. J. C. Read, commissary and quartermaster and two clerks; Captain McCoy, Second U. S. volunteers (immunes) Lieut. Culwell of Gen. Lacroix's staff (Cuban army), and eighteen stevedores and laborers. While at Santiago the coal in the Massachusetts bunkers caught fire and it was found necessary to jettison 100 tons. A portion of this coal was taken on board again. On going to sea the fire again broke out in the fire bunkers and smoldered for three days. It was finally extinguished by the use of steam and the steamer reached port without further incident.

St. Louis, Sept. 28.—An explosion of powder in the rear of the four story building at 410 North Fourth street, occupied by C. and W. McClarin, fishing tackle and sporting goods, set the store on fire and caused its destruction and resulted in injury to a number of people, several of whom will die.

Kate Weldon, Kate Gaul and Florence Higbee, employees of the McClarin company, fatally injured. Joe Dettler, engine company No. 6, cut by flying glass and bricks; Frederick Bohly, engine company No. 15, hit by runaway team and cut on head and badly hurt; Goldy, engine No. 15, badly hurt by flying glass; two firemen, names unknown; Gus Jansen, fireman, cut by flying glass, not serious; T. S. Stone, passer-by, cut by flying glass; not serious; A. R. Taylor, hit by runaway reel team and badly injured, Miss Virginia Redherford, a stenographer in the McClarin office, is missing and it is believed that she perished in the flames. The first explosion occurred in the basement of the McClarin building, where a quantity of powder and shells had been stored. It set fire to the building and shattered the glass in store fronts for some distance along Fourth street. On the third floor of the McClarin building several young women were at work. Maggie Dinkle,

one of the young women, escaped by walking along a narrow ledge in front to the next building south. Kate Weldon, Kate Gaul and Florence Higbee were unable to do this. They anxiously waited for the firemen to put up the ladders and take them away from their position, which became more perilous every moment from the spreading flames. The firemen took out one of the women, but by some mischance they dropped her to the pavement. The other two, cut by glass and burned by the flames that were nearly consuming them, jumped to the pavement and were taken to the city hospital in a critical condition.

A second explosion sent bricks and glass flying among the firemen, injuring five of them. Two, it is reported, cannot live. This explosion frightened a team hitched to a reel and the horses ran away, injuring one fireman and a citizen. Less than an hour after the fire started, the walls of the McClarin building fell. It is not yet known what the loss, which is total on the building and contents, will amount to. It will probably aggregate more than \$100,000, partially covered by insurance. The building is owned by a resident of New Hampshire and nothing can be learned about it here. McClarin & Co. carried \$50,000 insurance on their stock and fixtures. It is not known how the explosion was caused.

A corrected list of the injured shows that Pauline Bender and Florence Higbee, employed by the McClarin company, are the only ones fatally injured. Kate Weldon and Kate Gaul escaped with minor injuries. At 12:15 all the missing, including Miss Redherfer, had been accounted for.

T. H. B.
Halifax, N. S., Sept. 28.—A special excursion train on the way to the Halifax exhibition from Pictou this morning crashed into a working train near Stellerton. James Sprout, engineer; Michael Obseien, engineer; W. C. Henderson, fireman; John R. McKenzie, fireman, and Wm. Cameron, of Scotch Hill, Pictou county, a passenger, were killed. John McMillan, a passenger, was injured.

Quebec, Sept., 29.—One of the most interesting election ever held in Canada will take place today. In every election district of the Dominion the electors will vote upon prohibition. Never before has the question of prohibition been submitted to the people of so large a territory. In all the provinces the opportunity to express themselves as for or against the absolute prohibition of the sale, manufacture, importation and use of any and all kinds of intoxicants in Canada.

The liberal government now in power has given to the people as to what course will be followed in case the people vote for prohibition. It is not expected that more than one-half of the registered vote or the Dominion will be cast on this question and the opponents of prohibition say that even if prohibition is carried, the liberal government, on account of the small vote, will refuse to enact any prohibitory laws upon the ground that the vote does not give a fair and adequate expression of the will of the people. During the past ten years the question of prohibition has several times been submitted to the people of the various provinces, but never before have the people of the entire Dominion will be upon it. Ontario was the last province to vote on the prohibition. The plebiscite was taken on June 19, 1894, when 192,497 voted for and 110,997

against, making a total of 360,464 or 46.65 per cent of the registered vote of the following year (1895). On the polled vote, 29.61 per cent of the registered vote was for prohibition and 17.48 per cent against. At the Dominion general election of 1891 the registered vote was 568,789 and the vote polled 360,464. Taking the four provinces together it appears that the total vote of 261,008 has been polled for prohibition and 132,158 against, making a total of 393,168 votes polled out of a registered vote of 831,379 at the time the various plebiscites were taken, or 47.26 per cent. Of this 47.26 per cent which voted, 31.37 per cent was for prohibition and 15.89 per cent against. At the general election of 1891 the total registered vote in the provinces of Ontario, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island, was 729,578 and the vote was 63.90 per cent of the registered vote, as compared with 47.26 per cent of the registered vote polled at the different plebiscites. It does not appear, therefore, that the vote on the prohibition question as been as light as is generally below the vote of 1891, after one of the hottest political campaigns ever known in Canada.

San Francisco, Sept. 30.—The steamer Gaelic from China and Japan brings news of a terrific storm which swept over Japan on September 6th which, before it blew itself out almost reached typhoon proportions. The blow did a great deal of damage to shipping, several vessels dragging their anchors and being blown into collision, and one or two small vessels were blown ashore. A terrific downpour of rain accompanied the wind and in the interior the damage was stupendous. Rivers rose rapidly and soon became raging torrents, overflowing their banks and flooding many sections. A summary of the loss of life and property is as follows:

Deaths, 250; houses swept away, 164; houses overthrown, 1,195; partially wrecked, 460; houses inundated, 15,577; river banks broken, 78. Owing to the interruption to communication this summary will doubtless be greatly augmented by later advices. The heaviest loss of life occurred in the prefecture of Kofu. This section also showed other losses greater in comparison with many others, but the Aichi prefecture suffered the greatest loss of property.

Ex-Japanese minister to the United States, Hoshi does not believe there will be an Anglo-American alliance and further says neither America nor England will dare take the Philippines without reference to Japan and that if it were done that would be the moment for Japan to move. The minister was given a grand reception on his return from the United States.

New York, Sept. 30.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says:

Senor Agoncillo, the Philippine representative who has come to Washington to ask that his insurgents be heard by the peace commissioners at Paris, has made public a translation of the Philippine constitution which Aguinaldo was to have proclaimed at Malolos. By this constitution Aguinaldo formally renounces the title of dictator, and assumes that of the President of the Revolutionary Government of the Philippines. He provides for four secretaries: the secretary of state, marine and commerce; the secretary of war and public works; the secretary of police, interior of justice; police instructions and health and the secretary of finance, agriculture and industry. A congress is provided for, to be composed of representatives of all the provinces of the archipelago.

An important feature of the constitution in view of the probability that Aguinaldo will try to obtain recognition