

## NEW TREATIES PLANNED.

**Cuba Taking Steps to Increase Her Revenue.**  
Under Present Agreements with Other Nations She Is Unable to Levy Additional Tarif Rates.

China is to have a new set of treaties with the great nations of the world, which will in some measure emancipate her from the onerous restrictions which she is now under and enable her to adjust her own revenues to the nation's needs.

Much of the credit for securing the consent of the commercial powers to the negotiation of these treaties is due to Li Hung Chang, who employed to the best advantage the opportunities afforded by his tour of the world. Still, the change would have been long deferred had not the war which China waged unsuccessfully with Japan so involved the former indebtedness as to oblige her foreign debtors to recognize the fact that China must be given powers to raise additional revenue.

At present the percentage of duty that may be collected on goods imported into China from any of the great commercial nations is limited by treaty, and the amount of revenue that is derived is entirely insufficient to meet the present enlarged expenses of the Chinese government. Efforts have been made to increase the revenues by the imposition of "locking" taxes, or duties collected on foreign goods passing from one Chinese province or district to another. These taxes, however, have always been bitterly resisted by foreign merchants and have given rise to so much trouble on both sides that there is a disposition to abolish them.

The only recourse apparently is an increase of the tariff rates, and this can be accomplished only by the consent of the powers which have treaties with China, fixing the maximum tariff rates. It happens that the first of these treaties to run its course and require renewal is that between China and Spain, and this will serve as the model upon which the other treaties will be fashioned as they are renovated. Already negotiations have been initiated between the two governments, and because the interests of the United States are similar to those of Spain the department of state is being consulted at every step.

## ALL CLEARED OF SUSPICION.

Indianapolis Woman's Club Takes Heroic Measures.

A social and literary club, composed of well-known women of Indianapolis, Ind., took measures the other afternoon, when the club met, to purge itself of the suspicion that had annoyed some of the members for a year. Periodically the members, in meeting at their several homes, have missed sums of money, taken from the wraps of guests. The sums have varied from 50 cents to five dollars.

Upon the occasion of this meeting several members decided to mark the money in their pockets and endeavor to discover the thief and stop the annoyance. It was found, in due time, that some of the money, which had been marked with small pieces of court plaster, had been stolen. The hostess was informed, and she immediately took heroic measures.

"Ladies," she said, addressing the 18 or 20 guests, "I think it is proper to relieve myself and the members from the suspicion that may rest against all of us until we discover who has been taking the money. Your patient will think that you have saved the pillow and in your excitement forgotten all about him. He will use all the strength he has left to get out of the bed, and you must be prepared to prevent him from doing anything rash. This has proved successful many times, but the fright must be genuine to effect a cure."

## GIVES FICTITIOUS ORDERS.

Portland Boy Gives a Lot of Groceries Much Trouble.

A 16-year-old boy has been giving numerous grocers of Portland, Ore., a whole lot of trouble. The boy dropped into the grocery store of William Rhoden on Grand avenue, near East Pine, and gave a large order. He ordered a bushel of potatoes, a sack of flour, sugar and several other articles, in all making quite a load for the delivery wagon. He told Mr. Rhodes to deliver the load to Mr. Thompson's house in East Twenty-seventh street, giving a number. The boy saw a pie on the counter and remarked:

"I'll take this pie along with me and you can collect for the whole bill at the house. Be sure and bring along change enough to break a twenty, and get around by ten in the morning, or the boy may be gone."

The boy took the pie and went off.

Mr. Rhodes loaded up the stuff and then spent several hours looking for "Mr. Thompson." He finally gave the search up in disgust and started back, when he met Mr. Berger's wagon going out in the same direction he had just come from. Mr. Rhodes asked the driver if he knew where Mr. Thompson lived and he accomplished his purpose. Several other grocers also were taken in by the youth. Mr. Rhodes said he knows the boy and will look out for him hereafter.

## Eighty Years of Wedded Bliss.

A French-Canadian couple, Louis Darwin and his wife, now living in St. Paul, recently celebrated the eightieth anniversary of their marriage. The husband is 107 years old and the wife is 101.

## Starting and Stopping a Train.

About twice as much power is required to stop an express train as to start one.

## Tones and Sounds.

There are only nine different tones in the human voice; but there are 17,000,000,000,000 different sounds.

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