

# Weekly Messenger

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## The Weekly Messenger

### BRITAIN'S FOREIGN TROUBLES.

Troops and stores are being shipped in great quantities from England to the Sudan, and it is reported that seventy-five vessels have been chartered by the Government for that purpose. It is considered certain that all the offers of troops from the colonies will be accepted; but it is not likely that anything will be done until cool weather returns, in the fall. General Buller has brought the force under his command safely back to Korti, where the whole British army now in the Sudan will probably remain during the hot weather.

The Nizam of Hyderabad, the most powerful independent state in India, has offered troops to Britain for use in the Sudan.

The garrison of Kassala, which is still faithful to Egypt, has been defeated in a severe engagement with rebels outside the town, and it is doubtful whether the place can hold out until Britain or Italy can send help in the fall.

Another account of the battle of Abu Klea, sent by a special correspondent, has now been published in London, although at first suppressed by General Wolsley. It appears that the British square was broken, and the army nearly defeated, owing to an unauthorized order—given to the dismounted cavalry by Col. Burnaby—to advance and charge the Arabs.

Britain and France have at last come to an agreement with regard to the finances of Egypt.

After a hot debate, the vote of censure upon the British Government for its course in Egypt has been rejected by the House of Commons, by a vote of 302 to 288. The majority was small, but as all the Parnellites had voted with the Conservatives the Government concluded not to resign.

In the meantime, a new war-cloud has appeared on the Eastern horizon. The suspicious movements of Russian troops on the borders of Afghanistan, and the evasive replies given when explanations have been demanded, have caused the British Government to prepare for the worst. The Foreign Secretary has sent a very determined despatch to Russia, declaring that Britain will on no account allow the occupation of any points in Afghanistan by Russian troops. Several regiments have already been ordered to India, for use, if necessary, to protect the frontiers of Afghanistan; and a most thorough medical inspection of the whole British army is rapidly being made.

As for Germany, Bismarck is in quite a bad temper with the British government for publishing what he considered "confidential dispatches," showing up the plans of Germany in getting "colonies."

With France, the unpleasantness about China continues. France has declared refuse to be "contraband of war." Britain refuses to acknowledge that, and tells France that she will be held liable for any losses suffered by British shippers in case of search for or seizure of rice.

### THE CHINESE IN CANADA.

The report of the Federal Government's Commissioners who went to British Columbia to investigate the Chinese question, has been issued, and turns out to be decidedly against prohibiting immigration. Judge Gray, in his report, comes to the following conclusions: "Those who hold opinions on this subject in British Columbia are divisible into two classes: (1) a well-meaning but strongly prejudiced minority, whom nothing but absolute exclusion will satisfy; (2) an intelligent minority, who conceive that no legislation is necessary; (3) a large majority, who favor moderate restriction." He ranges himself with the last class, and in support of his view he argues that the Chinese have contributed largely to the development of British Columbia, and that without Chinese labor many industries would not have succeeded. Without their labor the construction and completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway would have been indefinitely postponed. Other causes than the presence of the Chinese have, he thinks, deterred white settlers from going to British Columbia.

The Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Secretary of State, who was chairman of the Commission, says he believes that the statements as to the bad moral effect of the Chinese on a community are grossly exaggerated. In fact their morality is not lower than that of the same classes of other nationalities. He thinks it well to pause before a choice of evils; that if they supply a want in the labor market that cannot otherwise be supplied, then their presence, so far from being an evil, is a good. He thinks that now British Columbia has a great opportunity, by welcoming Chinamen, of securing not only cheaper labor than California, but of securing the good will of the people of a country whose vast resources and commerce are just beginning to be made known. He concurs with Judge Gray that by legislation regulating, not excluding Chinese laborers, every purpose can be effected which those who apprehend evils from Chinese immigration desire.

### ROBBING A DEAD ROBBER.

The case of Wells, Fargo & Co. against John Rogers, which is now before the courts, is rather a strange one. About four years ago the Bodie and Carson stage was robbed three times in as many weeks by two highwaymen named Sharp and Jones. To stop these depredations a shotgun messenger was put on the route, and the first trip he made the stage was again attacked, but this time one of the robbers (Jones) was shot dead. A considerable amount of money in greenbacks was lost by the company on the two previous occasions. Sharp was shortly afterward captured, and is now serving a sentence in the State prison, and he states that at the time Jones was killed he (Jones) had a large amount of money concealed about his person. When Jones was buried, however, no money was found on him, and it has recently been brought to light that a man named Rogers, a resident of Smith's Valley, whose

home is near where Jones was killed, took the money from the dead robber as he came by and found the body lying in the road. The money was in bills of large denominations, and the fact that Rogers had lately tried to change some large bills led to his being suspected. It is understood that Rogers admits that he took about \$200 from Jones, and offers to return that amount, but Wells, Fargo & Co. claim that he must have taken in the neighborhood of \$1,800; hence the suit.—*Virginia (Nevada) Enterprise.*

### NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Mr. Small, M. P., has introduced a bill to compel any municipality passing the Scott Act to pay compensation to the tavern keepers. There seems no limit to the cool assurance of these liquor sellers!

Mr. Robertson has a bill in hand to subject burglars to imprisonment for life, instead of fourteen years as at present.

Dr. Buckland, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, had a fit in one of the Ottawa streets on Friday evening, and died in the police station to which he was carried.

A report on the fisheries of Canada, presented to Parliament, shows that the fisheries of Nova Scotia last year produced \$8,736,264; New Brunswick \$3,730,453; Quebec, \$1,800,000; British Columbia, \$1,500,000; Ontario, \$1,000,000; Prince Edward Island, \$1,056,004. These figures are about \$1,000,000 higher than those of 1883.

Senator Schultz wants to know whether the time has not come for Manitoba to be represented in the Cabinet, Mr. Shakespeare M.P. makes a similar demand on behalf of British Columbia.

Sir Richard Cartwright, during a discussion on the census, declared that the present system is a deliberate falsification of facts—counting as "inhabitants" the absent members of a family.

Mr. Clegg, a prominent farmer and stock raiser from Manitoba, brought as a witness before the Committee of Immigration and Colonization, testified generally to the wonderful agricultural resources of Manitoba and to the progress in material prosperity which has generally attended all well directed efforts in that country. He stated, however, that the existence of the monopoly clause in the Canadian Pacific Railway charter was seriously objected to by Southern Manitoba farmers especially, who feel that some encouragement should be given to railway lines running out in a south-westerly direction in accordance with the promises which were made to induce settlement in that fertile region.

Mr. Lowe, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, stated to the committee that 103,824 settlers came to the Dominion last year—slightly less than in the two previous years. They included 1237 Germans, 3451 Scandinavians and 150 Belgians. The total cost to Canada was \$410,991 against \$373,597 in 1883; an average of \$4.44 per head.

Mr. Charlton's bill to prohibit Sunday excursions was quite extinguished on a division.

### A CIGAR-MAKER'S GHOST!

The Portland correspondent of the *Lewiston Journal* has got hold of a rather curious story. He says: "Portland has a ghost. Mr. Libby, manager of Toibts Brothers' cigar manufactory, offers \$50 to the man who will spend a night in the manufactory. Mr. Libby, as well as several others, have tried and failed. It seems an employee of the firm by the name of Kelley, who died not long since, during a lingering sickness with consumption often asserted whenever any of the men called to see him that he would come back to the old shop in the spirit, if such a thing were possible. Just before he died he assured his watchers that he would visit the boys after death. The men are convinced he has made good his assurance, and that the nightly groans and rackets are made by Kelley's ghost. Not one of the men can be induced to remain in the room after dark. Last night Portland's lightweight wrestler, champion boxer, and a gentleman recently in the liquor trade, made an attempt to overcome the ghost. All three are invisible to-day."

THE FENIANS are talking; none know better how to talk, and none know better that they are incapable of doing much else. According to a telegram from Buffalo, there is a scheme afoot for another "invasion of Canada." The correspondent says: "At an unknown rendezvous in this city last night, the executive committee of the Irish revolutionary army held a meeting. Most of those present were of Buffalo, but it is claimed that representatives were there from New York, Detroit and Chicago. One or two have been found who have confessed that they were present, but they refuse to give any facts as to what was said and done. They do, however, say that they talked of invading Canada in case Canadian troops are sent to Egypt, and that it was urged that an expedition be fitted out to cross the border from Buffalo. One of the interested parties said that they were supplied with arms, had money enough to carry on a campaign, and could concentrate 30,000 men within a short time. This one claimed that their movements had been decided upon but could not be given out until the time for action comes. The conservative Irish-Americans also held a meeting yesterday, and pledged the national league here to raise funds to support one Parnellite in the English parliament. It is also understood that the Munro County league has done the same."

MR. CLEVELAND and Mr. Hendricks will have been inaugurated President and Vice-President of the United States before this reaches our readers. Mr. Cleveland arrived at Washington safely on Tuesday; he had received a great many threatening letters while at Albany.

HEAVY fighting is reported between the French and Chinese in Tonquin, but no details are allowed to transpire. It is said that the notables of the Chinese Empire have been summoned to a council to decide whether to make terms with the French.