OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

Opening of the Session—A Perfect Day and a Grand Pageant.

The Opposition Bellicose—The B. C. Members—A New Man's Modest Expectations.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, May 2, 1891.—The formal opening of the 7th Parliament of the Dominion was attended with more brilliancy and *eclat* than the two previous openings which I have witnessed. Veritable Queen's weather prevailed, and everything combined to make it a perfect day for a State pageant. The scene in the Upper House at 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon was one which will not be forgotten for a long while by those who gazed upon it for the first time. That the fame of "Opening Day" is beginning to be noised abroad through the land is evident from the fact that people with means travelled hundreds of miles for the purpose of witnessing it. It is a ceremony of but short duration, but while it lasts it is calculated to make a deep impression on the minds of the beholders. Judges of the Supreme Court in their scarlet and ermine robes, church dignitaries in purple, military men in their uniforms of red and gold, together with the brilliant spring toilets of the ladies of the capital, combined to furnish a scene of unusual brilliancy. The galleries surrounding the chamber were filled with the *hoi polloi*, and the great electric chandeliers under the carved ceiling ablaze with the soft light of the incandescent lamp flooded their radiance upon the assemblage beneath. And such toilets as the ladies wore! I know it would have gratified the hearts of many of your Victoria ladies could they but have seen the spring fashions that were displayed with all the skill of the dressmaker's art. Mrs. Hugh John Macdonald was the representative of Manitoba beauty, and as one susceptible member said, she was a perfect "symphony in pink." Mrs. Frank Barnard represented British Columbia and very charming she looked. To-night the great annual levee is being held, and the ladies are once more in possession of the "Red Chamber."

DURATION OF THE SES

It was painfully evident, yesterday, if the fact were not known before, that Parliament was in session. The flood-gates of talk were opened and our legislators have entered upon what looms like a session of the usual duration. It was hoped that owing to the late period at which Parliament meets this year, the legislation might be crowded into eight or, at the most, nine weeks. I say crowded, but as a matter of fact there will be no necessity to slur over or unduly expedite the proceedings, that the Opposition are but reasonable in their demands upon the time of the administration. It seems, however, that the Opposition are going to fight at every step and for this reason they will likely be paid back in their own coin. Conservative members of the late Parliament complained, perhaps, not without justice; that they were restrained from taking as prominent part in debate as they would have been at liberty to do had they been in opposition, owing to the anxiety of the administration to push the business on. If the Opposition, therefore, this year prove themselves unduly obstreperous and talk, simply for the sake of talking—not for the purpose of enunciating any sound principle but simply to worry the Government, they will be paid back in their own coin. The Conservative warriors will be let loose, and they are just as competent to deal with Grit braves as they ever were. In other words the character of the men who have come into Parliament to support the Government is far above the average, and the Opposition will find that they have made a mistake if they unduly provoke some of the new comers.

THE ADDRESS.

This is clearly apparent by the opening address in yesterday's debate. Take the case of Mr. Hazen, the youthful member for St. John. In him, New Brunswick has sent to the House an Apollo, so far as manly beauty goes, but also a veritable giant in debate. Mr. Hazen is destined to make for himself a name in the history of his native province, if not in the Dominion. He is but 30 years of age, and although he has only resided in the city of St. John a little while, having removed there from Fredericton, 18 months ago, at the election on the 5th of March, he beat C. W. Weldone, who had represented that city continuously since Confederation, by nearly a thousand votes. Mr. Hazen fairly captivated the House with his speech. His tall and commanding presence, his sonorous voice, his perfect delivery and his rounded periods, evoked cheer after cheer, and, warming up under the inspiration, he let the Opposition clearly understand how New Brunswick felt on the issue of the day. The seconder of the address is always at a disadvantage as compared with the mover, inasmuch as he has to traverse ground already gone over. Mr. Corbould was therefore handicapped at the outset, but he made a very clever speech, and was deservedly complimented by both Mr. Laurier and Sir John McDonald. As to the speech of the Opposition leader, it may be said that there was a tone of bitterness running through it. The occupants of the benches to the left of Mr. Speaker are evidently keenly disappointed at the result of the elections on the 5th of March. Mr. Laurier complained that the dissolution was contrary to the spirit of the constitution. Presumably he desires that the Opposition should be consulted as to the date when the House should be dissolved. He had a good deal to say on the question of the trade issue and wanted to draw the Premier into a discussion on the subject. A closing observation of his is worth recording. He said that he was loyal to Great Britain, but he was a Canadian first. The day might come when the interests of Canada and the Mother Country might conflict, and when that day did come he would be found to stand by his native land. With him it was Canada first, last, and forever.

The Premier rightly declined to forestall the negotiations of next October by entering into a discussion of the reciprocity question, but while doing this he made a very effective reply to the observations of Mr. Laurier, twitting that honorable gentleman with showing exasperation at his defeat, and indulging in a tone of bitterness which does not usually characterize his his utterances. The debate is to be continued, and goodness knows how long it will be before it terminates.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TO THE FORE.

It was gratifying to see the six members for British Columbia in their places on the opening day. At one time it was feared that, owing to the land slide in the Rockies, they would be prevented from reaching Ottawa on Wednesday, but the C.P.R. rushed them through in gallant style. The six members sit in a cluster in the chamber, which makes it very convenient for them for consultative purposes. They have hardly got down to Departmental work yet, but will give the ministers plenty of subjects to consider during the next few days. I called Col. Prior's attention to-day to an editorial in a recent issue of the COLONIST, reminding your two members what they had to do for Victoria. Mr. Earle was present at the time, and both gentlemen remarked that they were going to press for the different matters referred to in the editorial—and were going to get them.

A MODEST REQUEST.

A member of parliament is generally looked upon as the big bug of his constituency, especially if that constituency be an agricultural one. It is only when he gets down to Ottawa that he begins to realize how utterly insignificant he really is. Take the case of the Opposition members. Even if one of their constituents comes to town, he has to go to a Conservative member for an adjoining constituency to help facilitate him in his work. Some members come here, for the first time, thinking that they are going to carry everything before them. But they soon find out their mistake. A good story is being told at the expense of a young member of parliament for the first time this year. Soon after his arrival here he lobbied time in commencing to canvas the different members to secure the deputy speakership for himself. He is a French-Canadian, and frankly avowed that he was poor, and that the salary of $2,000 would be a perfect bonanza for him. The poor fellow is beginning to find out that he will have to wait a few years before he stands a chance of securing this prize.

His Excellency the Governor-General, or, rather, his amiable consort, the Lady Stanley of Preston, another year could establish a good precedent by dispensing with the reception to ladies after the state dinner. A good many complaints are heard from ladies who are invited to the reception, and who cannot very well refuse to attend. The opening of parliament is a trying one to ladies who attend the proceedings in evening dress. By the time they reach home in the afternoon they are somewhat tired with the day's excitement and anxiety. Rideau Hall is a comfortable and roomy old mansion, but its drawing rooms were not constructed to accommodate 150 or 200 people. The result is that from the hour the ladies who attend Her Excellency's reception arrive at Government House, until they leave, an hour or an hour and a half later, they have to stand all the time and this in itself is very tiresome. There is no reason why this function should not be abolished. Lady Stanley has abundant opportunities of meeting the ladies of the capital during the session and the occupants of Government House are, I am bound to say, profuse in their hospitalities. Why not in a case of this kind simply allow the gentlemen invited to the State dinner to pay their respects to Lady Stanley and the three or four ladies resident at Government House, without requiring the attendance of a number of ladies to whom the invitation is a veritable bore, but which the usages of society require to be accepted. The complaints on this score are sincere and bitter.

CANADIAN NEWS.

Row in a Hamilton Church Over the Introduction of a Surpliced Choir.

The Alliston Fire—The Business Portion of the Town Reduced to Ashes.

A Church Row.

HAMILTON, May 9.—A disgraceful row occurred in the Church of the Ascension, last evening, over the introduction of a surpliced choir from Christ Church cathedral. The Anti-ritualistic party objected to such proceedings, and turned out the gas, leaving the church in darkness. Temporary lights having been secured, the water was turned off from the organ, rendering it useless. The services proceeded, however, though constantly interrupted by cat calls and secular songs. The police were called, but no arrests were made. The clergy and choir, on going to partake of refreshments provided for them after the service, found they had been strewn over the floor.

Championship Wrestling Match.

LONDON, Ont., May 9.—Dennis Gallagher, of Buffalo, and J. Richardson, of Dorchester, Ont., have signed articles of agreement for a wrestling match for the championship of the United States and Canada, to take place in this city within three weeks.

Action for Libel.

MONTREAL, May 9.—Ives, member of parliament for Sherbrooke, and president of the Eastern townships Conservative association, has brought action for libel against Parmelee, proprietor of the Waterloo Advertiser, claiming $10,000 damages.

The Behring's Sea Controversy.

TORONTO, May 9.—According to the Washington correspondent of the Mail, the opinion is expressed freely by those who have been watching the Behring's Sea controversy with interest, that the question at issue will before long go to arbitration on suggestions agreeable to both parties. The correspondent says further, it is not thought there will be any seizures of Canadian vessels by United States revenue cutters, this year, and that the catch by United States sealers will be restricted.

U.S. Customs Regulations.

TORONTO, May 9.—A Washington dispatch to the Mail says: "Unsuccessful efforts have been made to find out the nature of Attorney-General Miller's decision in the matter of the withdrawal of the customs officer at Vancouver and other Canadian ports. Assistant Secretary Spaulding, of the treasury department, to-day, said a decision had been received by the department, on the strength of which he was preparing a circular of regulations which he expected would be ready and issued within the week. He declined to state in any form the nature of the regulations, but they are understood not to be unfavorable to the Canadian roads.

The Alliston Fire.

ALLISTON, Ont, 9.—This town presents a desolate appearance, to-day, after the big blaze of yesterday. Telephone, telegraph and electric wires are trewn all over the streets, as is also a large quantity of goods. The market, the hose and town fire halls were burned, also a fine brick block occupied by M. J. Doyle, tailor; W. O. Dennis, butcher shop; Chris Donnelly, liquor store; H. McRae, tailor shop; Aiken & Son, foundry; and the skating rink. The mayor telegraphed to Barrie for a fire engine, but it was out of repair. Collingwood's engine arrived in time to do splendid service. The fire lasted about five hours.

The schooner Premier left San Francisco for Alaska last February under charter to the Alaska Improvement company to move a sawmill from Oomnoy to Behring's Sea. Whether she was lost while on her way to Behring's Sea or on her way back is not known. The captain made his way to Port Angeles and simply telegraphed the fact that the vessel is a total wreck. The Premier was built in Port Ludlow in 1876, and was 366 tons net, but her hen. She was 130 feet long, 31 feet 7 inches broad, and 14 feet 4 inches deep.

A Minute a Day.

A MINUTE a day devoted to taking a dose of Burdock Blood Bitters will cure any case of constipation, dyspepsia, biliousness, or bad blood, and may save weeks of sickness and dollars of loss. There is nothing better than B. B. B.

EUROPEAN GOSSIP.

Prospect of Another War with the Boers—Bismarck's Course in the Reichstag.

Capt. Verney Enjoying Himself in Jail—His Friends Now Claim He is Insane.

ANOTHER BOER WAR.

LONDON, May 2.—A very uncomfortable feeling exists in England over the prospect of another Boer war, which may involve the disappearance of Mr. Goschen's surplus. Small wars devour surpluses in a way that British taxpayers are beginning to appreciate, and they do not view the likelihood or certainty of a Boer struggle with the same patience that they look upon a Manipur campaign. The expense of the Indian war is borne by India, but England must carry the burden in Africa. The struggle seems inevitable, however, whatever the cost, and the war office is engaged in preparing for it. The friends of peace are already discussing some way out of it; but one way is apparent, and that is to permit the Boers to establish their new republic under the sovereignty of the Queen. This will probably be the outcome of the affair after a skirmish or two between the troops and the Dutch.

CAPT. VERNEY IN JAIL.

Capt. Verney is said to be enjoying himself in jail, so far as his physical comforts are concerned, although nobody who has seen the man doubts that he is under a terrible mental strain. It is talked of as the most remarkable case of Dr. Hyde and Mr. Jekyl in this generation. Verney had an excellent side to his character, he was foremost in genuine works of philanthropy and charity, and all the time, as Wilson, he was following a most deep cable and criminal career. His friends say that he is insane on a certain subject. The common people look upon him as an accomplished scoundrel who has not received a tithe of his deserts. It is said that his wife stands by him. Under English law, she could not procure a divorce, if she wished to, as he has not been cruel to her personally. She is of independent estate in her own right. Un like Valentine Baker, Verney is too old to build up a reputation that would wipe out the past. A German officer, under the circumstances, would have committed suicide. English society is just now ripe with wretched scandals, in some instances involving other men as high as Capt. Verney, perhaps.

PROFICIENCY OF FRENCH TROOPS.

Perhaps, if the Kaiser could have taken a look at the garrison of Paris when reviewed, the other day, by General Saussier, he might be less anxious to court a conflict. The object of the review was to enable the veteran commanding to satisfy himself of the degree of proficiency and soldierly bearing of the troops under the three years' service system, now in operation. The men inspected may be roughly given as having had 18 months' service. The troops, making a total of about 12,000 men, nine thousand being infantry, took up their position in admirable order, and their appearance was perfect. They were formed in square of parallel lines, the infantry first, artillery next and cavalry the last. On General Saussier's arrival the whole force advanced at quickstep to about 200 yards of the general, drums and bugles beating the charge, and then presented arms. The general galloped along the front of the large square, each line facing about as he passed it, the bands playing the "Marseillaise." The march past then took place, the troops showed excellent discipline, and the artillery especially attracted attention. The guns used smokeless powder, which quite deserves its name.

THE STRIKE IN BELGIUM.

This morning's news from Belgium is alarming. The striking spirit is spreading like an epidemic, and multitudes are leaving work in every centre of industry. The army could not be depended on in case of a revolution, for in no other country of Europe is there such a close fraternization between the people and the troops. The Belgian parliament has lost its opportunity to gain the popular good will, through a satisfactory measure of suffrage, and the working classes are thoroughly aroused to an assertion of their rights. Belgium is a city of mines and factories, and the prolonged idleness of large bodies of men is bound to result in disorder, if not insurrection. It is said that King Leopold, on his recent visit to England, largely increased his deposits in English banks.

THE SITUATION IN CHILI.

Latest advices from Chili by way of Buenos Ayres, state that Balmaceda is recruiting a new regiment for a vigorous prosecution of the war, and is preparing expeditions by land and sea for the recovery of the provinces now held by the rebels. It is also asserted that the situation has been much misrepresented, and that Balmaceda has the common people with him; the wealthier families siding, as a rule, with the insurgents. Don Augustin Edwards was selected for president by the party now in insurrection. His bank in Valparaiso has been closed by order of the government, a horse shoe nailed over the door, and all the clerks and officials imprisoned. His cattle, chiefly imported from England at high prices for breeding purposes, have been killed and eaten by Balmaceda's troops.

BISMARCK'S FUTURE COURSE.

No date has been set for the appearance of Bismarck in the Reichstag, but his hold on the people of Germany is shown by the fact that the subject of his election and future course is the absorbing topic in Berlin. The Prince himself has given it to be understood that he does not mean to act entirely with any political party. He hopes to see a coalition of Conservatives and national Liberals irrespective of strict party lines, and he means not to be a Prussian alone but a German. It is significant that he speaks of 1866 as a civil war in Germany rather than a war between Prussia and Austria. One of the Prince's most devoted friends in Berlin remarked recently that if the Kaiser had left Bismarck at the helm, he would have given him a united Germany. In fact as well as in name, including all the German territory from the Baltic to the Danube. From all that is expressed by Bismarck's friends, it is believed that he will not be violently vindictive in his course toward the policy and ministry of the new Kaiser, but that he will present a calm, steady opposition to changes which he disapproves. It is also believed that he will concentrate around him a party adhering not so much to his personality as to his principles, that may compel the Kaiser either to assert the supremacy exercized by his grandfather in 1855, when King William, advised by Bismarck, ignored the chamber and issued royal decrees placing needed funds at the disposal of his ministers, or to throw himself into the arms of the working classes. No doubt is expressed that the Kaiser would choose the former course. Bismarck will the e fore be a critic and an obstructionist in the body to which he once dictated. As for the Kaiser, it is believed that Bismarck's election will hurry him into the war of which he is incessantly talking, and in which he hopes to achieve a military success that will silence criticism and opposition at home.

THE WESTPHALIA MINES.

The Government's treatment of the Westphalia miners was not generally approved among the moderate socialists, but the methods taken to subdue the strike are obnoxious to all friends of the workingman, whether moderate or extreme. The arrest of the leaders was the first outrage. Then began a persecution of all the miners who did not go to work, the police making visits to their homes on any pretext and questioning them harshly as to their intentions. It has been a common thing at Dortmund for a body of policemen to break into the house of a miner, at midnight, and pretend that they were in search of some fugitive charged with a trivial offence. After ransacking the house and disturbing everybody they would depart. Strikers have been arrested as vagabonds and committed to hard labor; and in several instances the police have actually been quartered upon houses under pretext that an outbreak was feared. It is not strange that under these circumstances there have been occasional acts of violence on the part of the miners. In one instance a police officer who took advantage of his office to grossly insult the daughter of a striking miner, named Cassel, was set upon and thrashed, and compelled to kneel down and beg the pardon of the girl. It is significant that none of the parties to his outrage were prosecuted, the police apparently wishing to avoid a scandalous trial that would bring their conduct to public attention. In another case, a policeman who pushed his way into a house at midnight was taken and bound by the inmates and carried before his superior officer on a charge of unlawful entry. The officer made an excuse that was accepted by the chief and those who had taken him captive were severely rebuked.

Papal Nuncio to France.

PARIS, May 11.—Monsignor Ferrata, special secretary to the Pope, has been appointed to succeed Louis Rotteli, as nuncio in France.

NEW YORK FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

The Weekly Financial Review, issued by Henry Clews & Co., of New York, and dated May 2, states that "favorable conditions still predominate in the stock market. Prices have risen fairly, and the reactions which accompanied the advance simply served to strengthen the situation by encouraging new buying and giving the market a more substantial basis. The outside interest is now larger than seen for many a day, and shows a confidence which the attacks of traders and professionals were unable to weaken. There is no question about present conditions justifying the higher range of values.

For the last three or four years the whole country has been thrown into a state of apprehensiveness about May 1 by immense labor demonstrations, but the condition of the coal trade was unfavorable to the demands made this year, and the leaders showed their wisdom in waiting for a better opportunity. Railroad earnings display very satisfactory gains, considering the heavy totals of last year, with which they are compared.

Gold shipments continue, over $4,000,000 having been shipped this week, but the foreign demand for stocks serves to somewhat counteract this movement."

BEHRING'S SEA QUESTION.

Exposure of a Conspiracy for the Extermination of the Fur Seal.

Particulars of the Elkins-Harrison Combine—Why Mr. Goff was Dismissed.

(San Francisco Examiner.)

The conspiracy for the extermination of the fur seal of Alaska has at last reached the verge of exposure, and the suddenly expressed willingness of Mr. Blaine to arrange with England for a close season indicates that some hint of the danger has reached Washington. The light that will illumine all the intricate depths of this gigantic deal threatens to cast some deep shadows upon leaders in the affairs of state, and in the world of finance. The reasons for the resignation of Prof. Elliott, the Smithsonian expert and authority upon seal life, will tend to clear away the mystery of the strange delay over the negotiations between Minister Pauncefote and Secretary Blaine for a close season in behring's Sea. The suppression of Elliott's report has been referred to in recent press dispatches, and a meeting between Elliott and Pauncefote has opened the eyes of the latter to the fact that the will Secretary has been playing one against the other.

PROTECTED PIRACY.

The causes which led to the discharge of Treasury Agent Goff, whose testimony as to the necessity of a cessation of seal killing, for a period of years, confirmed in every way Expert Elliott's conclusions, will, when known, be found to be startlingly original. The notorious inactivity of the United States revenue vessels Bear and Corwin in Behring's Sea last season, and the fact that over 30,000 contraband skins were captured by the poachers, as against 20,000 by the tax-paying company, indicate that piracy was practised under the protection of some powerful influence. The time has come when an explanation of the grounds for the extraordinary antagonism between the conclusions of the recognized agents of the Treasury Department and the policy adopted by the Secretary of state is imminent. The reasons for this disagreement involve first of all the effort of the successors of the Alaska Commercial company to save themselves from the loss which their contract with the Government will now entail. The leading active spirits of the new company, as is well known, are H. Liebes and Stephen B. Elkins, the recognized boss of the Blaine interests. It was real zed almost before the award of the new contract that the legitimate prospects for the first season were insufficient to offset the excessive expenses incurred in outbidding their competitors. Advices from recognized authorities—Elliott, Goff and others—convinced them that it would be necessary to take the public into partnership. It was determined to make a large portion of the catch on the New York market, where a rich and reliable information of the season's catch was far less available than in San Francisco. Several circumstances, however, seem to interfere with the success of this scheme. The extraordinary success of the poaching vessels would have left but 20,000 skins to show as the first season's catch. This was much below any previous catch, of which predecessors, it th s became imperative to make a better showing for the guidance of the investing public. Liebes proved equal to the occasion. Though president of the company that had contracted with the government to pay a royalty upon every skin obtained, he had an option on the 30,000 skins secured by the independent traders—sometimes known as the seal pirates of the Behring's Sea—which, added to the catch of the company, would have increased their apparent season's result to 50,000.

QUEER REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE.

Curiously enough a number of the notorious poaching schooners have been registered in the name of, or insured in favor of H. Liebes. On the last season's trip to Alaskan waters of the Corwin and Bear, their commanders, though apparently starting from San Francisco directly for the Arctic, were unnecessarily detained at Puget Sound, and finally sealed with the distinct intimation from high sources that American poachers were not to be molested. It is a notorious fact that the seal pirates operated with impunity and that the cutters returned from their northern cruise without any prizes and without the expenditure of a round of ammunition. The big catches made by the poachers were exultingly proclaimed, and the ill success of the seal killers on the islands were not concealed.

These plans promised the necessary boom of the stock, until the character of the reports prepared by Professor Elliott and Agent Goff became known to the operators.

It now became imperatively necessary to the success of the scheme that the nature of these reports should not reach the public. It was at this point that influences were brought to bear that caused the resignation of Elliott and he discharge of Agent Goff. The influence of Stephen B. Elkins was called into play, and proved powerful enough to delay the agreement between Pauncefote and Blaine for the cessation of seal killing.

Elliott was led to believe that the publication of his report would interfere with diplomatic negotiations. On the other hand, Blaine's reason to Pauncefote for delay in acceding to England's proposition was that Elliott's report had not been completed and was not ready for presentation to Congress. Elliott's report was ready more than six months ago, and it is yet to be presented.

DISCHARGED, NOT RESIGNED.

Goff, who corroborated Elliott's opinion was said to have resigned. It is now learned that he was discharged.

This will be found to have been accomplished in a curious manner. It was believed that his mouth had been closed, but it may be that his refusal to accept another and more lucrative office indicates his determination to explain the reason for his retirement. Goff was an agent of the Treasury Department, and the way in which the Elkins influence was utilized in this branch of the Government throws some light upon the connection of Russell B. Harrison with the seal operators. It has been stated that Elkins paid the $40,000 damages awarded to Schuyler Crosby by a Monta court for a libel printed in Harrison's paper. Elkins admitted control of Blaine, and his interest in the suppression of Goff may throw a side light upon the startling announcement of Blaine's retirement from the Presidential field, through the editorial columns of Russell Harrison's weekly journal.

It now appears from yesterday's Washington dispatches announcing Blaine's and Harrison's sudden agreement to Pauncefote's close season proposition that the carefully contrived plans of Elkins, Liebes & Co. have been sadly disarranged by an unforeseen interchange of information between the British Minister and the suppressed Smithsonian expert.

Fifty-Three Families Homeless.

VIENNA, May 11.—The town of Devorg, Austria, has been visited by a disastrous fire, which destroyed a considerable portion of the place and made 53 families homeless. An old woman and three children lost their lives by suffocation.

BY ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Influenza Ravaging London—Forty-one Members of Parliament Prostrated.

Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone on the Sick List—The Newfoundland Coercion Bill.

The Influenza in London.

LONDON, May 11.—The influenza is ravaging the city. The business of the law courts is so seriously interfered with, that in many instances it has been found necessary to postpone cases ready to go to trial. Judges, counsellors and court officers of all degrees, are among those stricken down. No less than forty-one members of the House of Commons are now prostrated. Among the latest sufferers are Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Right Hon. Sir James Fergusson, Mr. John Morley, and Mr. Frank Lockwood, the Liberal member of the House for York City.

Another Unpopular Step.

LONDON, May 11.—Postmaster-General Raikes has taken another very unpopular step in the treatment of the men in the employ of his department of the Government. He has stopped the customary yearly increase of salary of three hundred savings bank clerks, giving no reason for the innovation. The clerks are highly indignant, and a movement has been started to renew the agitation which, on a former occasion, ended in a protracted and disastrous strike of the government postal employees.

Fourteen People Cremated.

BERLIN, May 11.—Seventeen houses were destroyed by fire in the hamlet of Kotzow, on the island of Wallin, last night, and 14 people were burned to death. The fire spread so rapidly that the sleeping people were not aroused until too late for escape. The place has no appliances for extinguishing fire, and the villagers were powerless to check the flames so long as there was anything left to burn.

Frightful Explosion.

LONDON, May 11.—Reports from Newport represent eight men to have been killed and twenty-five wounded by an explosion on the steamer Tancarville. One hundred men and boys were employed in and around the ship. Great blocks of timber and masses of iron were hurled from the vessel with terrific force, some of them being dashed against the workshops, fifty yards distant from the Tancarville. Much damage was caused in this way. Many workmen at work in the dockyard shops were struck and severely injured by flying debris.

The O'Shea Divorce Case.

LONDON, May 11.—It is understood that the Queen's proctor has failed to find grounds upon which to interfere in the O'Shea divorce case, and that the decree of divorce granted to Captain O'Shea will be made absolute shortly, probably on the 17th inst.

He Whistled the Marseillaise.

METZ, May 11.—A peasant at Dietenhofen, Lorraine, was brought before a magistrate, a few days ago, charged with showing disrespect for the German authorities by whistling the Marseillaise. The man contended that the march he had whistled was one that he had learned when he was serving in the Brunswick Hussars. The court made the police officer arrested for the whistle to see if they knew the famous hymn. Then the prisoner was ordered to whistle the march he claimed to have learned in the Hussars. It proved to be unmistakably familiar to the Marseillaise, and the unlucky whistler was fined fifteen marks for his indiscretion.

The Salvationists in Switzerland.

BERNE, May 11.—General Booth, of the Salvation Army, called upon President Ruchonnet, of the federal council, yesterday, and unfolded his scheme for the redemption of the race through the operation of the Salvation Army. The particular part of the army's work that General Booth endeavored to bring to the President's favorable attention was the reclamation of the drunkards of Switzerland and the reformation of the criminal classes by means of a plan similar to that by which the General expects to elevate the lower classes of England. M. Ruchonnet listened politely, but failed to develop any enthusiasm over the project, and it is not likely that the Salvationists will make much more headway in Switzerland in future. They have always been worse treated in the little democracy than in any other European country.

Newfoundland Arbitration.

PARIS, May 11.—The senate has approved the report of the committee on Newfoundland in favor of a convention to arbitrate certain questions.

Bank of Portugal Notes.

LISBON, May 11.—The bank of Portugal, by suspending the exchange of notes for silver, caused a difficulty in the negotiation of its notes. It is rumored that the bank will issue notes of one milreis and five hundred reis. The minister of finance announced that a further supply of coin would be circulated to-day.

Spanish Municipal Elections.

MADRID, May 11.—In the elections for members of the councils throughout Spain, the returns now in show the Republicans to have been successful in forty of the leading cities and towns, including Madrid.

Newfoundland Coercion Bill.

LONDON, May 11.—The Newfoundland Coercion Bill passed to its third reading in the House of Lords, to-day.

Fugitives in London.

LONDON, May 11.—The leading anarchists concerned in the Clichy riots are known to be fugitives in London.

Mr. Gladstone on the Sick List.

LONDON, May 11.—Right Hon. Mr. Gladstone is the latest prominent man of Great Britain on the sick list. He went to church yesterday and seemed to be enjoying his usual health. In the afternoon, however, the veteran statesman was seized with a succession of shivering fits. Sir Andrew Clark, Gladstone's family physician, though not pronouncing his illness to be of a serious nature, declares that Mr. Gladstone will not leave his room for several days.

The Brussels Strikes.

BRUSSELS, May, 11.—The striking miners are still negotiating with the dockers' organization, with a view to inducing the dockers to unload English and German coal, imported *via* Antwerp and Ghent. It is probable that they will succeed, but as yet the dockers have taken no positive action. The miners will stand a much better chance of winning their strike if they can keep foreign coal out of the country, or at least prevent importation by water direct.

To Protect English Miners.

BRUSSELS, May 11.—The officials at Ghent have taken steps to protect the English miners, now being disembarked, from the violence threatened by the strikers.

Ordered to Leave the City.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 12.—The Czar has ordered the Jewish banker, Ginsberg, to quit St. Petersburg and close up his business there, for an open attempt to influence the minister of the interior to ameliorate the condition of the Jews by offering to devote a million roubles to charity.

The New Orleans Affair.

LONDON, May 11.—A dispatch to the Standard from Rome denies, on official authority, that Italy has any present intention of appealing to the powers in reference to the New Orleans affair.

Seeking Support.

ROME, May 11.—It is believed here that Italy is seeking to obtain the moral support of her allies in the triple alliance in the position she has taken against the United States.

A Dynamiter Foiled.

LONDON, May 11.—The anarchist, Vincenzio Frappinici, has been arrested at Naples as he was about to land on arriving from Buenos Ayres. He had in his possession 33 dynamite cartridges concealed in his luggage. Frappinici fled from Italy years ago, failing to return home. He expected to arrive about the last of April, so as to be on hand with his dynamite on May day, but the steamer was delayed by storms. The detention gave the Italian consul at Buenos Ayres an opportunity to locate Frappinici's whereabouts and advise the Naples police.

The Free Education Bill.

LONDON, May. 11.—Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has been mediating between the Dissenters and the Government in regard to the proposed Free Education bill. As a result of his influence it is stated the Government has agreed to greatly modify the measure, so as to remove most of the features which have been objectionable to the Nonconformists. The bill, as introduced, will make the schools far less subject to sectarian control than was at first contemplated.

The McCarthyites in Session.

LONDON, May 11.—The McCarthyites have solemnly resolved in executive meeting assembled, that since Parnell has rejected every suggestion for releasing the funds now held in Paris, they are forced to the belief that he is opposed to applying those funds to the support of the evicted tenants. They therefore view with extreme anxiety the approach of a general election, and they appeal to Ireland to aid the evicted tenants, and they hereby summon a convention of the federation in every county of Ireland to meet as a committee and select candidates for all seats, whose present holders have violated the party pledges.

A Socialistic M. P.

PARIS, May 11.—In an interview, to-day, Mr. Cunningham Graham, the English member of parliament who has been ordered to leave France on account of his socialistic speeches, said that he was surprised at the decree of expulsion, and could see no adequate reason for it. The action of Minister Constans, he said, was most arbitrary, and he felt sure that the French public would condemn the course taken by their government in driving a peaceable visitor from the country for exercising the right of freedom of speech.

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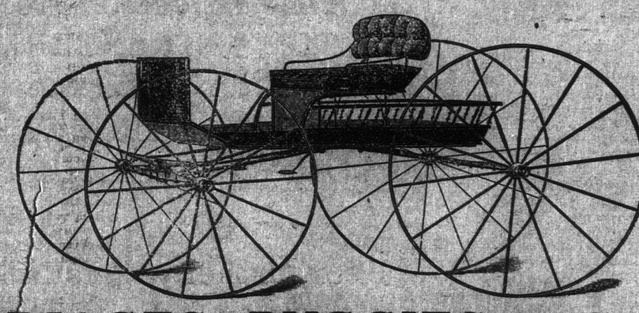

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