

EXPLOSION IN DUBLIN CASTLE.

Speculations as to its Cause—The Office of the Finance Department Wrecked.

Is it a Fenian Movement?—True Irishmen Fear Repressive Measures in Consequence.

DUBLIN, Dec. 31.—The financial office of Dublin Castle was wrecked by an explosion, early this morning. Fortunately no one was hurt, but the occurrence has caused the wildest excitement throughout the city.

The following particulars have been furnished by Mr. Callinan, the Chief of the Finance Department, had just left his room, intending to be absent a few moments, when a tremendous explosion occurred in the rear of the building that had been ten minutes before the finance office was wrecked, but for which a number of lives would have undoubtedly been lost.

The fact that the floors and ceilings of two storeys had been blown to pieces, and some of the beams and joists were blown from their places and blown into small pieces. Several miraculous escapes from death are recorded upon the part of the clerks and others employed at the building.

Numerous theories are advanced as to the cause of the explosion, the castle officials expressing the opinion that a leakage of gas had caused the trouble, while outside the building the great majority of persons attributed it to dynamite and the Fenian party. The police were reluctant in the matter, but instituted a full investigation.

Chas. Cameron, the government inspector of explosives, was called, and after a careful examination of the wrecked portion of the building, declared that there is no reason to doubt that gun powder or gun cotton was the explosive used. This announcement gives strength to the rumors already current.

The old physical force party has determined to show the Government that it is still alive, and to back up both the members of the Liberal party and of the Conservative party.

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CABLE NOTES.

Great Britain and Portugal Agree on a Scheme for East Africa Development.

Speculations for the Coming Session of the House of Commons—The Sealing Question.

Mr. Goschen's Position. London, Jan. 2.—The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has failed again, and it is now generally believed that his currency bill will be prepared, offered to Parliament and laid aside.

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CAPITAL NOTES.

The Government Steamer Quadra Arrives at San Francisco—A Remarkably Quick Passage.

Sir John Thompson Gives the Statement of Organizer Preston a Flat Denial.

From Our Own Correspondent. OTTAWA, Jan. 2.—Sir John Thompson says that Organizer Preston's statement that the Government promised the Connollys to withdraw the prosecution against the Connollys is a manifestly false statement.

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THE THUNDER HILL MINE.

Progress Report No. 5 Shows Prospects to be Bright.

From Our Own Correspondent. The Thunder Hill mine, which has been the subject of so much speculation, is now being worked on a large scale.

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SUNDAY CLOSING.

The Licensed Vintners of the City Reluctantly Submit, and Enter a Vigorous Kick.

They Will Close Their Doors To-Day, but Sunday Next Will See Them Open.

A meeting of the Licensed Vintners' Association was held in the Bank Exchange, yesterday afternoon, and was very largely attended, but the doors were closed to all but the regular license holders.

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