

GOSSIP OF LONDON

Press and Public Sentiment on the West African and Maine Scares. Important Schemes Maturing for Army Reform—London County Council Elections.

London, Feb. 26.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Singapore says: "It is reported from Chinese sources, at Hong Kong, that a French force has landed at Kwai-Chuen-Wan, 240 miles southwest of Hong Kong, and has informed the Chinese that it intends erecting buildings."

Bursting of West Africa Bubble. The West African war scare of a week ago has crumbled, hardly leaving an echo. If there is any fighting, it will be on the initiative of the Royal Niger Company, which proposes to acquire French territory in the company's territory will be immediately ejected by the company's troops, which Captain Lambert, who was in the presence of ladies, used language which, in my country, would not be tolerated, Tammany was bad enough, but the Tammany men are gentlemen compared with the lot I saw and heard on Thursday."

LA CHAMPAGNE ANHORED. Broke the Tail-End Shaft, and Is On Newfoundland Banks. New York, Feb. 26.—The Holland-American line steamer Rotterdam, which was quarantined at night, with Third Officer George Unsworth and nine seamen of the overdue French liner Champagne, who were picked up from a lifeboat on Thursday, Feb. 24, in lat. 43.1 north, long. 57 west. The men, when taken aboard the Rotterdam, were in a helpless condition, having been in the ship's life boat for six days and nights. The men were more or less frost-bitten. Unsworth stated that the La Champagne broke her tail-end shaft on Thursday, Feb. 17, at 43.2 N. in lat. 43.2 N. long. 51.52 W. The steamer being in a helpless condition, Captain Ferris anchored.

For some time I have suffered with rheumatism and tried every remedy, without effect. Mr. F. G. S. Wells advised me to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm, telling me that it had cured many cases of long standing like mine. I have used four bottles and feel sure of one more bottle will make my cure complete.—A. Kontz, Chalmers, Ark. Sold by Langley & Henderson, Wholesale Agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

County Council Contest. London is in the throes of the hottest campaign in its history, the contest for seats in the London county council commencing to-day. The contest is the keenest. For three weeks past, the fight has been waged alike in Belgrave and Whitechapel. Nightly there are scores of meetings addressed by cabinet ministers and "front benches" of both parties. The 118 seats to be filled on March 3rd, there are 240 candidates, including a few Independents. National issues have been included in the fight in a manner hitherto

STILL IN THE DARK

Not Yet Known What Caused the Disaster to the United States Battleship Maine. A Resolution Offered in Congress to Authorize the Purchase of Warships.

Washington, Feb. 25.—It can be stated authoritatively that the navy department has received nothing to indicate the cause of the explosion, and reports that it has been advised that it was by external causes are without foundation. Representative Brownwell (Republican), of Ohio, to-day introduced in the house the following resolution: "That the secretary of the navy be and he is authorized, whenever, in his judgment, it shall become expedient for the best interests of the country to do so, to secure opinions upon an consummate the purchase of such battleships, cruisers, rams, torpedo boats or other forms of naval vessels as are of the most modern type and ready for immediate use."

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THE RAILWAY ROW

Explanation as to the Causes Which Led Up to the Great Quarrel. O. P. R. Claims That the Grand Trunk Did Not Play Fair With Them.

Montreal, Feb. 25.—The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has prepared the following statement of their case with the G.T.R.: "The C.P.R. has a system of railways in Ontario radiating from Toronto. The only connection between these lines and its main line is via Smith's Falls and Carleton Place. The G.T.R. has a line from Toronto northward to a connection with the Canadian Pacific near North Bay, on Lake Nipissing, a distance of 220 miles. The Canadian Pacific distance from Toronto around by way of Smith's Falls is 444 miles. The saving in distance afforded by the G.T.R. line led to an agreement years ago, whereby the freight traffic collected by the C.P.R. on its various lines in Ontario west of the Peterborough line, and on the Ontario line of the C.P.R. west of Lake Nipissing, and freight traffic coming from the western lines of the G.T.R. line, and destined to points on the Ontario lines of the C.P.R., west of Peterborough, should be hauled at a carload rate over the Toronto-North Bay section of the G.T.R. all of this freight being controlled by the C.P.R. and the G.T.R. having no claim upon it as regards this freight."

WINNIPEG WIRINGS. Winnipeg, Feb. 25.—No "side door" drinks could be obtained by Winnipeggers at any club saloons last night, as every hotel had closed its doors promptly at 11 o'clock. This is the result of the active crusade inaugurated by the Citizens' Order League against the sale of liquor on Sunday. The Roman Catholic mission residence at St. Laurent was totally destroyed by fire last night. The church was saved with great difficulty.

THE COUNTRY IS SAFE. Lapland Reindeer for the Yukon Relief Expedition Arrive. New York, Feb. 25.—The Lapland reindeer for the Yukon relief expedition reached New York last night on the chartered steamship Manitoban, 34 days after leaving Tromsø, Norway. The reindeer consist of 48 Lapland reindeer and 28 Chukotka reindeer, 138 immigrants, 537 reindeer, a herd of 88 men, 10 women and 23 children. The reindeer are being packed in boxes and double forces are at work at the harbor. Preparations are being made for placing the heavy guns, which are due to arrive any day.

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ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Agents of the C.P.R. bought for certain quantities of these tickets at cut rates for a considerable time before the C.P.R. met their action with an open tariff. The G.T.R. management apparently disclaims responsibility for the cut rates on western traffic in its own territory, but its tickets are being furnished in quantity to the Canadian agents of western lines; and have been, and continue to be, used by them for this purpose.

After establishing the responsibility of the Grand Trunk by the actual purchase of tickets the C.P.R. struck back as best it could. The Grand Trunk management has spoken of offers to arbitrate the difficulties concerning the North Bay line, and offers to permit the C.P.R. to use this line for through traffic on a train-mileage basis or something of that kind.

THE RATE WAR. Montreal, Feb. 25.—The representatives of the Eastern American lines have advanced sufficiently in their negotiations with the passenger department to send a proposition by wire to Chicago to Western men, stating the terms on which the Canadian Pacific railway company will put a stop to the rate war and restore trans-continental passenger rates to their former basis. The Chicago men are meeting to consider the offer. In the meantime the Canadian railway company is making a reduced rate on the Canadian Pacific railway to the Pacific coast. It goes into effect to-day.

CANADIAN. Toronto, Feb. 25.—Mr. David Dwyer, the editor of the South Wales Daily Post, is here on a visit. He is a certain how the Welsh people have fared, and what capabilities the country offers for horticulture. The contest in the Queen's Hotel office, just before dinner.

Honest Help Free! An old clergyman, deploring the fact that so many men are being imposed upon by unscrupulous quacks, is willing to inform any man who is weak and nervous, or suffering from various effects of errors or excesses, how to obtain a perfect and permanent cure. Having nothing to sell he asks for no money, but is desirous for humanity's sake to help the unfortunate to regain their health and happiness. Perfect secrecy guaranteed. The high stamp, Roy. A. H. MACFARLANE, Franktown, Ontario.

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