

SLOW PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

The Conservative members of the British House of Commons attempt to bring forward on every occasion that England is debasing herself and acting cowardly in her negotiations with Russia. What though Russia has maintained a firm stand so far and granted no important concessions? Is it not better for England to yield all she can with justice to herself, than for her to wage a destructive war with Russia? It is no longer the case with civilized nations that the one which is readiest to go to war on the least offence is considered the bravest, and most jealous of her rights. On Mr. Gladstone moving the second reading of the bill granting \$55,000,000 there were several bitter attacks made on him personally, and upon the Government. Mr. Gladstone, in reply to those speeches which were not too contemptible to be noticed, said that it was not without deep pain and regret that he had seen the change in the attitude of the Opposition so soon as the blessed prospect of peace appeared and when it was found that the war had been averted, which would have been a calamity to England, Russia, civilized mankind and the whole world.

Russia has a plan, all cut and dry, made out by one of her generals, for the total destruction of the English army if it should dare to attack the Russians and attempt to prevent them taking what they wish of Afghanistan. The General remembered that the severe climate of Russia, and hunger, and fatigue caused by long marches, had done more to destroy the armies of the Great Napoleon than had all the powers of Europe. His plan is then to draw the Anglo-Indian army, which would probably be the first to advance, 600 miles north of Candahar and there annihilate it. The Russian army between the Caspian Sea and Herat now amounts to 120,000 men, and to deal satisfactorily with this army, which has the advantage of being on the defence, it would be necessary to have an Anglo-Indian army of over 200,000 men. Gen. Komaroff in his latest despatch states that the Afghans sent an insulting message to the Russians before the Penjdeh affair, declaring that they would thrash the Russians as they had thrashed the English. Preparations for war are continued on a far smaller scale than formerly. There are preparations being made by England in India so that an army may be put into the field at a moment's notice. The peace negotiations are meantime being carried on slowly but steadily, and it is believed the two disputants will shortly come to terms.

The British Boundary Commission started for the Afghan frontier immediately after the Penjdeh battle. The Penjdeh valley through which the Commission passed, is a most fertile oasis and lovely country with splendid pasture land. In the spring time the ground is literally carpeted with flowers. The valley abounds in game. The party killed one hundred and fifty pheasants daily. The Murghab abounds in water-fowl. The hills are stocked with wild gazelle, antelope and wild sheep and pigs. The party saw the ruins of numerous ancient towns.

THE SOUDAN.

The climate of the Soudan does not at all agree with the English troops stationed at Suakin, and many of the men are sick. It has been stated in the House of Commons that the Government had reached a decision which practically involved the abandonment of the proposed advance on Khartoum to recapture it. The most advanced position to

be held, the Marquis of Hartington stated, was Wady Halfa, and this would be kept garrisoned for the protection of Egypt. The bulk of the British troops are to be withdrawn from the Soudan as soon as the Nile rises which will probably occur at the end of this month. Suakin will not be evacuated until some arrangement can be made for holding it again, the hostile Arabs, either by England or some other power. Osman Digna has been besieging the place for many months and it cannot be held without fighting. Digna has often declared that he was determined upon driving the garrison into the Red Sea. The Turkish envoy to England failed to effect an arrangement with England for the occupation of the Soudan by Turkey, because he claimed the right of the latter country to garrison Cairo. The anti-Mahdi has again defeated the original Mahdi.

will be heavily loaded, and apples will be abundant and cheap in the coming autumn. The cattle disease continues to develop in several of the western states and in some localities almost a panic prevails among the owners of horned stock.

PIE-A-POT AND YELLOW CALF.

Perhaps the most powerful chief in the great Qu'Appelle Valley is Pie-a-Pot who is at the head of a tribe of five hundred Indians. He has from time to time shown a rebellious spirit and he and his followers have fared ill since they came under treaty and took a reserve of their own choosing. There has been constant fear lest this chief should join the rebellion, but so far he has taken no part whatever with Riel. Yellow Calf, whose picture we also give this week, is at the head of a band of Cree Indians num-



PIE-A-POT.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

We have now had nearly a week of most reasonable weather which the farmers are improving to the utmost of their power in seeding their ploughed lands, and should the present favorable weather continue for a week or ten days more, seeding will be got through in pretty good time after all. The prospects for good crops, throughout the Dominion are favorable, but great complaints are still heard from the Western State where the wheat crop is estimated to fall short of last year's yield fully one hundred and fifty million bushels. Prices of cereals which had advanced considerably when there was danger of an European war, are again declining, but there is a decided improvement in the prices of fat cattle, while hogs are dull and declining. The prospects for fruit are very encouraging on both sides of the Atlantic, and except a severe frost should intervene, the orchards

being one fifteen families. They have a reserve in the Qu'Appelle Valley and have it well cultivated. They have bought a number of agricultural implements and will apparently make good farmers in time.

The Nihilists in Russia talk as if they held the whole of Russia in their power. They determined at a meeting to permit the Czar to live for two years longer, and if he did not agree to a constitution which they proposed for the government of the State before that time, to blow him up. They contemplate a reign of terror and assassination never yet attempted. Their strength in numbers and influence is such that they cannot well be treated with contempt. Over four thousand officers in the Russian army are Nihilists, but would fight for their Government if there should be war with England.

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT has passed regulations by which the importation of horses to Manitoba and British Columbia is prohibited until they have been examined by a duly qualified veterinary surgeon, approved by the Minister of Agriculture, and declared to be free from glanders or any other infectious disease. The owner or importer shall furnish a certificate to this effect to the proper officer of customs before an entry for the admission of such animal is allowed to be made. In the Province of Manitoba all horses from the United States or territories shall be entered in Emerson and in British Columbia at Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo. In order to defray the cost or examination the owner or importer shall pay in Manitoba a fee of \$1 for every horse examined, and in British Columbia \$2. All horses imported or attempted to be imported or introduced from the United States into either of these provinces contrary to the preceding regulations shall be forfeited, and may be forthwith destroyed or disposed of as the Minister of Agriculture may direct. This looks more like a measure to protect the horse ranches in the North-West territory than a means of guarding against disease as glanders is not very prevalent among horses in the United States, not so much so indeed as it is among horses in Manitoba. Although there is a law by which sick cows, sheep or pigs may be looked for and destroyed, there is no law authorizing a search for sick horses or for their destruction. Hence it is of the greatest importance that they should be kept out of the country until such a law is passed. The veterinary surgeons are very much disappointed that there is no law giving them a right to search out horses with contagious diseases, and see no reason why the horses should not come under the same regulations as cattle or sheep.

A FRIGHTFUL EXPLOSION of nitro-glycerine and dynamite occurred at the Somerset Chemical Works, a mile east of Somerset, Pennsylvania. The explosion occurred in the nitro-glycerine agitation house, where one of the proprietors, W. T. Beach of New York, was at work. He was blown into atoms; the largest piece of bones, flesh or clothes that could be found was not larger than a silver dollar. The nitro-glycerine building, with eight others, were strewn to the winds, portions of them being found miles away. The works were situated in an opening in a dense wood, large trees in which were uprooted and blown down for rods. None of the employees were in the building. Where the building in which the explosion occurred stood, there is a hole large enough to bury the building in. There were 900 pounds of nitro-glycerine and 3,000 pounds of dynamite in the different buildings. The loss is very heavy. Somerset town was itself badly shaken by the explosion.

The *Daily News* fears that the English Cabinet will be defeated on the Crimes Act which they are going to pass if possible. This Act provides for the easy arrest of persons in Ireland suspected of endeavoring to raise a disturbance. Under the Act a policeman may arrest a person after dark without a warrant, and a person accused of a crime may be taken away from the judicial district in which he lives to be tried elsewhere, where sympathy will not interfere with justice. The *Standard* has fear for the Government on different grounds. It says that Mr. Gladstone will insist upon increased duties on beer and spirits, and that the Budget can only be saved by throwing all additional increase of revenue to be obtained on the income tax.