

The announcement comes from London that an electrical machine has been invented which will not only grind meat and stuff a sausage, but will also turn it out cooked and smoking hot to the consumer. Great Heavens! The winged bolt of Jove has been harnessed and made to run a sausage machine. It is a degenerate age.

Mr. Parnell's evident hopes that his marriage with Mrs. O'Shea would restore him to his old position as the leader of a united Irish party now appear doomed to disappointment. In the face of almost insuperable difficulties he unflinchingly fought the Home Rule cause in Parliament and on the stump until Home Rule and Parnellism were almost synonymous terms. The cause was bound up in him, and when he fell, Home Rule may also be said to have fallen with him. His fatal weakness was in not retiring from the leadership as soon as the scandal became public, as his fierce fight to retain the position in spite of the defection of the large number of his followers has forever ruined his chances of again leading a united and aggressive party.

The recent successful execution of four condemned criminals in New York State by electricity, has separated capital punishment from one of its worst features, the uncertainty of speedy death by the usual penalty of hanging. The law of the State, excluding the public, and reporters in particular, from witnessing executions, is also a move in the right direction, as it prevents the publication of sensational accounts in the papers of the harrowing and nauseating particulars which pander to the morbid curiosity of the public and do undoubted harm. In these cases death seems to have been instantaneous, and so robbed of the prolonged agony which too often accompanies hanging, and on this account electrocution from a humane standpoint has much to recommend it.

It may not be commonly known that in the inferior races the head ceases to grow after twenty years of age. In the superior races the head of the intelligent and educated man increases in volume until thirty-five, forty and forty-five years. The skull has reached its maximum development when the bones composing it are welded together, so as to render the sutures invisible. Once the sutures are solidified, the further growth of the brain is impossible, which is said to explain the insurmountable difficulty experienced in trying to teach illiterate adults. The solidification varies according to the investigating activity of the brain. It takes place between twenty-two and twenty-five years in the taskworker, between twenty-eight and thirty-five in the middle-class manual professions, and after thirty-five in educated persons who practise intellectual professions.

The visit of the Emperor William to England was much more than a pleasure trip, as it is believed that he has succeeded in enlisting the sympathies of the English Government with the Triple Alliance. No formal agreement could well be made, but it is understood that should Russia and France move, England will side with Germany, Austria and Italy. A significant occurrence, and one that tends to strengthen this opinion is furnished by Mr. Smalley, the foreign correspondent of the *Tribune*, who cables that the echoes of the British cannon which saluted the Emperor of Austria at Fiume had hardly died away, when British guns were once more thundering out their welcome to the King and Queen of Italy in the Adriatic. The King's speech at the luncheon on board the *Benbow*, and her captain's reply, have attracted great attention on the continent. The King did more than propose the Queen's health. "I drink," said his Majesty, "to her glorious and powerful fleet, the representatives of which I see here with joy. In this, my toast, I know the entire Italian people join with me." Those words, uttered by the King of Italy while the German Emperor was the guest of the Queen of England, bear, says a Berlin paper, the character of a prearranged demonstration, which removes the last vestige of doubt respecting England's attitude towards the Triple Alliance. France recognizes this, and is in a bad humor with England and herself.

Mr. Secretary Blaine's health is just now greatly agitating the newspapers in the United States, his political enemies reporting that he is a doomed man, while his friends and supporters as the next Presidential candidate of the Republicans assert that his health is not in danger, and that he is simply seeking rest at Bar Harbor from his arduous duties as Secretary of State. His success in negotiating reciprocity treaties, by which the raw materials of non-manufacturing countries are admitted free into the United States in return for the free admission of the manufactures of the latter country, has made him very popular with his party, one wing of which, however, still pins his faith to Harrison and McKinleyism. Blaine, as is well known, opposed the McKinley bill, and therefore can have no sympathy with the Ohio Republicans who have made McKinley their candidate for Governor, and who have adopted a high tariff platform. The contest in the latter State is therefore most significant. If McKinley wins, his wing of the party will be in the ascendant, and Harrison will most likely be re-nominated for the Presidency with every chance of suffering defeat. But if McKinley is defeated the party will have to fall back on Blaine and his policy; and if they do this and nominate him for the Presidency, the Democrats will find him a hard man to beat, as he and his policy are very popular. He is the only man the Democrats fear, and his removal from the political arena by death or the breaking down of his health would be a serious blow to the chances of the Republicans in the next election. On this account the reported breaking down of his health has caused more than the usual amount of comment.

Professor Roberts-Austin has discovered a new alloy of gold and aluminium, the precious metal being present in the proportion of 78 per cent. It is described as "the most brilliantly colored alloy as yet known." Its color is rich purple, and by the reflection of light from one surface of the alloy to another bright ruby tints are obtained. The facility with which aluminium unites with most metals has long been known, and the fact has been turned to profitable account in many industries, notably in the manufacture of steel, Hercules metal and other aluminium bronzes. Other alloys of the metal with gold have also been known. One per cent. of aluminium gives the precious metal the color of "green gold," and there is the very white and hard alloy containing ten per cent of gold.

At last the streets, or some of the leading business thoroughfares of Halifax are to be paved, but the way the city has started at the work does not speak well for its business methods. The first step was to contract with a Belgian Company for a large quantity of porphyry paving blocks which were imported last winter, and which, after one or two handlings are now mostly stored in the field adjoining the Wanderers' Ground, from where they will have to be carted when used. The country abounds in granite and other suitable rock for paving stones and blocks, and this importation from Belgium seems indefensible, and savors very much of a costly job. Granite blocks are now coming from Shelburne for part of the work, and abundant material is at hand, but the summer months are slipping away and the work of paving, if progressing at all, is doing so with snail like slowness. Wake up, Aldermen, and push this much needed work to speedy completion.

The *Times'* Paris correspondent has caused a great sensation in England and on the Continent by his report of an asserted interview with Count Munster, the German Ambassador to France. The Count is represented to have declared that General Von Caprivi had been originally designated by the Emperor William I as Prince Bismarck's successor. The *Vossische Zeitung*, while reverting comment until Count Munster has had an opportunity of being heard on the subject, declares that when General Von Caprivi left the post of Minister of Marine a general impression existed that he was destined to fill a great political post. The journal further avers that the Emperor William I himself said that it required all his firmness of will to keep Prince Bismarck "within the bounds of reason." Count Munster has since denied that he had made the statement attributed to him by the *Times'* correspondent, but the report has opened up the question of Bismarck's true relations with the Emperor William I, and much new light is likely to be thrown on a very interesting historical point.

It is gratifying to note that the finances of the Dominion are in a most satisfactory condition, and that there is a large surplus for the year just ended. The *Canada Gazette* contains the statement of revenue and expenditure for the month of June, and enables a calculation to be made of the revenue and expenditure for the whole fiscal year 1890-91. The total receipts for the month amount to \$2,848,764. The expenditure during the month was \$1,989,135, upon consolidated fund account, and \$247,710 on capital account, giving a total of \$2,236,845, and showing a surplus on the month of \$611,919. The total revenue for the fiscal year was \$37,689,130, against which is to be charged a total expenditure of \$34,948,585, showing a surplus over and above all expenditure of \$2,740,545. The above expenditure includes \$4,039,395 spent upon capital account. If that is deducted the surplus for the year of revenue over ordinary expenditure is found to be \$6,779,960. This amount may be somewhat reduced when all the payments for the year are made, but the net surplus will be about as stated by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech. Each item in the receipts for June shows an increase over the corresponding month last year, the total being above \$300,000. The debt statement shows the public debt at the end of June to have been \$233,530,221, a decrease of \$612,150 on the month and of \$154,580 for the year.

The Conservative party in Canada have now enjoyed a long lease of power, and its record under the leadership of Sir John Macdonald is a proud one. From the start a thoroughly National Policy was adopted, and the country soon entered on an era of prosperity that has steadily increased, until to day the Dominion is in a state of the greatest prosperity, and the future is bright with promise. The successful construction of the Canada Pacific, much within the specified time, was alone enough to earn for the administration the lasting gratitude of the country, but in addition, a great system of public improvements was inaugurated and carried out in all parts of the Dominion, the benefits of which will be felt for all time to come. But the long lease of power has also had its disadvantages, and the greatest of these has been the great increase of hangers on, that like leeches are doing their best to suck the very life blood of the party. To them and their insatiable demands for place and rewards for fictitious services, the present deplorable scandals now being unearthed at Ottawa are mainly due. They cannot all be provided for directly, and evidently indirect and, strictly speaking, illegal methods have been devised by the deputy heads of departments through which they have been paid for occasional services. If the Conservative party fall from power, its fall will be more due to this army of hangers on than to defects in its leaders or policy, as the former are admittedly able, and the latter will likely have the support of the country, if not overshadowed by the paramount issue of honesty in handling the public funds.

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