

MYSTERIOUS EXPEDITION Being Arranged by Chicago Parties

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They are to be followed by a party of two intrepid soldiers of fortune, one a Chicagoan, 350 scions of the best families of New York and Detroit will start early in December on an argonautic expedition across the Pacific, says the Inter Ocean.

Two of the islands are large and thickly populated. The others are small in comparison and sparsely settled. Savage tribes, closely related to the aborigines of Australia, roam the country, each organized into primitive governments, the chief of which possesses powers similar to those of the headman of a primitive tribe.

Dr. Dorn, whom Haag had known in Germany, was then asked to assist in the promotion of the venture. He accepted, and has since done no small amount of the work of preparing for the expedition. The last letter received by Dr. Dorn from Haag, who was in Antwerp, reads as follows: "Dear Sir, I received your favor of August 2, and am glad to know your readiness to enter the enterprise regarding the islands in the Pacific."

Madrid, Oct. 23.—The grievances of the Spanish naval officers, concerning which Admiral Valcárcel, admiral of the fleet, recently submitted a memorandum to the queen regent, are the result of what they regarded as a policy belittling the navy. The officers object to the creation of civil controllers of naval affairs and credit. They wish the government and parliament to declare a vote for all whether or not the existence of the navy is necessary, and if it is to provide for it adequately. Most of the newspapers severely censure Admiral Valcárcel's action. The impartial declares that the minister of marine, the Duke of Veragua, lacks the energy to maintain discipline in the navy.

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about two years will be consumed in the organization of our government. "Our party will leave San Francisco early in December. The enterprise will be of a purely American character—American men will constitute the crew, and an American steamer will be chartered for their transportation, and the whole outfit will be American, with some small exception in regard to armament. The location of the islands will be kept a close secret, for the reason that, if it were known, we would doubtless have to compete with several foreign nations in acquiring possession."—Ex.

IMPORTANT TAX CASE

Decision Effects Chicago to Extent of Millions.

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 24.—The supreme court today affirmed the judgment of the circuit court of Sangamon county in what is known as the Chicago teachers' tax case. This in effect awards a writ of mandamus against the state board of equalization, to compel it to assess the capital stock, including franchises, of 20 Chicago corporations, the fair cash value of whose capital stock, including franchises, over and above their tangible property, is alleged to aggregate \$225,000,000.

The suit was instituted by the state's attorney of Sangamon county at the instance of the Chicago Teachers' Federation. The court holds that the board, in assessing the corporations, does not act as a board of review, but as an original assessor. Instead of making a proper assessment, the court says the board arbitrarily and willfully failed to follow a proper and long established rule in force in this state for making such assessments, by refusing to take into consideration the bonded indebtedness of the said corporations. They also disregarded all other rules in force for the making of such assessments, sought to pass new rules for their government, refused to consider the information furnished them by the assessors as provided, and assessed the capital and franchise of said corporations at a nominal sum instead of at the fair cash value thereof. For these reasons, the decision says, "the court is justified in holding that the fraud in making such assessments has been established, and such pretended assessments may properly be disregarded and treated as no assessment and such board be coerced by the writ of mandamus to assess such property."

The opinion quotes the order of the lower court commanding the members of the board to convene forthwith at the capital building in the county of Sangamon, and value and assess the capital stock, including the franchise of the companies named in the manner provided by law.

Chicago, Oct. 24.—The tax decision given today by the Illinois supreme court relates to 23 local corporations enjoying municipal franchises, including traction companies, gas companies and electric companies, whose total capital stock was estimated to be \$368,000,000, all of which has escaped taxation previously, and was likely to be omitted again by the state board, which adjourned last December without assessing this vast amount of property. The trial of the case was begun before Judge Thompson in Springfield March 23, and the decision was handed down May 2, commanding the board to reassess June 13 and assess these corporations in accordance with the rules of the board in regard to the assessment of capital stock. But the board not only neglected to make the assessment, but repealed the rules of the board on the subject which had been in force for 20 years, and had been sustained by the United States supreme court as the only fair and legal plan of assessment.

Broad as is the sweep of this decision in itself, its logical results are much greater, as the decision, it is said, really applies just as well to railroad corporations and every other other corporation in the state, and may lead to the collection of back taxes.

Berlitzing the Navy. Madrid, Oct. 23.—The grievances of the Spanish naval officers, concerning which Admiral Valcárcel, admiral of the fleet, recently submitted a memorandum to the queen regent, are the result of what they regarded as a policy belittling the navy. The officers object to the creation of civil controllers of naval affairs and credit. They wish the government and parliament to declare a vote for all whether or not the existence of the navy is necessary, and if it is to provide for it adequately. Most of the newspapers severely censure Admiral Valcárcel's action. The impartial declares that the minister of marine, the Duke of Veragua, lacks the energy to maintain discipline in the navy.

At the cabinet council today, under the presidency of the queen regent, the Valcárcel memorandum was incidentally discussed, but apparently there was a fear to probe the question thoroughly lest a cabinet crisis be provoked. Several papers think that a ministerial crisis arising out of the naval agitation already exists, but that a declaration of the fact has been postponed until the premier, Señor Sagasta, has recovered from his illness.

RETIREMENT OF GEN. BULLER

Lady Roberts Said to Be Responsible for It.

King Edward Demurred at Proposition to Remove Gen. Buller, but Finally Yielded.

New York, Oct. 24.—Interesting details concerning the enforced retirement of Sir Redvers Buller are given in a dispatch from London to the Herald. It is an open secret that what is known as "petticoat influence" has been far too strong at the war office ever since the Duke of Cambridge resigned and the present commander-in-chief has not escaped it.

There are many people who are inclined to applaud the speech of H. C. Richards right before last at Northampton, who declared that if Lord Roberts would leave bazaar openings suspended until the premier, Manuel Douette, the half-breed Puyallup instantler unless a royal mandate were issued for Buller's decaipitation. To this Mr. Broderick also added his intention to relinquish the seats of the war office.

The latter threat would not have weighed for a moment with the king, but "Bob's" popularity is a different matter. His majesty used every effort to induce the commander-in-chief to reconsider his determination. Only when he finally discovered that this was out of the question was the royal consent reluctantly given to the order for Gen. Buller's dismissal.

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DAMAGE TO STR. HATING

It Will Require \$20,000 to Make Necessary Repairs.

Victoria, B. C., Oct. 24.—Surveys of the steamer Hating, which ran on the rocks near Lasqueti island, while on her way down from Skagway with 175 passengers, are being made this morning by different firms with a view to bidding on the contract to repair the ship. The steamer was hauled out on the Esquimalt marine railway. As the vessel stands high and dry her twisted and broken stem and bent plates impress one with the narrow escape from total destruction which she had.

The damage is nearly all forward of the bridge. The stem is twisted into an almost unrecognizable shape. Farther aft, however, the weight of the steamer appears to have rested most heavily. The starboard side has one huge dent in it where the plates so punctured in places and so badly bulged in that a dozen of them will have to be straightened or replaced.

On the Canadian side in British Columbia not cut by camps owned by the mills themselves went to Puget sound. He declares that if it had not been for the American demand this season British Columbia timber owners would have fared badly with only the local market. "Two years ago," continued Mr. Higgins, "before extensive shipments of logs were made to the other side of the line, logs were worth here only \$4 to \$5 per 1,000. Because of the American demand the price has increased to \$6.50 per 1,000 locally, and on Puget sound we can make a dollar more, after all transportation charges are paid. There is 50 cents better in price on the American side, and added to that is a premium for large logs which brings up the value to more than a dollar better than it is here.

"It is also a fact that the British Columbia mills, as a general rule never buy lumber from Coast loggers unless they can buy cheaper than the mill camps can produce themselves. Of course, sometimes the mills have to buy, as, for instance, when their own camps are not in operation, and they cannot get men.

"Another advantage which exists on the American side is that the logs are measured by a government scaler, who is not interested on either side and his scale is never disputed. It is proposed in a few weeks to form a combine of the loggers here, so that legislation on these matters may be obtained. Already the government has promised to pass an act that will level the playing field of different mill scalers, and an amendment has been promised to the act passed last session—and which has never been enforced—providing no more cedar logs should be shipped to the American side."

The fact that hog products form the largest single item in the exportations of the United States, having exceeded last year by two million dollars those of manufactures of iron and steel, whose exports have attracted so much attention, lends interest to some facts which have just reached the treasury bureau of statistics regarding the remarkable development of the hog-packing industry of Denmark. This information is published in the Danish Export Review, and shows that the number of head of swine in Denmark has increased from 301,000 in 1861 to 77,000 in 1881 and 1,168,000 in 1898, the latest year for which statistics are available.

The prohibition of the importation of live hogs into Germany and the United Kingdom, which countries were Denmark's principal customers in this line, resulted in the establishment of slaughter houses in Denmark, and the increase in the production of Danish bacon and hams in recent years has been phenomenal. The exports of hams and bacon from Denmark have grown from 9,120,000 Danish pounds in 1878 to 129,700,000 Danish pounds in 1898; the value in-

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MURDER IN FIRST DEGREE

Is Finding of Tacoma Jury in Verdict Case.

Tacoma, Oct. 24.—The jury in the Vance murder case brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree at 9 o'clock. The jury recommends clemency by the court. Vance was unmoved by the verdict. Manuel Douette, the half-breed Puyallup

placed. On the port side there are two dents of smaller size and some distance apart. The keel, too, has suffered and in a couple of places is jammed in the full breadth of a couple of plates, which are over two feet wide and stand almost upright. Within the ship 18 frames are said to be damaged and will either have to be replaced or straightened. The cost of the repairs can only be given on the rough approximations of the contractors who have seen her. According to these the amount will at least be \$20,000, while it is estimated the steamer will remain where she is for two months.

The steamer Amur, another of the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company's liners, which touched the rocks and was only saved by her double bottom, has just come off the ways, after having \$30,000 of repair work done on her.

Rivals American Hog. Washington, Oct. 23.—The American hog has a European rival. Denmark has come into the field as a producer and exporter of hogs and hog products, with a growth at least interesting if not suggestive to American producers of a commodity whose export value grew from \$84,998,698 in 1891 to \$119,961,593 in 1901. These figures show the total value of hog products exported from the United States in 1891 and 1901, respectively, the details for 1901 being: Lard, \$46,560,143; bacon, \$37,499,029; hams, \$22,842,528; salted and pickled pork, \$9,926,635; fresh pork, \$2,474,777; and "canned" pork, \$1,662,881.

Since the opening of the trial Buller and his wife have become reconciled, an estrangement having separated them prior to the murder of Franklin. Yesterday and today the two have sat side by side in the courtroom, and part of the day yesterday, Mrs. Vance sat with her arm around Vance. They sat holding each other's hands during the most of the time today. Vance has keenly felt the strain of the trial, and this afternoon appeared on the verge of collapse.

He is a sparely built man with the aquiline features common in mountaineers. Born in the pine barrens of North Carolina, he has lived in Texas and border states all his life, with the exception of a few years of his childhood.

Anarchists Strike Propaganda. Barcelona, Oct. 24.—The anarchist propaganda in favor of a general strike is proving fruitful in Spain. Leading anarchists assert that committees throughout the world, representing 8,000,000 persons, are only awaiting the signal to inaugurate the universal strike proposed by the German workmen, and approved by the American and European committees.

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