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The Canada-Alaska Boundary.

Mr. W. F. King, chief Astronomer for the Canadian Department of the Interior and Mr. O. Titman, chief of the United States Coast and Geological Survey, have been appointed commissioners to supervise the work of marking the Canada-Alaska boundary under the terms of the London award. Mr. King has lately returned from Washington where he was engaged for more than a week in consultation with Mr. Titman in reference to the work of the commission. It has been deemed essential, in order to prevent friction respecting jurisdiction as between the Canadian and United States officials, to mark the boundary at different points with either iron or stone pillars or cairns of stones. The exact method of marking, it is said, has not yet been determined upon, but it is not improbable that iron pillars will be selected, as stone structures more readily succumb to the action of the elements. The work of delimiting will be undertaken by parties of topographical surveyors and astronomers jointly representing the two countries. The Canadian staff will leave Ottawa for the Coast in about a month's time. Messrs. King and Titman will not, however, go out to Alaska until later in the season.

An Experiment in Curing Herring.

It is believed that the market value of Nova Scotia herring can be largely increased by introducing the Scotch method of curing. With the present method of curing, the Nova Scotia fish, it is said, are worth only \$4 or \$5 a barrel while Scotch herring command from \$10 to \$15. The Dominion Minister of Marine and Fisheries has made arrangement for an experiment in curing Nova Scotia herring after the Scotch method. Mr. John J. Cowie who is one of the largest fishing operators in Scotland, will establish a station for catching and curing herring after the Scotch method at Canso, N. S. Mr. Cowie is bringing a fishing steamer with crew and appliances for the business from Scotland. In addition to the crew he will have twenty Scotch men and girls, experts in the work of preparing and curing the fish. The steamer is a modern drifter, fitted with winches and all appliances used in Scotland. She will catch the fish with drift nets ten to forty miles off shore, and will land the catch at Canso, where the herring will be cured after the Scottish method, barrels and salt being brought from Scotland. It is said that Mr. Cowie intends to prepare during the summer a thousand barrels and a thousand half-barrels for American and European markets. The United States import annually two hundred or three hundred thousand barrels of Scottish herring, and if the Canso experiment results in an article of equal value being put up on this side the water, it is believed that Nova Scotia fishermen will be able to supply this large demand. Mr. Cowie, if he succeeds in the experiment he is about to undertake, may transfer his own large operations to this side the Atlantic.

The King James Version.

In spite of the admitted superiority of the Revised Version of the English Scriptures over the Authorized or King James Version in respect to correctness of rendering and clearness of diction, the older version is still preferred by the great body of readers, and in it both the British and Foreign and the American Bible Societies have issued nearly all the many millions of copies of the Sacred Scriptures which they have published in the English language. In discussing the reason for the preference which has been so generally accorded to the King James Version, notwithstanding the recognized superiority in certain respects of the later version, the *New York Post* says: "For three hundred years the words of the Bible have been bred into the very thinking of the English-speaking peoples. The Authorized Version was peculiarly well adapted for its use. The diction was practically that of Tyndale who wrote before use and literary attrition had worn the freshness and vigor out of the written language. It has been pointed out, too, that the learned English Catholics who produced the Rheims Bible were unconscious collaborators. Thus the Bible translated and revised for the use of the Church of England took from the first a sort of race character. Probably no

people has had the drilling in the very words of Scripture that the English race as a whole has had. All our finer and more serious thinking tends to borrow the solemn phrases of the King James Bible. Our very acquaintance with the reverent forms of speech—the 'spakes' and 'haths' and 'buideds'—depends upon the Bible, and a DeQuincey writing to a nation whose memory did not include the Bible would be writing in an unknown tongue. In fact it is the merest commonplace to say that the Authorized Version is the great mine of true and racy idiom, and that if ever it should become a closed book, our current speech would be impoverished. No race other than the English has had this verbal loyalty to a particular form of the Scriptures. Luther's version in the German-speaking world would be the nearest approach. The Vulgate has still the same sort of universality in the Roman Catholic world, but a keen memory of its verbal form resides probably only in the clerical class. With the English Bible on the contrary its very sacredness to most persons depends upon its familiar verbal form. The dislocation of a single phrase is disquieting, the alteration of a cadence is an annoyance. In part this fidelity to the letter is irrational and unfortunate; more broadly considered it is an instinctive and just tribute to the nobility of the spirit of the Authorized Version. That way of writing English has perished out of use, and the very best committee of revision—H. J. Newman and Carlyle and Emerson and Matthew Arnold sat in harmonious deliberation—could only have produced a cheaper version."

A Fight With Tibetans.

There has been a bloody battle between the British force which is making its way under Colonel Younghusband toward Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, and a body of Tibetans which opposed the progress of the British. The Tibetans are reported to have provoked the conflict and to have fought with great bravery, but as they were badly armed, they inflicted comparatively little damage on the British, while they lost heavily under the fire of the well disciplined and well armed Indian troops. It was at Guru that the clash occurred. A despatch from Tjina, British India, says: "Whilst the forces were face to face on the opposite sides of a wall which the Tibetans had built across the highway to oppose the advance, the Indian troops deployed their flanks and enclosed 1,500 Tibetans in a circle, like herding sheep. The members of the mission, the press correspondents and the general staff rode up to inspect the capture and were laughing and talking. They were unaware of the impending tragedy, being evidently heedless of the sullen demeanor of the Tibetans. The latter presently began to hustle some Sikhs, who replied with the butt end of their rifles. Then the Tibetans fired a pistol, wounding a Sikh, and this was the signal for all the Tibetans to draw their swords and rush at their captors, who opened fire on the surging mob. The officers emptied their revolvers. The Tibetans were unable to climb the wall which they themselves had built. Finally about half of them were able to break away to the rear, where they came under the fire of the artillery. Of the entire Tibetan force only about half escaped death or wounds.

It is difficult to appreciate the necessity for the wholesale slaughter of this half-armed mob of Tibetans. The British casualties are reported to have amounted to not more than a dozen all told.

Tax-Payer and Voter.

According to existing legislation, only those persons who have paid their taxes are entitled to vote at civic elections in the City of St. John. As there are a very considerable number of persons whose names are on the assessors' lists but who do not find it convenient to contribute to the city's revenues the desire for a change of the law on the part of these citizens is perhaps natural, and accordingly a bill has been introduced in the Provincial Legislature, which proposes to place the citizens who pay their taxes promptly and those who never pay on an equality so far as having a voice in the management of civic affairs is concerned. A little matter like a man's neglecting to settle his tax bill should not, it is held, be construed as sufficient to disqualify

him from exercising his rights as a citizen in regard to the control and disposal of the civic funds. It is perhaps not very strange, however if the citizens who feel it incumbent upon them to settle their tax bills from year to year are unable to see the unreasonableness or injustice of the law as it stands. They are apt to consider that it is a reasonable proposition that the revenues of the city should be controlled by those who contribute to them, and that it is not reasonable that those who contribute nothing to the city's revenues should have an equal voice with those who contribute most largely and most promptly. We confess that we sympathize with this view of the matter. If it is the fact that some are unable to pay the taxes assessed upon them, the remedy would seem to lie in the direction of a change of the law or principle of taxation, but surely it would not be wise to place a premium on the increase of the already long list of defaulting tax payers by placing the payer and the non-payer on an equality with reference to the exercise of the civic franchise.

Serious Loss of Stock in the Northwest.

The blizzard which prevailed widely in the Northwest week before last is said to have been the worst in the last twenty-five years. A number of fatalities are reported where travellers were caught in the storm on prairie trails and never reached their destination. Reports from along the "Soo" line which touches the ranching country state that there has been very serious destruction among cattle. As would naturally be expected, the loss has been heaviest among young stock and cattle which had recently been brought into the country and had not yet become acclimated. Some herds, it is said, were almost completely wiped out. At one point between Maple Creek and Crane Lake a large herd of cattle drifted ahead of the storm until stopped by a boundary fence. They would not go back and could not go forward. So, crowded together in a mass, the snow gradually settled in around them until the animals were buried beneath it and either frozen to death or smothered. All that could be seen from the train was a huge mound of snow, with a portion of the dead carcasses and the animals showing here and there.

The War.

The first land engagement of any importance in the Russo-Japanese war occurred at a place named Chong-Ju, situated about forty miles south of the Yalu River. A body of Cossacks, six companies strong came in contact with a company of Japanese cavalry and one of infantry, which were occupying the town of Chong-Ju. The Russians took up an advantageous position on a hill overlooking the town, and having been reinforced by three other companies of Cossacks, opened fire on the Japanese. The latter, as the Russian official report of the affair admits, gallantly held their ground, and after a time were reinforced by three companies of horsemen and a body of infantry. The Russians, finding it would be impossible to hold their position, then retired in good order. The Russians report three Cossacks killed and twelve wounded—five seriously—in the engagement. The Japanese loss, according to reports from Japanese sources, was about the same. The second attempt of the Japanese to "bottle up" the Russian fleet by sinking vessels in the entrance to Port Arthur harbor, as reported last week, was unsuccessful, but Admiral Togo's report would indicate that the channel had been obstructed in part, so that it is possible that another attempt may complete the undertaking. It is however proving an expensive, as well as a hazardous, business for the Japanese. There is nothing of definite importance in the latest despatches. A report of a Shanghai correspondent of a London paper that a Japanese army of 105,000 men has been landed in Southern Manchuria and is marching west and northwest is unconfirmed and probably unfounded. There seems reason to believe that the Japanese are steadily pushing northward in Corea and engagements of a more or less serious character are to be expected in the country south of the Yalu. One correspondent predicts the early fall of Port Arthur, and says that only a narrow channel is left at the entrance to the harbor, which the Japanese will be sure to block at the first favorable opportunity. This may be taken as a harmless conjecture which the Japanese censor has allowed to pass.