

THE RAND TODAY.

(The Cape Argus, Feb. 20.)

A private letter from a gentleman who has been on a short visit to the Rand contains much that will be read with interest. He says:—I am certainly not sorry again to leave Johannesburg, and three days there fully satisfied me. It has a gone-to-sleep appearance that is very depressing, and seems to be populated almost entirely by foreigners. I was surprised to learn that the Rand Rifles, to which every British subject except I. M. R. people must belong, is less than 1,000 strong. The windows of the stores that are open give one the blues, and half of them are whitewashed. One big provision merchant makes a brave show with 5d. tins of sardines, and a prominent outster does his best to attract customers by displaying running drawers. Extra large or small sizes in khaki suits, underclothing, and boots seem fairly plentiful, but money won't buy a pair of socks. Very few ladies would be caught with the millinery shops, consisting, as they do, of the remains of 1899 stocks, and the scanty displays of feminine fripperies look anything but fresh and up-to-date. A few tea-rooms do good business, and the walks, unless you can only get details at the hotels in meal hours, and then it is a choice between cherry brandy, gin, and "soft" stuff. The Saturday night is there, the whisky at the New Club gave out, so there was much sorrow. The private supply isn't bad, as each member of the Rand Rifles is allowed to purchase one bottle a week, unless his family is there, in which case he is allowed two so it isn't surprising that they all want to get their families up!

IN PRETORIA.

They are worse off, as no civilian can buy it, and no military man of lower rank than major. Pretoria itself gives one the impression of being busier than it was before the war, but it's only a delusion, caused by the presence of so much khaki. Johannesburg, as I have said, is dull, but the suburbs are simply dead. To get to them one has, of course, to walk unless he has a bicycle, for a stranger cannot be expected to risk his life by taking a cab(?) Of these there are perhaps a score, all derelicts, and drawn by fearful and wonderful specimens of horsemanship, the sort of animal one dreams of after a particularly heavy supper. I remember hearing in Cape Town that grass was growing "between the chains," and in my ignorance I scoffed at the idea, but nevertheless it is true, for in several places where the asphalt has cracked and is actually growing, and also in all the roads except the main thoroughfares. Vegetation of every description seems to have thrived. The trees everywhere have grown well, and the whole district is fresh and green, and never before, I suppose has the town looked so clean as it does now. The looting and

WANTON DESTRUCTION

in the outlying suburbs has been disgraceful, and "Troyville" has suffered severely. I had luckily been prepared for what I was to find in my house, or what I wasn't to find, I ought to say; but the reality was a bit of a shock. My house is an absolute wreck and everything of any value has been cleared out, except a few bits of furniture too heavy to remove easily. Papers, letters, and photographs, some of them deliberately cut to pieces, were scattered all over the floors, together with books torn from their covers; the windows broken, panels of doors smashed in, and two chests of drawers prepared for firewood made a pretty picture; and, to add insult to injury, a cow had been stalled in the pantry and a horse stabled on the verandah. Of this there was plenty of evidence. You may be sure I wasn't sorry to turn my back on it, and if I could have come across any of the scoundrels who did it I should have stopped at nothing less than murder. I had a look round the scene of Begg's explosion, and had never realised what a big thing it was. Hundreds of houses are just levelled to the ground, and there is hardly a window left within a quarter of a mile of the spot. I was much struck with the growing and disconcerted, both in Pretoria and Johannesburg, at the delay in the return of the refugees, and it is much more noticeable in both towns than in Cape Town. There is a strong feeling that the population should be allowed to return, and I cannot help being of the same opinion. So long as the Boers see that a huge industry is being kept idle, it is simply an encouragement to them to remain in the field, but if they see that we are determined to open up the Rand both for mining and commerce, it will have a powerful moral effect on them.

LADIES TAKE WARNING.

An alarming accident happened recently at a concert in the Rue Caumartin, Paris. The hall was full of people, when suddenly a cry of terror rang through the building and a fair-haired English girl sprang to her feet, her head a mass of flames. In response to her agonising shrieks, two gentlemen behind her threw their overcoats over her and extinguished the blaze. The exciting incident created quite a panic, and screaming mothers and daughters made a rush for the door. Fortunately no serious harm resulted except to the young Englishwoman, who lost all her beautiful hair. As the hall is lighted by electricity it was a puzzle to know how the terrible accident happened, but the explanation was forthcoming when the young lady said she was in the habit of using an "antiseptic" hair-wash, whose ingredients usually contain an admixture of ether of petroleum. The heat from a stove close to where she was sitting acted upon a celluloid comb and the rest, and a dreadful mishap was the consequence.

FOR A TAX ON BACHELORS.

BILL introduced in the Pennsylvania House—Single Men 40 and Over to Pay License of \$100.

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 25.—A bill has been introduced in the house placing a tax upon bachelors. It provides in the first section, that "Any male citizen of the common-

wealth who is 21 years of age, and desires the office of husband, may procure a license as prescribed by existing laws, provided he is under 40 years of age, but if the applicant is over 40 years of age, he shall, before securing the license, pay into the clerk of the court's office \$100 as a license fee, which this bill imposes on all bachelors over 40 years old."

The bill provides that all the fees shall be turned into the state treasury for the purpose of maintaining the homes for old ladies over 40 years of age, "who have not had a suitable opportunity or offer of marriage, and have not means sufficient to keep themselves in clothes and spending money."

CATHOLICS AND THE QUEEN.

In a recent issue of the Times the possibility of celebrating regium masses for the late Queen Victoria was discussed. In the article there were long extracts from La Civiltà Cattolica, the organ of the Society of Jesus, in which it was stated that "solemn funeral services were not celebrated there for the late queen."

Archbishop Bruchet of Montreal, on being shown the article, stated it was perfectly correct. In Montreal solemn masses were held to pray for the royal family in their affliction and to solicit divine intercession for the new king. Queen Victoria being a Protestant, Catholics could not pray for her soul, but could pray for the new king. "Three questions," said his grace, "were asked the holy see as to what Catholics might properly do in the circumstances. The first was, 'Should they attend service for the queen held in a Protestant church, and the answer was in the negative.' The second was: 'Could Catholics hold in their own church regium masses for the soul of the queen, and the answer to that, too, was no.' The third was: 'Could Catholics hold a service of mass to pray for the new king, and the answer was yes.'"

REV. ANDREW GRAY DEAD.

He was a Survivor of the Great Gale of 1851 in Bay Chaleur.

(Bangor Commercial.)

Rev. Andrew Gray, known throughout eastern Maine as "the sailor preacher," is dead at his home in East Surry, aged 78 years. He was a licensed preacher of the Free Baptist church and was active in that capacity. His early life was spent at sea. He was one of the survivors of the gale in Bay of Chaleur, when 350 persons were drowned. His sea phrases and stories in the pulpit and out gave to him the name of "the sailor preacher."

MISUSE OF ALCOHOL.

BERLIN, March 27.—A bill has been introduced in the Prussian diet, presumably at the suggestion of Emperor William, directed against the misuse of alcohol. Count Douglas, an intimate friend of the Kaiser, is the author of the measure, which is very stringent. It forbids the sale of alcoholic preparations containing fusel oil, prohibiting also the sale of intoxicating beverages to persons under sixteen years of age; to persons known to be habitually drunkards; and to persons already under the influence of liquor. No intoxicating beverages are to be sold before 7 o'clock in the morning. In depots and public offices charts must be displayed showing the injurious effects of alcohol.

WORLD'S SHIPPING OUTPUT.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—According to a report to the Senate by U. S. Senator Elihu Root, at Chatham, the shipbuilding yards of Great Britain during 1900 turned out 4,450,000 tons of shipping, valued at \$21,000,000,000, or 81,000 tons by all other countries combined. With warships added, the respective amounts aggregated 4,500,000 and 82,000 tons. In the last three years, however, shipbuilding output in Great Britain has doubled that of other countries, having increased only 50 per cent. The United States last year built 1,000,000 tons of ships, valued at \$50,000,000, or 10,000 tons by all other countries combined. The respective amounts aggregated 1,000,000 and 10,000 tons. Germany turned out the largest ship, the Deutschland, of 16,000 tons. Four other German steamers each a tonnage of over ten thousand. England built eight big ships, four being 12,000 tons each, and the Minerva, a quadruple screw battleship, of 18,000 tons, in consequence of subsidies and makes no headway with steamers.

FRUIT STEAMER ASHORE.

NEW YORK, March 27.—The Norwegian steamer Gwent was reported at 6.30 this morning stranded two miles east of Long Beach Life Saving Station, on Long Island. It was added that the ship was in immediate danger. The Gwent is a fruit steamer, bound from Gibara, Cuba, for New York. She is of 87 tons net and is commanded by Captain Tildan. A wrecking steamer has been sent to her aid, and it is believed the vessel will be a total loss.

The passengers on the steamer were C. H. Hines of Schenectady, N. Y., who is connected with the General Electric Co., his wife, son and baby, and Wm. Yerkes and F. H. Rowley of this city.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

CALCUTTA, March 27.—In the course of the budget today, Lord Curzon, the viceroy, in a forcible speech dwelt on the necessity of reform in many directions and congratulated the council on the surplus, after a year of famine. He said the currency policy had gained strength and stability and that the ravens had ceased to croak concerning it. He defended the military estimates, saying that while he was ready to spend the money on economic measures, an increase in the army was required to make India safe, in the conditions of the world. While the whole world was busy with military reforms, Lord Curzon concluded the Indian stand still.

DENMARK'S TERMS.

LONDON, March 28.—The Daily News publishes the following despatch from its Copenhagen correspondent: "I am enabled to state on the very best authority that Denmark has communicated

to the United States the following conditions for the sale of the Danish West Indies: "First, \$4,000,000 to be paid to Denmark. "Second, the population to decide by vote whether to remain Danish or to be transferred to America."

"Third, if the vote is favorable to the United States, then the inhabitants to become immediately not only American subjects, but American citizens."

"Fourth, products of the island to be admitted to the United States free of duty. "It is supposed here that Washington will not readily accept the third and fourth conditions."

You will like the rich, delicious flavor of Red Rose tea.

SHIPPING NEWS.

LATE SHIP NEWS.

Port of St. John.
ST. JOHN, March 27.—Arr. str Norden, 10-dahl, from Teneriffe via Louisburg, bal.
Domestic Ports.

YARMOUTH, N. S., March 27.—Arr. str Prince George, from Boston; Boston, from Boston; Bridgewater, from Halifax; bark Antigua, from New York; str Dominion, from Louisburg; str Weymouth, from St. John.

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SPRING IS HERE.

It Came But It Hasn't Taken Off Its Coat Yet—No Doubt of Arrival—Spring Poets Should be Encouraged.

(Bangor Commercial.)

Spring has come. You wouldn't think it but it has. The calendar says so and you can't get back of that. The Commercial has also said so just above, which makes the fact indisputable. The proposition having been granted there is no chance for argument on the subject, so we might as well make the best of a bad piece of work and do what we are supposed to do.

The first thing to do is to change your underwear and let your furnace fire go out. It may not be comfortable, but if you don't die, you will get used to it in time and then you will have the satisfaction of feeling that you have done the correct thing. There are some people who do not follow the seasons religiously, but they are persons whom one does not care to know, and who are considered eccentric and not good form.

Among the other things which you must do is to be the house cleaning. This is hard for any man to stand, but bravery and self-sacrifice are always appreciated in the next world if they are not in this, so you need not fear that you will lack reward. It may be cold, wet, washing windows and bedding furniture out of doors, but it should be done no matter if the servants object and leave. There is no other time of year in which to clean house.

If the time gets by without you having done it it will never, never come back again and you will have lost the opportunity that nature and the calendar gave you.

Should Receive Support.

Spring is a beautiful thing. Many people write poems about it, which are also beautiful but are seldom, if ever, appreciated nowadays, except by the editors of supposedly funny periodicals, which is another thing that shows the decadence into which the end of the last century brought a civilized world. We must strive and hope for better things in the next 100 years, for it is not right to scoff at spring and the sentiments that are put into beautiful songs under its influence.

Parasites who carp at the devil at the inspired spring poet, are the ignorant ones who do not know what they are about. How many a budding genius has been discouraged and crushed under the iron heel of a self-important editor! How many uplifting joys have been lost to the world through the gross lack of respect which narrow-minded persons show to the divine inspiration which comes to the spring poet with the breath of the southern wind, and the germinating life by the glorious warmth and brightness of the vernal sun!

MARINE MATTERS.

Str. Norden, which is under charter to Cushing & Co., arrived last evening from Teneriffe.

The Battle liner Oheronea arrived at the Tyne yesterday from Hamburg. After coaling up she will proceed to Antwerp to load for St. John.

WEATHER BULLETIN.

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

R. F. Stupart, Director of Meteorological Service.

St. John Observatory, March 28, 1901.

8 A. M. Weather Reports.

Bar. Meridian Time.

Bar. Temperature.

Direction. Force. Winds. Weather.

Bulletin from Toronto.

Montreal, 28.50 20 W. 22 Snow.

Quebec, 28.50 20 W. 22 Snow.

Chatham, 28.50 20 W. 22 Snow.

Char. Town, 28.50 20 W. 22 Snow.

Sydney, 28.50 20 W. 22 Snow.

Halifax, 28.50 20 W. 22 Snow.

Yarmouth, 28.50 20 W. 22 Snow.

St. John, 28.50 20 W. 22 Snow.

Old. Menan, 28.50 20 W. 22 Snow.

St. John, 28.50 20 W. 22 Snow.

Forecast—Fresh winds, shifting to westerly and northwesterly, a few local showers today, turning a little colder tonight. Friday, fresh, gradually milder, mostly fair and a little colder.

Synopsis—Pressure is lowest over the Maritime provinces and highest in Manitoba; somewhat colder weather is indicated for the Maritime provinces, but no wind above a strong breeze.

Note.—Telegraph messages of enquiry regarding the weather, from ports where the Bulletin is not posted, addressed to "Observatory, St. John" will be answered without delay. Enquiry and answer cost but one rate, which must be paid by enquirer.

ST. JOHN OBSERVATORY.

The Time Ball on Customs Building is hoisted half its elevation at 12.45, full elevation at 1.15, and drops at 1.30. Local time at the Observatory, equivalent to 52 min. 16 sec. at Greenwich, at 12h. 52m. 16 sec. Railway or Standard time of the 75th meridian.

Friday, March 28, 1901.

Highest temperature since 8 o'clock last night.....42

Lowest temperature since 8 o'clock last night.....24

Temperature at noon.....33

Humidity at noon.....83

Barometer reading at noon (sea level and 32 deg. Fahr.).....30.02

Wind at noon: Direction, SE; velocity, 8 miles per hour.

Local Weather Notes.

Cloudy and showers.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

DUPERRIN HOTEL, March 27.—H. V. De-

mar, St. George; E. J. Devine, Montreal; W. E. Parrell, Fredericton; J. J. Ryan, St. Mary's; F. L. Carner, Debec; C. G. Chapman, Wood-

stock; L. Dair, Pittsburg; John Fener, Fredericton; C. T. Curtis, W. P. Finson, Bangor.

THE WEATHER.

TORONTO, March 28.—Maritime: Fresh winds, shifting to westerly and northwesterly, a few local showers today, turning a little colder tonight. Friday, fresh, northwesterly winds, mostly fair and a little colder.