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North Sea Claims Settled. The Russian Ambassador to Great Britain has paid \$325,000 to Lord Lansdowne, secretary of Foreign Affairs, in settlement of the claims for damages caused to the fishermen who were fired upon by the Baltic Fleet. The amount is trifling, but this with the verdict of the Commissioners that the attack on the fishing boats "was not justified" will be enough to warn Russia not to do it again.

Some idea of the enormous supplies of food products imported by Great Britain is given by reports of the cold storage accommodation in use at various ports. During the year 1904 the imports of refrigerated produce into the United Kingdom aggregated a value of \$150,000,000. In London alone there are cold storage establishments with a total capacity of 2,716,000 carcasses of 56 lb. each, or 76,000 tons of 2,000 lb. each. Southampton has a total net storage earning capacity of 2,000,000 cubic feet sufficient for the storage of over 4,800 quarters of beef and 155,000 carcasses of sheep leaving 1,300,000 cubic feet for butter, fish, game, etc., etc. From Russia alone England imported refrigerated eggs last year to value of \$10,000,000. As was pointed out some time ago in this journal the system of cold storage is effecting a revolution in the whole business of dealing with edibles all over the world. Prices will not fluctuate so much in accordance with temporary conditions as formerly, as all kinds of perishable products will be stored, in the same way as money is stored and a supply will be provided for the whole year of such articles as used to be and, to some extent, yet are rushed on the market to avoid their becoming unmarketable. The trade in perishable goods is becoming less risky, less speculative, less controlled by the seasons and weather, there will not be such enormous losses as formerly by edibles becoming unsaleable, hence, when these elements of the

business are eliminated prices will settle down to averages throughout the year. There has been a large addition made to the sphere of fire insurance by these storage establishments, which are now found, or soon will be, in all ports where edibles are shipped or received and in all large cities and towns.

Sir Henry Burdett, K.C.B., has published a statement regarding the hospitals of London, in which he gives a list of those classes who are not entitled to free relief at these institutions from which are excluded all but artisans and labourers. The population of the County of London, numbers 4,613,812 persons, one half of whom represent possible patients. The total ordinary income of 94 voluntary hospitals in London for 10 years was \$33,540,000, from legacies there was received \$11,474,500, from special donations, \$7,134,400, making a total income of \$52,148,900 in 10 years. The annual expenditure absorbed all but a small balance of the year's revenue. The income of these 94 hospitals has been increasing year by year. In 1894 it was \$4,038,900, in 1898 \$5,240,000, and in 1903, \$6,650,000. Owing to the introduction of trained nurses and modern modes of treatment hospital expenditures have increased, but so, in a much greater degree, has their efficiency. The King's Fund has been of the greatest benefit to the hospitals. Owing to the high reputation of these institutions there is now a greater desire to secure hospital care than in former years, and the conviction prevails that the free treatment system leads to a large amount of imposition. This is believed to be the case nearer home, where thousands of patients secure medical advice and medicine free, or nearly so, who could afford to pay a doctor. In London last year there were 2,302,563 cases of free medical relief for a population of 4,613,812. The above will be useful in making comparisons with our hospitals in this city.