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**British.**

Mr. R. S. Wright has been appointed a Judge of the High Court in place of the late Mr. Baron Huddleston.

Lord Hartington presided over an important conference, convened by the National Association for the Promotion of Technical Education, to discuss various questions connected with the adoption by county councils of the Technical Education Act (1889).

Lord Jersey left London on the 12th December, to take up his new post as Governor of New South Wales.

The annual Cattle Show of the Smithfield Club opened on the 8th December at Islington. The entries were very numerous and the general quality excellent. The Queen has been very successful, gaining six first prizes besides others of lower classes. Her Majesty exhibits the champions of the entire show and of the Devon and Shorthorn breeds.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mrs. Peel, the popular wife of the Speaker, which occurred at the Speaker's House shortly before noon on the 12th December.

The *Times* of Dec. 27th. publishes a three column article severely criticizing Gen. Booth's scheme of social regeneration, as set forth in his book "In Darkest England and the Way Out."

The English army authorities are organizing a corps of signallers for the army, the recruits being selected from the post-office rifle volunteers, preference being given to those trained in telegraphy.

Further encroachments of the sea have occurred at Walton-on-the-Naze, one serious land slip having taken place quite close to the Great Eastern Railway Terminus, while a second subsidence of cliff, nearly 100 feet in surface area, threatens with destruction Burnt House Farm, which is a spot familiar to most excursionists. Part of the roadway has slid down to the beach, and the erosion of the cliffs continues daily.

The Very Rev. John James S. Perowne, of Peterborough, has been appointed Bishop of Worcester in place of the Right Rev. Henry Philpott, who recently resigned.

Mr. Balfour's Irish Relief Bill, which asks an appropriation of £5,000 to enable him to supply seed potatoes to distressed farmers, passed its third reading.

The striking London stevedores employed by the New Zealand and British India Steamship Companies have resumed work.

Mr. William Gregson, a well known English temperance advocate, is dead. In spite of all efforts to bring about a settlement between the railway officials and employees of the Glasgow district, the strike continues to extend and traffic is almost completely paralysed.

Jameson's diary has been published. Mrs. Jameson and the dead man's brother in the preface make a bitter attack upon Stanley for making Jameson the scapegoat of his own blunders and neglect.

It is understood that the syndicate of which Lord Hartington is the head will receive the contract for the Canadian fast Atlantic steamships.

A strong effort is being made to induce Sir Richard Moon to reconsider his determination to retire from the chairmanship of the London and North-Western Railway Company. This, up to the present, has not been successful; but it is so influentially supported that it is possible Sir Richard will consent to remain at his post another year.

**India.**

A specimen of petroleum from the Shirani country has been analyzed by the Government analyst at Calcutta, and found to be richer than any previously recorded, and superior to American or Russian oils.

The Czarewitch, after a short stay at Calcutta, will embark on the Russian flagship and go to Madras, whence he will visit Trichinopoly, Tuticorin, Madura, and Mysore, and then proceed to Colombo en route for China. During his visit to India his Highness will be the guest of the Indian Government.

The latest news from Cabul states that the Ameer is again suffering from gout.

From the statistics of the cotton crops of India during the past ten years, published by the *Times* of India, it appears that the crop of the past season was the largest ever grown.

Commilla is coming to the front in connection with the Lady Dufferin Fund. The Nawab Faizunessa Sahiba of Tippera has offered to build a hospital at Commilla at a cost of some 10,000r., and to give a further donation towards a local fund.

The visitors at a race meeting in India, the other day, were somewhat startled by the following footnote to the race cards:—"Any person bringing a dog to the race course will be shot!"

Sir Asmman Jah, the able Prime Minister of Hyderabad, has headed a subscription list for the Balaclava Survivors Fund. It is strongly supported by the Indian Mahomedans, partly as a matter of loyalty to their faith, the Crimean War having been fought in defence of Turkish independence, and further to prove their devotion to their Empress-Queen. The bank of Bengal and its branches are receiving the subscriptions, which are expected to amount to a very handsome sum.

The National Indian Congress opened at Calcutta with a 1,000 delegates. Mervanji Mehta, a member of the Bombay legislature, in his presidential address avowed the warm loyalty of India to Britain, but claimed the time had arrived for consultative councils, although the diverse nationalities of India were not yet ripe for representative institutions.

**Australia.**

The Session of the Queensland Parliament was closed on the 5th December. All the financial measures of the Government have been passed.

The appointment of Sir James Garrick as Agent-General for Queensland in London is gazetted.

The Tasmanian Parliament has been prorogued until May 21. The dissolution and elections will take place before that date.

The returns for the past 11 months show the Treasurer's estimate of the revenue to be more than realized, the receipts from Customs, railways, and land all showing large increases.

The route which the Government will propose for the Queensland Border Railway will, it is understood, be from Leigh's Creek to Innamincka. The line will pass through what is believed to be rich mineral country in the neighborhood of Mount Lyndhurst, Mount Freeling, Mount Burr, and other portions of the Flinders Range.

An alligator, 17 feet long, was captured in the Norman River, in Northern Queensland, recently.

An organization of labour in Australia has extended to the women-folk, and we learn from Broken Hill that a Domestic Servants' Union has been formed at that place. The objects of the society are to maintain the privileges and customs at present in use among not only domestic servants, but housekeepers, barmaids, waitresses, laundresses, and other female workers in the household, to maintain the rate of wages, to render mutual assistance, and to provide pecuniary help in case of accident while following their usual employment. The next thing we shall hear of, probably, from that quarter of Australia will be a "servants girls' strike."

Peter Jackson, the coloured prize fighter, has just been with great ceremony initiated into the mysteries of Masonry by the General Gordon lodge at Sydney.

A hurricane of phenomenal violence passed over Melbourne on October 24, the velocity of the wind reaching 80 miles an hour. A good deal of damage was done in the city and among the shipping in Hobson's Bay.

**New Zealand.**

The wild-dog nuisance is becoming a serious matter in the Wairarapa district. They are very destructive to sheep, and are said to be much worse than the Australian dingoes—being much more cunning. They are supposed to be dogs which originally belonged to rabbit packs.

An English syndicate is offering to construct a railway from the Bay of Islands, to Whangarei to open up the valuable mineral lands in that district. The Government are favorable to the proposal.

The New Zealand Agency is now engaged in collecting some polecat-ferrets as well as stoats and weasels, for dispatch to New Zealand, to aid in keeping down the rabbit plague. About 300 are going out in all, including 100 polecat-ferrets. By the way, much expense is now saved by taking out the pigeons, on which these creatures have to be fed during the voyage, in a frozen state.

The devil-fish still continues to be dangerously plentiful in New Zealand waters. A Wellington citizen had a decidedly unpleasant experience at Island Bay, near that city, recently. He was engaged in getting pawa shells, and had his arm under water in the act of detaching one of the shell fish from a rock, when he was suddenly seized by an octopus, which promptly wrapped one of his tentacles round the man's arm. It was only by the exercise of the greatest coolness and all the strength he possessed that the shell hunter succeeded in freeing himself from the terrible danger in which he was placed.

The customs revenue for the half of the New Zealand financial year ended September 30, exceeded half of the estimate for the year by 18,922. It was hoped, therefore, that, notwithstanding the strike, there would be a surplus over the estimate. A peculiarity noticeable is the apparent increase in the consumption of beer, as evidenced by the increased amount received for beer duty. The railway revenue was between 3,000l. and 4,000l. short of half the estimated receipts.

**South Africa.**

Zanzibar, Dec. 10.—Letters dated Usambiro, October 20, were received here yesterday reporting the arrival there of Bishop Tucker and his party, all well. They have accomplished the quickest caravan journey on record from the coast—87 days. The Bishop was awaiting Mr. Stokes's boat for transport to Uganda. Emin Pasha and Mr. Gedge were encamped three days west and east of Usambiro respectively. The former was preparing to march to Karagwe.

Much uneasiness is felt among the mercantile community here regarding the commercial future of Zanzibar. The Germans will naturally endeavour to divert all the Zanzibar trade to their coast, and great inducements are already being held out to British Indian merchants by the German authorities here to persuade them to import direct to the German coast line, avoiding Zanzibar altogether.

The representatives of the Chartered Company totally deny the Portuguese official version of the recent collision, according to which the Company's police aided Mutaca's people in an attack upon the Portuguese station of Massi Kesse, and after driving the Portuguese out of the place hauled down their flag. They state that the affair occurred at Matumba Bosoko, which is 25 miles from Messe.

Official returns show the general revenue of the Cape Colony during the financial year 1889-90 to have yielded 4,427,180l., as against 3,836,114l. during the year 1888-89. The net increase amounts to 591,066l., Customs showing an increase of 221,304l., and railway receipts 412,103l.

**Reviews and Exchanges.**

We have been favoured with a copy of *Bank Chat*, published at Toronto, in the interests of banking and bank-clerks; of the *Cosmopolitan*, an illustrated monthly, the Xmas number of which shows marked excellence both of illustration and letter-press; of the *Young Canadian*, a new pictorial published at Montreal, which we trust will soon find a large circulation among our young people, being patriotic in tone and attractively illustrated.

We have also received copies of "Links of Union between Canada and Australia," and an essay on "Imperial Federation," by Mr. J. CASTELL HOPKINS, F. R. C. I., who we are glad to hear has been appointed to the staff of the Toronto "Empire." Mr. Hopkins possesses a very clear and suggestive style, and judging from what we have seen of his productions we think he has done well to devote his talents exclusively to literature, in which, we venture to predict, he will soon make a reputation for himself.

**THE "MONTREAL WITNESS."**

In November the "Weekly Witness" was enlarged by more than a page, thus making an enlargement equal to two pages a week within two years, adding greatly to its value and interest. The "Weekly Witness" is mailed free to subscribers in Canada, Great Britain and the United States for \$1.00 a year; the "Daily Witness" for \$3.00 a year; and the "Northern Messenger" for 30 cents a year. The Publishers are Messrs. John Dougall & Son, to whom you may mail your subscription. The ANGLO-SAXON has pleasure in acknowledging its testimony to the integrity and literary merit which mark the conduct of the "Montreal Witness."

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