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THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR. VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1891. VOLUME XXXIV.

MERCIER'S DISMISSAL.

L'Electeur Loudly Protests Against the Course of the Lt.-Governor Towards the Administration.

Strong Probability That They Will Resist and Refuse to be Superseded.

QUEBEC, Dec. 17.—L'Electeur, the per-al organ of ex-Premier Mercier, pub-es a strong article, this morning, on . Mercier's dismissal by Lieut.-Governor gers. It says: "The federal officer om we call Lieutenant-Governor is mpling under foot the constitution and ying orders from his master at Ottawa, l, in pursuing a vengeance twelve years , has dismissed the advisers whom the ple of the province gave him. He has s upset all constitutional restrictions and substituted the tyrannical power of one man for the constitutional government which expresses itself by the vote of the people. It remains with the people to inflict on this man, and the lower ambitions which inspired him, chastisement for the outrage he has committed against our constitution. In democratic countries like ours the supreme jury, the tribunal from which there is no appeal, is the people; and we ask them, therefore, to avenge their outraged dignity and to settle firmly on its base our oscillating constitution." L'Electeur says it was only on the strength of Judges Baby and Davidson's report that Angers dismissed his ministers, and asks: "What caused the precipitation of these two Commissioners? Did they believe they were delegates of the Lieutenant-Governor, the National Party's born enemy, and that they had to help him in concluding his unconstitutional scheme?" Continuing, the paper says: "Forgetful of the duty imposed on him by the dignity of the first magistrate's office, and forgetful of the laws of courtesy which the illness of Judge Jette should have inspired in them, they came in a hurry to share the responsibility which the Lieutenant-Governor was too much of a coward to assume alone. If it had been a just and loyal act that these gentlemen wished to accomplish, what would it have mattered to them whether the report was finished yesterday or in two weeks hence? If they were not the willing instruments of the Lieutenant-Governor, and the judgment was one which in their intention should be sealed with impartiality, why did they display such haste in preparing it?"

Ex-Premier Mercier sent a memo. to Lieut.-Governor Angers, this morning, asking His Honor to give him the letter, or a copy of the letter addressed to him by Judge Jette. Governor Angers refused to give either the document or a copy of it, as he considered Judge Jette's letter personal. Mr. Mercier's answer to the Lieutenant-Governor is not yet ready. The members of the late Cabinet are holding a council at Mr. Mercier's residence, and are discussing the answer clause by clause. The opinion prevails here that Mercier will not accept his dismissal unless the report of the Royal Commission is made unanimous, and that he is inclined to treat the Governor's intervention as an act of conspiracy against his Cabinet.

CANADIAN NEWS.

Death of Hon. C. H. Brown.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 17.—Hon. C. H. Brown, ex-Minister of Public Works for Manitoba, is dead. He was a conservative in politics, and represented the Westbourne constituency in the Manitoba Legislature for many year.

Hotel Keeper Murdered.

PETERBORO, Ont., Dec. 17.—John C. Wheeler, keeper of a hotel at Ridge Centre, was murdered, last night, by John Burnett, a Frenchman. Wheeler refused to give Burnett liquor, whereupon the latter seized a wiffletree and dealt Wheeler a savage blow over the head, killing him. The murderer escaped.

Corruption by Agents.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—Dr. Mousseau, Liberal member for Soulanges, whose election was contested, has admitted corruption by agents sufficient to annul his election.

No More Pay in Advance.

OTTAWA, Dec. 18.—In previous years the temporary clerks in the civil service received their December cheques before Christmas, in order to tide them over the holidays. The decision of the Auditor-General to abolish the practice, on the ground that it would be illegal to have work paid for until it had been performed, has created considerable dissatisfaction on Parliament Hill.

Proposed Quebec Administration.

QUEBEC, Dec. 18.—It is now said that the new ministry will be made up as follows: Hons. B. DeBoucherville, premier; L. O. Taillon, C. A. Nantel, J. S. Hall, J. L. McIntosh, Chase Casgrain and Charles Fitzpatrick.

For Bribery by an Agent.

CORNWALL, Dec. 18.—Major R. R. McLennan, Conservative M. P. for Glengarry, was unseated, to day, for bribery by an agent. The personal charges were dismissed, the respondent paying costs.

CABLE NEWS.

Wheat Shipments to Russia.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Russia is about to begin to import wheat, and arrangements have already been entered into with the Black Sea and Danube Steamship company for shipments of Roumanian wheat to Russia.

Liverpool and the World's Fair.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Considerable stir has been caused in commercial and manufacturing circles by the action of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, in deciding that Liverpool, as a British centre of trade and traffic, should not take any part in the Chicago exhibition. The ground assumed by the representatives of Liverpool's commercial and mercantile interests is, that the McKinley law has greatly injured and, as to certain interests, has stopped altogether business that was flourishing. Another and serious argument from a British standpoint, is that the British exhibits will be copied by Americans to the great detriment of industries that have cost Great Britain many years of effort and great expenditure of capital to develop, and, therefore, it would be worse than a waste of time to assist in the American exhibition. It is understood that the action of the Liverpool chamber has been promoted not only by the commercial interests in that city, but also by the prevalent sentiment among the manufacturers and merchants elsewhere. It is claimed in behalf of the Liverpool Chamber that the course of the Government, in providing for British participation on a large scale, does not really voice the general feeling in England, and that the McKinley bill was a blow at British enterprise that should not go unrebuked.

Unconscious Cannibals.

VIENNA, Dec. 18.—A frightful story of murder and cannibalism comes from Mjechow, a small town in Russian Poland, in the province of Kielce. Three peasants enticed a shoemaker, named Levanoffsky, into a forest, under the pretence of showing him where some money was concealed. When they had reached a secluded spot in the woods they turned upon the man and beat him to death. He was known to carry a considerable sum of money with him, and, to get this, was the object of the murder. Being anxious to conceal the crime they stripped the body and cut it to pieces. Then they gathered a quantity of wood and heaped the wood about the remains and started a fire. As soon as the fire was under headway the murderers left the spot. The fire went out without having consumed all of the body. Later, a workman from the vicinity was passing near the scene of the murder, and saw a piece of half-roasted flesh in the ashes of what had been a fire. He supposed that some one had been cooking game and had left part of it there. He took the flesh home, and told some of his luck in finding it and invited them to join in eating it. As meat was a rare luxury, they readily complied. While devouring the horrible food, some one accused the finder of having stolen the meat. To prove that he was not a thief, he asked them to accompany him to the forest. There a closer search discovered the other remains of the murdered shoemaker, and horrified the men with the evidence of what they had been eating. It was ascertained that Levanoffsky was missing, and the murderers were arrested.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Bourinot's Opinion as to the Constitutionality of the Dismissal of Mr. Mercier.

New Infantry Company to be Organized in Nanaimo—Land Certificates of Labels.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—The Inland Revenue department has advised Walker & Sons, limited, the well-known distillers, to enter suit, under United States law, against a Chicago firm, which has been counterfeiting the firm's brands and labels.

The Quebec crisis continues to be the absorbing topic of conversation. Premier Abbott has declined to express an opinion on the situation.

Mr. Bourinot, the leading authority on constitutional practices, says that the governor of a province, like the Sovereign or Governor-General, has the constitutional right to dismiss his advisors on the ground of public policy or any cogent reasons. He himself is, for the moment, sole judge of these reasons, but he is bound, on exercising his prerogative, to call to his counsel any persons, who must assume the responsibility for his action and justify it to the legislature and to the country, if necessary. This statement explains why the Lt.-Governor did not ask the Liberals to form a ministry.

Permission has been given to organize a company of infantry at Nanaimo, Wm. McGregor to be Captain; A. A. Rich, Lieut.; W. R. Bryant, second Lieut.

Flaxseed, for manufacturing purposes, has only been placed on the free list until the end of next session.

A murderous assault was committed on Frank Abbott, paymaster on the Rideau canal, to-day, while sitting alone in his office. His assailant expected to secure the monthly wages of the canal employees. Mr. Abbott fought him off until the man was compelled to decamp.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 18.—The Government has entered civil suits against the firms who paid commissions or a bribe to Senecal, to recover the amounts of such bribe, on the ground that they belong to the country. The total amount is $13,690. The firms are Mills & Richards, the Barber & Ellis Co., Toronto; The Type Foundry Co., Buntin, Reid & Co., all of Toronto; the Dominion Type Foundry Co., Montreal; McLean, Rogers & Co., and George Law, Ottawa.

The Quebec Harbor Commission have a dispute with the Government, relative to the amount due the Commission on sums voted by Parliament.

Three railway clerks have been suspended for illegally using the promotion examination papers before examination day.

The Civil Service Commissioners will probably recommend that the hours of clerks be extended until 5 p.m.

J. B. Pike, of Vancouver, has given notice of application to Parliament for the incorporation of a company to construct a canal from Pitt River to Burrard Inlet, Westminster district.

Chrysler and Lewis, solicitors of this city, gave notice of application to incorporate a company to build a railway from a point on the Columbian boundary to Nelson via Salmon River and Cottonwood Smith Creek.

Col. Brown Chamberlain, C.M.G., ex-Queen's Printer, has been presented by his former staff with a beautiful silver service, on his retirement.

MERCIER'S MANIFESTO

He Traverses the Report and Denounces Judges Baby and Davidson as Partisans

The Lieut.-Governor Taunted With Political Partisanship and With Abuse of His Position.

QUEBEC, Dec. 18.—Hon. Mr. Mercier has made public his views on the political situation, and has published the correspondence between himself and the Lieut.-Governor, also the interim report of the Royal Commissioners.

The report is a long one and is signed by Judges Baby and Davidson, Judge Jette being incapacitated by illness. It is said that Pacaud acted as intermediatory between the Government and the contractors, who were persuaded that this functionary was necessary. The report continues: "The bargain between Armstong and Pacaud, by which $100,000 were paid to Pacaud, was fraudulent and contrary to public order, and an audacious exploitation of the Provincial Treasury. We are of opinion that Hon. Mr. Garneau gave proof of carelessnees, but he was acting in good faith and benefitted in no way by the transaction; the fact of Hon. Mr. Robidoux having in his possession Pacaud's note for $20,000 endorsed by H. Valliere, and to which was attached one of the $20,000 checks signed by Chrysostome Langelier, Commissioner in the Baie des Chaleurs affair, constitute compromising acts for that gentlemen. Hon. Charles Langelier was one of the ministers who took the greatest part in the adoption of the Thom proposal, and we cannot avoid saying that when Hon. Mr. Langelier accepted the money from Pacaud he was perfectly aware of its source. Mr. Mercier also was included among the endorsers; and when payment was made later it was not repudiated by them, and they profited by it." The Commissioners then point to the apparent contradictions between Mr. Mercier's statement to the Governor and the evidence before the Commission in connection with the moneys forwarded for his use while in Europe. The report regrets that certain correspondence was not produced and concludes: "It is not proved that Hon. Mr. Mercier knew of the existence of the bargain between Messrs. Armstrong and Pacaud, and that gentleman declares he benefited in no way thereby. Hon. Messrs. Ross, Sheehya, Boyer and Duhamel derived no advantage whatever from the transaction." In transmitting the report to Hon. Mr. Mercier, the Governor states that it proves carelessness and illegalities, and shows the statements and justifications of the Premier to be of no value. The report, he says, forces upon him the conviction that the ministry is not in a position to advise the Representative of the Crown, and, therefore, he must dismiss them.

Hon. Mr. Mercier demands a copy of Judge Jette's letter, supposed to differ from the report, and permission to publish the letter of dismissal, both of which the Governor refuses. I denounce you before public opinion, and the time is not far distant when the representatives of the people will again resume the power of which you have stripped them, and vindicate the institutions whose constitution you have violated. Next follows Mr. Mercier's reply, in which he says: "The report is that of two partisans, from whom you have dragged an unjust and unfounded opinion which is altogether informal and without legal value. The allegations of this pretended preliminary report are contrary to proof. They contain gratuitous insults to your ex-ministers, who are supported by a great majority of the legislature of this province." He charges the Governor with personal and autocratic government; with having arrested the government; with having refused to pay legitimate debts; with having refused to call the legislature at the request of the majority to transact public business, and with having carried out one of the most odious conspiracies ever entered into against the constitutional liberties enjoyed by a free people. He taunts the Governor with a desire to place power in the hands of political friends, by taking as unfair advantage of the illness of Judge Jette, against all the rules of decency and professional etiquette, and with trampling under foot the dignity of the Crown. He charges him with leaving politics for the Bench, and when there of being a partisan. Mr. Mercier then discusses the constitutional side of the question, referring to the action of Lord Dufferin in the Pacific scandal, who laid the matter before Parliament. He charges the Governor with supporting the guilty ministers, and says: "You obey the will of the Federal Prime Minister, Abbott, who was himself a distributor of this bribery money to the ministry. Your conduct puts our political institutions in jeopardy. I will try to undo your nefarious work with the assistance of my colleagues and my political friends, and will willingly expend all I possess to save our cherished province.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 17.—A rather peculiar, though expensive accident occurred this morning on Cordova street. While workmen were pushing a large pane of plate glass across the sidewalk a man walking with his head down came along. Not seeing the glass he struck it with his head, smashing it into fragments. The man refused to give his name. The loss will be about $90.

The special train with the new crews for H.M.S. Champion and Pheasant will reach here at a late hour on Friday night.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 18.—Two dusky damsels of easy virtue, from Westminster, got into a row in a restaurant, this morning. They began by throwing glasses and resorted to chairs to make a finish. Both were arrested. A doctor had to be called in to patch them up. They were fined $10 each, and ordered to pay the doctor.

The arrest of Chas. Stroud and T. C. Galley, who were up on Thursday for larceny, has led to the unearthing of the fact that an organized gang of thieves has been at work in Vancouver for some time. To them can be traced burglaries from Buse's, Lee's, Fairbairn's, Major's, John Clugh's shack, Gunderson's, the Loan Office, the attempt at Tyson's, and a dozen or so others of more or less magnitude. They seem to have managed to dispose of their purloinings, and the person who acted as a fence for them will probably have an interesting interview with the police magistrate before the affair is wound up.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Dec. 17.—Alex McLean is getting himself into shape for his race with Seeley, at Victoria. He looks upon the race as a soft thing.

A concert was given to eighty inmates of the Insane Asylum, last evening. Dr. Bentley is delighted with the results. The patients all seemed much better for it today.

The Serpentine river has overflowed its banks and done much damage to the Yale wagon road as well as to farm property.

Ald. Scoullar, the defeated candidate for re-election in Ward 3, has taken preliminary steps to contest the election. It is pretty well understood that James Cunningham will contest the mayoralty election.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Dec. 18.—Samuel Greer was released from the Provincial jail, this afternoon, and received almost an ovation from his many friends. He looks as determined as ever, but has little to say as to his recent case. He went to Vancouver, this evening, and on Sunday will cross to Victoria, to arrange for bringing to trial his suit with the Government.

A big turkey shoot, open to the province, will commence here on Tuesday. Seven hundred and fifty birds will be put up.

Latest reports from the Delta show that the damage by the recent high tides is not so great as at first estimated.

CHEMAINUS.

On December 17th, Mr. Pottinger left for the capital city.

Miss May and Mr. Eddy Conway, the pupils sent down from Chemainus Landing public school, by R. Telford, to write the High School entrance examination, have been successful, acquitting themselves in a manner highly creditable. They will continue at the present school, taking up more advanced work.

Mr. Thompson and family left for Nanaimo, on Wednesday last.

A very pleasant evening was spent in Chemainus Hall, last night, when a social and musical entertainment was given by Mrs. Patten and pupils, the chair being occupied by Mr. Herb, of Minnesota. The hall was well filled, and the audience listened with close attention while an excellent programme was being rendered. At the close of the proceedings the hall was cleared for dancing, which was merrily indulged in until a late hour.

The ladies of this town are busily employed in preparing a Christmas tree for the children, who are looking forward with great anticipation, and judging from the interest displayed, it is quite evident that not one of the little ones will be forgotten this season.

AMERICAN NEWS.

Bradstreets Trade Review.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Bradstreet's letter says that Montreal has practically ceased exporting grain for the winter, and that Portland, Maine and Halifax are beginning to ship a little. Twelve United States ports exported the equivalent of 5,495,000 bushels of wheat this week, against 6,103,300 bushels last week and as compared with 2,171,000 bushels and 2,872,000 bushels respectively in like weeks of December 1890 and 1889. The improvement in the speculative share market has been stimulated by the large demand for bonds and the increased activity in that department. The favorable condition of railroad operations and the encouraging financial outlook create a decided belief in speculative circles, that a wider and higher market is at hand, and though the trading in stocks is professional and at all times dull, there have been steady advances in the granger and trunk line shares, with a corresponding influence on the general list. In the Dominion of Canada, general trade is quiet and prices, except for wheat, are steady. The total number of business failures in Canada, this week, is 24, compared with 45 last week, and 35 in the like week last year. The bank clearings at four Canadian cities, this week, aggregate $21,410,986.

Funeral of Dynamiter Norcross.

BOSTON, Dec. 18.—The remains of H. L. Norcross, the dynamiter, arrived here, this morning, and were deposited in the receiving vault of Woodlawn Cemetery. To a United Press reporter, Mrs. Norcross said: I do not think we will have any funeral, no services will be held at the house, and those at the grave will be private. I hope the papers will not publish what transpires at the grave. The papers have already had all the sensational features of the affair, and I think we ought to be allowed to bury our boy without having the scene at the grave printed for the benefit of the public. I don't want any reporters there, and I hope they will respect my wishes. Mrs. Norcross entertains a fear that the remains will be stolen from the cemetery.

The Choynski-Woods Fight.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—The two well-known heavy weights, Joe Choynski, of San Francisco, and Billy Woods, of Denver, fought for a $4,000 purse, to-night, at the Pacific Athletic club. Four thousand people witnessed the contest. The men were in the best possible condition. Woods had the advantage of height and weight, being twenty-four pounds heavier than Choynski but notwithstanding this Choynski was a strong favorite in the betting. After thirty-four rounds Woods was counted out.

Von Caprivi Made a Count.

BERLIN, Dec. 18.—The Emperor, during the inauguration of the new town hall at Telto, to-day, received a telegram from the Reichstag announcing the adoption of the treaties of commerce. After reading the dispatch he arose and said: "The adoption of these treaties is solely due to our great Caprivi. I call upon the assembly to give three hearty cheers for Count Caprivi." This intimation of the Emperor's decision to confer the title of Count on the Chancellor was received with applause.

A Reformer Reformed.

NAPANEE, Dec. 18.—Mr. D. W. Allison, reform M.P. for Lennox, admitted bribery by an agent, and his election was declared void.

CABLE LETTER.

The Delayed Appeal to the British Constituencies—Chinese Situation Serious.

The Absorbing Eastern Question—Contingencies on Which the Peace of Europe Hangs.

ELECTION PROSPECTS.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The opinion that the Salisbury government have made up their minds to let the present Parliament run its full legal course continues to furnish food for discussion in political circles, especially among the supporters of the Government. Several leading Conservatives believe that, before long, some authorized spokesman of the cabinet will take the opportunity to make a formal disclaimer of any such decision. It is necessary that this should be done in the interests of the Conservative candidates whose constituencies have had a long period of waiting already, and some of whom in London at all events are far from disposed to face the prospects of another two years of uncertainty. If the Government are desirous of running to the full length of their tether they would have done better in their own interests to have made this desire clear some time ago instead of worrying their supporters by false alarms. Many constituencies could be named in which all arrangements have been made by the local Conservative agents in the belief, encouraged from headquarters, that a general election would certainly take place in the coming spring, and in which the choice of candidates has been made, and the candidate himself induced to stand upon that assumption. It is absolutely certain that many Conservative members of Parliament who have the intention of seeking re-election have arranged their own personal affairs with the idea that very little will be required of them in the coming session, and then, when it ends, their parliamentary labors will be at an end also. In many cases the overthrow of these arrangements would put a severe tax on the pockets of the members concerned and in a moribund parliament this kind of thing is not likely to awaken any self-sacrificing enthusiasm. However, the current reports have no real foundation beyond such as may be discovered in the elaborate programme unfolded to the agricultural delegates by Mr. Chamberlain, on Wednesday last. The belief is very strong that the Unionists are pressing Government to hold on and a formal statement on the subject would give many ministerialists a good deal of embarrasment.

THE CHINESE MASSACRES.

The Church Missionary Society have received the following from their head missionary in China: "The Chinese appear willing enough to pay all claims, indeed, they would be only too glad to have the whole thing treated as a matter of so many dollars, and bundle all the Europeans out of the country. It is most marvellous how accidentally everything fitted in to prevent loss of life at the riot. As you may have read, there was no suspicion of danger till the work of destruction commenced, and it was over in half an hour. The whole thing had been carefully planned before hand and the whole band of the active rioters didn't number over fifty, but they knew exactly what to do. We have saved nothing, but just escaped in the clothes we stood in, and so near were we pressed for time that baby was snatched out of her bath and carried on board the steamer, wrapped in a bath towel. The Catholic sisters and Father Graun were very severely handled, bruised and cut, until their robes were literally steeped in blood. It is quite a miracle how all of them escaped alive. Had they not been delayed ten minutes longer the steamer would have left the port, as she was to start at noon. In that case there must have been such a massacre as has never taken place in China, as murder was evidently intended. We have both had some experience of Chinese riots, but never saw the Chinese behave in the same manner before. There was stabbing, shooting, throwing stones, etc., but as soon as the signal was given the doors were smashed in with pick-axes, and the houses fired. My house was only looted, and there was no attempt to burn it. It is a thorough wreck—destroyed past repair. Most of the things were carried off, with crowds of mandarins and soldiers looking on and doing nothing. The piano was dragged out on the lawn, the woodwork chopped off and the iron frame lying on its back, half a dozen strings only intact, when I visited the ruins. I can't bear to think that we have lost so much that cannot be replaced, and for which money is no equivalent. We are down here in Shanghai. I don't know for how long, as no one knows when things are to be settled. We have just to wait with what patience we can muster. The riots are so widespread and so well organized, and the Chinese Government are so neglectful to punish the officials implicated, that I see no prospect but war, and the sooner the better. Not a port on the Yantse would be safe for six hours, but for the gunboats; nor is there a single steamer leaving Shanghai secure from the pirates.

THE BALKAN STATES AND THE EASTERN SITUATION.

Diplomatic observers of politics in the Balkan States have, at last, discovered the motive which impelled Stamboloff, the Bulgarian Premier, to have the Sobranje vote a handsome yearly pension to Prince Alexander of Battenburg. It seems that Stamboloff had been advised by the Bulgarian charge d'affaires at Constantinople that Fulad has been sent by the Sulten on an important special mission to the Czar. The Bulgarian Premier at once jumped to the conclusion that Bulgaria was the object of the mission, and fearing danger and not having confidence in the abilities of Prince Ferdinand, at once hastened to pension Prince Alexander, with the ulterior object of placing the Battenburg Prince at the head of the Bulgarian army. It is known that Emperor Wm. would welcome such a change, especially as it would be another slap at Bismarck's foreign policy, for Prince Alexander would have been on the Bulgarian throne to-day had it not been for a "hint" he received from Prince Bismarck to abdicate. The Battenberg prince is now a general in the Austrian army, but is willing at any moment to accept a call from Bulgaria. It has always been the opinion, in well informed quarters, that none of the great powers were willing nor desired to participate a war, but that if a war came it would undoubtedly be through some minor event on the part of one of the smaller States, similar to the expulsion of M. Chaducon, the French newspaper correspondent. If Turkey takes part in the dispute between France and Bulgaria, as stated to be likely, and attempts to coerce Bulgaria into acceding to the demands of France, there is no telling where the difficulty will end. There is no doubt that the first defeat of the Bulgarians of a Turkish army marching through Eastern Roumania would bring both Servian and the Greek forces to the Bulgarian border. Roumania is also open to the Russian armies. In a war, in which England is neutral, the French fleet will command the Mediterranean, and, further, the adherence of Greece to the Russian programme will enable the French fleet to keep itself supplied with coal for operations in the Ægean. Of course, Austria wouldn't stand by and see a Greeco-Servian combination under Russian inspiration, getting the upper hand of Bulgaria, and once Austria stepped in, Germany and Italy would be bound to come to her support. This illustrates forcibly the vast change in the European situation, that results from the new connection between France and Russia. The success of this new combination would bring with it a general shifting and re-arrangement of the Balkan States.

REVOLT IN PERNAMBUCO.

News from Pernambuco has been received stating that the populace of that place revolted against the Government troops who were sent to put down the revolution, and fired upon the people. At last reports it was said that 60 of the mob had been killed and a large number wounded. Later reports state that the Government has resigned and peace once more reigns.

OSMAN DIGNA'S MOVEMENTS.

A telegram from Cairo says that Osman Digna, at the head of the Mahdists, will attempt to reconquer Tonga.

CHILIAN MATTERS IN ENGLAND.

Advices from Chili are awaited with great anxiety by people having interests there, and the prevalent impression is that war cannot be avoided. It is known that work on El Capitan Pratt, the formidable ironclad building in France for the Chilian Government, is being hurried to completion, and the vessel will be ready for sea at an earlier date than originally intended. There is also a rumor that the Chilians are negotiating for ironclads already constructed, and for one vessel probably intended for use as a cruiser against American commerce. The Chilians here continue to express themselves as confident of a favorable result of war with the United States, and they intimate that they can depend upon indirect support from Europe in carrying on the war. A Berlin dispatch states that at last an effort is being made to procure German officers and seamen for the El Capitan Pratt, but that the enlistment of the latter is hindered by a report that the Americans could punish pirates any seamen they might capture who enlisted in a foreign country.

REVOLUTION IN BRAZIL.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A despatch from Rio de Janeiro says that a revolution has broken out in Espirito Santo. The people revolted against the governor, who was obnoxious to them, and compelled him to resign. From Bahia it is reported that the situation of affairs there is critical, and that an outbreak is momentarily expected.

CAPITAL NOTES.

The New Quebec Cabinet Not Yet Completed—Names of the Members Thus Far.

Death of the Patriarch Irish Priest of Montreal—Those Grand Trunk Passes.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

OTTAWA, Dec. 19.—The Dominion Parliament has been prorogued, *pro forma*, until January 1st.

The personal charges against Spohn, who was unseated in East Simcoe, were dismissed to-day.

R. P. McLennan, of Glengarry, was unseated, yesterday.

In the Court of Common Pleas, to-day, the Judges decided that it was not illegal on the part of the Grand Trunk Railroad to give free passes to Liberal voters.

Rev. Father Dowd, the well known priest of St. Patrick's, Montreal, and a personal friend of the late premier, died in Montreal, to-day. Father Dowd was, for many years, parish priest for the Irish element in the city where he lived and died. He was, by all sections of the community among which he labored, regarded as their "Soggarth Aroon." His counsel was sought by them on all occasions and under all conditions, and the influence he wielded was most potent. He had much to do with the political career of the late Darcy McGee, and to him, more than to any one else, is due the lack of success of the Fenian crusade, that some years ago was so vigorously prosecuted.

Ira Morgan, ex-Warden of Russell, fell under an electric car, last night, and died this morning.

Sir Adolphe Caron was confirmed in his seat, to-day, the appeal being dismissed.

Geo. Tate Blackstock, will oppose M. C. Cameron in West Huron.

The latest news from Quebec says the new ministry is not yet completed. Messrs. Taillon, Flynn and Casgrain have accepted portfolios; but the other two ministers are doubtful. The choice lies between Messrs. Pelletier, Nantel and Fitzpatrick.

The Russian Famine.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—It is reported that a state of siege has been declared in many famine-stricken districts of Russia owing to the prevalence of brigandage and anarchy among the starving peasants.

Royal Invalids.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—A dispatch from Stockholm says that the King of Sweden is slightly ill with grippe, and the Queen is severely afflicted with the same disease. The King of Sweden is the second monarch overtaken by sickness at this time, and it is said that the Emperor of Austria is afflicted with influenza. Advices from Berlin are to the effect that the Princess Charlotte, of Saxe Meiningen is not improving, although no serious anxiety is felt here.

"PLEASE TAKE ME IN!"

A Chinese Slave Girl Breaks Away From Her Owners and Asks Protection at the Refuge Home.

The Question Opened Up, Altogether a Different Crime to those Previously Charged.

Sheung Mau is a bright, pretty child, nine years of age, who was brought to this country about three years ago by Wy Kee, the head of the well known opium firm of Sing Wo Kee & Co. Wy Kee returned to Victoria at that time on his merchant's certificate, bringing with him what were described on the books of the custom house as his "wife, sister, and sister-in-law and four children." They were, however, really his three wives, one child, and three girls who had been bought in China. The youngest of these was Sheung Mau.

On Tuesday afternoon, thoroughly worn out and debilitated by hard menial labor and bad treatment, she left her home, and, with the intention of going and asking help of "white people," wandered aimlessly about the city, from one in the afternoon till eight o'clock in the evening. Then, unable to make anybody understand her position, she went back again and was, of course, punished more severely than ever. On Wednesday afternoon, again, for some trivial omission, she was badly beaten with a billet of wood, and had her head cut. Then, once more, she got away, and this time walked up to Government street, and thence around Beacon Hill, where she stayed for some hours. Then, by some lucky chance, she found her way to the corner of Fisgard and Douglas streets, and entered Russell, McDonald & Co.'s store. Though told to go away home several times, she persisted in staying, and at last began to cry bitterly. Then, thinking that something was wrong, Mr. Russell took her home to tea, and at eight o'clock, went with her to the Refuge Home. There, as soon as she was taken into the company of the girls, the little runaway told her story to them and begged that she might be kept in the Home. Miss Leake at once sent for an interpreter, who translated Sheung Mau's statements. They were to the effect that she was a slave girl, that she had become the property of Wy Kee some five years ago, and that she had been persistently beaten and ill-treated by being made to perform tasks that she had not sufficient strength for. This was the substance of her statement.

Miss Leake at once consulted her lawyer, Mr. Fell, and on Thursday the girl was taken before the Chief Justice, who was asked to issue guardianship papers to the matron. After hearing what the petitioners had to say, Sir Matthew ordered the papers to be issued.

The rescued child, who was seen, last night, by a COLONIST reporter, is one of the most intelligent children that could be met with. She expressed her intention of staying in the Home as long as she could, and spoke affectionately of her "new mother," the matron. She described how she was compelled to do the roughest and hardest kind of work, and often beaten mercilessly by the three wives of Wy Kee. "Till about two years ago," she went on, "they treated me in a kind manner, but since then I have been very unhappy. Wy Kee used to be good to me, but he has been as bad as the others lately. I am treated well here, and all the other girls seem so happy that I will never go away again. It seemed as if I walked a hundred miles before I got here."

Next to the all important question of the traffic in young girls for immoral purposes, comes the fact of the dire evils of the "slavery" system, as it exists openly among the Chinese residents of this city. Though they may try to hide and secrete all evidence of the purchase and sale of girls for lives of prostitution, they evidently feel that they are doing a perfectly legitimate thing when they buy and sell little children into slavery. The native laws empower them to do this in their own country, but it is a matter of very serious doubt whether or not they can carry on their operations in a like manner in a British community. At a low computation there must be over one hundred children—male and female—between the ages of seven and ten, living a life of the basest servitude in Chinatown to-day. They are taught that they are the absolute property of the men in whose families they live, and on them often falls all the rough household work, although in many instances they are utterly incapable of doing it. It is a sight that may be seen several times in a single day in any street in Chinatown—a young child staggering under a burden almost as large as herself, and emaciated and pale through a persistent course of cruel oppression.

Strenuous efforts are being made by the friends of Wy Kee (he is himself in Portland at present) to regain possession of Sheung Mau, and three times, yesterday, they offered heavy cash bribes to people at the mission to get her out of the Home. It is unnecessary to say that they will not succeed.

French Quarrel With Bulgaria.

SOFIA, Dec. 18.—The French Minister of Foreign Affairs, after breaking off of diplomatic relations between France and Bulgaria, growing out of the expulsion of Chadouin, correspondent of the agency Havas from Bulgaria, has instructed French consuls in this country to close their consulates and to withdraw. It is not believed that France will resort to arms to enforce her demand that the decree of expulsion be withdrawn, nevertheless the Bulgarian Minister of Finance is going to Vienna to negotiate a loan for the purpose of strengthening the army. Already troops have been hurried to Rustschuk and Phillipopolis, and the garrisons at these places are now twice their usual size. The Republique Francaise to-day declares that the Sultan of Turkey asked France to leave it to him, as Suzerain of Bulgaria, to settle the question growing out of the expulsion of Chadouin from that country.

For Pain or Colds.

GENTLEMEN,—Fifteen months ago I had a bealing breast. I tried a number of remedies but got no relief. I then tried Hagyard's Yellow Oil, which gave me instant relief. It is the best thing I ever used for all kinds of pain or cold.

MRS. JOHN CORBITT, St. Mary's, Ont.