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**British.**

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has now over 100 members, which may be taken as a proof of the increased and increasing prosperity of the public body.

The Government has concluded to give up the plan of a new line of railway in Ireland from the Great North-Western to Port Burton, in Donegal, the people of Londonderry having declared that it would ruin the trade of their city.

The seat at Eccles is the sixteenth which the Gladstonians have won since the General Election. The Unionists have won two, and recaptured Ayr.

Once more we can report that there was not last week a single death from small-pox in any of the twenty-eight principal towns of England and Wales.

Mr. Balfour has gone to the west of England to take a short holiday, his doctors having advised that a respite from business and a change of air would best aid him to recover from the exposure resulting from his Irish tour.

Thus Mr. Andrew Lang distinguishes between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli:—"One may perhaps be described as the most powerful statesman and the other as the most interesting political personage that has appeared in England during the present century."

"General Booth's adoption of Social Christianity is (says the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes) analogous to Mr. Gladstone's adhesion to Home Rule. It revolutionises the situation, and compels everybody to face the problem."

Thus Sir Richard Webster:—"A new edict has been put forth by the Nationalist: if a man is charged with an offence and does not like the judge he can abuse him; if the evidence is too strong he can run away."

The *St. James Gazette* says the negotiations between Great Britain and France for a settlement of the Newfoundland fishing question are progressing. The basis of the negotiations is that France shall surrender to Great Britain the French shore of Newfoundland, and shall be compensated therefore by the cession of one of the British west African colonies possibly Gambia. In addition, Newfoundland will renounce the bait act.

The Executive Committee of the National Education Association, who have recently held their first meeting after the vacation, have determined to do their utmost to move public opinion in resistance to any free education proposals which may involve the further endowment of the voluntary system. Probably a conference will be convened as soon as the character of the Ministerial scheme becomes known.

Andrew Lang tells us that Lord Idlesleigh, on the eve of the formation of the 1886 Conservative Ministry, wrote in his diary:—"We are pestered by reporters, who cross-question the servants. Smith (the butler) was asked the other day what office I was to have. 'After much consideration the Cabinet had offered me the private secretaryship to Lord Randolph Churchill.'"

There is a story that at one of the viceregal balls at Dublin once a young "detrimental" went up to where a young lady was sitting, and asked her, in her mother's hearing, whether he might have the pleasure of a dance. But before the young lady could reply her fond parent hastily broke in,—"Deed, an' she can't then! Sure, she's kapin' herself cool for the Barri of Clanfurly!"

**India.**

A spouting well of petroleum has been discovered at Degbri, in Upper Assam, which promises large yields of oil.

The annual financial statement of the Dewan of Mysore shows a surplus of nearly 15 lakhs of rupees. This large increase is derived from the land revenue and the royalties on gold produced in the mines.

The Nawab Ashanoolah Khan Bahadur, a wealthy Mahomedan zemindar in the Dacca district, has sent a donation of 1,000r. to the fund for the survivors of the Balacava charge. He writes that he has always had great admiration for the little band of heroes who covered themselves and England with glory.

It has been decided by the Indian Government that pensioned native soldiers may continue to draw their allowance after the acceptance of other situations in subordinate posts in Government departments. The permission is expected greatly to improve the recruiting of native soldiers.

The imports of Indian tea last year at English ports, represented as nearly as possible £5,000,000. The imports during 1889-90 of India tea were 101,052,284lb, and of Ceylon tea 34,246,224lb, compared with 83,203,927lb, of China tea. In 1884-85 the imports of China tea were 142,476,000lb, compared with 2,481,910lb, of Ceylon and 61,472,112lb of Indian teas. The deliveries for home consumption of Indian tea had increased from 99,108,930lb, in 1884-85 to 101,167,368lb, in 1889-90, while Ceylon had increased from 2,045,580lb, to 31,946,972lb, compared with a decrease in the same period of China tea from 115,062,279lb to 55,335,572lb.

An interesting point referred to in Mr. O'Connor's last report on the trade in India is the rapid growth in recent years of the trade with Russia. The import of Russian petroleum last year reached seven and a half-million rupees, although it is only four years since the trade commenced. In return an export trade to Russia has sprung up; it consists chiefly of raw cotton, seeds, and indigo, the average annual value of which, during the past four years, has been four and a-half million rupees.

**Australia.**

According to a return laid on the table of the Assembly, the total number of names on the electoral roll in the Colony in 1880 was 184,413, and the total number on the roll in 1889-90 was 230,314 for New South Wales.

A report from Cunnamulla, Queensland, states that a good supply of water has been struck on Nooranna reservation, by Messrs. Walters and Milton, the yield being 3,400,000 gallons daily.

The Tasmanian Government has appointed delegates to the Federal Convention.

A sum of 2,200r. has been subscribed towards the cost of establishing a Ladies' College in connection with the University of Sydney.

There is great excitement at Wateha over the discovery of a rich gold reef at Bungendoe Creek, Western Water, on the Tableland Reef, said to be two feet six inches wide, carrying gold all through.

It is reported that the diamond drill working in the Morwell district is down a depth of 730 feet, and that coal was passed through at 720 feet, which would give a solid seam of 530 feet. The drill is now working in a deposit of fire clay.

According to a Reuter's message from Sydney, the Government of New South Wales have decided that the subsidy heretofore granted to the San Francisco mail service shall be discontinued.

The Duke of Sutherland owns 200,000 acres on Hampton Plains, Western Australia.

Poor Lord Carington! He has accepted invitations to twelve farewell banquets which the enthusiastic colonists of New South Wales intend to give in his honour.

**MIXED MARRIAGES.**

A mandement by Archbishop Fabre was read in all the Catholic churches on Sunday the 23rd Nov. in Montreal, on the subject of mixed marriages. He warns all Roman Catholics that such marriages solemnized before a Protestant minister are illegal both as a sacrament and a contract, and that persons so living together are committing adultery. He urges all such persons to be remarried before a Catholic priest and warns his flock once more not to be led into heretical marriages.

**New Zealand.**

The New Zealand Acclimatisation Society have liberated a large number Loch Leven trout and American Brook char in the Hutt River. Already 10,000 char and 6,000 Loch Leven trout have been turned out, and a further consignment of Loch Leven trout will shortly be placed in the river.

Owing to the falling off in the revenue through the shipping strike, the New Zealand Government has been compelled to introduce a bill providing for the continuation of the primage duty. It is also stated that the Government will probably have to meet Parliament with a deficit instead of the expected surplus.

The Earl of Dysart, it is said, comes into possession of £200,000 worth of property in New Zealand, on his attaining the age of thirty-five.

The New Zealand Parliamentarians know what all-night sittings are. They had one recently, the point being the salary of a Supreme Court judge.

**A GOOD STORY.**

A very good story, started by the *London Society Times*, is now going the rounds of the press about a certain cantankerous old clergyman who had so much difficulty with his flock that finally he resigned. On his last Sunday he preached his farewell sermon, choosing for his text the words, "I go to prepare a place for you, so that where I am ye may be also." There was not a word in the sermon to which anyone could object; but the text made the congregation furious, for it was well known that he had applied for, and obtained, the chaplaincy of a large penitentiary.

**CAPTAIN LINDALL.**

Hundreds will mourn the honourable fate of that magnificent specimen of manhood, Captain Lindall, of the *Van-couver*, who was washed over-board at the height of the storm by which that stalwart ship was buffeted and detained long enough to cause much anxiety ashore. How can a man die better than facing fearful odds at the post of duty. He has been taken into the arms of the "mighty Ruler of the sea," whose praise he delighted to sing. Captain Lindall was a Swede by birth, and his speech betrayed his origin in the land of the sea kings, but he was a Briton in feeling, and with his ship served the Queen at the taking of Alexandria.

**South Africa.**

Official returns just issued show the general revenue of the Cape Colony for the month of August last to have yielded £230,000, as against £222,460 in the same month of 1889, the net increase therefore being £7,540 for the month. This may be taken to represent an average month.

Major Johnson and Dr. James, the discoverers of a short route between Mashonaland Africa, and the sea, by way of the Pungive river, have arrived at Capetown from Pungive. They report that the Manica country is being rapidly occupied by mining prospectors and farmers, who are ready to set at defiance the Portuguese claims to the territory.

The rumours of a settlement of the Swaziland question and of the country being favourable to British annexation are declared to be false by President Kruger, who has stated to his Executive, in the presence of a press representative, that the British proposals are unacceptable.

The cost of native labour has from the first been a drag upon the prosperity of the Transvaal gold mining industry, and Indians and Kafirs, with no knowledge of mining, have demanded and received as much as £4 per month for their labour.

Instructions have been issued from the War Office for the removal of the 1st Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment headquarters and four companies to Mauritius. The remaining companies are to remain in South Africa for a few months longer.

**OTTAWA'S LUMBER INDUSTRY.**

508,000,000 feet as nearly as can be ascertained, represents the output of sawn lumber in the mills of the Ottawa district during the past season. The value of this lumber at the established average would be \$9,568,000.

**A RUGBY BOY.**

Many years ago when Dr. Temple, the present bishop of London, was headmaster of Rugby, a boy in the school was accused of some peccadillo. He really had a good defence; but being neither clear-headed nor fluent he could not present it to the head-master. So he wrote it out in full to his father, asking him to present it. On reading the letter, the father thought that the best thing would be to enclose the letter itself to Dr. Temple, merely asking him to overlook its crudeness. Apparently, however, he had not noticed a postscript which the boy had written, in which he made the following remark:—"If I could explain, it would be all right; for, though Temple is a beast, he is a just beast." Contrary to what might be expected, Dr. Temple thoroughly enjoyed the postscript, and he and the boy afterwards became fast friends.

**A YORKSHIRE COMPARISON.**

During the Assizes, in a case of assault and battery, where a stone had been thrown by the defendant, the following clear and conclusive evidence was drawn out of a Yorkshireman:—"Did you see the defendant throw the stone?" "I saw a stone, and I'm pretty sure the defendant throwed it." "Was it a large stone?" "I should say it wur a largish stone." "What was its size?" "I should say a sizeable stone." "Can't you answer definitely how big it was?" "I should say it wur a stone of some bigness." "Can't you give the jury some idea of the stone?" "Why, as near as I recollects, it wur something of a stone." "Can't you compare it to some other object?" "Why, if I wur to compare it to so as to give some notion of the stone, I should say it wur as large as a lump of chalk!"

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