Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1885.

ENGLISH FOREIGN POLICY LOWERING THE NATION.

A review of the circumstances connected with Egypt's financial difficulties and England's action, does not exhibit Liberal diplomats in a favorable light. Taking events in chronological order:—The Egyptian conference was a failure, and was only convoked to enable Mr. Gladstone to shelve inconvenient questions in parliament. Lord Northbrook's mission to Egypt was a failure. His propositions were not acceptable even to the cabinet. Then came the Goschen mission, but that right honorable gentleman was snubbed in Paris, and the proposals with which he was entrusted rejected. The National Gazette, of Berlin, says the powers have tacitly agreed to regard England's scheme as disposed of unless England expressly demands an answer. With peculiar significance, a St. Petersburg despatch says Egypt is destined to become the key of a new policy, and what that new policy is it is not difficult to imagine. During the Gladstone Administration of 1868-74, English prestige was so lowered on the continent of Europe that Germany, Austria, and Russia undertook to ignore England by agreeing upon an urgent note to Turkey. But, fortunately, Lord Beaconsfield had succeeded to office, and by his determined assertion of a vigorous foreign policy, not only had the note withdrawn, but the Berlin congress convoked in July, 1878, at which England resumed her proper place among the nations. Liberal diplomacy has again placed England in a deplorable position, and it will require some vigorous conservative statesmanship to regain her waning, if not lost, influence in Europe.

GAMING.

Mr. Edwin Johnson, the new police magistrate, has made a most important decision in the Chinese gambling case. He convicts Ah Fow of playing in a common gaming house. The room was provided with means for unlawful gaming, and was used for gaming. Whether tantan is an unlawful game or not, it was played in a common gaming house, and money was staked upon it as a game of chance. This judgment, which is the very opposite of Mr. Johnson's predecessor, must strike every one as being in accordance with law as well as common sense.

ROCKS! NOTHING BUT ROCKS!

Few persons will have forgotten the trenchant speech of Sir Randolph Churchill at Woodstock, a year ago, when he compared the fruits of the policy of the Gladstone government to the "chips" which their leader made at Hawarden with his axe, the illustration referring to Gladstone's fondness for felling trees, which, Sir Randolph said, came to "Chips! Nothing but Chips!" If we might be pardoned for comparing great things with small, we should be inclined to say that the financial statement of the civic government reminds us most forcibly of the picture which Lord Randolph drew of the liberal ministry. Rocks! Nothing but rocks! are the foundation on which the statement is reared. Rocks, as most people are aware, form a pretty safe foundation if properly laid. Every one knows what happened the man who built his house on the sand, while his more prudent neighbor, who reared his dwelling on a rock, was able to withstand the flood. Perhaps his worship and the councillors, whom he was wont to snub by refusing to put their motions, had the scriptural incident in their mind's eye when they erected their pretty little financial structure, but the rocks of which its foundation is formed are not of the solid and enduring kind referred to in the parable. They are disjointed and fragmentary pieces—blown to atoms by the force of gunpowder and blasting powder and possess as few of the elements of cohesion and strength for the purpose of sustaining the city's statement as if they had been composed of the pulpy bulk of a jack-pudding. The auditor claims "a cash surplus of $937.49, to which may be added rock on hand, 1,808 yards, at $3 per yard, $5,424, making a total (surplus!) of $6,361.49." Why did not the auditor place a cash valuation on the sidewalks, the water pipes, the stone crusher and dear old jumbo, and add them to the surplus! Why did he not append an inventory of the city hall furniture in the hands of Mr. Brynes and call it all so much cash! Why did he not appraise the Mayor at his own valuation and put him in the list! Why did he not estimate the cost of excavating and blasting a "way" to Conn. Porter's wharf, and set a value on the real estate acquired by the council when extending Yates street, and put those in the account! In short, why did he not scoop together every bit of property belonging to the city and say "this would all sell for so much, and therefore it must be added to the surplus!" Rocks, nothing but rocks! There was a stated cash surplus on the 31st December, 1884, of $937.49, but had Drake & Jackson's, and Mr. Eberts', and Mr. Pollards', and Mr. Mills', and Mr. Richards' accounts for law been paid, how much of a surplus would there have been! What other bills remain unpaid of which the public wot not of it is impossible to say; but, no doubt, the city derives at least a sum sufficient to swallow up the "surplus," rocks and all, which the ingenious mind of the auditor has conjured up. But these rocks, what is the cash estimate the auditor puts upon them! Three dollars a yard. Is he aware that contracts for getting out rock, have been let in this city at five half a yard, and that the rock contract on the Island Railway is $1.25 a yard! Suppose a mean is struck, and the value of the city's rock is fixed at $1 a yard, what becomes of two-thirds of the boasted surplus! Does it not vanish "like the baseless fabric of a vision, leaving not a rock behind!" Does it not become of no more value than Mr. Gladstone's "chips!" There has been an increased revenue; but there has also been an increased expenditure which has not been always wisely made, and the items of which cannot be discussed in a single article. The public are asked to keep their eyes on the rocks! rocks! which the corporation have dragged into their money-box and to observe the different change they will assume during the approaching week. The financial statement is based on loose and unsubstantial premises, and the whole fabric must crumble before the electric light of a public investigation.

THE MORTUARY REPORT.

Two of our contemporaries have excepted to our figures of the mortality of this city during the last three months of 1883 and for the corresponding period of 1884. The figures were taken from the official register at the registrar-general's office, James Bay. It has since been ascertained that they are incomplete because of the failure of the persons whose duty it was to register the deaths to comply with the act. We are therefore bound to accept the mortuary statistics at the city hall in place of those we have collated. The city's figures show a total of 292 interments in 1883 against 235 interments in 1884; but it must not be forgotten that the excess of 1883 was attributable to the great mortality among the Chinese. The steamship Madras arrived off the port in the autumn of that year with about 200 scurvy-afflicted Chinamen. They were landed and some 60 died—as high as ten and twelve dying in a single day. The total number of deaths, therefore, among the Chinese in 1883 was 87, while in 1884 the total was 43—showing that the excess in 1883 was due to the landing of the Madras cargo of diseased Coolies. That the health of the town in 1884 was very bad cannot be denied. That more have not died is attributable to the skill of the medical men, one and all of whom declare that the amount of sickness is unprecedented and that it arose from the one cause—bad drainage, or, rather, no drainage at all. The report of the health officer, which was suppressed by the mayor, is printed elsewhere. It supports the opinion of his brother medicos and ought to convince votes that a radical change in the civic government has become imperative, so that the town may be drained and the real estate assessment roll revised.

The Sandwich Islands.

To The Editor:—Conversing recently with a gentleman who has lately returned from the Sandwich Islands, I got a most entertaining account of his experiences in that country. Some of the items struck me as particularly interesting.

It seems that, some twenty years ago, Honolulu was a very healthy place—one of the healthiest towns in the world—but it is no longer so; of late years the residents have become subject to malarial fever, which is attributed to the neglect of proper sewerage. This may possibly come to be the case with our own capital. As Victoria is by climate and situation adapted to be a favorite summer resort, it behooves the citizens to endeavor to maintain its reputation for salubrity. If it once gets the character of being unhealthy, its good name may not be so easily recovered.

Honolulu (in the island of Oahu) is only a small town, not so large as Victoria, but its commerce is very considerable. The names of the wholesale firms are English (or American) and Chinese. Indeed, judging from the advertisements, the most prominent retail stores are also managed by foreigners. There are railroad and steamship companies, notably, the Inter-Island S. N. Company, by which tourists go to the volcano and return. I see also that a telephone line is being constructed by the Hilo & Ka wili Telephone Company; the main line will be 100 miles in length. Several newspapers are published at Honolulu, the Hawaiian Gazette, the Kuakoa, the Saturday Press and the Hawaiian Chinese News. The latter should be consulted by all who wish to become thoroughly acquainted with the progress of the war in China. There is a picture of the forts and the French fleet. The portrait of a fierce Mongolian warrior, holding the national flag, presumably represents the Chinese general. The mere sight of him ought to strike a panic into the hearts of the French.

Here is the title of a native magazine, Ka Hokin o ke Kai, which supplies intellectual nourishment to the young Hawaiians in the shape of stories transcated from English novels and serials. The last number of the second volume contains a tale of the Young Knights of Ireland, which is described by the native translator as especially thrilling. Probably the ingenious author would not be able to recognize his own work, which now bears the title, Ka Naita Opio o Irelani.

A hundred years ago the native population of the Sandwich Islands was more than 200,000; now it is estimated at 50,000; the whole population may be about 75,000. The decrease of the native population is attributed to the diseases they have contracted in the process of being civilized. They acquire our vices without acquiring our skill in remedying or preventing their evil consequences. The extent of land compared to the population, and the fertility of the soil, enable the natives to procure the necessaries of life almost without labor. There are plantains, bananas, cocoa-nut and breadfruit trees, so that they can subsist in a great measure on the spontaneous products of the soil. What a paradise for the unwilling workers of this and other countries! They should proceed at once to Honolulu, if they can only raise money enough to get there. In process of time, however, the islands will be fully peopled; then, the land being all occupied, the poor people will have to toil where day by day sugar-cane and rice fields, and after all only make a bare living. It is the invariable result, when countries become densely peopled. The public land being entirely appropriated, there is nothing left to the poor but their labor. They live merely to work, and they have to work continually in order to live.

Education is compulsory in the Sandwich Islands that there are hardly any of the natives who cannot read and write. It seems surprising then that the native juries should show such sympathy for criminals. As this cannot arise from ignorance, we must suppose it to proceed from a philosophic appreciation of the frailty of human nature. I have before me an account of a recent sackie at Wilima. It was quite a gala day for the poor prisoners. There was a long list of criminal cases; but the enlightened native juries acquitted every culprit but one. He was so foolish as to plead guilty, and consequently could not be saved. Apparently the verdict of the jury is there decided by the majority. It transpired that in every instance the verdict had been unanimous; the juries, however, uniformly reported a majority of ten to two, because "it looked better."

Being thoroughly civilized, the Hawaiians have somewhat the same amusements as ourselves. There are races, regattas, shooting matches, etc., but there is one entertainment peculiar to the Sandwich Islands, namely, the national dance called *Hulacui*. Originally, while the natives were yet in a savage state, this was a "war dance." It has been modified from time to time, in accordance with civilized tastes; but the last of its being a modified spear dance accounts for the grotesque character of the exhibition. The dancers, male and female, are most scantily attired, and their movements are as free and licentious as the Parisian cancan. My informant describes the dance as indecent. But the aristocratic ladies of Honolulu do not look at it in that light. They pronounce the native dance to be "elegant and graceful."

It remains to speak of the plantations and of the disease which so prevails in the Sandwich Islands; but, as the latter subject is of peculiar interest, I propose to re erve it for a subsequent letter. W.

an 3rd, 1885.

A Card.

To the Editor:—Messrs. Drake & Jackson ought to be very much obliged for a free advertisement in the Standard, if its circulation was but equal to its desire. As a ratepayer I first should like to know who pays the advertising bill, and I should also like to know it Messrs. Drake & Jackson's charges were so high why the corporation did not tax the bill before the proper officer? Instead of doing so it is evident from this extract from the chief justice's judgment that the work was done and the amount charged reasonable; if so why did the council put the city to the expense of litigation?

"The defendants do not attempt to raise the smallest defence or cause for non-payment on the merits. It is not suggested that the work was unnecessary, or was not done, nor that it was otherwise than well done, nor that the charges are otherwise than proper in amount."

Faithfully Yours,
H. D. Helmcken.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 9, 1885.

Undertaxation.

To the Editor:—In looking over the assessment roll I discover that you as well as all the candidates for mayor are among the gentlemen who are undertaxed. When you speak of people who don't pay taxes enough why don't you refer to yourself? Don't you know that if a new assessment is struck you will have to pay a good deal more than you do now! You ought to be one of the last men to advocate a change. Taxes Enough.

[We have never tried to conceal the fact that we are undertaxed in common with many other holders of business property, and the next council will doubtless raise our assessment as well as that of other citizens. All that any one can ask is that the assessments levied shall be equal, which they are not now.—E. C.]

Monopolies.

To the Editor:—The editor of The People is a Mr. Reginald Nuttall. He is an avowed anti-monopolist. Will you be good enough to tell me whether this Mr. Nuttall is the same Mr. Nuttall who has or had an application before the government for a fifty-mile strip of land on the west coast? K. or L.

[The applicant and the editor are one and the same.—E. C.]

Oats.—All the rivers that empty into Puget Sound are now free of ice.

Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Northern Pacific Railway).

Waterdown, Ont., Dec. 11.—The flour mill of Mr. John Forster was burned down about two o'clock this morning. About one thousand bushels of grain were consumed. The loss will be about four thousand dollars.

Montreal, Dec. 24.—The St. Lawrence is nearly frozen over here at last, the frost having returned with vigour again.

The young lady students in their first year's Arts examinations at McGill University carried off nearly all the first honors from their male competitors.

The receipts of the Canada Pacific railway for the week ending Dec. 21st were $105,000, as compared with $67,000 in the corresponding period last year, showing an increase of $38,000.

Montreal, Dec. 24.—Mr. J. B. LaBelle, an extensive dry goods retail merchant on St. Catharine street, made an assignment to-day. His liabilities are estimated not to exceed $60,000.

Ottawa, Dec. 11.—The Governor-General has received a telegram announcing that John E. Faulkner, of Peterborough, one of the Nile voyageurs, has been drowned.

Kingston, Dec. 12.—Mrs. Boutel, the murderess who was sentenced to be hanged at Quebec, arrived hear to-day for penitentiary, her sentence having been commuted.

Belleville, Ont., Dec. 11.—D. H. Hunt, of Wellington, is under arrest on a charge of having forged the name of George B. Jones to a promissory note for $200.

Ottawa, Dec. 11.—Sir John attended a Cabinet Council to day. Nothing special was done beyond what Sir John calls "Parish Work."

Lieut. Gordon, R. N., left to-day for Halifax to inspect the new Government steamer Lansdowne, for the purpose of deciding whether she is suitable for the trip to Hudson's Bay, to be made in the spring.

Montreal, Dec. 11.—The G. T. R. traffic returns for the week ending 6th Dec. amounted to $359,452; same priod last year, $387,433; decrease, $37,981.

Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—The Royal Commission to investigate the affairs of the city met to-day. An affidavit of E. M. Wood, the late solicitor, was read showing that Earber, the architect of the new civic officers, had "approached" him and wished to retain his services. He concludes by asserting that the whole contract was a swindle for which innocent parties are now suffering.

The weather is still very cold.

Montreal, Dec. 24.—There has been some excitement manifested here to-day by creditors of Tiffin Bros. A good deal of disappointment has been expressed at the prospect of the firm not being able to pay more than a very small dividend, and the feeling is decidedly strong that the house should have stopped at least a year ago instead of going on in a reckless way of trading.

A deputation from Montreal has waited on the Minister of Justice and pointed out that some foreign insurance companies, doing fire business in Canada, had not made the necessary deposit.

Toronto, Dec. 12.—Members of Winnipeg police force have been afforded positions on the Broadway squad, New York, at $1,000 per year, and the privilege of choosing their own captain. It is believed that many of them will accept.

A scarf pin valued at $4,000 was seized yesterday the Customs at Montreal for evasion of duties. The New York merchant who tried to smuggle it into Canada is amazed at the Customs officials' vigilance.

Montreal, Dec. 12. The total liabilities of Tiffin Bros. will certainly exceed $200,000, as the amount due the British Bank alone is $96,000, of which $37,000 is on prime business papers, $42,000 advanced on goods and a further claim of $17,000 for a dificiency arising from goods "baillee receipts."

Mr. Charles Webber, of the finance Department, died at his residence at Ottawa yesterday morning.

The thermometer marked 45° below zero at Winnipeg yesterday morning, but it was much milder last night.

Ogilvie's mill, at Winnipeg closed down to-bay, there being no demand for flour. Fifty men will be thrown out of employment.

Toronto, Dec. 23.—A Frenchman named Paquet, a professed infidel, while denying the docterine of eternal in discussion with his fellow boarders in Fory's Adelaid street, was stricken with paralysis, the whole of one side, from head to foot, including his tongue, losing its vitality.

Louisville, Que., Dec. 23.—The election in the country of Maskinouge to fill the vacancy in the House of Commons caused by the death of the late Mr. Houde, yesterday resulted in the return of Mr. Desauniers (Conservative) by a majority of 37.

Brantford, Dec. 12.—The majority for the Scott Act, this county is 601. Only 101 votes were cast in opposition.

London, Dec. 24.—Ex-Coll. Peel died to-day.

Paris, Ont, Dec. 9.—Jas. Crawford, about 38 years of age, a wealthy and respected farmer, of Brantford township, living two miles south of this town, hanged himself this morning. He went out to the barn to attend to his horses and being longer absent than usual his wife went in search and found him hanging in the barn, dead. He leaves a wife and three children.

Arthur, Ont. Dec. 24.—A most daring highway robbery occurred in the vicinity of this town. About four o'clock this morning a peddler named Simansky was attacked by three men, gagged and bound to a tree, and about two hundred dollars in cash taken from his pockets. The robbers then made off with his horse and waggon, containing about two thousand dollars worth of jewellery, watches, etc.

London, Dec, 8.—Rev. Timothy O'Connell, rector of the Chapter house, opened the services as usual yesterday morning, when the senior churchwarden, Mr. George McNab, arose and forbade him to proceed, claiming that the bishop had inhibited him from conducting divine service. Mr. O'Connell, however, attempted to continue the service, when Detective Phair stepped toward, and on the authority of Mayor Hyman arrested him. Mr. O'Connell was taken to the station house, where he was charged with disorderly conduct and disturbing public worship. Mr. W. R. Meredith subsequently secured Mr. Connell's release. It seems the inhibition was served on Mr. O'Connell on Saturday, but he returned it to the bishop unopened. This afternoon, however, Chief Williams and Detective Phair again arrested him on a warrent issued at the instance of Mr. Shoebottom, with whom he boards, charging him with being dangerously insane. It is alleged that he sent for some friends last night, and received one of them at the point of a revolver.

STARVATION FALLS.

Notes by a Passenger on a Snowed-in Train.

Mr. A. M. Taylor, of Yale, who was a passenger on one of the snowed-in trains, the first to get stuck and also the first to reach Portland, has allowed us to extract some notes made on the train while fast in the snow near The Dalles. It will be seen that a bridal tour is not always under pleasant circumstances.

Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Left St. Paul at 4 p. m. on Saturday, 13th. After a very pleasant trip across the continent we reached Wallula Junction on time without any mishaps and nothing worthy of note having occurred, except striking a 30 below zero night in Montana. We arrived at The Dalles, 88 miles east of Portland at about 1 p. m. on Wednesday, 17th, and found about four feet of snow on the level and storming very bad. Railway men reported that the storm was very bad between The Dalles and Portland, and that no train had got through since Sunday. The prospects of our going any further were very poor, so our train was held at The Dalles until 9 a. m. on Thursday morning, when we pulled out with seven cars (1 express, 1 mail, 1 baggage, 2 sleepers and 2 first class coaches), the latter containing principally immigrants, 130 passengers in all on the train. At 12 p. m. we stuck hard and fast in a drift about 32 miles from the Dalles; our two engines were powerless to extricate us and, as we subsequently learned to be the case, three engines and a plow were stuck a few miles below us. On Friday about 1 p. m. a supply of provisions reached us from Hood River, hauled on a hand sled by six men, who had been about ten hours coming the nine miles. The provisions were divided among the passengers and created a welcome diversion. On Saturday our conductor reported that a large snow-plow and seven engines had left The Dalles to relieve us. We retired to our berths that night expecting to be awakened every moment by the whistle of the engines; but alas for human hopes, we have not heard them yet.

Two p. m. Thursday—Here we are to-day with just enough provisions to keep the ladies and children from starving for two or three days. Several parties of men have left the train and walked to the Cascade Locks, 12 miles west. Last night Conductor Lyons came through the train and ordered all able bodied men to be prepared to start this morning to walk to the Locks. Almost all of our men have gone; some few of the had wives and children declined to leave, but were refused any rations unless physically incapable of making the journey. All the provision we have had for the last two days has been carried twelve miles on the backs of men who volunteered for the service. Our relief party, I understand, have been working only from daylight to dark. The train crew have worked like Trojans, but it is almost impossible for them to do anything. The snow is so deep that they can scarcely get wood enough to keep our cars warm. The greater portion of our passengers are in good spirits, but there are some who do their best to make everyone feel as blue as possible. They all know just how to get us out of the predicament, but they don't do it. The storm has abated now, the sun is shining brightly and we hope to make a move to-morrow. We are in the heart of the Cascade range of mountains, and our great trouble is that the snow slides down the mountains and falls in masses from thirty to forty feet high on the track. We are out of coal and out of water. All the water we use has to be carried from a brook about 200 feet distant, and we were most fortunate in getting stuck just where we did, for our situation would have been terrible without water to drink.

Thursday, Dec. 25—Yesterday passed in the usual manner, we had three soda crackers each and a piece of fried bacon, one potatoe and some coffee with no sugar or milk, for our day's rations. Nothing has yet been heard from Con. Lyons and the party who started for Cascade Locks on Tuesday, but we expect them to-day. Tupple, the engineer of one of our engines, walked to Viento the night before last and brought four chickens and about fifty potatoes back with him. Drifting so badly all day yesterday that the men on the snow-plow train behind us could do nothing, as they would not leave Viento station, fearing that the snow would drift in behind them and prevent their getting back for water and fuel. It is snowing and blowing again to-day. Eight men started this morning for Viento to get provisions. I cut up my blankets to wrap up their feet to prevent freezing. We wished each other a merry Christmas with sad hearts and faces that tried to look cheerful. Ate our rations, a slice of bread, a smaller one of bacon and a cup of sugarless, milkless tea for the ladies.

Dec. 26—11 a. m.—At 3 p. m. yesterday some of our passengers who had gone to Cascade Locks on Tuesday returned accompanied by a party of men who brought in about 50 pounds of provisions each. They reported that several of the party arrived at the locks in an exhausted condition. Conductor Lyons also returned and reported that another plow and five engines had left The Dalles on Wednesday, but at last accounts had passed Marin but had not reached Hood River. The first snowplow train came within a train length of us yesterday, and at dark returned to Viento. This morning they are cutting wood for locomotive and will be down here about twelve o'clock a. m. About fifty men are shoveling now. The company at last agreeing to pay $5 per day instead of $3 (the first offer). It is snowing again. There must be over six feet of snow. We had a slice of bread and a piece of mutton cooked in the car heater, half burnt, half smoked and half cooked. It grows monotonous.

Dec. 26, 6 p.m.—At last we have moved; the plow and 5 engines reached us and pulled our train back to Viento where we are side tracked for the present.

Saturday, Dec. 27, 3 p.m.—Still at Viento. Sixteen men came in from Hood River this a.m. with provisions; were 8 hours on the road (at $10 a man for the trip). Bean soup, beef broth, beans, beef and half baked bread and biscuits.

Sunday, Dec. 18, 3 p.m.—Have just finished our midday meal of beef soup, biscuits and beef—rather better than yesterday's. One of our lady passengers from ——— superintended the culinary department. Plow train made about a quarter of a mile yesterday. It will be slow work, as the only plow they have is a small affair, built on the pilot of one of the engines, although they call it a large plow in this section of the country. A case of measles was discovered in the rear coach this a. m. The sick woman was removed to the mail car and made as comfortable as possible. The plow train from The Dalles telescoped an engine yesterday and killed engineer Hudson. This is our 10th day in the snow. The snow shovelers kicked this a. m. for two warm meals per day, saying that they would not work all day in the snow on cold lunch. Some arrangement was made so that they went to work again. Pullman Conductor Munroe and I have been cutting wood to-day to keep the car warm. It is hard work, the snow is so deep and trees so far from track.

Dec. 26th, 12 a. m.—Still at Viento. Good reports from the plow train. Probability is that we will pull out from here some time to-morrow. The plow that stuck near Cascade Locks on the 18th has reached Bonneville and turned, is working east now, and have only two miles to plow out. With a plow at each end they should make it to-day.

Dec. 30th, 2 p. m.—No change yet; plow and five engines started out at 9:30 this morning for the west. Mr. Murray walked from Portland, and last evening reported the track nearly all cleared from here to Portland. The healer gave out in our car this morning. Con. Monroe and I charged it and started fire again; it is very cold. The ladies are in one berth wrapped in blankets to keep warm.

Dec. 31st—Buckley's snow-plow outfit arrived at 1 p. m. pulling in three sections, Jack Dunlap as operator.

Jan. 1, 1885—N. P. plow train started west; we are to start soon to follow them; 2 engines, sleeper, 1 coach, baggage and mail car. Pulled out at 6 p. m., 2 miles west, and hung up for the night.

Jan. 2d—Followed plow to Bonneville; laid all night.

Jan. 3d—At Bonneville, waiting for men to cut ice off track at Bonneville Falls.

Jan. 4th—Pulled back to the locks last evening; had supper at Mess House, and three good meals to-day at the same place.

Jan. 5th—Still at the locks, the ice has not yet been cleared from the track so that the train can proceed.

Jan. 6th—Left Cascade Locks at 1 p.m. and Bonneville at 9 p. m., and Portland at 3 a. m.

DELAYED DISPATCHES

EUROPE.

Paris, Jan. 6.—The British ambassador had an interview with Premier Ferry yesterday and to-day, when a compromise on the Egyptain question was discussed on the basis of England accepting the principal of international control of Egypt, if France consents to a reduction of the interest of the Egyptian unfilled debt. An agreement is expected on this proposition.

Brussels, Jan. 6.—It is stated that the French Government declares its readiness to agree to the American neutrality schemes as soon as the beundary of the territory of the African International Association shall have been defined in harmony with the claims of France.

Berlin, Jan. 6.—The British ambassador has distributed a proposal among the delegates of the powers' agreement to freedom of transit in the lower Niger shall not include alcohol, when the traffic in that article is prohibited by the native chiefs.

EASTERN STATES.

Pittsburg, Jan. 7.—A Post Greensburg, Westmoreland county, Penn., special says: A rumor is current here tonight that English detectives have obtained evidence to the effect that a powerful secret society of dynamiters is in existence within the boundaries of this county, and also that the society is directly responsible for the recent explosions and assassinations in England. These detectives have been on the trail of this society or brotherhood for several months, and have found that it is well and thoroughly organized somewhat upon the plan of the "Molly Maguires," and that its treasury contains a large amount of money obtained by assessment, and from other sources from all parts of the State. Some of the recent explosions have been traced directly to this county, as well as a number of assassinations committed in England.

These English detectives, it is claimed, have mingled with the suspects for years and have departed for Washington, D.C., with evidence, which they will bring before the proper English authorities.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 8.—There is intense excitement over the robbery of the grave of Alice Fonda, who died near Wynka cemetery last night. The girl was shot last Friday in a bagnio. Yesterday her two brothers came here to disinter and take the body to Saunders county for burial. The grave was empty. This afternoon the brothers found the body in the hands of medical students. Other cases are reported, and an investigation is probable.

ENGLAND.

London, Jan. 7.—The Cabinet Council to-day decided to occupy the Bechuana frontier northward to the Lympopo river, the eastern frontier to include both banks of the Nisk river. This cuts the Transvaal off from any choice of Kimberley connection. The Transvaal government is preparing a protest against English annexation in Zululand.

London, Jan. 7.—Regarding Gladstone, the Truth gives a new medical fact that his sleeplessness was caused by his heart not being able to force sufficient blood to the brain, a trouble which often comes to men of advanced age.

Donald Cameron, a great Highland landowner and member of parliament for Inverness-shire, has called a conference of landlords to consider the demands of the crofters. A number of landlords favor concessions.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

St. John's, N. F., Jan. 7.—Immediately on the landing on Sunday of thousand fathers from the train they were interviewed, and Fathers De Largay and McGivern gave the following account of the Bay Roberts Orange excursion: "On Sunday last we resumed our mission, interrupted on the 17th of December by violent and outrageous interference with us by Orangemen at Bay Roberts. We arrived from Holyrood early in the morning, and at 10 o'clock Bishop McDonald met us at our hotel. The streets were thronged with men in common working garb. Orange arches and flags were thrown across the road, yells and imprecations against us have been made by every one of the party arrived at the locks in an exhausted condition. Conductor Lyons also returned and reported that another plow and five engines had left The Dalles on Wednesday, but at last accounts had passed Marin but had not reached Hood River. The first snowplow train came within a train length of us yesterday, and at dark returned to Viento. This morning they are cutting wood for locomotive and will be down here about twelve o'clock a. m. About fifty men are shoveling now. The company at last agreeing to pay $5 per day instead of $3 (the first offer). It is snowing again. There must be over six feet of snow. We had a slice of bread and a piece of mutton cooked in the car heater, half burnt, half smoked and half cooked. It grows monotonous.

Dec. 26, 6 p.m.—At last we have moved; the plow and 5 engines reached us and pulled our train back to Viento where we are side tracked for the present.

Saturday, Dec. 27, 3 p.m.—Still at Viento. Sixteen men came in from Hood River this a.m. with provisions; were 8 hours on the road (at $10 a man for the trip). Bean soup, beef broth, beans, beef and half baked bread and biscuits.

Sunday, Dec. 18, 3 p.m.—Have just finished our midday meal of beef soup, biscuits and beef—rather better than yesterday's. One of our lady passengers from ——— superintended the culinary department. Plow train made about a quarter of a mile yesterday. It will be slow work, as the only plow they have is a small affair, built on the pilot of one of the engines, although they call it a large plow in this section of the country. A case of measles was discovered in the rear coach this a. m. The sick woman was removed to the mail car and made as comfortable as possible. The plow train from The Dalles telescoped an engine yesterday and killed engineer Hudson. This is our 10th day in the snow. The snow shovelers kicked this a. m. for two warm meals per day, saying that they would not work all day in the snow on cold lunch. Some arrangement was made so that they went to work again. Pullman Conductor Munroe and I have been cutting wood to-day to keep the car warm. It is hard work, the snow is so deep and trees so far from track.

Dec. 26th, 12 a. m.—Still at Viento. Good reports from the plow train. Probability is that we will pull out from here some time to-morrow. The plow that stuck near Cascade Locks on the 18th has reached Bonneville and turned, is working east now, and have only two miles to plow out. With a plow at each end they should make it to-day.

Dec. 30th, 2 p. m.—No change yet; plow and five engines started out at 9:30 this morning for the west. Mr. Murray walked from Portland, and last evening reported the track nearly all cleared from here to Portland. The healer gave out in our car this morning. Con. Monroe and I charged it and started fire again; it is very cold. The ladies are in one berth wrapped in blankets to keep warm.

Dec. 31st—Buckley's snow-plow outfit arrived at 1 p. m. pulling in three sections, Jack Dunlap as operator.

Jan. 1, 1885—N. P. plow train started west; we are to start soon to follow them; 2 engines, sleeper, 1 coach, baggage and mail car. Pulled out at 6 p. m., 2 miles west, and hung up for the night.

Jan. 4th—Pulled back to the locks last evening; had supper at Mess House, and three good meals to-day at the same place.

Jan. 5th—Still at the locks, the ice has not yet been cleared from the track so that the train can proceed.

Jan. 6th—Left Cascade Locks at 1 p.m. and Bonneville at 9 p. m., and Portland at 3 a. m.

Eastern Canada Mail.

Per Northern Pacific Railway.

Montreal, Dec. 26.—The vigilance and zeal of the local customs appraisers have been rewarded by a large seizure which they have made of Havana and Mexican cigars imported by Lowensohn & Co., dealers here, from New York, for being entered greatly under the value at the port of shipment in order to defraud the revenue. The amount of the consignment is between six and seven hundred dollars.

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—The exports of the month of November, amounted to $10,931,522, of which $9,213,700 were goods the produce of Canada, $717,822 were the produce of other countries, and one million dollars was the export of coin and bullion. The total imports the month amounted to $7,322,729, of of which durable goods were $5,016,905 free goods $,201,795, and coin and bullion $104,029. The duty received amounted to $1,355,899.

Winnipeg, Dec. 25.—Intelligence has been received of a shooting affair near Golden City in which one man was killed and another one wounded. Three men were proceeding from the Golden City to Columbia on ponies, riding single file a little distance from one another. They got some distance beyond Johnson's ranche, about twelve miles from Golden City, when a shot was fired by someone in the bush. The second man dropped dead, shot through the heart. The first man spurred his horse and made his escape. The third finding his horse too slow, jumped off and ran back to Johnson's ranche. While doing so he was shot in the leg, but succeeded in reaching the ranche. It seems that the murderer, finding no money on the body of the victim, gave chase for the horse, caught it, cut open the pack, and took from it $4,500, and then made good his escape.

The body of a man named McIntosh has been found near Beaver Creek, Man. He was probably murdered and robbed, as he was known to have $1,300 on his person when he left Beaver Creek

Toronto, Dec. 28.—The regulations regarding the reading of the Bible and and prayer in the public high schools have been issued by the Government. The most noticeable change from the rules at present in force is, that religious exercises instead of being voluntary will henceforth be compulsory. Practically this will not involve any very important change, as, according to the Department of Education, religious exercises were held in 4,627 out of the 5,203 public schools in the province. Of the 104 high schools 91 were opened or closed with prayer, and in 49 the Bible was regularly read. Care has been taken to respect freedom of opinion by providing that no pupil shall be compelled to take part in regilious exercises against the wish of his or her guardian. Teachers having conscentious scruples against complying with the rule are required to notify the trustees, though what will be done in that case is not stated, as the clause requiring prayer and bible-reading is compulsory.

St. Hyacithe, Dec. 15.—A serious accident occurred about two o'clock today at the Barslow Bridge now in the course of construction. A span of 150 feet long was blown over. Twenty men were working at the time. One of them, Allard, died at 4 p. m.; another St. Germain, is not expected to live; and another man, whose name is unknown, is also dying. The others are very badly though less severly injured. The damage is about $1,000.

J. A. Legris, of Coteau Landing, has taken two penal actions for $200 each, one against the present member, J. W. Bain, M. P., the other against C. A. Cornellier. The plaintiff charges the defendants with being guilty of personal bribery and corruption during the last Federal elections in the County of Soulanges.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—The Herdic coach and stables at Fort Range were burnt this morning. Loss, $2,500.

The wheather is moderate. The mercury which has been marking 40° below, is now up to 18°. A snowstorm set in this morning, which makes fair sleighing.

Quebec, Dec. 28.—The a guard of the Salvation Army has arrived here and is making preparations for the army to besiege Quebec.

Stratford, Ont., Dec. 26.—An extensive robbery is reported here to-day. Some two or three thousand dollars from the cash box which contained remittances from the several stations on the line of the Grand Trunk railway between here and Buffalo on Thesday last. The robbery is supposed to have occured between twelve and one o'clock on that day. James Patten, a clerk in the office of Mr. Morrice, station agent here, has been arrested on suspicion, and is at present out on bail.

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—Sheriff Chapleau of the North West Territories, has arrived in the city. It is understood that his mission is to get the Government to make such arrangements as will push forward the election of the public buildings at Regina in the spring of the year. He will advocate the getting of all material possible in the vicinity of Regina, which will tend to benfit the people resident there.

His Excellency the Governor-General has refused to interfere in the case of Cormack, now in gaol at Winnipeg, a petition being received asking him to do some time ago.

Quebec, Dec. 15.—About three o'clock on Saturday morning a strange cloud appeared in the sky over the city which gave forth two distinct flashes of light accompanied by a loud noise. At first it was thought to have been lightning, but the phenomena was not solved till this afternoon, when news reached the city from Chateau Richer, 15 miles below Quebec, that the same noise was heard there, with a flash of lightening, of great brilliancy which is said to have been caused by the fall of an aerolite upon the farm of Mr. Lefrancois at that place, and buried itself in the earth to a depthe of five or six feet. it has since been dug up, and found to measure about five feet in circumference.

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—The Bank of Winnipeg gives notice of application to Parliament to amend its character by extending for three years the time for obtaining a certificate from the Treasury Board.

From all appearances Frank McDougall will be unopposed in his candidature for the Mayoralty.

Among the claims preferred by the premier of Manitoba against the Dominion Government is one of $10,000 for expenses incurred by the Manitoba Government in contesting the boundary question before the Imperial Privy Council.

It is said the Government is considering the question of giving a cash subsidy in place of a land g[illegible] for the completion of the Mani[illegible] western next year.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—Rigney, a New York broker, separated from his wife. They had two children, a boy and a girl. The mother came here with the girl, but succeeded afterwards in abducting the boy from his father, who put a detective on her track, and found her in a village near here. The father came from New York and attempted to abduct the son but was prevented by his wife and villagers who came to her rescue, attracted by her screams. Rigney is a sister of Mrs. Chapleau, of Regina, and a sister-in-law of the Secretary of State. She is wealthy in her own right, very popular but unobtrusive.

Leading manufacturers and merchants of Montreal unite in contradicting the statement of Western Grit organs regarding the depression in business among them. They unanimously assert that trade in all lines is very satisfactorly, and that the future outlook is of the brightest character.

London, Dec. 26.—The case of the Rev. Timothy O'Connell, rector of the Chapter House, whois charged with insanity, was heard to-day before Police Magistrate Park. Mr. Shoebottom, at whose house O'Connell lodged, and several fellow-borders, testified to various actions indicating that the prisoner's mind was unsound.

Montreal, Dec. 27.—In connection with the petition of the shareholders of the Exchange Bank to reduce the number of liquidators to one paid official, Judge Mathieu this fornoon decided to call a meeting of the stockholders on the 10th of January, and then decide by the amount of claime of each shareholder.

DISCHARGING EMHLYEES.

A very large number of employees have been dismissed from the wholesale houses within the past week:

Kingston, Dec. 27.—A little son of R. Murphy fell into a bucket of boiling water yesterday, and was fatally scalded. He fearfully burned, and died to-day.

Ottawa, Dec. 10.—Mr. J. A. M. Aikens, son of Lieut-Governar Aikens of Manitobia, was to day married to Miss McLean, daughter of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Lady McDonald was present, and carried the magnificent bouquet of roses which the committee of Sir John's reception yesterday intended to present to her, but she did not arrive from New York till to-day she only received it a short time before the marriage ceremony.

The honourable gentleman presented his daughter with a cheque for a hands