

LATE EUROPEAN GOSSIP.

Military and Naval Matters—Development of British Guiana—Antarctic Exploring Expedition.

The Queen's Christmas Celebration—Pensioning Duke of Cambridge—Funeral of Stepiak.

(Special by the Associated Press.) LONDON, Dec. 28.—The sullen weather, sleet and dampness, which has been a feature of Christmas week, seems to have cast a gloom over politics in general, although the Venezuelan question, chiefly from its financial and commercial standpoint, has been uppermost in the public mind.

and the commercial and military outlook in that colony. The St. James Gazette has from the first and up to the present been ahead in announcing all the developments from this side of the water in regard to the controversy, and there is, therefore, a suspicion that it has been more or less directly or indirectly inspired by the secretary of state for the colonies, Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. In consequence, more than ordinary interest is manifested in an article which it published to-day, giving prominence to the mail news just received from British Guiana, and in which it is announced that at a meeting of influential residents of British Guiana recently held at Georgetown, the capital of that colony, a provisional board of directors was appointed for a company which is to be known as the British Guiana Chartered Company, organized for the purpose of developing the interior of British Guiana.

MINERAL AND OTHER RESOURCES of the territory. At the same time the hint was clearly conveyed to the people of British Guiana that if their capitalists were not in a position to take up the matter, the government would do so. It now remains to be seen whether the government will grant a charter to this company of British Guiana capitalists in view of the fact that it has as a competitor a home syndicate, which has already made proposals to the local government, which proposals, however, have not been accepted.

Great interest is also being taken in American military and naval matters. Comparisons have been made between the British and American navies, and the American warships have been highly praised. Another sign of the interest taken here at present in American military matters is found in the fact that the Army and Navy Gazette to-day published short biographical sketches of all the American generals. On the other hand, the little

has not been entirely forgotten in the face of the complications in the West, and up to the present everything in connection with the British expedition sent against King Prempeh appears to have gone well and smoothly. The main body of the expeditionary force leaves Cape Coast to-day, and the advance guard has already reached the river Pra, which has been bridged. When this work was accomplished a scouting party was sent forward into the enemy's country, and news of conflicts with the forces of the King of Ashantee may be expected at any moment.

Parliament will be asked when it re-assembles to vote a special pension of £1,000 yearly to the Duke of Cambridge, late commander-in-chief of the forces. As Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, the Duke drew £2,000, which is held to be an inadequate sum in view of his length of service.

There is a boom in Antarctic exploring just now. In this city a syndicate has been formed to send two steam whalers of about 400 tons on a

whale and seal fishing expedition, while a smaller whaler will accompany them, and take a scientific party under the guidance of Borchgrevink, the explorer.

PEABY'S COMPANION, Astrup, is also expected to be included in the party, which will be landed at Cape Adare or Coulman island. From one of these points Borchgrevink and a couple of companions will proceed inland. Deep sea soundings will be taken, and magnetic, meteorological and other observations will be made. The expedition will leave England in August, 1896, and the scientists will remain at Cape Adare for a year, at the expiration of which time the whaling vessels will return and re-embark them. An almost similar expedition is being fitted out at Leith, and much interesting matter is expected to be collected as the result of these researches in the Antarctic ocean.

There was a big gathering to-day at Chiswick, of Russian and Polish exiles, as well as of English sympathizers with the deceased, the occasion being the funeral of Sergius Stepiak, the CELEBRATED RUSSIAN nihilist, who was killed while crossing a railroad track on Monday last. The exiles and others accompanied the body from Stepiak's house at Chiswick to the Waterloo railway station, where it was placed on board a train for Woking, at which place it will be cremated. John Burns, the English labor leader, marshalled the procession from the house at Chiswick to the railroad station at that place. The procession included Madam Stepiak, Vera Zassoulitch, Prince Krapotkin, Volhofski, Spence, Watson and Kier Hardie and a delegation from the Socialist Federation, headed by a brass band, met the body at Waterloo railroad station. Those who took part in the demonstration of respect to the deceased gathered around a large centre lamp outside the railroad station and surrounded by red and black banners Volhofski, Spencer, Watson, Prince Krapotkin, William Morris and a number of representatives of foreign socialists made speeches. The body was then placed upon the train for conveyance to the Woking cemetery.

CHRISTMAS IN THE METROPOLIS. The most intense feelings of gloom have been cast over the Christmas holidays by showers of sleet, clouds, fog, dampness and waves of icy cold, which have been the weather features of the week, driving indoors everybody but the homeless and the policemen. Every little Christmas tree, however modest, seemed a shrine to worship at, after a glance at the black, deserted, bitterly cold streets. This was the state of affairs provided for those who were compelled to remain in town; but all who could do so went out to their various country houses.

The Queen's celebration of Christmas at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, passed off with the customary gaiety. Among the visitors were the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, their children, and all the little Battenberg children. On the occasion of these annual holiday visits the Queen's young relatives were assisted to play with the elaborate toys which their parents used when they were young, and which the Queen carefully preserves. These include the best mechanical animals and dolls and other treasures which belonged to the Queen's children. Her Majesty also makes very handsome presents to each one of her little grandchildren, and is also reported to have sent Christmas cards in her own writing to all former attendants, favorite clergy, musicians and others. The chief celebration of the week was as usual

BOXING DAY. the day after Christmas. This day is quite as much a holiday in England as Christmas itself. Most of the theatres and music halls gave extra matinees and were all crowded. At Drury Lane the yearly pantomime is an event eagerly awaited, and this year is pronounced to have eclipsed all previous efforts ever produced. "Cinderella" was the title of the production. Enormous crowds gathered outside early in the afternoon, when the doors were finally opened there was a tremendous rush for places in the pit and galleries. The crowd was of the usual boisterous description and applauded and joined in whistling and singing popular airs which the orchestra played before the curtain rang up. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone started for Biarritz yesterday, travelling direct to Folkestone, where they stayed the night. They will travel direct to Biarritz from Boulogne sur Mer in a saloon train, arriving at 6.30 Sunday morning.

Lord Dunsen's Valkyrie-Defender controversy pamphlet and speech at Cardiff on the subject will be published in book form on Monday next.

FOOTBALL YESTERDAY. The Association match between the Nansimo Swifts and Victoria Y.M.C.A. was the first in the series for the B. C. Intermediate football championship, which was played at the recreation grounds yesterday afternoon and resulted in a draw, the score being 2 to 2.

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A strong enough side for the Victoria second fifteen not turning up for the Rugby game with the Battalion at Beacon Hill yesterday afternoon, the Battalion had to give up to them two of their best men, who were also members of the Victoria club. The match resulted in a win for the Victorians by 6 points to 5.

While driving on Thursday Mr. Alex. Vye, of Metchoin, was the victim of a serious accident. Crossing a creek, part of the bridge gave way precipitating buggy and driver into the water below. Mr. Vye was badly hurt, but the extent of his injuries has not been learned.

SHIPS AND SHIPPING.

The "Miowera" Spoken Over Twelve Hours After Her Separation With The "Strathnevis."

The "Minoela" and "Miowera's" Salvage Claims—Repairs to Steamer Quadra.

All doubt as to the safety of the Canadian-Australian steamship Miowera was satisfactorily dispelled by the good news received from Seattle yesterday, reporting that the vessel was seen on Monday afternoon last steaming southward in the direction of Honolulu. The glad tidings came through the arrival of the schooner Gompers at Seattle yesterday morning, and reached Mr. George Courtney, local C.P.R. agent, in the shape of the following telegram: "The schooner Gompers reports having sighted a three-masted steamer, undoubtedly the Miowera, 100 miles south of Flattery on the afternoon of the 23rd. She was under steam, and from the course in which she was heading appeared to be bound for Honolulu."

It was one o'clock on the morning of the 23rd that the Miowera and Strathnevis separated and her sudden disappearance was in all probability caused by impending danger to herself and those aboard. The steamships Miowera and Minoela both formally libeled the Strathnevis on Thursday for salvage, each in the sum of \$150,000.

The libel of the San Francisco Improvement Company, owner of the steamship Minoela, was filed with Judge Hanford, of the United States district court on Thursday and alleges that the Minoela left Tacoma on December 23, bound for San Francisco, with 3,400 tons of coal. On the next day about noon, during heavy seas, she sighted the Strathnevis, about eight miles in shore, near Destruction island, with ensign up and down and indicating necessity of immediate assistance. The Minoela stopped under her stern, and at the request of the master and other officers of the Strathnevis took her in tow. The document recites the story of the towing and its difficulties, and claims \$150,000.

The Canadian Pacific & Australian Steamship Company was unable to take a glance at the black, deserted, bitterly cold streets. This was the state of affairs provided for those who were compelled to remain in town; but all who could do so went out to their various country houses.

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THE "WACHUSETT'S" TASTE OF STORM. The ship Wachusett, coal laden from Nansimo for California, was towed in from sea to Port Angeles by the tug Holyoke on Monday last. She experienced the same gale as parted the Miowera's lines attached to the Strathnevis, and as a result of her cargo shifting she had a seven-foot list when she arrived here, and a public denial of the statements contained in a recently published communication to the press over the signature of Mr. D. Sprague was authorized by the board.

H. A. DILLON, a notary public, was prosecuted at Wellington on Friday for having conspired to the legal profession in his B.C. advertisement as a solicitor (referred to as "The B.C. Law Society") he being neither a barrister nor solicitor of British Columbia. The case was heard before Messrs. Matheson and Bickle, J.'s P., Mr. P. S. Lampman prosecuting as solicitor for the B. C. Law Society. Mr. Dillon admitted the advertisement but denied that his object was to obtain legal practice. After his cross-examination the magistrates held that his object was to gain practice and accordingly they fined him \$10 and costs. This is the first case in the province under the new act.

ARRANGEMENTS have almost been completed for the grand Leap Year ball to be given by Hope lodge No. 1, Degree of Honor, in A.O.U.W. hall, Friday evening, January 8. The ball will be carried out in proper Leap Year style and gentlemen accompanied by ladies will be provided with partners by the floor managers, who are Mr. Hanft, Miss S. Smith and Mrs. N. Newman. Richardson's orchestra will be in attendance. Tickets can be had at No. 6 Trounce avenue, or from the following members of the committee: Mrs. Whitlaw, Mrs. S. Smith, Miss D. Draut, Mrs. R. Penketh, Mrs. Able, Miss A. Townsley, Mrs. G. Caven, Miss E. Whitlaw, Mrs. Lukov and at the door.

GERMAN AUXILIARY CRUISERS. BERLIN, Dec. 28.—A few days ago the Kaiser received Dr. Wiegand, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Co., Admiral Von Hollman, the imperial secretary of the navy, and Admiral Sanden-Bibram, chief of the marine cabinet, to hear the detailed report of the plans of the new North German Lloyd steamers now building at Stettin which, with the steamers of the same company at present undergoing reconstruction, will be built on lines and plans designed to make them serviceable in war time as auxiliary cruisers.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Dec. 28.—The dead body of James McFarlane was found under a tree on Crescent island, three miles from Ladner's. It is thought he was killed by the tree falling on him. Mr. McFarlane was widely and favorably known in the Westminster district.

FOUR ordinary drunks figured in the police court yesterday, three of the number being fined, and one of \$5 fines and the fourth, the incorrigible Ike Roberts, going to jail for two months. One of the other offenders was John Farrel, whose brother William stands committed for trial for the felonious wounding of George Douglas.

THE CITY.

The usual watchnight service will be held in the Victoria West Methodist church on the 31st inst.

The friends of Mrs. J. H. Turner will regret to learn that she met with a very painful accident on Friday. She had the misfortune to fall, breaking her arm at the wrist and injuring her head.

A SITTING of the court of revision was held by Mr. S. Perry Mills yesterday, and many appeals were disposed of. The court was adjourned until Saturday next. On Tuesday the court sits at the Royal Oak.

An address by Mrs. Spofford was a special feature of last evening's popular concert in Temperance hall, in addition to the usual meritorious musical programme. This time it was Triumph lodge which had charge of all arrangements.

The dramatic entertainment at St. James' hall last evening drew such an audience that many could not find seats. The farces presented were very well rendered and afforded plenty of amusement to the performers all being well in their parts. The first piece was "Perfection," or "The Lady of Munster." The "Fast Mail" followed.

TRUMPET LODGE, No. 16, I.O.G.T., held a very pleasing and enjoyable entertainment last evening in the Temperance hall. The following programme was rendered: Comic songs, Bros. McIvver Fleming, duet, by Aylmore and Black; recitations, Brother Dupin, Miss Kirkendale and Mr. G. Kirkendale, all members of Triumph lodge, Esquimalt.

LAST evening's entertainment of the Saturday night series arranged for the winter months by the members of the Y.M.C.A., took the form of a repetition of the annual athletic and gymnastic exhibition. The performance was very much appreciated by the large audience in attendance, including the Nainaimo "twits" as the guests of the association.

THE Independent Order of Good Templars held their annual reception in Temperance hall, Pandora avenue, New Year's Day, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., everyone calling between those hours will be made welcome. Friends wishing to contribute refreshments may send them to the hall any time during the day. A first-class concert will be held on Wednesday evening. No admission fee will be charged.

THE sittings of the small debts court will be resumed on January 8, for the despatch of business that has for the last month been interrupted by the action brought against the unconstitutionality of the act. In view of the alignment of Judge Harrison, acting as a judge of the Supreme court, declaring that the act is intra vires of the province, Magistrate Macrae has decided that he may properly sit in the small debts court.

MR. F. M. YORKE is confined to the house by a painful accident which happened a few days ago. He was acting as Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, and while distributing the presents from a Christmas tree one of the tapers set fire to the cotton wool imitation of a fur coat that he wore. The fire spread over the light material rapidly, and Mr. Yorke was somewhat severely burned about the hands and neck before assistance could be rendered by those present.

THE municipal board of health at a meeting yesterday decided to offer \$60 to Mr. Hendry as compensation for the damage done to his residential premises during their recent fumigation. The explanation of the officers concerned in the destruction of plants at the North ward school was ordered sent to the board of trustees; Dr. George H. Duncan's report on the health affairs of the city was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the provincial board of health; and a public denial of the statements contained in a recently published communication to the press over the signature of Mr. D. Sprague was authorized by the board.

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TRAFFIC IN TANGIER.

It is Large and Continuous and Apparently Conducted Under Difficulties.

The traffic in Tangier is large and continuous. There is no footpath proper, and the fact that passengers have often to pick their way among heavily laden donkeys and camels, sometimes he is jostled by Jews in dark blue jellabs and skullcaps, the distinctive badges of their race; sometimes his progress is stopped by a burly negro slave, all in white or faded yellow, bearing on his head a tray of bread from the public bakehouse; sometimes he is swept into a miry corner by half a dozen of the sultan's cavalry, whose richly caparisoned steeds, flowing robes, flintlocks or spears, make up altogether an imposing spectacle. Perhaps also he may find himself confronted by a huge packing case borne down the street on each side by men of color, who alarm the neighborhood with shouts of "balak."

The most interesting sight in Tangier—at least, from an artistic point of view—is the sok, or large market place for country products. It lies immediately outside the wall in the upper part of the town and is approached through the old slave market, now converted into a shoeing forge. In the forenoon it is too crowded to be interesting, but in the afternoon, when business has somewhat slackened, scenes of varied interest may be observed.

Under a water carrier, with large goatskin bag slung over his shoulder, attracting your attention with the tinkle of a bell to the refreshing draft he offers. Here is a giant Arab from the Rif mountains, bareheaded, blanket draped and flashing eye, interviewing with fierce and threatening gestures an obdurate looking Jew, who is evidently demanding his pound of flesh. Near them is a country woman seated behind a small semicircle of milk jars. Her shriveled, wornout features can be discerned through the folds of her coarse hark, which she holds carelessly together with her left hand, while with her right she lifts the lid from one of the jars.—Good Words.

ANIMAL CURIOSITIES.

Tree Climbing Rabbits, Sheep Eating Parrots and Sheep That Love Snails.

It seems almost a stretch of the imagination to think of rabbits climbing trees. Yet in Australia many rabbits have somehow acquired the tree climbing habit, having been forced, on account of the persecutions of dogs and other animals, to drop burrowing and imitate squirrels. An Australian sent on to England recently the two front feet of a rabbit that had been killed on an acacia, three yards from the ground, and he wrote in his letter that this was not at all a remarkable thing, and he had often found them, or at least the traces of their claws, on the bark of trees four, five and six yards high.

For a parrot to eat sheep is another remarkable thing, and yet the kea of New Zealand has become a sheep eater, having, according to this article of food from a purely vegetable diet. The kea has proved a serious source of annoyance to the New Zealand herdsman, and methods have been taken for the destruction of the species. These gay colored little birds will eat almost any kind of meat, but it is sheep that they prefer.

They have been known to kill as many as 200 in a single night and have done serious harm to the flocks. The tradition of the island is that at one time these parrots were unable to obtain their usual supply of vegetable food and that in desperation they invaded the "drying rooms" and ate whatever came to hand, finding sheep meat agreeable. In Iceland almost all the horses are fish eaters, for the reason that the grain is scarce there and fish is plentiful. In England sheep are known to delight in snails. The observation of this fact is not new; it dates back 150 years.

It is well known that a large number of insectivorous birds become grain eaters whenever they find that they cannot procure their ordinary diet of insects.—New York World.

Bicycle Superstitions.

Folks open to the influence of signs, omens, etc., should read the following list of bicycle superstitions, compiled by the Minneapolis Journal: 1. The wheelman who allows a horse to pass him will die before the year is out. 2. To be chased by a yellow dog with one blue eye and one black eye indicates a bad fall. 3. To see a small boy with a slung shot beside the road is a prophecy of a puncture. 4. If you pass a white horse driven by a red-haired lady, your rim will split unless you say 'cajan drum' and hold up two fingers. 5. The rider who expostulates tobacco juice on the track will lose a spoke. 6. If you take your machine to the repair shop, it is a sign that you will not buy that new suit of clothes. 7. Kicking the man who asks the make of your wheel is a sign of high honors and riches within a year. 8. Lending the wheel is the sign of the double donkey. 9. To attempt to hold up a 275 pound woman learning to ride is the sign of a soft spot."

Polyglot Signs.

The array of signs rendered necessary where people of various nationalities congregate often confuses one not familiar with the foreign languages, especially when the person is not aware that they all mean the same thing. On a door leading into one of the local sugar refineries are the following inscriptions: "No Admittance." "Der Eibarnit ist Verboten." "Verbotener Ginzang." "No Wehdadit." There is still another collection on board the Red Star line steamships sailing to Antwerp. There is of course no smoking except on deck, and each state room is provided with the following signs: "No Smoking." "Niet Rookten." "Defense de Fumage." "Nicht Rauchen."—Philadelphia Record.

Don't Forget

that when you buy Scott's Emulsion you are not getting a secret mixture containing worthless or harmful drugs.

Scott's Emulsion cannot be secret for an analysis reveals all there is in it. Consequently the endorsement of the medical world means something.

Scott's Emulsion overcomes Wasting, promotes the making of Solid Flesh, and gives Vital Strength. It has no equal as a cure for Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Weak Lungs, Consumption, Scrophula, Anemia, Emaciation, and Wasting Diseases of Children. Scott's Emulsion. All Druggists. 50c. & \$1.

S. A. STODDART, WATCHES

68 1/2 Yates St.

Continued from Former Advertisements.

Stemwind Elgin B. W. Raymond, ruby jeweled, double sub second dial, adjusted to heat, gold and position, warranted 20 years, in Nickel cases \$15 Gold Filled \$20, Silver \$13. Elgin, 17 jewels, with all the latest improvements in Gold Filled 20 year cases \$28.50, in Silver cases \$ 5, Ladies' Solid Gold 14 karat Elgin or Waltham Watches \$20, Elgin 7 jewel stemwind, in Nickel cases \$6, in Gold Filled \$10, in 21 years' guaranteed Gold Filled cases \$15, in solid 14 karat Gold cases (weight nearly 3 oz.) \$40.

Diamond and other Precious Stone Rings from \$2 up. Eight day striking Clocks in Oak or Walnut cases, visible pendulum, from \$4 to \$5. Eight day Cathedral Gong Cabinet Clocks \$5; with gold inlaid dials \$5.50. Nickel Alarm Clocks from 70c. The largest stock in the city to choose from. Ten per cent. off Watches and Jewellery till Christmas.

S. A. STODDART, 68 1/2 YATES STREET, NO 27-1-W

METCHOSIN SOLID.

A Unanimous Resolution to Support Hon. Mr. Prior Passed at Friday's Meeting.

Metchosin stands solid in the Conservative interests, and so far as the electors of that district are concerned, they have to a man pledged their support to Hon. E. G. Prior in the by-election. This was the feeling expressed at the meeting of the electors held at the Metchosin hall on Friday night. The speaker of the evening were Hon. E. G. Prior, H. D. Helmecken, Q. C., M. P. F. George Bushy, of Victoria, and Hans Helgesen, and W. H. Hayward, of Metchosin. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. Fisher, J.P., who on calling the meeting to order stated that it was in his opinion highly desirable in the interests of the farmers that the present government should be supported and continued in power.

Hon. Mr. Prior was received with much enthusiasm, and in a speech of over an hour's duration dealt with the question of the importance to British Columbia of having direct cabinet representation, of continuing the present fiscal policy so long advocated and maintained by the Conservative party, and the latter more particularly so in view of the large and ever increasing importance of the agricultural industries. He also dealt with the Manitoba school question and other current political topics, and at the conclusion of his address was loudly applauded.

Mr. Hans Helgesen was the next speaker. He in most pointed and emphatic language declared that the farmers and electors of the District of Metchosin would never and could never in their own interest support any man who was an advocate of the policy of the Liberal party, and also expressed the opinion that now that direct cabinet representation was given to British Columbia the result would be that more attention would in the future be paid to strictly local matters, chiefly lighthouses, deep sea fisheries and the prevention of smuggling. Mr. Helgesen, who formerly represented the district in the local house and is one of the best known and most influential farmers, was closely listened to by the audience, and his remarks were liberally applauded.

Mr. W. H. Hayward, another of the substantial farmers of the district, also gave his reasons for supporting the government of the day. He was followed by Mr. Helmecken and Mr. Bushy, and before the close of the meeting a resolution was unanimously carried pledging the hearty support of the electors of Metchosin to Hon. Mr. Prior. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought to a close one of the best attended, most unanimous and most enthusiastic political meetings ever held in the district.

Alexandra lodge, No. 116, Sons of England, will have an entertainment in Daughters of England hall (late Harmony). View street, on New Year's night. There will be music, dancing and game parties during the evening. All members of the order in the city are cordially invited together with their families.