4 P.M. Edition
Two Editions Daily.

London Advertiser.

The ADVERTISER
Is always found ahead.
Others trail behind.
Prove it by comparison.

VOL. XXXV., NO. 88. LONDON, CANADA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1898 WHOLE NO. 10,780.

PUBLIC LIBRARY LONDON ON

Births, Marriages, Deaths

BORN.

DALY—At 536 Dufferin avenue, Jan. 31, to Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Daly, a son.

PALADINO—At El Reno, Oklahoma, Feb. 7, the wife of Lui Paladino, of a son.

Toronto papers please copy.

DIED.

KIPP—In this city, on Monday, Feb. 7, 1898, Lottie, eldest daughter of W. C. and Margaret Kipp, aged 7 years and 11 months.

Funeral will leave the family residence, 490 Central avenue, on Wednesday, at 2:30 p.m.; services at 2 o'clock. Friends and acquaintances will please accept this intimation.

Amusements and Lectures

Advertisements under this heading, two cents per word, or ten cents per line each insertion.

JUBILEE RINK—OPEN EVERY AFTERNOON and evening. 50u

OLLIE TORBETT CONCERT COMPANY —Plan now open. Auditorium—Thursday. 50u

HEAR KELSO AT AUDITORIUM—Wednesday evening, at 8:30, on Child Saving Work. Stereopticon views. Admission free. Collection for expenses. b

PRIVATE LESSONS IN DANCING BY Mr. R. B. Millard, at his residence, 345 Princess avenue. Special attention given to the waltz, two-step, two-step Jersey and the cycle. Satisfaction guaranteed. Lessons any hour.

$4 80 A TON—AI VIRGINIA COAL—Splendid for furnaces or range. Nice hot fire. No clinkers. Beautiful mirror or lid lifter free at F. B CLARKE'S, The Exchange, Richmond street, next Advertiser, Bowman & Co.'s city office. Instant delivery. Phone 658.

PALACE DANCING ACADEMY — ANNUAL at home Friday evening, February 18. Gentlemen subscribers' list closes Friday. Call at academy any evening this week between 8 and 10 o'clock. DAYTON & McCORMICK.

Meetings.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, NO. 16, A., F. AND A. M., G. R. C.—A regular communication of above lodge will be held this evening at 7:30, in Masonic Temple. Visitors welcome. Alex. Findlay, W. M.; M. D. Dawson, secretary. b

MASONIC—ANNUAL MEETING OF Past Masters' Association of London and district, will be held at library, Masonic Temple, on Thursday evening, at 8 o'clock. All W. M.'s and P. M.'s invited. V. W. Bro. J. D. Clarke, president; W. Bro. Thos. R. Parker, secretary. 49k

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS cost 1 Cent per word for first insertion and one-half cent per word for each subsequent insertion. No advertisement less than 10 words.

Domestics Wanted.

ON HAND—GARDENER, ONE WHO understands care of fruit, flowers and vegetables, also management of greenhouses, hot beds, first-class references; also housekeepers, hotel cooks and girls for all kinds of work. Wanting dining-room girls for out of city. Dwyer's Agency, 591 Richmond street. Phone 1120.

LADIES, LEAVE YOUR ORDERS FOR servants with the Osborne Intelligence agency, 56 Dundas street. Phone 786.

Situations Wanted.

YOUNG MAN DESIRES SITUATION—Strictly temperate, obliging and not afraid of work. C. E. SHAW, 359 Clarence street. 49u

Male Help Wanted.

WANTED—A FIRST-CLASS CARRIAGE blacksmith. Apply at CAMPBELL & SON'S factory, King street west. 49c

Wanted.

WANTED—IN NORTH PART OF CITY —Brick cottage or story and a half; modern improvements; must be large lot. Send particulars J. W. G. WINNETT, barrister, 420 Talbot street, London. ywt

WANTED TO RENT FROM 25 TO 50 acres of land, about 5 miles or less from town. Apply box 100, this office. 46gwtytytt

MEN AND WOMEN CAN SECURE GOOD situations at the London Employment Bureau, 372 Richmond.

WANTED—THREE HUNDRED GOOD second-hand overcoats. Highest price paid. A. P. SAINSBURY 90 King street. Mail orders attended to.

Agents Wanted.

AGENTS—"WOMAN: MAIDEN, WIFE and Mother," a marvelous book; preface by Lady Aberdeen. Big commission. Prospectus free to canvassers. The Linscott Company, Toronto. 49n

AGENTS — "GLIMPSES OF THE UNSEEN," fascinating book, sweeps the entire field of borderland subjects. Everybody orders. Marvelous illustrations. Prospectus free to canvassers. Bradley-Garretson Company, Limited, Toronto. 49n

IF YOU ARE TRUE, ENERGETIC AND above foolish prejudice against canvassing write to me. I have put hundreds of men in the way of making money, some of whom are now rich. T. S. LINSCOTT, Toronto. 49n

WANTED—A FEW GOOD MEN FOR canvassing on yearly salaries. The Linscott Company, Toronto. 47m

Houses, Etc., To Let.

TO LET OR FOR SALE—STORY AND A half brick house, seven rooms, with all modern improvements, No. 140 Elmwood avenue, South London. Rent low. Apply to Kilgour Furniture Company. 46n

185 ST. JAMES STREET TO LET—NICE 2-story brick; 4 bedrooms, bath, grate; very convenient; choice location. Apply 419 Princess avenue. 31f

Massage Treatment.

MISS SHUFF—GRADUATE OF DR. S. Weir Mitchell's Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Philadelphia. Massage and Swedish movements. 497 King street, London, Ont. Phone 562.

Night School

Every Monday and Thursday evening. Each pupil receives individual instruction. We form no classes. Pupils may join at any time.

Coo's Academy,
76 Dundas Street.

During present week Miss Black secured a situation as stenographer for Moran, Fitzsimons & Co., Limited, Detroit.

W. C. COO, C.S.R., Principal.

Articles For Sale.

MEDICAL BATTERIES, $1, $3 50 AND $4 50. A chance to secure a first-class medical battery at a low price. F. B. CLARKE, Richmond street. 14tf

KNITTING NEEDLES 4 CENTS PER barrel. All sizes. R. V. S. SAUNDERS, 650 Dundas street, East London.

SCIATICA, RHEUMATISM, CURED IN from one to three weeks. Box 17, Delaware, Ont. 49c

FRESH OYSTERS EVERY DAY—California Navel Oranges and Lemons for sale at very low prices. Wholesale and retail. CATALANO & SANSONE, 305 Dundas street.

BICYCLES REMODELED, REPAIRED re-enameled, nickeled, etc. Sundries and skate parts for sale. HUTCHINSON, 651 Dundas street.

FOR SALE — SKATES AND SKATE parts; bicycle enameling and general repairing at lowest prices. D. McKENZIE & Co., 374 Richmond street.

CUSTOMS PAPERS OF ALL KINDS always on hand at Advertiser Job Department. You can have them in large or small quantities.

TIMBERS, TRUSS RODS AND PLATES PATTERSON & JOLLY. 72tf

ENGINE FOR SALE—A— BARGAIN Thirty horse power; can be run at 90 revolutions; is in capital order; can be had at a very low figure. Address Engine, care "Advertiser" Office. 66tf&62tf

GAS CHANDELIERS AND BRACKETS and globes. SMITH BROS., 265 Dundas street. y

STEWART'S STOVES, RANGES, STEEL Ovens are perfect workers. We give estimates on iron roofs, iron savestroughs, hot air furnaces. JAS. THOMPSON, 424 Richmond street. ywt

STOVES—
ALL KINDS—
BASEBURNERS,
with and without oven, and a large assortment of wood stoves at lowest prices.
GEO. J. PARISH,
337 Talbot street, south of King.
ywt

STOVES AND SECOND-HAND FURNITURE for sale cheap at KEENE'S Furniture Store, Masonic Temple, Market Square.

Lost and Found.

LOST—SATURDAY MORNING—CATHOLIC Prayer Book. Finder, please leave at Advertiser Office. 48c

Real Estate.

FOR SALE—TEN FINE BUILDING LOTS five fronting on Grey street and five fronting on Simcoe street, immediately east of the London and Petrolea Barrel Works, East London. Price and particulars given by
GEO. PRITCHARD
9 Market Lane.
yt

FOR SALE — 100 - ACRE FARM IN county of Lambton, good buildings. Price $2,600, at 90 Dundas street, London.

FOR SALE—NEW TWO-STORY BRICK house, all modern. Price only $2,300. A few lots to exchange for good mining stock.
J. F. SANGSTER,
403 Richmond street.

Business Chances.

WANTED BY GENTLEMAN OF CAPITAL, a partnership in good paying business. Address "Sandon," this office. 48c

WANTED—MAN WITH $200 TO RUN farm and dairy business on shares. For particulars apply A. R. ARMSTRONG, Blenheim, Ont. 48k

SPECULATORS AND INVESTORS HAVING idle capital of one hundred dollars ($100) and upwards should write to me at once. I have something of unusual importance to communicate. CHAS. HUGHES, 63 Wall street, New York. 44bu

Architects.

MOORE & HENRY—ARCHITECTS AND civil engineers. Members Ont. Ass'n. Architects; members Ont. L. Surveyors' Ass'n; members Am. Waterworks Ass'n.

HERBERT MATTHEWS—ARCHITECT—(formerly with C. C. Haight, New York), Carling Block, Richmond street.

McBRIDE & FARNCOMBE — ARCHITECTS and Surveyors, 213 Dundas street. H. C. McBRIDE, F. W. FARNCOMBE, B.A., C.E.

ALFRED BOPLEY, ARCHITECT—Hiscox Building, corner Richmond and King streets, London.

Hotel Cards.

THE ST. LAWRENCE HOTEL, MONTREAL—Centrally located and first-class in every respect. M. HOGAN, Proprietor.

"THE RICHMOND" — CORNER KING and Richmond streets. JAMES FALLON, new proprietor. A call solicited.

TECUMSEH HOUSE—LONDON, ONT. Largest and best hotel in Western Ontario. No charge for baggage or sample rooms. Rates $2 and $2 50 per day. C. W. DAVIS proprietor.

CRIGG HOUSE, LONDON, ONT.—Refurnished and renovated throughout. Large and light sample rooms for commercial men. Rates $1 50 and $2 per day. M. O'MEARA, proprietor.

ONEIL HOUSE—CORNER TALBOT AND York street; new and convenient; stables. WM. COLLINS, proprietor.

CITY HOTEL, LONDON—BEST $1 DAY house in Canada; good stables in connection. J. McMARTIN, proprietor.

Musical Instruction.

ELOCUTION,
MISS
SHELDON, teacher.
Classes of ten, for the study of elocution, are now being formed. Greatly reduced rates. Apply at Conservatory of Music, 374 Dundas street, for particulars. Phone 1101.

TO MUSICAL STUDENTS—SPECIAL announcement—Heilmuth Ladies' College, Lent term, Feb. 2 to April 6. Piano lessons, two per week, $9 to $15. Students only charged from date of entrance. Apply to Rev. E. N. English, M.A., principal. 46k

W. H. HEWLETT, ORGANIST DUNDAS Center Church, teacher piano organ and theory, 563 Dundas street.

J. T. WOLCOTT, ORGANIST, FIRST Methodist Church, teacher piano, organ and composition, 5 Prospect avenue.

Jewelers.

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO REPAIRING—J. T. WESTLAND, Engraver and Manufacturing Jeweler, 340 Richmond street (up stairs), London, Ont.

Insurance.

A. N. UDY, INSURANCE AGENT Office over C. P. R. ticket office. Telephone, 735. ywt

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE, Phoenix Insurance Company, New York Life Insurance Company (this company is indorsed by 82 separate and distinct governments throughout the civilized world). Canada Accident Assurance Company, American Surety Company, Employers' Liability corporation; the assets of the foregoing Companies exceed $251,000,000. Funds to loan at 5½ and 6 per cent. For all kinds of insurance, loans, valuations, real estate, apply to
EDWARD TOWE,
Over Bank of Commerce, 412 Richmond street, London. Phone office 640. wty

Business Cards.

GEO. ROUGHLEY—FELT AND GRAVEL roofer; repairing a specialty; estimates on application. 250 South street, London. Telephone 588.

WANTED — GENTS' CLOTHING TO clean, dye and repair; also ostrich feathers to dye, clean and curl equal to new. EYRES' Steam Dye Works, 221 Dundas street.

JUBILEE HAND LAUNDRY HAS removed to more commodious premises at 234 Dundas street (Spencer Block.)

JIM LEE, CHINESE LAUNDRY—ALL hand work, first-class; parcels called for and delivered. 637 Dundas street.

D. DODD & CO., PRACTICAL BUILDERS carpenters and joiners; jobbing and repairing promptly attended to. Shop 151 Fullarton street.

Veterinary Surgeons.

J. H. TENNANT—VETERINARY SURGEON—Office, King street, opposite Market House; residence, corner King and Wellington. Telephone.

AUCTION SALE

Of Household Furniture and Effects Horse, Cutter, Phaeton, Etc.

H. PORTER & CO. HAVE BEEN instructed by Mr. John Kirdler, superintendent of the London Furniture Company to sell by public auction, Thursday, Feb. 10, at 10:30 a.m., at his residence, 132 Horton street, his household furniture effects, comprising piano, bought at Exhibition of '97, a parlor suite, upholstered in crushed plush; chenille, damask and lace curtains; oak center tables and easel, tapestry carpet and rugs, oak hall rack, quarter oak sideboard, extension table and chairs rockers, dinner service, glassware, gas fixtures and gas range, baseburner, refrigerator and all kitchen furniture, handsome solid oak cheval bedroom suite, 1 handsome walnut bedroom suite, springs, mattresses, etc. All the above furniture is fashionable and well made. Also at 12:30 p.m., one good driving mare, one fashionable Gladstone cutter (nearly new) half phaeton, harness and heavy robes.
H. PORTER & CO.,
Carling street, auctioneers.
48a ty

WILL BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION by J. W. Jones at his rooms, Dundas street, London, on Wednesday, the 16th day of February, at 2 p.m.

1. The stock of Robert Spittal, London, as follows:

Dress goods	$2,267 07
Staple arygoods	1,710 91
Hosiery, gloves, corsets and underwear	1,374 67
Fancy goods and small wares	1,218 90
Mantles, lidings, velvets, etc	1,168 21
Millinery and ribbons	893 06
Silks, crapes and embroideries	482 25
Total	$9,140 07

2. Also at the same time and place, the stock of W. J. McComb, Trenton, as follows:

Men's furnishings	$ 507 67
Hats and caps	367 70
Clothing	209 24
Tweeds and worsteds	536 59
Trimmings	153 09
Shop furniture	145 30
Total	$1,850 55

Terms on each stock: One quarter down, balance 2, 4, 6 and 8 months, with interest at 6 per cent., approved indorsed paper.

The Spittal stand is a good one and stock is nearly all new. Premises can be had.

Each stock list on the premises and with the undersigned.

GIBBONS, MULKERN & HARPER, London, Ont., Vendors' Solicitors.
50c ywt C. B. ARMSTRONG, Trustee.

WILL BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the auction rooms of John W. Jones, Dundas street, city of London, on Wednesday, the 16th day of February, 1898, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon:

1. The stock in trade of boots, shoes and findings of R. Kirkpatrick, London, as follows:

Boots, shoes, etc	$2,814 61
Shop furniture	272 60
Total	$3,087 21

Terms: One-fourth down at time of sale, balance in 2 and 4 months, approved indorsed paper, interest at 7 per cent.

Stock and stock list can be seen on the premises, No. 189 Dundas street.

2. The real estate premises occupied by the said R. Kirkpatrick, having a frontage of sixteen feet on Dundas street, by a depth of 99 feet, with the use of a lane ten feet wide on the east side, extending to rear.

The building is finished throughout, and can be rented to good advantage, and affords a first-class investment to any purchaser.

3. Also the northwest corner of Horton and Clarence streets, having a frontage on Horton street of 50 feet, and on Clarence of 103 feet, more or less.

There are on this property three frame tenements, from which a monthly rental of $15 should be obtained.

Further particulars on application to
PHILIP POCOCK, Assignee,
London.
50k ywty

A FAKIR'S OUTFIT

Found in the Room of James McGregor —Arrested on the Charge of Stealing a Gold Watch.

Last night James Brown, went to sleep in Jerry McDonald's Hotel. When he awoke he naturally felt for his gold watch to see the time, and, to his great surprise, found the time-piece had been wrenched off the chain, the end of which had been put carefully back in his pocket. Brown notified the chief of police, and Detectives Nickle and Rider were detailed on the case. They visited the hotel this morning, when Detective Rider spied James McGregor, and placed him under arrest on the charge of having stolen the watch. McGregor's room was searched, and a quantity of the paraphernalia used by fakirs was found therein. These articles comprised several nutshells, a chuck board, dice and dice-box and two minature silver padlocks, only one of which will open. The customer is to make a bet that either one of these locks can or cannot be opened, and whichever way the bet is made, by slight of hand the fakir substitutes one for the other. McGregor was remanded to jail. The detectives say the prisoner has been committed at Windsor and Chatham. The watch has not yet been found.

If You Wish to be Well

You must fortify your system against the attacks of disease. Your blood must be kept pure, your stomach and digestive organs in order, your appetite good. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the medicine to build you up, purify and enrich your blood and give you strength. It creates an appetite and gives digestive power.

HOOD'S PILLS are the favorite family cathartic, easy to take, easy to operate. a

Bohemia has a factory for the manufacture of seamless rubber bags.

Beware of Cocaine.

Thos. Heys, Analytical Chemist, Toronto, says: "I have made an examination of Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure for Cocaine and any of its compounds from samples purchased in the open market, and find none present." Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure is a cure—not a drug. Price 25 cents, blower included.

China in a Dilemma.

Afraid to Conclude Terms With Either Britain or Russia.

And Hasn't the Money to Pay Japan's War Indemnity.

The Foreign Policy of France as Stated by Minister Hanotaux.

Opening of the British Parliament—The Queen's Speech.

Disastrous Earthquake in Anatolia—Prince Maximilian Makes Up His Mind to Marry.

DISASTROUS EARTHQUAKE.

London, Feb. 8. — A dispatch from Constantinople says: Anatolia was visited by an earthquake yesterday, which it is reported, caused widespread devastation.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 8.—According to trustworthy intelligence, China has finally abandoned the idea of raising a loan in London or elsewhere.

A Pekin dispatch says: The Tsung Li Yamen has instructed the viceroy of Nanking to receive Prince Henry of Prussia, upon the latter's arrival at Shanghai.

SPAIN AND UNCLE SAM.

A dispatch from Madrid says: The political air is full of electricity. The stock exchange, that best of barometers, marks strong and slumps. Gen. Woodford wears a dissatisfied and despondent look. He is evidently not pleased with the way things are going. Senor Sagasta again comes out in El Liberal with the statement that there is absolutely no cause for a war. El Dia prints impassioned articles against the false reports concerning a perfect understanding in the cabinet. There is a certain attitude of rigidity expressed in the official press of the last 48 hours, which, if sustained, may give ground for a report which says that Germany, France and Russia support the position taken by Spain, whereas England gives a neutral reply. In the meantime you can take it as most probable that Spain will, in the course of time, send warships to Cuban waters, to Havana and other places, to sustain the authority of Gen. Blanco and prevent with certainty such outbreaks as it has been asserted President McKinley fears.

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

London, Feb. 8.—The statement that the Canadian government is cutting down the permanent militia force creates comment in London. It is pointed out that the moment is most unfortunate for economy in this particular direction. The Globe even talks of the resumption of imperial control of the Canadian force. A new weekly journal, the Outlook, severely rebukes the Globe and says that to suggest such a thing is to misread all the lessons of the past and wantonly obstruct the natural evolution of the relations between the motherland and the colony into a full and effective partnership.

It came out at the winding-up proceedings in connection with Mr. James Huddart's Canadian-Australian steamship company, that large borrowings are needed immediately to continue the business. The total liabilities which are expected to rank amount to $340,000, while the free assets are estimated at $50,000. This state of affairs will probably result in a complete remodeling of the service on the highest standard of speed and efficiency. The Canadian Pacific has built up such a reputation in England with it main line and China and Japan service that it cannot allow the Australian line to remain below par.

FOREIGN POLICY OF FRANCE.

Paris, Feb. 8.—In the French chamber of deputies, M. Francois Deloncle, deputy for Castellane, raised a debate on the government's foreign policy. M. Hanotaux, the foreign minister, pointed out the exclusive advantages France had recently secured in Southern China. In every case, he said, France had obtained compensation for injury to her interests or subjects in China, together with the punishment of the culprits, and these indemnities, during the last two years, had reached a total of 4,600,000 francs. French diplomacy, continued M. Hanotaux, was active, but he regretted the timidity, amounting to indifference, of the French traders. France was convinced that any cataclysm causing a disruption in China would have most terrible consequences, and the government's aim was to work hand in hand with the other powers for the peaceful development of the country. M. Meline, the premier, replying on the subject of the Franco-Russian alliance, said it was only because of the alliance that Europe had escaped a general conflagration, and the European concert became possible. To those who had expressed the fear that France was Russia's dupe, he would reply that when one has friends one must not display a constant distrust of them. The alliance was a work of long duration. "Therefore," he concluded, "France's friendship is not impatient; Russia's friendship is a profound and durable sentiment, and care should be taken not to shake its foundations."

RUSSIA ANGERED BY THE SULTAN.

London, Feb. 8.—While public attention is being more or less monopolized by events in China, the situation in the east of Europe is rapidly assuming once more a serious aspect. Prompted, it is believed, by Germany, the sultan is displaying an independence of attitude and boldness of front toward the czar, which cannot fail to bring about war, and that, too, at an early date. The Russian ambassador at Constantinople has been treated with the most striking discourtesies. After presenting his credentials he asked the sultan for a private audience. This, according to the customary usage, should have been granted at once. The sultan, however, kept the ambassador waiting for more than a fortnight before he consented to vouchsafe his request, although he received several other foreign envoys in the meantime.

Not content with this the sultan responded to the demand presented by the ambassador for the removal of the Turkish irregular cavalry from the vicinity of the Russian frontier, in consequence of the frequent acts of brigandage of the undisciplined Bashi-Bazouks on Muscovite territory, by issuing a decree doubling their number along the frontier, and conferring decorations on their chiefs.

Of course the czar has a very serious grievance against the sultan, as over $130,000,000 of the war indemnity of 1877 still remains owing by the sublime porte to Russia, the sultan making no effort whatever to discharge this debt. The czar has now caused his ambassador to Constantinople to make a peremptory demand for the immediate payment of this amount, which is, of couse, out of the question.

That Emperor William is still supporting the sultan is demonstrated by the fact that he declines to indorse Russia's demand for the appointment of Prince George to the governorship of Crete.

The fact that Russia anticipates trouble is shown by the czar's action in restoring to grace Prince Ferdinand, the good-will and friendship of Bulgaria being a matter of importance to Russia in the event of a conflict with Turkey. Bulgaria having a well-equipped army of nearly 200,000 men to place at Russia's disposal. Moreover, the czar has within the last three weeks increased his forces on the frontiers of Germany and Austria by two full army corps, and is again active in Bulgaria.

CHINA IN A HOLE.

Can't Pay Japan and Afraid to Borrow From Either Britain or Russia on the Terms Proposed.

London, Feb. 8.—The Pekin correspondent of the Times says: I have reasons to believe that China will be induced to decline the British proposals in consequence of Russia's opposition, and, similarly, that she will be unable to accept the Russian proposals owing to England's opposition. The country is helpless and unable to pay the big indemnity except by installments, but China nurses the hope that Japan will agree to an extension of time. Meanwhile an imperial decree authorizes an issue of treasury bonds at 5 per cent, to the amount of 100,000,000 taels (about $78,000,000). It appeals to the officials, gentry and merchants to assist the issue in the remote possibility of raising enough to meet the instalment due next May. The method proposed increases the growing distrust in the government. Similar bonds, issued at the time of the war of 1859, were repudiated in 1862. The unsatisfactory and evasive nature of the imperial edict exacted by Germany in condemnation of the Shan Tung murders, affords Germany the desired pretext for remaining in military occupation of considerable territory, including the town of Kiao Chau, beyond the area leased. China still maintains that the murder of the German sailor was justifiable homicide, and due to the sailor's misconduct, but she is powerless to refuse Germany's exactions.

The Queen's Speech

Noteworthy More for Its Omissions Than for Its Statements.

Relief Promised the West Indian Sugar Producers,

And a Local Government Bill for Ireland's Benefit—Brief Reference to Foreign Relations.

London, Feb. 8.—The fourth session of the fourteenth parliament of Queen Victoria, and the twenty-sixth of the United Kingdom, was opened by a commission at 2 o'clock this afternoon with the customary ceremonies. The Queen's speech was as follows:

"My Lords and Gentlemen: My relations with the other powers continue friendly. The negotiations between the Sultan of Turkey and the King of Greece have been brought to a conclusion by the signature of a treaty of peace, under which the territorial relations between the two powers are practically unchanged.

"The question of the autonomous government of the Island of Crete has occupied the attention of the powers. The difficulty of arriving at a unanimous agreement on some points has unduly protracted the deliberations; but I hope these obstacles will before long be surmounted.

"Intelligence, which is apparently trustworthy, was received of the intention of the khalifa to advance against the Egyptian army in the Soudan, and I have therefore given directions that a contingent of British troops should be dispatched to Berber to the assistance of his Highness the Khedive.

"I have concluded a treaty of friendship and commerce with his Majesty the Emperor of Abyssinia.

"The report of the commission I appointed in December, 1896, to inquire into the conditions of certain of my West Indian colonies has conclusively established the existence of severe depression in those colonies, caused by the heavy fall in the price of sugar, which is mainly attributable to the reduction in the cost of production, and the great increase in its extent of recent years. But the fall has been artificially stimulated by the system of bounties to producers and manufacturers of beet root sugar, maintained in many European states. There are signs of growing opinion in these states that this system is injurious to the general interests of their population, and communications are now in progress between my government and the government principally concerned, with a view to a conference on the subject, which I trust may result in the abolition of the bounties.

"In the meantime, measures will be proposed to you for the relief of the immediate necessities of the West Indian colonies, for encouraging other industries, and for assisting those engaged in sugar cultivation to tide over the present crisis.

"On the northwestern border of my Indian Empire an organized outbreak of fanaticism, which spread in the summer along the frontier, induced many of the tribes to break their engagements with my government, to attack the military posts in their vicinity, and even to invade the settled district of my territory. I was compelled to send expeditions against the offending tribes, for the punishment of the outrages and to insure peace in the future. A portion of the Afridi tribes have not yet accepted the terms offered them; but elsewhere the operations have been brought to a very successful close. The courage and endurance exhibited by my troops, British and native, have overcome almost insuperable difficulties in the country in which they were operating; but I have to deplore the loss of many valuable lives, both amongst my own troops and those whose services were voluntarily and loyally placed at my disposal by the native princes of my Indian Empire."

The rest of the speech deals with the recrudescence of the plague, and says: "Although the mortality is less alarming than in 1897, it is still such as to cause anxiety, and no effort will be spared to mitigate it. Her majesty then rejoices at the fact that the famine is ended, except in a small tract of Madras, and says there is reason to anticipate a prosperous year, both for agriculture and commerce, throughout India.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons: The estimates which will be laid before you have been framed with the utmost desire for economy; but, in view of the enormous armaments now maintained by other nations, the duty of providing for the defense of the empire involves an expenditure beyond former precedent."

Dealing with the proposed legislation, the speech from the throne says measures will be introduced for the organization of a system of local government in Ireland, substantially similar to Great Britain's, to secure the increased strength and efficiency of the army among the present conditions of military service, to enable accused people to testify in their own defense, to facilitate the creation of municipalities in London, and to prevent recognized abuses in connection with church patronage.

There are nine other measures of minor importance. The Queen's speech concludes: "I heartily commend your momentous deliberations to the care and guidance of Almighty God."

The speech is rather more remarkable for its omissions than its contents. No settlement has yet been arrived at respecting China which will admit of more than a bare mention. The same applies to the West African difficulty with France and the troublesome Cretan negotiations. The public is anxious to learn more about the Soudan advance, but is not gratified to any extent.

MEMBERS EARLY IN THEIR PLACES.

Previous to the reassembling of Parliament, the usual party of beef-eaters, accompanied by a number of officials and headed by Chief Inspector of Police Horsley, made the customary search for the imitators of Guy Fawkes. They ascertained that the vaults of the House of Parliament did not contain anything inimical to the safety of the members.

The first member to enter the house was Mr. Robert Ascroft, Conservative, M. P. for Oldham, who arrived at 5:30 a.m. The second member was Mr. Thomas Lough, Liberal, member for the west division of Islington, who entered at 6:30 a.m. He was followed by a continuous stream of members of parliament, their early arrival being due to the fact that there was not room enough in the house to afford each a seat, hence the annual scramble for places, which are secured by placing a hat, with a visiting card, upon the chosen spot.

The Irish Parliamentary party met in committee room No. 15. Mr. Timothy H. Healy and his supporters, who abstained from attending the party meetings previous to the last session of parliament were present. Mr. John Dillon was re-elected chairman, and the whips and secretaries were also re-elected.

The Mexican government is negotiating for a refunding of its national gold debt. The debt is about $110,000,000, bears interest of 6 per cent in gold, and falls due on July 1 next.

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