IT WOULD BE UNJUST.

It has been stated that the Dominion government is fully determined to effect the construction of a railway from the eastern side of the Rockies through the Crow's Nest Pass to Kootenay and that at the same time it has decided against aiding the construction of a direct railway between Kootenay and the coast. The foundation for this statement of the government's position has not been given, and in the absence of something authentic in that line we are loth to believe that the statement correct. As far as argument goes, there is only one side of the question whether the government should either construct or extend aid to the construction of the Coast-Kootenay railway. Nobody can advance any effective contention on the negative side. As to the justice of the demand Mr. Grant's letters have summed up the evidence in a most convincing way, and we do not suppose his statement of the case will be seriously disputed. The position thus being that British Columbia is paying an enormously large net tribute to the Dominion coffers, it is easy to see how unjust it would be for the Dominion to furnish direct access to the mining country from the east while refusing to contribute towards furnishing similar access from the western part of the province. The people of the western part would naturally pay the greater proportion of the cost of the eastern road, while denied the right of entering the field. In fact they would be compelled to pay out their good money to furnish competitors with an advantage. The injustice of this proposal need not be pointed out to any person. Those who are to pay the most of the cost should at least be given an equal chance of profiting by the expenditure. Then, as has been repeatedly shown, the resulting development would actually return the money to be spent. Both the province and the Dominion would gain enormously in direct revenue if the districts between the coast and Kootenay were opened up to the miner and the farmer, to say nothing of the indirect gain which the increase of wealth would secure to the whole country.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

If it is true that the emissaries of a section of the Quebec hierarchy misrepresented the school question at Rome and also impugned Mr. Laurier's standing as a Catholic, it is surely within the personal rights of Mr. Laurier and those of his religion in Quebec who support him to have the matter set straight, either by the appointment of a papal delegate or otherwise. But, like a good many others, we cannot subscribe to the idea that such delegate should be sent out for the purpose of settling the school question. That question is one for the people of Canada to settle; they have in fact settled it already and will themselves attend to those who are endeavoring to unsettle it and to divide the country into hostile camps, or racial and religious grounds. The Quebec bishops must be strangely dull-witted men if they cannot appreciate the very evident fact that no set of men can be placed in power at Ottawa who will enforce their view of the question. The Tupper party have already tried it and been beaten, and who is there to succeed where they failed? There is much talk about what will be done at the coming Quebec provincial election, but we fail to see how the predicted Conservative victory there could help the bishops. If the latter do contrive to show that by using clerical influence they can injure the Liberals in the provincial elections, they will do so much the more to help the Liberal cause throughout the Dominion. If the Conservative party were to appear before the people as the champion of clerical influence there would not be two small pieces of it left to cling together. There is not a single element in Dominion politics to which the Quebec bishops' programme can commend itself. A good deal of nonsense has also been talked about the effect of the St. Boniface local election, some people appearing to think that the success of Archbishop Langevin's candidate there indicates the state of feeling among the minority in Manitoba. Those who are inclined to take this view through sheer ignorance of the local conditions should read the following from the Winnipeg Free Press, a paper which certainly cannot be accused of favoring the Greenway government:

"It can hardly be said that the result of the St. Boniface bye-election has occasioned any surprise. The attitude taken by His Grace of St. Boniface and the church authorities there rendered the election of Mr. Lauzon a foregone conclusion. So far as any significance is to be attached to the result, it has been demonstrated that the Archbishop carries a majority of his people with him in the stand he has taken; but the exceedingly strong language used by His Grace from the pulpit the other day, with the object of bringing his flock into line, will be sure to suggest the idea that if left more to their own choice a much larger number might have been found approving Mr. Prendergast, the late member's opinions, that a trial of the school settlement would have been the better course.

"Without casting the least reflection upon the earnestness and sincerity of His Grace and those working with him, and their desire for the welfare of their people, it is difficult to see in what way the stand taken will benefit the Catholic people of this province. As a protest against the nature of the settlement it is of course quite clear and unmistakable; but as a means of securing any reconsideration or modification of it, there does not appear to be any possibility whatever. No political party, Dominion or local, would peril its existence by opening up the matter again. An acceptance of the arrangement, even under protest, would, on the other hand, have afforded Catholics in the meantime educational advantages which their growing children need and which cannot be recovered for them by awaiting the result of a prolonged struggle. If such an acceptance had followed the settlement there is no doubt that the local government would have strained the provisions of the agreement—if they were strained at all—in their favor. Any complaint likely to arise under the operation of the settlement would more probably point to deviations in favor of rather than against Catholics. The result following the New Brunswick arrangement is evidence of that.

"No one who knows the disadvantages Catholics are laboring under in Manitoba can refuse sympathy for them, or rather for the children who are the chief sufferers, even though their action may seem short-sighted and unreasonable from our standpoint. But the only remedy is the arrangement agreed upon between the two governments, which has been pronounced satisfactory even by the majority of their Quebec friends. The Manitoba minister who will address himself by tact and conciliation to overcome the present opposition to it will deserve the name of a statesman."

The wildcat was strangely omitted from the Colonist's inventory of the legislative menagerie.

Crete must remain a part of the Turk's dominions, say the powers, simply because the powers are afraid trouble to themselves would ensue if the Turk's dominions were to be reduced. The Cretans might well question the character of European civilization.

The London correspondent of the Rossland Miner writes: "The sale of the War Eagle to the Gooderhams, of Toronto, is not quite easy to understand if the price is, as stated, $850,000 net. I have seen it stated that this figure does not purchase the entire property, but only a controlling interest, in which case all difficulties disappear, but if, as I gather from the Miner, this sum purchases the entire property, how is it that the deal with the London syndicate fell through? They offered a larger amount in cash than the Gooderhams have given. The prospectus of the Rossland War Eagle Mining Company, of London, was certainly premature, but so many conflicting rumors concerning this mine have been current in the city during the past few months that it cannot be wondered at that many men who are largely interested in Kootenay properties are beginning to get sceptical."

Winnipeg Tribune: Mr. Bertrand had a substantial majority in Ward One, St. Boniface. The Tribune ventures the prediction that in this ward there are fewer illiterates than in any other polling sub-division in the constituency; and, further, that the people are not living in terror of being consigned to everlasting punishment if they exercise their franchise according to the dictates of their conscience.

Although the Ontario legislature has met in session later than that of British Columbia, it has already made more progress with its business. Provincial Treasurer Harcourt made his budget speech a week ago Thursday, and by this time the heaviest item in the session's programme is disposed of. The Manitoba legislature has made similar dispatch of business, and our own wise men are left to set the example for tardiness.

FROZEN AND STARVED.

Two Prospectors Who Suffered Through Their Boat Being Stolen.

Billy Kern has been found. With feet frozen, starved and completely exhausted, he and his partner, Tom Daniels, were picked up on the west side of Slocan lake nearly opposite Silverton last Monday morning by two Englishmen in a canoe, who were bringing down a message for the manager of the Lilly B mine, and brought to this place. Billy Kerr was taken to the Hicks hotel and Dr. J. Gibbs summoned to attend him. His feet were found to be badly frozen and his toes had reached a stage of decomposition, and had to be amputated. Two of them merely hung by the skin and were easily removed with a pair of scissors. He bore up bravely under the operation, considering his weak condition.

Daniels escaped more luckily. He is thin and gaunt, caused from exposure and lack of food, but is able to be around and will soon be as strong as ever.

The story of their trip and suffering is a heartrending one, and indeed it is fortunate that either is now alive to tell the tale.

January 9th, over six weeks ago, Kerr and Daniels, with six days' provisions, started for Six Mile Creek, which empties into Slocan lake nearly opposite Silverton, for the purpose of doing some work on a claim owned by Douglas and Henderson and also to locate another claim which was known to be in that vicinity. They took the steamer Hunter to Silverton and then crossed the lake in a small boat to the mouth of Six Mile creek. Here they left the boat and proceeded up the creek to the Bonanza group, a distance of 12 miles. The claim was located and staked, and in three or four days they returned to the lake with the intention of crossing over and going up to New Denver to record the same, but when they arrived they found their boat had been taken away. Not having any grub with them, they were compelled to return to their cabin again that night. Before the shack was reached Billy was overcome by fatigue and could not travel any further. Daniels buried him in the snow to keep him from freezing and then proceeded to the shack to get some grub and return to his friend.

When he was returning with the grub he met Billy, who had become impatient waiting and started on. By walking and crawling he had succeeded in getting about 200 yards from where he had been left, and it was then his feet were frozen. Daniels carried Billy to the shack and made him as comfortable as circumstances would permit. Here they remained, one in a helpless condition, in those lonely mountains out of civilization and their scanty supply of food nearly exhausted, for nearly four weeks. Sam Goldberg took them in a small supply of grub a few days after they arrived at the camp the first time, but it did not last them very long.

Daniels could not leave Billy on account of his condition, and had to remain with him until he sufficiently recovered to again walk back to the lake. At times Billy would abandon all hope and beg Daniels to kill him and end his misery. Their supply of meat ran out and they had to subsist upon flour alone, and on last Friday, February 12, they had only enough flour to last them another day or two. Billy felt a little stronger, so they decided to start for the lake again, thinking perhaps they could signal the steamer Hunter when she would be passing and be rescued.

The journey was a long and perilous one. Billy would give out and Daniels would have to drag and carry him, and they were nearly two days in making the twelve miles. When the boat passed shots were fired and flags wer waved, but of no avail. Their signals were neither seen nor heard. Monday morning found them still on the shore of the lake, and they had almost given up all hopes of ever seeing civilization or friends again. About noon that day they were found and brought here, as stated before.—Slocan City News.

TO GRETNA GREEN.

The last of the Gretna Green post-boys has met with a sad death at Carlisle. While cleaning the windows of a local bank he lost his balance and fell to the ground, a distance of 35 feet, sustaining fatal injuries. His name was John Howe, 77 years of age, and he was, as far as known, the last survivor of those Gretna Green post-boys of whose adventures in the days of runaway marriages many tales have been told. Howe was in those days "on the strength" of the posting establishment of the Bush Hotel at Carlisle, which was one of the most noted places on the road from the south to the Scottish hymeneal altar at Gretna Green. He was when a lad a contemporary in the Bush stables of Jack Ainslie, one of the most celebrated of the class. Of Jack Ainslie the story is told that upon one occasion he befriended a runaway couple from London, who were disposed to be rather dilatory in their movements. He had driven them towards Gretna; but on arriving at Longtown they stopped short and sent Jack back to Carlisle, saying they were tired, and would have dinner before completing the journey across the border. Jack, who was well experienced in such matters advised them to lose no time, and rather reluctantly returned to the Bush. He had not been home long when he saw the mother of the lady he had left at Longtown drive up to the Bush door, accompanied by a Bow street officer. Jack, who had always a friendly feeling towards fugitive lovers, took in the situation at a glance. While horses were being changed, he quietly took a saddle horse out of the stable and galloped off to Longtown to warn his patrons. They hurried into a chaise, and continued their journey to Gretna Green with all due speed. They had not proceeded far when the sound of the wheels of the carriage of the pursuers was heard. Jack Ainslie, seated on the box, was quite equal to the emergency. He drove his pair of lovers behind a thick hedge, and through that leafy screen they had presently the satisfaction of seeing "mamma" hurry past at full speed in her hopeless pursuit of her runaway daughter. While she was continuing her quest as far as Annan, Jack drove the daughter and her lover quietly to Gretna Green, and had them married by the "blacksmith" of that ilk without further nonsense. The bridegroom was killed at Waterloo next year. Mr. Henry Hall Dixon ("The Druid"), who tells the story, says Jack Ainslie was a civil old fellow, perhaps five feet seven if he was stretched out, and with nice crooked legs. Old John Howe, whose sad end we now record, was just such another man. He remained at the Bush hotel until the posting establishment was closed, and afterwards might be seen driving, postillion fashion, the sheriff's carriages or accepting odd jobs in the "bumping" line. Latterly he has been a cleaner of windows and general utility man at two of the Carlisle banks.

—Two drawings of the Victoria Building Society were held on Saturday evening. The result was as follows: No. 141 A and B, George Powell; No. 141, C. and D, withdrawn; No. 157, A and B, Colin Cameron; No. 157, C and D, John Wilson. The drawing committee were Messrs. W. W. Northcott, Alex. Stewart and J. Taylor.

Matches are being arranged between the Victoria and Vancouver and New Westminster ladies' hockey teams, to take place in Victoria.

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THE MINING LAWS

Hon. Justice Drake Delivers Judgment in Settlement of Two Disputes.

The Application of the Law as to Locating, Staking and Other Points.

At Vancouver the other day Hon. Justice Drake handed down the following judgments:

Pellent and Boyer vs. Almoure and Lawry.—This action was partly heard in April, 1896, and was then adjourned to a day to be fixed to enable further evidence on certain points to be put in on both sides, and neither party has taken advantage of the adjournment, and the case now comes on for judgment, no one appearing for the plaintiffs. Mr. E. P. Davis, Q.C., for the defendants.

This action is brought by the plaintiffs for a declaration that they are owners and entitled to the possession of the Anaconda mineral claim, which was located and recorded on the 26th of April, 1895, and they allege that one T. F. Trask and the defendant Jos. Almoure entered on this claim and on the 17th of September, 1895, recorded a portion of the same land as "The Defender" claim. On the 17th of October, 1895, the defendants gave their usual notice of their intention to apply for a crown grant of the Defender claim and the plaintiffs on the 10th of December filed the usual affidavit advertising the claim. The defendants allege that on the 18th of April, T. F. Trask located and on the 22nd of April recorded the Green Mountain mineral claim, which covers a considerable portion of the same ground as subsequently located and recorded by the Defender claim. It was admitted that the Defender claim was lawfully posted and there is no objection on the ground that the provisions of the act as to locating and recording had not been complied with, if it was open to Trask to make a location on this ground. Lawry is the owner of all Trask and Almoure's rights both in the Green Mountain and Defender claims. The defendants counter-claimed to have the Anaconda location and record declared void. To this the plaintiffs replied that the Defender claim was not lawfully located. A great deal of evidence was directed to the posting of the Green Mountain claim, which has but little bearing on the issue before me, further than to satisfy me that the evidence of Pellent and Boyer respecting the position of that claim was untrustworthy.

In April, 1895, the defendant Trask and one Brown brought an action in the county court of Kootenay in its mining jurisdiction, and by the judgment of that court rendered on the 20th August, 1895, it was adjudged that the Green Mountain Mineral Claim, as against the Anaconda mineral claim, was an invalid and illegal location. That judgment still stands unreversed, and I cannot in this action interfere with it. The only point to be noted is that one Brown appears as a plaintiff with Trask, and I cannot discover that he ever had any interest in the Green Mountain claim, or why he was made a party. The subject matter, moreover, of that judgment was, as far as the dispute in this action relating to the Green Mountain exists, for the same cause of action, and the parties plaintiffs were the predecessors in title to the present defendants. The evidence adduced satisfied me that the Anaconda claim was insufficiently posted, the posts not being legal posts as defined by the Mineral Act Amendment Act, 1894.

But the plaintiffs set up against the Defender claim, which was admittedly insufficiently posted, sec. 2 of chap. 32 of the act of 1892, which enacts that no fre miner shall be entitled to re-locate any mineral claim, or any portion thereof, which he shall have abandoned or forfeited, unless he shall have obtained the written permission of the gold commissioner to make such re-location, and he shall hold no interest in any portion of such mineral claim by location without such permission. It has to be borne in mind that Trask located and recorded the Green Mountain mineral claim on April 1st, 1895, he also located and recorded the Defender claim in September, 1895, and he did not obtain any permission from the gold commissioner for that purpose. It may be contended that Trask does not come under the limitations in this section, as he did not abandon the claim or forfeit it willingly, but he forfeited the claim because he had, in locating the claim, failed to comply with the requirements of the act. I think this section is clearly applicable to Trask, and his location of the Defender claim was never valid.

The result of my judgment, then, is that the plaintiffs are not entitled to the declaration they ask for, as their location of the Anaconda claim was invalid for want of proper legal posts. The defendants are not entitled to have the Green Mountain declared a valid location, as that question was disposed of by judgment of the County Court, neithre can they rely on the Defender record, as they have not produced any license from the gold commissioner authorizing the relocation. The plaintiffs will have to pay the costs of the action and the counter-claim.

(Sgd.) M. W. TYRWHITT DRAKE.

Pellent and Boyer vs. W. E. Harris.—All the parties are free miners. This action is brought by the miners for a declaration that they are entitled to the mineral land embraced within the limits of Anaconda. This claim was taken up on the 26th of April, 1895, and recorded. The defendants on the 1st of June took up and recorded the Jersey mineral claim on and over part of the lands included in the Anaconda, and in consequence of a notice of application for a crown grant published 22nd of Oct. 1895, the plaintiffs adversed the defendants. The defendants contend that the Anaconda was located on land already occupied for mining purposes, and that the notices and the posts were insufficient under the statute.

The evidence called by the plaintiffs was that the No. 1 post of the Jersey, when examined on the 14th of April, 1896, was only three feet three inches high, and the evidence taken in the previous action by the same plaintiffs against Almoure et al., was relied upon to establish the plaintiffs' rights. The plaintiffs raised the further issue that under any circumstances the Jersey stakes were not lawful stakes. I adjourned the action in order to get testimony on this point. I appointed W. Frank O'Reilly to examine those posts and report. His evidence was that the No. 1 post is four feet five inches high, and is squared perfect and did not measure less than four inches on any side; and No. 2 post fulfilled the requirements of the statute. Under these circumstances I find that the Jersey mineral claim was properly staked and located, and, as I have declared in the action of Pellant and Boyer vs. Almoure et al., that the Anaconda was insufficiently staked, I find that, as between the parties to this action, the defendants are entitled to a declaration in their favor, with costs of action.

(Sgd.) M. W. TYRWHITT DRAKE.

PASSED THE HOUSE

International Conference Bill to Promote Bimetallism is Strongly Supported.

There Were Only Three Negative Votes—A Lively Two Hours' Debate.

Washington, March 1.—Despite the seeming divergence of views on the money question, the national monetary convention bill was passed after a lively debate of two hours, by a vote of 279 to 3. It was supported alike by Republicans, gold Democrats and silver Democrats. The silver Democrats and silver Republicans disclaimed any faith in the commission to secure bimetallism, but they expressed themselves as willing to have the test made. Mr. Quigg, (Rep.) of New York, and Mr. Johnson, (Rep.) of Indiana, both made vigorous speeches in opposition. Those who spoke for the bill were C. W. Stone, of Pennsylvania; Grow, of Pennsylvania; Watson, of Ohio; McCreary, of Kentucky; Sparkman, of Florida; Hartman, of Montana; McRae, of Arkansas; Cooper, of Texas; Cox, of Tennessee, and McMillin, of Tennessee.

The bill was also passed to provide for the arbitration of differences between the carriers of inter-state commerce and their employes (known as the Erdman bill); also the senate bill to prevent the importation of impure tea.

One hour's debate on a side was allowed on the monetary conference bill. Mr. Stone took the floor and explained the purpose of the bill, which was to promote and advance the scheme of international bimetallism, the only safe bimetallism and the bimetallism to which the party was pledged. The house amendments were added to give greater efficiency.

Mr. McCreary, who was a member of the last international conference, gave hearty support to the bill. He said he had confidence that the incoming president would discharge the duties imposed upon him by the bill. He favored international bimetallism.

"Did you not say on your return from Brussels," inquired Mr. Cox, "that the difficulty of reaching any international agreement lay with England? What reason have you for believing England will change her position?"

"England," replied Mr. McCreary, "is the greatest creditor nation. She has had the gold standard since 1816, and she will never agree until the countries of continental Europe force her to. But sentiment favorable to bimetallism is growing in England. Nine of the present ministry are members of the Bimetallic League."

Mr. Hartman, of Montana, stated the position of the silver Republicans. They would vote for this bill, he said, but they desired to disavow any belief that any international conference would result in anything tangible, and to register their protest against refusal to adopt independent bimetallism as un-American, humiliating and degrading.

McRae voiced the position of the silver Democrats. They believed silver should be remonetized. If it could be done by international bimetallism, they would not place a stone in its path. If the Republicans tried, and failed, as he believed they would, they would be relegated four years from now to the oblivion which would swallow up the Cleveland administration.

Mr. Quigg took up the cudgel against the bill. The Republicans, he said, had heard Democrats who had voted the "mule ticket" in the last campaign advocate this bill, and those who supported Bryan. The Republicans, who had gone through the campaign denouncing silver as a humbug, were now asked to vote for a bill which recognized it. The battle had been fought and won on the gold standard. If the Republicans who supported this bill had had their way at St. Louis, the platform would have been a straddle.

Mr. Hepburn indignantly refused to allow Mr. Quigg to interpret the platform for him. He resented the idea that the platform irrevocably committed the party to the gold standard. It was to him a distinct pledge to promote by all honorable means an international agreement.

Mr. Johnson followed the lead of Mr. Quigg in a vehement and at times almost sensational speech, which was listened to with close attention, but which received no demonstration either of approval or disapproval. He said bimetallism was a thing of the past. It was impossible. The statutes could no more defy the laws of trade than the laws of God. He said it was as ridiculous to talk of creating value by the agreement of several countries as it was to attempt to create it by the edict of one. He recalled the fact that members said they would support the bill, but they had no faith in it. He, too, had no faith in it. It was a senseless thing. It lacked logic. Why temporize with this question any longer? What would the world think of our weakness and vacillation? If the country believed in a debased currency, Bryan and not McKinley should be inaugurated. He warned the Republicans that they had been defeated in the past because they had yielded something of principle to the demands of inflationists. The acts of 1878 and 1892 were mistakes. He appealed to his side to show their courage by defeating this measure.

Mr. Dingley, the floor leader of the Republicans, and Mr. Grosvenor closed the debate with ringing speeches in favor of the bill. The very appearance of Mr. Dingley on the floor aroused the Republicans to enthusiasm. Both speeches were brief.

AS COSTLY AS GOLD.

Tableware Owned by a Few Multimillionaires.

Dinner may not taste any bet[ter] eaten off Minton ware plates [than] common white delft is used, but [no] doubtless considerable satisfa[ction] owning a set of the former. [The] favorite ware among the very [rich] altogether on account of its [high] cost, although the plates cost [from] over $2,700 each, or just about [as] as dishes of plain gold. These [on] the table have an exquisite pa[nel in] the centre of each. They are [made] by the celebrated Boulinier[s. The] designs are taken from old mi[nia]. The coloring of these little pi[eces is] simply exquisite and every de[tail of] face, hair and costume is wo[rked] with the daintiest of perfectio[n. Each] picture is surrounded by a lace[-pat]tern in raised acid gold. The [backs of] the plates are open work in a [de]sign, decorated with a running [pa]ttern in gold.

Next to these in popularity c[ome the] plates of English crown Derby. [These] are much cheaper, costing only [$25] a dozen, or $136.50 apiece. Nev[ertheless] they are very beautiful. Each [has] a painting for its centre. A la[rge num]ber of them are miniatures pai[nted by] Le Roy. There is no other de[coration] on the plates, but the edges are [bordered] by a filigree of gold. More e[xpensive] than these are the paste-on-pas[te plates] which cost $150 each, or $1,800 [a dozen]. These, too, are real works of art [and] have a cameo decoration of e[xquisite] delicacy.

It is claimed that there is [not a] complete dinner set of delft now [in ex]istence, and that is comparative[ly mod]ern, bearing, as it does, the date [1896]. It was made in England and not [Hol]land. It is very quaint and b[eautiful] and is very valuable. The desig[n pre]sents The Beauties of America, [and] the pictures which appear on the [plates] are the Octagon church, the Ath[enæum,] the statehouse and the hospital [at Bos]ton, the capitol at Washington, [Mount] Vernon, on the Potomac, the I[nstitution for the] deaf and dumb asylum, the c[ity hall in] New York, and the Philadelph[ia Ex]change and library. There are [also a few] many fine collections of plates [in New] York city. W. H. Ranger, th[e land]scape painter, has an old blue an[d white] Dutch plate that is declared by [connois]seurs to be worth $650. He fo[und the] plate among a number of othe[r old] trifles while travelling in Holla[nd and] paid 25 cents for it. It was onl[y after] upon arriving in England, he si[nce sold] to a dealer, that he learned [its true] value. A well-known editor ha[s a pas]sion for this fine china, and ha[s a col]lection he gloats over in secret [like a] miser revels in the gold of his [money] bags.

Mrs. William Astor has an en[tire ser]vice of purest gold, consisting [of 100] pieces. They are unornamented [except] for the coat of arms and initials [that ap]pear on each. Mrs. John Jac[ob Astor] has also a set of gold dishes, [though] not so complete. It is said tha[t the in]jection to gold plates is said t[o be that] are easily scratched with the k[nife and] fork. Such sets are not kept [in stock] by American goldsmiths, and i[t must be] here must be made to order. [In Eng]land they are more readily [obtained.] When questioned on the sub[ject a] representative of one of New Yo[rk firms] said that gold plates w[ould cost] from $225 up. The price would [depend] upon the weight and decorati[on of the] plate of gold the size and thick[ness of] an ordinary dinner plate woul[d cost] much more than the china. If the[y] were elaborately engraved or ch[ased it] would add much to the expense, a[nd it] might even be inlaid with p[recious] stones or enameled. In fact, h[owever,] the dishes of gold that are know[n to be] in use in this city are quite pla[in and] were bought in England.—Chic[ago Lin]ter-Ocean.

AMMONIA IN THE AIR.

Dr. Heber Plank says: "Chemi[stry for] a long time considered it impos[sible to] separate nitrogen from oxygen [where it] exists in the air, and then to [combine it] with hydrogen to form ammo[nia. It was] claimed that our sources of am[monia] must come from the waste and [decom]position of organic matter. M. re[cently,] however, by experiment, ammo[nia has] been produced directly from atm[ospheric] air by means of electricity. This [experiment] seem to prove the fact that ove[r the] of lightning is manufacturing to[ns and] tons of ammonia, and every [clap of] thunder is but recording the sa[me. It] falls to the ground during every [thun]derstorm, each tiny raindrop [being] laden, conveying to the soil its [share] of the good things already prep[ared for] the plants' banqueting table. A[gain it] also explains the reason why ve[getation] is so much more luxuriant after [a shower] and refreshing thunderst[orm than] grass plots and lawns than is p[ossible] by irrigation from hydrants or h[oses.]

England defeated the colonies [at] by football on Saturday by eleve[n goals] to three.

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