Pauncefote's Statement

Discusses the Present Relations Between Great Britain and United States.

Nicaraguan Canal Negotiations Give Promise of Satisfactory Settlement.

London, July 17.—Lord Pauncefote, British ambassador to the United States, made the following statement to-night to a representative of the Associated Press:

"I am having a conference with the Marquis of Lansdowne, not only about the Nicaragua canal, but also with regard to half a dozen treaties pending between Great Britain and the United States. These are chiefly concerned with West India reciprocal arrangements."

When asked if he thought there was any possibility of arriving at an agreement regarding the Nicaraguan canal before congress reconvened, he replied: "Yes, I sincerely hope so. We are now in the middle of negotiations which although they have not yet reached any tangible result, show good promise. Naturally I may not disclose the details, but I may say that, when I return to the United States at the end of October, I hope to take with me a Nicaraguan treaty that will meet the views of both President McKinley and the British cabinet. There is no use wasting time over treaties which the senate is likely to refuse. I really believe the differences of opinion between the two nations are capable of settlement in an agreement fair to both. If I thought anything could be done before October, I would return prior to that date, but I do not believe that anything would be gained."

At this point Lord Pauncefote paid a warm tribute to the Americans: "They are the most genial people on the face of the earth. At the first grip of the hand, they take you to their hearts. So long as you do not assume superiority they treat you as one of their own, and no one could say more than this."

Reverting to the report that a majority of the United States senate favored a neutral canal, Lord Pauncefote said: "It would be good news if true. I happen to know that Mr. Hay consulted the senate, both the section supposed to support him, and the section credited with other moves. You may be sure that whatever is agreed upon between the two governments will meet with the approval of the senate."

He expressed deep sympathy with Mr. Hay in the loss of his son.

When asked if the joint commission is likely to sit again in Washington, he replied: "Yes I think that it will, although this will not occur until after my return. The joint commission has threshed out many points of difference between Canada and the United States, in spite of the ability to agree as to the Alaska boundary. I see that the Boston Chamber of Commerce has petitioned for reciprocity with Canada. This I regard as a most hopeful sign. It will be one of my aims when I return to the United States to foster this desire for a closer commercial relationship between the Dominion and the United States. In spite of the trade difficulties of both Canada and Newfoundland in dealing with the United States, I by no means despair of effecting some sort of reciprocity scheme which, when the Nicaragua matter has been justly settled and the West Indian treaties have been arranged, will bring Great Britain and the United States even to a better basis of common understanding than exists to-day."

GET LITTLE SYMPATHY.

French Foreign Office Treated the Olzewskys Well.

Paris, July 17.—The firing of a pistol shot at M. Baudin, minister of public works, while he was driving to a cabinet meeting yesterday, by Madame Olzewsky, has proved a "One day sensation."

Explanations made to-day at the foreign office tend to diminish the sympathy for Madame Olzewsky and her husband, who say the act was committed in order to draw public attention to their poverty and misery. It appears the Olzewsky exaggerate the injury to their means of livelihood resulting from arrest of Mr. Olzewsky in Italy, charged with being a spy, and for which Italy refused compensation on the ground that arrest took place under normal conditions. The foreign office treated M. Olzewsky well, giving him a position worth 5,000 francs a year. Instead of attending to his work himself, M. Olzewsky farmed it out to others, and thus reduced his income from it to 1,800 francs.

OBITUARY.

Gibraltar, July 18—Horatio J. Sprague, United States consul at Gibraltar, and the oldest consul in the American service, died here to-day.

London, July 18.—Geo. Herrick, formerly of New York, one of the oldest members of the American colony, was found dead in bed this morning. He had lived here for twenty years.

AFTER COLLERIES.

Russians Are Trying to Purchase the Kai Ping Mines.

London, July 18.—A dispatch to the Globe from Shanghai, dated July 17th, says the Russians, through the Belgians, are endeavoring to buy the Kai Ping collieries in Northern Chili province, the strategic value of which is incalculable. The Kai Ping collieries are now largely supplying the navies of the powers in the Far East with coal.

COUNT TOLSTOI IMPROVING.

St. Petersburg, July 18.—Count Leo Tolstoi, who has lately been suffering from a severe attack of fever, rallied yesterday and was much better.

RUBY LIPS and a clear complexion, the pride of woman. Have you lost these charms through torpid liver, constipation, biliousness, or nervousness? Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills will restore them to you—40 little "Rubies" in a vial, 10 cents. Act like a charm. Never gripe. Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.—29.

Fire in the Basement

Lively Time at Westside, on Government and Fort Streets, This Morning.

Brigade Had to Fight Through Smoke Before Success Crowned Their Efforts.

The fire department had a big job on hand this morning. They were confronted with one of the most difficult situations known to the fire-fiend, and their success is an excellent commentary on their indefatigable industry and almost superhuman efforts.

The alarm was rung in from box 23, corner of Government and Fort streets, being preceded by a telephone message. The department made good time to the scene, the apparatus consisting of the engine, chemical, hose wagon, from the central headquarters, and the hose wagon from the James Bay hall.

There was no difficulty in ascertaining where the fire was when the brigade arrived, for volumes of smoke were escaping from the ventilators of the basement on the Fort street side of the Westside. The more difficult matter would have been to locate the exact spot of the fire, and had the chief not been thoroughly acquainted with the basement of this structure, he would have had a rare battle for mastery. As it was the men had their work cut out for them.

Two lines of hose were laid; one from the hydrant on the corner of Fort and Government streets, and the other from the corner of Langley and Fort. The pressure was splendid, and gradually the flames were confined to one particular spot in the centre of the basement.

The material on fire consisted of old rubbish, which made an exceptionally dense smoke. This continued to pour out of the ventilators and entrance, almost smothering the firemen who were inside with the hose.

The basement of this building is divided into a number of compartments. Of these there is one adjacent to Fort street, in which there was a large quantity of goods. This was separated from the main room by a brick and stone wall. Access to either room was gained through a small hall leading from the Fort street entrance, down which the draught forced the smoke in great volume. Fortunately the fire broke out in the main room, or a large quantity of stock would have been destroyed. As it is the smoke escaping through the floor to the store above caused a great deal of damage.

It was not a spectacular fire. Spectators could not see any flames, which robbed the conflagration of all its excitement, but it was one of those insidious, concealed blazes from which the greatest danger is to be feared. After an hour and a half's persistent fighting and the saturation of the main room with water, the fire was extinguished. It had been confined to the basement throughout, a very fortunate fact, or the brigade would have had a much greater task before them.

A large crowd congregated and persisted in encroaching on the sidewalk in the vicinity of the ventilators, which hampered the men considerably. It will be some time before the extent of the damage is accurately gauged. Some of the directors place it between $25,000 and $30,000. This appears a very large figure, but it should be remembered that the smoke from below caused the greater portion of the damage in the store. According to the management there is very little of the stock which has not been more or less damaged. The insurance totals about $50,000, divided among a large number of companies.

A meeting of the directors and board of fire underwriters was held this morning. The companies will enlist the services of Mr. Holman, the adjustor, who is on the Sound, and if a satisfactory settlement cannot be made through this agency an appraiser will be called in.

Two men were detailed by the chief to watch the place throughout the day to guard against a recurrence of the fire.

The cause has not been definitely ascertained. It broke out after the store was opened, but it probably had been smouldering for quite a while. A gas jet is usually lighted in the basement to afford light for those whose work takes them there, and the origin of the fire might be traced to this. The store is closed to-day and the employees have a holiday in consequence.

The firemen were a sorry looking lot when they returned to the headquarters this morning after the fire. Wet, tired and undeniably dirty, they had every appearance of men who had gone through a hard struggle. Some of them went to the fire in clothes more adapted to recreation than fire fighting, and when they returned the transformation was remarkable. This is an indisputable argument in favor of providing the men with oil coats of some sort. Only a few have them, and it is a hardship to expect them to undergo all sorts of exertion in their own gear. Had the members of the city council undertaken to enter that basement this morning during the time the smoke was so dense that it was impossible to see more than a foot, they would realize that a straw hat and other equally inappropriate apparel would be out of place there.

This is the first large blaze requiring the services of the department since the new chief took hold, and the brigade acquitted itself most creditably. He had plenty of reserve equipment at his command and did not even bring into requisition the engine, as the water pressure was entirely adequate without it.

The police force were well represented this morning, and a couple of constables, like grim sentinels, stood at the entrance of the building and permitted none but employees, firemen and the ubiquitous scribes to enter.

This very corner has been the scene of a couple of disastrous fires. One occurred many years ago, when Mr. King's bazaar was conducted there, and another later in Hastie & Erskine's establishment.

Personal.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

A large number of Hawaiian school teachers arrived on the Sound a few days ago on their vacation trip. Some of them remained in Seattle, while a few are spending some days in this city. There are in the Islands at present 300 teachers in the government schools. Besides there are fully 100 more in the select or white schools. Speaking of the school system in the Islands, Prof. J. N. Bell, of North Kohala, in an interview with a representative of the Seattle P.-I., said: "There are two classes of schools in the Islands. First, there are the government schools, which are for the natives, Portuguese, Japs and Chinese. Then there are the select schools, some of which are supported by the government and some of which are private. These latter are for the exclusive use of white children. There are now all the schools necessary in the Islands for the education of all the children, and you would be surprised to see the progress which is being made."

* * *

Messrs. H. H. Swaney, Price and Wornock, all of whom are conected with the Pittsburg Iron syndicate which has purchased numerous properties on Vancouver Island and elsewhere, arrived in the city yesterday. Mr. Wornock has just returned from the Coast, where he has been in connection with the Copper Island and Sereta properties. They state that the company intends to extensively develop its holdings, providing the quality of the ore found warrants the expense. A large amount of money has already been expended in preliminary work. Mr. Swaney has gone to Sooke to look over the work being carried on there.

* * *

J. Davidson and wife, formerly of this city, but now of Sacramento, Cal., after an absence of seven or eight years, returned to Victoria the other day for the purpose of spending the summer vacation and incidentally renewing acquaintance with many friends in this city. They are guests at the Dominion hotel.

* * *

John W. Coburn, of the E. & N. railway, has retprned from spending his holidays in Atlantic City and the Pan-American exhibition. He says the general concensus of opinion down there is that the exhibition will be a financial failure.

* * *

L. McKissick, assistant superintendent of the Western division of the Western Union Telegraph Company, was in the city yesterday. He made his regular semi-annual inspection of the local office, and left last evening for Port Townsend.

* * *

Clarence I. King, a well known mining man, left for Alberni the other day for the purpose of looking at the property purchased by H. H. Hunter, of San Francisco, and also to inspect the mining operations at that place generally.

* * *

R. Roedtger, manager of the Dawson News, is in the city. He is staying at the Vernon.

W. McNell, secretary to Hon. W. C. Wells, went to Seattle yesterday on business.

A. W. Corker, of Alert Bay, is at the Dominion hotel.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

J. L. Steele, a lumberman of Valdes, who, prior to settling in that town, spent several years as a miner in the Copper River and Chestochena districts, where he has extensive holdings, is down from the North. Mr. Steele made a trip to the interior over the Valdes glacier. He says when the steamer arrived in the bay on which the town is situated the water was found frozen four miles from the shore, and they went to land on sleds. They found quite a number of men going over the glacier to the diggings, and Steele set out by the same route for the Chestochena. His travelling equipment consisted of a couple of sleds drawn by two dogs. The journey up the glacier, he says, would be hard to describe. It reaches an altitude of more than 4,900 feet in nineteen miles. Where with two dogs on the river he was able to carry 1,250 pounds on the sled, here he had difficulty in taking 100 up the steep slope of ice between the mountain divides. Once the summit was reached this was changed, however, and the trip down to Latena lake was pleasant. On the return trip from the interior, Steele came near losing his life on the Valdes glacier, over which he passed on snow shoes. The last day he was without provisions, with still a long distance between himself and the outposts of civilization. He became exhausted with the cold and his tolls and sank to sleep on the glacier surrounded by his faithful dogs. When he woke he was stiff and cramped with the cold, but pushed on as rapidly as possible for Valdes, reaching it more dead than alive.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

M. K. Rogers, wife and two sons are in the city, guests at the Victoria hotel. Mr. Rogers is interested in mining in the North, and will leave, accompanied by his wife and family, for the Skeena river, where he has some properties. Late reports from his mine on the Skeena are very favorable. Twelve men are at work, and the ore is showing up well.

RICHEST NATION ON EARTH.

The Distinction Enjoyed by the Australian Commonwealth.

Despite her innumerable trusts and combines, the United States is not the richest nation in the world; neither is Great Britain.

The greatest average individual wealth is found in the Australian Commonwealth. Australia is a continental island, abundantly rich in land suitable for settlement and industry.

Moreover, its natural prosperity is dependent upon no single product, but embraces pastoral, agricultural, and mining industries in almost equal degree, and to these are rapidly being added manufacture.

Here are some figures worth bearing in mind. Last year the total value of the products of the Colonies forming the Australian Commonwealth amounted to fully £110,000,000, to which total pastoral industries contributed £30,000,000, agriculture £28,000,000, mineral products £20,000,000 (at least), and manufacturing and other industries the remaining £32,000,000.

The wool alone from the 120,000,000 sheep raised in 1900 was worth £20,000,000.

As for the mineral resources of Australia, they cannot even be guessed at.

During the last eight-and-forty years the country has produced gold to the value of £360,000,000, and during the last twenty silver to the value of £30,000,000.

Again, diamonds are to be found in one district and rubies in another, while there is at least one emerald mine in New South Wales, and opals equal to any in the world are found in Queensland.

Finally, the pearl fisheries of the northwestern coast produce a considerable portion of the most valuable pearls of commerce.

Thus, Australia, after having been in the hands of the white man for a hundred years or so, occupies the most enviable position of nations.—London Express.

Victoria's Fall Fair

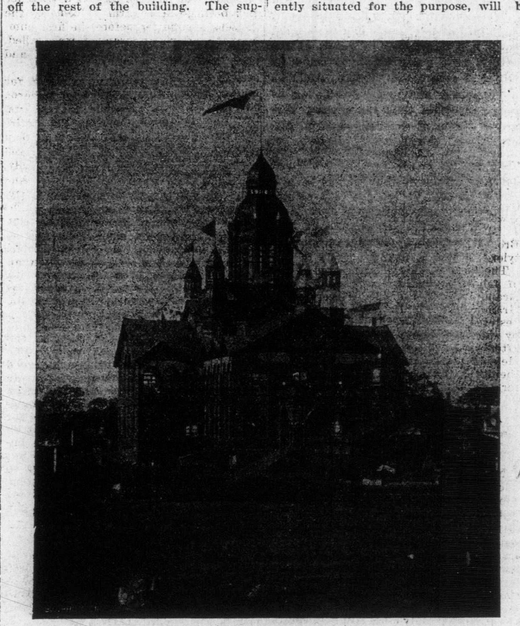
Preparation for the Forthcoming Exhibition Already Being Made at Grounds.

Buildings to Be Altered and Additional Accommodation for Stock Provided.

This morning representatives from the city council and from the Agricultural Association visited the exhibition grounds and made a thorough inspection of the various buildings.

Mayor Hayward, Aldermen Kinsman, Erydon, Cooley and Engineer Topp represented the city, while Secretary Boggs and Messrs. Morley, Goodacre and others appeared to set forth the claims of the Agricultural Society.

At the grounds W. W. Northcott is now in charge of a party of workmen who are putting in the supports in the centre of the building with a view to taking the weight of the central dome off the rest of the building. The supports will run from sold foundations underneath the building, and will act as a splendid support to it.



THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.

The building and grounds were inspected by the party, and an estimate of the cost of the work required to be done was made. The amount of work required to be done was found to be such as to require it being pushed vigorously forward. This will be done under the superintendence of W. W. Northcott. It is estimated that to put the building in first-class condition, including the painting of it, will require about $2,500. The repairs required on the grounds and the additions for the accommodation of stock will necessitate the expenditure of another $1,600.

When the plans are all carried out the provisions for conducting a first class exhibition will be complete. Accommodation is being provided for the largest exhibition ever held in the city, and, according to the present indications, this will all be taxed to its utmost.

The main building, which, when painted, will present a very imposing appearance, is being thoroughly overhauled. The foundation has been thoroughly inspected and has been found to be in first class condition. The inside will be embellished and all necessary repairs put upon it.

In the rear of it the second building stands, which will be utilized for dairy exhibits and perhaps as flower room. Alongside is the open pavilion, to be used for agricultural machinery.

The stock sheds, placed around the confines of the grounds, are to be all repaired and additional accommodation provided. Two hundred feet more of sheep pens are to be added, while all the sheds on the south side will be floored. In front of all the stables and pens a sidewalk will be laid for the comfort of visitors. The horse stalls are to be overhauled and latches put on all the doors. There are sixty horse stalls on the grounds, which may have to be increased in number. All the stables, including the poultry house, will be given a coat of whitewash inside.

Other temporary buildings are contemplated to provide additional accommodation for the stock which may be entered for show purposes.

Near the entrance to the grounds an office is to be erected which will serve as headquarters for the secretary and his assistants during the progress of the show.

Fowker Park, which is very conveniently situated for the purpose, will be utilized by the board of management also. The horse stalls on this property will be fitted up and negotiations are now being entered into for the placing of the track in good condition for racing purposes. A new grand stand will be put in position to take the place of the old one, which has become delapidated. The course is an ideal one, the progress of the rases being easily watched from the grand stand. While so conveniently situated to the exhibition grounds, the race course is separated from the former so that all inconvenience and danger from this source is completely done away with.

From present indications the attractions for the fair are to be many and varied, and the board of management are devoting their energies towards providing accommodation for all classes of exhibits which are promised. They fully expect the forthcoming exhibition will eclipse anything yet held in the province of British Columbia.

LIFE IN TURKEY.

Rev. Mr. Martin Says That Turkish Government Is the Worst on Earth.

"The Turkish government is beyond question the worst on the face of the earth," said Rev. Mr. Martin in the course of the discourse in Erskine Presbyterian church, Montreal, recently. "The government of China is bad enough," he continued, "but it is not so bad as that of the Turkish Empire."

Rev. Mr. Martin has recently returned from a stay of several years in the Ottoman Empire.

The preacher told of the great drawbacks the people there labor under, more particularly in the way of oppressive taxation. Everything that would tend to uplift the people is looked upon with suspicion. He knew a German very well who undertook to introduce new farming methods in the land of the Sultan, but met with a very cool reception, resulting ultimately in his complete ruin financially.

The country had great natural resources but their development is not evidently courted by the government. There is plenty of fine farming land but the methods of cultivating the soil are as ancient as Abraham and Isaac. The German gentleman in question bought some farming land and stocked it with good stock and modern implements and constructed suitable buildings. One day before he had been running things long the whole place was seized by the government and no explanation was offered for the outrage. It was only a time afterwards that he was able to obtain through the German ambassador some idea as to why such an outrage had been committed.

The government officials reluctantly explained that the farm buildings being near the coast might be used for fortifications, and so little did they know about the farming implements that they suggested they might be some kind of fighting machines for aught they knew. The end of the matter was that the farmer returned to Germany broken in spirit and finances.

Mr. Martin stated that very little was known about the Turkish Empire through newspapers or magazine articles because the government does everything to discourage effort in that line. Missionaries dare not tell the truth if they wish to return to that country, because of the fear of being expelled, which would be the result if it came to the notice of the Sultan's officials that a person had spoken or criticized the country and its methods.

The missionary gave some interesting details of the missionaries in that field and of the difficulties of contending with the faith of Islam. The people who profess Mohammedanism are intensely religious and adhere tenaciously to the rules of the faith, more particularly the five times of prayer. Their religious life, however, is devoid of morality. Many people told him that the practice of Christian morality would be much too difficult for them to attain to. The Armenians among whom he has been working are nominally Christians, but their lives are greatly influenced by the surrounding peoples, many of whom continue to secretly practice heathen rites while outwardly they are followers of Islam out of fear for the government.

Since the Armenian massacres the people of Great Britain had aided greatly in money the work, but since the out break of the South African war their generosity has been diverted to other channels, and in consequence the missions in Turkey were in need of funds.

Some days ago a mine was discovered in the park of Yildiz, Constantinople, where a ditch had been dug in the palace grounds, and in this ditch a sardine box placed. The incident was at once reported to the Sultan, who rewarded the discoverer of the sardine box with a douceur of £500. It is perhaps useless to add that the discoverer and the originator of this daring contrivance was one and the same individual.

Ever since the Middle Ages, the ermine has been the fur royal, and it is still used in the trimming of the state garments of kings and queens, but it long ago fell into disfavor with women of fashion. White ermine skins became so cheap that the Canadian, Siberian and Chinese hunters no longer sent them to market.

In England the ratio of insanity among the population outside prisons is 8 per 10,000. The ratio in local prisons is 22.6 per 10,000.

New Dredge To Work Here

Dominion Government Grant Its Use to Fill James Bay Flats.

Saving of $36,000 Effected for the City by Mr. Tarte's Action.

Some time ago Senator Templeman took up the question of the dredging of the harbor and the declamation of the James Bay mud flats with the department of public works at Ottawa with a view to securing the use of the new Dominion government dredge, now being constructed at New Westminster, for that purpose.

The following letter received last night is the outcome of the correspondence which has passed between Hon. J. Israel Tarte and Senator Templeman on the subject:

Ottawa, July 11.

Hon. Senator Templeman, Victoria, B. C.:

My Dear Senator:—Your letter of June 20th, re dredging the mud from Victoria harbor and placing it on tidal flats, has come to hand.

After consultation with my officers, and especially with Mr. Roy, I have come to the conclusion that I could give you the use of the dredge for three months. If our expectations are realized, she will do more work in those three months than the Mudlark could do in two years.

Hoping that my decision will be satisfactory to you and to the people of Victoria, I beg to remain, yours truly,

J. ISRAEL TARTE.

The immense saving which will be effected to this city by this arrangement will be evident when the computation of City Engineer C. H. Topp is taken into consideration. Mr. Topp estimates that it will require 200,000 square yards of earth to fill the flats. A proposition was received from the Seattle dredging firm which submitted estimates on the contract to handle the earth for 18 cents a square yard. On this basis the transfer of the mud on the flats will amount to $36,000.

The decision of the minister of public works has been communicated to the mayor, and naturally is most gratifying to him and to the members of the council, as it will be to citizens generally.

The dredge is to be completed in August, when Mr. Roy will come to inspect and take it over. As soon thereafter, as some necessary work is completed on the Fraser, it will be available for service here.

TRAINING YOUNG BIRDS.

How the Old Birds Instruct Their Offspring.

All who have watched birds carefully have seen them teach the young to find food, to bathe, to follow, to sing, to fear danger and other things. Birds brought up from the nest by people never learn some of these lessons. For example, birds so reared are not afraid of the human race. I could give many authenticated instances of this. Then they do not know their native tongue or understand the calls of their own mother, and do not sing their father's song. A chewink or towhee bunting reared in a house sang the song of an ortolan confined in the next cage and refused to learn the song of his family when placed next a singing chewink. A captive young robin learned the song of a mocking bird and a young bluejay did the same.

Not only has the fact of the training of the young been brought to light, but it has been proved that birds are creatures of habits and live regular lives. In Alaska last summer, on the Harriman expedition, Dr. Fisher was interested to observe that although the sun did not set till 11 o'clock at night, the birds paid no attention to the vagaries of that luminary, but went to bed according to custom at 8 o'clock, in broad daylight, of course. If they were disturbed in their slumbers, they appeared half awake and bewildered, as they do in the dark.

One may sometimes see a case of discipline, like a droll one seen among the domestic inmates of a yard in Michigan last summer. With the regular poultry was placed a small party of ducks and a little pond for their use. The head of this family was a personage of dignity, who loved quiet, and the usual emotional announcement of a fresh egg was exceedingly offensive to his sensitive ear. When an indiscreet hen became too gushing he flew at her, caught her by the neck, dragged her—protesting at the top of her lungs—into the pond and ducked her well.

One of the delights of late June is to make the acquaintance of nestlings at home, when the mother is absent, speaking to them quietly, moving slowly and if touching them at all only with the gentlest touch of a finger. The young usually show no fear, and will often answer one's quiet talk. I have held conversation in this way with humming birds in the nest, stroking them with my finger, and have talked with, or to, clear-eyed mourning dove babies, fluffy little bluejays and others. Soon after they leave the nest they are taught not to permit such familiarities.

It is most interesting to see the processes of training that are obvious to us, such as to fly compactly in a flock. The wing exercises, for example, of sandpipers, who fly as one bird, as dwellers on the seashore know, showing one moment all silvery beasts flashing in the sun, and the next instant gray backs that blend with the ocean color and make them almost invisible. This wing practice may be seen over the solitary marshes or low lands of which they are fond, and one realizes that perfection of flight is a matter of much practice, and not instinct. Strange stories are told of young trained by birds of another species to adopt the habits of the foster mother, as a bird of vegetarian proclivities reared by a captive bird of prey being taught to eat meat, sorely against his inclination and against all the traditions of his race. —Chicago Tribune.

AUSTRALIAN LIGHTHOUSES.

Remarkable Powers of the New Macquarie Light.

Although the greater portion of the Australian coast is remarkably free from dangers to navigation, lighthouses have been erected at every available point; hence the comparatively limited number of shipping disasters other than those occasioned by stormy weather. The whole of the New South Wales coast is efficiently lighted, and when the service passes into the hands of the Federal government further improvements will be effected. Some of the lights are visible at a distance of twelve miles. The most important of the New South Wales lighthouses is the Macquarie, at the entrance to Port Jackson (Sydney), and which ranks as one of the largest and finest in the world. It is also the grandest example of electric lighting of which the southern hemisphere can boast. The structure was commenced on March 1st, 1880, and the light in connection with it brought into operation June 1st, 1883. The old lighthouse, which the new one has replaced, was built in 1816, and was the first structure of the kind in Australia.

It is equally interesting, and also illustrative of the enterprise of the state, that the electric light was the first used for lighthouse purposes. The light is of the first order, sixteen-sided, dioptric, holophotal revolving white light of the system of Fresnell, showing a flash of eight seconds in every minute, and having a range of twenty-five miles seaward. It is, however, discernible for a considerably greater distance, owing to the luminosity produced in the atmosphere by the electric beam before the direct rays become visible. It was constructed by Chance Brothers & Co., of Birmingham, England, under the supervision of Mr. James N. Douglas, engineer to the Trinity Board, London.

From that gentleman's report of his final inspection of the apparatus, together with a descriptive account by Dr. Hopkinson, one of the partners of the above firm, the following extracts are taken: After explaining that the work had been much prolonged beyond the intended date, owing to unavoidable difficulties and delays which had occurred in the casting of the various parts of the novel and special optical apparatus, Mr. Douglas goes on to state that "the whole work has been completed, both as regards material and workmanship, perfectly. . . . I can confidently state that the Macquarie light is at the present moment the most efficient in the world." Also, that he had "invented an improvement in oil and gas burners, by which a greater condensation of the focal light is effected than hitherto," which he had "placed at the disposal of Messrs. Chance Brothers for the Macquarie light, free of royalty, and consequently the gas and oil burners for use during clear weather have, with flames of 1½ inch diameter, an intensity of about 200 candles with the same diameter, as with the old type of burner originally intended. When these flames are at the focus, there is a consumption with the sixteen-candle gas of about forty cubic feet per hour, and with good paraffine of about one pint per hour, and I estimate the mean intensity of the flashes from the apparatus at about 40,000 candles, or about five times the intensity of the flashes of the existing Macquarie light. With full power of the electric light at the focus, the mean intensity of the flashes in the direction of the sea horizon is not less than 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 candles.

"By a simple arrangement the charge from gaslight to electric light at the focus, or the reverse, can be effected in ten seconds, and the flames of the oil lamp can be substituted for the gas or electric light in nearly the same space of time." The Macquarie lighthouse is intended only to illumine half the horizon; it is therefore possible to make use of the landward rays by means of a dioptric mirror. This was probably the first instance of the use of a dioptric mirror for an electric light. Special adjustment was needed to attain the result in a satisfactory manner. The whole apparatus is carried on a round pedestal, which offers the great advantage of enabling the keeper to enter without interfering with the rotation of the apparatus. Arrangements are made to burn either gas or paraffine oil, or to exhibit the electric light at full power or half power. When the electric light is in use there is always a second lamp in readiness for action. The practical result of the lighthouse has been to make the entrance to Sydney harbor perfectly safe, except during the most violent weather.—Coast Seamen's Journal.

THE EARTH STAR.

Earth stars are members of the plant kingdom and are closely related to the puff-balls with which all country boys and girls and all frequenters of the woods are familiar; they ripen their spores or puff-ball seed in round, brown balls as the puff-balls do, but are unique in their wonderful manner of scattering their spores. For this purpose the plant develops a tough outer coat to the ball, which on a damp day, when the spores are ripe, swells up, splits and rolls back from the summit to the base to form a star about the ball. The round ball at the centre of the star then opens at its summit and waits quietly for fair weather favorable for travelling. The first day after these preparations the earth star breaks its connections with the part of the plant which is in the ground, and which up to this time has fed and nourished it and held it firmly in the ground, curls up the rays of the star over the puff-ball, and lets the wind roll it over the fields and wherever it will, while it puffs out the spores and scatters them far and wide. Some observers have stated that when the dews of the evening fall the plant unrolls the star-points, until they again lie flat on the ground, and firmly anchor the ball where it may rest until another fair day comes round in which, in company with the wind, it may resume its travels. The earth stars are not common, but still one on the alert may expect to be well rewarded if he takes one home to watch the rays of the star curl and uncurl when subjected alternately to dry and moist air.—St. Nicholas.

Wragson Tatters—Dat's a funny sign yer got up dere, boss.

Mr. Housekeep—What? "Look out for the dog?"

Wragson Tatters—Yes. Dat dog's big enough an' ugly enough ter look out fur hisself.

Short of Provisions

Nome Bound Travellers Lived for a Time on One Meal a Day.

The Steamer Portland Ploughed Through Ice Floes on Way to St. Michaels.

Seattle, July 18.—The steamship Portland arrived in port early to-day bringing news of awful ice fields and a great congestion of people at St. Michael, which was relieved by her arrival at the mouth of the Yukon, followed by other craft.

The Portland took two weeks to reach St. Michael from Nome. She ploughed through vast ice floes and on June 24th was within eight miles of St. Michael, only to put to sea again. The report from St. Michael was to the effect that 1,500 Yukon men and women had laid at that port for three weeks waiting for the first steamer. So scarce did provisions become that they were living for a time on one meal a day.

There is a great rush down the Yukon from as far up as Dawson for Nome. A big ferry business will be done during the summer between these ports. The Portland took 400 passengers from St. Michael to Nome.

The river steamer City of Paris was carried out from the mouth of the Yukon by the ice floe and was lost for a time in Behring Sea. The steamships Portland and Dora went out after her but she finally managed to put back under her own steam, making port on June 28th.

AN INDIAN REPUBLIC.

In the Woman's Home Companion Mr. Landon Knight gives the following interesting account of a unique republic in North Carolina:

"Every one, of course, knows of the little republics of Europe, but very few realize that in the United States there is a country that is larger, wealthier and more populous than San Marino, Gaust and Monico combined. Those dominions are not, nor indeed is the United States, more thoroughly republican than is this little country nestling among the mountains of western North Carolina.

"There are legends and traditions which may indicate that ages beyond the ken of the historian's vision, and when the ancestors of the princes and potentates of the world of to-day were dwelling in caves like wild beasts and were subsisting on shell fish and acorns, these people were the lords of an ancient civilization. But however that may be, it is certain that these people—the Cherokee Indians—were, when first discovered by the white man, the most civilized of any of the aborigines on the North American continent, with the exception of the Aztecs and Toltecs of Mexico. Oglethorpe and his colonists found them inhabiting a magnificently beautiful and fertile section of the country embracing what is now northern Georgia, southern Tennessee and western North Carolina. They received him as a brother, and bade him takes as much of their lands as he and his people might need. Writing of them to Wesley, he said, 'It is strange how used they are in the ways of kindness and civility; but most do I marvel at their government, which of a truth is not unlike our own in some particulars.' With truth he might have gone further and said that in many things there were points of superiority in their favor over the British government of that day. For with them the idea of a kingship and a nobility with their attendant privileges had never found a lodgment, but their theory of government was democratic, differing only in form from other democracies, and in fact relying for itse strength and stability upon the consent of the governed."

FRENCH GIRLS' EDUCATION.

The children of the lower classes in the country, as well as in town, all go to public schools. Little girls of the better class have an English or German nursemaid or a resident governess. When they are sent to a boarding school they go to some convent, but in Paris courses which leave the young girl most of the time at home are preferred. The courses are weekly, semi-weekly or even daily classes. The government schools have hitherto been attended mostly by the free-thinking element. Private schools are fast being transformed into day schools. Then there are private teachers for those arts called "accomplishments," which occupy a prominent place.—Th. Bentzon (Madame Blanc), in the Ladies' Home Journal.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA

Postpones Her Journey to London on Account of Extreme Heat.

London, July 17.—Queen Alexandra will arrive in London at 9 o'clock tonight. She intended to come yesterday afternoon, but the journey was postponed on account of extreme heat.

BIRTHS.

M'ARTHUR—At Kamloops, on July 11th, Mrs. A. S. McArthur, of a daughter.

FLECK—At Nelson, on July 10th, the wife of Alvin Fleck, Hoover street, of a son.

MARRIED.

CUMMINS—BURRELL—At Trout Lake City, B. C., on July 7th, by Rev. S. J. Green, A. C. Cummins, of Ferguson, B. C., and Berthia Jane Burrell, of Trout Lake City.

MATTHEWS-WILLIAMS—At Rossland, on July 8th, by Rev. A. M. Sanford, B. A., John A. Matthews and Winifred Gill Williams.

PICKARD-HARRISON—At Vernon, on July 10th, by Rev. J. P. Westman, T. D. Pickard, of Fairview, B. C., and Miss Mary L. Harrison, of Sackville, N. B.

GRANT-BUTLER—At Nanaimo, on July 17th, by Rev. David Dunlop, Thomas Grant and Miss Mary Butler.

DIED.

GOSSE—At St. Joseph's hospital, on the 16th instant, Deriah, the beloved wife of Capt. Josiah F. Gosse, a native of Newfoundland, aged 41 years.