

THE SAMOAN CHIEF JUSTICE

Describes the Kingship Election Difficulties.

GERMAN CONSUL'S COURSE

Led to the Outbreak of the Natives of the Island.

GERMANS LED THE REBEL FORCES.

The Farce Cannot be Carried on Much Longer - Annexation to Britain Would Suit the Natives, and U. S. Interests May Also Favor the Justice Chambers' View.

New York despatch: Dr. Porter E. Chambers, of this city, has received a letter from his brother, Wm. L. Chambers, Chief Justice of Samoa under the Berlin treaty, dated Apia, Jan. 23rd. Justice Chambers speaks of the trial of the contest for the kingship between the two rival factions, and says: After eleven days of patient investigation, two sessions each day, a hard study of Samoan genealogies, customs, titles and practices every night, I came to the conclusion from a legal and conscientious point of view, besides upon the treaty and the laws and customs of Samoa not in conflict therewith, that Teue, the son of the late Malietoa, and who by the people had been endowed with the name Malietoa, was the duly elected King.

The natives, during the delivery of my decision, exercised a discretion which was the better part of valor. Things were exceedingly quiet and respectful on the surface, and the crowd dispersed peacefully.

United States Consul-General Judge Osborne, of Nebraska, and the British Consul, Mr. Maxez, a nephew of Lord Salisbury's wife, a man of fifteen years' experience in diplomatic service in Britain's foreign service, both immediately accepted the decision for their respective Governments.

The German Consul-General, who had also attended the trial, refused to accept the decision for his Government, although his Government had already agreed with Britain and the United States that it would accept and abide by the decision whatever it might be.

GERMAN CONSUL SAYS NO.

A meeting of the consuls and captains of the British and German men-of-war was held within an hour. The United States and British consuls and the captains of British men-of-war proposed that the king in whose favor I had decided, be immediately recognized by the consuls calling upon him and the warships giving him a royal salute. This the German Consul and the captain of the German warship refused to do. If it had been done, there is no doubt whatever that he would have been firmly upon his throne that very day. Within two hours the German Consul, for the defeated side, and other German sympathizers were leading the armed troops of the Mataafa faction into the streets of the municipality. The President, who is a German, threw all his influence on that side and the Mataafa people, realizing that they had the support of the German Consul, of a German warship, and of the entire German population, got ready with an amazing quickness for the violent attack which followed.

THE OUTBREAK.

"The Malietoa people, however, when it became known that the Mataafas were going to make war got together all the men they could in Apia and surrounding hillside. They had not time to gather their supporters from the different parts of the islands. They succeeded in mustering about 2,000 men, indifferently armed and miserably ammunitioned. The rebels, who had been preparing for the situation for several weeks, perhaps mustered about 3,500 men, and, as afterward shown, they had better guns and were well supplied with ammunition. In fact, there seems to be no doubt that the German traders and one U. S. sympathizing with the Mataafa side had provided many new guns and great quantities of fresh ammunition for them."

LED BY GERMANS.

Justice Chambers describes the fighting, the details of which have already been given. He declares that Germans led the Mataafa troops, the German Consul-General riding at the head of several hundred rebels.

Justice Chambers said: "The British man-of-war could not interfere beyond the protection of American and British interests because of the German sympathies on the other side and the notice from them that any interference from the British ship in the native question would be taken by them as an insulting act to Germany."

Then he continues: "One of the first things the victors did was to forcibly close up the Supreme Court, station around it an armed force, and publish a proclamation saying that the court should not be opened except upon their order."

A USURPER.

"President Raelffel, a German, grasped at the opportunity and proclaimed himself Chief Justice." Justice Chambers then tells how the British Consul and the captain and the Amer-

ican Consul agreed to back him up in taking forcible possession, and how practically all the Americans and British in Apia gathered to co-operate with the officials of the two Governments. He tells of their marching, armed, to the Supreme Court, the vicinity of which was swarming with German officials and subjects.

He then says: "The German officials wished to discuss the situation, but we indignantly refused, and I demanded the keys of the court house from President Raelffel, denouncing him as a traitor to the treaty and a usurper. He refused to surrender them, and I thereupon called upon the bystanders to assist me in

A FORCIBLE ENTRY.
"There was a general response, but the man who reached the veranda first was an American carpenter named Willis, and then a British boat builder named Mackie. The clerk of the court, Denver, was pummeling away with a small hammer. Willis and Mackie secured a sledge hammer and soon the doors fell in.

"Lusty cheers were given for the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court, and the flag was then hoisted by a Briton, who climbed to the top of the pole. The marines had in the meantime been marched up, and formed in line inside the court enclosure, and as the flag went up they gave it a salute.

NOT THE END OF IT.

"Where this will end none of us know, but that we are in the right none of us doubt. Our Government and the British Government will surely do the right thing. They must sustain the decision of the court and they must defend the honor of their flags, so grossly insulted by the Mataafa rebels and German representatives here. The farce cannot be continued much longer. Either the United States or Britain must annex these islands.

"As a United States expansionist, I would naturally like to see the Stars and Stripes run up over these islands, but I am not certain that it would be best. The British outnumber us here ten to one, and their commerce with the islands is vastly greater than ours. I believe the majority of the Americans would be just as content with British annexation as American.

"Our Pago Pago rights should, in any case, be insisted upon, and in any arrangements the United States and Britain ought to arrive at there is no question that Britain would fully guarantee all we wish.

"The likelihood is even that, contrary to her traditions and practice elsewhere, Britain would prefer that our Government take over the islands."

SOME FOODSTUFF STATISTICS.

Potatoes and Corn Lead Wheat in the World's Consumption.

The time-honored belief that wheat is the chief article of consumption among the nations of the earth is destined to be rudely shattered. According to recently published statistics, wheat no longer takes first rank among the food products. In fact, it comes third, after potatoes and corn. The table of annual consumption gives the following figures:

Foodstuff	Consumption (Bushels)
Potatoes	4,000,000,000
Corn	2,600,000,000
Wheat	2,500,000,000
Rye	1,300,000,000
Barley	750,000,000

There are, according to the table of statistics, two nationalities which are far ahead of all others in the consumption of potatoes—the Irish and the Germans—the one consuming four pounds per head daily, the other three and one-half, while the American is a very poor potato eater, getting away with only two-thirds of a pound a day. The greatest wheat consumers are the French, with 467 pounds per head annually; the British, with 250; the Americans, with 240; the Germans, with 180, and the Russians, with only ninety pounds per year. Barley and rye are substituted for wheat in Germany and rye and oats in Russia.

These statistics destroy another illusion. It has been for generations the belief that John Bull leads the world in meat consumption, but he does not. It is Uncle Sam who leads in this as in other things and disposes of 150 pounds annually per capita, while England comes next with 100 pounds. The Irish and the Italians consume very little meat, the one on an average of not over thirty, the other not over twenty-five pounds all the year round, the deficiency being made up in potatoes and vegetables. In eggs America again leads all creation, the annual consumption amounting to 133 per head, while Canada shows up with only ninety, France with seventy-eight and Germany with seventy-five.

In sweetness England outranks all creation. It gets away annually with eighty pounds of sugar per head of population, and after England comes America with seventy-three pounds, while the Spaniards use but seven pounds all the year round. In drinking, the American is more moderate than the German or the British; he is satisfied with fifteen gallons to the twenty-two of the German and thirty of John Bull. And while the German smokes his forty-eight ounces of good tobacco, the American has up to date consumed only forty-three ounces, and, on account of the war revenue, will have to get along with less hereafter. Taking it all in all, the Americans, the English and the Germans know how to eat and drink and if a man is what he eats then they are on top of creation.—Denver Post.

Truth is like the sun; it may be obscured by mists, but it is, nevertheless truth.

The gorilla is furnished with a sort of air-bag in the chest, over the lungs, connected with the windpipe. It is with this organ that the animal emits its terrific shrieks and roars.

JUSTICE IN THE YUKON.

Weird! Story of Respite Just Before Execution.

THE INDIANS' DEATH CHANT.

Dawson report (Faith Fenton in the Globe).—The news of the reprieve of the four murderers who were sentenced to be hanged at Dawson on Nov. 1st has probably already reached the east by some out-going traveller.

As the day set for the execution drew near a considerable amount of interest was evinced by the population. The execution would be the first in the Yukon Territory; it would also be, it was believed, the first instantaneous execution of four criminals on record in Canadian legal annals. There was no special feeling of sympathy for the prisoners. They were self-confessed murderers, and the miners and citizens at large realized that the sentence was just. The men had been under close guard in the jail within the Mounted Police barracks for several months, and the constant supervision had entailed much extra work upon a body of men already severely taxed with duties.

The arrival of the death warrant by messenger from Ottawa in late October settled the question of possible extension of time, and immediate preparations were made for the carrying out of the sentence.

The gallows was erected within the barrack square; the four drops were carefully arranged; a burial trench was dug outside the barrack walls; a police escort led off for what last brief walk from the cells to the tall scaffold, within the enclosed pine boarding; the few official and press onlookers received their permits.

INDIANS CHANT THE DEATH SONG.

Everything was in order and as the night hours sped on the three Indians began to chant their death song, while the white prisoner listened in silence. They sang their weird tuneless monotone all unaware that just across the barrack square in a low log building men were debating a question, the final answer to which meant for them an indefinite extension of days.

It was late on the night of October 31st that a petition was presented to Judge Dugas on behalf of the prisoners, representing that November 1st being All Saints' Day there were doubts whether the execution could legally take place at the date appointed. For several hours the question was under consideration by a grave legal council, and it was not until 2 a.m., within six hours of the time appointed for the execution, that Judge Dugas signed a 24-hours' reprieve, and the news was carried across the barrack square to the prisoners.

I may further add that the prisoner, Edward Henderson, was in such a state of sickness and weakness that it would have been necessary to carry him to the scaffold, and although this, I should consider, would not in itself be sufficient to reprieve, yet I may say it seemed to me a relief to the public mind to hear that he was not executed under the circumstances, though the general feeling was and is against the other prisoners.

The case, which is believed to be unique in Canadian judiciary annals, has excited considerable comment and debate in both legal and official circles in Dawson.

A fourth act in this tragedy of legal drama has since occurred in the loss of the mail of November 15th beneath the Yukon ice. This mail, being the first going out for the season, carried the official papers pertaining to the reprieve of the murderers, and it is now doubtful whether a statement of the matter will reach Ottawa in sufficient time to permit of a second warrant being prepared and forwarded to Dawson by March 2nd, in which case a third reprieve for the wretched men will be necessary.

THE SULTAN'S PRIVATE LIFE.

How the Despot of the Turks Spends His Leisure.

Some details of the private life of the Sultan of Turkey are given in the Leisure Hour. The Sultan rises at 8 o'clock, we are told. He does not get into uniform at once like his friend, the Kaiser, satisfying himself with a dark-colored dressing gown. It is only when he expects an early State visit that he puts on his "Stambulin," or gold-embroidered coat. As soon as his prayers are ended he has an early breakfast. The officer of the day then approaches with papers which the first secretary has prepared. These usually relate to appointments, dismissals, decorations and promotions of various Ottoman officials throughout the Empire. Then come the telegrams from the Embassies in various lands, and the secret despatches from the attaches, who are spies on the actions of the Ambassadors.

At the second breakfast, the chief meal of the day, Abdul Hamid appears in some state. There is a curious ceremony observed at this meal. The dishes appear on the table sealed. The seals are broken in the presence of the Sultan, and a specially-appointed officer tastes each dish before it is presented to His Majesty. Hitherto Abdul Hamid by these precautions has avoided poisoning. After dinner he has coffee and a cigarette, made out of tobacco specially grown and sorted for his own imperial use. This is followed by a siesta of two hours. Late in the afternoon the secret reports of his spies and police agents in Constantinople are brought to him, and when nothing of moment presses he occupies his evenings listening to French ballet music on the piano.

The latest consolidation scheme in the United States is a combination of capital to control the manufacture of men's, boys' and children's clothing. The scheme originated in New York, and the capital involved is estimated at \$200,000,000.

BRITAIN WILL REMAIN SUPREME.

Many Battleships and Cruisers Being Built

ACTIVITY IN SHIP YARDS.

Is France Preparing for a Fight With Great Britain?

EXPECT WAR IN TWO YEARS.

The French Officers Openly Boasting of What They Will do—Britain is Building Fast Torpedo Boats to Cope With the Submarine Craft of the French—Not Caught Napping.

London cable: While Mr. Stead continues to aid and abet the Czar in his war against war, it is interesting to note what unusual activity is displayed just now in the British shipyards.

No less than 16 battleships of the first-class and 28 cruisers of various types will soon be put in full commission. A list of them, with their sizes in tons of displacement and the yards in which they are building, is as follows:

BATTLESHIPS (16).

Completing—Canopus, 12,900 tons, Portsmouth; Goliath, 12,900 tons, Chatham; Ocean, 12,900 tons, Devonport; Albion, 12,900 tons, Thames Ironworks; Formidable, 14,700 tons, Portsmouth; Irresistible, 14,700 tons, Chatham.

Building or projected—Glory, 12,000 tons, Laird's, Birkenhead; Vengeance, 12,900 tons, Vickers, Barrow; Implacable, 14,700 tons, Devonport; London, 14,700 tons, Portsmouth; Bulwark, 14,700 tons, Devonport; Venerable, 14,700 tons, Chatham; A, 14,000 tons, Thames Ironworks; B, 14,000 tons, Thames Ironworks; C, 14,000 tons, Laird's, Birkenhead; D, 14,000 tons, Palmer's, Barrow.

CRUISERS, FIRST-CLASS (17).

Completing—Andromeda, 11,000 tons, Pembroke; Ariadne, 11,000 tons, Clydebank Co.; Argonaut, 11,000 tons, Fairfield, Glasgow; Amphitrite, 11,000 tons, Vickers, Barrow; Spartiate, 11,000 tons, Pembroke.

Building or projected—Aboukir, 12,000 tons, Fairfield, Glasgow; Cressy, 12,000 tons, Fairfield, Glasgow; Hogue, 12,000 tons, Vickers, Barrow; Sutlej, 12,000 tons, Clydebank Co.; Euraylus, 12,000 tons, Vickers, Barrow; Bacchante, 12,000 tons, Clydebank Co.; A, 14,100 tons, Pembroke; B, 14,100 tons, Vickers, Barrow; C, 14,100 tons, Clydebank Co.; D, 14,100 tons, Fairfield, Glasgow; E, design not completed; F, design not completed.

CRUISERS, SECOND CLASS (4).

Completing—Gladiator, 5,750 tons, Portsmouth; Hyacinth, 5,600 tons, London and Glasgow Co.; Hermes, 5,600 tons, Fairfield, Glasgow; Highflyer, 5,600 tons, Fairfield, Glasgow.

CRUISERS, THIRD CLASS (7).

Completing—Psyche, 2,135 tons, Devonport; Pemone, 2,135 tons, Sheerness; Prometheus, 2,135 tons, Earle's, Hull; Perseus, 2,135 tons, Palmer's, Yarrow.

Building or projected—Pandora, 2,200 tons, Portsmouth; Pioneer, 2,200 tons, Chatham.

But a yet stronger proof of Britain's steadiness of policy in maintaining her naval supremacy lies in the move which she has made to meet the French advance in the construction of submarine torpedo craft.

NOT CAUGHT NAPPING.

The British Admiralty has not been asleep. It has known all the time just what progress the Frenchman was making in submarine navigation.

The British naval experts are slow, but exceedingly thorough. They have considered that these submersive boats must come to the surface frequently to enable the navigating officer to see where he is going, and that at best they have a speed of but eight knots an hour and can operate within a very small radius. To cope with these hidden terrors the British are building torpedo boats to go thirty-five knots, or about forty land miles, per hour—as fast as an express train. They are to be well armed, and able to play at will with any submarine craft—to destroy it like a terrier would a blind rat.

ORDER FOR TWO FLIERS.

Two of these fast boats have just been ordered. They are to be built on the turbine principle, as developed in the wonderful Turbinia, the swift-travelling vessel which was the sensation of the Diamond Jubilee naval review at Spithead. This vessel was not perfect from a naval standpoint, but the inventor, Hon. Charles A. Parsons, has made such changes and improvements as to satisfy the British Admiralty of the value of the innovation.

The principle embodied in the Turbinia has been considerably modified, so as to increase the manoeuvring qualities of the "destroyers." Each vessel will have six turbines and four propeller shafts, and steam will be admitted into them. They will exceed in speed anything afloat.

BEATING THE TOM-TOMS.

London cable: The Toulon correspondent of the Daily Mail, remarking upon the extraordinary activity at the arsenal there, and generally in French naval works, says: "It is believed that M. Lockroy, Minister of Marine, expects war with Great Bri-

tain within two years, and it is notorious that a war with England is being preached in official circles in Paris. Troops are being poured into Tunis, Caenasa and Algeria, and war material is being despatched to all the colonies. French officers openly boast they will sweep the British fleet out of the Mediterranean."

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE.

A Successful Financial Institution.

The annual meeting of this company was held in the Company's building, Toronto, on Thursday, Feb. 2nd, 1899, when Mr. John L. Blackie was appointed Chairman, and Mr. William McCabe Secretary.

The Directors' report presented at this meeting showed continued and marked proofs of the great progress and solid prosperity of the Company in every branch of its business.

Summary of the financial statement and balance sheet for the year ended Dec. 31st, 1898:

Cash income	\$785,130.81
Expenses (including death claims, matured investment policies, profits and all other payments to policyholders)	442,019.07
Assets	3,137,828.61
Reserve fund	2,586,947.00
Net surplus for policyholders	474,209.09
Audited and found correct.	

WM. McCABE, Managing Director.
JAS. CARLYLE, M. D., Auditor.

Some of the leading features of the year's business, as mentioned by the President, are the following:

1. Looking at the Company from every standpoint, the report submitted shows financial strength, productive assets, solid growth, and large relative surplus, which is the supreme point to policyholders, and it is from this source alone that satisfactory returns can be made to them.
2. The new business for the year exceeded that of any previous year.
3. Another marked feature of this Company is the relatively large amount of its net surplus to liabilities, when contrasted with that of its leading competitors. The President showed that this ratio was one of the best tests by which to judge of the relative merits of the different Companies.
4. The following marked increases were made during the year:

	Per cent.
In Premium Income	11.56
In Interest Income	13.11
In Insurance in force	13.15
In Assets	10.91
In Net Surplus	10.79
In Insurance Reserve	15.18

The President stated that gentlemen representing the United States Insurance Department had been in the city during part of the last month, and had made a thorough and most searching investigation into the affairs of the Company, with a view to its admission to do business in their respective States, and that those experts were extremely well satisfied with the soundness of the Company, and expressed themselves gratified with every aspect of affairs.

The Hon. Mr. Allan, in seconding the adoption of the report, called special attention to the excellent character of the investments of the Company; of these over 37 per cent are in first mortgage securities; nearly 20 per cent in debentures, nearly 14 per cent in stocks and bonds, loans on policies about 6 1/2 per cent, the balance consisting of cash in banks, interest accrued, etc.

He also called special attention to the fact that although the assets had increased very largely, the outstanding and accrued interest had been very materially decreased, which is a proof of the excellent character of the investments of the Company, and the promptness with which the interest thereon has been paid.

James Thornburn, M. D., Medical Director, presented a full and interesting report of the mortality experience of the Company from its organization, which showed that great care had been exercised in the selection of the Company's business.

The Consulting Actuary reported that he had made an independent examination of the affairs of the Company as at December, 31st, 1898, having examined the books, accounts, and balance sheet, also a detailed copy of the annual report to the Insurance Department, and stated that he was very much gratified with the result of such examination, also with the thorough system of the work of every department throughout the office. He commended the Company for closing its books promptly at the end of the year, as had been its custom from organization, and stated that, notwithstanding the large amount paid to policyholders during the year, another substantial gain had been made in the net surplus, now amounting to \$474,029.09, or if made up on the same basis as that generally used, viz., by adding the difference between the cost and market value of debentures, etc., owned by the Company, such surplus would be \$522,664.83.

He referred to the great difficulty which has been experienced of late years in securing satisfactory investments, and pointed out the great decline in the rate of interest which gilt-edge securities yielded. In view of this he stated that the settlement of the Company's investment policies should be highly satisfactory to the holders thereof, as they compare favorably with those of the leading and best managed companies on the continent.

A special vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to the Company's Provincial Managers, Inspectors and Agency Staff for their splendid work of the past year, during which the largest business ever done by the Company had been secured, largely exceeding that of any other home company at the same age in its history.

After the usual vote of thanks had been passed, the election of Directors took place, whereupon the newly-elected Board met, and Mr. John L. Blackie was unanimously re-elected President, and the Hon. G. W. Allan and Sir Frank Smith Vice-Presidents.