

CHINA'S CRITICAL CASE.

Empty War Chest and Exchequer and Disatisfaction Towards the Reigning Dynasty.

Self-Sufficient Apathy Has Caused Her Sad Flight - The Pantheon Seizure.

LONDON, Sept. 28.—Capt. Lang, a former director in the Chinese navy and supervisor of the erection of many Chinese forts, said in an interview to-day in regard to the Chinese reverse that the inherent conservatism and apathy concerning everything outside of China, and the want of esprit de corps, have had their natural results. As a matter of fact the Chinese never expected to have to fight, and their supreme contempt of Japan is a predominant trait with them. Their seamen are as brave as could be wished, but they have not the slightest patriotism. Their officers are regardless of almost everything but personal advantage, and have always wanted to evade drill and remain ashore. They have hated European and European ideas and are suferably obstinate and conceited. There are admitted exceptions to this rule, however, especially in the case of Admiral Ting, who is a conspicuously brave and capable officer whose lead could safely be followed anywhere. I cannot understand the alleged superiority of the Japanese quick firing guns. The four vessels of the Ching Yen class were admirably equipped, and I am not disposed, in the light of the present information, to give the Japanese the credit they claim.

Captain Lang ascribed the defeat of the Chinese, if they had been defeated, to the fact of their having lapsed from their high standard of efficiency since 1890. The only Europeans now in service in the Chinese fleet, he said, are acting in subordinate capacities. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his belief that the Chinese had been the victors.

The owners of the British steamer Pantheon, which was seized off the island of Formosa by a Chinese warship, have appealed to the British government to secure the vessel's release and obtain compensation for her seizure. The owners assert that they have no news of the officers and crew of the ship since she was seized, and express fear that they have been maltreated. They assert that they were unaware that there was anything on board the ship.

A dispatch to the Daily News from Yokohama says there is a general public desire in Japan to prosecute the war against the Chinese in defiance of all obstacles. The general desire is that the government make a desperate attack upon Peking. The Japanese parliament will at once vote war credits regardless of party opinions. Reformers are clamoring for departing from Yokohama, Tokio, and other places in Japan, but their destination is not known. The Shanghai correspondent of the Times says: "It is rumored that Li Hung Chang will be permitted to take the field, and that he will probably have his headquarters at Lutun. It is reported that the Chinese troops have evacuated Korea and are massed thirty miles west of the Yalu river."

VIENNA, Sept. 28.—The Neue Freie Presse publishes a report of an interview with Baron von Bismarck, the Austrian minister, the official of the Austrian navy, who has served actively as commander of the warships Ferdinand Max and Liess. In regard to the recent naval battle between the Chinese and Japanese fleets, the Baron says that the Yalu engagement, as far as can be judged, has shown that the cruisers were able to hold their own against the large and unwieldy ironclads. This fact has opened the eyes of the naval powers and induced them to give greater attention to the construction of cruisers in the future.

The Politische Correspondenz says the following information has reached St. Petersburg from China and affords the serious attention of the government: "The intense excitement in all the provinces of China and the dissatisfaction of the highest officials in the empire have reached a point which indicates a probable movement against the reigning dynasty. The spirit animating the regular army is satisfactory, but the discipline has been relaxed. The irregular troops upon which the government must now rely, are committing great and frequent excesses everywhere, including the capital. The war chest is as empty as the state exchequer, and the government has the greatest difficulty in purchasing the bare necessities for the troops in the field."

MR. HAMLIN'S REPORT.

WASHINGTON CITY, Sept. 28.—Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Hamlin has returned from his tour of the customs districts of the Pacific Coast and a brief visit to the Priviloy Islands. He stated that the North-western frontier was greatly in need of a more comprehensive police system. With the limited number of revenue officials available, it is his opinion that any single plan to increase the revenue is not a viable one unless the Chinese have been able to elude the officers, and are now safely within our borders. Additional revenue cutters and a number of steam launches, he said, should be provided.

Two revenue cutters, he thinks, should be assigned to the duty of patrolling the Alaskan coast to prevent smuggling, and to enforce the law relating to salmon fishing. It was a singular fact that many of the large canneries in Alaska employ Chinese labor almost exclusively, and some of the natives had complained of this discrimination. A special agent of the department was now looking into the salmon fisheries, and would soon make a report thereon to the secretary. Mr. Hamlin visited all the Pacific coast customs districts and stated that he had discovered no glaring frauds, but he thought the good of the service demanded several changes, and in his opinion, they would be made as soon as he could prepare his report and bring the matter to the attention of the secretary.

U. S. CONGRESSMAN WILSON.

LONDON, Sept. 28.—The Times, in an editorial on Congressman Wilson's speech at the Chamber of Commerce banquet, approves Mr. Wilson's course, but expresses the fear that he is over sanguine. "Tariff reform," it says, "seems so far from being certain to go forward by its own impetus as to stand in need of all the efforts of its supporters and clear vision of their party as to what they mean. We do not expect any decisive overthrow of protection until it is confronted with real free trade—a policy which seems to have very few avowed adherents among political men in the United States."

A GREAT MARBLE FIELD.

Included in the cargo brought from the West Coast by the steamer Maude yesterday was a number of magnificent specimens of colored marble from the mines about ten miles up Nootka Sound. The existence of valuable marble in this direction was discovered about one year ago by Mr. John Mortimer, and the gentlemen, who have been spending the past three months at the Sound, returned also by yesterday's steamer. The samples which he brings with him speak for themselves of the excellent quality of the marble, and Mr. Mortimer gives the gratifying assurance that the deposits are practically limitless in quantity. Henceforth the marble used in this part of the world, as well as throughout other sections of America, Australia and Europe, have been largely imported from either Italy or Vermont, and the state furnishing the greater portion of America's supply for building and monumental work, while the Italian article yet retains its pre-eminence for statuary and art purposes.

It is claimed for the Nootka Sound marble, however, that it fully equals the famous Italian in color, grain, fineness and every other necessary quality. Besides the white, there are vast deposits of grey and blue veined marbles, while the white vein is at least fifty feet wide, running up the mountain and of incalculable depth. Mr. Mortimer was fortunate enough to light upon his treasure field a year or more ago, and his opinion that the new quarry will prove one of the best in all America is shared by all who have seen the deposits of intended operations or have examined specimens therefrom.

For building purposes nothing more advantageous or beautiful than the Nootka Sound colored marble could be desired, and as it can be quarried fifty feet or deeper than the ordinary building stones, there is now no reason why British Columbia's public buildings and more pretentious private ones, should not hereafter be constructed of native marble, instead of depending on the resources of the province. The desire of having the new post office and other public buildings of Nootka Sound marble will be brought to the attention of the authorities in charge at an early date, while as soon as the quarry is opened and in operation the proprietors expect to find a profitable market throughout Canada, the Pacific coast states and even far Australia.

A joint stock company is now in formation which, when organized, has agreed to push the new industry as it deserves. Nature has been especially kind in placing the deposits, the marble being found rising from the very edge of good, navigable water, while "lake" streams not five hundred yards away will supply sufficient power for all necessary machinery all the year round.

THE VICEREGAL TOUR.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 28.—To-day Lord and Lady Aberdeen paid an official visit to St. Boniface, the old French Catholic town opposite the city. Continual rain during the morning interfered with the carrying out of the programme, but an adjournment was made to the town hall, where a civic address was made with a reply by the Governor-General. The religious and educational institutions were visited, and Lord Aberdeen responded to the first address in French. He alluded to the reference to one of his ancestors having killed an English king. His Lordship smiled when he remarked that although such was an historical fact, nevertheless it was not a subject for exultation, and he thanked them for their kind wishes, and assured them that he would carry away the most pleasant memories of his visit.

Replying in English to the second address Lord Aberdeen returned in feeling terms the loss the community at large had sustained in the death of the late Archbishop Tache. There was sufficient interest attached to St. Boniface to attract any visitor, because it was largely connected with the history of these regions, also because of the manner in which the people and representatives had taken their part in the development of this country. The afternoon programme, which included a visit to the schools, was cancelled, owing to the rain, a grand ball was held at Government House.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING AT VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Sept. 29.—(Special)—The electric light by law shortly to be presented to the city for the purpose of raising \$100,000 for the purchase of an electric light plant by the city is still the great topic of conversation, much of the space of the local papers being taken up with this important subject. Last night a large meeting was held at Mt. Pleasant. It was difficult to ascertain which side captured the meeting. Some very forcible and well-pleasing speeches were made on both sides. The labor council also held a meeting last night, principally for the purpose of passing the following resolution: "Whereas it is a settled principle of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council that the city should own and operate all its public services; therefore, be it resolved that the council endorse the steps taken by the City Council towards undertaking the lighting of the city."

And further be it resolved that this council emphatically condemn the arguments used by the opponents of the undertaking as being attempts to perpetuate unprincipled monopoly and speculation; and further be it resolved that the members of this Council pledge themselves to use their utmost influence to have the law authorizing the undertaking passed by the people.

RAPID OCEAN TRANSIT.

NEW YORK, Sept. 28.—The Cunard steamer Lincoln smashed the ocean record again and came back to her dock at six o'clock to-night, the earliest arrival ever made on a Friday night, and the fourth time the Cunard company has docked on Friday night. When she made her last record on the westerly trip over, Captain MacKay expressed the opinion that it would take a better boat to beat the performance then accomplished of 5 days, 9 hours and 39 minutes. Then she made the homeward voyage in precisely the same time and in doing it, surpassed the Campana, which held the eastward record. On her return to this port she passed the Rock of Quonset harbor, at 12:50 p.m. on Sunday last. At 3:30 o'clock this afternoon she was sighted off Fire Island, and at 3:53 o'clock she was at the Sandy Hook lightship, the point at which the ocean races against time are figured. She has been 5 1/2 days, 9 hours and 48 minutes, or 50 minutes less than the previous record ever made. She had covered a course of 2,782 miles, and sailed on an hourly average 21.77 knots, and a daily average approximating 539 knots.

CAPITAL NOTES.

MacWhirrell's Death Sentence Committed to Imprisonment for Life.

Delivery of Medals and Diplomas Gained at World's Fair Further Delayed.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) OTTAWA, Sept. 28.—Mr. Robb, counsel for MacWhirrell, had a long interview to-day with Sir John Thompson in regard to the whole case. Mr. Robb first argued for a commutation. The chief grounds on which he asked for it were the extreme doubts which existed in the case and the absence of all motive on the part of the prisoner. Counsel also referred to the new evidence, that of Irwin and other witnesses, whose affidavits he had already put in, and also as to the question of policeman Cross being mistaken as to his seeing the prisoner at 10 o'clock on the night of the murder. Mr. Robb also referred to the fact that no robbery had been shown. Counsel then took up the question of a reprieve, providing that no commutation was granted. The last reprieve had been granted with a view of having the body of the prisoner examined, and he decided not to try Walk until the spring of the year, MacWhirrell should be reprieved until the trial took place. The ends of justice would not be interfered with by giving this reprieve. In conclusion, Mr. Robb asked that the case be put in the hands of the jury, which was favorable to the prisoner. Sir John Thompson complimented Mr. Robb for the able manner in which he had handled the case. He said that the representations made by him would be considered and that the case would be laid before the cabinet for a decision at once.

The cabinet met this afternoon and decided to recommend the Governor to commute the sentence to penal servitude for life.

The Department of Agriculture has been notified by the executive committee on awards for the World's Fair that a further delay is likely to take place in the delivery of medals and diplomas awarded to exhibitors at Chicago. It appears that the requisite parchment for the diplomas was to be obtained in Japan, but the United States authorities delayed ordering it, and as war has broken out between China and Japan considerable time must elapse before parchment can be obtained. Meanwhile the exhibitors at the World's Fair will have to wait for their diplomas.

The Ottawa exhibition closed to-day. The receipts for the week ending to-day were \$3,500. Beautiful weather prevailed the whole week.

OTTAWA, Sept. 28.—Joseph Pope's memoir of Sir John Macdonald will be put at the end of October.

General Booth will be accorded a civic welcome here. Hayter Reed, deputy superintendent of Indian Affairs, left for the Coast to-day.

Park's letters on Canada in the London Times will be amplified and published in book form.

The report of the Ontario Fish Commission states that the fisheries of the province are in a state of decay. The fishery of Ormond Hignam, an Ottawa electrician, is to be chief inspector of electric lighting and electric apparatus. The act of this session takes effect April next. The present inspectors of gas will become also inspectors of electric lighting and the present inspectors of electric lighting will be continued in their duties during the coming winter.

VANCOUVER'S COAL FIND.

VANCOUVER, Sept. 29.—(Special)—In regard to the published statement that it has not yet leaked out here that coal is to be bored for on lot 540, it may be said that at least ten men gave the customary notice that they would prospect for coal on lot 540, and the announcement has been in the advertising columns of the local papers for the past eight or ten days. There are so many people boring for coal about Vancouver that little attention is paid to an alleged new discovery. Men attending the present luncheon of gas will become also inspectors of electric lighting and the present inspectors of electric lighting will be continued in their duties during the coming winter.

Later advice from Shanghai states that the Japanese destroyed the stranded Chinese warship Kwang Kai. A dispatch from Simla to the Times says that the English papers there urge the rush of troops from India to Hong Kong and other treaty ports, as letters have been received reporting a dangerous anti-foreign feeling in those places.

The Times publishes an article by an expert in which the writer compares and collates the Times' advice from the East and the Central News dispatches from Tokio. The writer concludes that it may be safely affirmed that modern weapons have not materially modified the conditions of naval warfare.

Japan's next movement," he says, "is now a question of the greatest importance. China's fleet is virtually paralyzed and the Japanese are free to transport a force in any direction. There are two principal projects for them to pursue: First to strike direct for Peking, and second, to occupy Formosa. Either course is more probable than a march to Moukden. It seems certain that 25,000 Japanese could take Peking, when Japan could obtain, so far as China is concerned, any terms she is likely to demand. On the other hand, the time available is very short, owing to the approach of winter, and the venture, though not impracticable, would be very risky. A force of 20,000 would suffice to occupy Formosa, and a descent upon that place is certainly among the immediate possibilities. Japan seeks territorial expansion and Formosa offers obvious advantages."

IMPROVED BUSINESS.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Sept. 29.—(Special)—The merchants, one and all, agree that there is a notable improvement in the situation; money is more plentiful and the fall trade is opening well. They don't anticipate anything in the shape of a rush but seem to be confident that the improvement will continue.

The steamer May Queen and the Swan were collision near the mouth of the river on Wednesday. The Swan was badly rammed and would have sunk had speed not been made in running her ashore. Repairs are now being made to the injured vessel. The responsibility for the collision has not yet been assigned. The May Queen belongs to the Wellington Cannery, and the Swan to Capt. Gates of Vancouver.

NANAIMO FIRE.

NANAIMO, Sept. 29.—(Special)—The funeral of Patrick Magee, a victim of yesterday's fire, took place this afternoon. Miss Minnie Corcoran and Carron are both in a very critical condition. The impression prevails that yesterday's conflagration was started by an incendiary. The theory is not without foundation, in view of the peculiar circumstances attending the recent fire in the Central hotel, and also the fire which mysteriously broke out in the International hotel, about which no mention has hitherto been made. The matter will be thoroughly investigated, and no effort spared to locate the perpetrator.

HE WAS MURDERED.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Sept. 29.—(Special)—The body of Cheam Peter, the Indian policeman who disappeared mysteriously last week, was recovered on Thursday morning by Provincial Constable Lester. The suspicion that Peter had been foully dealt with was, it appears, confirmed by finding the body. Death had been caused by a blow from a dull instrument, which fractured the skull. The body was found on a bar in the middle of the river opposite Cheam, where it had evidently been placed after the tragedy. Capt. Pittendrigh returned to-day from Agassiz, where he had been holding an inquest on the body. He reports that the post mortem examination made by Dr. Warwell showed the brain to be filled with clotted blood, and that where the weapon had struck the head the skin was beaten into a pulp. All the evidence available was taken into consideration by the coroner, and he has adjourned until Tuesday. Constable Lester remained on the scene to follow up clues which may result in the capture of the guilty parties.

CUT IN ORIENTAL RATES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 29.—Merchants who are interested in the China and Japan trade have been disturbed by rumors that they are being discriminated against in favor of Eastern ones. This report is denied by the Pacific Mail people, who claim that it costs \$10 more a ton to ship canned goods from Chicago to China than it does from San Francisco; such is the story told by a merchant. The out in rates is claimed has been in force since the sailing of the Empress. Before that time canned goods were shipped at the rate of \$12 a ton measurement. On the Peru the rate was reduced to \$6 a ton by weight, which amounts to almost \$5 a ton measurement. The Canadian Pacific and the Northern Pacific first made the attempt to capture the Chicago trade, and the cut had to be made by the Pacific Mail and Occidental and Oriental lines. It is asserted by the latter companies that the rate named before that time was the same for Eastern as for local shippers.

CAN TAKE PEKIN.

Opinion That the Japanese Can Readily Occupy the Chinese Capital.

Modern Weapons Have Not Materially Modified Conditions of Naval Warfare.

LONDON, Sept. 29.—The Westminster Gazette reprints Shanghai dispatches to London news agency stating that vague rumors are circulating that the Japanese forces have effected a landing to northward of Chefoo. A dispatch received from Yokohama to the same agency states that the reserves and imperial guards have been ordered out for duty.

Shanghai dispatches say the Chinese Emperor attributes the recent Chinese defeat to incompetency and corruption. This has caused a panic in the palace, and rendered the position of affairs in China extremely serious.

A Tokio correspondent says: "The commander of the Japanese warship Naivava has reported that he has discovered the wreck of the Chinese warship Kwang Kai in Manchuria and found the Chinese cruiser Kwang Kai stranded. The Chinese fleet has been completely annihilated." A Port Arthur dispatch says the Japanese fleet has established headquarters in the Gulf of Korea, near the Chinese coast. The Gulf of Pechili is being patrolled by Japanese warships.

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MINNESOTA FIRES.

DULUTH, Minn., Sept. 29.—The fires in the woods and meadows along the line of Eastern Minnesota are quite severe, and this morning freight trains had difficulty in getting through because of the dense smoke and heat. These fires are worse to the west of Milwaukee, a short distance east of the former burned district, and a number of farm buildings are in danger near Karriok, north of Sandstone. The fires were severe last night.

THE OZAR A SICK MAN.

St. PETERSBURG, Sept. 28.—Professor Leyden, the eminent physician of Berlin, has been summoned from that city to Spain, and will arrive there in the early part of next week. The doctors attending the Ozar fear that His Majesty's journey to the Crimea must be postponed as they regard his condition as very serious. His breathing is very painful.

TURKS AND ARMENIANS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 29.—News has just been given out here of a serious fight at Tokat on September 1 between Armenians and Turkish officials and gendarmes. The Turks were searching houses for an Armenian fugitive and were resisted by the Armenians, who assembled in force and attacked the gendarmes. In the ensuing fight several Armenians were killed.

FLORIDA'S CYCLONE.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Sept. 29.—Wire communication has been restored to all portions of Florida visited by the storm, and by Monday all damage to the railroads will have been repaired and trains will be running on schedule time. Dispatches tonight from Titusville, Jupiter and other East coast points, where the storm was supposed to have been most severe, state no lives were lost and that the damage to property is not as great as in the storm of last year.

GLADSTONE'S EYESIGHT.

LONDON, Sept. 29.—The Weekly Sun will announce to-morrow morning that Mr. Gladstone's eyesight has been completely restored, and that he now reads and writes as usual, and is working very hard.

PONT TOWNSHIP.

PONT TOWNSHIP, Sept. 29.—Dr. S. E. Conover, ex-Senator for Florida, for the past five years in charge of the U. S. quarantine on Puget Sound, was removed to-day and his successor, Dr. S. E. Conover, is to be sworn in to-morrow. The new physician is Dr. S. E. Conover, who has just been removed from his position in charge of the U. S. marine hospital district.

USE MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT for Man and Beast! Langley & Co., Wholesale Agents for British Columbia.

CANADIAN NEWS.

(Special to the Colonist.) QUEBEC, Sept. 27.—The citizens are petitioning the mayor to call a public meeting to discuss holding a winter carnival.

WATERLOO, Sept. 27.—The corner stone of the new hospital was laid by Provincial Secretary Gibson. Sir Oliver Mowat, Hon. Mr. Brown and other prominent men were present.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 27.—The grain crop is enormous on Peace Island. Growers are unable to dispose of their crops and are selling at a half cent per pound. Eleven tons were shipped yesterday.

WESTON, Sept. 27.—The Patrons have nominated J. D. Evans, of Islandton, to contest West York against Clarke Wallace.

TORONTO, Sept. 27.—Miss E. Bailey, of Leopold street, stopped off a moving trolley last night and was thrown down. Her injuries may prove fatal.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 28.—While a young man named Belford, a new arrival from Mitchell, Ont., was working at a separator he had a painful accident, in attempting to pull the belt of the pulley. His arm caught and was torn off at the elbow.

BLANFORD, Sept. 28.—Burglars broke into the dry goods store of Nelson and Sheehan at an early hour this morning and stole a quantity of goods.

STOUTVILLE, Sept. 28.—The West Ontario Reform Association have unanimously nominated the present member, J. D. Edgar, as a candidate for the Commons.

MONTREAL, Sept. 28.—The Montreal Island belt railway has asked permission to build an elevated railroad along Craig and St. James street west. A large deputation of citizens have opposed the scheme.

TORONTO, Sept. 28.—The annual convention of the chapter general of the Knights of St. John and Malta was closed last evening. The question of sectarianism, which it was feared would lead to dissension, was amicably settled, and the matter left to the discretion of the subordinate orders.

TORONTO, Sept. 28.—The officers' deep waterways committee met yesterday, and decided to hold a series of meetings to formulate a scheme to secure benefits for Toronto from the projected enterprise. Many felt that Toronto's interests had been entirely overlooked at the recent convention.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 28.—Lieut. Governor Blackington stated that he expects to issue a proclamation for the elections in the territories next week, the elections to be held the last week in October.

BRAMPTON, Sept. 28.—Sheriff Brody has received a telegram from the Department of Justice announcing that MacWhirrell's sentence has been commuted to penal servitude for life. The prisoner was overjoyed on hearing the news, though he said all along that he would rather hang than go to the penitentiary.

TORONTO, Sept. 28.—The assessment commissioners have completed their reports. The assessed value of the city for the present year is \$149,120,000 as against \$153,450,698 last year, a reduction of about \$4,440,000.

WRECKED NEAR HONOLULU.

HONOLULU, Sept. 22.—(Per steamer Honolulu.) The iron bark G. M. Wilcox, was wrecked on the 18th upon the shore of Molokai, about five miles from Honolulu, being carried ashore by the current. The vessel was on a voyage from Honolulu to San Francisco, and was carrying a cargo of coal and other supplies. The vessel was a total loss. The Wilcox was 131 days out from Middleborough with 2,200 tons of cargo for Honolulu.

RELIEF IN SIX HOURS.

Dressing Kidney and Bladder diseases relieved in six hours by the GREAT SOUTH AFRICAN KIDNEY CURE. This new remedy is a great surprise and delight on account of its quickness in relieving pain in the bladder, kidney and ureters, and its safety in its use. It is a sure cure for all urinary passages in male or female. It never irritates the bladder, and its use is almost immediately. Sold in Victoria by D. E. Campbell.

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CABLE ITEMS.

Lord Randolph Churchill in Luck - Bank Clerks Protest Against Female Help.

Interesting Points Relating to E. C. Church Trouble Brewing in Central America.

LONDON, Sept. 29.—The clerks of the Bank of England recently held a meeting to protest against the admission into the bank of two batches of female clerks.

Juan Urdariz, a wealthy Spanish banker of the City of Mexico, committed suicide by hanging himself from the street balcony of his home on account of a chronic disease.

Miss Raine, an eccentric lady who died recently, left as a legacy to Lord Randolph Churchill her mansion and estate in Oxfordshire, England, in recognition of his commanding political genius.

At the bishops' conference at Buda-Pesth Friday the primate of Hungary read a letter from the Pope, directing the episcopate to use its efforts with the magistrates to obtain modifications of the bill dealing with the registration of children of mixed marriages, but the letter added that the agitation must not take an illegal form.

In view of the fact that the Austro-Hungarian legations have raised the question of the exclusive right, anciently belonging to sovereigns of Spain, France and Austria, to object to the election of any cardinal as pope, a special allocution will be addressed by the Pope to the secret instructions to be given at the coming conclave, in order to frustrate any attempt to revive the right.

There are pronouncements of trouble between Mexico and Guatemala, growing out of a dispute over the boundary between the two countries. Guatemala has undertaken to assert sovereignty over a considerable piece of territory lying within the borders of a Mexican state. President Diaz has made a very strong representation of the case to the Mexican congress, and has indicated his intention of vigorously upholding the Mexican claim of jurisdiction.

The last counting of votes in the Norwegian elections shows that the Left has been victorious. The gains were at first thought to have been by the Right, but they have been overcome by the Left. The Left having carried the whole of the Christiania district which has been regarded as a Conservative stronghold. About half the members of the new storting are now elected, and a careful analysis discloses that the Left has increased its majority. King Oscar is said to be very much displeased at the way the elections are going.

UNFOUNDED REPORTS.

To the Editor.—Shortly after the departure of the schooner Enterprise last a report was circulated by some person or persons that the schooner was lost with all her crew at sea. This does not seem to be any ground for such a report, as the crew of the Enterprise saw no one after leaving Victoria until her arrival in Yokohama after a very pleasant trip. Now, again, the schooner Mary Ellen was lately reported to have been run down by the Trinco steamer, which seems to be altogether untrue. It is a pity that such reports should be started, as every one of the sailing schooners has on board young men who have in Victoria mothers, fathers, and in some instances young wives, who are anxiously waiting their return. These relatives naturally feel alarmed when they hear that a vessel on which a son, husband or brother has sailed was run down, capsized or otherwise lost.

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