#### THE KLONDIKE TRADE

The Toronto Board of Trade's Endorsement of the British Columbia Board.

A Strong Resolution Counselling Retaliation and Condemning Americans' Action.

The Toronto board of trade has promptly taken up the complaint of the British Columbia board that Canadians going into the Yukon district are being subjected to vexatious regulations on the part of the United States customs authorities. A special meeting of the council of the board of trade was held yesterday, when Mr. A. E. Kemp, second vice-president, introduced the tellowing resolution, which was carried unanimous

"Whereas the British Columbia board of trade has directed the attention of this board to what is regarded by them as being unfair treatment by the United States authorities of Canadians and others destined for the gold fields of the Yukon district in Canadian territory, and having with them supplies purchased in Canada, and.

"Whereas, the unfair treatment referred to is chiefly of the nature of vexations and excessive bonding regulations and charges from the port of Dyea (situated in disputed territory, but conrolled at the present time by the United States), into Canadian territory over what is said to be disputed territory between Canada and the United States, and,

"Whereas, the laws of Canada govern ng mining and miners are of a most liberal character, aliens sharing with our own people the same privileges, being in this respect much more favorable to the foreigner than the laws governing the erritory adjoining the Yukon Canadian gold fields in Alaska and other parts of the United States; and.

Whereas, combined representations have been made to the United States government by various United States chambers of commerce of cities on the Pacific coast, to close the port of Dyea altogether, in order to divert the bulk of trade destined for the gold fields situated a Canada through the United States channels, and

"Whereas, the gold fields of recent disevery in the Yukon district are on undisputed Canadian territory, the heritage f our people; and, "Therefore, be it resolved, that in the

pinion of the council of this board. That it is of the utmost importance that the boundary line (at present in dispute) between Alaska and the Dominion of Canada, be determined with the least possible delay:

That the customs tariff of the Domin on of Canada on all foreign merchandise coming into the country, destined for the Klondike and other gold fields in the Yukon districts, be administered in the some manner as at other ports;

That our government be requested to For representtions to the United States ernment without delay, regarding the bonding regulations from the por ea, through what is at present dis-territory—the evident object of excessive charges being to force excessive charges being to arties going to the mining region their

states; and, "That, inasmuch as the season for mi grating to the gold regions of the Yukon istrict is rapidly approaching, and in orer that Canada may reap trade benefits from the development and operation of the mines within its borders, and in the event of the government of the United States not taking such immediate steps as may lead to fair regulations via the port of Dyea.

"We recommend the government of Canada to at once take steps to close all Canadan ports of entry for trade ertering the Yukon district from the Pacific coast, except Glenora and Fort

#### STATUE WITH A WARDROBE AND VALET.

One of the most curous things in Brussels, a thing that must be characteristic o some extent of the temper of the peoole, is the little Mannikin statue and fountain. It is a statue of a naked boy, said to have been erected by a nobleman shose lost son was found on this spot But there is not the least excuse for the boy's nakedness, for he is well supplied with clothing of many sorts, and is rich excugh to buy more suits occasionally. Louis XV. decorated the statue with the Order of the Holy Ghost, possibly at a moment when another sort of spirit had possession of him; and it is the owner of ine handsome costumes belonging to different periods. On fete days the boy is gorgeously clad; sometimes in old French costumes, sometimes in the uniform of the Garde Civique. All this is fuuny enough, but not as curious as the rest It is the fashion for wealthy maiden ladies of Brussels to fall in love with the statue, and remember it handsomely in their wills. Through one such be quest this petted boy is provided with a valet at a salary of \$40; and a short time ago another unwedded admirer lef \$200 for the completoin and maintenance of his wardrobe.-Berlin Letter.

A LESSON IN ECONOMY.

Consul Germain writes from Zurieh, in regard to a plan recently introduced in the public schools of several European cities. In Brussels, the children, attending public schools were requested by their teachers to gather up on their way to and from school, all such apparently valueless objects as old metallic bottle capsules, tin foil, tin cans, paint tubes, refuse metals, etc., and deliver their collections saily to their respective teachers.

In the period from January 1 to October 1, 1895, or within eight months, the following amounts were collected: Tin foil, 875 kilogrammes (1,925 pounds); bottles capsules, 2,007 kilogrammes (220 pounds); bottles capsules, 2,007 kilogrammes (4,415 pounds); scraps of metal, 555 kilogrammes (7.781 pounds). This apparent rubbish was disposed of and the proceeds applied so as to completely clothe 500 poor children and send 90 sick ones to recuperation colonies, and there still remained quite a balance, which was distributed among the poor sick of the city.

poor sick of the city. Archbishop Williams of Boston, and presented to the public library of that city a set of twenty-eight volumes of the "Acta Sanctae Sedis," containing. all the decisions of the Cardinals of the Pro-

# GREAT BRITAIN ON THE ALERT

Her Diplomats Closely Watching the Orient-Has No Cause For Alarm.

Will Assert Her Rights the Instant Germany and Russia Make Clear Their Game.

London, Dec. 25.-In well informed ircles the general impression prevails that the scare in the newspapers and among the public in regard to the far east is at least premature. While the nembers of the government are reticent. they are evidently sincere in disclaiming the least alarm. The impression gathered in ministerial quarters is that Britain carefully watching events, biding her ime, and that she certainly will not fail to act promptly and vigorously at the proper moment. It is estimated in quarters well posted on such matters that Germany either has or wishes to have an understanding on the subject with Great Britain.

This view is strongly supported by rince Henry's visit to Queen Victoria Osborne, by his subsequent trip to London, and by the autograph letter which the Prince is said to have taken o Her Majesty from the Emperor William, etc., of which confirmation is forthoming. The Emperor's letter to the Queen is regarded as being a distinctly conciliatory step on the part of Gerany. But there is no doubt that Great Briain is quietly preparing for all uvenmalities. Should it become clear that Germany and Russia have really comenced a game of grab, Great Britain ill be prepared to assert her claims for division of the spoils.

At the Chinese embassy the view prerails that there is some understanding tween Great Britain and Germany. The public scare seems to have arisen from the idea that the proceedings took Great Britain by surprise. This is imsible, for since her intervention in the hinese-Japan war it has been known that Germany has only been awaiting a favorable opoprtunity to obtain a footold in China, and at various times it been reported that Lappa, Quemoy Amoy had been secured, while a ar ago German ships surveyed Kiao han bay, all of which was known at the British foreign office.

The reception of the German squadron Portsmouth, the facilities which the nips were afforded and will be afforded all the British coal depots on their way Hongkong, point to the sympathetic pport of Great Britain.

That Kussia does not expect trouble is own in the fact that she has not one pattleship in the far East. But, of ourse, if Russia does not leave Port Arhur in the spring, her stay there may to other grabbing.

In the meanwhile not a few people reand the Times editorial expressing satisaction at the Behring sea settlement rawal from the attitude she had as med in conection with Hawaii, as indications of a desire for an Anglo-Japmese-American alliance

WHERE DOES GERMANY STAND?

Does Not Know How Far She Can Go in the Orient

Berlin, Dec. 25.-China has occupied ublic atention to the exclusion of everything throughout the week. The govern ment and the officers continue reticent. ven the occupying of Port Arthur havng failed to elicit any official statements, with the exception of a denial of the extravagant utterances of the Cologne sizette and other usually inspired paers. The reason for this exceptional iturnity lies in the simple fact that rmany herself does not know where stands or how far the other powers permit her to go. Germany, Russia France are still negotiating, and lile there is strong pressure to bring bout another joint action of these powis in the Far East, equally potent inhences are working to frustrate such

It depends largely upon the outcome of negotiations as to what instrucons Prince Henry of Prussia will find waiting him when he arrives at Hongong early in February.

In the meantime the mission of Prince lenry may be characterized as mainly a isplay of spreadeagleism. A prominent plomat in an interview with the corresondent here of the Associated Press

"Russia's occupation of Port Arthur is ermanent. She thereby secures a muchired terminus for the Siberian raild, which will be extended from Vladostock to Port Arthur, making Russia e un isturbed mistress of Manchuria d the whole of North China. Her inrests in China in no way collide with se of France, whose sphere of action s in South China. Between is an imnense territory, which may eventually e a cause of dispute by Great Britain, ermany and Japan. A movement is w on foot between Japan and Gerany to arrive at an understanding, as apan sees clearly that this course is wisest. Russia will not tolerate Japan in Korea, as it would destroy all the schemes she has been preparing for he past two years. Therefore Germany the only friend and ally Japan cam ook to for coming events; that is, if she nows how to play her cards and estabish a basis of mutual interests, for high I fear there is considerable pros-

From a missionary, the correspondent re of the Associated Press learns, that he bay of Kaio Chan is by no means so aluable as at first believed. Part of the rbor freezes during three months of e winter and ice-breakers are required keep it open. The hinterland is barren and treeless, and the nature of the ground necessitates the erection of costly and large fortifications in order to hold the bay and adjoining territory against attack. If Germany concludes to retain it, she will have to record

money.

THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL.

Situation Not Changed by the Ecclesiastiand cal Decree.

Toronto, Dec. 25,-Referring editorially to the Pope's encyclical on the Manitoba school question, made public in Rome yesterday, the Globe says:

"There is no room for the supposition al action is concerned, the matter is settled and cannot be unsettled by any ecclesiastical decree. The situation is not in the slightest degree altered by the encyclical and the prospect of federal legislation are as remote as ever."

THE TIMES' Ottawa Letter.

From Our Own Correspondent. Ottawa, Dec. 18.-The Canadian govconsideration a very difficult problem, and this as as to whether it will fearlessly grapple with the opening up of the Yukon country or virtually let it alone. now this question before it, is composed of Hon. Messrs. Sifton, Mills, Scott, Paterson, Mullock and Sir Louis Davies. The government has already started out by sending an administrator into the country, giving him full power to do as he pleases, so long as he reports his actions directly to Ottawa, and sending along with him a sufficient number of mounted policemen to preserve order. But this is a mere beginning. It is calculated that about 100,000 people at the very least will go into the Yukon next spring, and now arises the question as to whether the government will be able to send in supplies to feed that number. To do this it will be necessary to open up a route and build a railway or wagon road part of the way. The favorite route appears to be the one by the would cost about five million dollars. lions on the top of the very heavy subsidy ernment will either have to get a money Yukon territory. It would be an admission of almost incompetency for a governkind was not only desirable, but actually necessary in the interests of the country, yet the popular voice does not prepare to grant it, and therefore the government hesitated to do its duty by pressing the and protesting against the "loose" hash-grations of bad faith on the part of the United States government, which have been thoughtlessly and unjustifiably justify it, if properly managed, because Messrs, Atkinson and Camsusa, Morton nade in England, and Jaapn's with the revenue which would be derived from and a number of others, who had failed the scheme would more than compensate is the question of royalty, the size of the claims and the grouping of the alternate claims instead of leaving each alternate found impracticable to leave each alternats claim for the benefit of the country, and therefore they will be grouped together. The size of the claims will also be increased. There is, in adition to this, the amount of customs duties which are to be charged. Some of the members of the committee would like to leave the customs law the same for entering the Yukon as for going into any other part of Canada from the United States. Others think that a certain amount of

There has been considerable talk of a iberal revolt in Quebec. Hon. Francois Langelier, a life-long Liberal, has been very much displeased at the report that Sir Adolphe Chapleau is to have another term of the lieutenant-governorship of Quebec. Sir Adolphe has been Mr. Langelicr's political enemy for many years, although the former contributed in many ways to the success of the Liberals at last general election. So impatient was Mr. Langelier about the matter that he gave to the press a portion of a private letter written by the premier to himself promising him the lieutenant-governorship. Mr. Langelier did not think that this was sufficient to create public interest in his case, and a few days ago he stated in an interview that a movement was on foot to bring about a coalition government between Laurier and Chapleau. This at once brought a number of Liberals, who call themselves the "old guard," to his side. Sir Wilfrid Laurier authorized the publication or a statement, and this is something very inusual for him, as he seldom submits to an interview, that there was no truth in the story circulated about the coaliion. Mr. Langelier then said that Mr. Laurier might not be aware of at, but Mr. Tarte knew all about it and was engaged in arranging the scheme. Mr. Tarte immediately authorized a statement that he never did anything of the kind, nor had he ever any interviews o: conferences with Sir Adolphe Chapleau other than the premier had full knowledge of. The truth of the whole matter is that the Liberal government has not enough public patronage to go around, so as to suit some of the people of Quebec. Take Mr. E. Pacauf, who edits and controls Le Soleil, the chief Liberal newspaper in the Quebec district nd large fortifications in order to hold Liberal newspaper in the same track. If Germany concludes to retain the burden of his ery against the government is that he is not getting enough of public money for his office. It was sive landowner in South Wales, is having his three sons taught Welsh. Mr. Pacaud who assisted in killing the

with general satisfaction.

Mercier government, but he will not be allowed to interfere in the affairs of the

PENTRUZZOOG KASAUNTAZZOO

Liberal party in the Dominion. The Hon. David Mills, minister of jus tice, has been flooded with petitions ask ing for the commutation of the death sentence passed on Mrs. Sternaman Once the case has been fully reported to Ottawa is will be fully considered of its merits, but the mere fact that it is a woman who committed the murder that the paper is issued without full will not avail her very much. It is said knowledge of the facts. So far as feder- that the point has been submitted that the .woman should have been tried in Buffalo for the crime, and not in Cayuga, in Canada.

MRS. BOOTH IMPROVING. Aged Leader of the Savlation Army Distressed at Her Illness.

New York, Dec. 25 .- At the Presbyterian Hospital to-night it was announced that Mrs. Ballington Booth's condition was somewhat improved. The physician in charge is now more confident of her

A special to the World from London

Gen. William Booth is profoundly aistressed by the news of the grave uluess of Mrs. Ballington Booth. The World rnment has at the present moment under correspondent journeyed to Barnet, where the general is staying at the house of his son, Bramwell Booth, but the venerable leader of the Salvation Army was unable to see anyone. The special cable dispatch received, pointing out that A committee of the cabinet, which has the associates of Mrs. Ballington Booth ascribed her illness to the harsh treatment she received at the hands of the Salvation Army leaders, which destroyed her health, was shown to the general by Bramwell Booth. The general re-

"Under these circumstances it is imossible for me to make any controversial statement. I can only express my deep sympathy with my son in his trouble and my hopes for Mrs. Booth's speedy recovery."

RATHER EXAGGERATED.

True Story of the Rescue of Two Indians at Oak Bay on Saturday.

Unsought for honors have been heaped upon Mr. Harry Morton in connection Stickeen and Teslin Lake. A wagon with the rescue of two Indians from a road would be very difficult to build, as capsized sloop at Cadboro Bay on Satur a great part of the way is over mossy day. Nobody ever questioned Mr. Morland. It is estimated that a railway ton's courage. He has proved on many occasions that he has more grit than Now comes the question whether the the ordinary, everyday man, but nothing country would stand a vote of five mil- that he did on Saturday called for a colump puff and a double-leaded editorial granted last session to the Canadian Pa- The accident that gave rise to the "guff" cific for the construction of the Crow's appearing in this morning's paper occur-Nest Pass road. Many believe that par-liement would refuse to vote that man and a younger one, set sail from amount. On the other hand, the gov- Oak Bay at 9:30 in the morning and spent some time cruising around the grant or confess to its inability to do hay. A strong wind sprung up and the anything for the opening up of the great | sloop capsized. Mr. H. Atkinson and Klondike gold fields which lie within the Leon Campsusa, who were at Cadboro Bay, first saw what had happened and Campsusa ran back to Oak Bay to give ment to say that an expenditure of this the alarm. Several young men, including John Lawrie and Charles Whitting ton, put out to the rescue in a small boat, out were carried past the sloop by the wind and current, finally landing in Cadboro Bay.

in an attempt for the outlay. Besides the question of waiting for her. When the sloop came dert, \$15,400. As agent John W. Fosthe route and expenditure necessary for within reach the Indians were taken off, opening it, there are a variety of sub- the old man slipping into the water again paid for lawyers' fees alone. The total jects which are engrossing the attention as he was being handed from the sloop of the committee. For instance, there to the rocks. The younger man, although companion. One of the men who assisted in the rescue slipped into the water, one for the government. It has been but as for anybody swimming out to the sloop, "why, that is not true," said Mr.

Atkinson. The Indians were made comfortable in tent on the beach until they had sufficiently survived to go home. If anyhedy deserves the Humane Society's medal it is the young men who put out to the rescue in a small boat.

DIED IN AN ASYLUM. Samuel Johnson, Who Died at Agnews the outfits should be free. It is pointed Was an Old Soldier. out that in many other ways the miner

will contribute his amount to assist in A special from San Jose to the San governing the country. There will be his miner's license fee, the royalty dues Francisco Chronicle says: "Samuel Johnson, an old soldier, who he will have to pay and a variety of as committed to the Agnews State government is dealing with the whole Hospital from this city about ten days ago, died last Monday, leaving \$7,000 subject it is pretty certain that when all cash deposited in Victoria, B. C. the regulations are framed they will meet

"Johnson was a stranger here, and had been in San Jose but a few days when he became suddenly insane. On his arrival here he complained of an affection of the heart and entered a sanitarium of North Third street for treatment. Before more than a casual examination could be made of his case, he lost his reason and attempted to jump from a second-story window. The police were notified and he was arrested on a charge of insanity and committed to Agnews. Johnson was possessed with hallucinations that his enemies were pursuing him for the purpose of poisoning

him. "From papers found on his person it was learned that he had about a year before been honorably discharged from the United States army, where he had served a number of years. He had \$50 in cash, a certificate for \$7,000 on a bank in Victoria, B. C., and several artcles of jewellery.

"From letters discovered among his possessions it was learned he had a sister, Mrs. Sarah Breck, at Ontario, Can ada. Johnson was about 55 years of age. Just where he came from the authorities were unable to learn, but it i thought he came here direct from British Columbia. He was very feeble and herdly able to care for himself. statements were incoherent, and it was impossible to get much information from him. After entering the asylum he steadily grew weaker and last Monday

morning he died, "To-day Public Administrator Second filed a petition for letters of administration upon Johnson's estate. Besides the \$7,000 in cash, it is thought Johnson may be the owner of real estate in British Cclumbia. The only known heir is his Cclumbia, The only known her sister. The hearing of the administrafor's petition will come up before Judge Hyland on January 7th."

### GLOOMY OUTLOOK

Right Hon. Charles T. Ritchie Talks Plainly on the Decline of British Trade.

Delivers an Important Speech Before the Chamber of Commerce of Croyden

London, Dec. 26.-The Rt. Hon. Chas. T. Ritchie, president of the Board of Trade, in an important speech before the Chamber of Commerce of Croyden, taking as his theme the decline of British exports during the last ten months upon which he hung a grave warning against American competition now "custing British trade," declared that the Dingley tariff and the engineering strike were mainly responsible for the recent decline of exports. After pointing out that Ergland had no weapons against the tariff, he said there was a great deal of talk in commercial circles about the serious competition of Germany; but he thought they were too apt to overlook a more serious competitor-

the United States. "These facts are serious," he continued, "and call upon us for the exercise of all our powers to enable us to maintain our position in the commercial world. There is no doubt the United States are executing orders which ought to be executed here. As we all know, an American firm has secured the contract for the Central Underground Railway, of London, as its bid was lower than those of the English concerns, and it could deliver the supplies three months ahead of the British tenderers. Many important continental orders have gone to America.

"The same may be said of Egypt and Japan, where the Americans are doing work that Englishmen should have done. In consequence of the engineering dispute many orders are leaving the country, and, unfortunately, these or-

ders seldom return. "America's successful competition is due to her enterprise in embarking capital, but it is yet more due to the freedom her manufacturers enjoy of employing the best machinery and working it in the mast economical manner, un trammeled by the restrictions which have hampered manufacturers here. Everyone having the country's interest at heart must hope that to-morrow's conference will lead to a settlement of the unfortunate engineering dispute."

SEALSKINS COME HIGH.

Fees Paid by United States to Agents tir and Counsel at Paris.

Washington, Dec. 22.-Representative Johnson, of North Dakota, has furnished the congressional record an interesting statement of what it cost the government to make an unsuccessful claim for Changes before the Paris tribunal Johnson's statement, Justice Harlan, of Senator Morgan, of Alabama, re-Blodgett, \$12,600 and Frederic R. Couter meceived \$15,000; over \$106,000 was cost to the United States government was \$224,514. The original bills prenearly exhausted, jumped in after his sented called for a much larger sum, but were scaled down by the auditors of the treasury to the sums mentioned, which

were allowed. A number of New York manufacturers of fur garments called at the treasury department and had a conference with Assistant Secretary Howell in regard to the regulations which will be necessary to carry out the provisions of the bill recently passed by congress, should it receive the approval of the president, prohibiting the importation of what is known as pelagic seal skins. The New York importers who favor the bill asked that every possible precaution be taken by the department to prevent the bringing into the United States of the proscribed skins, Mr. John W. Foster, who accompanied the delegation, stated that all skins taken on the seal islands were numbered, so that United States consular officials would have little or no difficulty in determining which were contraband skins before issuing his certificate. The department's regulations will be issued as scon as possible after the bill has received the signature of the

president. TO BE SOLD UNDER FORE-CLOSURE. West Superior Iron and Steel Plant

Will Go to Mortgagees. West Superior, Wis., Dec. 25.-Preparations have been begun for the trans-fer of the property of the West Superior Iron and Steel Company, of this city, to the Central Trust Company, of New York, who hold against it a mortgage of \$1,730,000, including interest on the principal and taxes since 1893. A judgment was taken against the steel compeny in the circuit court of this county a year ago and the property will be sold n February 7 to satisfy the mortgage by James R. Hile, referee.

#### SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

A Christmas Tourney. The third monthly medal competition of the Victoria Golf Club, held on Saturday afternoon at the Oak Bay links resulted Stephen Horsey, one of the celebrated Knights of the Golden Circle, who was arrested in Indiana in 1864 on suspicion of conspiring to aid the Confederacy, is dving in the asylum for the poor in the little town of Shoals, Ind., forgotten by friends and enemies. FROM THE CAPITAL.

Mr. Sufton Leaves for Washington Discuss Yukon Affairs.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.-Hon. Mr. Sifton left yesterday for Washington to discuss Yukon affairs. He is to have a conference with Mr. Algar, secretary of war. A proclamation has been issued calling parliament for the dispatch of business on February 3. Col. White, late deputy postmaster-

general, was presented with a magnificent gold watch and other articles of value by the inside and outside branches of the department. D. B. McTavish, city solicitor, has

cen appointed senior judge of Carleton

cunty. Hunter & Oliver, of Victoria, give notice of application for a bill to incororate a company to build a railway rom Portland inlet to Telegraph Creek, thence to Teslin lake and Dawson. Ap lication will also be made by Ottawa arties for a charter to build from Arowhead, on Arrow lake, via Trout lake Kootenav lake.

Mayor Bingham has got a second term in the mayoralty to-day. He was unopposed.

DANISH WEST INDIES

Bill to Purchase Them Will be Presented to the Senate.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 25.-A special to the Times-Herald from Washington

Senator Lodge is preparing a bill fa-

ring the purchase of the three islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, wned by Denmark, in the West Indies. The United States has been discussing this purchase for nearly thirty years. In 1868 negotiations went so far that a treats was negotiated for the purchase by which this country was to pay \$8, 000,000 for the islands, but it failed of ratification. A most liberal offer would be made to the United States to purchase as a comparatively small price-almost nothing-for it has been practically determined by Denmark to either sell these islands or give them liberty.

HIS PRECIOUS BOOKS. A Comedy That Is Still a Mystery to the Chief Actor.

Jack Spratt worked in a down town office and had a good salary, but because he was in debt Mrs. Jack declined to allow him to spend a cent for anything save the absolute necessities of life. Spratt was something of a reader and liked to own good books. An opportunity came to purchase a set of books, which he had coveted, for \$25. or about a quarter of what they were worth. By scrimping, at the end of the month he had the \$25 and pu chased the books.

To take the books home would have been fatal at the time. Spratt resolved to leave them' in the office until he had smoother the way for their advent into the house. This he thought he could on the seal fisheries. According to Mr. do if he went at it judiciously. So the books were left in the big box in which the Suprame Court, received \$13,000, they had come and put on the top shelf of a closet in the office.

\$13,373 as arbitrators. As Spratt told his friends in the office all counsel James C. Carter was paid \$30,- about the books, and one morning a few to implating engaging in pelagic sealing of the passage of a bill prohibiting sealing

"It's all right, boys," he said. "I've fifth degree north latitude, under a pentold Mrs. Spratt about the books. Said alty of forfeiture and a fine of \$2,000, I saved money by walking instead of and imprisonment for not longer than six riding, eating cheap lunches and all months. that. I'm going to take them home tonight."

His friends resolved that as it had all been so easy for Spratt, he should have one or two difficulties before he got the books home. So while Spratt was out at lunch, they took down the package, untied it, and substituted bricks. Then they tied it up neatly again. They were all laughing in their sleeves that night when Spratt' staggered out of the office, bending under the weight of his load.

"Wait till we see Spratt in the mornng." they said. "It's certainly the best rioke vet."

Everybody was waiting to laugh when Spratt walked into the office the next morning. The mournful expression on his face deterred them, however. They resolved to wait until Spratt spoke, which was pretty soon.

"You know those books?" he said. 'Well. I raked and scraped to get them, left them here for two months, used dollars' worth of diplomacy to square myself witah my wife, and started with them last night."

Sprat stopped to sigh, while his friends said: "Yes, yes!" and appeared the head of the household and was thorto be tremendously interested, which, in reality, they were. "Well," continued Spratt, " I laid them on the seat beside me in the ele-

vated train last night, and began to read my paper. Got terribly interested and-well, when I got to my station the package was gone.' One of the clerks fell off his chair with thud.

"You don't mean stolen, do you?" manded another in a faint voice. "Stolen! nothing more nor less," said Spratt dolefully. Spratt's friends left him alone then. At the lunch hour they talked it over.

Then they got the books together, wrap-

ped them up, and when Spratt came back from lunch gathered around him, while the credit man spoke: "Mr. Spratt, we, your fellows in the employ of Dinky, Ding & Co., have listened to your unfortunate experience with feelings of regret. At a meeting held immediately after your recital we resolved to make good your loss, and on behalf of all hands I take great pleasure in presenting you with a set of books

thank us. We do it cheerfully, I assure you." The tears came into Spratt's eyes. "Boys, I thank you," was all he could say, and he hasn't learned the truth yet.

similar to the ones you lost. Do not

ANOTHER ROMAN VILLA.

Another Roman villa has been dug up a Another Roman villa has been dug up at Riscorate. on the slones of Vestivius, near Pompell, where the great find of sliver or naments was made two years ago. The relia and covered likith beautiful frescoes, chiefly landscapes and marines. One represents afforting over a river with an ingler fishing with a line. Four wine fars were in the cellar and seven skeletons have been found in the excavation.

## THAT SEALING BILL

American Merchants Strongly Protest , Against the Act Passed by Congress.

Great Influence Is Being Brought to Bear Upon President McKinley.

New York, Dec. 25 .- A Washington special to the Herald says:

Protests made by influential merchants against the approval of the sealing act, which passed congress on Friday, have caused the president to hesitate in attaching his signature to the message, out it is the general opinion to-night that he will finally approve it. It has been represented to the president that section 9 of the act providing that "importations into the United States of fur sealskins taken in North Pacific waters, whether raw, dressed, dyed or manufactured, is hereby prohibited," works a aardship upon American merchants qually with British manufacturers. Special Seal Embassador Foster was with the president this morning explaining the provisions of the act and their effect, and, as he prepared the measure n conjunction with the secretary of the treasury, he, of course, urged that it be approved. Mr. Foster believes that ection 9 will prevent the treatment by London manufacturers of skins taken by pelagic sealers, and the result of the restriction of British work will cause them o bring pressure to bear upon the British government to negotiate a modus vivendi with the United States as desired

by President MciKnley. An official of the treasury department. old me that the department had as yet taken no steps looking to the preparation of regulations under which the reimportation of sealskins into the United States will be allowed. It is not generally krown, he said, but it is a fact, that every sealskin taken by the Alaska Commercial Company on the Pribyloff Islands is given a number, and that number is retained through the various stages through which it passes to the finished material. Each number, with a description of the skin, is kept by colectors of customs. The company was allowed to take 30,000 skins during last eason, and in case a modus should not be negotiated the president will announce in the spring the number it will be allowed to take during the following season. The only skins which London dealers can import into the United States besides those taken by the Alaska Commercial Company will be some 15,000 or 20,000 taken annually in Hudson Bay and in that vicinity. The effect of the prohibition of the importation of skins taken elsewhere will be appreciated when is remembered that the United States the largest sealskin market in the world and that 200,000 skins have been annually treated by London furriers. Washington, Dec. 25 .- Assistant Secretary Powell has instructed the collectors of customs at San Francisco and Port Townsend, Wash., to notify all persons in their respective districts contemplating engaging in pelagic sealing of

Pasific Ocean north of the thitrty

THE OLD "NIGGER" MAMMY Death of a Specimen of This Fast Disappearing Type.

It was nothing notable-just the death of an old, toothless, wrinkled, white haired negro woman, who had been suffering for many months and talking sometimes of the old days-her slave associatescalling up in her wild imaginings old plantation memories of Baker county; picturing again the scenes about Pine Bloom on days of prodigality when she was young and the plantation life was

No, it was nothing, this death of Mammy Jule Ann: but it was the departure of a type soon to be extinct, the disappearance of a specimen of old southern life, as well defined in the civilization of that day as the planter himself, and holding a position of honor.

She was no menial, this old "nigger mammy." She presided with portly dignity over the smokehouse and the pantry, and her frown was feared as much in the parlor as it was in the "quarters." She became a kind of an understudy to oughly identified with every phase of family life, wrapipng the swaddling clothes about the infants, presiding at their birth and impressing race traditions upon the children as they grew up by elling marvellous tales of the feats of their forefathers and calling upon them to develop and do likewise.

She frowned and thundered at times, but there was always a smile and sunshine concealed, for this old nigger mammy had heart enough to encompass the wide domain of fertile acres. She was the only one who dared to vent impudence in the face of the "Ole Marster," but this was made in a spirit of mocking raillery, which told the kindly humon prompting it. They are going fast, these old relics. In after days of individual effort, except in rare instances, they were misfits, and freedom to them meant a curtailment of liberties, a sudden narrowing down from which they never recovered.

And Mammy Jule Ann was one of these. There was in her the pure pride of aristocracy-the spirit of noblesse oblige which caused her to scorn all sordid tendencies of this day and generetion

Was it any wonder that on her deathbed visions came of old Pine Bloom with the gray moss streaming down from the nagnolias and the chorus of the field hands ringing out from the cotton field; that she saw the white vine embowered coronnade peopled again with black faces peering, in, while the dance went on in the huge hallway; that she recognized her young mistress courtesying in the mazes of the reel; that she heard her old master call and hurried to answer-for this, all this was her heaven? -Atlanta Constitution.