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The Dunderland Iron Ore Company. For some time past investigations have been in progress in Norway in the interest of certain representatives of the iron trade in England with a view to securing a higher grade of ore than has been hitherto obtainable from European sources and thus obtaining means for meeting successfully the competition created by the establishment of the United States Steel Corporation. As a result it is announced that the Dunderland Iron Ore Company has been formed with a capital of £2,000,000 to work extensive deposits of iron ore in Norway by means of Mr. Edison's process, the promoters of the enterprise having had his co-operation in their preliminary work. The chairman of the company is Sir David Dale who has a very high standing in respect to business ability and integrity, and the enterprise does not lack influential and powerful support. The technical advisors of the company include Mr. Edison and Lord Kelvin.

Canadian Teachers in London. The lady teachers who a few weeks ago left this country for South Africa were permitted to spend a week in London, a privilege which they would doubtless highly appreciate. A young lady of the party belonging to Ottawa, has written an interesting account of a visit paid to the Duke and Duchess of Argyll. The Duchess—better known as the Princess Louise—the writer says, looks very much as she did when residing at Rideau Hall several years ago. "She has the loveliest of complexions, her hair is bright and fluffy and her figure charming." The Duke has changed more. His hair has grown quite silvery and the slimmness of his figure is gone. There is a slight huskiness of the voice which was not noticeable in the old days. His Grace asked many questions about Ottawa, and spoke particularly of Eddy's Mills and the interest which he used to take in them. He expressed great regret that the fire had swept them all away. The Duke said that he had been the first to suggest to Mr. Eddy the manufacture of pulp and showed a waste paper basket and a pail manufactured by the Eddy works. The letter concludes with the statement that nothing could have been more charming than the treatment the party received from the Princess and the Duke.

The Morgan Steamship Combine. In English newspapers and in Parliament apprehension continues to be expressed in respect to the effect of the Morgan Shipping Combine. There is alarm at the peril to British commercial supremacy which is supposed to be involved and at the making of the food supply of Great Britain dependent upon the caprice or the avarice of American millionaires. It is said, however, that practical men in the shipping and food import trade do not share in these apprehensions, but regard the combination as in some sort a necessity to protect the shipping interests against the losses sustained during a part of the year through undue competition. They say that, with all the talents in the world as an organizer, Mr. Morgan could not have brought the lines together if there had not been an urgent necessity for the avoidance of destructive competition and the readjustment of freight and passenger rates. Accordingly, it is argued that as the combination is a matter of business, growing out of a business situation, it is not reasonable to suppose that Mr. Morgan and those connected with him in the management of this enterprise have any intention of challenging formidable rivalries by transferring ships from one flag to another, and thus compelling Government to subsidize new lines in self-defence and in order to secure the carriage of food supplies at mod-

erate cost. There are, however, two or three significant things to be noted in this connection. First, the supposed necessity of this shipping combine has reference to the interests of capitalists and not to those of the people of Great Britain or the public generally. Secondly, this "necessary" combination is an outcome of American, not British, enterprise, and the controlling power in this great combine is in the United States. Thirdly, this combination which will control so much at the outset is not unlikely to extend its power materially, and though there may not be, under ordinary conditions, any change of flags or any interference with the usual course of trade, there will be a condition of things which will make such changes and interference easy if they should become desirable in the interests of the Morgan syndicate or the United States Government.

Lord Salisbury's Speech. The speech of Lord Salisbury before the Primrose League on Wednesday last, has been received with much interest, not only as a deliverance of the British Premier on public questions, but on account of the character of the speech itself. The Premier's deliverance was in an unwontedly optimistic vein. Perhaps the tone of it reflects a better condition of his lordship's health, or perhaps it indicates the recognition on his part that the British taxpayer at the present time stands in need of the tonic which any cheerful words that can truthfully be spoken might supply. Lord Salisbury is reported as saying that, during the past seventeen years the country had passed through the most troublesome time in its political history. It seems hardly probable that he could have said that. But the period has certainly had a good share of trouble and vexation. His lordship is however, able to congratulate the nation on the situation reached in Egypt, and on the continued unity and prestige of the Empire. In respect to Ireland he held that it was a great gain that the policy of home rule had been generally discarded, but it was not to be expected that the ashes of past conflicts would be extinguished at once. In reference to the war in South Africa, Lord Salisbury said that, while not forgetting the misery and suffering entailed, they had to recognize other considerations. Among these was the fact that the power, prestige and influence of their great Empire were more potent, more efficient and more admirable than ever before. They had suffered but they had greatly won, and he warmly defended the wisdom of the general policy which the Government had pursued in respect to the controversy out of which the war came. His lordship declared that in reference to the conditions of peace the Government stood where it had stood before, the settlement could not take place on such a basis as to leave it in the power of the enemy whenever it might seem to him opportune to renew the conflict over the issues which for three years they had been fighting out. When the present conflict was over, however, all that could be done would be done to mould the Boers into a portion of the Empire which had conferred so many blessings upon the human race. Touching upon the subject of Imperial Federation, Lord Salisbury advised those who were anxious to secure that end to consider carefully the steps they were going to take and the results expected. They could not interfere with the national development of their colonies. He looked with apprehension on any attempt to anticipate events or foreclose the precious results which was in store for them.

Bret Harte. A remarkable literary career closed with the death of Bret Harte at Camberly, near Aldershot, England, on Tuesday last. The English reading public appre-

ciated the distinctly original vein in Bret Harte's works. It was regarded as something typically American, and his books consequently were more widely read in England, than those of some other American authors who on this side the Atlantic would be accorded a higher rank. This appreciation had doubtless much to do with attracting Mr. Harte to England where he had been living a quiet, unobtrusive sort of life for some years past. His genius was of a versatile character and it is difficult to say whether his greatest successes were achieved in the field of prose or of poetry. A brief sketch of his career is appended: Francis Bret Harte was born in Albany, N. Y., Aug. 25, 1839. His father, who taught in a girls' school, died when the son was very young. At the age of fifteen Bret went to California, where for three years he wandered about among the mining camps, digging for gold, teaching school, and finally acting as an express messenger. He then went to work as a compositor in the office of the 'Golden Era.' To this journal he contributed sketches of California life. After a time he was transferred to the editorial room and later he became editor of the 'Californian,' a literary weekly. In 1864 he was appointed secretary of the United States branch mint in San Francisco, which office he held for six years, and during this time he contributed several poems to San Francisco papers, such as 'John Burns of Gettysburg.' In July, 1868, the 'Overland Monthly' was commenced, with Harte as its editor. To the August number he contributed 'The Luck of Roaring Camp,' a story of mining life idealized. In January followed 'The Outcasts of Poker Flat,' also very successful. In September, 1870, appeared his humorous poem 'The Heathen Chinese,' which made him famous. About this time he was appointed professor of modern literature in the University of California, but in 1871, he went to the Eastern States and took up his residence in New York and later in Boston. He was appointed United States Consul at Creffield in 1878, from which he was transferred to Glasgow in March, 1880, where he remained five years. He then went to live in London. His works are numerous and well known. They include 'East and West Poems,' 'Mrs. Skagg's Husbands,' 'Gabriel Conroy,' 'Story of a Mine,' 'In the Carquinez Woods,' 'On the Frontier,' 'Maruja,' 'Crusade of the Excelsior,' 'The Argonauts of North Liberty,' 'A Waif of the Plains,' 'A Ward of the Golden Gate,' etc.

An Appalling Catastrophe. The reports which have been received in reference to volcanic eruptions in the Windward Antilles, especially on the French Island of Martinique, and the resulting destruction of life as well as property, may be exaggerated. But there is too much reason to believe that the disaster is of appalling dimensions. The interruption of cable communication and the burning condition of that part of Martinique which has suffered most severely have evidently made it impossible so far to gather certainly accurate information as to what has taken place upon the Island. But the reports from vessels which were in the vicinity and from neighboring islands agree in stating that there was a tremendous eruption of the Pelee volcano on Martinique and that almost immediately the town of St. Pierre, the commercial capital of the island was enveloped in flames. It is represented that the town was entirely consumed and that nearly its whole population, numbering about 30,000, perished. A number of vessels in the harbor were consumed and their crews perished, the steamer *Raraima* of the Quebec line, commanded by Captain Muggah of Sydney, C. B., being among the number. The British ship *Koddam*, which was cruising in the vicinity of St. Pierre, suffered severely, and a considerable number of its crew lost their lives. The whole northern portion of Martinique is reported to be in a burning condition, and other places of considerable population besides St. Pierre have been destroyed. The total loss of life is estimated at not less than 40,000. This, it is to be hoped, may prove to be greatly exaggerated. On the other hand, there is some fear that the full record of the terrible catastrophe may exceed present reports. There have been seismic disturbances in other of the Windward Islands, especially in the British Island of St. Vincent, where a volcano has been in eruption, causing great alarm and the loss, it is said, of hundreds of lives.