

# Our London Letter.

## A Postage Stamp Mystery That Has Upset the G.P.O. Department.

## The Country Proud of the Successes of the Premier, Salisbury.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.)

London, Feb. 11.—Here's a mystery for you equal in intensity to the \$300,000 bank note robbery at Paris bank, though as regards the amount involved it may not be of quite the same importance. Your esteemed London correspondent, whom I have for a period more nearly approaching a half than a quarter of a century, regarded with feelings of the warmest personal affection, has had occasion to notice that the copies of certain Canadian papers, amongst them the Victoria Daily Times, invariably reached him minus that adhesive, but by no means flattering edify of Her Majesty, represented by a Dominion one-cent stamp. There was no demand made for insufficient postage, evidence that the stamps had been "unstick" being present from the mark left by the gum on the papers and the place where the stamp should have been being duly infiltrated by some postoffice authority. The stamps had been "unstick" en route—that was plain as a pike staff—but when, why and by whom? Herein lies the mystery as yet unexplained. They were not of the new issue, and consequently no special philatelic interest. Your correspondent, with that zeal for the public good which I trust every distinguished him, thereupon wrote to the Postmaster-General calling his attention to the matter, enclosing the mutilated wrapper. But in his naïveté and innocence he did not know what a terrible thing it is to start the British government on a quest of this kind, or what awful consequences were to ensue, or he would not have done it. Half his days are now spent either in correspondence with the department or in interviewing inspectors, private detectives and other emissaries of postal state, and all on account of a purloined stamp or two. Truly, there is such a thing as excessive zeal for the public weal, as he is beginning to find out. And, mark you, so far there has been no result, absolutely none. We are as far off discovering the culprit as ever.

The Queen's speech is rather less exciting this session than usual, though goodness knows it covers enough ground and alludes to enough events. The abdication of the Soudan, the death of the heir apparent to the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha—the Duke of Edinburgh's only son—the assassination of the Empress of Austria, the czar, as peace-maker, the hurricane in the West Indies, the Indian plague, are all texts lending themselves to eloquent development, but then Majesty's Majesty's mouths of her ministers is never eloquent on paper, and perhaps it is as well that this rule should prevail. The government programme includes bills for the government of London, the formation of a board for the control of primary, secondary and technical education, private legislation in Scotland, the purchase of Jewelling houses by the poor classes, and various matters of minor administrative import. Neither sensational nor heroic, but none the worse on that account, Lord Salisbury might have been excused if he had indulged in the slightest touch of either, for certainly the crises through which his government has brought the country, and brought it safely through, are not such as to excite the admiration of the House of Commons. Half the papers in the kingdom hooted and yelled that our interests were being destroyed, that we should lose our trade, that Russia had as usual outwitted us, and all on account of the weak and vacillating old man at the head of affairs. Yet in the result and viewed in the light of after events, the nation is beginning to recognize that the Prime Minister has succeeded, without recourse to arms, which at one time looked inevitable, in achieving a veritable triumph for British prestige in the Far East, as is best testified by the favor with which the Chinese loan was received, subscribed, they say, ten times over by the British public. John Bull would not have put a stipulation into it had not he felt fairly certain that his influence in the country was at least sufficient to ensure due protection of his interests.

Then the Crestan Ambrogio No. 2. We all know how Admiral Salomon cut that gordian knot in the trenchant style peculiar to the British tar. Fashoda comes No. 3. That perhaps was the worst mess of the lot, and if ever things look as warlike they did then, but for all that the French Major Marchand and the Quai d'Orsay notwithstanding, have retired from the Nile and the incident is closed without burning powder or breaking friendship. The understanding with Germany, No. 4, an all important and far-reaching event, few believing its accomplishment possible, yet it is a fact accomplished. The foregoing contribute fairly notable list and the country is proud of the man and his deeds. There may be an able statesman in England to-day, but I question it.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman came out of the ordeal of his maiden speech as leader of the opposition very well indeed, and the press generally has complimented him. That he "will do" is the general verdict. As for Sir William and Mr. John Morley, the party seems to set along very well without them.

The housing of the London poor, the frightful overcrowding to which they are subjected, the exorbitant rents they pay, the wretched quarters they are forced to inhabit, subjects to which great prominence has lately been given by the Daily News, have been taken up already in the debate on the address, and it is possible legislation may ensue remedy-

ing the evils. The vested interests are so enormous, people care individually so little about these matters (they are far more keen about the education of the Soudanese children \$300 millions away than they care about the salivation, moral and physical, of their own countrymen two hundred yards away), that for a very long time to come it were hopeless to look for reform. The British public is fully grasped. But at least it is contenting to find so many members of parliament, prominent men like Asquith, the late Liberal home secretary, included upon the right side of things as regards the land question in landlordism. Might I suggest that you reprint their speeches in the London dailies of to-day. The statements made apply no less to Victoria than to London.

Endward Kipling's new poem "Take up the White Man's Burden," bids fair to eclipse his "Recessional Hymn" in popularity. It is a fine piece of work.

ARTHUR SCAIFE.

# Port Angeles and Eastern

## A Company Organized to Build the Line—To Commence in a Few Weeks.

## Propose to Run a Ferry Service Between Victoria and Port Angeles.

Seattle, March 3.—Port Angeles is to have railroad connection with the great east and Victoria is to be made a connection of the road by a fast ferry steamer service, the scheme now on foot develops. Already a company has been organized, surveys are at work, and it is said that actual construction will begin between March 20 and April 1.

The company is incorporated and officers, consisting of Boston capitalists, have been elected. C. A. Cushing, the president, said, before leaving for a visit to his home in the city of beans and culture, that the details of the project have not been definitely settled; but it has been determined to give Port Angeles a transcontinental road, and if that cannot be done by connection with another road this one would be built to a junction with the Northern Pacific.

In addition to the election of Mr. Cushing as president of the new road, J. C. Atkinson, of Boston, has been chosen vice-president and general manager, and Arthur Shute, of Ellsworth, Me., treasurer. Mr. Cushing is a retired shoe manufacturer of Boston, who never paid much attention to railroad matters in the past, farther than to act as a director in different companies. Mr. Atkinson has been interested in the Port Angeles project for some time. When Mr. Cushing came through here last month the subject was brought up, and Mr. Atkinson explained to him that he thought that he had a first-class proposition. Notwithstanding the fact that he had come here on a vacation and was on his way to Honolulu, Mr. Cushing became so interested that he gave up his trip and began an investigation of the project. So well was he satisfied with it that he took it up at once, and as a result the company was incorporated with a capital stock of \$500,000.

"We intend to commence operations between March 20 and April 1," said Mr. Cushing before he left for the east. At that time there is a surveying party in the field, locating the line for some twenty-five miles out of Port Angeles.

The subsidies and the encouragement of the United States government, which is in the vicinity of the road would surprise many railroad men. They have, it is said, been granted nearly the entire cost of the line, and the company will receive a large amount, and will, as the town grows, be worth more. In addition to that Port Angeles has guaranteed them \$50,000 in cash. The little town of Squam has guaranteed \$100,000, and Dunsmuir \$150,000 in cash.

But probably the greatest encouragement which they received was from Victoria, sixteen miles across the strait. The terms of that city are said to have become so disgusted with the Canadian Pacific that they made great promises to Mr. Cushing if he would build his road. They are very anxious to see an American transcontinental connection. He met the mayor and members of the city council, who showed him about the town and promised a vast amount of trans-continental business.

"We will likely put on a fast steamer between Victoria and Port Angeles, to connect with our line," said Mr. Cushing.

## ALARMING ACCIDENT.

Another cave-in took place at Wellington yesterday in the neighborhood of the one which took place first. This time the residence of Mr. Haggart, a few months ago. The roof gave way and allowed the workings to cave, fifty men were working in the mine. They all escaped, excepting four Russian Finns, working for a contractor. They were on the other side of the cave, and were prevented from reaching the outlet with the others, owing to the mine being blocked with the debris. Not sufficient earth had fallen, however, to prevent them from digging through the debris, and finally making their escape by hand and plucky nerve. The cave is only about eighteen feet in circumference on the surface, and did not injure any property beyond letting down into the mine a portion of one of the back frames.

## CANADIAN BREVITIES.

Halifax, March 2.—The death is announced at St. John's of James P. Fox, a member of the Newfoundland legislature.

Toronto, March 2.—The employees of Massey-Harris Company have had their wages increased 10 per cent.

St. Mary's, Ont., March 2.—Latest returns of the South Perth election reduce the majority to Monteith, Conservative, to 9.

Ingersoll, March 2.—R. McGinty died yesterday aged 101. His death resulted from grippe, attacked him about three weeks ago.

# R. E. L. Brown's Famous Wedge

## The Nervy Engineer Gets \$300,000 Damages From Transvaal Government.

## Formed a Wedge in a Rand Gold Rush and Was Pushed Through Thousands.

R. E. L. Brown, otherwise known as "Barbarian" Brown, who has an office here in the Bank of Montreal building in charge of his associate, H. Ritter, C. E., has, according to the Johannesburg correspondent of the New York Sun, just been awarded nearly \$300,000 damages from the Transvaal government.

The correspondent says:

It is the sequel of the wildest gold-farm rush of South Africa, in which Brown pursued the tactics of the "foot-peg" and had himself driven through an immense mob of lawless ruffians by a flying wedge of 300 armed men. It was an exploit of a football captain and frontier American.

"Barbarian" Brown came to South Africa with a reputation for nerve gained in the famous Couer d'Alene strikes, where he took the part of the mine owners and never receded from his stand, though daily threatened with death. He even edited a paper enunciating his opinions, called the Barbarian. This furnished the sobriquet which clung to him when he reached Johannesburg.

Once here Brown secured a place with one of the mining companies, the Witwatersrand, on the Rand. He was an expert consulting engineer, and soon made himself valuable to the company by himself up the very richest claims on the March-Isle Range. It was as his representative also that Brown planned and carried out the

**The Mighty Football Rush.**

Twelve thousand miners the very roughest men in the goldfields, made up from nearly every nation on the globe, took part in the rush, which occurred on a level stretch of ground. In September, 1885, and the goal was a galvanised iron shanty, six feet square, wherein stood a government mining commissioner, whose business was to sell licenses for claims on the Witwatersrand.

This farm lay directly on the gold reef and belonged to the government. It was one of the best of the rich farms where the old Boers had for years been raising their crops, and it was all unconscious of the hidden wealth. The exodus began ten days before the opening. The Rand was in an uproar. Every mining company there prepared for the occasion. As well known prospectors of reward lay along the richest part of the reef, and that a claim there would yield fortunes.

The Transvaal government knew this, but had not counted on any such demonstration as followed, or the claims would have been disposed of by lottery, the plan afterward adopted. The proclamation in the Transvaal press gave permission to any one to trespass on the land, so that all buyers had an opportunity for locating the best claims. But first they must obtain a license at the little iron shanty, the mine office, where they were expected to pay a license fee. Consequently every vehicle in Johannesburg had been hired or bought to transport men to the spot.

The road from Johannesburg to Klondike, which the Witwatersrand, looks like the route of

## An Army Transportation.

Tents, cooking outfits, cases of whiskey and various notes when the government commissioner threw open the door and announced President Kruger's order suspending the opening. It nearly cost him his life, for he was pushed harder than ever, and Brown was on the point of giving up his position when one of those happy inspirations which occur to men of quick thought and action, he decided to demand a license.

"Here I am," he yelled at the frightened commissioner, sticking through the window a face covered with blood. "Here's my good, hard-earned money. Now give me my license or I'll sue the government for \$1,000,000."

A sudden pitch of the mob nearly pushed the plucky fellow through the window, and scattered his shoddy baggage, but he waited to hear the refusal and have it witnessed, and then allowed himself to be passed out on the veldt.

Out of the thousands there he was the only one who had the foresight to do this. He finally received his indemnity. This amount has been kept secret, but it is variously estimated by the Johannesburg papers between \$250,000 and \$750,000.

During the entire time that the suit was being tried, and it passed through a number of courts, the flying wedge hovered about Brown, many of them not doing a stroke of work, all existing on the hope of receiving their share of the award, but as Brown left Johannesburg before it was granted these choice spirits were doomed to disappointment.

R. E. L. Brown, the hero of the flying wedge, was a familiar figure on the streets of this city about eighteen months ago, when he and his partners had an office in the building adjoining the Driand on Broad street. He had then and has now many big mining interests in this province.

A familiar belief that Russian explorers have proven to be an error is that the great Gobi desert in Asia is an arid waste. Instead of being a sandy waste, Obstrutcheff tells us, it is a steppe-like plateau, with numerous hills and valleys that have been produced by erosion since it rose from beneath the sea, and with enough rain and snow in ordinary years to give a growth of grass sufficient for vast herds belonging to wandering Mongolians. In the most barren part of the caravan route from Chien to Urga, over which yearly pass 100,000 caravans loaded with tea, the wells are mostly not more than twenty or thirty miles apart. It was in this desert that once swarmed the hordes of mounted barbarians that threatened to lead to the building of the great wall, 1,200 miles long.

hair and a red mustache, was very handsome and massively built.

Brown selected him for his captain and gave him carte blanche financially. Each day he brought his particular friends, and Brown remained about \$25 a day and gold bouis if they pushed him through. When this regiment of toughs made its first appearance in the little town of Klondike, the citizens fled for their lives. Men emerged with ears bitten off, and camp many firms immediately made overtures to the men and tried to win them over with drink and money. A number of Americans started for John Hays Edmunds' camp, but also were stood in front with drawn revolvers and threatened to shoot the first man who left.

Brown found that the only way to hold his men was to keep them drunk, so for five days previous to the opening, whiskey flowed like water and the ring-leaders boosted up their cohorts with bad liquor. On the day of the rush, however, Brown was so drunk as to forget that the flying wedge which had been thoroughly explained and illustrated. At the very peak of dawn the great mass

Began to push, though the sale was not until 9 o'clock. Lines were formed, and the entire gathering was soon engaged in a vicious tree fight. Men emerged with ears bitten off, eyes blackened, noses broken and teeth loosened. As soon as the company got its man to the window he was dragged away and either passed back overhead or nearly so. Many succeeded in reaching the spot, but it was impossible to hold a man there long, for he was soon borne down by force of numbers.

Brown and his benchmen, in the meantime, held their position on the outskirts. It was not until half an hour before the time appointed to open the window that he began to form his wedge. Probably his feet began to touch the earth, gave the signal to move.

At the first impact with the human wall there was a terrific howl of pain, followed by imprecations, and a man staggered out of the crowd with

**The Blood Spurring**

from his leg. Maloney had run his knife into him several inches. In a few minutes these cries echoed on all sides and the attention of the mob became divided, some turning to face the wedge, which hung together without a break and seemed to give velocity to it toward the goal. Maloney and Love, with heads down, darted into every opening, and where there was none, made it with the aid of a knife. Brown was hustled along, his bloodied hands until within a dozen rods of the window.

Here several hundred Cornishmen, great hulking fellows, with plenty of strength and grit, made a stand, that failed to spell the rush. They smashed the apex and were moving down the pugilists when the rest of the wedge broke through and cleared the way. Brown though badly bruised, continued to shout his promises of reward to his men if they pushed him up on time. There were but a few minutes left then, and the office was rocking and ready to fall the side of humanity.

Foundered and beaten on every side, the great flying wedge made one last effort, and with a zigzag movement and many knife thrusts finally broke through and fairly hurled Brown against the window, which he good right-hand blow a pugilist smashed in the window and Brown clutched the frail partition with

**A Death Grip.**

At the same moment a gun was fired, announcing 9 o'clock, and the whole mass, as one man, heaved up against the frail partition, and the crowd, crushing Brown almost flat.

Surrounded by a remnant of his flying wedge, however, he continued to hang to the window, and was just getting at his scientific observations when the government commissioner threw open the door and announced President Kruger's order suspending the opening. It nearly cost him his life, for he was pushed harder than ever, and Brown was on the point of giving up his position when one of those happy inspirations which occur to men of quick thought and action, he decided to demand a license.

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**Scientific Information**

An Epitome of Latest Scientific Facts and Theories

Water spots are common on the coast of New South Wales, often occurring in groups of three or four. An unusual display of last May was witnessed by a scientific observer, Mr. C. H. Russell, who has lately given a description of the phenomenon. The morning was fine, with a light northwest wind and smooth sea. A dark mass of cloud, lighted by electrical flickerings, appeared in the east, but gave no warning of the disturbances it was bringing. Before noon fourteen water spots were seen. Each began with a rotary motion in the water, a large column, with a mid-cap 100 to 150 feet deep, then gradually rising for three or four minutes, the clouds at the same time forming an inverted cone, which alternately dipped and rose until it met the cone of water. The column then remained unchanged for some minutes, when, getting out of perpendicular, it parted in the middle, the top rising and the bottom falling.

The strength of vision in savages proves to be much less extraordinary than was supposed. Dr. Behelm, on a visit to Johannesburg, has tested the sight of 1,853 Kafirs, Beutos, Hottentots, Zulus and Bushmen, finding 1,500 with normal vision equal to that of Europeans, 257 with stronger sight, and 87 with weaker. Phenomenal vision was shown by a Kafir girl of fourteen, who perceived objects at 60 feet away as well as a normal white could at 20 feet.

In the Marconi system of "wireless" telegraphy, now in use between an English lighthouse and a lightship 12 miles distant, vertical wires on very tall poles are necessary at the stations. Seeking to obviate this difficulty, a German experimenter has connected the receiving and transmitting apparatus to horizontal wires about 100 yards long, running parallel to each other, and has sent messages three and a half miles between such wires.

Liquidised gases, at atmospheric pressure, are found to have these boiling points, in centigrade degrees below zero: Sulphur dioxide, 10; chlorine, 33; ammonia, 38; carbon dioxide, 78; nitrous oxide, 88; nitric oxide, 133; oxygen, 183; carbon monoxide, 190; air, 192; hydrogen, 238.

Despite the apparently capricious distribution of land and water, the idea that the earth has a regular plan, says Dr. J. W. Gregory in a paper to the Royal Geographical Society, dates from the dawn of geographical science. Noting the radiation of the seas from the levantine area to a boundless ocean, the early classical geographers described the land as an island floating on a vast sea, whose channels converged toward the classical hub of the universe. The same plan re-

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appears in the mediaeval "wheel-maps" with spoke-like areas of land radiating from the centre at Jerusalem. Later geographers have thought the earth a spheroid based on a tetrahedron, others have described it as an oblate spheroid revolution, but recent discoveries have proven that it is not a spheroid in any sense, being flattened at the equator as well as the poles, and therefore regarded as an ellipsoid with three unequal axes. There is good reason to believe now that the earth is not even an ellipsoid, the northern and southern hemispheres being unlike, and the earth therefore shaped like a badly-made peg-top. Prof. G. H. Darwin has even said that it most nearly resembles a potato than an orange. There is evidence to show, moreover, that the earth's figure is still more irregular than a peg-top, and that its shape has undergone a series of additional deformations. The north pole, it may be added, is now known to shift its position, being influenced by movements of the atmosphere, the unequal melting of polar ice and heavy snowfalls on the Siberian highlands.

One of the most brilliant of nature's effects—the autumnal tints of leaves—is little understood even now. From laboratory experiments at the observatory in the Alps, Mr. E. Overton concludes that the red coloring matters are chiefly due to sugar, and are in most cases unions of tannin compounds with sugar. Autumnal sunshine favors the production of sugar and the chemical process leading to the formation of the pigment, while the low temperature prevents conversion of the sugar into starch.

The color of negro babies has been exciting much interest among English physicians. Seeking examples in their natural climate rather than in the artificial conditions of America, Dr. Andrew Wilson finds that the negroes of East and West Africa and Zanzibar are born pinkish white, and that new-born natives of India also are nearly white. The color gradually deepens, becoming chocolate brown two months after birth.

served of double embryo the monstrous size of one of the yolks quite independently of the other. In one of these cases the second yolk produced a single chick, thus illustrating in one egg two kinds of twins—two young ones produced together, and two from a single egg-cell.

In a new electric bell, of German origin, the automatic make and break is a separate apparatus, which may be placed in the main battery circuit, so that one will suffice for all the bells worked by each battery.

A bridge of X shape is an engineering novelty at Mans, France. It was built to accommodate an electric and a steam railroad, which cross in the middle of the stream, the expense for the curious structure being 25 per cent. less than for two bridges.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM \$1.

VOL. 18.

# Will Keep The Philippines

President McKinley Instructs Commissioners to Extend U.S. Authority.

Soldiers Are Busy Clearing Country Around the Town of Manila.

New York, March 7.—A despatch from the Tribune from Washington "revealed interest in the struggle the Philippines is awakened establishment at Manila of the military government of the further designated by the President present him in the archbishop's selection regarding the duties of the commission, the authority have in the colonial government at rest by the publication of an issued by the President to the Secretary of State. It will be noted that the military government of the Philippines (General Otis will be continued interference until the congress other provisions, and that the soldiers' powers, while instant, and advisory. The order says: 'to facilitate the most humane, and effective extension of aid throughout these islands and to with the least possible delay the fits of a wise and generous spirit of life and property to the inhabitants. The enemy was discovered I have named Jacob G. Schurman, Admiral George Dewey, Major-General Elwell S. Otis, Charles D. Den-Dean C. Worcester to constitute mission to aid in the accomplishment these results.'

Gunsboats and Soldiers at Manila, 7 1/2 a.m.—At daylight morning the enemy was discovered to mount a gun across the from San Pedro and the Sixth promptly stopped the rebel battery pouring the shells. The rebels poured a fusillade of musketry the river, but a gunboat moved cleared the banks of stream with fire guns.

All was quiet during the night. Postoffice has been established. Negros, Zebu and Hilo, and the left yesterday for their respective Manila, March 6.—The rebels had concentrated their with the evident purpose of at the water works, no direct attempt to capture the American there.

The detachments from General and General Wheaton's brigades the country to-day.

## THE LATE LORD HERSCH

Remains Placed on Board the Cruiser Talbot.

New York, March 7.—The Lord Herschell reached Jersey City Washington at 5:40 this morning was taken on board the British Talbot, which will convey it to Manila, March 6.—The special train over the New York railroad bearing the remains of the station by the British consular agent, Perry Sanderson, Commodore March 6.—The New York navy yard, Lieut-Commander United States navy, and detachments the American and British marine forces escorted the casket for train to Manila, where it was transferred to the Talbot, had been set as the time for the of the Talbot, but it was expected would be delayed on account of storm.

## KNIT GOODS MANUFACTURE

A Meeting Called for Purpose of Organizing a Trust.

Utica, March 7.—Knit goods manufacturers here and in Melvick valley held at a meeting in Melvick valley, N. Y. on March 15 for the purpose of organizing a knit goods trust. Fifty-eight delegates were present. The meeting was presided over by Mr. J. W. Wilson, president of the Knit Goods Manufacturers' Association of the United States. The meeting was a success, and a trust will be organized.

## SWEET BY A TORNAO.

Houses Wrecked and Many Lives Lost in Tennessee.

Athens, Tenn., March 6.—A storm came up with alarm, and killed three persons, wounding twelve others and completely destroyed or fifteen houses and several barns. The storm came up with alarm, and killed three persons, wounding twelve others and completely destroyed or fifteen houses and several barns. The storm came up with alarm, and killed three persons, wounding twelve others and completely destroyed or fifteen houses and several barns.

## QUEEN MARIJA IMPROVING

Brussels, March 7.—Queen Marija, who is suffering from bronchitis, passed a good night, and is reported to be further improving.