

NEWS ITEMS

FAILURES THIS WEEK.

Failures in Canada number 27, against 24 last week, 23 the preceding week, and 25 last year. Of failures this week in the United States, 91 were in the east, 83 south, 43 west, and 19 in the Pacific states, and 85 report liabilities of \$5,000 or more. Liabilities of commercial failures thus far reported for December are \$3,462,339, against \$4,324,687 for the same period last year.

MEN OF IDEAS.

Irish journalists, statesmen, warriors, promoters, party bosses, leaders of every kind, in all parts of the English-speaking world, attest the fact that the Irishman is first and foremost the man with ideas.—Public Opinion (New York).

TO ASSIST EMIGRANTS.

The suggestion made recently that people should assist men and women to emigrate to Canada with money which would otherwise be spent upon unnecessary Christmas presents, has led the Cambridge Wells Colonizing Association to appeal for subscriptions to enable them to send a number of young men to Canada next February. The honorable secretary states that not a single individual will be allowed to go to Canada unless ample work is assured.

It is stated that Mr. Rockefeller's fortune amounts to \$100,000,000. His income for the current year is \$8,000,000.

LORD ROSEBERY AND THE JEWS.

Lord Rosebery, in writing to the Jewish Chronicle, in connection with the 50th anniversary on Monday next of the Whitehall Conference, which was convened by Oliver Cromwell, and was the first step towards the resettlement of Jews in this country, says:

"In Great Britain, perhaps, alone, of all the countries of Europe, the Jews meet with loyal and equal treatment. Elsewhere they are but tolerated, or lampooned, or degraded, or massacred. Here they are fellow-citizens, and the best of citizens; they are equals; they are respected and esteemed.

"Let us, then, remember gratefully the act of the great Protector, not merely the Jews themselves or those connected with them, but all in this empire who are proud of it as the open home and shelter of freedom."

WHAT ENGLAND TEACHES.

Doubtless we Germans can laugh at much that is English; but in the matter of respecting our own nationality we can still learn much from the English.—Frankfurter Zeitung.

ENEMIES OF IMPERIALISM.

The most dangerous enemies of same imperialism are the enthusiasts who try to force on a formal union between England and her colonies, instead of stimulating the spirit of unity and letting forms slowly—it may be very slowly—develop themselves in accordance with the dictates of a new state of feeling.—The Nation (New York).

COMPULSORY LABOR.

The British workman himself, speaking generally, is very largely responsible for a diminution of employment, and may reasonably be called upon to endeavor to correct some of the mischief which he has done. As for the wasters, the men who want wages without work, the only plan of dealing with them is the penal labor colony—compulsory work for those who will not work voluntarily.—Lancet.

LIFE SAVERS ON STRIKE.

The men of the Buckie Rocket Apparatus Company have gone on strike owing to their being kept waiting an hour on parade for the inspecting officer, Lieutenant Humphreys. When he appeared the men refused to drill, and their captain, Mr. Johnston, was dismissed for insubordination. The men demand an explanation of the officer's lateness.

A GERMAN REJOINDER.

There is nothing too idiotic nowadays to be said about us Germans. We are as likely to be considered as much the cause of the earthquakes in Italy as of the mental paralysis that has seized our good friends in England, America, France and Russia.—Der Bund, Berlin.

Mr. Edward Terry, who was condemned to death for murdering a Chinaman as a protest against alien immigration, at Wellington, New Zealand, has had his sentence commuted to life imprisonment.

Chinamen, four of whom have been arrested, blew up a store kept by a Jew near the Simmer mine, Johannesburg. Dynamite was used, and the Jew was killed.

THE SEARCH FOR LABOR.

The hard fact is that the conditions of native life are such that the labor needed cannot be obtained. There has been no lack of trying. The mines do not support the 143 stations of the Witwatersrand Native Labor Association as a part of a gigantic game of bluffing the British public. In the days before the war, the mines, by the exertions of years had secured 107,000 laborers. Today, de-

spite that shattering of organization, the Rand mines have 104,000 Kaffirs. This does not look like creating an artificial scarcity. But these 104,000 are not sufficient. They have been supplemented by 50,000 Chinese. And yet the cry is still for more men. The mines want 5,000 more Chinese at once, and if there is a sufficient revival of confidence to proceed with the development work planned, another 30,000 unskilled laborers will be needed within the next year.

To-day compulsory labor is unthinkable. "Tax the native higher," cry the over-sea saviors of South Africa. But the native is fairly highly taxed already. Directly and indirectly he pays £1,337,814 a year to the upkeep of the country. And if you tax him higher still you will only drive him farther from the farmer. "Pay more wages," say the home people. You will not solve the problem. Wages are quite high enough now, and if you doubled them the Kaffir would but work half the time he formerly did. The last state would be worse than the first.

REMEMBER BOSTON AND 1773.

Thrust aside political agitation for the moment, forget the outrages of the criminals among the Chinese, and come down to the basic problem from the Rand's standpoint. The mines are employing 50,000 more laborers than they were in the best days before the war. South Africa today cannot—the proof is conclusive unless all the high officials and leading men of the Transvaal are liars—supply these 50,000 men; may not be able to supply the other thousands who will be wanted before long. If you repatriate these 50,000 tomorrow, thus ending the outrages and riots, what could the industry which keeps South Africa solvent do? There is only one thing. It must sit down and watch ruin spread over the land.

There is no use mincing the matter. Repatriation means that just as the slump seems drawing to a close, and the trade returns are improving, another crushing blow will hurl the country back into the Slough of Despond. And the irony is that the political party who would strike the blow lay aside their own pressing problems to threaten with ruin a country seven thousand miles away.

These are the things which make the Rand determined and bitter. Determined because there is no way of escape from ruin if by any chance repatriation was ordered; bitter because the campaign is engineered—by people who do not understand the reality of the difficulty—simply for party purposes. For the voices which shout for repatriation utter but a parrot cry. They suggest no remedy, no practical alternative. They would repatriate if the heavens fell.

ignoring the danger of those most nearly concerned.

This is what made the "Transvaal Critic" say, "Remember Boston and 1773." And the phrase is not condemned.

Bakers' strike still on.

STRIKE IN ROYAL DOCKYARD. Portsmouth, Eng., Dec. 17.—A strike was begun at the dockyard here yesterday among the men who are building the battleship Dreadnaught, on which work is being pushed with all speed, though the exact reason for the unusual haste has not transpired. The men have been required to work overtime, and Friday evening the riveters decided their pay was inadequate, and refused to resume work until their grievance was adjusted. After some delay their chief promised to recommend the reform they requested, whereupon the men returned to their labor.

This, it is stated, is the first time a strike has taken place at the Royal dockyards.

St. John, N.B., Dec. 17.—The union printers who struck yesterday for an eight-hour day held a meeting last night, and decided not to go to work. They say that single men will receive \$5 a week and married men \$7 from the International Union, while they are out. Their late employers in the four offices where they worked say that will be a long time.

Call for the Label.

SEQUEL TO THE PENRHYN QUARRIESMEN'S STRIKE.

A deputation of workmen employed at Lord Penrhyn's slate quarries had an interview with Mr. Young, the chief manager, touching the reduction of 10 per cent in wages, which is to come into operation with the New Year. Mr. Young stated that there was no possibility of reducing the figures. Owing to the strike the produce of foreign quarries had got into the market. The reduction, which affects some 3,000 hands, is viewed with great concern at Bangor and Bethesda.

Labor Conventions

Jan. 8, St. Paul, Minn., Stone Masons' International Union of America.

Jan. 5, Washington, D.C., International Slate and Tile Roofers' Union of America.

Sept. 24, Toronto, Canada, Operative Plasterers' International Association of America.

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FACTORIES INSPECTORS. The following are the Factory Inspectors for the Province of Ontario: James T. Burke, Thomas Kelly; Arthur W. Holmes, John Argue; Miss M. Gartye, Mrs. J. R. Brown. Their Office is in the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, ground floor. Any one having business with them, or desiring to know anything in regard to the Act under which they are employed, will please address them as above. NELSON MONTEITH, Minister of Agriculture.

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