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LAWS FOR WORKMEN.

Recent Provincial Legislation to Secure to Labor the Reward Which It Earns.

Wages and Homesteads Protected and Life Insurance Reserved for Families.

Recent legislation in the interest and for the protection of the laboring classes may be profitably reviewed at this moment, and while under this classification there might be included all classes of legislation having for its object the promotion of the social and industrial welfare of perhaps the great majority of the residents of the province, including the agricultural classes, what is here set forth will be restricted to those statutes having for their object, firstly, the defining of the respective rights and liabilities of master and servant; secondly, the securing to mechanics and laborers the price of their labor by means of a right of lien upon the property benefited by such labor; and, thirdly, for the purpose of facilitating the settlement of labor disputes, the maintenance of amicable relations between employers and employees, and the prevention of strikes and labor troubles.

These statutes, having a direct and powerful influence upon the rights and privileges of a large number of the inhabitants of the province, are certainly of sufficient importance to call for the somewhat extended explanation contained in, and to justify the title which has been given to this article.

MASTER AND SERVANT.

In the session of 1897, for the purpose of enacting in brief yet comprehensive form, the rules of law applying to the relations between master and servant the Honorable the Attorney-General introduced an act intituled "The Master and Servant act, 1897," which was passed by the legislative assembly, received the Royal assent on May 8th, 1897, and is now consolidated as Chapter 131 of the Revised Statutes, 1897.

The act empowers justices of the peace upon complaint of any servant or laborer against his master or employer for non-payment of wages to issue a summons citing the employer or master to appear and answer the complaint, and upon proof of non-payment, to direct the payment of the amount of wages due the complainant, not exceeding the sum of $50. The justices may award and enforce their judgment by warrant of distress. Justices are also by the act empowered to decide any dispute which arises between a master and servant after the termination of engagement, provided proceedings be taken within one month after the engagement has ceased. With reference to contracts of service it is provided that verbal agreements for service shall not exceed the term of one year; that no contract of service or indentures shall be binding for a longer term than nine years; and that, subject to these limitations, all agreements and contracts, verbal or written, between master and journeyman, skilled laborers, servants or laborers for the performance of any work or service shall, whether the performance has been entered upon or not, be binding upon each party thereto for the due fulfilment thereof.

In concluding the reference to this act it is well that especial attention should be drawn to one of its most important provisions which renders valid agreements between employers and employees by means of which a definite share in the annual or other net profits or proceeds of the trade or business may be alloted and paid to the employees in lieu of or in addition to salary, wages or other remuneration. This provision opens the way for the practical adoption and working in this province of the principle of "profit-sharing" which is believed to be greatly in the interests of both employer and employee, and, by establishing common grounds of interest between these classes in regard to mutual interest, welfare and success, to tend towards an increased industrial and commercial development of the province.

MECHANICS' LIENS.

For the purpose of securing to mechanics, artisans and laborers the payment of the price of their labor by means of a lien upon the property improved by such labor, there was passed at the session of 1891 an act intituled "The Mechanics', Lien act, 1891," which is now consolidated as Chapter 132 of the Revised Statutes, 1897. This act in its operation has been found to afford an efficient safeguard to the laboring classes and has in very many instances been the medium for the recovering of wage claims, its merit, however, being, if anything, more preventive than operative, that is to say, it has more the effect of causing property owners to take effectual steps to procure the payment of all labor employed on their property by contractors and their sub-contractors, than of affording laborers the means of securing payment of arrears of wages by means of actually enforcing the lien.

The right of lien is given for labor only, there being no lien in respect of any other claim against property. Unless the workman has signed an express contract under which he agrees that he will not exercise the right of lien conferred on him by the act, he has in respect of all work done upon construction, erecti n, improvement or repair of or to any building, erection, wharf, bridge or other work or work in connection with the clearing, excavating, drainage, grading, or irrigating any land a lien or charge for the price of such work upon the property benefited and upon all materials brought upon the property and used for the work or used upon or built into the land and buildings. This lien attaches to the interest in the land vested in the owner at the time the contract is made and to any greater interest which he may acquire during the progress of the work. The lien is limited in amount to the sum actually owing to the person entitled to the lien and where the moneys are realized upon liens they are distributed in the following manner:

First, to pay the costs of all lien holders in obtaining registering and proving the liens; second, to pay six weeks wages (if due) to all workmen employed by the owner, the contractor and the sub-contractors; third, to the payment of the sub-contractors and persons other than actual workmen employed by the owner and by the contractor, and lastly, the balance (if any) to the contractor.

The right of lien expires in thirty-one days after the completion of the work unless in the meantime the person claiming the lien file in the office of the government agent or of the registrar of titles or of the district registrar of titles an affidavit in the form prescribed by the act, blank forms of which can be procured at these offices. After registration the lien itself will expire unless within thirty days the claimant institutes an action in the County court of the county and files with his original lien a judge's or registrar's certificate of the commencement of his action. The County court is given jurisdiction to deal with all lien claims whatsoever and the procedure to be followed upon the trial of action brought to enforce lien and the mode of realising and disposing of moneys adjudged due thereupon are set forth in the act.

For the purpose of safeguarding the rights of workmen, the act contains two important provisions, one providing that where works of improvement upon any lands or premises are about to be undertaken of an estimated cost exceeding $500, the contractor shall file in the office of the government agent or in the land registry office a statement setting forth the particular of the intended work, and the names and addresses of all parties in interest; and the other imposing upon contractors the duty of posting up at the works a copy of the receipted pay roll and of delivering to the owner or his agent the original pay roll receipted in full by the various employees. No payment made by the owner or contractor without delivery of the receipted pay roll has the effect of diminishing the employees' right of lien.

In addition to the foregoing general right of lien the act provides a special right of sale under the ordinary mechanics' lien, whereby every mechanic or other person who has bestowed money or skill and materials upon any chattel so as to increase its value shall while his lien exists have power to sell the chattel after giving two weeks' public notice.

UNDER ASSIGNMENT.

Under the Creditors' Trust Deeds Act the assignee under any assignment for the general benefit of creditors is obliged in priority to all other claims the wages or salary of all persons in the employment of the assignor at the time of the assignment not exceeding three months' wages or salary, the employees being for any excess above such three months, entitled to rank as ordinary general creditors.

COMPENSATION.

By the Employers' Liability Act, 1891, an act passed to secure compensation to workmen for personal injuries caused to workmen by reason of any defect in the condition or arrangement of machines, plants, buildings or premises used in the course o femployment, and for injuries arising by reason of the negligence of any person in the service of the employer to whose orders or directions the workman at the time of injury was bound to conform. The compensation is limited either to three years' wages or to a sum not exceeding $2,000. It is also provided that no agreement entered into by a workman shall be a bar to his recovering under the act unless for the entering into of such agreement there was to the workman some consideration other than that of his being given employment, and in the opinion of the court such consideration was adequate and the agreement was just and reasonable, the burden of proof in respect to these latter requirements resting upon the employer. Notice of injury must be given to the employer within twelve weeks of the accident, and if the action be for personal injury, the action must be commenced within six months. Should the workman be killed, his representatives have 12 months in which to bring action.

EXEMPTIONS.

Goods and chattels to the extent of $500 are exempt from forced seizure or sale by any process of law; but this exemption does not extend to the protection of the identical goods and chattels in respect of which the debt sued on was contracted, and does not permit a trader to claim as exemption any of the goods and merchandise which form a part of the stock in trade of his business.

By the Homestead act, which purports to be an act to exempt homesteads and other property from forced seizure and sale, provision is made: (a) As regards personal property for the securing to a debtor of an exemption of personal property from all processes of execution amounting in value to $500, provided that no exemption can be claimed out of a stock in trade in a business. (b) As regards realty for the obtaining of an exemption of property registered as a homestead under the act, up to a value not to exceed $2,500. Should such homestead at the time of the issue of execution be of a greater value than $2,500 the excess over such value is liable to seizure and sale. A special procedure and mode of registration is provided for the registration of real estate as homestead property.

APPRENTICES AND MINORS.

The Apprentices' and Minors' act contains provision for the care of minors by guardians and relatives, and for the care by charitable associations of minors who might otherwise become a charge on the public; defines the powers of guardians and of such charitable associations in regard to the apprenticing of minors; codifies the law respecting the mutual rights of masters and apprentices; and contains procedure for the settlement of disputes, an appeal being given to the County court.

INSURANCE.

By the Families' Insurance act, an act passed for the securing to wives and children the benefits of life insurance provision is made for the insuring of life for the benefit of wife, or of wife and children, or of children only, at the option of the insured, with power to apportion the amount of insurance money on a policy. Insurance may also be effected for the benefit of a future wife or a futtre wife and children. Where insurance is effected under this act, the insurance moneys are payable to the beneficiaries according to the terms of the policy free from the claims of creditors of the insured; provided, that if the policy was effected and premiums paid with intent to defraud creditors, the creditors are entitled to recover an amount equal to the premium paid, but without interest.

WOODMEN'S WAGES.

For the protection of the rights of workmen engaged in getting out logs and timber a special lien is provided by the Woodman's Lien for Wages act, 1895, consolidated as Chapter 194 of the Revised Statutes, 1897. This act provides that any person performing any labor or service in connection with any logs or timber in the province shall have a lien thereon for the amount due for such labor and such services, which shall be deemed a first lien and charge on the logs and timber and shall have precedence over all other claims except for royalties and boom charges. As in the case of the Mechanics' Lien act, the act contains a complete precedure for the entering and enforcement of the liens arising under its provisions, and for the realization and distribution of moneys recovered thereon.

LABOR, CONCILIATION AND ARBITRAITON.

For the purpose of establishing a tribunal for the settlement of disputes between employers and employees and for the providing of means leading to the cultivation and maintenance of better relations between employers and their employees, and also, for the providing of some efficient method for the prevention of strikes and other labor troubles there was passed as a government measure during the session of 1894 an act intituled The Labor Conciliation and Arbitration act, 1894, consolidated as Chapter 100 of the Revised Statutes, 1897. The act provides in the first place for the appointment of the provincial secretary as commissioner, and for the appointment should occasion render it necessary of a deputy commissioner. The functions of the commissioner and his deputy are to receive and record claims in respect of labor disputes, to convene councils of conciliation and to keep a complete record of proceedings had under the act. Councils of conciliation consist of four members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor upon the nomination of the disputants and the procedure to be adopted by and before these councils is set forth in the act. Should the councils of conciliation be unable to effect a settlement of any matter brought before it, they report to that effect to the commissioner, and the matter then goes before a council of arbitration of three members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in manner prescribed by the act. This council of arbitration conducts its proceedings as in open court but no party to any dispute before it is allowed to be represented by any counsel, attorney or paid agent. Within seven days after the completion of hearing the council renders its award, which is published in the British Columbia Gazette, and which is so far as the parties concerned have agreed to be bound thereby, may be made a rule of the Supreme court, having thereupon the force of a judgment of the court binding upon and enforceable against all persons affected thereby.

FIFTH REGIMENT EFFICIENCY.

Remarkably Good Showing Made by the Two Vancouver Companies.

Lieut.-Col. Peters, D.O.C., has made known the result of the recent inspection of the First battalion of the Fifth regiment, the highest marks, 214, out of a total of 228, having been secured by No. 6 company, Major Bennett, of Vancouver, No. 5 company, Major Johnson, also of Vancouver, being a close second with 213. Vancouver was enabled to lead principally from the fact that the companies of that city have a full compliment of officers and there was a full attendance of men at inspection. Following is the result of the inspection:

FIRST BATTALION.

	Possible.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.
Clothing	10	10	10	10
Manual and firl'g	20	17	18	20
Company drill	20	17	18	19
Gun drill	80	52	53	65
Interior economy	10	10	10	10
Officers questions	40	16	32	31
N.C. officers ques	48	47	35	43
Deduct absentees		25	2	12
Total	228	144	174	186
Officers absent		3	1	1

SECOND BATTALION.

	Possible.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.
Clothing, etc.	10	10	10	10
Manual and firl'g	10	16	19	20
Company drill	20	17	18	19
Gun drill	80	61	74	67
Interior economy	10	7	10	10
Officers questions	40	31	40	40
N.C. officers ques	48	42	42	48
Deduct absentees		32		
Total	228	152	213	214

CUBA'S RAINY SEASON.

For Months it Pours for Many Hours a Day—Everybody Must Have the Fever.

(Baltimore Sun.)

The dread rainy season in Cuba, according to all reports, has opened this year with unwonted fury, and is already in possession of the island.

Capts. Osmun Latrobe and Stewart Janey, the two young Baltimoreans who returned from there last week, safely passed through two wet seasons, one rather mild and the other very severe.

Their experience with the rains, the fever and the insects is usually interesting, in view of the possibility that the Fifth Regiment will soon have to undergo the same hardships with the army of invasion.

Capt. Janney, in speaking of the wisdom of sending troops to Cuba at this period, described the wet season and its effect upon soldiers. He said:

"The rains begin in Cuba about the first of May. During the last of June and the first of July there is an extremely dry period, when everything is parched and the sun burns fiercely. Then from the latter part of July clear up sometimes to Christmas it is so wet you can almost swim.

"It rains every day for five or more hours, and just simply floods everything. When it rains in Cuba it doesn't monkey about it, but it comes down hard and straight in torrents that soak you to the skin if you happen to be out in it. It doesn't rain at night, but it gets so chilly that I have often wondered how it could be so cold without having frost.

"All night long the dew and rain drip off the trees so heavily that you can hardly tell the difference between it and a genuine shower. The roads get thick and almost impassable, with a red clay mud that hangs on like grim death, and you simply cannot find a dry spot anywhere.

"The fever, of course, everybody has. I have never met an American in Cuba who has not had it. Of course the people who stay in the towns have a good chance of escaping, but men who have to live the out-of-door life of soldiers, campaigning and marching, are certain to catch it.

"We met a fellow who had lived in Havana for ten years without having a touch of it, but as soon as he joined the Cubans and got out in the field he went down, and had about as serious a case as I have seen.

"The fever is of a malarial type, with chills, and it is not often fatal. It need not be serious either if a man takes the proper precautions, but I don't believe an American soldier can go into Cuba in the rainy season for the first time without getting a more or less serious case.

"Every one of our party had it several times. The most severe attack that I had was last year, when I was delirious for awhile and had a pretty rough time. The fever sticks to you, and I expect is still in my system.

"Our great trouble was that we didn't get the right things to eat to help us keep fever off. The kind of beef we had and half-ripe fruit were not palatable enough to help us much.

"I do not think it would be very wise to send troops into Cuba during the wet season, for the reason that after they got there nearly all of them would be in the hospital for awhile.

"The roads, while they are passable for artillery, would be terrible on the infantry, and progress would necessarily be attended with great delay and difficulties. However, I don't think the army will land on the island until fall. Whenever they go they will have the same trouble to face, namely, fever.

"In the winter the chances of taking it are considerably lessened, but it is still there, and any carelessnes will bring it on.

"Half the battle, with the troops or with anybody else going to the island, in fighting against fever would be to have confidence in themselves and their own powers of pulling through. Don't think you are going to have a serious or fatal case, or you will probably get one.

"Our one great stand-by was quinine. We took it constantly, and staved off many an attack. Physicians down there take two grains a day and very seldom succumb. Last year we carried a medicine chest containing quinine, calomel and other simple medicines, and by taking quinine regularly came out all right.

"The first year we didn't have the quinine, and when we felt the fever on us would have to travel a hundred miles or so to get it.

"Another thing that the men who campaign in Cuba should be careful about is sleeping on the ground. My hammock was my most valuable possession down there, and I would not have taken $500 in gold for it.

"I have just written to my brother, who is with the Fifth Regiment, to get himself a hammock by all means. To lie down and sleep on the moist, dewy soil of Cuba, with rain dropping on you from trees, and all kinds of bugs, insects and crawling things about you, means a sure and certain case of fever.

"I believe it would be a practical idea for all the officers of the army to take hammocks along to sleep in, and for the men a rubber blanket could be gotten for $1 apiece, which would make a much safer bed than the bare ground.

"There are any quantity of insects and reptiles there, which nearly worry the life out of a fellow, but are not really dangerous. There isn't a snake on the whole island that you cannot pick up in your hand without fear of a poisonous bite, while the scorpions and tarantulas, terrible enough looking, are not the dangerous kind of the West.

"The mosquitoes are not nearly such pests as are generally thought, and there are lots of things worse.

"It certainly takes a man with a good constitution to stand a Cuban campaign, and, while there are not incredible hardships, there are enough to mean a pretty severe test of endurance and strength, especially at this season. One danger which is likely to spread disease, and which could be avoided by an army, is the drinking of the stagnant water from the many pools in Cuba, upon which the tropical sun has beamed for many hours.

"The water ought all to be boiled before drinking.

"The regulation army hats are, I think, as good as any for keeping out the hot rays of the sun. We wore straw hats at first, but afterward got the cloth ones and liked them better.

"Altogether, if the men are well fed and know enough to avoid doing things that will bring on fever, and stick to quinine and calomel, there is no reason for any serious fears regarding their health in Cuba.

"As to yellow fever, if they take proper sanitary precautions and keep away from infected towns there is little danger. We were lucky in this respect."

SHORT DESPATCHES.

Rioting in Belfast—Hardware Failure—Paris Poor in Luck—China Mail Service.

Further supplementary estimates presented in the Commons last night call for $68,500, of which $20,000 is for expenses of the commission between the United States and Great Britain.

Letang, Letang & Co., hardware dealers, Montreal, have made a judicial abandonment of their property on demand of H. H. Hutchinson. The liabilities are about $240,000 altogether.

The trial of Joseph O'Meara, a well known lacrosse player, for manslaughter in connection with the death of Dennis Clifford, began at Montreal yesterday.

At the annual convention of the Royal True Blue Association of Canada at Brantford yesterday, about a hundred delegates attended. The grand master referred at length to the death of Dalton McCarthy, and to the proposal for Anglo-Saxon federation, which he warmly approved.

Baron Rothschild, owing to his victory in a race for the Grand Prix de Paris with Le Roi Soliil, at Longchamps on Monday, has given his winnings, 200,000 francs, to the poor of Paris.

There was rioting in Belfast Monday, but yesterday all was quiet, and the troops were withdrawn. During the rioting 103 policemen were injured and over 100 civilians were treated at the hospitals.

Martin Thorne, convicted in New York last December and sentenced to die in the electric chair at Sing Sing for the murder of William Guldensuppe, the bath rubber, will have to suffer the death penalty.

George Dixon, the hardy colored boxer, gained a well earned decision over Eddie Santery of Chicago on Monday. They fought twenty very clean and scientific rounds and Santery proved himself to be a clever ring general. Both were comparatively fresh when the 20th round broke up.

The financial secretary of the treasury, Mr. R. W. Hanbury, in the Imperial Commons, said that the government do not think a large expenditure for the purpose of establishing a weekly mail service to China via Canada would be warranted.

According to advices from Cadiz the preparation for active service of the Spanish cruisers Carlos V., the battleship Pelayo and auxiliary cruisers Pariota and Rapido is proceeding slowly and these vessels are not yet nearly ready to proceed to sea.

From all indications the cable between Hayti and Cuba has not worked since Monday at midnight. It is possibly cut.

TARTAR AND ATHENIAN.

Overtures of United States Government for the C. P. R. Steamships.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser of yesterday says:

The exorbitant prices asked by United States steamship owners and companies for their vessels have made the United States government turn its attention to Canadian vessels to act as transports for the conveyance of troops to the Philippine islands. The two C. P. R. liners, the Tartar and Athenian, are now being sought after by the Washington government. Capt. W. W. Robinson, assistant quartermaster of the United States army, was in the city on Saturday conferring with the C. P. R. officials with reference to the chartering of the big steamships for the United States government. He met the Tartar on her arrival in Victoria from the north, and at the same time was given a chance to look over the Athenian, which reached that port, bound north, on Friday.

At Vancouver it is reported that Capt. Robinson met Mr. J. D. Townley, assistant superintendent of the C. P. R. here, and made the formal offer to charter both steamers. To local reporters Mr. Townley is very reticent, but is reported to have made the following statement to a Seattle reporter:

"The United States government wants to charter our two steamships, but we prefer to sell them outright. Capt. Robinson inspected both vessels and says they would exactly suit the government, their object being to use them in transporting troops to Manila. There is some objection, I believe, being made to the purchase of Canadian vessels for such a purpose, but it will not interfere with the sale of the steamships if we decide to let them go. Capt. Robinson is in direct communication with Washington, and in a few days will know whether the deal is to be put through. If our terms are accepted the boats will be sold. They have lately been on the Alaska run, which, owing to the falling off in travel, has been anything but lucrative to us."

Commander Pybus, of the steamship Tartar, when seen by a News-Advertiser reporter on Monday, confirmed this statement. From other reliable sources is learned that the deal is almost sure to go through, and that the vessels will be sold and not chartered. The company, however, has put a high price on the boats, knowing the scarcity of suitable vessels on the other side. The steamships are well adapted for the work of transporting large bodies of troops. The Tartar's gross tonnage is 4,425, length 376 feet, breadth of beam, 47 feet, depth 33.3 feet, 6 inches. The Athenian has a gross tonnage of 3,882; length, 365 feet, breadth, 45½, with a depth of 29 feet. Both vessels have a 15 to 16 knot speed and have broken the Klondike record run from both Vancouver and Victoria.

The Islander is at present in service on the Vancouver-Victoria run, having commenced running in place of the Yosemite yesterday morning.

It is announced at Winnipeg that the Dominion Express Company will reduce rates at once to encourage fruit shipments from British Columbia to Manitoba. The cut will be from $3 to $2.40, with a special rate of $2.25 on shipments of 1,000 pounds and over.

LANDING STORY DENIED

First Detachment of United States Army Left Tampa Only Yesterday.

Sampson Working on His Own Hook and no Official Report of His Operations.

Washington, June 7.—Starting out with a strong belief that there had been nothing in the nature of a serious engagement between Sampson's forces and the Spanish defences at Santiago de Cuba, the navy department official as the day wore on and the full and detailed reports of the Associated Press from its correspondents with the fleet began to flow in, were compelled to modify their view, and when the day closed, they were about ready to admit that though there was but little official information on the subject, it was evident Sampson had made a strong attack upon the Spanish forces.

The one point upon which they maintained their confidence was that no troops had been landed. They were prepared to admit that Sampson might be clearing the way with his big guns for the landing of the troops, or that possibly some marines had been landed temporarily, but that army forces had been put ashore they would not admit, for the reason that no information had reached the war department of the actual departure of the soldiers from any of the Gulf ports. It is not denied, however, that every effort is being made to put the troops into Cuba at the earliest possible moment, and it is believed that though no official advices to that effect are at hand, troops have actually been embarking at Tampa to-day and may get away to-night.

The reason for this belief is found in the admission by officials that the troops have been under orders to embark for some time past. The difficulty that presented itself was the absence of absolutely necessary supplies which in most cases were stored away in some of the thousands of freight cars which blocked the railroad tracks for ten miles out of Tampa. The orders that went forward yesterday were of a character to cause a speedy breaking of the deadlock and if the troops now have the supplies, which is believed to be the case, there is no reason why they should not sail at once for Santiago de Cuba.

By the newspaper reports of the breach Sampson has made in the coast defences there, there is every reason to believe little difficulty will be found in the actual embarkation of the troops, particularly if the marines are already ashore to guard the landing. A suspicion is entertained in some quarters that Sampson was hastened in his movements at Santiago by the news of the intended departure of the troops from Tampa and made this attack in order that the navy might have the honor of effecting the first occupation of Cuban soil.

It is likely that the first troops of the regular army to take up a position ashore will be the engineers' battalion although they are so badly hampered by the heavy siege guns they carry that they must be greatly delayed in making a landing. These guns, by the way, have given infinite trouble, for the transports that were hastily chartered were so lightly constructed as to require a great deal of strengthening before the great mass of steel could be safely placed on them.

The extent of Sampson's attack on the Santiago defences has brought out one fact very clearly, namely, that he has practically unlimited power as to the time and character of an attack and that he is unhampered by restrictions from Washington. The exact nature of his orders has never been made public, but a naval official in a position to know what they are said that Sampson has greater power conferred upon him than ever had been given to any commander-in-chief. In the present case the authorities have laid down the general ends to be attained in Cuba and Porto Rico and the war board has supplemented this with every bit of information which could assist the commander-in-chief. But beyond this Admiral Sampson's authority is practically without limit. Under these circumstances the naval authorities have no means of knowing when a battle is to be expected of what the line of action is to be.

The cruiser Buffalo, late the Nictheroy, of the Brazilian navy, arrived in Hampton Roads to-day, directly from Brazil. The vessel, it is learned, is not yet actually on the naval list. She has been acquired subject to certain conditions that doubtless will be strictly fulfilled by the Brazilian government, but which have not been as yet. They are that the ship must be handed over in good condition as to hull and machinery.

A MEXICAN SUPERSTITION.

The coffin lay in the roadway, in the quaint old Mexican town;
On shrouded mourners and glistening blooms the great blue hills looked down;
The broad bay slept below them, wrapped in a purple haze.
And candles gleamed and incense wreathed in the noontide's steady blaze.

The coffin lay in the roadway; for priest and for rite they stayed;
The pathetic Mexican patience chafes never at times delayed:
And from the great Rock riding, careless and young and bright,
The American lady urged her horse where corkwoods crowned the height.

The coffin lay in the roadway; she neither heeded nor heard;
Her Arab rose to the bar it saw, to the sudden effort spurred,
Leaped clean across the coffin—only flying hoof
Cast some of the votive blossoms to the darkening shades aloof.

The coffin lay in the roadway; the fair girl shivered and shook;
Had she outraged grief, or mocked at woe? Had a strange prophetic look.
A senora stood beside her. "Thank God while He gives you breath;
Good fortune will be yours," she said. "You have ridden over death."

Leave the coffin in the roadway; go to your American home,
And wheresoever your footsteps tend, honor and joy will come.
You have ridden over death to-day. Lady, give thanks to-night,
Your path will be smooth, your aims be won, your evening calm and bright.

—Lue Vernon, in the Evening Tribune, El Paso.

As little is known of the physical characteristics of Count Mouravieff, the Russian foreign minister, says the London Chronicle, some interest attaches to M. Boyer's half-length portrait of him now on view at the Hanover gallery. This reveals a personage almost identical with the typical stock broker as seen daily in Throgmorton street or Old Broad street. The silk hat has the ideal stock exchange tilt. So far from being foreign, Count Mouravieff might be William Smith of Broad street, E. C. The successful smile born of a mining coup lingers on his face, and the large ears help to destroy character or distinction.

ANOTHER TOWN FALLS

American Ships Bombard Caimanera and Drive Off Troops and Populace.

Spaniards There and at Santiago Preparing for Desperate Struggle on Land.

Cape Haytien, Hayti, June 8.—(6:15 p.m.)—It is reported here that a great battle has taken place at Caimanera, on the bay of Guantanamo, some distance east of Santiago. At half-past five yesterday morning (Tuesday) five ships of the American squadron opened a heavy bombardment of the fortifications of the town. There was a perfect hail of bombs in the bay, striking and demolishing many houses beyond the fortifications. On the Spanish side the artillery replied vigorously, maintaining for some time a stout resistance. The fire of the warships, however, never slackened for an instant. It was regular and carefully directed and a great majority of the shots proved effective. The Spaniards were forced to abandon their positions on the shore and retreat to the town of Caimanera proper. It is supposed that later they fled from that position also, with the inhabitants.

Information has reached here that the Spanish at Santiago and Caimanera are preparing for a final desperate struggle and are determined to resist the assaults of the Americans to the last extremity. The commander of the district issued orders yesterday to burn Caimanera before yielding it into the hands of the Americans. The latter forced an entrance to the bay of Guantanamo, and according to the latest advices fgrom Caimanera, it was feared that the Americans would make an effort to land forces this (Wednesday) afternoon. Measures to prevent this, if possible, have been taken by the Spaniards. The American fleet was still maintaining its position.

Cable communication with Cuba, which has been interrupted for many hours, was partially restored this afternoon. The report of the bombardment of Caimanera, though whether by the explosion of bombs from the water or by explosives used by a party sent for that purpose is not known. The cables uniting the main cable with the office at Caimanera and the town of Caimanera with Santiago is cut as no direct news from Santiago has yet been received at Cape Haytien since Monday at midnight.

MORLEY ON THE ALLIANCE.

A Liberal Leader Expresses His Views on Mr. Chamberlain's Scheme.

London, June 8.—The Right Hon. John Morley, Liberal, speaking at Leeds this evening and referring to the recent Birmingham speech of Mr. Chamberlain, on the subject of an Anglo-Saxon alliance, said he did not believe a word of all the "gloomy talk about England's isolation and threatening prospects" until she secured an alliance with Germany or America. England's naval power is gigantic; her financial resources and credit are firmer than ever, said Mr. Morley, and the spirit of her people to repel invasion or protect their rights is as great as at the beginning of the century. The whole country desires more intimate relations with the United States, an end always diligently worked for by Lord Salisbury and Mr. Gladstone. It is inconceivable, however, that a treaty between Great Britain and the United States could be entered upon without taking into consideration the Irish vote in America. If the vote is against the treaty it is not the fault of the Liberal party. Proceeding to discuss the kind of alliance intended, Mr. Morley said: "If it is an alliance for peace and harmonious co-operation for the mutual good, it will, indeed, be the dawn of a brighter day. But is that what is intended? Or is it to be an alliance between jingoes in America and jingoes in England, an alliance not for peace, but for menace and war? We shall see, but I know tens of thousands of the best and wisest men in America believe that hardly any more inexpressible calamity can befall mankind than that a community, as Lincoln nobly said "conceived in freedom and dedicated to the happiness of free and equal men," should entangle themselves in the unrest and intrigue of militarism, which are the torment and scourage of the old world."

CUBAN INSURGENTS' VICTORY.

They Report Having Fallen Upon, Slain and Captured a Spanish Division.

New York, June 8.—News has just reached the Cuban junta in this city of a victory achieved by the Cuban forces over a division of the Spanish army at Jiguani, province of Santiago, on May 22. It was one of the most decisive battles which the patriots won for many months, and most important one since war was declared against Spain. A column of Spanish soldiers, 1,300 strong, acting under orders from Havana to abandon interior towns and advance towards the coast, evacuated the town of Lapiedra, after having destroyed their forts and fortifications to prevent them from falling into the hands of the insurgents and camped at Jiguani, where they expected to remain awaiting further orders.

The Spaniards were surprised on the morning of May 22 by being attacked by a division of the first corps, belonging to Gen. Galixto Garcia's command, under the leadership of Col. Jos. Rabi. Altogether they numbered more than 1,000 men, while the Spaniards had fully twice that number. They advanced in good order, being well equipped with arms and ammunition. They took the enemy completely by surprise. At the start in the Spaniards scattered, but made an effort to rally their forces. They only succeeded in being able to retreat in regular order to the village of Palma. After six hours' hard fighting at Palma the Spaniards raised a flag of truce and expressed themselves as being willing to surrender. Terms were speedily arranged and the Cubans took as prisoners a Spanish colonel, seven captains and several other officers, besides 103 soldiers. The Spanish loss amounted to 78 dead, besides a large number of wounded. Included in the Spanish losses were thirteen officers. The Cubans sustained heavy loss, but considerably smaller than the Spaniards. They reported 15 killed, including five officers of lesser rank, and about 60 wounded. After the battle the Cubans returned to Jiguani. There they recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the deserted Spanish camp, together with provisions and supplies, which the enemy had been compelled to leave behind. These were much needed and were sent to th headquarters of the general camp at Bayamo.

FRANCE AND RUSSIA

Reported to Have in Contemplation Some Interference as to Philippines.

London, June 8.—A despatch to the Standard from Paris says: "Reports of negotiations for peace continue to be spread.

"I have reason to believe that France and Russia are exchanging views as to the expediency of subjecting such conquests as the United States may make and hold in the China seas to European sanction. In other words, whether the Americans, having conquered the Philippines are to be allowed to retain their conquests save by leave of the powers."