in my power to traverse Ontario from end to end, as I used to do, but perhaps I may make up in experience what I lack in activity. (Hear, hear.) Of one thing you may be sure, that if I cannot run very fast after the enemy I shall not run away from him. (Cheers.) It has not been possible for me to do as 1 used to do and as I always wish to do. and that is to pay my annual visits to you during the last year or two. In all probability you have to-day sent me out to what may be my last battle. (No, no.) But whether it be my last battle or whether I may be allowed by good luck to fight a little longer, of one thing Said to Have Been in Love With you may rest assured: neither now no then shall I ever forget the extraordinary confidence which you, when we were comparative strangers, placed in me and which you have continued so long. I can assure you that I shall do all I can for my part to maintain and uphold the principles which you in this grand old riding have so gloriously defended during many long years. Sir Richard resumed his seat amid loud and prolonged cheers.

RED TAPE IN CHINA. There as in Modern Lands There is

Circumlocution Office. The Chinese foreign office, or Tsung-li Yamen, was established as a temporary bureau of necessity after the war of

All these eleven elders have reached such posts by steady advances. They are always septuagenarians, worn out with the functions of such high office, and physically too exhausted by their midnight rides to and sunrise departures from the palace to begin fitly the day's reached by a rough trip in the diligence. tedium at the dilapidated Tsung-li Ya-

The appointment for an interview with the non-committal, irresponsible board must be made beforehand, the minister his secretaries are always kept waiting, and the inner reception room swarms with gaping attendants during an interview. Once the American minister made a vigorous protest, and reto conduct any negotiations while there were underlings in the room, and, as it was business that the Chinese government wished conducted, the minions were summarily cast out cast out to the other side of the many-hinged, latticed doors, where they scuffled audibly

for first place at cracks and knot-holes. The other envoys would not sustain the American protest, and soon the farce of the empty room was played to an end, and the servants came in with their pipes frequently found asylum here, and indiand fans, tea and cake and candies, as fairly took part in the diplomatic conversations, as before.

An unconscionable time is always consumed in offering and arranging the teas and sweets, and to any direct questions these celestial statemen always answer with praises of the melon seeds or ginger root.-London Daily Mail,

BARRACKS.

Writing of the popularisation of the Army in the Pall Mall Magazine, Searchlight says: "No one who has had any experience with life in barracks can say that soldiers are indifferent to their surroundings. The present barrack-rooms are badly furnished and badly lighted, their appearance is bare and desolate to a degree; there is no real comfort, or anything approaching it. The regulation furniture and gas are certainly provided. orders relating thereto being strictly ob- hear of her in St. Petersburg publishing most frequently an expression of languor served, but both are inadequate. Im- graceful Slavic verse and melodious and seeming lack of initiative. agine an apartment having no wall-paper French lines in the Russian rewalls, each man's iron bed-cot fly," or "Azurin." arranged by a system of slides tress and bedding being neatly piled at the head. Above all, and running round the Montenegrins, especially for heroic verse places his kit folded according to re- of war in Slavic history. They delight in three deal tables or iron trestles, a few companiment to their national dances. backless benches, and a vast coal-scuttle, looking for all the world like a disused boiler. To this equipment must be added half-a-dozen mops, a floor-scrubber, some tin cans for soup, and the usual formidable army fire-irons, qualified in point of size and weight to stoke a blastfurnace. The men eat in this apartment, live there, sleep there; there is no privacy. Till recently the soldier had nowhere in which to lock up his belongings. The photographs he valued, his money, his watch, and the other small treasures he possessed were at the mercy of any absent-minded comrade. It was only after many years of anxious debate that the authorities presented each man with a small chest and a key of his very

THE DANCE OF THE PIGMIES.

Presently the mandolin accompaniment forgot to play, the dance grew wilder into mere pantomine. It did not take parts of the forest denizens. First it was tigers; they fiercely roared and sharpened their nails cat fashion against the wall. Most of us have seen a tiger with a patronizing umbrella in Regent's Park. Seen in his own forest by attentive eyes of fear, how bigger he must have loomed upon one of these miserable unarmed pigmies, who intruded all unwitting upon his manicure, and lived to make a play of it. Then with heads stretched out and waving fins they were fish in the brook, pressing up against the current. It was Tigi the snake, and they rolled over and over upon the floor. Sambhur was suggested, and before there was time to be shocked all four were on their backs with the legs sticking up in the air, up again and cantering round the room on all fours, or rub- on her children, but is felt throughout bing the velvet from their antlers, the principality. In 1869 Nicolas apwhich, as I guessed, had been foreshad- pointed her regent during his winter visit owed by the first part of this remarkable to Russia, and her wisdom and adminisanimals.

I suggested monkeys just giving them greatly improved upon it, scratching row in the doorway with their legs dangling over the ladder, and whooped and tribes of mankeykind .- Blackwood.

Have you ever tried putting just a little whiting in the water in which you rinse your silver every day? If this is done it will not need cleaning so often.

Italy's New

Reminiscences of the Beautiful Elena, of Montenegro-Her Marriage to King Victor.

the Present Emperor of Russia.

A glamour of romance has always surrounded the Slavic princess who is so early destined to share a throne made vacant by an assassin. Elena, third surviving daughter of the reigning Montenegrin prince, was born in 1873, and as Danilo, the heir apparent, had arrived two years before, the advent of a daughter was not so depressing a circumstance, and Elena was welcomed more cordially than her elder sisters, who preceded the heir.

were spent in her native place, the little nephew of Alexander III., and has since 1860. It consists of eleven aged, sleepy, Montenegrin capital, Cettinje, in her fa- resided in Peterhof. In the same year incompetents, who muddle with foreign ther's plain white wooden residence, gen- were celebrated the nuptials of the Prinerally dignified by the name of "palace." Cettinje, with its one long street and low frame houses, reminded a recent traveller of mining towns in the Rockies of Colorado. Nestled amid the black, barren mountains it is, even at this late day of ubiquitous "improvements," only

> Starting from the sea port Cattaro, which hides at the base of steep heights at the head of the bay, the read begins with a nearly perpendicular course, skirts the edge of precipices along an interminable series of sharp zig-zags, describing short curves, and finally climbs over the mountain shoulder to descend on the other side and end upon the plateau before the doors of Cettinje.

This road is a triumph of engineering skill, and its completion in 1880 was one Before that time it was a matter of peril mountaineers. Refugees from tyranny viduals, urged by special errands, from usual; stood about, commented on, and time to time penetrated the mountain fastness and made their way to the 'Eagle's Nest," as Cettinje is called.

Childhood of the Princess, A Swiss governess, Mile. Neukot, was secured for the little Elena, and daily lessons in French, German and other branches, besides training in domestic accomplishments, trained the young princess to habits of industry and application. Prince Nicolas always exercised the Servian aristocracy took refuge in a personal supervision over the educa- the Black Mountain. Here, too, followtion of his children while they were at ed for safety at various times Greek home, and stimulated their interest in study. He himself has a genuine poefic gift, and his father, Prince Mirko, the ers is supposed to have produced the prefamous warrior, known as the "Sword sent superior type of Montenegrin, be of Crnagora," delighted in writing songs when resting from his favorite occupation of fighting the Turks.

Both Elena and her younger brother,

The Bretrothal of Danilo. A most picturesque and primitive is said to have been to poet and painter. scene was witnessed a year ago by an American tourist in Cettinje, when the reigning prince and princess appeared with other members of the family on the palace balcony, while the younger son, Mirko, read the announcement of the to the Princess Jutta of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

ures of the "Kola," a favorite national

The brilliant costumes, tunics of white and gold, red embroidered vests, kaleidoscopic spectacle of semi-Orientlong to discover they were acting the al aspect and charm, which reached a climax when a great vat of wine was opened and Prince Nicolas drank the first toast to the bethrothed pair, followed by all the people present pressing forward do this, and perhaps have stirred him to drain a cup with acclaim of lifelong happiness to prince and bride and the entire Petrovics family.

Amid such scenes of Homeric simplicity, Elena's childhood caught no forecast and traditional order, which the Princess is a fair beginning and a precedent for Milena enforced with a faithfulness admitting no derogation of the dignity accordant with the household of a ruler.

Her Mother's Influence. The exceptional character of Milena has not only had a molding influence uppantomime. And so with many other trative tact won the approval of even the most conservative of the old chiefs, who were inclined to regard a woman in a clue, and they seized the idea and power as an anomaly and a ruinous innovation. She subsequently held the themselves and destroying imaginary and regency during every episode, of the and hopping vermin in the most realis- prince's absence, until Danilo, the heir. tic manner. Then they sat down in a was mature enough for such responsibilities.

In former times it was a common saying that Slavic, women were born only to toil and to suffer. This no longer applies to Montenegro since the reforms of the progressive Nicolas, who has led his people on the upward road to improve-

Montenegrin history.

In 1885 Elena took leave of her home the famous seminary for girls, under the special patronage of the Empress. Her and sad memories also, for there her fair nuptials of the prospective sovereign. young sister, Maria, fell ill and died,

The accounts of Elena's schooldays include mention of her excelling skill in marguerites, was very fair to see, and water color painting and pen and ink her modest, dignified bearing won gen drawing. Her dexterity with a pen was so exquisite as to achieve effects suggestive of fine etching. Her taste for cut-of- the old Bourbon palace at Naples. Redoor sports was remarked as "quite cently King Humbert ordered the erec-English," and her triumphs in tenns are tion of a new residence for them in still unforgotten.

At the Russian Court.

The Montenegrin princesses were all persona grata at the Russian court and they participated in its gayeties and splendid ceremonial under the guardianship of the Imperial family. In 1889 the Princess Militza became the wife of The first twelve years of Elena's life the Grand Duke Pietro Nicolaievitch, cess Stania with Duke George of Leuchtenberg (also an Imperial highness, and accorded the rank of a grand duke), so that the bond between Russia and Montenegro is doubly strengthened.

The Princess Anna wedded Prince Francis Joseph of Battenberg in 1897. Zorka, the eldest of the sisters, died shortly after her union with Prince Peter Karageorgevitch, pretender to the throne of Servia. Her death may have saved Montenegrins from complications with the bitter feuds that are continually districting the disorderly little Servian kingdom.

The story of the Princess Elena at Petersburg has yet to be written, and rumor still holds the place of history. There is a legend, not authenticated, but often credited, that her heart was touchof the great events in Elena's childhood. ed by the attractions of the young Czarovitch, now Nicolas II., and that diploand hardship to cross these rugged macy had bestowed upon her a Russian heights; the armies attempting it won education with a view to her possible few victories and failed of conquest, re- union with the heir to the Muscovite tiring repeatedly throughout 600 years throne. Many beholders fancy they deof persistent effort, driven back by the teet a shade of melanchely on her face, double resistance of mountains and and interpret it as confirming the truth of this fleeting romance.

A Madonna-Like Face.

She is thought to resemble the Byzantine Madonnas of ancient icons, and, like her compatriots, has a regularity and straightness of feature and height and slenderness of figure suggesting Greek ancestry, notably differing from the Servian women, who are of low stature and heavy proportions, with the square face and short nose characteristic of most modern Slavs. After the downfall of the Servian Empire, in 1389, the flower of and Roumanian refugees, and their inter-marriage with the Servian highland-

Elena has a delicate, dreamy beauty and fuely chiseled features. As we look upon her, whether at a court function, or driving in state, or watching a per-

Nothing could afford a greater contrast no curtains, no carpet, no chairs; the view Nadalia, and sometimes adopting than her presence, half wistful, half men's beds ranged round white-washed the fantastic pseudonym "Blue Butter- abstracted, beside the vivacious and brilliant Queen Margherita, who summons The Montenegrin dialect is the purest her, as it were, from moment to moment, to form a rough seat, the mat- of all the numerous Slavic idioms and to smile, to speak, to wake to more rethe feeling for poetry is keen among the sponsiveness toward her surrounlings. Elena's unassertive air also contrasts room, is an iron shelf on which each man | celebrating deeds of valor and triumphs | with the commanding grace and stronger physiognomy of her mother, the Princess gulation. For the rest there are two or chanting old Slavonian ballads in ac- Milena. As we sometimes see them, sitting besides each other, we recognize the filia pulchra, mater pulchrior, and understand what an inspiration the elder

She Loves the Chase.

If the new queen has seemed sometimes listless and not inexhaustible at ordinary social functions, those who have seen her on the hunting field can testify to character. bethrothal of the heir apparent, Danilo, her transformation. Her dark eyes then glow with unsuspected enthusiasm. She loves a spirited horse and hard-won that fed about the hacienda and came to for six months. This has been passed, The wild applause and congratulation quarry. Firm in her saddle, she dashes his call. He was never tired of boasting and the municipality has now the power of the assembled citizens soon rang into across country, following the hounds with of the system by which he had trained to place under drastic restrictions any unsong, and as their voices hymned an old special ardor when big game is the prize his horse. It had always been tame and desirable class of people following these ballad they stepped to the lively meas- of the day. None are more fearless or free and grown up, with careful hand- avocations. more sure of aim. Like her brother ling, to be a splendid specimen of the redance, while other sped and turned in the Danilo, she inherits a passion for the sults of rational education. He was a transient traders or other temporary mer-

The hunting and fighting tastes of the green jackets and gay plaid sashes, the Petrovicz family are directly parallel crimson kapas and shining scabbards of with those of the Savoyard dynasty. hands, he would take it gingerly, duckthe chiefs, the jingling coins on the red The Savov princes, holding their mounand wilder, and finally resolved itself caps of the maidens, combined to make tain-guarded domain against powerful neighbors through ages of valiant resistance, suggest a poetic affinity with the unhumbled Montenegrins, who have driven back Turkish hordes and baffled Turkish pretension until the Black Mountain country is accorded a place among the nations.

But the proud patricians of immemorial Italian lineage indulge in much whispered grumbling over the Montenegrin marriage. To them it seems an allianc of the more artificial life and pomp of too modest for the House of Savoy, royal circumstances awaiting her a few with its eight centuries of renown. The years later. Nevertheless, the patriarch- Petrovicz have registered only 200 years al court of this Slavic eyrie had its code of soverignity; still, as history goes, that persistence.

knows the story of Prince Victor erwise, and that runs the stock down Emmanuel's first meeting with Elena at and makes no ends of runts and weak, Venice and his immediate determination lazy animals."-Modern Mexico. to make her his wife. They met again in St. Petersburg, and he became more enamored than ever. In a few months the marriage was arranged, and the eager lover had found his way to Cet-

Elena consented to renounce her mem- tions. bership in the Greek church, and was Count Lautre, who was arrested in Chicabright with soft autumn sunshine, and

Italy The Betrothal Ceremonies. The Piazza delle Terme, with its encircling seats, resembled a vast amphiment for thirty-nine years. The school theatre, packed with spectators on every

for young girls established in this reign, round. Everywhere wreaths and banunder the auspices of the Czarina, call- ners and decorations betokened the ed the Jenski Crnogorski Institute, is "festa." A beautiful double-columned promoting intelligence and cultivation facade was improvised for the Church among women beyond all precedent in of St. Mary of the Angels. The Pope refused the use of any one of the great basilicas for the marriage ceremony, but and travelled to St. Petersburg, where Santa Maria degli Angeli is government she was placed in the Smolna Institute, property, as it is a portion of that vast public monument, the Baths of Diocletian, and so beyond the pale of Papal infour elder sisters had been sent there in terference. On this classic ground Old turn and it may well have become Rome and New Italy make a tryst of familiar to her thoughts as a family re- undying memories and ever-renewing ac sort, full of happy girlish associations tivities; an appropriate spot for the

The bride, with her diamond tiara and white satin robe, brocaded with silver eral admiration. Since their marriage the prince and princess have resided in Rome. He little dreamed that it would Lever be needed and that his own place in the Quirinal was so soon to be re-

Humbert, the preux chevalier, without fear and without reproach, and Margherita, adorable as woman and queen, leave places difficult to fill. Their successors are different in temperament and in promise, but with sterling qualities acquired both by inheritance and cultiva-

Those who best know the new king and queen believe them well fitted to meet the need of the hour and to win fresh laurels in promoting the weal of the Italian people.-New York Times.

MR. PHONOGRAPH. M. P. A Contrivance Which May be Popular in the British Elections.

The employment of the phonograph as a mechanical substitute for the tired or ernment and laid the entire question bebashful candidate is likely to be an interesting feature of the approaching that the best way to deal with this subject general election.

For some years the talking machine has played an important part in the Act granting the municipality power to impolitics of America, where in many in- pose a heavy license tax which might anstances the candidate has, in the re- swer the purpose. Nothing being done tirement of his own home, contented with Mr. Hall's bill on the subject, the himself with breathing his political views Speaker ruling it out of order on the into the funnel of a phonograph and alground that it interfered with trade and lowing the machine to do the rest on commerce, the legislative committee tour. In the hands of a capable agent, agreed, to the insertion of the section and under the control of a popular chair- among the amendments to the Municipal man, the meeting of electors takes place just as if the candidate were present in person, and with certain added advantages which many unsuccessful candidates will readily appreciate.

For the unpopular candidate the phonograph as a clockwork expounder of political opinions is an unmixed blessing. hoarse with unfriendly criticism, it may refer to the candidate in every unpubwant to throw antique vegetables at him, but the machine, deaf, blind and impervious, will go right along, steadily grinding out its proprietor's views on the war or the Youthful Offenders' Act without even pausing to say, "Gentlemen, I am much touched," when a retired egg breaks impotently inside the funnel.

By a simple contrivance the phonograph may be made to register the feeling of the audience, so that when the meeting is over the records can be sent back to the candidate, who reproduces the proceedings, and perhaps feels gratified that he did not attend in person. Only one English member of parliaent has so far addressed his constituents by means of the phonograph. This enterprising gentleman is Mr. Frederick John Horniman, M. P. for Falmouth and Penryn.-London Daily

DON JOSE'S HORSE.

Mail.

Up in the cold country my friend Don Jose had a fine hacienda, and I often enjoyed his hospitality. There was Dona Beatriz, his wife, and three sweet little girls that called him father. The girls were kept under strict supervision and never allowed to talk to a man, unless the old folks were present. They were natural girls and took it out in listening to unhealthy servants' yarn on the sly. receiving and answering foolish letters from young men and forming erroneous ideas about life in general. They were their legislative committee they advocated women physically and babies in mind and

My friend had a lot of horses, but his favorite was a beautiful saddle animal levy a license tax of not exceeding \$250 chase from a long line of hunting an perfect servant and even a companion chants who may offer goods for sale by for his master, and could not be caught by any one else. He was fond of sweets, ing swiftly at any attempt to seize him. For lasso throwing he would drop his head and avoid the loop and turn to take exponents who are here to-day and away a mouthful of grass without the least to-morrow. With the Italian people at large the pay. That spoils the breed. They don't marriage has been popular. Every one get a chance to grow as they would oth

. NOTES FROM MONTREAL.

Montreal, Sept. 8.—The Conservatives of Beauharnois county have again chosen the nature of a security or obligation for the stiting member, Hon. J. G. B. Bergeron, payment of money issued by a municipaltinje, to see his bride and sign the mar-riage contract.

String memory speaker, as candidate for the riage contract.

House of Commons at the general elec-

wedding, which occurred October 24th, Merchants Bank of Canada, was this morn- which may be hereafter passed imposing 1896. That was a gala day in Rome, ing found gulity. Sentence was deferred, taxes upon personal property." A special Winnipeg dispatch this afterastir with thousands of visitors from all noon says members of the Manitoba cab inet confirm the rumor that Hugh John Macdonald will be tendered the Conservative nomination in Brandon, and that his acceptance is only a matter of secondary consideration.

Municipal **Clauses Act**

City Council Received Many Concessions From the Government This Year.

May Impose Restrictions on Trading Stamp Companies -- Other Powers Granted.

The Victoria city council may certainly e pardoned for indulging in self-congratulatory expressions in view of the remarkable success attending their efforts to ob tain desired amendments to the Municipal Clauses Act. In almost every particular the requested amendments were granted. and several long felt municipal wants have been accordingly satisfactorily supplied. One of the most interesting is that which gives the city power to impose a license tax of not exceeding one thousand dollars for every six months on every trading stamp, gift or coupon company. Also a license tax not exceeding one hundred dol lars on every firm, person or corporation using trading stamps, for every six months.

As will be remembered, the trading stamp question developed into a burning one among the merchants of the city, who held a special meeting at the board of trade rooms to endeavor, if possible, to ascertain some means whereby the system could be abated. No definite action resulted, however, and finally a deputation of influential merchants interviewed the govfore them. It was pointed out to them would be for the insertion of a section in the amendments to the Municipal Clauses and famine. The enormous canals, con-Clauses Act.

One of the most important amendments was that to sub-section 60, which clothes the medical health officer with considerably more authority than he hitherto possessed. Should he be of the opinion that there exists serious apprehension of an epidemic breaking out within the munici-The hostile constituency may roar itself pality, upon application to a judge of the Supreme court he may obtain the necessary authority to undertake such precautions lishable term imaginable, it may even as he may determine necessary. Formerly the health officer was unable to pursue a direct course without the matter coming before the council. Now he is untrammeled in this regard, and should the case be urgent may order the destruction of premises in which he believes danger from disease to be lurking without the delay incidental to introducing the matter before the consideration of the civic powers. Another important amendment grants power to the municipality to impose a

special rate, not exceeding three cents per foot frontage per month, upon the occupiers of all stores and premises of every kind fronting upon the streets, for the purpose of defraying the cost of watering streets. The council is also at liberty to make any rate payable by monthly instalments or payments, and payable whether or not the watering shall be rendered unnecessary by wet weather. Another amendment, repealing a former

provision, provides that henceforth it will matter. It is customary for grouse to be not be necessary for an applicant for a shot in large numbers at the opening of liquor license in hotels to present a petition or requisition, but an application for the license must be made direct to the board of licensing commissioners not less than fourteen days prior to the session of as possible against the famine, and are the board. Should it be the opinion of the Blacing all their surplus stock into cold poard that the public interests justify a refusal, the license will not be granted. This clause refers to a municipality containing a population of more than one thousand.

It is apparently the intention of the council to heavily restrict hawkers and pedthe repeal of a sub-section formerly governing this detail, and the substitution of a sub-section granting them power to

auction. In this case the city may impose a tax of not exceeding \$500 for every six months. The municipality has consequently the protecting weapon, as it were, to use, if necessary, in defence of Victoria merchants, and make less frequent the visits to this city of the meteoric job lot

fear. The old Don would say: "Look at Another important amendment was offerhim. He's a treasure; cannot be stolen ed for consideration and reported upon by or scared or fooled by anybody, but I Mr. H. D. Helmcken, chairman of the call and he prances up and puts his nose municipal committee of the legislative asagainst my vest and waits my pleasure, sembly. This was that power be granted perftly gentle, always strong, ready, and the council to eliminate taxation on defaithful, yet never gave any trouble nor bentures of personal property. As the had any. My overseer is a conscientious case now stands, it is considered that the old-fashioned fellow, and I can't get him imposition of the tax exercises a deleterito see the benefits of my system. He ous influence on their value, whether gove thinks everything has to be done in the ernment or municipal, in the eyes of the old Spanish style. Tie 'em up, rope 'em general public, who are not disposed to hard, keep 'em scared, and then when purchase them except under the most favwork time comes there is the devil to orable conditions. In this connection it pay. That spoils the breed. They don't was pointed out that capital was likely to be diverted to outside channels, as people there might purchase the debentures with perfect immunity from taxation. The suggested amendment, which was not pressed, but merely offered for consideration in order to assist the negotiability of municipal bonds, was as follows:

No debenture or other instrument in the by reason of his holding or owning any such debenture or other instrument shall formally received into the Roman Catho- go and extradited here some months ago be liable in respect of the same to taxalic communion at Bari shortly before her on a charge of issuing forged paper on the tion under the Assessment Act or any act No action, however, has yet been taken by the government on this subject so far as known.

The legislative committee of the city council consists of Ald. Yates, Cameron and Beckwith. Considerable credit is due the city solicitor, J. M. Bradburn, for the

able manner in which he present wants of the city in the way of amen ments to the consideration of the

DELAGOA BAY RAILWAY.

British Bondholders Met Yester and Approved the Compromis-

London, Sept. 6 .- A meeting of th ish bondholders of the Delagoa B: road to-day approved the comproi ranged by Mr. Trohane, former States consul at Berne, consul for the erican claimants in the United State the Earl of Hardwick, Lord Hilling and Sir Cuthbert Quilter, representing bondholders. According to the compromise, the

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can claimants get fan aggregate of \$100,000, out of which they have the costs of the United States gove The first mortgage bondholders, who entitled to seven per cent. intere to take four per cent. This permi payment of about 53 per cent. to and mortgage bondholders, who of would get nothing.

The arrangement will be forthwith nitted to the two governments, and bondholders have approved it un it is expected the scheme will be through, but it is not likely the America share will be paid up much before the end of the year.

RIVERS ARE TREACHEROUS In Times of Freshet They Frequently Change Their Course.

The rivers of China, like the people, are extremely treacherous. They have no fixed channels, but move in the impe floods that come pouring down from the mountains in the rainy season, sometim as much as 100 miles from their old beds, leaving the intervening tracts buried deep under the sand, destroying life, making desert of cultivated fields over an area of many hundreds of miles, and plunging the farming population into terrible poverty structed by the government to correct the evil, have been of no avail in this direction, although they have formed in the past great waterways crowded with craft, along which supplies of food and merchandise can be carried to the markets at a triffing cost. Modern engineering, when the break-up of China comes, will find the subjection of Chinese rivers a problem that will challenge all its genius and persever. ance, and it may accomplish here what i has failed to do with other great streams where the alluvial soil is carried down by the current to block the mouth and place a tantalizing obstacle in the way of navi-

gation. The Pei-ho is as crooked as a pennon flying in the wind, and the present lowness of the water is due to the long drought that has prevailed in the high lands to the north, where it rises. Two years ago steamers that now anchor at Taku, twenty miles or more down stream, ran to Tien Tsin, where they could take their cargo and where passengers could go on board comfortably and conveniently. The change, under the present circumstances, constitutes the chief difficulty in reaching the capital. For at Tien Tsin the passenger landing at Taku must change cars, continuing the journey to Pekin from the former point.

THE RETAIL MARKETS.

Venison, Grouse and Mallard Duck Are Now Obtainable in Any Quantity. This week has seen the first game of the season in the market. Grouse are at present very plentiful and are generally fat and large. That the market is well supplied at present, however, is no surprising the season and then for the supply to become very scarce. Dealers, mindful of this, are taking steps to guard as much storage. Deer, comparatively, are not so plentiful as grouse, but are found in good condition. As to staples, the only change reported is that of a slight cut on wheat.

The current retail prices are as follows: Ogilvie's Hungarian, per bbl.\$
Lake of the Woods, per bbl.
Snow Flake, per bbl.
Calgary Hungarian
Premier, per bbl...
XXX Enderby, per bbl... 6.00 5.00 6.00 5.75 5.00 Frain-Wheat, per ton Corn (whole), per ton Corn (cracked), per ton

eed-Hay (baled), per ton 14.00@16.00
Straw, per bale 50@75
Middlings, per ton 19.00@21.00
Bran, per ton 18.00@20.00
Ground feed, per ton 25.00@28.00 egetables-Potatoes, per 100 lbs..... Cabbage, per head Cauliflower, per head Qnions, per lb. Carrots, per lb 21/2(0) Peas, per 1b..... Corn, green, per doz. Fish-Salmon (smoked), per ID.... Salmon (spring), per ID Shrimps, per ID Cod, per ID. Cod, black, per ID. 8@

Halibut, per Ib.
Herring
Smelts, per Ib. 8@ arm Produce-Fresh Island Eggs . Eggs (Manitoba), per Eggs (Manitoba), per doz... Butter (Delta Creamery) ... Best dairy.
Butter (Cowichan Creamery).
Cheese (Canadian),
Lard, per ID. 25@ Hams (American), per lb.... Hams (Canadian), per lb.... Bacon (American), per Ib...
Bacon (Canadian), per Ib...
Bacon (rolled), per Ib...
Bacon (long clear), per Ib... 17@ 14@ 12@Shoulders, per Ib.

Shoulders, per Ib.

Reef ner Ib.

Mutton, per Ib.

Pork, per Ib. 100 Fruit-Bow

Coroanuts, each Lemons (California), per doz. Lemons (small)
Apples, per 10. Plums, per lb.
Plums, per lb.
Plums, per lb.
Cherries, per lb.
Grapes, per 2 lbs.
Watermelons, reach 1.10a 121/2 oultry-1.25@ 1.50 1.50 20@ 25 bressed fowl, per pair Ducks, per pair Dressed Turkeys, per ID 200 Game-Venison, per lb

Gronse, per pair Duck, Mallard, per pair

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