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BY

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AMERICAN NEWS.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 18.—The proclamation by the president warning all persons against illegal sealing in Behring Sea will probably be issued in a few days. It is understood to be couched in the usual terms. The question of continuing the modus vivendi for the protection of seal life in Behring Sea, which was in operation last summer, had not been agreed upon up to a day or two ago.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Archbishop Feeham, of Chicago, chairman of the organization committee of the Columbia Catholic congress, has authorized the statement that questions relating to the independence of the Holy See and Catholic education had not been excluded from the programme of the congress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The Congressional Worlds Fair train to Chicago, consisting of four sections, of eight palatial Pullman cars each, left here this afternoon. The first section started at 3:05 and the last one at 4:30. The party was composed of a large number of distinguished statesmen, representatives of foreign legations, newspaper men and ladies. Hon. A. T. Emery, chairman of the Citizen's Committee of Chicago, had general charge of the party, but each of the separate trains was under the direct charge of an Illinois congressman. The several trains followed each other within intervals of 15 minutes between the various sections in order to insure safety.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—It is announced today that a deal has been closed whereby the Chicago Gas Trust has absorbed the Economic Gas company, the only formidable competitor of the Chicago Gas company, thus securing an entire monopoly of the gas business in this city.

LYNN, Mass., Feb. 19.—While carelessly toying with a revolver, to-day, William Lodregan shot and instantly killed his friend, James Ferry, jr. Both were witnessing the Wild West Show here, and, as a performer laid down his 44 calibre revolver, Lodregon picked it up, and brandished it before his chum's face, in innocent sport. He did not know, however, that the weapon was loaded, and when his friend jestingly said, "Let her go," Lodregan pulled the trigger, and with fatal result, for the next instant his companion fell to the floor, dead. Lodregan, who is frantic with grief, was placed under arrest.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Speaker Crisp left for Fortress Monroe, last evening, accompanied by his family. He has never recovered completely from the attack of grippe, and for several days has been feeling very badly. His friends will try to keep him away for a week with the hope that his health may be improved.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Feb. 19.—Col. O. M. Towner, of Grand Forks, manager of the Northwestern Farm Land company, of Chicago, is missing. His company was engaged in the organization of German farmers on North Dakota lands to raise barley for malt. He was last seen in this city, January 29, when he said he was going to Chicago. Nothing being heard from him, telegrams were sent to Chicago, but no trace of him has been secured. He had about $200 with him. There are suspicions of foul play. His accounts, so far as known, are straight

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Mr. Callen, County Clerk of Salt Lake City, and a member of the Liberal party, of Utah, today addressed the House Committee on Territories, in opposition to the Bill for statehood and local government. He confined his remarks principally to the Mormon Church, and stated that from 1830 to 1885, the Church had controlled the affairs of the State. After that there had been a reformation, and the Mormons appear to be sincere in the change they have made, but are apt to have a new revelation from God. The hearings will continue to-morrow.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—Joe McAuliffe has written to the President of the Olympic Club, of New Orleans, that he will meet Slavin for a purse of $5,000, if the club will allow him his expenses.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 19.—The special committee of the International Machinists' Union has decided what action to take in regard to the strike of machinists in the Pennsylvania Company's shops, and this decision has been telegraphed to the members of the executive board at different places in the country. There is no reason to believe that the committee has recommended a strike on the whole system. This is however finally contingent upon the vote of the executive board, which is to be telegraphed to Master Mechanic J. B. Cramer, Richmond, Va., before Monday. S. M. Dolan, of Chicago, organizer of the International Union leaves to-night with secret instructions for all the Pan-Handle shops.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The Secretary of the Interior has designated A. G. Speer, special agent of the general land office, for special service in connection with the interests of the public, and Yosemite National Park, California. He is directed to report on the condition, origin and right of franchise, length and public convenience made by the several toll roads in the park, and the fair and reasonable tolls that should be charged. He is also authorized to hear persons who have propositions to make relative to the privilege of erecting hotels.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Prof. Francis R. Fava, son of Baron Fava, late Italian Minister to the United States, declares that a quarry of marble has been discovered in Virginia rivalling the famous Numidian marble, dug out of deposits in Africa at great cost of time and labor. "The Numidian marbles," Prof. Fava said, "are the finest in the world and are controlled by a Belgian company, that defies competition. Search has been made everywhere for another deposit, but it seems with but little success, until the discovery was recently made in Virginia."

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—Wing Lee formed the American Cigar Company in Chibatown, some time ago, and persuaded many Chinese to put their money in the scheme, which was to be similar to a trust company. He has disappeared, taking with him about $15,000, paid in by his fellow countrymen, who are now hunting for him.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—The schooner Papeete, built for the French Government, by Matthew Turner, at Benicia, arrived yesterday. The vessel is to be used as a revenue cutter, The Papeete will be armed with two guns, in all probability quick firing guns, of the new French model. She will be ready for sea in about five days, and will be taken to Tahiti by a crew from this port.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—The hearing of a motion for a new trial for Sydney Bell was resumed this afternoon, C. J. Moore, the missing witness, who said he knew who killed Jacobson, was called in vain at the door. A bench warrant has been issued for his arrest, but as yet his whereabouts are unknown.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—In the U. S. Circuit Court, late this afternoon, George Lang, owner of the Calistogo Winery Distillery company, the plant of which has been seized, was convicted of bribing the principal witness for the prosecution and he was placed under arrest. All the property was ordered to be confiscated.

PORT TOWNSEND, Feb. 18.—The steamer Enterprise, carrying a cargo of dynamite for Alaska, arrived this morning from San Francisco. As the harbor master would not allow their transfer to the steamer Alki, which carries them to the north, and has been waiting here for some days, to be made at the wharf, both vessels steamed to an anchorage across the bay. There the transfer was effected. The cargo consisted of 60 tons of giant powder.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—An evening paper says Garza, the Mexican revolutionist, has been seen in this city and recognized by a countryman, and is believed to be in hiding here now.

PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 19.—Captain Hastings, of the whaleback Wetmore, arrived from the Sound, to-day, and the taking of testimony was begun in the salvage suit brought by Frank Upton, owner of the Zambesi, against the Wetmore. Originally the suit was brought for $250,000, but the amount has been reduced to $200,000. The case will be put on trial in the United States Circuit Court in about two weeks.

TEXARKANA, Ark., Feb. 20.—Ed McCoy, the negro accused of rape, was burned to death in the middle of Broad street, at 3 o'clock, this afternoon. He was tied to the stake, and an armed posse prevented a rescue. The burning negro was surrounded by a crowd of 6,000 persons, who watched his agonies until death came to his relief.

SEATTLE, Feb. 20.—The Telegraph says: "Mercier, the Canadian boodler, has nerve. He is making a bold fight, and is truculent in the face of his misdeeds. The American boodler has still something to learn before he rivals the foreign article."

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 19.—Secretary Foster will sail from New York, on Tuesday, for Bremen. He will be accompanied by W. F. McLellan, Chief of the Warrant Division of the Treasury Department, who is also in poor health. The Secretary suffers from prostration, the effects of a severe attack of the grip, and takes the trip solely for the purpose of recuperation. He expects to be again in this country in about three weeks.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 20.—President Ben Terrell, of the Confederation of Industrial Organizations, will, next Monday morning, in the Exposition Building, call to order the largest and most important convention of workingmen ever held in this country. There will be delegates from nearly all, if not every state in the Union.

NINE YEARS IN GAOL.

Arrival in New York of One of the Well-Known Bank of England Forgers.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Austin Byron Bidwell, one of the gang of Bank of England forgers, was released from Chatham prison, in England, a week ago, and sailed the same day on the Etruria, one of the Cunard line steamers, for this city. The Etruria arrived here to-day. Bidwell is accompanied by his sister, Mrs. Mott, who has been in England many months working for her brother's release. Austin Bidwell is the second forger to be released from British custody, the first being his brother, George Bidwell, who was given a ticket-of-leave on July 18, 1887, and who arrived in this country in the following August. The crime for which the two Bidwells and their confederates, George McDonald and Edward Noyes, were convicted, startled the financial world. It was perpetrated in the latter part of 1872 and the early part of 1873. These four men forged notes and bills of exchange on the Bank of England amounting to $1,000,000. George Bidwell was arrested in Scotland and Austin Bidwell, who had fled to Cuba with his newly-married wife, was taken in Havana. Noyes was arrested in London, and McDonald, who had fled from England, the moment the crime was exposed, was arrested on board the steamer at quarantine by a Deputy United States Marshal and two of Inspector Byrnes' detectives. They were convicted August 18, 1873, and were sentenced to life imprisonment by Justice Archibald the instant the jury came in with a verdict of guilty.

Boisseau Bros., retail dry goods, Montreal, are in difficulties.

THE EMPRESS OF CHINA

Arrives From Hongkong and Yokohama, After a Splendid Passage Across the Pacific.

Some Distinguished Passengers Interviewed—The Latest News of Importance From the Orient.

At a little before noon yesterday the beautiful C. P. R. liner Empress of China hove in sight off the outer wharf, and a few minutes afterwards the tender Standard with several customs, steamer and other officials put out to meet her, having in tow a large barge for the transfer of the 187 Chinese passengers brought across the Pacific. The Empress dropped anchor 11 days, 18 hours and 51 minutes after she left Yokohama harbor. The Captain, when she had been boarded, informed a COLONIST representative that she could have easily lessened this time by a day, had he desired, but in view of no special train arrangements having been made, it would have been hardly desirable to burn up so much more coal than was consumed. The trip across was one of the finest that has ever been made, hardly a single bad gale being encountered, and no days other than bright and fine. As has been the custom on every trip across the Pacific that has been made by the new line of magnificent vessels to which the Empress of China belongs, every passenger on board is full of praise for the splendid accommodation and attendance, and the excellent manner in which the vessel behaved throughout.

After the health officer, Dr. Macnaughton Jones, had finished his work of examining the passengers and ship's company, the mails were handed on deck and delivered, by smart sorting, within an hour. There were several important arrivals among the passengers, and a number of them were interviewed for the benefit of COLONIST readers.

Mr. Arthur E. Allan, of the great firm of H. & A. Allan, of Montreal, and son of Sir Hugh Allan, has been on a visit to China and Japan. He said: "My visit has been in reality purely one of pleasure. Of course, people think that I have had a scheme for a new line of steamers in my mind, but the result of my trip, I can tell you in all sincerity, is that our firm does not for a moment think of becoming competitors for the Pacific or Australian trade. We have now fifty steamships and seven regular lines running across the Atlantic, and I can assure you that we have our hands full attending to them. Our trade is increasing yearly, and we will come not on this side of America for an extension of it. I fully expect by the time I get back to Montreal to have been interviewed by a great number of newspaper men, and, no doubt, many of them will twist my words into something totally different to the impression I mean to convey. But, you may say, once and for all, that that is the final decision of the firm of H. & A. Allan on the subject of trans-Pacific commerce. At present, we will stay where we are. When you ask me for my opinion of these C. P. R. liners, you speak of something concerning, which I am able to give a decided opinion. I consider that this Empress of China, and her sister ships, are absolutely perfect ocean steamers. Their interior fittings are the finest I ever saw; that is with one exception," said Mr. Allan, suddenly checking himself. "I will tell you of that directly. The Empresses are throughout built regardless of expense. I have taken great pains in examining minutely everything in connection with them, and I can assure you that they are unbeatable. The trip across to Victoria has been one of unbroken comfort and pleasure. When I speak of the 'exception,' I mean in the case of the s.s. Sardinian, one of the crack boats of my firm. We received by telegraph a notice that the Duke of Connaught had landed at Victoria, and that he had decided to travel home on the Sardinian. Well, there were just ten days in which to get everything in readiness. We had the whole interior of the vessel torn out and new fittings put in everywhere. A perfect electric light plant was placed on board, special private drawing room, dining room, smoking room and sleeping apartments built, and the most superb furniture that money could buy arranged in them. There were hundreds of dollars' worth of silk and velvet hangings, the costliest carpets and marble tesselated floors, and the whole of the ventilating arrangements of the ship were altered. We had gangs of men working night and day, and, as the Americans remark, we had to "hustle." It would be rather unbusinesslike for me to tell you how many thousands of dollars the firm spent over the work, and in fact, I have never said anything about it before, but I will say that we received, for their passage money, from the royal party, just $460. However, I suppose the advertisement and the prestige made it worth the trouble. I am going right back to Montreal now, and will start in on my work again as soon as I reach home."

Mr. H. S. Milburne, a cousin of Mr. Allan, is visiting America after a long absence in that unknown part of the world—the Bahamas. He enjoys the reputation of being the biggest of all the big planters in that locality, and has come to this country on an important mission, concerning which the COLONIST will be permitted to speak in a few days. All that can be said now is that his object is one of much importance directly to this province, and being in such close relations with one of the most extensive and wealthy corporations in the Dominion, is in a position to carry out almost anything he has in view.

Colonel Henshaw, the well-known and popular officer of the Victoria Rifles, returned on the Empress from a pleasure trip to the Orient. He is one of the Allan party, and has thoroughly enjoyed his holiday.

One of the most entertaining and interesting of the passengers, is the Rev. Dr. Amerman, who has for twenty-seven years, occupied a position unique in the history of the Presbyterian Church. He has, during that long space of time, been doing a life work with wonderful and gratifying results to his church and to mankind. In 1865 he set out single handed from New York for Japan, and his labors since then he described as follows to a COLONIST reporter, yesterday, on board the Empress: "When I got to the Land of the Rising Sun, where I have spent the last quarter of a century, I can assure you that the Japanese knew very little about Presbyterianism, or Christianity of any sort. The whole people were just in a transition state. The country was torn and divided by the great question, 'Shall we follow in the lines our fathers did, or will we countenance, in any way, the forms and customs of the stranger and the white man?' Luckily, common sense, and the far-seeing nature that exists in a great degree among them, turned the scale, though slowly, in favor of civilization, and since then they have been gradually becoming educated up to modern forms and usages, that knowledge culminating a little while ago in free election fights, and bribery too. For the first few years after my arrival I did practically nothing, but after that I made considerable headway, and when representatives of the two other great Presbyterians missions reached the country I had about forty theological students under me. Then, I am sorry to say, there arose constant bickerings and heart-burnings among the three branches of our church, until at length we came to a decision after a good deal of deliberation to cut loose from all Anglo Saxon ties and together establish a Presbyterian Theological Mission on the Coast. Immediately after this our work prospered wonderfully and we grew very strong. In the Queen's Jubilee year we had eleven thousand Japanese converts, all being educated in our colleges in that country. A week before I left Tokio to come across the Pacific, our converts numbered sixty two thousand. We have schools and seminaries everywhere throughout the islands, are recognized as a great power for good by all the high authorities of the Empire, and have, I am glad to say, such a tight grip on Japan now that we can never let go. During the last few years, there has been a growing spirit in the empire of "Japan for the Japanese," and, strange as it may seem to you, we and our disciples have done a good deal to encourage it. The reason for our action is that the more independent, country-loving, patriotic spirit we can cultivate among them, the better for them and for the outside world. The more they love their own land the greater will be their desire to increase its trade and build up its name among the other nations. And now that I have done my little towards the establishment of the Christian religion among them, I am going back to New York to rest. I do not know now, but at present I think that my labors in the Orient are over. I have left matters in able and younger hands than mine, and will retire with the conviction that the good work will continue to go on and prosper."

The following is the list of passengers for Victoria, cabin: Col. Henshaw, Mr. C. Bretschneider, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Godfrey Brown, Mr. E. B. Townsend, Rev. Dr. Amerman, Miss Perry, Miss Shaw, Mrs. Frank Reid and infant, Mr. E. Allan, Mr. H. S. Milburne, Mr. N. Weil, Mr. G. B. Dodwell, Mr. Lord, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Floyd, Mr. Augove, Mr. Bedoff.

The following interesting items of news are taken from Japanese and Chinese newspapers of two weeks ago:

Japan has offered, if granted a suitable location in Jackson Park, to construct and, after the exposition, to present to the city of Chicago one or two buildings illustrating the ancient style of architecture of that country. The Mikado proposes to reproduce Kin-kakuji, a monastery of the Zen sect in Kyoto, dating from 1397, and Ho-o-do, or Phœnix Hall, a structure dating from 1052, representing the fabulous bird to which fire seemed to be invigorating. The expense of these structures and of the proposed landscape gardening about them is estimated at $100,000. The Japanese Commissioner desires the grant of about two acres at the north end of the wooded island.

The total quantity of tea exported from Japan during last year was 36,150,852 kin (one kin=1⅓ lb.), valued at yen 6,932,649; the export duties paid amounted to yen 392,445.849.

On Wednesday, February 3rd, at No. 49 Tsukiji, the wife of Rev. Franklin C. Neitz, died, 30 years of age. About ten days ago she began to feel unwell, and this rapidly developed into that dread disease, smallpox, now so prevalent in Tokio. A very high fever at once set in, and there was scarcely any hope of recovery from the beginning. Deceased was a missionary of the Evangelical association of North America, the latest arrival to the mission, having come to Japan only about two years ago. Besides the sorely stricken husband, she leaves a little boy eight months old.

The approaching elections in Japan absorb more than ever the attention of the vernacular papers. The situation is rather uncertain. But it is evident that the Opposition candidates have now a very much harder task than on the occasion of the first elections. In spite of what the Yomiuri and other Opposition papers hint as to the probable defeat of the official party, the situation is nearly balanced, there being a fair prospect of a large increase of members favorably disposed to the Government. Everywhere the candidates of the two sides are doing their utmost to make their views intelligible to the electors by the issue of manifestos, by speeches and by personal interviews. The Opposition papers continue to complain of the alleged interference in electoral matters on the part of local officials. The police are also charged with partiality to the so-called official candidates.

The Sei-i-kwai's Journal is written in Japanese and also in a language which the editors consider to be English. But it is fearful and wonderful English. Here is a specimen of the summary of Dr. Kusaka's paper, referred to above:

"Thus when the spread of infection obscure at the time of cholera epidemic or typhoid fever, we cannot deny that flies were the agents. Such as cholera bacilli cannot long survive in dry state, but when taken in flies abdomen are the same to be protected in nutrient fluid, and thus having spores as bacil, tuberculos, or anthracis may be scattered on food without change with excrements of flies.

During the seven months ended January last, the total quantity of raw silk exported from Yokohama was 34,207 bales, of which 21,442 bales were exported to America, and 12,766 bales to Europe.

According to latest investigations, the damage caused in Gifu Prefecture Tokio by the greatest earthquake of last October, is as follows: Houses totally burnt, 4,431; houses partly burnt, 23; houses entirely overthrown, 51,006; houses partly ruined, 33,456; lives lost, 4,957; and persons severely wounded, 3,419.

The Japanese population of Yokobama at the end of last year, numbered 139,058 (68,630 males and 71,428 females), living in 29,070 houses. The number of Japanese residing in the Foreign Settlement was 3,157, of whom 1,331 were males and 1,826 females.

On the day of the funeral of Prince Albert Victor, a funeral parade was held on the cricket ground, in Hongkong, in the presence of H. E. the Governor, H. E. the General, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen, official and unofficial. The troops, which presented a fine appearance, were formed up at 2:30 p. m. on the cricket ground in the following order: 25th Company Royal Artillery, Hongkong Company, 23th Company, 1st Batt. The King's Shropshire L I., 1st Batt. Princess Louise's A. and S. Highlanders, the Asiatic Artillery (with guns), the Chinese Company Submarine Miners. On the arrival of Sir W. Robinson, the troops presented arms, after which His Excellency, with Major-General Barker, inspected the various companies. The order was then given for a Royal salute, followed by the "Dead March" from Saul, played by the combined bands of the Shropshire L.I., the A. and S. Highlanders, and the Imperieuse, stationed in the centre of the ground. On the conclusion, the whole body of men marched off the field, and at 3 o'clock the shore battery commenced to fire 30 minute guns. This was taken up by the men-of-war in harbor, and continued until sunset.

Street lighting by electricity is being experimentally tried in the city of Canton. It is found that a ten-candle lamp burning from dusk till midnight costs $0.60 per month; a sixteen-candle-lamp $1.00. The street lamps for the first month were lighted free of charge, so as to attract customers.

A telegram announces that a great fire occurred in Hankow on the morning of the 12th Jan. at 2 o'clock. It took place in an important business street, Hwalouikia, and burned down over 100 buildings. Several telegraph poles were also destroyed but were replaced next day, so that communication by wire was scarcely interrupted.

The failure of two large silk piece-goods merchants, is reported from Tokio, last week. Their joint liabilities are estimated at $250,000. Several other houses in the same business are in trouble, but it is understood that they will, by arrangement, be able to tide over their difficulties.

Notwithstanding the cold weather in Japan, the prices of all kinds of furs are unprecedentedly low. A reduction of 50 per cent., on what are known as normal prices, fails to attract buyers. This speaks badly for the present prosperity of the place.

A letter from Gensan, Korea, reports that influenza is severely raging in that port, and over five hundred out of the total of seven hundred foreign residents in the Concession have been attacked.

Last year was unprecedented, says the Miyako Shimbun, in respect of bank failures and money panics which brought numerous firms to the verge of ruin. The confidence of the public in banks was entirely shaken, and it cannot be said even now to have been thoroughly restored. The fact is that the methods of doing business followed by some of the banks are so defective and risky that to closer governmental inspection and more thorough official superintendence alone can the public look for a reform of the abuses which have sprung up in the financial world.

In addition to the well known gentlemen mentioned in another column who were interviewed on the arrival of the Empress of China yesterday, the following were also seen:

Mr. Dodwell, of the famous Eastern tea firm of Dodwell, Carlill & Co. of Shanghai, Foochow and Hankow, met the reporter pleasantly and spoke without reluctance of the enormous interests of the firm in China. "I am on my way to England," he said, "and will be absent from China for about two months. I am in business in connection with the tea and other interests, and expect before I get back to have completed extensive arrangements for the disposal of large lots of tea. We have to be aggressive just now. The fact cannot be denied that Chinese tea is losing ground everywhere. The enormous export to England that we enjoyed a few years ago, has now dwindled down to one-third of former proportions. In 1888 we sent twenty-five million pounds to Australia, and last year we sent fifteen million. Through out all parts of Europe the like decrease is noticeable. South America is supplied through England, and whatever England gives her she takes, and it is only in Russia, Canada and the United States that we are holding our own. Everywhere we go we find ourselves blocked by the enormous popularity that has brought the Indian and Ceylon teas into public favor. These latter are superseding the Chinese article rapidly. Seven years ago ten pounds of Ceylon tea was imported into England as an experiment by a big Mincing Lane house. To-day the trade runs up into the hundreds of millions. Our great reliance is in Russia. There the hatred of everything English or Anglo-Indian is shown even in the food they allow into their country, and it is principally for that reason that the Indian teas cannot get a footing in the land of the Czars. Luckily for us, most of the tea growers of the Celestial Empire have, during the last two years, realized the tide that is setting in favor of the opposition article, and they have trimmed their sails accordingly. The big decrease in the private business of my own firm in the article is, I may say, being counterbalanced in other ways. Our trade in straw bands is rapidly extending and becoming very large. We ship this article in enormous proportions to America and England, where it is turned into straw hats. Dodwell, Carlill & Co. last year imported into China 20,000 bales of Manchester goods, and I am safe in saying that next year this amount will be largely increased. Last season my firm exported from its three houses in China, one hundred and seventy-five thousand half chests of tea. We will, when I return, start a Hongkong branch, which I intend to take personal charge of. You would hardly believe the extent of the depression that has, since 1889, fallen upon China. The downfall of Ruosell & Co. was the first great blow, and then, immediately afterwards, came the insolvency of Adamson, Bell & Co., another big Oriental house. These two disastrous failures brought down a great number of smaller firms, and people now, all through the country, are feeling an utter want of confidence in everything and everybody. I don't believe, for a moment, that the China tea trade is going to be irrevocably ruined by present adverse influences. I think that it will, in one way, do a great deal of good. It will stop the flooding of the markets with inferior trash, and compel the native growers to produce the quality and grade that they should. They can prepare tea in China better and at a cheaper rate than they can in India, but they have had the monopoly for so long that, of late years, they have been throwing into the market all kinds of rubbish. I believe that there will be a reaction before long."

Mr. N. Weil came over on the Empress. He is the representative of an enormous fur industry throughout the East, and has come to America in connection with his business. The fur trade in Japan and China is growing to immense proportions now, and Mr. Weil who represents, among other firms, that of Boscowitz & Co., of New York, is getting a good share of it.

Mr. Godfrey Brown, another noted traveller and interesting visitor, reached here on the China, yesterday. He is one of Victoria's pioneers, and from 1860 to 1869 lived in this city. He still has pleasant remembrances of the early days and struggles. Lieut.-Governor Nelson, and in fact all the old hands, are personal friends of Mr. Brown, whose life has, during the last 17 years, been rather an eventful one. He said to a COLONIST reporter, "In 1876 I went to the Sandwich Islands, where, save for occasional trips to Europe, I have remained ever since. In 1890 I was elected Minister of the Interior in the King's Cabinet, and, in 1891, Minister of Finance, which position I resigned on January, of last year, on the death of the King. I then started to travel, partly for my health's sake and partly on a private mission, which I am not now at liberty to divulge. Of course, if I am offered a position in the Cabinet, once more under the Queen, I don't say that I won't take it. The Government consists now of four men, three of whom are Americans, and one English. I am anxious to get back, as I want to see how the country is getting on under the new regime. The Hawaiian Islands are prospering wonderfully. Last year we exported 125,000 tons of sugar to the United States, and the plantations all over the islands are thriving well. Honolulu, itself, is now becoming quite a modern little city. It has 26,000 inhabitants out of the 90,000 that the whole country contains.

We have electric light, well paved streets, handsome shops and the prettiest scenery in the world." Mr. Brown stays over in Victoria for a few days before proceeding to San Francisco.

CABLE LETTER.

AN EARLY DISSOLUTION.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—An early dissolution of Parliament is now almost certain. Mr. Balfour, the main stay of the Tory-Chamberlain combination is said to be disgusted with the experiences of the session, and seriously contemplates serving a notice on Lord Salisbury that dissolution is in order. It is known that the governments both of Italy and Germany, are most anxious over the prospect. It was German influence that withheld Lord Salisbury from dissolving after the Parnell scandal, when many of the English Non-conformists were inclined to rid themselves of all connection with the Irish party, and might have thrown themselves into the arms of the Tories. The Powers of the triple alliance feared that, with Mr. Gladstone in power, England could not be counted upon to give the aid of her fleet in the event of a continental war, and would remain a passive factor, while the French Navy swept the Mediterranean, and now the prospect of a Liberal victory, with a foreign policy of non-interference, is almost certain. Until Mr. Gladstone is in the cabinet, it is not thought likely that Russia will take the steps she is believed to meditate.

GERMAN EMIGRATION.

A Berlin despatch to the London papers says that the proposed German emigration law, the substance of which has just been given to the public, is causing great consternation among the working people, and until the Bill becomes a law, there is likely to be a great rush of emigrants, especially those anxious to escape military service, to the United States. The German Government is willing that the aged and infirm should remove to another country, and there is no intention to interfere with the use of German ports by Russians and other nationalities who are simply passing through the Empire. The Kaiser's objection is to the loss of his young and vigorous subjects, especially of the male sex, whom he wishes to retain for army services. The majority of the German emigrants have heretofore been the flower of the people, so far as manly strength, energy and ambition are concerned, while they have also included a large proportion of the skilled tradesmen of the country. The departure of all these is to be hampered in future as much as possible, and, upon the passage of the bill, a vigilant watch will be established both at the ports of departure and along the French frontier.

MYSTERY OF THE HEADLESS CORPSE.

Charles Van Bourg, the porter of the house 27 Rue de Charonne, Paris, in the cellar of which the mutilated body of a fellow porter, named Boutry, was found on November 4th last, was, to-day, convicted of being Boutry's murderer, and was sentenced to penal servitude for life. The Boutry murder was one of the most sensational affairs in the recent criminal annals of Paris. What was known as "the mystery of the headless corpse" baffled the skill of the police for several months. Finally, a web of circumstantial evidence was ingeniously woven around Van Bourg, and during a private examination by M. Athalt, the magistrate, whose acuteness had much to do with the unravelling of the Tyraud-Gouffe mystery, Van Bourg broke down and confessed the crime. His relation of the circumstances attending the murder tallied in nearly all respects with the theory already constructed by the detectives. The trial, which was brief, attracted crowds of sensation lovers. The sentence is the most severe that could be imposed, in view of the fact that no direct proof of the murder was available, the conviction being based on the admission of the accused.

PRINCE BATTENBERG'S PENSION.

Prince Alexander of Battenberg, now more generally known as Count Hartena, has made formal application to the Emperor of Austria for permission to accept the pension of 50,000 francs a year, recently voted him by the Sobrange of Bulgaria. As the Prince holds the commission of Colonel in the Austro-Hungarian army, he cannot accept a gift from a foreign state without first obtaining leave from his Royal master, Francis Joseph. The giving of the pension was an act of pure grace and gratitude on the part of the Bulgarian Government. It was arranged by Prince Ferdinand and M. Stambouloff, and the Sobrange voted it by acclamation. Apart from the value of this fine tribute, which the people of Bulgaria have thus paid to the hero of Slivnitza, there is no doubt that the pension will be a material boon to the prince, for his means are rather limited for one in his position.

A NONSUITED PAPAL SUITOR.

A suit brought by Renault, an architect of Rouen, France, against Leo XII, for damages which are claimed because he failed to obtain restitution of documents which he sent to the Vatican, without, however, being asked to do so, has been decided in favor of the Pope. The documents in question were about an invention which the Roman architect thought might interest the Pope. Judgment was given against the architect, because it was shown that he had in reality suffered no injury by the loss of the documents, which were only copies of the original still in Mr. Renault's possession. This is the second case the Pope has gained in France within a few months.

FEARFUL STORM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The storm is universal throughout the United Kingdom. Traffic on the railways in the western and northern portions of England and part of Ireland is wholly or partially stopped. Ships are unable to leave the ports. Several steamers from America are overdue, and have not been sighted. There is not much snow in London, but the amount is sufficient to greatly discommode the residents. The main city streets are kept pretty well cleared, but no attempt is made to remove the snow in the lesser streets and suburbs, and busses and tramcars are much delayed.

A REMARKABLE SCENE IN THE FRENCH CHAMBER.

M. Fallieres, the Minister of Public Works, is looked upon with coldness by his colleagues, as the primary cause of the late crisis by his aggressive attitude toward the clergy, and the supporters of the Government join in condemning his policy, as rendering the catastrophe of yesterday inevitable. After the defeat of the Ministry there was a remarkable scene in the Chamber. At first the majority were as thunderstruck as the minority. They had hardly expected to overthrow the ministry by such an extraordinary vote. Then the followers of the old regime, who had sat in calm hauteur day after day, watching the onward sweep of the current beyond their control, suddenly awoke to a sense of the result. They threw aside dignity and began embracing, some even kissing each other. Stately nobles from remote parts of France, who are loyal to the idea that the church and royal house are born in the people, forgot their reserve and danced about like dervishes in their delight at the defeat of the Ministry. The minority, on the other hand, was at first dumbfounded and then frantic, and answered the shouts of joy with yells and execrations. The prudence of the Ministry in promptly retiring without theatricals, prevented serious disorder. The prevailing opinion is that there will be a dissolution of the Chambers, unless the Ministry, which has just resigned, is patched up.

LADY MURDERER MONTAGUE.

There was an angry crowd around the court house in Coleraine to-day, when Lady Montague was on trial; and as she was being taken from the court after conviction, the constables had hard work to protect the child killer from the fury of the mob. The carriage containing the prisoner was followed for some distance by a large body of men and women, who shouted bitter denunciations and vile epithets at her ladyship. Some stones were thrown at the carriage, but the occupants escaped injury.

CHEAP JEWISH LABOR.

The "Jewish Trade Unionists," a paper circulating among Hebrew workers in the East End of London, states on what it alleges to be reliable authority that Government contracts have been given to Jewish tailors who have sub-let them, paying men with large families two, three and five shillings per week, in defiance of the fair wages law. The paper denounces this state of affairs, and says the fact that the offenders are people of their own race will not prevent the Jews from calling them to account. The matter will be made the subject of an interpellation in the House of Commons.

INCREASED PROBATE BUSINESS.

The business in the registrar of wills office for the financial year just closed is the largest on record. The present average weekly number of wills proved is 1,000. The increased business is attributed to the mortality from influenza.

SCANDALOUS FAVORITISM.

Lieut. Bartinieff, of Warsaw, who was sentenced in 1890 to eight years imprisonment for killing the actress Visnovska has had his sentence commuted to disciplinary service with a battalion on the Asiatic frontier. The favoritism shown this officer is regarded in Warsaw as scandalous.

BADLY WOUNDED.

Last night, at about 11:30, George Bowen, a well known member of the Longshoreman's Union, was standing at the bar of the California saloon drinking whiskey with about twenty other men. He and six or seven friends had been imbibing heavily all night, and towards the time mentioned, three strangers, all Swedes, entered the hotel and soon became engaged in an altercation with Bowen. The latter claimed that a bottle of brandy on the counter belonged to him, while the leader of the other gang disputed his claim. Soon blows were struck, and almost before anybody realized what was being done, a big heavy made Swede had plunged a jack-knife into Bowen's body five times. The wounded men fell, and in the excitement of the moment his assailant escaped. When Bowen was stripped and examined, it was ascertained that he was bleeding profusely from four ugly gashes in his back, one of which was nearly three inches long, and a fearful cut extending from half an inch under the right eye down to his mouth. Dr. Milne was immediately sent for, and on his arrival, he ordered the man home to his cabin, a few blocks distant, and there bound and sewed up his wounds.

Bowen was seen late last night by a COLONIST reporter. He does not know the name of the man who attacked him, and declares that he never saw him before last night. The knife he just had time to recognize as one belonging to a sailor known as Dutch Peter, who, he believes, was the instigator of the assault. The police were all night looking for the Swede, but without success.

The Charles W. Wetmore was released on bonds this afternoon, the intention of the owners being to contest the case with Contractor West in the Supreme Court.

ONE ENJOYS

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation permanently.

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My daughter, after a severe attack of Scarlet Fever, was completely broken down. I spent hundreds of dollars in doctors' bills with but little satisfaction. Before she had taken one bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters there was a remarkable change, and now she is entirely cured. tts MRS. HOPPERON