CABLE LETTER.

McCarthyites Threw a Bomb Into the Liberal Camp—Home Rule.

Great Distress in Ireland — Irish Political Prisoners Not to Be Liberated.

LONDON, Dec 22.—The leaders of the McCarthyite section of the Irish parliamentary party have thrown a bombshell in the Liberal camp by serving a notice upon the government through John Morley, chief secretary for Ireland, that no further dependence can, in their opinion, be placed upon the vote of the Irish party unless the principles of Home Rule for Ireland are strongly reaffirmed in the Queen's speech on the occasion of the reassembling of parliament, and in other ways officially announced as the first plank in the platform of the Liberal party. These demands, it is explained by the Irish leaders, have been necessitated by the profound sensation which has been created in the Irish ranks by the declaration made by Wm. McEwen, Liberal member for the central division of Edinburgh, in a recent speech in the Scotch capital, that the

HOME RULE BILL WAS DEAD

and that it would be impossible to carry the country with the measure as the first or even one of the principal issues contended for by the Liberal party. The speaker went on to say that the Irish ought to be content with a merely local government and not haggle for an independent parliamentary government in the face of the inevitable. A merely local government, he had no doubt, could be secured by Ireland under certain conditions. This declaration is understood to mean that the Conservatives, for the sake of finally disposing of the Irish question, and to allow a good part of the session to be devoted to other measures, would gladly agree to support such a bill. Mr. McEwen is a very intimate friend of Lord Rosebery, and this fact has given rise to the report which has been widely circulated by the Irish members that Lord Rosebery had read and approved Mr. McEwen's remarks before his Edinburgh speech was delivered. Whether or not Mr. McEwen's address was officially inspired, it certainly had had the effect to throw ardent Home Rule Liberals into a state of consternation, to incense the McCarthyite wing of the Irish party and plunge the Parnellites into a sea of exquisite delight. The latter faction of the Irish party have all along predicted that the ministry would break their pledge to pursue the Home Rule policy of Mr. Gladstone to the end, and the declarations of Mr. McEwen is regarded as confirming their prediction. In the meantime communications on the subject are passing between Mr. Morley and Lord Rosebery with a view of formulating some plan which will be satisfactory to the McCarthyites and at the same time

WILL NOT COMMIT THE GOVERNMENT

to the reintroduction of a Home Rule bill before Parliament is dissolved. This fact furnishes evidence that the Ministry are alarmed at the turn affairs have taken and also induces the belief that the address of Mr. McEwen was officially inspired. Mr. Morley is reported to have asked the cabinet to give official assent, and without waiting for the assembling of parliament and a subsequent act by that body, to some decisive measures to alleviate the sufferings of the people in certain sections of Ireland through the pending famine. In consequence of the total loss of at least one-half of the potato crop in Connemara, Galway, Mayo, Clare and Sligo, the distress among the peasantry is already urgent.

IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS.

The report that it is the intention of the government to release the dynamiter John Daly and other Irish political prisoners at an early date, or at all for that matter, is without foundation in fact. Rt. Hon. Mr. Morley has advised and Home Secretary Asquith has successfully opposed any movement toward amnesty to these offenders, and it may be positively asserted that none of them will be set at liberty.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

The final breakdown of Lord Randolph Churchill, the truth of which is now admitted by everybody, occurred in Bombay. The stricken man will be accompanied to Marseilles and thence to London by a special physician who has been with him since he left Bombay. He is afflicted with softening of the brain. His malady has long been obvious and has developed into occasional dementia. The progress of the disease accounts for his recent conduct on several occasions during the debates in the House of Commons during the last session of parliament.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S CRISIS.

ST. JOHNS, Nfld., Dec. 21.—The British warship Tourmaline will remain here until April. It is reported that the British government has offered assistance to the impoverished people of this colony. The stagnation of business in Newfoundland is complete, every labor employing concern on the island being closed. The work of realization on the assets of insolvent firms, begun under the direction of the trustees of the Commercial bank, is now being carried on under the charge of the trustees, who are verifying the statements in regard to the specie contained in the vaults. The government has not yet indicated the nature of the proposed legislation relating to the present business crisis. The introduction of a measure bearing on this subject is expected on Monday. It is suggested in the newspapers that the salaries of all public officials be reduced 20 per cent. The Halifax banks have been persuaded to resume business. A representative of the Bank of Montreal is expected to arrive tomorrow.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 21.—(Special)—Constance Hoboreny, an old man aged 73, was knocked down by a C.P.R. yard engine last night. Two of his ribs were broken and he received a bad scalp wound from which he will probably die.

Premier Greenway informed a reporter to-day that the report which had been circulated to the effect that his trip South was undertaken in pursuit of important public business was something of a canard. It was not of consequence to the public at large.

Ormonde's jewellery store was entered by burglars during last night and a quantity of stuff carried off.

J. Richardson, of Portage la Prairie, attempted suicide at Boissevain this morning, but the bullet missed its mark and passed through his cap.

BURNS AT ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 21.—An hour later than the advertised time John Burns, M.P., was introduced to 4,000 people at the Exposition. The stage was decorated with British and American flags and a brass band contributed the "Conquering Hero."

Mr. Burns spoke on "Trades Unions and social and municipal reform." The conditions in this country, he said, surprised him and he saw the beginning of great problems as to the best means by which the social and industrial interests of the producers could be subserved. He urged the unification of Trades Unions on all social and political questions.

In citing some of the causes that had produced the great and growing disparity between the rich and poor, he said: "Under consumption over production and the selfishness of greedy monopoly have produced the vagrants and the Vanderbilts. The one is an enormity and the other a monstrosity. As the percentage of the share of the laborer in his product has decreased, that of the capitalist has increased. Just now the currency conjurers are kicking up a dust to blind you to the situation, at the same time increasing the great disparity." As a remedy for this Mr. Burns suggested socialism pure and simple. He dealt out caustic criticism of American municipal government, and thought socialism the panacea. Frequent and loud applause greeted him. Mr. Burns will remain here until to-morrow evening, when he departs for Indianapolis.

ANTICIPATING RIOTS.

ROME, Dec. 20. — The concentration of troops which began in the evening of the prorogation of parliament has been continued without cessation. A semi official statement says that the movement is made only in the ordinary course of military disposition to keep the garrison complete. The opposition editors and deputies ridicule the explanations and insist that the government is preparing for riots.

ARMENIAN HORRORS.

Earl Kimberly Strongly Urged to Take Action in the Matter.

Gross Misrepresentations — A Self-Confessed Anarchist Figures as an Armenian.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The State department has not learned that the Ottoman Porte has given the requested sanction for Consul Jewett to accompany the commission to Armenia, as an independent commissioner as directed by the President, or that Turkey has reached any definite conclusion in the matter. It is officially known, however, that Minister Terrill is with his usual vigor pressing the Grand Vizier for action on the President's proposition. It is quite clear, however, that up to this time nothing has been definitely determined upon, as between the Porte and Minister Terrill.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—A meeting was held in the Moslem colony of London to-day, at which it was resolved to address a memorial to Lord Kimberly, foreign secretary, protesting against the gross misrepresentations of Moslem law and religion, which are being made for political purposes in connection with the Armenian atrocities.

VIENNA, Dec 21.—A man named Popagin, who was imprisoned as an anarchist in Bucharest some time ago, has proved to be an Armenian agitator. He confessed yesterday that he was a member of a widespread conspiracy designed to overthrow Turkish rule in Armenia and make the province independent. His statements have implicated several other Armenians, who have been arrested.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 21.—The government denies the report spread by Armenians, that the Bishop of Moosh has been arrested.

ODESSA, Dec. 21.—Russian newspapers print a London dispatch to the effect that the Duke of Teck has been mentioned as a possible Prince of Armenia in case that province be made autonomous.

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—The Cologne Gazette published a letter from Armenia telling of fresh horrors there, including twenty-three villages laid in ashes, eleven other villages pillaged and forty priests massacred.

The letter says that the Turkish garrisons at Erzeroum, Trass, Van, Tigranocerta, Babert and Moosh, altogether about 60,000, were sent against the Armenians. The commanders of these troops announced to the inhabitants of the villages: "We are ordered to put you to the sword for openly defying the government." The attack began on August 18. The Turks were repulsed in the first instance. The massacre began September 5.

Those Armenians who submitted unconditionally were bound to stakes and their limbs cut off with saws. In other cases the victims were disemboweled and their eyes gouged out. Children were thrown into burning oil, and women were tortured and burned to death. The troops plundered and burned the churches. Among those who fell victims to the savagery of the soldiers were forty priests, who were brutally massacred.

The British consul at Erzeroum was prevented from going to the scene of the crimes on the ground that it was not safe for any Armenian, he being an Armenian, to approach the places where trouble had occurred. This did not deter him from making an attempt to learn the truth, but, as he was trying to approach one of the devastated villages he was arrested.

The Daily Chronicle's correspondent in Rome says that Azaran, Catholic patriarch of Constantinople, has sent a report to the Pope confirming the statements as to the Armenian massacres. Very few of the victims were Catholics.

AUSTRIAN POLITICS.

VIENNA, Dec. 20.—Premier Dr. Wekerle had an audience with the Emperor this afternoon and discussed his retirement from office. His official resignation was not placed in the Emperor's hands, but it lacks only the form. It will be given within a few days. D. Senffy, president of the Hungarian chamber of deputies, is likely to succeed him. He is nominally a Conservative, but has strong Liberal tendencies.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Treasury has lost in gold withdrawals to-day $1,400,000, leaving the reserve at the close of business $88,900,000. There was a large gain from mintage sources or else the withdrawals would have decreased the reserve to nearly $88,000,000.

DRINK TO BLAME.

For a Most Terrible Double Murder in the Terminal City.

George F. Ashford Kills His Wife and Child and Fatally Injures an Elder Daughter.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 22.—(Special)—G. F. Ashford, an employe at the C. P. R. freight sheds here, terminated a drinking bout at 6 o'clock this morning by shooting and killing instantly his wife and youngest daughter Violet, fatally wounding his ten-year-old daughter Mildred, and attempting but not accomplishing his own destruction. He is now in jail, charged with the murder of the two members of his family; the third victim of his vicious madness is at the city hospital, where the opinion is expressed that she too will die. The fearful tragedy has horrified the entire community and nothing else is talked of.

Ashford, who is a British army pensioner, came here from London several years ago, and has been in the employ of the C.P.R. for the greater part of the past four years, having been discharged on numerous occasions for over-indulgence in liquor and reinstated in his position on promises of reformation. A valued servant when the drinking fever was not upon him, he has always been in receipt of good wages, and his pretty cottage on Keefer street is a model home, well furnished and showing a thoughtful housewife's care in its every appointment. It was here that the terrible tragedy of this morning was enacted. Ashford had been drinking hard for a week past and evidently expected nothing else than dismissal by his employes. Yesterday forenoon while very much intoxicated and on his way home, and supplied with a bottle of whiskey with which to continue his debauch, he met a friend with whom he had a short but significant conversation.

"I've left my job at the freight sheds," he said. "I cannot get along with Adam Lougheed (the head checker) I'm independent of them all, anyway, for I've got my pension of a dollar a day and I'm going soon where I won't need even that."

This last remark, while little heeded at the time, is now recalled as evidence that Ashford contemplated the murder of his little family and his own destruction and thus guardedly referred to his intention.

The same afternoon he continued his orgie at home, writing three letters during the day, which are subsequently referred to. He remained downstairs most of the night drinking, and his unhappy wife took their little ones upstairs with her so that they might not witness their father's dissipation. At about six in the morning he went upstairs to his wife's room and told her that he had determined to kill her. She tried to restrain him, but prayers and entreaties were unheard by the drink-maddened man and tearing down the bedclothes he fired twice at his wife as she lay between her two little girls, killing her instantly. Then the baby, Violet, was shot to death, and a fourth bullet overtook the elder girl, Mildred, who had risen in terror and was trying to escape from the death chamber.

The wounded girl managed to reach the door and ran bleeding and horrified into the street. There she met Constable Crawford, who was just leaving his beat, and startled him with the explanation, "Please, sir, I'm shot too."

While the officer was assisting the poor child back into the house, her two brothers came up. They had risen early and were lighting the fire when they heard the revolver shots on the upper floor and their father rushed down with the intention of killing them too. They escaped and were seeking help when they met the constable.

Ashford in the meantime also hurried from the scene of his crime, and running to the Vancouver-Westminster tram line, not far from the house, turned his revolver toward himself and fired twice, then hurling himself in front of an approaching car. The tram car was brought to a standstill and the insensible body carried in and laid upon the seat. The wounds on the head were found to be less serious than anticipated, the bullet having torn and plowed the flesh while not penetrating the skull.

Sergeant Haywood boarded the car before it reached the terminus and placed Ashford under arrest.

"Your name is Ashford?" he asked as he did so.

"Yes—George Frederick Ashford," was the quiet reply.

"Why did you shoot your wife and children?" the sergeant pursued.

"Did I shoot them," was the reply. "I didn't know it."

Then Ashford remained silent. In his pockets were found the three letters he had written yesterday. The one was directed to J. D. Turnbull, timekeeper in the freight department of the C.P.R., and contained a vague threat of some mischief contemplated toward him.

"I will call for you on New Year's eve," this letter said, "and I won't pull my watch out if you are one minute late. You know what I mean!"

A second letter contained accusations against Adam Lougheed, whom Ashford evidently regarded as unfriendly to him.

The third letter, while enclosed in an envelope bearing the magistrate's name, was addressed "to the world at large." It read as follows:

"I intended to have my revenge on Adam, the scab, but if I had tried it I would have had to leave my little ones to the cold mercy of the world. So I have to let him go. But I will wait for him and settle matters hereafter. I cannot write any more. Ask Adam if he has stolen any pipe lately. G. F. A."

"I have been the cause of bringing six young children into the world and I do not think it right to leave them on this earth without support. So I take them with me. The little girls will never have to go on the streets to earn their living and their poor mother will be an angel.

As it is improbable that little Mildred, the elder daughter, will recover from her injuries, Magistrate Jordan took her deposition in brief at the hospital to-day. It is as follows:

"Papa brought two parcels home when he came in. The one he would not show. The other was a bottle of whiskey. When I came back from practice papa was in bed. He slept with my little sister. I slept with mamma. Father got up and went down stairs after a while and we went to bed. Early in the morning father came into our room, I heard a noise. I was half asleep. I woke up, hearing my mother scream. She pulled the covers off; she was shot. I saw blood come from her mouth. Mamma put her head under the blankets, and papa shot at her again—shot through the covering. Then he shot at Violet. Then at me. He shot me in the head. Fred and Willie ran down stairs. Papa loaded up the gun again and then ran away. I lifted mamma's head up. She could not speak."

The patient became very weak at this stage, and the surgeons forbade the continuation of the examination. Ethel, another child of eight years, said:

"When I heard the shooting, I ran into mother's room. Father says: 'Run away, or I will kill you.' I went back to bed, and father ran after Willie to kill him. I thought he would come back and kill me. Father has been drinking an awful lot lately."

Mr. Turnbull, head of the checking department of the C.P.R., to whom one of the threatening letters was addressed, said this afternoon: "I think Ashford was still in the employ of the company, though he left voluntarily several days ago. I never had any words with him in my life, and I have worked with him about four years. I never heard of Ashford quarrelling with Adam Lougheed. I did not know he had any grievances. The only theory I can entertain is that when he committed the awful deed he was crazy. Ashford at one time or other threatened to 'do' three different employes of the C.P.R., and no doubt he was under the delusion that a number of the men were persecuting him. He had been drinking very heavily, and the generally accepted theory is that this terrible tragedy is but another of the long list of crimes directly attributable to vicious drinking."

FOR THE PACIFIC.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The revenue cutter Perry, which was ordered to the New York station to replace the Grant, sailed from this port yesterday afternoon en route to San Francisco, thence to Behring sea. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Hamlin, who recently returned from Behring sea, reported that the revenue interests in that locality were insufficiently protected, and in consequence Secretary Carlisle assigned the Perry to duty there. The departure of the Perry practically deprives this station of one of its best boats. Her place will be taken by the revenue cutter Hamilton, of Philadelphia. The trip to San Francisco will occupy about three months, and the Perry will have travelled 15,000 miles when she reaches there. The Perry is an iron vessel, brigantine rigged.

SWORN IN.

The New Members of Hon. Mr. Bowell's Cabinet Formally Take the Oath.

All of Them Heartily Congratulated on the New Administration.

MONTREAL, Dec. 21.—(Special)—Premier Bowell and cabinet ministers Costigan, Tupper, Ives, Dickey and Montague, were early astir at the Windsor hotel this morning, preparatory to being sworn into their new offices by Lord Aberdeen at the vice-regal residence on Sherbrook street. Many of Montreal's most prominent Conservatives were at the hotel to pay their respects and their congratulations to the new ministers. The oaths were administered by John J. McGee, clerk of the privy council, in the presence of Lord Aberdeen. Messrs. Bowell, Costigan, Tupper and Ives took the departmental oath; Mr. Dickey took the departmental oath, the oath of allegiance and the oath of Privy councillor; and Mr. Montague those of Privy councillor and of allegiance. Mr. Dickey will shortly go to Cumberland, N. S., to seek re-election. The other members of the cabinet do not need to seek re-election. Senator Ferguson was not present but will be sworn in subsequently.

BURNS IN CHICAGO.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The Daily News will print a leader to-morrow on "John Burns as a candid friend." Mr. Burns' criticisms of America are the basis of its comments. It says: "Mr. Burns evidently discriminates carefully in his praise and blame. If the criticism were the work of an American it would be accepted without a murmur, but it is not the work of an American, and therein lie both a distinction and a difference. It is a question whether as a delegate and partly a guest he was justified in his remarks. Perhaps he might better have left some of them unsaid."

The News refers to Mr. Steads strictures upon Chicago. That these should be followed so soon by Mr. Burns criticisms, the writer thinks is a sore trial of the city's temper. It adds: "It is not entirely to the point to say that his dicta may also be true, so many things are true. All the good things in America are just as true as some of the bad ones."

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—The general meeting of railroad representatives spent the day in discussing the differences between the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe. In comparison with the Canadian Pacific, all other roads will be easy to handle. The Grand Trunk by its disapproval has rendered the recently adopted immigration agreement worthless. General passenger agent Bell, of the Grand Trunk, feels that he has not had proper treatment at the hands of the other lines on a ruling of the chairman, that as his road has no line in Western territory he was excluded from the meeting. He claimed that he had as much right there as the Canadian Pacific, but the chairman insisted on barring him out. This has caused bad feeling all round, most of those concerned upholding the decision of the chairman.

FRANCE IN AFRICA.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Le Figaro, of Paris, printed to-day a dispatch that Lieut. de Geult recently took the French dispatch boat Ardent into a forbidden river of the Niger country and ran her into a mud bank. All efforts to float the vessel were fruitless. The Ardent stuck fast, and her crew were compelled to depend upon the English for assistance and food.

The Standard will say to-morrow that de Geult infringed deliberately upon England's treaty rights in Africa. Communications as to the incident are exchanging between London and Paris.

QUEBEC, Dec. 21.—Judge Vallee, who has just returned from his district on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, reports great distress among the population at many points along the shore. The closing of the sawmills has deprived many families of subsistence. In the bush regions in the interior the Montaguard Indians are dying in large numbers of hunger.

USE
MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT for Man and Beast!
It quickly cures
Cuts, Burns, Corns, Bruises, Chilblains, Bunions, Cracks between the Toes, Scalds, Piles, Swellings, Ulcers, Stiff Joints, Old Sores, Inflammation of all kinds, Lame Back, Pimples, Rheumatism, Pustules, Caked Breasts, Eruptions, Diseased Tendons, Contracted Muscles, And all Lameness and Soreness.
Langley & Co., Wholesale Agents for British Columbia.

SIR JOHN THOMPSON.

Impressive Funeral Service in the Basilica at the Canadian Capital.

Preparations on Board H. M. S. "Blenheim"—Sir Charles Tupper.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 21.—An impressive funeral service was held at the Basilica this morning in memory of the late Sir John Thompson, which will long be remembered by those who were present at it, as one of the most remarkable gatherings of the kind. The decorations in black and gold, the colors of His Holiness, were of a most elaborate character. The music was rendered by a picked choir composed of representatives from all the choirs of the city, Protestant and Roman Catholic, and they rendered the musical portion of the ceremony in an exceedingly creditable manner. All classes of the community were represented in the concourse of 5,000 people present. Archbishop Duhamel preached the sermon. The discourse was that of a broad mind, liberal, and was a splendid eulogy of Sir John. The service was a state affair. The decorations were under the direction of the department of public works, cost over a thousand dollars and were very fine. The catafalque, which had the letters "S. J." worked in gold, was of the most artistic design.

Lieutenant Governor Dewdney and Mrs. Dewdney arrived from British Columbia this afternoon. They will stay with Lady Thompson during the coming week and proceed with her to Halifax.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—(Special)—The Queen will send a special representative to Portsmouth on the occasion of the removal of the body of Sir John Thompson on board the cruiser Blenheim to-morrow, and the colonial office will send Mr. Hartman, with Mr. Just, assistant secretary to the Marquis of Ripon. Lord Ripon has sent a wreath of white flowers to be placed upon the coffin. Mr. Sydney Buxton, under-colonial secretary, has sent a cross of holly and the staff of the Colonial office have contributed a wreath with a cross of holly. The entire staff of the Dominion offices in London will leave the building at about 8:30 o'clock to-morrow morning, and will ride in carriages to the rooms of Garstin, the undertaker in whose charge the body has been since its removal from Windsor. A hearse with glass panels will receive the body and convey it to the Victoria station.

Assistant Manager Humphries, of the London, Brighton and South Coast railway, has personally superintended the fitting out and draping of the royal saloon carriage Victoria, which has been placed at the disposal of those having in hand the arrangements for the conveyance to Portsmouth of the remains of Sir John Thompson. The carriage has been beautifully fitted up as a mortuary chapel, draped in black, with a canopy of black velvet relieved by silver stars over the head of the bier. At the back of the canopy stands a massive silver cross. Six golden candelabra are placed at intervals around the bier and at the head is a handsome crucifix. The ceiling of the carriage is covered with the Dominion flag. Special arrangements have been made for conducting the devotions during the journey to Portsmouth, and a number of clergymen will accompany the remains for that purpose. Similar arrangements have been made for the voyage across the Atlantic.

Sir Charles Tupper has been ailing since his recent attack of influenza. On Tuesday he was seized with a chill and is now unable to leave the house. Owing to the condition of his health he will not accompany the body on the cruiser Blenheim, Senator Sanford alone sailing with the remains. He gave up his part in the last ceremonies here and his mission on the Blenheim only in deference to the strong protest of his physician, Dr. Tyrrell, who assured him that even the journey to Portsmouth would entail material risk.

The Queen has summoned Lord Carrington, who went to the Czar's funeral in her behalf, and it is understood that he will represent her at the embarkation of the body. The Blenheim with the body of Sir John Thompson is expected to arrive at Halifax on December 31. The remains will lie in state January 1 and the interment will take place the following day.

HALIFAX, Dec. 21.—On the arrival of the Blenheim the body will be landed in state from the dockyard wharf about 12 noon, and will be taken from that place to the Provincial Parliament buildings, where it will lie in state until Wednesday morning, January 2, when the funeral will take place. Services will be held in St. Mary's church, where pontifical mass will be celebrated.

STRONGER THAN EVER.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Times correspondent in Rome says he has confidential information that a new series of libelous document against Premier Crispi are preparing. They are fictitious, he says, and partly forgeries. The remarkable cordiality which King Humbert in the last audience showed to Crispi, is much discussed in Rome and the general opinion is that the Premier's position is stronger than ever.

HELD FOR PUNISHMENT.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 20.—Local papers state that an imperial decree was issued December 17, for the arrest and handing over to the board of punishment of Taotai Kung, of General Wei Wu Cheng Tung Seilin Chiang Kurte, and Ching Yuh for losing Port Arthur; Tsao Hueyl, commander at Talienwan for cowardice; Wijuek-wei, the commander of the ship, for incapacity to control his men and permitting them to pillage Keyeh; Chi Chav, commander-in-chief in Chihli, for sending false reports of victories, whereas he retreated from Yashan and lost Pingyang and Anchow, and Admiral Ting for failing to protect Port Arthur and for cowardice. It is reported that the authorities refused a pass to the ports to a detachment of Russian marines sent to guard the legation of Russia.

BISMARCK'S RECEPTION.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—Although all demonstrations were avoided during the journey, the people of Friedrichsruhe were allowed to receive Bismarck with the usual honors. The most conspicuous residents of the town and the land owners of the district had gathered at the station. The fire brigade stood with burning torches in front of the castle and some 300 persons awaited his coming a short distance from the gate. All uncovered as the old man passed; but there was no cheering. The demeanor of the Prince's neighbors showed that they wished to let him know dow deeply they sympathized with him in the loss of his wife. Bismarck was accompanied by Count Herbert, the Countess Rantzau and Dr. Schwenning.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Important Insurance Suit — Indian Woman Killed at Comox—The Slocan.

Notes From Nelson—Ore Transportations—Returns From Shipments to San Francisco.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Dec. 22.—An important case occupied the time of the County court today. This was that of the Confederate Life Insurance Co. vs. T. R. E. McInnes in a suit for $128, face value and interest on notes given in payment of the premium on a policy for $10,000. This suit has been tried several times and has always resulted in favor of the defendant. A. E. McPhillips appeared for the plaintiff. The case has been in progress all day and the evening session is now on.

An Indian woman was killed at Comox on Wednesday. She and a companion were riding on a coal train and concluded to jump off. One woman fell clear, but Comox Mary's dress caught in the wheels and she was instantly killed, being dreadfully mangled.

THE SLOCAN.

(From the Slocan Prospector.)

The McCue group on Twelvemile creek is being developed by the Atkins syndicate.

All the mines in the Idaho and Twin Lake basin are awaiting the completion of the sled road.

The first delivery of ore was about seven tons from the Surprise mine.

The vein of clean ore on the Antoine, which was only 10 inches wide, has been stripped until it discloses a width of two feet.

Orders for cars are in at the Nakusp and Slocan railway from the Reco, Noble Five, Last Chance, Blue Bird, Mountain Chief, Ivanhoe, and Slocan Star.

Geosge T. Crane, a merchant of Cour d' Alene, is sizing up the situation in the Slocan mining country. It is his first visit to British Columbia.

The line between the Reco and Goodenough crosses what is known as the "new find" on those mines at the widest part of the ledge, and as the ore is very high grade even for this high grade camp the ground is very valuable, being worth not less than $500 an inch.

VERNON.

(From the News.)

City merchants report an active Christmas trade, though in some lines not as good as at the same season on previous years.

Deer are coming down to the shores of Okanagan lake in considerable numbers, and are frequently seen by passengers on the passing steamers.

Mr. F. McGowen, judge of the Court of Revision and Appeal, paid Midway a visit last week. There was no appeal. Mr. McGowen picked up considerable professional business in connection with the St. Lawrence.

Among a party which left this city last spring for the Nechaco country was Mr. Robt. Turnbull, and a few months later a report was circulated that he had met his death by drowning in one of the northern rivers. The report lacked authentic confirmation and was not generally credited, but a recent communication received by Mr. Thos. Glendenning proves that it was only too true. Mr. Glendenning's correspondent is a man called Delong, who was one of the party present when the sad accident, which occurred in the Nation river, took place. Mr. Turnbull was attempting to ford the stream on horseback, and was swept away to his death by the swift current, his body never being recovered. The deceased was well and favorably known in this city, and many friends will hear with sincere regret the sad intelligence of his sudden death.

The commonage has rapidly settled up since it was thrown open for pre-emption, and several of the settlers whose claims front on Okanagan lake are badly in need of a road to their farms. Over 500 acres in this vicinity has been broken and will be under crop next season, so it will be necessary to have a road sufficiently passable to enable a threshing machine to be taken in, and if possible work should be commenced early in the spring. There are two routes by which the road could go, one along the shore of the lake, and another which would branch off from the Mission road at some point near the top of the divide. Several of the settlers have been put to considerable inconvenience through the difficulty experienced in reaching their homes with loaded wagons, and the matter is one of sufficient public importance to commend itself to the attention of the government.