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# FOR AMERICAN READERS.

by the

chasing deparates the British army, as revealed this week in parliament, have coused a public agitation that augurs beally for the war office. Judging from recent and promised disclosures, scarcely any of the supplies for the army in South Africa were secured on business principles. Speculating contractors are now known to have made hundreds of thousands of pounds by re-selling contracts.

The operation vainly endeavored to get details regarding the new contract for the supply of meat announced by the government in the house of commons, with the view of ascertaining if a saving over the former methods will really be effected.

The government successfully avoided answering, but the Associated Pressunderstands that the contract in question was first re-soid at £10,000 premium and then at £40,000, while Cecil Rhodes and the DeBeers group handed over £200,000 and thus finally secured the privilege of supplying the troops in South Africa with fresh meat, These figures are likely to be shortly published here, and when known will doubtless add fuel to the fire of public indignation, which threatens to centre around the secretary for war, Mr. Brodrick, as viciously as it did around Lord Lansdowne when the latter was sponser for the early blunders of the war.

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sponser for the early blunders of the war.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—A dozen or more committees of investigation are now aitting or are in process of formation. But, as the Saturday Review says, "These are only too often synonyms of oblivion."

"The facts remain," adds the Saturday Review, "that we have been swindled on a very large scale."

While these stringent criticisms of the war office are being publicly aired, there is proceeding beneath the surface a revoit which threatens to be of even greater importance. The leading authorities of the volunteers, including many of the commanders of the best known regiments, several of them being titled persons and nearly all wealthy, are holding frequent meetings to decide on the best method of defeating Mr. Brodrick's new volunteer regulations. The committee which Mr. Brodrick appointed to hear the grievances only aggravated matters.

The commanders of the leading regiments had previously formed themselves into a deputation to wait on Mr. Brodrick, and he temporarily declined to see them, but the secretary for war stole a march on the members of the deputation by announcing in the house of commons that he had appointed a committee of his own, in which not one of the deputation was included. His action created intense feeling among the members of the original deputation, who privately declare that the new volunteer regulations and the "Dead Head" committee were introduced for the sole purpose of making conscription possible.

### INTERNATIONAL SCRAPE.

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DENVER, Colo., Feb. 8.—The News today says that a demand has been made upon Governor Orman, by Secretary of State Hay, at Washington, for an investigation of the destruction last summer of the buildings of William Radcliffe, an Englishman, located at Grand Mesalakes, in this state, by a mob. Radcliffe appealed to British Ambassador Pauncefote for redress, demanding \$55,000 damages of the State of Colorado. The trouble grew out of a dispute between ranchmen and Radcliffe over fishing privileges, and culminated in the killing of a ranchman named Womack by one of Radcliffe's guards. A few days later the buildings on the lakes were destroyed by fire, started, it is claimed by friends of Womack, in revenge of his death. The matter was originally referred to Governor Orman early in January, and according to the News communication from Secretary Hay has just been received asking what had become of it.

### CANADA ATLANTIC FARNINGS.

(Special to Star.)

(Special to Star.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 8.—According to the official returns supplied to the department of railways and canals the total share of capital and subscribed bonds issued of Canada Atlantic Railway Co. is \$14,143,470. In the building of the road Mr. Botth received dominion, provincial and municipal subsidies to the extent of \$2,400,000. The total mileage of system is 458. For the year ending 30th June, the total receipts amounted to \$1,786,338, of which the passenger traffic yielded \$233,659 and the freight \$1,390,197. The operating expenses for the year amounted to \$1,411,433, leaving the net earnings \$374,905. During the year the railway carried 679,589 barrels of flour, 19,201,-281 bushels of grain and 318,690,000 feet of lumber. Total weight of freight carried was 1,652,987 tons.

### SOUTH AFRICA.

LONDON, Feb. 7.—The answering of questions in the house of commons to-day by government officials disclosed the fact that the government had no reason to believe that the note of the government of the Netherlands on the subject of peace in South Africa was formulated in consultation with another European power.

The war secretary, Mr. Broderick, said that the number of horses purchased during the war totalled 446,088, of which 77,101 came from the United States and 11,364 from Canada. In addition about 89,705 horses had been captured in South Africa.

#### A COLOSSAL COMBINE.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—The consolidation of the principal traction interests of Chicago and possibly the elevated roads is the object of negotiations now in progress here and in New York, says the Inter-Ocean.

Purthermore, it is probable, it is said, that this is but a preliminary step in the merging: of the traction lines of five or more of the principal cities in the country into one great combine, probably the corporation reported to be in process of formation in New York. The local combine and the stant national concern are being planned, says the inter-Ocean, by the Whitney-Bikins-Widner-Ryan syndicate of New York and Philadelphia capitalists, with the aid of J. P. Morgan, E. H. Gary, who is now in Chicago, is believed to have charge of the local deal. Pres. John M. Roache of the Chicago Union Traction Co., General Counsel W. W. Gurley and James H. Eckels, a director, all have been in New York recently, it is said, in consultation with the heads of the Whitney-Widner-Elkins syndicat regarding the state of local traction affairs. There has been a mutual interchange of stock between New York and Chicage banking interests, it is said, that would be relied on by Mr. Morgan in financing the colossal deal.

#### EXPENSIVE COLONISTS.

BERLIN, Feb. 7.—Herr Richster, the adical leader in the Reichstag, analyz BURLIN, Feb. 7.—Herr Richster, the Radical leader in the Reichstag, analyzing the most recent government report concerning the colonies, finds that there are only 3,702 Germans in all the colonies, including officials, officers, missionaries, women and children. He proves from the budget of 1902 that every German colonist costs the empire 6,000 marks a year. While the total colonial trade has increased during the last five years from 11,000,000 marks to 25,000,000 marks, the colonial appropriations during the same length of time have increased from slightly more than seven millions to nineteen million marks. The increase in exports to the colonies is chiefly due to government works, military supplies, etc.

The full returns from the census of 1900 show that 17,848 citizens of the U. S. were then residing in Germany, an increase in five years of 2,060.

#### SUGAR SPECULATIONS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—The board of trade returns for January says a London despatch to the Tribune, confirm recent rumors that large stocks of sugar have been imported in anticipation of the forthcoming budget. Imports of sugar for the month amounted to 5.540,434 hundred-weight, or about double the quantity imported in January, 1991.

### ALL FOR LOVE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—It is rumored that Miss Helena Gorham Wild, an American resident in Paris, says a Paris correspondent of the Herald, is about to marry Prince Eugene of Sweden, if he gains his father's consent and arranges to resign his right of succession to the throne of the Bernadottes, as his eidest brother, Oscar, did when he made a Morgantic alliance. Prince Eugene is a painter and has lived in the Latin quarter for many years.

### A COMBINATION PLAY.

OLIVETTE, Minn., Feb. 8.—There is a concerted movement on foot among Michigan colleges to do away with foot ball. At a meeting of the college branch of the State Teachers' Association it was voted to recommend that all colleges unite in prohibiting the game. The faculities of nearly all colleges in the state are now considering the recommendation. Its opponents regard the game as physically injurious and say that it has not performed the offices which its friends claim for it namely, that of increasing the attendance. OLIVETTE, Minn., Feb. 8.-There is

### IN WITH THE FARMERS.

BERLIN, Feb. 7.—At a banquet to-night of the German Council of Agri-culture, Count Von Buelow, the imper-ial chancellor, in a long speech declar-ed that he had espoused the cause of agriculture, not merely from a feeling of duty, but with his whole heart. "A chancellor without sympathy for agriculture would be a strange fellow," said Count Von Buelow, "and he would soon trip up."

### DREYFUS NOT WANTED.

PARIS, Feb. 8.—The Matin says that M. Dreyfus recently wanted to rent an apartment in a house belonging to Ed-mond Rothschild. The agent of the house cable to M. Rothschild, who is in Australia, on the matter. The latter reply to this message was: "I absolutely refuse to accept that tenant Break off negotiations at any price."

## GALLOWS FRUIT.

TOPEKA, Feb. 7.—Because she was about to secure a divorce from him John Kay, employed in a flour mill, beat his wife to death with a flat iron and then attempted to hang himself from a bridge near his home. He was cut down before life was extinct and revived.

### IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—A bronze medal-lion memorial of the late John Ruskin was unveiled today in Westminster Abbey in the presence of a distinguish-led gathering. The memorial is in the poets' corner, above the Sir Walter Scott memorial, and beside the Oliver Goldsmith medallion.

#### MRS. SOFFEL

Who Aided Murderers to Escape Appears to be Recovering.

Appears to be Recovering.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Feb. 8.—Mrs. Soffel, who added in the escape of the Biddles and was shot during the battle which resulted in their recapture and death, shows considerable improvement in her condition today. She is suffering more from mental distress than from the wound, and it may be a week or more before she can be removed from the Butler hospital to the Pittsburg jail. Her husband, ex-Warden Soffel, has retained counsel for her defense, but says he does not want to see her or have any communication with her in the future. Mrs. Soffel is receiving letters from all over the country. Most of them contain tracts and advice of a religious nature. When she opens a letter and discovers that it is one of this character, she turns it over to some of the nurses without reading. Many letters are also from attorneys, proferring their services free in her defence.

#### CHINESE EXCLUSION BILL.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—Former Governor Bidd, of California, is in this city, after having testified in Washington before the committee in charge of the Chinese exclusion bill. The failure of the Kahn-Mitchell Chinese exclusion bill to pass before the end of the session, he says, in an interview, will mean a the extinction of the present treasury regulations for the transit of Chinese across this country, and will mean a great influx of Chinese before the opportunity to enact restrictive legislation occurs again.

great innux or Chinese before the opportunity to enact restrictive legislation occurs again.

"The KaZhn-Mitchell bill now before both houses is so framed," continued Governor Budd, "as to provide for the most humane treatment of those Chinese permitted entry to this country, and it excludes perfectly all Chinese coolies and laborers of all sorts. It is a bill against which nothing can be said, and there is no other bill under consideration which can in any way compare with it for effectiveness. If enacted into law it will fulfill the purposes for which it was drawn and will prevent the entrance into this country of the undesirable element among the Chinese. It makes adequate provision for the transit of Chinese across the country under treasury regulations now in force, and which have been considered effective heretofore."

DECATUR, Ills., Feb. 8.—Becaus he did not know how to deposit mone in a bank and had committed a forgery, John Kohler, aged 17, son of farmer living near Decatur, killed him self. Kohler had earned \$29 and cam to the city to deposit it. When h stepped up to the teller's window h presented a check bearing his father name. It was a forgery and an office name. It was a forgery and an officer was called. He took the boy home for an investigation. Arriving there the officer stepped in one of the rooms to talk with the boy's mother about the

matter.

Young Kohler, thoroughly frightened and evidently believing that he was going to be sent to the penitentiary, stepped into the next room, picked up a shotgun, placed the muzzle against his forehead and pulled the trigger. The top of his head was blown off.

### BRIEFS BY WIRE.

PORTLAND. Ore, Feb. 8.—The fire on the steamship Indavelli has been practically extinguished, and it is expected the hatches could be removed today without danger of an outbreak. NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—A waterspout has wrecked a station of the Jeronimo Mezzuita Central rails ad, causing many deaths and great damage on plantations, according to a Herald despatch from Rio Janeiro, Brazil.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—Thomas Manning, the well known yachtsman and vacht broker, is dead in this city from heart disease.

### RAISED CHECKS

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.-Arapad Von NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—Arapad Von Kublnyi, formerly a first lieutenant in the Austrian army, then a banker, and last a journalist, is locked up in the tombs, because of the allegations of a German hotel keeper of this city, who charges him with having raised two of his checks from \$30 each to \$800. He says his father is president of the Bar Association of the northern district of Hungary, and that his uncle is an equerry to Emperor Francis Joseph.

## TEDDY'S CONDITION UNCHANGED.

GROTON, Mass., Feb. 8.—There was no change noted in the condition in the son of President Roosevelt during the night, and Dr. Warren, the Groton school physician, on his visit to the patient early this morning found him as on last evening, as comfortable as could be expected.

Mrs. Roosevelt, accompanied by her maid, reached here just after 10 o'clock today.

today.

### RECORD BREAKING WEATHER.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—Snow storms and fogs envelope practically the entire United Kingdom. The weather is the most severe known in 20 years. For a time this morning London was plunged in darkness, traffic was interrupted and navigation on the Thames and Mersey was very dangerous. The unpresedented snow fall necessitated the suspension of out-door work in many districts, and vehicular and train traffic was carried on with the greatest difficulty. In parts of Scotland and Wales communications were entirely blocked.

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