Cuba.

going to let my cargo
getting it this far?"
Danish quartermaster
his savage face close

e said. "Hard over,
utchman. Starboard
o."
nes clattered bright
erneath, and the Sul-
head swung off quick-
ight seconds the offi-
the gunboat did not
happening, and that
s fatal to his vessel.
tion came he bubbled
tarboarded his own
ll speed ahead" to his
ered every rifle and
his ship to sweep the
bridge. But the
too small. The gun-
rn with enough quick-
a notice the engines
into her stride again;
though well inten-
tious in quantity, was
The bullets whisped
nd pelted on the plat-
orm, and one of them
brains of the Danish
the bridge; but Ket-
el from his hands, and
the Sultan of Borneo's
e the gunboat's unpro-
abaft the sponson of
arter gun.
thrilled like kicked
a noise went up into
ky as of 10,000 boiler
ing up their rivets at

the propellers stopped
, and then in answer
the grimy collier
But the war steamer
Her machinery was
he had already got a
rds her wounded side,
d the list was increas-
ater poured in through
ates. Her crew was
order. It was evident
had but a short time
and their lives were
They had no thought
Their weapons lay de-
ping decks. The grimy
stokeholds poured up
one and all they clus-
e boats with frenzied
em floating in the

more to be feared at
the present.
pped Kettle on the
voluntary admiration.
cried, "what a daring
you are! Look here.
le now if I can be of
you give me a job?"

PTER VII.

ir," said Capt. Kettle,
Sultan's work is about
tling down by the head.
you see those rats of
up from forward di-
d rammed the door? I
as a bit of a surprise
em, anyway. They
get down there to be
bbing, and they found
he most ticklish part of

mor in the situation."
"But that will keep.
it strikes me that this
swamping fast."
that," Kettle admitted.
ot of plates started for-
But I think she's come
creditably, sir. I didn't
she's not exactly built

s a case of putting her

ing else for it," said
sigh. "I should like to
hose blessed coals that
could have been done,
eople ours was a bona
as Mr. Gedge said, in
y look. But this old
done her whack, and
re truth. It will take
manage to reach shore
s. Look, she's in now
forecastle head. Lucky
steep-to here, or else—"
h there came a bump
d the steamer for a mo-
n her progress, and a
wave surged past her
Then she lifted again
urther in, with her
uattering astern;
e she thundered down
sand; and so lifting and
her way in through the

ne of the hands was
decks, and reached the
ming; but as the ebb
ry seas left her strand-
he morning's light, an
urrectionists waded out
board by ropes, which
them.
en of every tint, from
of the pure negro to
on tint of the blue-
rd. They were streaked
thin as skeletons, and
h nakedness than with
olish did they look that
callous little ruffian
, half regretted bring-
such a crew to wreak
heir neighbors.
e him small time for
his brand. They clus-
m with leaping hands,
sea fowl fled affrighted
. El Senor Capitan In-
saviour of Cuba, and
member it. Alone, with
vessel, he had sunk a
eir hated enemies; and
m (in their florid com-
y on the island and rule
ding.
sailor took them liter-
his?" he said; "you want
blooming king?"
ey shouted. "El rey de

said Kettle, "I'll do it.
ked to be a king before;
may never come again.
ut of a berth just now,
will be too hot to hold
Yes, I'll stay and boss
can act half as ugly as
give the cons a lively
member there's no tom-
me. If I'm king of this
g to carry a full king's
here's any man tries to
being invited that man
own funeral before he
ce. And now we'll just
at once. Off with those
eak out that cargo. I've
pains to run these guns
careful in carrying them
Jump lively now, you
um."
tened with staring eyes
broil was this truculent
oing to mix in next? He
of Spanish character to
arly that the offer of the
erely an empty civility;
enough of Kettle to be
ot taken it as such and
his rights to the bitter
en he thought of what
inevitably be he sighed
Stile's fate.

THE SITTINGS OF THE SCHOOL COMMISSION

A Few of the Principals in the Inquiry Now in Progress.

ARTILLERY USED AGAINST WORKMEN

Meeting Place Bombarded Until Survivors Surrendered to the Troops--Fighting in the Streets of Moscow.

Riga, Dec. 21.—Additional details of the revolt at Takum, Courland, have been received. The revolt began December 12th, when the revolutionary municipality induced Captain Von Mueller, who was stationed there with 50 infantry and 40 dragoons, to withdraw the military patrols from the streets because the inhabitants wished to establish a civilian guard. The captain agreed to do this, but forgot to inform his soldiers, who, upon resuming guard duty, were encountered by armed agitators. The leader of the latter shouted that they had received from Von Mueller permission to carry arms, but the soldiers fired on the agitators and a fight ensued, in which 15 persons were killed.

On December 13th the soldiers buried their comrades, but the people fired on the funeral procession from the windows of their homes. More dragoons arrived and another fight occurred. The soldiers were finally

Compelled to Return

with ten wounded, leaving Takum in the hands of 3,000 armed revolutionaries. Next morning the revolutionaries set fire to a building in which the officers and 40 dragoons were housed. The officers and men tried to escape, but were prevented by the revolutionaries, who fired from the windows of their houses, killing Captain Von Mueller and 24 dragoons, and wounding one officer and 13 privates.

Next day five companies of reinforcements with their guns arrived, but the revolutionaries compelled them to retire by a fusilade from the windows. Gen. Chorounchenko then ordered the artillery to bombard the town. Many of the inhabitants who had not learned of the arrival of the reinforcements thought that the terrorists were throwing bombs, and they fled in all directions. The troops surrounding the town fired on the people, killing about 400 of them. Two-thirds of the inhabitants fled. Those remaining surrendered the town at 9 o'clock the following morning.

Similar occurrences are reported from Goldingen and Talsen.

The Associated Press to-day interviewed Lapajahson, the leader of the socialist party, who said: "Our struggle is purely political and economical. We will not rest until the autocracy and feudalism in the Baltic have been finally extirpated. All the military and other authorities in the Baltic provinces are either Russians or Germans, and not a single man is a Lett.

"Since 1901 the Lettish democracy has secretly worked to organize the country people. The strength of the peasants' and workmen's organizations has been

Gradually Increased,

and when the Emperor's manifesto was published they were able to shake off the long-standing yoke of the despotism of the Baltic nobility. The concessions, however, were insufficient. The peasants are longing for freedom and for revenge against the estate owners who were living in luxurious castles, whereas the peasants were crowded into miserable huts.

"In Livonia and Courland we have boycotted all the government officials and appointed Lettish municipalities in every community."

Refugee land owners are arriving here. It is reported that there was another case of bloodshed at Talsen yesterday. Revolutionary peasants entrenched themselves in their houses, from the windows of which they fired on the patrolling soldiers.

A train carrying gold for the branch of the state bank arrived safely. It was attacked by revolutionaries near Walck, but the attack was repulsed by troops.

Soldiers Desert.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 21.—At noon today the continental train left the Warsaw station with military engine drivers and a strong guard of soldiers. The tender and locomotive were old, the strikers having rendered all the others useless. Two files of soldiers were drawn up on the platform. The railroad strike began at Nicholas station at noon, but the Baltic roads were still working at that hour.

The employees of the Putiloff Iron Works to the number of about 12,000 have struck.

The government's advices show that all trains with troops which were to enter the provinces are being stopped by the insurgents. A number of Cossacks in a car were captured and disarmed beyond Dorpat.

Crowds of strikers at Moscow are marching through the streets endeavoring to close up the postoffice and other places.

The reoprt that Kharkoff is in the hands of the revolutionists is confirmed. Two hundred and fifty men of the Lebedinsk regiment are reported to have joined the revolutionists and their comrades have flatly refused to fire on them.

At Nikolavieff the revolted regiments have been captured. Two hundred and fifty prisoners were sent to Otchakoff fortress. The

Capture of the Mutineers

was effected by Gen. Stirpin, who, on the arrival of reinforcements from Odessa, unexpectedly attacked the barracks where the mutineers had assembled. The latter soon surrendered.

The single telephone wire working to Moscow this afternoon brought grave reports of serious disorder and collisions between the troops and the population. Papers which are being distributed by thousands to the workmen are filled with inflammatory appeals, inciting the people to an armed revolt. Many of the articles are especially directed to the army, which is asked not to shed the blood of the nation. One writer, addressing the soldiers, says: "Join us, rise with us. No power can stand against the people and the army united."

The strike called, in addition to making the regular demands for a constituent assembly, universal suffrage, the abolition of martial law, immunity of the person, and the other features of the proletariat programme, insists on the release of the imprisoned members of the workmen's council, the discontinuance of all political suits, acquiescence with the petitions of the army and navy, and of the railroad and postal telegraph employees for increase of pay, the transfer of the land to the people, an eight-hour day and the abolition of all restrictions regarding nationalities and religion. The preamble reads: "Citizens, freedom or slavery. Is Russia to be governed by the people or robbed by a band of thieves? Let us stop industrial commerce and communication throughout the country and with one united effort overthrow the last vestige of autocracy. To the whip, sword and machine gun. Let us oppose the revolutionary bayonet. Financial ruin threatens to engulf the government. One more blot and the vile regime will be ended."

It is significant that the workmen in the mills and factories have for more than a week been presenting demands that the priests discontinue the usual

Prayers for the Emperor,

with the alternative of being boycotted if they did not cease doing so.

Since to-day the streets have been filled with troops, especially those in the industrial section. The railroad stations are in possession of the military.

Wholesale arrests of the leaders of the workmen were made last night. It is reported that the police included in their captures the members of the second workmen's council who were placed in the fortress of St. Peters and St. Paul with the members of the first council who were arrested Saturday night. A third council, however, very promptly took the place of the second.

Moscow is already cut off from St. Petersburg, and with the provinces generally there was no communication this morning. The Lithuanian insurrection has extended to Vitebsk.

At Kokuhusen the chief of police and his assistants were tried by a revolutionary tribunal and executed.

It turns out that Tukum, in Courland, only surrendered after a

Severe Fight

which lasted twelve hours. The insurrectionists had fortified the town, throwing up entrenchments. They also had in position the machine guns recently captured by them. The trenches were taken by storm, both sides losing heavily.

The latest information from Kharkoff says that 10,000 revolutionaries are under arms and that the troops are being concentrated to recapture the city.

The strike started here at noon. In the centre of the city the shops were not closed. The main interest in the strike of railroad men centres in the Warsaw station, where the government was to make a test of its ability by moving a train for Berlin. The depot was packed with troops. Promptly at noon there was a wild hurrah, accompanied by the roar of escaping steam, and a few minutes later the railroad men left the yards. The authorities, however, were prepared, and a locomotive manned by soldiers backed into the station and was coupled to the waiting train, which was crowded with persons seeking to depart from the unhappy country. After being searched carefully the train left the station under strong guard.

In the manufacturing districts beyond the Warsaw and Narva gates, and in the sections on both sides of the Neva the workmen obeyed the summons to strike and at 12 o'clock thousands of them emerged to the streets.

A rumor is in circulation here that the insurgents in Courland have seized Winlaw, Friedrichstadt, Pratzenburg, Holdingen and other places, and that a popular tribunal at Kopenhusak has executed several officials.

Favor Armed Revolt.

London, Dec. 21.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from St. Petersburg says that numerous meetings of workmen at Moscow, including the engineers and postal telgraph employees, have declared in favor of armed revolt. All the available troops, it is added, have been mobilized, and guns have been placed in position before the law courts.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—The workmen of two of three electric light plants struck yesterday evening, and consequently the streets in the major portion of the city were in darkness throughout the night, the inhabitants being compelled to fall back on candles and kerosene. The searchlight mounted on the spire of the Admiralty building visibly illuminated the Nevsky Prospect as it did during the October strike. Cavalry and infantry patrolled every block, and machine guns were stationed at several points.

During a tour of the city a correspondent saw dozens of workmen between soldiers with fixed bayonets being marched off to prison.

A cache of arms and hand bombs were seized on the Shluszburg yesterday, and a crowd of thousands of strikers of the Nevsky works was charged and dispersed by Cossacks, who used the flats of their swords and whips, but no one was seriously injured.

Refused to Work.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—Forty-six military electricians who were recently arrested were liberated yesterday in order that they might assist in keeping in operation the St. Petersburg electrical works. The men, however, promptly declared their adherence to the strike, and refused to work.

Father Gapon's Views.

Paris, Dec. 22.—Father Gapon left Paris yesterday for an unknown destination. In the course of an interview he said that the present movement in Russia, owing to its violence, would probably affect adversely the results already achieved. He considered that the disaffection among the military was in no way connected with the revolution, but was merely a mutinous outburst caused by the ill-treatment of the troops.

Preparing For Action.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Petit Parisian in a dispatch dated December 21st, says that the government is perparing to suppress the revolt in the Baltic provinces, and that large quantities of ammunition are being sent to Duenaburg.

Martial Law.

Warsaw, Dec. 22.—A proclamation of the governor-general was gazetted here to-day establishing martial law in all of the ten governments of Russian Poland, and appointing ten temporary military governor-generals.

Bankers Fail.

Warsaw, Dec. 22.—The failure of the important banking house of Maurice Nelken was announced to-day. The difficulties of the concern are attributed to the political situation.

Stores Closed.

Minsk, Russia, Dec. 22.—The general strike has begun here. All the stores are closed.

Railroad Men Strike.

Kostroma, Russia, Dec. 22.—The railroad employees here struck to-day. All traffic has ceased.

Traffic Interrupted.

Yaroslav, Russia, Dec. 22.—Traffic on the railroad here is interrupted by the strike.

Obeyed Orders.

Voronezh, Russia, Dec. 22.—The employees of the Southwestern railway struck to-day in obedience to the directions of their union. The passenger trains were hauled to the larger towns before abandoning them in order that the passengers should not suffer.

In Hands of Revolutionaries.

Riga, Livonia, Dec. 22.—Officials, owners of estates, priests, doctors and others of the better class are arriving here under the escort of the garrisons of their respective locality, leaving all the government and private property in the hands of revolutionaries.

Troops Depart.

Goldingen, Courland, Dec. 22.—A committee of people has compelled the district governor, Baron Roph, to send the troops away from here. The town is now under the control of the revolutionists.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—At a session of the cabinet, presided over by Emperor Nicholas, it was decided that universal suffrage should not be granted.

Refused to Yield.

London, Dec. 22.—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at St. Petersburg says that a majority of those present at the council held at Tsarskoe-Selo voted for the granting of a system of universal suffrage. The Emperor, however, after listening to all the argument, deliberately and decisively refused to abide by the decision of the majority and declared against universal suffrage.

Government Forced Issue.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—There was some enlarging of the strike in St. Petersburg, but the government plainly holds the upper hand here to-day. The success of the strike, generally speaking, depends upon its development at Moscow and other places in the interior. Evidently the leaders hope to precipitate matters at Moscow, with the view of setting up a provisional government there if they can effect a split in the army, and also to secure possession of other towns, as they did in the case of Kharkoff, but their plans have not matured. They seem to be striking wildly and blindly. The government, it is now apparent, took the revolutionists off their guard and forced the issue, preferring a test of strength before the workmen's organization was complete, confident that a defeat would greatly

Impair the Prestige

of the revolutionary leaders among their followers and afford the government time to marshal all the forces of conservatism, which are disgusted with the prevailing chaos and give the government time to hold the elections.

The railroadmen's strike committee made heroic efforts to stop trains from being run out of St. Petersburg to-day, and succeeded in inducing practically all the station and roundhouse men and many of the trainmen who remained on duty yesterday to join the strike.

The circum-Baikal railroad has been destroyed for a considerable distance by falling rocks. It is suspected that this destruction is the work of the revolutionaries who are interested in stopping the return of troops from the Far East at this time.

The scanty dispatches received from the interior do not indicate whether the order to strike is meeting with a general response which will be necessary to prevent it flashing in the pan like the November strike. The government, while entering into a vigorous campaign against the revolutionary leaders and making arrests by the wholesale, maintains an

Air of Calm Confidence.

It has issued a reassuring communication, declaring that all necessary measures will be taken to prevent disorders.

"General December" and "General Hunger" are powerful allies on the side of the Emperor at the present time, just as they were in the fight against Napoleon, and it is thought that the leaders will not be able to hold their men in line unless an immediate victory is scored or a conflict forced with bloodshed.

In Moscow the striking railroad men and the lower classes, like the cab drivers, who see the bread taken from their mouths by the strike, are already at each others' throats.

The landlords throughout the country were empowered by an imperial ukase made public to-day to organize guards for the protection of their property.

The Russ, evidently discounting the failure of the strike to-day declares that in the event every defeat is a revolutionary victory, and every victory of the government approaches its final surrender.

It is reported here that the disorders at Pskoff, 162 miles southwest of St. Petersburg, have assumed great dimensions; and at Vilorske, on the Warsaw line, a squadron of dragoons has been besieged for three days.

The news from the Baltic provinces continues bad. Frederickstad has been taken by the insurgents, and Creatsburg is surrounded and standing a siege.

Attempts at red flag demonstrations in the industrial districts to-day were dispersed by Cossocks.

Revolt Spreads.

Reval, Dec. 22.—The insurrection in the Baltic provinces has now been extended to Esthonia, where, in accordance with resolutions passed at a convention held at Dorpat, in Livonia, the population of this province is driving out the Russian officials and electing a new administration.

The insurgents last night attacked a train bearing a detachment of rural guards near Taps, in this province, but they were driven off, and the train reached Reval in safety.

Immediately after this occurrence the railroad employees and other workmen here voted to join the pan-Russian strike. To-day everything is closed down.

Traffic Interrupted.

Paris, Dec. 22.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg to the Temps says: "The strike now covers the whole of Russia. The Novoe Vremya admits that with unprecedented rapidity all communications with the provinces and abroad has been stopped.

"It is expected hourly that the ministry will be rendered entirely helpless."

Revolutionist Manifesto.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—During the night the authorities succeeded in getting a sufficient number of sailors from Kronstadt to operate all but one of the electric light plants. This was particularly galling to the strikers as the darkening of the city and the stopping of the railroads were the most effective means of making the strike generally felt.

In the industrial districts many of the strikers seemed to have only the vaguest ideas of what they were striking for. Outside of the industrial regions there is little evidence of a strike. The city pharmacists generally remain open, the drug clerks, who have just emerged from a protracted struggle, disregarding the summons of their union to strike. The stores are open as usual and the street cars are running.

The boldest of all the bold pronunciaments of the revolutionists is a mysterious handbill with which Tzarkoe-Selo was flooded to-day. Professing to allude to a terrible plot against the Emperor, the handbill says: "There will be a little puff of smoke. Pay no heed to it as the result will be the best thing possible for everybody."

The police have been baffled in their efforts to find the printers and disseminators of these bills.

The failure of many of the railroad men of St. Petersburg to observe the strike order and the ability of M. Nechaieff, minister of communications, to move all trains on all the roads except the Baltic roads are thorns in the sides of the strike leaders. The fiat went forth the last night's meeting of the workmen's council that traffic must be interrupted at all costs. On the Nicholas road to Moscow trains are running with their ordinary crews, but are heavily guarded. The strikers' delegates will try moral suasion with the faithful employees, but it is feared they will also resort to destroying the bridges along the lines. The government has succeeded in arresting practically all the members of the strike committee.

Order Restored at Libau.

Libau, province of Courland, Dec. 22.—Order has been restored in Libau, and most of the army reserve men called out when the outbreak occurred here have beeen replaced by other men of the reserve. Warships are expected here daily.

Moscow, Dec. 23.—Troops surrounded a school house where workmen were meeting here yesterday and summoned them to surrender.

Blank shots were fired to intimidate the workmen, who replied with revolver shots and bombs.

Artillery was then brought up, and the school house was bombarded until the survivors of the workmen surrendered.

Fighting in Streets.

London, Dec. 23.—A dispatch to a news agency from St. Petersburg says that barricades have been erected on Iverskaia street, the chief thoroughfare of Moscow, that the revolutionists are holding them bravely, and that they are making repeated attacks on the police, Cossacks and dragoons whenever the latter attempt to convey prisoners to jail.

The patrols of troops are accompanied by machine guns, which are unhesitatingly used against the revolutionists.

Casualties at Moscow.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 23.—Eleven men were killed and eighty were wounded by volleys fired by the troops at the workmen defending a barricade on Iverskaia street, Moscow, yesterday.

The total casualties at Moscow yesterday are estimated at 150.

Increased Precautions.

St. Ptersburg, Dec. 23.—1.40 a. m.—Though the printers' union is one of the most advanced and most thoroughly organized unions in Russia, it is unable to enforce the newspaper strike. The Novoe Vremya, Slovo and other conservative papers expect to appear to-day.

The pan-Russian congress of the league of leagues is scheduled to be held in St. Petersburg to-morrow, but owing to the strike few of the delegates are present, and the meeting will probably be postponed like the Zemstvo congress of Moscow until January.

With the political strike as a revolutionary weapon apparently losing its keenness owing to too far frequent use, fears are entertained that the revolutionists may be driven to return to the old methods and inaugurate an era of terrorism. The government is aware that a number of high agents of the revolutionary organization at Geneva recently returned to Russia, and increased precautions are being taken to safeguard all in authority at St. Petersburg and Tsarsko-Selo.

Insurgents in Control.

Riga, Dec. 22.—Full quite half the Baltic provinces are apparently in control of the autonomists, whose committees, which include in each locality some of the most influential persons, are establishing provisional administrations and preparing for the election of assemblies to arrange the taxes and legitimize the partitioning of the government lands.

Russian garrisons occupy the larger towns, and detachments of troops are operating energetically against the smaller centres of the insurrection.

The aims of the insurgents are to establish an autonomous state under Russian sovereignty.

The Railway Strike.

Moscow, Dec. 23.—Traffic has been opened here with the assistance of the troops and the railroad battalions. The lines to Nixhni, Novorogod, Yaroslava, Kazan and the Nicholas road to St. Petersburg are working normally. Incoming trains only are running on the Windau and Voronezh lines. The tie-up is complete on the Ural and Kursk lines.

Agitators Murdered.

Vladimir, Russia, Dec. 23.—Owing to the hostile attitude of the people here who attacked the houses of the railroad men the strike leaders would have been torn to pieces had the troops not interfered. The railroad strike here is ineffective. Most of the employees are working.

Reports received here from several villages in the provinces tell of the murder of agitators by peasants who were enraged at their attacks on the Emperor. Among the victims was a young woman. Two policemen who tried vainly to save an agitator in the village of Nodol were themselves torn to pieces.

Provisional Government.

Kursk, Russia, Dec. 23.—The striking railroad men of the city have proclaimed a provisional government and have issued an appeal for support in setting up a Russian republic.

Emissaries Killed.

Orel, Dec. 23.—At the village of Fetkol the peasants have killed two revolutionary emissaries. One of them was beaten to death and the other was burned.

Quit Work.

Kieff, Dec. 23.—All the employes of the Southeastern railway are expectetd to strike to-day.

Factories Idle.

Kostrum, Russia, Dec. 23.—The employees of all the factories here have struck.

Martial Law.

Ploterkow, Russian Poland, Dec. 23.—Owing to the spread of the disorders martial law has been declared in the province of Ploterkow.

First Aid in the Home

For the home there is no other "first aid" so sure as Pond's Extract—*the old family doctor.* Emergency hospitals use it to stop bleeding in deep cuts and value it for its efficacy to allay inflammation and banish pain. Every family medicine chest should contain its bottle of Pond's Extract.

Sold only in sealed bottles under buff wrapper.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE.

OTTAWA NOTES.

Canadian Flour Shipments to Japan—G. T. P. Going Into Telegraph Business.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Mr. Maclean, Canada's trade agent in Japan, reports that the imports of Canadian flour for the year ending September shows $35,118, as against $71,065 for the same time last year. The decrease is on account of the American supply being obtained at lower prices.

G. T. P. Telegraph Co.

The Grand Trunk Pacific is going into the telegraph business. An application appears in to-day's Canada Gazette by the Grand Trunk Pacific Telegraph Company for an act of incorporation. Power is also asked for wireless and cable business.

Railway Applications.

An application will be made next session to incorporate "The Vancouver & Northwestern Railway Company," to build a line of railway from Vancouver eastward to Pitt river, thence eastward to Lillooet river, thence eastward to the Stave river, hence to Harrison river northerly to Lillooet, or near Fort George, Fraser river; northerly to the sixtieth degree latitude, with power to operate steamboats.

Application will be made next session for a line from Kamloops to Ashcroft.

THE COTTON MARKET.

President of Farmers' Union Says Twenty-Eight Per Cent. of Crop Remains Unsold.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 23.—President E. A. Calvin, of the Farmers' Union of America, in an interview says: "We have made no change in our minimum for cotton. It has not seemed best to depart from eleven cents, though President Harvie Jordan, of the Southern Cotton Association, has asked repeatedly that we join him for 15 cents. We did not think it best. Our farmers know when to sell. As far as we can judge there is at least 28 per cent. of the cotton of this season still in the hands of the farmers. Many of our members have not sold at all."

CHRISTMAS ON 'CHANGE.

Elaborate Preparations for the Celebration in New York.

New York, Dec. 23.—The cotton and coffee exchanges will be closed to-day, but on the New York stock exchange and the produce and consolidated exchanges preparations have been made for elaborate Christmas celebrations.

On the stock exchange a big push ball has been arranged for, and it will be named after one of the most popular or rather the most notorious stocks. A tug-of-war between the heavyweights of the floor, selections from the best classical music down to rag time by the Seventh Regiment band of 40 pieces, and songs and games by the younger element, will be other interesting features. Presents for the employees include $10,000 beside other gifts. About $1,200 has been raised to defray expenses.

Blood Poison

Brings Boils, Salt Rheum, Eczema and Scrofula,

WEAVER'S SYRUP

Cures them permanently.

Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd., Montreal.

NOTED ADVOCATE OF PENNY POSTAGE

J. HENNEKER HEATON ARRIVED HERE TO-DAY

He Says the New Liberal Government Will Not Last More Than Six Months.

John Henniker Heaton, who has represented Canterbury, Kent, in the Imperial House of Commons since 1885, having been unopposed in the last four elections, and who is recognized as among Britain's foremost politicians, arrived here to-day on the steamer Miowera from Australia. He is hurrying home because of the recent change in the government, which he remarked this morning has taken place at an earlier date than he had expected.

When shown the list of the members of the new cabinet in the Times, Mr. Henniker Heaton scanned over the names as he was hurrying to a telegraph office. Coming to that of Lloyd-George, the new president of the board of trade, he expressed much pleasure at the appointment, adding that he was a man of exceptional ability.

Continuing, he said: "John Burns, secretary of the local government board, is a personal friend of mine, and Mr. Buxton, the new postmaster-general is very sympathetic, and is also a personal friend. Notwithstanding all this I don't think the new government will last six months. I know every member of it, and must say that the omission of Lord Rosebery and Sir Charles Dilke, representing as they do two extreme sections, will prove fatal. The one is the people's representative and the other the representative of another very powerful element. Lord Rosebery is the favorite in the national Liberal Club. The difference between the Liberals and ourselves is that we always vote straight. But the defeat to the present government will undoubtedly come on the Irish Home Rule question."

Asked in what way the fall of the new government would effect the Chamberlain policy Mr. Heaton said: "You know I am an out-and-out Chamberlainist, and it is my opinion that the crisis will only tend to aid our cause."

He expected that the Chamberlain party would be defeated at the next general elections, because they were extremely unpopular. He thought, however, they would come back with a strong minority. The feeling in England regarding Chinese on the Rand question was dying out. The Transvaal would be given its own contribution, and its legislators would settle the matter in their own way—a way which no Liberal government in England would dare to interfere with.

When asked regarding universal penny postage, Mr. Heaton handed the Times man a copy of a circular letter, which has been acknowledged by the English press as one of the ablest presentations on the subject that has been yet advanced. In this circular letter Mr. Heaton says in part:

"It is intended to form a league for the establishment of universal penny postage, so that any inhabitant of our planet, white, black or yellow, may be enabled for the sum of one penny to communicate with any other, at the lowest possible rate and the highest attainable speed; Englishman with Frenchman, German, Italian or Russian; European with American; Asiatic with Australian or African; so that when one soul has something to say to another, neither color, nor religion, nor greed, nor diplomacy, nor national antipathy, nor latitude, nor longitude, nor poverty, nor any other barrier shall stand between them.

"That an English letter should be taxed because it is addressed to a Frenchman is a policy unworthy of the age. This is not an argument for the benefit of the 'foreigner,' since a letter benefits not only the addressee, but even more the sender. And if so, can it be contended that 10,000 letters sent to Canadians benefit us more than as many addressed to Americans! I maintain that the trade and commerce resulting from cheap postage will amply compensate for any initial loss.

"That the moment for action has arrived is indicated by the fact that my friend, Sir J. G. Ward, postmaster-general for New Zealand, is to move a resolution for universal penny postage in the postal union congress at Rome next year. It cannot be too soon or too clearly shown that this doughty reformer is speaking with the public opinion of the Mother Country behind him."

Mr. Heaton is making all possible speed to reach England at as early a date as possible. A sketch of his public career was given in this paper on the 6th inst.

WAS PROBABLY DROWNED.

Elias Peterson, a Fraser River Fisherman, Is Believed to Have Lost His Life.

New Westminster, Dec. 22.—Evidence that the icy and treacherous waters of the Fraser have claimed another victim from the ranks of river fishermen was found by the crew of the steamer Rithet this morning when a boat loaded with water soaked provisions was picked up below the St. Mungo cannery near the gulf. The boat was recognized as the property of Elias Peterson, who late last night left her for his place down the river after having purchased the goods the boat contained. As there is no place between here and his home where Peterson had any intention of stopping, and as no trace of him can be found anywhere along the river, the only surmise is that he fell overboard and was drowned. Peterson was slightly intoxicated when he embarked on his trip.

SEVEN PEOPLE KILLED.

Valdosta, Ga., Dec. 23.—A report reached here to-day from Ewing, between Fargo and St. George, the new colony town, that a crowd of negroes tried to mob a white man who was manager of a large turpentine still at the place last night. He barricaded himself and opened fire upon them, killing five men and two women, and wounding seven others.