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How Murderers are Dealt With in New York.

In reference to the recent conviction in New York of a man named Patrick of a cold-blooded murder and upon evidence which probably leaves no doubt in any unprejudiced mind as to the guilt of the accused, the New York Tribune says: "Patrick is in Sing Sing, but no intelligent human being familiar with the history of murder trials in this State expects that he will be put to death. Judging from past experience, the delays in his case will be kept up for months and years. It is difficult to obtain anywhere in New York a verdict of murder in the first degree under any circumstances, and especially when the accused person is defended by shrewd and ingenious counsel. But even if a conviction is secured it is usually only the first act in a long drawn out drama which ends generally in the final release of the prisoner. . . . The criminal laws of this commonwealth afford so many loopholes for prisoners charged with homicide, the delays are so long, the technicalities are so numerous and the whole system of procedure is so peculiar that the villain who has taken human life is almost without exception hopeful that his own life will not be cut short by the electric current—a hope which is rarely disappointed."

Canada's Mineral Output.

A summary statement prepared by the geological department shows that the total mineral production of Canada for the year 1901 was \$69,407,031 as compared with \$64,488,037 in the year previous or a total increase of \$4,918,994, nearly five millions. In 1895, the total mineral production was a little more than \$20,000,000. The entire gold production is valued at \$24,467,222, of which the Yukon gold fields contributed \$18,000,000. Of copper there was \$6,600,104, pig iron from Canadian ore \$1,212,113, lead, \$2,109,784; nickel, \$4,594,523; silver, \$2,993,668, and iron ore exports, \$762,698. These with the gold production, make a total of \$42,824,698 metallic production. There was \$26,282,333 non-metallic and \$300,000 products not returned which, added to the non-metallic, makes a total production of \$69,407,031. The coal production is valued at \$14,671,122; coke, \$1,264,360; petroleum, \$953,415; asbestos, \$1,186,434, and building material, \$4,620,000. Notwithstanding a decrease in the gold output as compared with 1900, the increase in the total production is equivalent to 8 per cent. There was an increase of more than four millions in the gold output from the Yukon, but in British Columbia there was an increase of \$1,000,000. There was also a falling off in the lead production of more than 20 per cent. Leaving the Yukon district out of consideration the permanent metal mining industries show an increase of nearly 37 per cent. notwithstanding the falling off in the lead production. The increase in pig iron was 133 per cent.; of copper, 115 per cent.; nickel, 38 per cent.; asbestos, 58 per cent.; coal, 10 per cent., and coke 94 per cent. In the production of pig iron in Canadian furnaces an increase of 184 per cent. is reported. This increase is due largely to the operation of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company at Sydney, N. S. In steel furnaces which are not included in the general table, there were made 41,948 tons of steel ingots.

"Kill and Burn"

Publicity has recently been given to facts in connection with the war in the Philippines, which are far from creditable to the United States army. Major Waller, when under court-martial at Manila for executing natives without trial, on the Island of Samar, testified under oath—and his testimony was corroborated by three of his fellow-officers—that his superior

officer, General Smith, had instructed him to "kill and burn" to make Samar "a howling wilderness," and when asked by Waller to state the age which should be the limit for killing replied, "Everything over ten years." Whether or not Major Waller was justly chargeable with cruelty, he seems to have disregarded in some measure the inhuman instructions of General Smith. Major Waller defended his summary execution of Philippine guides on the ground that they had proved treacherous and that the British in Egypt and the Americans as well as other allied forces in China had pursued a similar course. The Court evidently accepted Major Waller's view of the matter as he was acquitted of the charges preferred against him. Major Waller may or may not have been correct in adducing British precedent for the summary execution of treacherous guides, but it is certainly remarkable to find the Boston *Watchman* putting the matter in a way which would lead the reader to suppose that the precedent was quoted in support of such atrocities as General Smith's instructions authorized. No one, however, will doubt that the *Watchman* is correct in saying that such atrocities are to be regarded as casual and not as indicating the general temper of the United States army.

The British Budget.

The Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which had been anticipated by the British taxpayer with a rather painful interest, was delivered on Monday of last week. The speech was a practical demonstration, if any were needed, that the war has been a tremendously expensive business. Apart from the manhood of Great Britain and her colonies, which has been so prodigally sacrificed in South Africa, burdens have been laid upon the English taxpayer, which, even if the war should come to an end now, will be severely felt for many years to come. For, as the Chancellor reminded the House of Commons, war is not only costly to wage but costly to terminate, and after the war is over there will be the expense of bringing home the troops, the increased pension list, the maintenance of the South African Constabulary, and also large expenses connected with the resettlement of the two colonies and the restocking of farms. In the year 1898 there was a revenue of something over £96,000,000, and this was more than enough to meet the national expenditure for the year. For the coming year the revenue on the present basis of taxation is estimated at £147,785,000, while the total necessary expenditure is estimated at £193,109,000, making a gross deficit of upwards of £45,000,000. It would therefore appear that the war means in its present financial aspect that the annual national tax bill has been doubled. In dealing with the situation, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach proposed to suspend the sinking fund thereby reducing the deficit by £4,300,000 and to increase by a penny in the pound the income tax, which would yield an increase of £2,000,000. A stamp duty on sight bills, warrants and checks is expected to yield half a million more. Then the Chancellor proposes to secure an addition of £2,650,000 by an import duty of three pence per hundred weight on all grain with an equivalent tax of five pence per hundred weight on flour and meal. This would bring the increase of revenue up to £5,150,000, and taking into account the suspension of the sinking fund, the pressure upon the Exchequer for the year would be relieved to the extent of £9,450,000. For the balance of the deficit the Chancellor proposes to borrow £32,000,000 and to find the rest by drafts upon the Exchequer.

No doubt Mr. Bull will find the means wherewith to pay his big tax bill, for in spite of all this tremendous war bill and his still more tremendous drink bill, he is able to go on adding to the national wealth many millions every year. But though Mr. Bull will pay, he will certainly exercise his prerogative of grumbling, and he is likely to ask with a good deal of emphasis whether the war is worth all it has cost, and whether a wise statesmanship should not have been able to find means of avoiding an experience of so trying and expensive a character as that which the nation has been passing through. Sir William Vernon Harcourt in his criticism of the Chancellor's budget speech is reported to have said that this taxation of the peo-

ple's food would bring home to the people the lessons of the war, and characterized it as a return to the old fallacy of protection and by far the most objectionable proposal made to the country in many years. He denounced the passion for the expansion of territory and the annexation of independent countries, as involving ruinous expenditures which he believed in this case would have to be defrayed exclusively by the British taxpayer, as the security of the Transvaal would not in any way meet the expenditure. The gigantic fortunes in the Rand, he declared, had not been produced by the mines but by projectors selling worthless mines to the ignorant and the credulous.—The imposition of the bread tax affords a side-light upon the attitude of the people and political parties of Great Britain upon the question of protection or free trade. While Sir Vernon Harcourt and other Liberals denounced the tax as indicating a return to the principle of protection, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, on the part of the Government, denied that the tax is protective. And no doubt the Chancellor is right, so far as the operation of this particular tax is concerned, since an import duty of three pence a hundred weight on grain would be of no appreciable value to the British agriculturalist.

Still Fighting.

The discussion of peace proposals in South Africa has not been accompanied by an armistice, and while some of the chiefs have been talking peace at Klerksdorp and Pretoria, others have been making war in deadly earnest in other parts of the country. During the week ending April 12, according to Lord Kitchener's report, about 200 Boers were killed, wounded or captured, together with three guns and a large quantity of supplies. The casualties on the British side numbered about a hundred. The most severe fighting occurred on April 11, in the Western Transvaal, where General Ian Hamilton has replaced Lord Methuen in command of the British troops. The Boers attacked Col. Kekewich's force, near Rooi-deval, and fighting at close quarters ensued. The Boers were repulsed, leaving on the field 44 men killed, including Commandant Potgieter and 31 wounded. The British captured 20 unwounded prisoners. The British losses in this fight were 6 men killed and 52 wounded. A force of Boers recently overwhelmed a strong British patrol sent out from Bultfontein (Orange River Colony) to clear distant farms. An officer and two men were killed, fourteen men were wounded, and the remaining members of the patrol were surrounded and captured. Lord Kitchener mentions holding an enquiry into this reverse. A Pretoria despatch of the 18th inst., states that General Ian Hamilton had captured 64 Boers.

Assassination at St. Petersburg.

A high official of the Russian Government has fallen by the assassin's hand. On Tuesday of last week, at St. Petersburg, M. Sipiaguine, Minister of the Interior, was fatally shot in the lobby of the Ministerial Offices. M. Sipiaguine had just entered the office of the Imperial Council when the assassin, who had driven up in a carriage, approached and handed him a folded paper, saying he had been charged to deliver it by the Grand Duke Sergius. The Minister stretched out his hand to take the document when the assassin fired five shots at him. Three of the bullets struck M. Sipiaguine and one wounded his servant. The assassin did not resist arrest. He said that his name was Balshanski, and that he was a student at Kieff, when he was sentenced to compulsory military service for participating in the riots of 1901. He said that he was subsequently pardoned, but that he had not been reinstated at the university, and that he therefore revenged himself upon Sipiaguine. The deceased minister is represented as not having been a man of great ability, but as being in a measure representative of the reactionary party in Russia as the tool of men really responsible for the prevailing situation. His assassination accordingly, it is said, has been hailed with joy in radical circles. The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *London Times* says that the assassination of M. Sipiaguine is considered to have been the result of a well organized conspiracy, and anxiety prevails as to whether other victims are marked for removal. Disorders among workmen are said to be increasing and especially in the provinces. From the southern manufacturing districts serious riots are reported, but details are difficult to gather.