

W. H. W. 1914

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 9.—The Shah is said to insist on the continuance of the war with England. General D'Almeida has received a concession for the construction of the Euphrates valley Railroad.

PARIS, Thursday, Jan. 15.—A telegraphic despatch from Berne, dated 11.50 a.m. this day announces that the National Council has adopted the propositions of the Federal Government, with the considerations of the Commission, by 91 votes against 4. One member abstained from voting. The Council of the States has not yet voted.

A circular has just been issued reminding the members of the Corps Legislatif that February 14 is the day fixed for the opening of the session.

It is stated that the admiral who is to command the French Squadron in the Chinese seas has received orders from the government to be ready to embark at Brest on the 25th inst. The consul general, who is on leave in Paris, has also been ordered to prepare to return to his post immediately.

The official journals of St. Petersburg state that the Emperor Alexander has definitively approved of the plan of fortifications for the capital which was presented to him some time since. The works are to be arranged in such a manner that the city will be protected both on the sea and land sides. The preparatory works are to commence in the spring.

General Blaser, the only ex-minister of 1854 who had remained in exile, was about to return to Madrid. In addition to Valencia, a state of siege exists in Granada, Catalonia, and part of Aragon.

A letter from Belgrade in the "Lloyd" of Pest, states that the Turkish government has just sent there twenty-four 21, 36" and 48 pounders, forming part of the 150 siege pieces bought of England, and which were deposited at Varna. A siletie has received 140 of them, including eight Panzars, and as many Lancaster guns. The fortress of Belgrade has been completely armed, and is about to undergo a siege.

In the Russian Chamber of Deputies on Monday last, the Minister of Finance proposed certain measures to augment the revenues of the state. One of them is a general house tax, which in towns will be at the rate of 5 per cent upon the rent in the case of dwelling houses, and 2 per cent. in the case of shops, workshop, and factories. In the rural districts the tax will be assessed according to a scale of twenty different degrees, in the least of which it is fixed at 10 silver groschen, and in the highest at 25 thalers for the house. The government also proposes to augment the land tax in certain cases, to increase the salt tax, and to subject all joint stock companies and partnerships "en commandite" to a tax of 2 per cent. upon the profits or dividends. A tax on patents is likewise proposed.

The China mail of Hong Kong, on Nov. 20, which contains intelligence

in Canton four days later, and brought by the last mail, says: "The principal incident during the week has been the proceedings of the United States squadron, consequent upon the unjustifiable attack made upon a party of naval officers and civilians, by the braves of uplying the barrier forts, and which is likely to involve the Americans, much against their will, in a quarrel with the Chinese."

A private telegraphic dispatch from Bern, dated the 14th, announces that the National Council has approved unanimously the proposition of liberating the Neuchâtel prisoners. The commission of the States approved it unanimously with the exception of one vote. The discussion by the Federal Assembly has been prolonged till tomorrow the 15th inst.

The "Times" Paris correspondent, writing on Tuesday the 13th says:—The "Constitutionnel," in an article which has all the appearance of emanating from an official source, confirms in great part the account I gave you yesterday of the state of Neuchâtel question. There are a few points in my letter not touched by the "Constitutionnel," but which I have reason to believe are quite as correct as these that are. The English government never called in doubt, throughout the whole of the negotiation, the right of the Confederation to bring to trial the sedition of its officers; it is content, pending in a demand for their liberation would have the appearance of calling it in doubt. The Swiss Government has substituted for the "entire independence of Neuchâtel and the liberation of its prisoners is declared by it in the exercise of her sovereignty." The question may now be considered as settled; and whatever discussion may arise in the Federal Assembly is not anticipated that any serious difficulty will be started. Switzerland occupies a proud position, and she was not injured, and nor daunted by the momentary incursion of France for which reparation is now made. The Swiss have shown that self-esteem is after all the best security for existence, and that a people who are determined to maintain their independence at any cost will succeed in the end.

The demonstrations against the income-tax continue. A meeting in London this week it was determined to oppose the levying of the tax on all incomes of £10 and under, and a strong demonstration was made against the inquisitorial system of deciding cases of appeal. Sir John Lubbock, one of the members for Dorset, joined as a constituent the other day in opposing the continuance of the tax for two years longer and he showed clearly enough the unequal operation of the tax on different classes of the community. We fear that the late Lord Castlereagh, were he alive now, would repeat his celebrated speech respecting the "ignorant in patience of taxation," which at present distinguishes the people of the country. No doubt Lord Castlereagh entertains the same view, at least he would hesitate to give expression to it in this respectful and delicate way; but it must be borne in mind that the additional taxation which war rendered necessary was borne without demonstration so long as the plea of necessity could be urged for its continuance. At present, the clouds against the income-tax is general and wide spread and the Government will cling to such an effective mode of raising the revenue as long as they can. Nevertheless as the present is drawing to a close, and a new election will soon be rendered necessary, the existing Cabinet may probably deem it safe to make matters pleasant before appealing to the voters' necessities. It is clear that the nation will not very imperially be informed respecting the working of direct or contributory taxation or direct taxation; and it is probable that Mr. Russell, as the representative of the Administrative Committee, visits this town next week, he may deem it necessary to handle this branch of the subject in such a manner as may induce the inhabitants of the larger towns to revise their opinions on this important subject. It has been here

by some of the best fiscal authorities, grant, that a direct system of taxation, acting in a fair and honest manner, would by the abolition of all duties on all articles of consumption, — by the entire sweeping away, in fact, of the Customs and Excise give an enormous impetus to the trade of the country, and of immense benefit to the great consuming and productive classes and would, make earned and other property contribute more equitably to the wants of the State than has ever yet done. The growth of population in England is, undoubtedly, slow, and this is one of the subjects on which the State must require education.

The overall mood being intelligent. Mr. Mehnert to the 20th of October continued we were here involved with business, but improved wages, and lower prices of such necessary articles of food as flour and potatoes were leading to increased consumption and the tendency was to higher rates than for the last two months. Bar. and gold is quoted 77s 3d.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—FRIDAY, JAN. 16.—Redpath and Kent were placed at the bar on indictments of fraud and forgery. When the judges took their seats Kent was ordered to retire, and Redpath stood at the bar and was tried singly upon one of the cases of forgery. The document was a transfer of stock, and was described in a variety of ways, in order to meet any supposed legal difficulty. Mr. Justice Wills, in summing up, explained that the forgery of a non-existent name was precisely the same in law as though the name of a real person had been forged. The jury, after a deliberation of five minutes, found the prisoner guilty. Sentence deferred.

On resuming, Redpath and Kent were placed at the bar, and indicted for feloniously forging and uttering a transfer, in the name of George Sydney, with intent to defraud. Mr. Sergeant Ballantine explained what the charge against Kent was, that he was the attesting witness to a signature which he knew to be fictitious, for the purpose of a fraudulent transaction on the part of Redpath. The second judge put it to the jury that they must be satisfied that Kent was acting fraudulently with Redpath. The jury found Redpath guilty, and acquitted Kent.

Mr. Sergeant Ballantine was about proceeding with the cases of misdemeanor against Kent, when Mr. Denison came into the court and intimated to Sergeant Ballantine that he was not to go on. Mr. sergeant Ballantine then withdrew from the prosecution, and Kent was discharged. Mr. Justice Willis, after some remarks on the enormity of the offence which Redpath had committed, sentenced him to transportation for life.

Accounts have been received from China a fortnight later than those by the last mail. The dates are to the 20th of November from Shanghai, and the 25th of November from Canton. From the latter place the news is important. Fighting had recommenced, and the Americans had made common cause with the English. It is added that three Americans had been captured and beheaded, and that their heads had been stuck by the Chinese on the city walls. Business was, of course, wholly suspended, and a report was current that Shanghai had been attacked and taken by the rebels. This, however, is believed to be without foundation.

At the sitting of the Belgian Senate on the 8th, N. de Keneke presented the report of the committee on the bill relative to import and export of articles of food. The committee recommended that the prohibition of their exportation shall be extended to the 1st July next instead of to the 15th February, as voted by the Chamber of Representatives. If this amendment be adopted by the Senate, the bill will have to go back to the other Chamber for reconsideration. The Senate afterwards elected Comte de Coghon, of the party of the Right, as vice-president, in the room of M. Wyls de Raecours, deceased.

The Danish Diet resumed its labours on the 2nd inst. General Oxholm, the Danish Minister at London, has notified his wish to be recalled, which has been granted. Other relations in the diplomatic corps are expected.

Letters from Athens announce the definite nomination, by the three protecting powers, of special commissioners, charged to examine into the financial situation of Greece, and to verify the accounts. The three ministers of the above powers now residing at Athens have been appointed for this purpose.—Mr. Wise for England, Mr. Persanoff for Russia, and M. Mercier for France.

Letters from St. Petersburg speak of the probability of further remonstrances on the part of the Russian Cabinet against the military occupation of Greece by France and England.

Our previously expressed views of the real value of ministerial professions, and the hollow-ness of their claim upon a peoples gratitude, have received confirmation strong as proof of holy writ in the House of assembly, Hon. member of the minority having demonstrated the fallacy of their arguments in defence of the chosen groundwork of their bleached and blackened political superstructure.

We take the following extracts from Mr. Ellis's able and telling speech in reply to the Premier; after caustic remark upon the omission in the Governor's speech of any allusion to the contemplated concession of our Fishery rights to the French, charging ministerial supporters with a species of hypocritical vagabondism, and the Premier with pocketing thousands of dollars wrong from the taxes imposed upon a starving people, Mr. Ellis thus proceeded.

I will now refer to the hon. gentleman's statistics, produced for the purpose of showing the prosperous state of the working classes; and I would claim hon. gentleman's attention on both sides, while I analyze them for a moment. Our Exports are set down at £1, 300, 000, and our Imports at £1, 200, 600; Now I ask what proof of prosperity is this? The credit balance of £100, 000, if it really remained, would be little to meet the interest due upon the investment of capital and the expenses of a country with but few internal resources; but this is swallowed up by the revenue, and the value of our imports, duty paid, is equal to our Exports. What proof of prosperity! I shall, however take no advantage on this point, for the value of Imports and Exports is no true index to a country's condition; the value of both may increase, yet the consumption, of one and the export of the other be less.

A reference to the value of flour as imported during the years 1853, 1854, and 1855, will convince hon. gentlemen of this; it being respectively valued at 26s. 3d., 21s. 9d., and 44s. 6d. Pork varied during the same period, from 51s. to 63s.—it is now 85s., or 90s. Our exports also are subject to considerable fluctuations; therefore the value of both as they appear upon the Customs Records is no proof of the amounts enjoyed by the great mass of the people; it is but a least commonly used to deceive the too confident, and unwary. Will the Government pretend to say that 20s. now represents 14s. of a few years ago, or even 16s? In plain terms, that all who hear me may understand, that a poor man now with 20s. can purchase the same amount of Bread, flour, Lard, Butter, Molasses, Tea or clothing of any kind, that he could a few years since with 15s?—[Here the cheers and loud cries of No! No! and "if it's true, it's true!" prevented the hon. gentleman proceeding for some time.] The supply of the necessities of life, which the poor man's earnings will enable him to purchase, is the true test of his circumstances. Now it is an incontrovertible fact, which will bear the strictest scrutiny of the hon. Attorney General's statistics, that notwithstanding the boasted high prices of fish and oil, our staple products, the industrial earnings of our population have not been less on an average for the past thirty years; this to a period when provisions of all kinds were at extreme rates, and Tea, Molasses and clothing of every description subject to excessive taxation.

The figures as I have received them, which show the exports to be 1,268,334 quintals of Cod fish, which is called unprecedentedly large; this is true, as the catch seldom exceeds 1,100,000. But looking at the exports from St. John's, (the only returns at my command) and from whence all shipments are *bona fide* exports, I find the difference to be, between 1855-1856, only about 25,000 quintals. This certainly leads me to doubt the acuracy of the hon. gentleman's figures. The shipments from the 1st January to 31st Dec. in any year is not a fair estimate of the year's catch; from the 1st August to the 31st of July would be the proper time for such an estimate; when this shall have been arrived at, I question if the whole voyage of fish for 1856 will exceed that of 1855; even if it should, it will only tend to show that if, with a large catch, the population is in comparatively poor circumstances, what will be the result of a free voyage under the present administration? The object of the Ministry appears to be not to prove that Free Trade with the United States has enhanced the price of fish, but that it positively increased the catch? Really such an absurdity could only emanate from such minds as now rule the political destiny of this unfortunate country, and it speaks volumes for their opinions of the intelligence of the people. Now, I would ask, hon. gentleman what are the facts in reference to the influence Free Trade has had in the increase of the price of fish? Why that less fish was shipped to the United States in 1856 than in 1855. In the latter year prices were remunerative, while in 1856 the return was a loss to nearly every shipper. I would ask, did the first shipment by Messrs. Pack, Gosses & Fryer of Carbonnet, direct from the Labrador to New York, make such a splendid return as

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