

PLAGUE AND FAMINE.

India Face to Face With the Most Appalling Calamity Since British Occupation.

Thousands of Inhabitants Fleeing in Terror From the Pestilence.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—For some time past everything has pointed to the fact that India is face to face with the most appalling calamity since the British occupation. The spread of the bubonic plague came almost with dramatic suddenness on top of the famine, and created throughout Europe a feeling of the greatest alarm.

Up to the present the two visitations have been confined with in separate areas, but it is extremely probable that the plague will ere long reach the famine districts owing to the impossibility of preventing the migration of the panic-stricken natives, and should this take on to be the case, competent authorities forward to terrible mortality, as the plague germs will find fruitful soil in the emaciated natives.

Even the elaborate precautions adopted by the Indian government appear hardly to have foreseen such a gigantic undertaking as that of dealing with over eighty millions of people, and its ready acquiescence to the appeal to private charity indicates that it now recognizes the insufficiency of the arrangements. The sympathy of Great Britain is now thoroughly aroused and relief funds have been started in all the chief towns.

The Mansion House fund is approaching £50,000, and it is hoped the total of the fund will reach at least £700,000, which was the amount subscribed for the relief of the sufferers by the last famine. The newspapers urge that some more extensive measure be adopted, and one of the weekly papers suggests that parliament vote a big grant or lend the £10,000,000.

A representative of the Associated Press called upon the lord mayor after the meeting at the Mansion House to-day. The lord mayor said he was hopeful that the Americans would co-operate, and he wrote the following statement, which he hoped to have published in the United States:

"The Lord Mayor of London will receive with affectionate gratitude any contributions from the people of America for the India famine fund. He invites the junior branch of the united family to emphasize their noble feeling towards the Mother Country which the Mother Country cherishes for them. (Sd.) GEORGE FAULDE, PHILLIPS."

A Bombay dispatch says: Plague and famine are stalking arm in arm through densely populated portions of the British empire, in India thousands are dead or dying and the outlook becomes blacker and more fearful every day. Millions of helpless men, women and children are starving and the famine districts having the population of nearly forty million people, will have to depend upon the hand of charity for food enough to keep body and soul together until April, at least. Other districts with populations numbering about fifty millions, are already feeling the plague and pangs of bitter privation from food and this must be endured well on into spring before permanent relief will be afforded by nature.

From the European point of view the plague is a matter of grave concern than the famine. All the continental governments are adopting sanitary measures at the ports, and the import from India of rags, linen and other articles capable of conveying the germs is prohibited, and it is announced that a European conference will be held at Rome to consider the adoption of combined measures to prevent the plague from invading Europe.

The Indian government has dispatched the director-general of the medical service to study the plague at Bombay, and two chief officials of the Egyptian sanitary staff have also gone there to arrange for measures to minimize the danger of the plague spreading to Mecca, where if it occurred it would probably mean the infection of Egypt. The Egyptian government has decided that if the plague appears in Arabia no Egyptian pilgrim will be allowed to return until it is extinct there.

The Daily News publishes a long article advocating the prohibition of the Mecca pilgrims, and suggests that the European minister at Tehran and St. Petersburg induce the Shah and the Czar to proclaim the closing of the channels of pilgrimage, while the Turkish authorities close the port of Jeddah. Great Britain, under treaty arrangements can prohibit African pilgrims from traversing Indian and also stop the influx from Beluchistan, and Austria has decided to prevent so far as possible pilgrims from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The British Medical Journal mentions a report that six plague cases have reached Marseilles, but adds that it believes the disease will not spread to the town in a good sanitary condition. BOMBAY, Jan. 16.—Funds for the relief of the sufferers are being raised on all sides, but a very large amount of money will be needed to provide even those unfortunate people who live on almost nothing (in comparison with Europeans and others) from one end of the year to the other. This calamity, awful as it is in its intensity, is possibly not much greater than the ravages of the dreadful bubonic plague here, which threatens to spread through the flight of the natives of the city into other parts of India, and if it reaches the greatly weakened famine sufferers the mortality may be enormous. The natives have been reduced by lack of food to little less than living skeletons, in the most heavily stricken districts, and, as such, cannot fall to fall victims by the thousands to the black plague which threatens to invade Europe through the Mecca pilgrims and other sources for the spread of contagion which are too numerous to mention, the principal of which, however, are the export of rags, linen and other merchandise likely to contain poisonous germs. The mor-

CROW'S NEST COAL CO.

Montreal and Ottawa Capitalists Seek Incorporation—Writs for By-Elections Issued.

British Pacific Railway Company to Apply for a Dominion Charter.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Jan. 16.—An important meeting of the cabinet was held to-day, lasting seven hours. There was a large amount of business to transact, as the ministers are scattering for some days. Writs for South Brant, East Simcoe and North Ontario were ordered to be issued. Nominations take place on January 29; polling, February 4. All these contingencies returned Conservatives at the June election.

Sir Richard Cartwright and Hon. Messrs. Fielding and Patterson left for Nova Scotia to-night. Hon. Mr. Mulock will lead the government forces at the Ontario by-elections. A. J. Campbell, M.P., at Victoria, has been dismissed from the public service. The British Pacific Railway Co. will ask for a Dominion charter. Capt. Sinclair has resigned as secretary to the Governor-General, having definitely accepted the Liberal nomination for Fortalice.

A number of Montreal and Ottawa parties are seeking incorporation as the Crow's Nest Coal Co. Mr. Oiler, M.P., W. R. Matthews, and other prominent Toronto capitalists are seeking incorporation as the Consolidated Carbide and Mining Co., with a capital of \$5,000,000.

NEWS OF THE DOMINION.

(Special to the Colonist.)

Seasonal Suicide. HAMILTON, Jan. 12.—One of the most sensational suicides that has occurred in this part of the country took place on Sunday night, James Hodges, 63 years of age, strongly and heavily built, walked into the city hall and after looking round a few minutes seated himself at the foot of the staircase leading to the council chamber, drew a revolver from his pocket and put a bullet in his brain. In his pocket was a note stating that he had been worn a good deal of money by relatives and had been the means of robbing him of it.

WALLACEBURG, Jan. 13.—The Beattie block, the largest in town, was burned this morning and Albert Ugie and Andrew Bard lost their lives. The Queen's Hotel and several stores were destroyed. Loss \$75,000.

SHELBURN, Jan. 13.—Five citizens are under arrest as the result of the big incendiary fire which broke out in the town. It is supposed to be mixed up with a large number of fires, in one of which a man lost his life.

BRANTFORD, Jan. 13.—William Baker was killed to-day while feeding a straw cutter. ALABAMA, Jan. 14.—Thomas C. Platt was named as the Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate from this state by a vote of 15 to 1 for Joseph H. Choate, at the Republican caucus to-day.

TORONTO, Jan. 15.—The Unit-1 Empire Loyalist society of this city, has decided to send an address of congratulation to the President of the United States on the general jubilee, to be signed by all the members of the society.

BRANTFORD, Jan. 15.—The date of the annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural Society is officially announced for February 10.

TORONTO, Jan. 15.—At the curling bonspiel to-day the Winnipeg curlers won all the games they played. The New York rink lost to the Toronto curling club.

TORONTO, Jan. 15.—The Mayor presided this evening at a meeting of five thousand Armenian sympathizers in Massey hall, under the auspices of the Salvation Army, Miss Booth being present. Twenty-four Armenian refugees were on the stand. Five hundred dollars were contributed by the audience.

STRIKE OF THE SNOW SHOE.

ROSSLAND, Jan. 15.—(Special)—The strike on the Snow Shoe of the Big Three Company continues to improve. A Miner representative visited the property to-day and found the ledge to be about fifteen feet wide with ore all through. One streak on the hanging wall is two feet wide and the assays average about \$25 per ton. The percentage of copper is high, which will insure low smelting charges.

The Colonna, which adjoins the Monte Cristo on the north and is owned by a Montserrat syndicate, represents that P. Wardner, has two splendid showings of ore. The main tunnel shows two feet of stripping ore on the face, and the shaft shows one foot of clean solid chalcocopyrite in the bottom. Shipments from this mine will begin shortly.

In regard to the Miner from Trail statements to supply both the Nelson and the Spokane with coke, beginning June 1. The coke is to be made by the Messrs. Dunsmuir at Union and the railroad has made a very low rate on it. Carriage haul spots are awaiting a big row will occur at the meeting of the War Eagle shareholders, which is to take place in Spokane on the 20th inst. It is stated there that the price at which the mine has been sold to the Gooderhams is less than \$500,000, that compensation of \$125,000 will be paid to the agents who negotiated the sale, and consequently the shareholders will only receive from \$1.75 to \$1.45 per share for the carrying charges. The stock has been selling here for many months at \$1.60 and \$1.75 per share and is even now selling in Rossland for \$1.67. An effort will be made to appeal to the shareholders being necessary to the directors who negotiated the sale, and have control of over two-thirds of the stock and will therefore be able to conditional terms daily. The mine over to the Gooderham syndicate.

MACEO BETRAYED. HAVANA, via Key West, Jan. 15.—It develops more and more every day that General Maceo, the insurgent leader, was led into ambush when he was killed. Prominent insurgents who have been captured with the rank of investigating, walked into the city and told officials in some features correct. Maceo easily passed the military line, crossed the river, but the insurgents explain that his death was only a portion of the plan which eventually resulted in the murder of the insurgent leader. After crossing the military line, Maceo, with a few followers, was taken to the province of Havana, with the intention of leading the insurgent forces, when he was captured by the Spanish army under Major Cerdeña. Maceo promptly obeyed a charge and led it into the city, where he was surrounded by a Spanish force, composed of guerrillas, and fired at the insurgents and Maceo sank wounded and dying upon his saddle. The insurgents now in the hands of Maceo's physicians, among the Spanish forces, who apparently had ambushed the insurgent leader. They point to the other facts as being proof that Maceo was betrayed by the Spanish physician.

WEST AFRICAN MASSACRES. LONDON, Jan. 16.—The British government has lost no time in making arrangements to avenge Consul Phillips and his party, who were massacred by the inhabitants of Benin City, on the West coast of Africa. About fifteen officers sailed to-day for the Guinea coast. The British warship will follow next week. The British warship will furnish a landing party of 300 bluejackets, who with 80 Houssa auxiliaries will accompany the expedition. The expedition is expected to land at Benin City, where the expedition will be met by the Houssa auxiliaries, which are intended to wipe out the Houssa auxiliaries. It is expected that operations will be finished by the end of February before the rainy season commences. The march from Sapele is expected to be a ticklish piece of work.

PACIFIC CABLE PROJECT. WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The Pacific cable project was considered again to-day by the house committee on commerce, which listened to a statement by Charles H. Mason, secretary of the Pacific Cable Company of Jersey, in which he is associated with Col. John Spaulding, of Honolulu, D. Ogden Mills, James H. Hill, Abraham Hewitt and other capitalists. General Spaulding urged the house committee to recommend the senate bill, which authorizes the postmaster general to contract for a cable from the Pacific coast to Japan by way of the Hawaiian islands with an annual subsidy not exceeding \$150,000.

NOTORIOUS LIBERAL JAILED. WINNIPEG, Jan. 16.—(Special)—Jack F. Jackson, Winnipeg's famous bill of particulars man, was sent to jail for one month to-day for obtaining money under false pretences. He was hired by the Liberals to get evidence against Hugh John Macdonald. Nearly all the charges were indignantly denied.

THE LOCAL LOSS BY FIRE IN 1896 WAS \$1,477,356, against \$1,021,101.94 in 1895.

REGARDING THE STATEMENT THAT HE would not again be a candidate in Winnipeg, Charles H. Hill, who has been changed his mind on the subject, and had already several times positively declared that he would not re-enter politics. AL Macleod, N.W.T., the jury returned a verdict of guilty of murder against Charles H. Hill, who was killed by a mounted police officer. The case was reserved for the full court and adjourned till Monday morning. It is expected the Wilde murder case will then be tried.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 14.—Three deputy returning officers during the late election in Macleod, succeeded in securing a trial on the charge of ballot-box stuffing.

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 15.—The feature of the commonwealth conference just concluded is the resolution of Gen. Jacob S. Coxey calling for a second assembling of the unemployed workmen all over the country for the purpose of making such a demonstration as shall appeal to the executive branches of congress, but of every state in the Union, in the hope of inducing legislation that will ameliorate the present condition of the workmen. The resolution is a revival of the agitation which resulted in the march of the commonwealth army to Washington. It calls upon the unemployed in the public square or other public place on February 22, Washington's birthday, in open meeting, if it is the intention to register each unemployed workman in every city and town and send a representative to Washington with unremitting regularity until some concentrated action is taken by congress to improve the condition of labor.

THE ARBITRATION TREATY.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 14.—Cardinal Gibbons in an interview to-day expressed in unqualified terms his approval of the arbitration treaty between England and the United States. His Eminence has upon every suitable occasion advocated the settlement of international disputes by this method, because in his opinion it reduces to a minimum the alternative of war. "The fact that the two great English speaking nations of the earth have taken so decisive a step in the direction of permanent peace and arbitration," said His Eminence, "gratifies me beyond measure, and should afford to all lovers of peace the greatest satisfaction. Its importance and significance cannot be over estimated. My own position with reference to arbitration between nations is fully set forth in an appeal in which I joined Cardinals Logue of Ireland and Vaughan of England and which was issued on Easter Sunday last year."

IN THE FATHERLAND.

Germany and Austria Consult as to the Reorganization of Their Artillery.

Russia and the Polish Agitation—A Farmers Pool Being Organized.

BERLIN, Jan. 16.—The presence in this city of Count Goluchowski, the Austrian minister of foreign affairs, who arrived here this morning, is understood to be partly due to the desire of the two emperors to come to an understanding in regard to the projected reorganization of the artillery of both armies. Count Goluchowski called upon Prince Hohenlohe, the Imperial Chancellor, soon after his arrival, and this evening will be received in audience and dine with the Emperor William. It appears that the German military attaché at Vienna had a special audience with the Emperor Francis Joseph early in the week, and gave His Majesty a detailed explanation of the new German field-gun, with reference to administrative measures, and Emperor also had a long conversation with Baron von Szogyeny-Marich, the Austrian ambassador to Germany, and with the Austrian military attaché on the same subject.

The Prussian government is finding the Polish agitation cannot be suppressed by administrative measures, and is preparing a bill for introduction in the diet, giving greater power to the imperial government. In the Reichstag (Assembly), the government is dealing with the anti-German propaganda of the Polish agitators, who are the leading organ of the French population in the Reichstag. The bill is intended to give the government the right to checkmate the agitators and to arrange for the direct sale of their property to the state. The bill is intended to give the government the right to checkmate the agitators and to arrange for the direct sale of their property to the state.

MONTEREAL, Jan. 16.—(Special)—Shortly before his death Archbishop Fabre wrote Mgr. Langevin the effect that he did not agree with the school settlement. QUEBEC, Jan. 16.—(Special)—Monsieur Benoit, archbishop of this diocese, has sent a circular letter to all the clergy of the diocese, part of which will be read in the churches to-morrow. The letter is of a private nature and treats on different subjects. Referring to the school settlement, Mgr. Benoit says that the bishops could not approve of the settlement, and when the priests are consulted as to the school question they are advised to state that the settlement is not a satisfactory one and that it is condemned by the church. To help Mgr. Langevin with his schools a tax is just sent on the clergy of the diocese as follows: Cures, \$5; clergymen in seminaries and colleges, \$2; and religious communities, \$10 annually.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—A resolution urging the ratification of the proposed treaty of general arbitration was adopted at an inter-denominational mass meeting held last night in Carnegie hall under the auspices of the simultaneous meeting committee, representing the foreign mission boards of the United States and Canada. The platform was crowded with representatives of the boards of foreign missions in this and other cities, and with the executive officers of the various mission societies. The hall was well filled with an audience in which women largely predominated. Gen. James A. Beaver, of Pennsylvania, presided and spoke briefly in favor of the treaty. The Rev. D. D. Storer in an address urged that the mission boards do all in their power to influence the ratification of the treaty. The following was then unanimously adopted: "Resolved, that this conference in favor of a resolution, representing as it does the great body of Protestant Christians throughout the United States and Canada, rejoice in the prospect of the early ratification by their respective governments of the general treaty of arbitration and respectfully urge prompt confirmation of the same."

CALIFORNIA'S SENATOR.

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 13.—The election of U. S. senator attracted a large crowd to the capitol yesterday. James A. Waymire, of Alameda, who had been mentioned as a senatorial candidate, placed Senator Perkins in nomination in the house. Sam Shorthide withdrew from the contest this morning. Mr. Perkins was re-elected on the first ballot, which was as follows: Perkins, 27; Dwyer, 6; E. E. Langford, 5; J. Dwyer, 2; Charles D. Lane, 1; Daniel M. Burns, 1. Recess was then taken. The vote in the assembly stood: Cator, 11; Dwyer, 9; Fools, 8; Maguire, 10; George C. Perkins, 46. Number of votes cast, 79; necessary to elect, 41.

A MESSAGE TO MEN.

Proving That True Honesty and True Philanthropy Still Exist. If any man, who is weak, nervous and debilitated, or who is suffering from any of the various troubles resulting from excesses or overwork, will take heart and write to me, I will send him confidentially, and free of charge, a copy of a plan, prepared by which I was completely restored to perfect health and manhood, after years of suffering from Nervous Debility, Loss of Vigor and Organic Weakness. I have nothing to sell and therefore want no money but as I know through my own experience how to sympathize with such sufferers, I am glad to be able to assist any fellow being to a cure. I am well aware of the prevalence of quackery, for I myself have been the victim of many of them, and I am nearly lost faith in mankind, upon many occasions, but I am now perfectly well and happy once more and am desirous therefore to make this certain means of cure known to all. If you will write to me you can rely upon being cured and the prompt satisfaction of having been of great service to you will need to be sufficient reward for my trouble. Absolute secrecy assured. Send six silver to cover postage and address Mr. Geo. G. Strong, North Rockwood, Mich.

U. S. MINISTER WILLIS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 15.—Advice just received from Honolulu by steamship Monowai are as follows: United States Minister Albert S. Willis died at 8:30 a.m. January 6, after an illness covering several months, the effect upon his health resulting from an attack of pneumonia from which he suffered while on his vacation to the States. In April last the minister and family left Hawaii for a visit to their old home at Louisville. While in San Francisco, on the return trip, the minister contracted a severe cold, which settled upon his lungs. This was the immediate cause of his death. In September, 1893, Mr. Willis was appointed by President Cleveland as minister to Hawaii, succeeding James H. Blount, who acted temporarily after

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