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The Weekly Colonist.

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR. VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY MAY 24 1895. VOLUME XXXVII. NO. 24

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

A Chinese Smuggler Arrested—The Pomelreau Murder Case—Work on Vancouver's Drill Hall.

Remarkable Discovery of Galena Ore—Profits of Mining at the Josie.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, May 16.—Mag Sung was seen by the customs watchman of the C.P.R. wharf rowing up to the steamer Empress of China in a suspicious manner at three o'clock on the morning of the 11th inst. He was arrested, and on his house being searched tobacco and cigars were discovered which should have paid about $75 duty. Damaging letters evidently relating to other acts of wholesale smuggling in which Hing Kee & Company are concerned, were found in possession of the prisoner, and his confederate, Hing Kee's representative here, has suddenly left town. Half Chinatown were present at the trial in the police court, which was adjourned until Friday.

Mr. Moresby is working on the Pomelreau murder case, and claims he has enough fresh evidence to send Andrews for trial for the murder of, or assistance in the murder of, the French Canadian Pomelreau. Pigeon's departure, evidently as a stowaway on an outgoing vessel, is considered by the police as a remarkably clever escape.

The British bark Argyle has been chartered to load at Hastings mill for Australia. The British bark Silver Bow is bound from Glasgow for this port consigned to Evans, Coleman & Evans. The steamers Puebla and Utopia have brought 185 tons of freight for the Miowera. The Empress of India, due on the 21st, has 95 saloon passengers. The schooner Wrestler is chartered to load lumber at the Brunette mills for China.

A stranger was found dead to-day in a field near Powell street with his head against a stump. The body was in a horrible state, overrun with vermin and much decomposed. A bottle which contained liquor was near the body. Papers in the pocket showed the man to be Valentine Iby. Among his effects was a post office order for $14 in favor of a relative or friend in Arbein, Baden, Germany.

VANCOUVER, May 17.—The coroner's jury in the case of Valentine Ilg, the German stranger who was found dead in a field off Hastings street, returned a verdict of suicide. Dr. Bell-Irving stated that the deceased had committed suicide by cutting the veins in his left arm, pulling down his shirt, buttoning it at the wrist, and composing himself for death, a form of suicide quite common in Germany. It is thought Ilg was out of work and had no prospects of getting any, and becoming discouraged took this means of ending his life.

At another session of the police investigation last night the only evidence brought out was that two years ago Sergeant Haywood was slightly under the influence of liquor when on duty. The question of rewards for pulling down shacks was also gone into. The investigation was continued again this evening.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, May 16.—The grand jury at the Westminster assizes have brought in a true bill against Lobb who held up Manson's police steamer, and attempted to murder the crew.

W. B. Carrie has been committed for trial for breaking into George Kennerly's residence, Boundary Bay, and carrying away furniture and household effects.

The board of trade have decided, in reference to the request of the Victoria board of trade, that they co-operate with them in procuring a railway extension from Wellington to Comox, that they are not in possession of sufficient data to intelligently take action in the matter.

The Board of trade have telegraphed Mr. Corbould to try and arrange to have work on the proposed drill hall commenced at once. By resolution the board pledged themselves to oppose any attempt to carry out the city bridge scheme until some proper arrangement was made. They deprecated the action of the city council in offering the bridge bonds for sale. A statement of the Board of Trade's financial condition was read at their meeting last night, showing a present cash balance on hand of $433, with $1,000 additional assets.

Juryman Bailey, who was stricken down with the excessive heat in court yesterday, has recovered. The doctors say he was sunstruck.

Dr. Cooper's funeral promises to be one of the largest ever seen in Westminster. The Orangemen, Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias will attend. The city band is engaged.

"Shorty" Wilkinson shot Robert Hogan in front of his hotel some months ago for interfering in a fight between him, Wilkinson, and Eli Ladners. At the assizes to-day Wilkinson was found guilty of "shooting with intent."

Doctors Bodington and Walker have testified that Lobb, who held up Manson's steamer in Northern waters, is insane. The court has handed him over to the asylum authorities.

ROSSLAND.

(From the Rossland Miner.)

Frank Edwards has sold the Good Hope on Red Mountain to Frank Guse for $1,100.

There will be shipments made this summer from some of the high grade silver prospects on Salmon river.

Between the Northport and Trail routes the shipments from the War Eagle mine have averaged eighty tons a day this week.

A. E. Humphreys, of Duluth, has been operating in Trail creek for less than two weeks and has already thirty-eight men at work developing the Monte Cristo, Iron Horse, Enterprise and Kootenay.

Abe Hall came into town to-day with some fine specimens from the head of Stony creek. The ore is quartz, heavily mineralized with arsenical iron. Four locations have been made on the vein, which is a big one.

A remarkable discovery of galena ore has been made about four miles from town. The claim is called the Union, and is about two miles west of the Columbia river and one mile north of Stony creek. The ore is in a quartz gangue, and is a fine grained galena with some iron and copper pyrites showing in it.

The smelting charges on the last shipment of Josie ore were 10 cents per ton. The whole cost of freight from Northport to the smelter and treatment was under $10 a ton. On the Josie ore this leaves at least $25 a ton to pay the cost of mining and to distribute in dividends among the stockholders. Figures like these show the enormous profit in mining Trail Creek ore.

Sam Creston and L. Mulholland have sold out of the St. Elmo to F. Loring and G. T. Crane.

The assay returns from the White Elephant, discovered on Friday by Hall and McCormick, are likely to cause a stampede in the direction of Stony creek. The ore went $28 in gold and 70 ounces in silver to the ton. It is not more than four miles from Rossland to where the bonanza was struck.

Development work will proceed at once on the Paris Bell, which will take a high place in Trail Creek as a producer.

All work on the War Eagle is hereafter to be done by contract.

The Kootenay is on the eastern slope of Columbia mountain and adjoins the claim of that name on the east. Assays all the way from $12 50 to $88 in gold have been obtained.

On Saturday the indenture bonding the Kootenay was signed. Phil Aspinwall relinquishes all his right and title to the Kootenay, Tip Top and Copper Jack for $75,000. The man who bonded this property is A E. Humphreys, of Duluth, who only a week ago bonded the Monte Cristo, Iron Horse and Enterprise for $65,000.

MIDWAY.

(From the Advance.)

W. C. Adams went up to the Skylark camp on Tuesday with J. Winters, who has obtained the contract to sink fifty feet on the Cordick claim, Summit camp, where work will be commenced at once.

Mr. Thomet recorded on Saturday the Lake View claim, and also the North Star, which he located on the 10th instant. The North Star is a fraction between the Gold Drop and Golden Eagle mineral claims, 350 feet wide.

C. Thomet is doing assessment work on the Elkhorn, Providence camp. The ledge is showing up to more advantage as the work proceeds.

In a former issue it was reported that Messrs. Bosshart and Dittmer had located a claim they called the Gold Drop; but not until some work had been done upon it had they any idea of the extent and value of this new discovery. In fact, it is what might be called the first stampede of the season. The ore is free milling, although depth might change its character. The new field is situated on Granite creek, which flows into Atwood creek (old Prior creek) and the latter empties into Boundary creek. Some three miles up Granite creek lies Long lake, and it is on the east side of the lake this new el dorado has been found. The vein, as far as ascertained, is from two to five feet and contains much free gold and some galena, and is traceable on the claim some 750 feet. The same two fortunate gold seekers located the Jewel, some 400 feet south west of the Gold Drop, on April 27th, making a remarkable gold proposition. Although these two locations caused much excitement, the final coup was made when Mr. C. Thomet located the Bonanza, a southwest extension of the Gold Drop, on the 4th of May, the vein of the Bonanza being four feet wide and traceable nearly the entire length of the claim.

VERNON.

(From the News.)

O. S. Strouss, a large hop buyer from England, is visiting the Coldstream ranch.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen are expected about the middle of August to spend a couple of months on their Okanagan estates.

The question of electric lighting for the city is again being agitated.

Monday's train had on 15 cars, several of which were cattle cars to be loaded by Mr. Wm. Postill, who is sending 175 head of cattle to the Northwest this week.

One of the largest black bears ever seen in this section was trapped by Thos. Butler of White Valley, near Eden Flat. The skin measures 7 feet in length and 7 feet 2 inches from claw to claw.

L. E. Haun has over 40,000 strawberry plants out on the B.X. ranch this spring, about a third of which will bear fruit this season.

A. E. Morden has built a substantial wharf on the west side of the lake, a few miles down, and the settlement has been named Port Morden. A number of small farms have been taken up in the vicinity during the past two years, and a considerable number of fruit trees and strawberry plants have been planted.

The ranges are better covered with bunch grass this spring than has been the case for several seasons. A large number of cattle have been exported during the past three months.

A number of the small farmers on the west side of Okanagan lake are experimenting this year with grape culture on a small scale, the vines appearing to be thrifty and promising to do well. There appears to be no reason to doubt that grapes may be successfully cultivated in this district.

W. B. Couson has made arrangements to transfer his steamer, the Fairview, from Okanagan lake to Okanagan river, below the falls at the foot of Dog lake. Owing to the delay in rendering the Okanagan river between the two lakes in a fit condition for navigation, the proprietor has been unsuccessful in his attempts to procure the ores from Camp McKinney and Fairview for shipment this way. At the former camp there is over 500 tons ready for shipment, about the same quantity is in sight at Fairview and more than four times that amount will be mined during the present summer.

T. E. Crowell, who has completed his contract on the government buildings at Midway, brought back with him many specimens of ore, and though mining operations are not yet as brisk as had been expected, he shares the general belief that as soon as transportation facilities are afforded an immense amount of mineral will be shipped from the Southern country.

Arthur Balfour, becoming tired of golf, has taken to the bicycle. The British parliament, it is said, is watching Mr. Balfour's experiments in wheeling with deep interest. Upon his success or failure rests the question of how the English statesman shall take his exercise.

The World's Fair Tests showed no baking powder so pure or so great in leavening power as the Royal.

CABLE NEWS.

Nicaraguan Indemnity Paid Over—Oscar Wilde Will Stand His Trial.

Bimetallism in Germany—The Austrian Premier Over Trouble With Papal Nuncio.

LONDON, May 16.—In compliance with the agreement under which the British men-of-war withdrew from Nicaragua, on condition that $75,000 demanded by Great Britain for the expulsion of Consul Hatch be paid in London within fifteen days, that amount of money was to-day conveyed into the treasury of Great Britain on behalf of Nicaragua by Senor Chrisanto Medina, minister to London for Salvador, who has acted for Nicaragua in London throughout the episode. The payment to-day closes the incident which resulted in the occupation of Corinto for a week by British marines and the floating of the British flag over that town. That portion of the dispute which Great Britain declined to submit to arbitration is thus settled. Such damages for losses to British subjects in Nicaragua as are claimed by Great Britain to remain unsettled will be submitted to arbitration.

The attorney of Oscar Wilde, referring to rumors that his client would forfeit his bail, stated to a representative of the Associated Press to-day that Wilde would certainly appear for trial on Monday. He is at present staying at his mother's house in Chelsea. His health is in a wretched condition.

In spite of the fact that the Chancellor, Prince Hohenlohe, deprecated the matter the upper house of the Prussian diet to-day, by a vote of 73 to 38, adopted the resolution of Count Von Mirbach in favor of steps being taken for the prompt settlement of the currency question by an agreement as to internal bimetallism.

Count Kalnoky, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs has resigned, and the Emperor has accepted his resignation. The Count tendered his resignation over a week ago, but it was not then accepted. The trouble grew out of the utterance of Mgr. Agliardi, the Papal nuncio, who denounced the Ecclesiastical law.

The examination of Thomas O'Brien, the notorious American bunco steerer, for the murder of Reed Waddle, or "Kid" Waddle, at the Northern railway station, Paris, on March 27, was held to-day. Waddle was known as the gold brick swindler, and O'Brien is said to have swindled Americans out of $300,000 of late years. When the Magistrate asked O'Brien why he killed Waddle he said: "It was necessary that one of us should disappear and I made a point of acting first."

In the House of Commons this afternoon James F. Hogan, member for the middle division of Tipperary, a well known writer on colonial subjects, asked if the government could furnish any information respecting the report that negotiations for the admission of Newfoundland into the Dominion of Canada had failed. The secretary of the colonial office, Mr. Sydney Buxton, in reply, said the government was not in a position to make any announcement on the subject.

Bessie Bellwood, a well known music hall singer, has been condemned to pay a well known physician £40 compensation for attendance upon the late Marquis of Aylesbury, while he was living in her house.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says the Journal of Trade and Industry reports that Russian kerosene manufacturers and firms engaged in the naptha industry have signed a new agreement for a general union to regulate the export trade both east and west.

Joseph Whittaker, of Whittaker's Almanac, is dead.

Unofficial reports are to the effect that General Campos has advised the Spanish government to allow him to institute a series of reforms in Cuba as a means of bringing the rebellion to an end. It is stated that the Spanish Minister of Colonial Affairs has approved the plan, and it will be put into execution at an early day. An offer of settlement in order to be acceptable to the rebel leaders, would have to include the autonomy of, or home rule for Cuba, the expenditure of the income from Cuban taxes on internal improvements instead of for Spanish war and naval expenses, amnesty to all engaged in the present uprising and the full execution of the reforms promised in 1870.

The troops stationed at Shan Hai Kwang openly revolted this morning and looted the city. People are fleeing.

It is stated at St. Petersburg that, in accordance with arrangements arrived at with the powers, Japan will withdraw her garrisons from Korea at about the end of the present year.

The Spanish government has ordered a body of 1,500 cavalry to proceed immediately to Cuba.

The Brussels correspondent of the Standard telegraphs that by command of the Emperor the Chinese admiralty was dissolved March 24, owing to the abject incompetence of its officers and a deficit of over $5,000,000. There is no prospect that the department will be re-established or that China will buy any more ships of war abroad.

YELLOW FEVER.

HALIFAX, N.S., May 16.—(Special)—Word which has come from St. Lucia, West Indies, announcing that an epidemic of yellow fever has broken out there among the British artillery, gives rise to the expectation among military men here that the Halifax batteries of Royal Artillery will be sent there to take the place of the affected troops, who will be invalided to England as soon as possible. A dispatch from St. Lucia states that thirty soldiers have already died.

CAPITAL NOTES.

OTTAWA, May 16.—(Special)—The six British Columbia members had a long interview with Hon. Mr. Bowell to-day in reference to the Westminster penitentiary affairs.

Hon. Mr. Dickey informed the house that the government had never offered to send troops to England in case of war.

The budget debate was continued by Messrs. Charlton, Amyot and Legris.

Petitions for private bills will not be received after the 28th inst.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

Dull Debating on the Tariff—The Same Old Argument—Cartwright Well Answered.

Newfoundland Negotiations—Action of Lieut.-Governor Schultz—Militia Matters.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, May 11.—With the thermometer ranging up into the nineties, the prospect ahead of the parliamentarians for the coming week is not a very inviting one. Commencing on Monday the budget debate is to be continued from day to day, and with some twenty or thirty members anxious to speak, if the rate of progress is no greater than that of yesterday, when Mr. Dickey and Mr. Martin occupied the whole of the sitting, or rather Mr. Martin, for he spoke over three hours, it will be certainly ten days or two weeks before the division takes place upon Sir Richard Cartwright's amendment in favor of a revenue tariff. Sir Richard had to take two days for his reply to Mr. Foster. Uncharitable newspaper men continue to assert that Mr. Foster so completely astonished Sir Richard that the knight was not prepared for the line of argument presented and consequently secured two or three days in which to fortify himself with arguments for Tuesday. After all the speech which the Commons had to listen to from Sir Richard was not new. It was

THE SAME OLD ARGUMENTS

freshened up a little. Opposition shilly-shallying on the tariff question has been one of the marvels of Canadian politics for the last ten years. The country still remembers the incidental protection involved in the famous Malvern speech. Following that came the endoratsion of commercial union. Then the Wiman fad was condemned for unrestricted reciprocity and now that that policy has been consigned to oblivion, the opposition, through Sir Richard's resolution, call for a modification of the existing tariff so that it may be made a tariff for revenue only. It will be a long time, however, before Sir Richard Cartwright will be able to get rid of the present policy of moderate protection. Since 1878, millions of dollars have been invested in factory buildings and plant in Canada, and employment has been given to tens of thousands of operatives. Reading Sir Richard Cartwright's speech side by side with that of Mr. Haggart, who followed him, it is not difficult to realize the advantages which the country has gained through the present Liberal-Conservative policy.

Within the next few days full particulars of the negotiations between Canada and Newfoundland will be forthcoming. On three different occasions in as many weeks the opposition have sought to force the hand of the government and to compel them to divulge information as to the

PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

This action on the part of Mr. Mills, Mr. Davies and others is, to say the least, indecent. It is well known that when diplomatic negotiations are in progress it is not in the public interest to impart information until the negotiations are concluded. The action of the opposition is designed to embarrass the ministry, and Mr. Foster showed the true instincts of a leader in so firmly declining to accede to the opposition request.

By the time the Manitoba legislature meets again it is confidently hoped that a compromise will have been reached upon the school question. There are members of the House of Commons who, rising superior to party, recognize that unless a via media is reached upon this troublesome question it may lead to a struggle in which religious prejudices and animosities will be roused, the end of which no one can foretell. The situation is one that calls for the exercise of the highest statesmanship. It is one in regard to which the party leaders may well lay aside political predilections and bring to bear upon it all the abilities they possess with a view to the amicable solution of this great problem. The opposition this week, some of them at least, sought to impugn the action of Lieut.-Governor Schultz in securing

THE OPINION OF DR. BOURINOT,

than whom there is no greater constitutional authority in Canada, with a view to reaching a right conclusion in the school question. Both Mr. Mills and Mr. McCarthy admitted that the Lieutenant-Governor had a right to obtain Dr. Bourinot's opinion. Where they drew the line was at His Honor publishing that opinion to the world. The only reason which can be assigned for this challenging of the Lieut.-Governor's action is that the opposition see in it a possible party gain for the ministry, although it may be fairly asserted that Governor Schultz had no such intention. It is asserted that the Governor-General has also intervened with a view to securing a compromise. No one, however, for a moment will suppose that His Excellency would do anything for either one party or the other, but that in whatever action he takes he would be influenced solely for the public weal.

If Mr. Davin's resolution in favor of women's suffrage is again reached this session and a division takes place upon it, it is extremely unlikely that it will be carried. There are many members of the house who believe in the emancipation of woman, although the advocacy of women's rights would have come with more force from some other person than the member for West Assiniboia. It may be that as Mr. Davin knows so little about women, he being still a gay young bachelor, his advocacy of the extension of the franchise was the outcome of theoretical zeal on their behalf. The speech of the member for West Assiniboia evinced considerable research, although he was not up to his usual form. It is not flattery to him to say that there are few abler speakers or better posted men in the House of Commons, and whatever subject Mr. Davin takes up he brings to bear upon it the resources of a well-stored mind, the result of wide reading.

Militia affairs have been very prominent in parliamentary precincts this week. The annual meetings of the Dominion Rifle Association and the Dominion Artillery Association have been held and preparations made for carrying out

THE ANNUAL COMPETITIONS

under the auspices of these two bodies. Mr. Dickey's speech at the meeting of the former association, in which he admitted that Canada had made a bad bargain in the purchase of the Martini-Metford rifles, has created considerable talk. Hon. Mr. Patterson had intimated as much in his speech at Montreal a few weeks ago, but it remained for the new Minister of Militia to frankly own up that the weapons were not what had been expected. It appears that the rifles had been constructed from Martini blanks, that is the solid barrel, and bored to the Metford size, the bullet for which is considerably smaller than the Martini bullet, consequently the barrel is heavier than the ordinary Martini barrel. A difference of a pound or a pound and a half in the weight of a rifle will have an appreciable effect upon the rifleman, and little wonder that there have been murmurs of dissatisfaction from those crack shots who have had the privilege of using the new weapon. General Herbert, who was largely responsible for the rifles being purchased, lost no opportunity of lauding them to the skies, but it is evident from what has transpired during the past few weeks that the General is not infallible. Mr. Dickey was very emphatic in his statement that the Imperial government had kept to their part of the bargain and that the mistake had been made by our own officials. The inference from Mr. Dickey's speech is that if the Imperial government require us to purchase the remainder of the weapons which have been ordered, Canada will be in honor bound to carry out the contract. Other militia matters of interest have pertained chiefly to the drill of the corps. Not only are

THE RURAL MILITIA

to be drilled this year, but there are good prospects that the city battalions will also receive their pay. The strong contingent of commanding officers who waited upon Messrs. Foster and Dickey on Wednesday, evidently made a profound impression on the Finance Minister. Many of these gentlemen have been in the service for years, and have spent time and money in fostering the military spirit. The government of Canada does not do half as much for the militia as it should, and it was therefore gratifying to the deputation to hear Mr. Foster, who is not much of a military man, confess that in his judgment too much money is being spent on the permanent corps to the detriment of the volunteers. In view of this expression of opinion from the Finance Minister, it will not be at all surprising if the permanent corps were cut down this year in the same manner as the mounted police have been.

Mr. Frank Barnard, M.P., who arrived here a week ago, is making good progress with the organization of the Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Mining Company, of which he is president. It must be gratifying to British Columbians to know that the first provincial mining enterprise placed on the London market should have been so successful, the stock having been subscribed for twice over. Mining experts who have been examining the company's property report the outlook of a most encouraging character.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, May 16.—(Special.)—Premier Greenway and Attorney-General Sifton left for Ottawa to-day by the C. P. R. Being seen at the station before they departed, neither gentlemen would speak at all as to what it was expected to do at Ottawa. Premier Greenway said the whole matter was in such a shape that there was really nothing for them to speak on. In due time the matter would be presented.

Mr. H. D. Cameron of Hamilton, who was stricken with paralysis here on Tuesday is reported to be slowly improving at the general hospital.

The first Manitoba crop report for the season will be issued on June 1. It will show that the increased acreage this year is much larger than the average increase of past years. In fact farmers in some parts of the province will find difficulty in harvesting the grain if the crop is large.

Peter Macarthur, a pioneer of the Grassmere district, is dead.

The Winnipeg council will decline Hon. Mr. Daly's contribution of $5,000 towards smallpox expenses. The aldermen think the government should contribute at least $10,000.

The Bishop of Caledonia passed through Winnipeg to-day en route to Vancouver to attend the conference to select a Bishop of Westminster.

The Winnipeg electors by 500 majority to-day adopted a by-law authorizing the issuance of debentures for the erection of new city schools.

WINNIPEG, May 17.—(Special)—Messrs. Foley and Grant, the Hudson's Bay railway contractors, reached here this afternoon and left immediately for Portage la Prairie to arrange for the beginning of grading operations.

Telegraphic reports as to the condition of the crops along the line of the Northern Pacific in Manitoba for the week ending May 17 show that the conditions are very favorable if warm weather soon arrives. The damage by frost to the grain is nil.

John Levin, a city pawnbroker, has been arrested for exposing in his window a picture entitled "L'etoile Polaire," a copy of a well known French work of art.

The residence of Peter Grasbrecht, near Gretna, was destroyed by fire early this morning, and a nine-year-old boy burned to death.

Lieut.-Governor Mackintosh is here en route to Ottawa.

TRADE REVIEWED.

NEW YORK, May 17.—R. G. Dun & Co. in their weekly review of trade say: The severe cold snap with extensive frosts and in instances snow, fortunately did little damage to the grain crops, though much to the fruit; and has besides considerably retarded retail trade. The markets are quiet. The stocks of foreign wools held here are large and are offered at prices relatively lower than those demanded by Western growers. The shoe manufacturers are doing as usual. The failures for the past week were 211 in the United States against 219 last year, and 37 in Canada against 24 last year.

Bradstreet's says: General trade throughout the country continues in the main quite favorable. Bradstreet's reports the total bank clearings for the week for the Dominion of Canada as follows: Montreal, $12,208,843, increase 7.9; Toronto, $5,881,663, increase 2.6; Halifax, $1,063,193, decrease 10.3; Hamilton, $576,247, decrease 13.6; Winnipeg, $880,921, increase 13.1; totals $20,610,776, increase 14.5.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder World's Fair Highest Award.

ARMENIAN REFORMS.

Submission to the Sultan of the Changes Demanded by the Powers.

They Are Received Favorably as They Do Not Compromise His Sovereign Rights.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 16.—A note presented to the Sultan by the representatives of the powers respecting reforms in Armenia comprises twenty-five closely written quarto pages. Among the measures preliminary to the reforms the note demands the appointment of a high commissioner, general amnesty for and release of all political prisoners, the revision of certain judgments, and the appointment of a commission to sit at Constantinople charged with the surveillance and application of the reforms, and working in concert with the high commissioner. The principal reforms demanded are that the governors and vice governors of Van, Erzeroum, Sivas, Bitlis, Kharoat and Trebizonde be Christian, or Mussulman, according to how the population of those places is divided. In any case the governor or the vice-governor is to be a Christian.

The note also suggested that such officials should first be approved by the powers. In regard to finances, all the taxes are to be collected by local and not by state officials, and enough is to be retained before the money is forwarded to Constantinople to defray the cost of local administration. This is the exact opposite to the present system, by which all taxes are first sent to Constantinople, from which city but little money returns to Armenia. The judicial reforms proposed by the powers make radical changes in the present system, ensure proper trials, the surveillance of prisons and the total abolition of torture. The police is to be composed equally of Turks and Christians, and Kurds are still to be retained in the notorious Hamadian cavalry, but they are not to be allowed to have arms, except during drill. Finally the government is to strictly enforce the laws against compulsory conversions to Islam. In many articles here it is contended that the foregoing reforms are quite inadequate and that the abuses complained of by the Armenians will soon recommence.

The Sultan read the note of the powers attentively, and his reception of it was not unfavorable. It is understood he recognized that the proposals do not compromise his sovereign rights. He had several conferences with various ambassadors, and in an audience with Baron Calice, the Austrian ambassador, the latter strongly urged the Sultan to acquiesce with the demands of the Powers. The Sultan was not offended, and sent him a valuable present. His Majesty appears to count upon the moral support of Emperor William of Germany, to whom he has sent an autograph letter by Bertram Effendi, Under Secretary of the Bureau of Indirect Taxation, who started for Berlin last Thursday.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

PITTSBURG, Pa., May 17.—Dr. Robert Russell Booth, of New York, the new moderator of the Presbyterian general assembly, was presented with a handsome gavel made from olive wood grown in Jerusalem and sent to the assembly by Rev. S. Wallace, a Presbyterian minister at Jerusalem. One of the most interesting questions to be decided during the session comes from the synod of India, and relates to the baptism of polygamists. The synod of India decided by a vote of 43 to 10 that converts with more than one wife, together with their entire families, should be baptised. Rev. J. J. Lucas, one of the minority, appealed the case to the general assembly. No other church in India imparts baptism to polygamists. An attempt is being made to bring the Briggs question to the front.

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