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# WHACK UP ON CHINA

Is Now Inevitable and Russia Demands the Largest Slice.

## FRENCH STEAMER RUSSIA STRANDED.

Kitchener Prepares for Active Offensive Work.

## NOME COLLECTOR BOUNCED.

Sergeant Pooker Will Flurry Into the Smith Family—Cincinnati Opposed to Fights.

From Monday and Tuesday's Daily.  
London, Jan. 12, via Skagway, Jan. 18.—The partition of China among the powers is now inevitable. Lord Salisbury has agreed to cede to Russia the railroad from Niekwang to Shanhaikwan. It is also believed that Russia will get the northern part of the country and Britain the Yangtze valley. Germany has declined America's proposition to submit the amount of Chinese indemnities and commercial treaties to a conference, but both decline to publish anything concerning it.

**French Steamer Stranded.**  
Faraman, France, Jan. 11, via Skagway, Jan. 18.—After a night of most terrible suffering the passengers and crew of the French steamer Russia stranded near here yesterday, were rescued safely. Unprecedented bravery was displayed by the rescuers, and their work was almost marvelous, considering the height to which the surf was running on the rock-bound coast.

**In South Africa.**  
London, Jan. 12, via Skagway, Jan. 18.—It is understood here that Kitchener now holds all the railroads, having lately recovered possession of the Delagoa Bay line. He is organizing a force of 3000 irregular horse which will at once resume the offensive. In the meantime the invasion of Capetown looks more threatening. The invaders are well provided with cannon and are being joined by many burghers.

**Russia's Demands.**  
London, Jan. 12, via Skagway, Jan. 18.—In return for denouncing her claim against England for war indemnity, Russia demands the annexation of the Liaoting peninsula and the ceding to her of Port Arthur and Manchuria railroad.

**Pooker-Smith.**  
New York, Jan. 12, via Skagway, Jan. 18.—Sergeant Richard Stewart Pooker, grandson of Senator Stewart of Nevada, will in February marry Miss Marie Condit Smith. President McKinley, Secretary Long and other notables will attend the wedding. The prospective groom spent some time in Dawson in 1898.

**Hatch Ousted.**  
Washington, Jan. 12, via Skagway, Jan. 18.—E. T. Hatch was summarily dismissed as collector of customs at Nome on the report of Special Treasury Agent Evans.

**Fernist Scraps.**  
Cincinnati, Jan. 12, via Skagway, Jan. 18.—Public opinion and sentiment here is bitter against bringing off the fight between Jeffries and Ruhlin which is billed to take place here on February 15th. Should public opinion prevail, the fight will take place before the Century Club in San Francisco.

**More Protests.**  
Toronto, Dec. 17.—Petitions against the election of members in North Wel-

lington, North Bruce, West Durham, Cornwall-Stormont and Ottawa were entered in Osgoode Hall today, and no more can now be entered, for the Ontario provincial law requires entry within 40 days after election.

All the seats are protested in Prince Edward Island; in New Brunswick against Blair, Tucker, Emmerson, Lewis, Reid, Gibson, all Liberals; and Hale, Wilnot, Fowler and Ganong, all Conservatives.

In Quebec protests have been entered against the return of Loye (Lib.) in Beauharnois, Basine (Lib.) in Joliet, and Dugas (Lib.) in Montcalm.

In Nova Scotia ten protests have been entered in all, including Roche (Lib.), Borden (Con.), and Sir C. H. Tupper and Bell, Pictou.

**Majority Reduced.**  
London, Dec. 22.—Mr. Worsley Taylor, Conservative, has been elected to represent the Blackpool division of Lancashire in the house of commons in succession to Sir Matthew White-Ridley, who, according to parliamentary usage, recently relinquished his seat in the lower house on being elevated to the peerage, with the title of Viscount Ridley. In this election the Conservative majority was cut in half. In the late general election Sir Matthew was unopposed.

**An Unreported Blaze.**  
—Besides the fires recorded yesterday there was a little blaze on the hill for which there was no alarm turned in. The roof of Commissioner Ogilvie's house took fire, probably from a flying spark, but was discovered almost immediately, whereupon the commissioner organized himself into an emergency fire brigade, and without waiting for either the advice or consent of the council, took a fire extinguisher to the roof and soon subdued the flames. No damage was done.

**Entertainment for Kruger.**  
If Mr. Kruger really feels that his visit to Europe cannot be counted a success unless he sees Lord Salisbury, some one, perhaps the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, ought to see that the thing is brought about. It would, of course, have been more complimentary to the British premier if Mr. Kruger had intimated his intention of dropping over to Westminster before those unfortunate experiences at Berlin, Vienna and St. Petersburg, but too much should not be made of an inadvertence, undoubtedly due to unfamiliarity with court customs. If he comes it may be safely assumed much will be found to interest and amuse as well as instruct the venerable statesman. The war department, with the practical workings of which Mr. Kruger is somewhat familiar, the office of the colonial secretary and its plans for the development of Britain's new South African colonies, both would have much to interest the visitor, to say nothing of certain documents dealing with the Afrikaner Bund and a long, quiet talk with Lord Salisbury, to wind up the day. By all means, let Mr. Kruger come.—Montreal Herald.

**Wasps in a Tragedy.**  
"One of the most laughable scenes I ever witnessed during the representation of one of Shakespeare's tragedies," said a well known theatrical manager to the writer the other day, "happened to the late Tom Keene when he was performing in a northern New York town. The company was playing 'Julius Caesar,' and at the last moment it was found that the property man had failed to send up the regular throne chair used in the senate scene, and an old rustic chair was hastily procured from the left of the theater and, after being covered with draping, was pressed into service. In the midst of the scene a large wasp's nest was discovered attached to the chair, and its inhabitants, becoming indignant at the disturbance they had suffered, began to swarm about the stage, seeking revenge upon the Romans in their low necked and short sleeved dresses. The wasps seemed to be particularly offended with Caesar, and it is doubtful if Caesar's death scene was ever acted with more feeling, for at the moment he was being pierced by the conspirators' daggers the wasps were most industrious in their work.

"In the tent scene where Caesar appears to Brutus one might almost have doubted its being the real Caesar. It was the same in form and dress, but the face was no longer the same. In the last act Brutus had one eye closed. Antony a swollen lip, Cassius an enlarged chin, Lucius an inequity in the size of his hands and Octavius Caesar a nose that would have done service as the famous nasal organ of Bardolf in 'Henry IV.'  
"The tragedy came very near becoming a roaring comedy when Mr. Keene, as Cassius, said 'Antony, the posture of your blows is yet unknown but for your words; they rob the Hybla bees and leave them honeyless,' and the actor who was doing Antony replied, 'Not stingless, too.'—Ex.

## WHY MRS. HULL IS GOING OUT

Her Erstwhile Partner Is Selling Her Property.

Man for Whom She Furnished Grub-stake Proves Ungrateful and Dishonest.

Mrs. Hull, formerly of Syracuse, N. Y., who left there some three years since to answer the general call for recruits for the then newly discovered Eldorado of the far north, is now in Dawson, and in accordance with the statement made in a local paragraph in yesterday's Nugget, will start for the outside just as soon as the weather moderates sufficiently to make traveling possible or safe, and in connection with this contemplated trip there is a story.

The lady did not come to the Klondike three years ago when she left New York state, but listened to the insidious voice of the transportation fiend and to the guileful story of the sour dough from Cook's Inlet, and got let in for a large lump in the way of traveling expenses, an outfit containing as did all outfits of that day, everything except what was needed, not to mention lost time and opportunities in other and better districts.

After spending some time at Cook's Inlet, Mrs. Hull went to Ketchikan, where, before leaving without having accumulated a large store of golden wealth, she grubstaked a man who knew just where to find a good thing.

He departed on his errand into the fastness of mountains, and Mrs. Hull came to Dawson where she has been since, and would remain but for the perfidy of the man she had grubstaked. She learned by letters received by the last mail that the man had apparently told the truth when he said he knew where to look for a good thing, as he not only located the mine, but since his partner has come to Dawson he has sold it in Seattle, receiving a large sum of money as a partial payment, and, according to the terms of the sale is to receive the balance the 2d of next month, so that Mrs. Hull feels that she has no time to lose in getting to Seattle.

### Early Reminiscence.

"Speaking of the freighting and passenger hauling business along the Yukon above Dawson, during the winter season," said a sour dough freighter yesterday, "put me in mind of some of the schemes that were evolved when the country was new, in the summer of '97. 'People who didn't know the difference between a pair of lead bars and a neck-yoke, and couldn't tell a goose neck from a kingpin, evolved all sorts of crazy schemes for hauling heavy freight and passengers from Lake Bennett to Dawson over the ice.

"The numbers of steam motors, traction sleds and railless locomotives were almost as numerous as the stars, and the schemes for hauling things with horses were countless.

"I remember two of these schemes in particular which were gotten up, it is needless to say, by men who knew nothing whatever about freighting or handling teams, and had never been on the Yukon, or near it in their lives.

"One of these schemes was a sled with cog-wheels hung to the runners in such a way as to admit of the teeth catching the ice. The horses worked on a treadmill arrangement behind the sled, which revolved the cog-wheels. The treadmill and body of the sled were enclosed by a tent in which were all things necessary for living almost an indefinite period without going out.

"The contrivance never got nearer Dawson than Seattle.  
"The second arrangement was a wonder. It was a sled covered by a tent which extended far enough out in front to cover four horses in a natural working position. Just in front of the sled was a strong platform on runners, from the guard rails of which, and connecting with the sled, were long poles extending as far as the leaders' heads.

"The inventor of this wonderful vehicle supposed that the ice of the Yukon was as smooth as the skating rinks he had seen, and his idea was that by working four horses, travel could be continuous by working two horses at a time and allowing the other two to ride on this platform while they took their regular rest and feed. The platform was pushed ahead, held in position by the poles when the leaders rode, and dropped back for the wheelers to ride on when it was their turn to rest; the leaders pulling them. This concern got as far as Dyea, but after one good

look at the Chilcoot its perpetrator took a boat for Seattle and never returned."

### The Popular Language.

Frederick the Great spoke and wrote bad French in his ambition to be known as an accomplished gentleman and elegant author. William the Second orders English into the higher schools of Germany as a compulsory study to the displacement of French, not to express his good feeling over an Anglo-German treaty, but because English has already displaced French as the language of international intercourse and is fast becoming the world language. In discussing the really interesting subject the Chicago Herald notes that, in the statistics given by Mulhall for 1890, the number of people speaking the various languages of Europe are divided as follows: English, 111,100,000; German, 75,200,000; Russian, 75,000,000; French, 51,200,000; Spanish, 42,800,000; Italian, 33,400,000; Portuguese, 13,000,000. It is evident, however, that the figures for English are millions short of a true computation today, since there are nearly 75,000,000 people who speak English in the United States and more than 40,000,000 in the British Isles. Add Mulhall's estimate of 14,500,000 for other parts and we should have 129,000,000, but there has been a growth in the other parts also which would considerably increase the totals.

Moreover, as effecting the question of growth and influence, Mulhall's statistics are misleading even for their own time. They give, for example, the bare statement of fact that there were 58,000,000 English speaking people in the United States in 1890. Since our census put the population at 62,622,000 it is evident that allowance is made for more than 4,000,000 residents of the country who could not speak English, but we know that if there was any such number it was destined to a rapid assimilation with the majority. In other words, there is a constant conversion going on among us which means a loss to foreign languages and a gain to English at the same time. So the development outside of Quebec and in Australia will be all English, and English will become the commonest speech of the whites of South Africa.

A writer in Blackwood's whose purpose is to prove the preponderance of English influence in the Orient, has something to say on Pigeon-English, which also has a bearing on our subject. He says that this queer largon is even used as a basis of communication between natives speaking different dialects, and adds:

"My Hong Kong 'boy' was totally unable to understand the Hankow servants in the Chinese language, but the two parties easily carried on fluent conversations in Pidgin. There is not a trace of French or German or Italian Pidgin."

The use of this debased English in the ports of China and of a purer English in the ports of India indicates the potency of the language among the most numerous people of the half-civilized world and its importance in Oriental commerce. But the commercial activity of the race is not the only thing that is carrying it abroad. A German merchant is quoted by a diplomatist at Washington in the following terms:

"I write all my letters in English. I can write in a page of English what would take three pages in German. Moreover, English expresses more clearly and exactly what I mean than is possible to German. There is no modern language so precise, so much to the point, so unmistakable."

The language which has borrowed freely from all others is not only richer and more copious than any of them but more flexible and adaptable to new conditions because of its less rigid construction. These facts and the race expansion taken together explain how its percentage of use grew from 12.7 in 1801 to 27.7 in 1890, whereas that of French decreased from 19.4 to 12.7, that of Spanish from 16.2 to 10.7 and that of Russian from 19 to 18.7, while that of German remained stationary at the figure last named. They indicate also that the advance will be even more marked in the future.—Great Falls (Mont.) Tribune.

### Weather Moderating.

From 10 o'clock yesterday morning until 10 o'clock this morning there was a variation in the official thermometer of 18 degrees, the minimum temperature for that time being 63, the maximum 45 degrees below zero, the latter figures holding the boards this morning.

The moderation in the weather is hailed with delight, by everyone in the city unless, perchance, it may be the man who is awaiting the maturing of ice worms which wither up at less than 50 below. Many teams which have been stabled for the past week were out today and a general revival was noticeable in all departments of trade.

## DUELING IN FRANCE.

THE CUSTOM HAS DEVELOPED A NATIONAL FIGHTING BLADE.

It is a Long, Strong Sword, the Epee de Combat, and With It, Were the Combatants So Inclined, Serious Injuries Could Be Inflicted.

Persons other than French are wont to maintain in spite of the occasional pin pricks that the French duellists inflict on one another that French dueling is a French farce. But Frenchmen and sometimes other persons in sympathy with them insist upon being taken seriously. They insist that dueling with swords, which is the real thing in French duels, is not child's play and that compared with it the old fashioned Anglo-Saxon resort to a "pair of fives" is brutality not to be thought of by the scraping smirker of the boulevards.

The French habit of settling disputes by resort to duels with swords has developed a national dueling weapon, the epee de combat, a long and strong blade with three triangular grooves tapering to a keen point, with edges that never are used save for defense. The hand is protected with a broad round guard shaped like the gong upon an alarm clock. The handle is straight, with no other embellishment, and balanced by a heavy pommel which projects beyond the root of the thumb when the weapon is held ready for a thrust.

It is a modern development of the rapier with which Cyrano de Bergerac fought the bullies of Paris. It shows traces of its descent through the elegant court sword which was coming into being when D'Artagnan became a field marshal in the "Duc de Bragelonne." But its hilt makes it impossible for ordinary wear in its present shape, and the epee de combat is the weapon of the French duelist and of him alone.

In 1888 General Boulanger and M. Floquet found it necessary to settle their differences at the sword's point. The critics had not much difficulty in picking the winner between a civilian president of the chamber of deputies well advanced in years who had limited his practice to sparrow shooting with a pistol and a "brav general" in the full ardor of his life whose sword was the symbol of his profession. Yet they were utterly mistaken.

If M. Floquet was no swordsman, he was full of quiet pluck and common sense, and he practiced one stroke only the night before the fight. A dozen times, though not too many to make his old limbs stiff the next day, he might have been seen in a well known salles d'armes straightening his arm and raising his wrist until he could only just see the point of his sword above and beyond the ball of his thumb. The next day Boulanger made a furious attack, with many stamps and flourishes. The little president stiffened his back, threw out his point, and the unlucky general impaled his neck upon the blade. Boulanger recovered, to die by his own hand after "Boulangism" had been discredited.

"Harry Alis" of the Debats suffered much more quickly from the effects of the epee. His real name was Hippolyte Percher, and in fighting a captain of infantry on the Ile de la Grande Jatte about certain scandals connected with the French Congo he was hit in the right armpit and bled to death.

The duel fought by Catulle Mendes in May of 1899 was almost as serious, and it was caused while Bernhardt was playing "Hamlet" by some fatuous quarrel over the physical development of the prince of Denmark. M. Vanor, Mendes' opponent, was a fine swordsman and, sportsmanlike enough to recognize the double advantages he enjoyed, contented himself with parrying correctly. Catulle Mendes threw himself on his adversary's point and was severely wounded in the stomach on almost the same ground where Percher had been killed several years before.

It often is urged outside of France that French dueling consists in merely pricking your man in the hand or forearm, as the least disablement is held to "satisfy the honor" of the combatants. But the hand and arm of an adversary are those parts of him which are nearest to you and which you can reach with the least exposure of your own person.

The wound that is produced by transfixing a hand, which may be protected only by the ordinary kid glove of social custom, is not only totally disabling, but also extremely painful. Soldiers who have been shot in the palm invariably collapse for a time with the acute agony produced by the rupture of so many delicate nerve centers. A thrust in the forearm is equally effective, for it disables all the muscles and ligaments that enable a man to hold and manipulate his sword.

But though a fine duelist is always capable of these particular thrusts—and they are far more various than would be imagined at first sight—he has by no means exhausted his strokes when these have all been parried. Attacks in what is called the "lower line" are frequently successful and invariably produce an awkward wound when they succeed. The throat is as vulnerable and as often attacked as is the chest, and it must be remembered that the entire body of each assailant is open to attack and obviously to injury.