

FROM THE CAPITAL

International Copyright Once Again Occupying Government Attention.

More Northwest Mounted Police and Dogs for the Yukon District.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Another step has been taken in connection with the question of international copyright. The subject of copyright belongs to the department of agriculture. The minister of agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher, has had the matter under consideration for some time, and has submitted a memorandum to the minister of justice, Hon. David Mills, in which he makes the important suggestion that in his opinion Americans ought to be granted copyright direct on their own application from the authorities at Ottawa, instead of being, as is the case at present, compelled to go by way of Great Britain. Some time ago it was suggested by the department of agriculture here that if the United States would drop the manufacturing clause in their copyright act, Canada would do the same, and then Americans would obtain copyright directly from Canada. But the suggestion was an extraordinary one, as was stated in this correspondence at the time, because it will be remembered the United States stood out firmly for its principles in this regard against the whole world at the Berne convention, and now to drop its manufacturing clause for the mere purpose of covering Canada would be absolutely absurd. Indeed, if the United States consented to do so, Canada would not be satisfied to drop the manufacturing clause in its act, showing that the department had considered this very intricate subject without being fully conversant with all the facts of the case. These points are being presented to the minister of justice, which, if carried out, will meet with the approval of all parties concerned. This is what the Americans have been asking for all the time, that is, to be treated as equals. Sir John Thompson, as minister of justice, gave in 1891. In 1891 the United States passed the Simons act, giving the privilege of copyright in the United States to such foreign nations as grant similar privileges to American authors. Sir John Thompson decided that the proclamation of the president of the United States did not constitute an international treaty, and that while Canadians were entitled to claim copyright in the United States, Americans were debarred from getting copyright here under the domestic laws of 1878. This point was taken on a mere technicality, but has ever since prevented any applicants from getting copyright in Canada from the United States. Those who are most familiar with the working of the Canadian act looked upon the decision as absurd, although it has always been acted on since 1891. Now the proposition has been made to rescind this decision. Hundreds of applications from the United States are being refused here, but the applicants are always told that they can obtain what they want through the colonial office.

Mr. Mills will no doubt be heard from very soon. As one of those who helped to frame and put in force the act of 1878, he is thoroughly conversant with the whole subject. He can expressly be expected to have any sympathy with the offer which was made through his predecessor to the United States to drop their manufacturing clause, since the Canadian act of 1878 has a similar clause. There are at present 90 Mounted Policemen in the Yukon. The sub-committee of the cabinet appointed to look into the whole subject of the government of the Yukon have decided to increase the police from 90 to 250. About 100 men will be stationed at Dawson, and the remainder at Selkirk, Tagish, Dalton Trail, Steekon route, and the Hootalinqua route. The first detachment will be sent from Regina early in January, and the remainder will follow as soon as arrangements can be made for their departure. It has also been decided to send more supplies into the Yukon as speedily as possible. They will be shipped over the passes by the Mounted Police before the rush begins. Fifty dogs will be sent in a few days. Then there will be 150 dogs belonging to the government in the Yukon. The government is fully alive to the reports of fears of starvation which are occasionally appearing in the press, and have therefore taken all the precautions that they can so that no one will die for want of food during the winter. John A. Barron, Q.C., of Lindsay, who represented North Ontario in the house of Commons in 1891, but who was afterwards defeated in a bye-election, has been appointed judge of the county court of Perth. Mr. Barron became prominent in the house through being the first man who brought before parliament the famous McCreevy-Lanegan charges. Mr. Tarte, who worked up these charges, was not then a member of parliament, and he got Mr. Barron, who, by the way, is an Orangeman, to bring the matter up for him. Mr. Barron did so. Mr. Barron also brought upon himself the enmity of Hon. John Haggart, for the way in which he attacked him and his administration of the railway department, and it is now some

SEAL REGULATIONS

Text of the Bill Recently Signed by McKinley Regarding Importation of Sealskins.

Act Not to Apply to Skins Which Were on the Ocean on Wednesday, Dec. 29th.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The regulations issued under the act of congress prohibiting the taking of sealskins by American citizens, except on Pribiloff Islands, and prohibiting the importation into the country of pelagic sealskins provide that no sealskins, raw, dressed, dyed or otherwise manufactured, will be permitted entry into the United States except the invoice certificate is signed by the United States consulate of the place of exportation showing that the skins were taken from seals killed within the waters mentioned in the said act, and specifying in detail the locality of such taking, whether on land or at sea; also the person from whom the said skins were purchased in their raw or dressed state, the date of such purchase and the lot and number. The consuls shall require satisfactory evidence of the truth of such facts by oath or otherwise, before giving such certificate. It is further provided that no fur sealskins, raw, dressed or otherwise manufactured, will be admitted entry as part of passengers' personal effects, unless accompanied by an invoice certified by the United States consul. All fur sealskins, whether raw, dressed, dyed or otherwise manufactured, invoices of which are not accompanied by certificate above prescribed, are directed to be seized by the collector of customs and destroyed. Every article manufactured in whole or in part from fur sealskins, to be imported into the United States are to be accompanied by an invoice certifying the name of the manufacturer and the place where manufactured, and shall be accompanied by a statement in writing, under oath of the manufacturer, that the skins used in the said articles were taken from seals not killed at sea within the prescribed waters mentioned, specifying the locality in detail; and also the person from whom the skins were purchased in their raw or dressed state, the date of the said purchase and the lot and number. It is also provided that when application is made to the consul for a certificate under the regulations, the invoice and proof of the seals being obtained by the exporter shall be submitted to the treasury agent designated for the purpose of the investigation. All articles manufactured from sealskins and imported into the United States shall have the initials stamped thereon, such as skins, whether imported as merchandise or part of passengers' effects, are required to be sent to the public stores for careful examination and inspection to prevent an evasion of the law. All garments of this character taken from this country may be re-entered on the presentation of a certificate of ownership from the collector of customs of the port of departure, which certificate shall have been obtained by the owner of the garment by offering the same to the collector for inspection before leaving this country. In speaking of the scope of these regulations, Assistant Secretary Howell said that neither the law nor the regulations made to be made to apply either to skins or garments made of skins which were shipped to the United States and were actually on the ocean on Wednesday morning, December 29th, when the act was signed by the president. Evidence of the time of shipping will be required.

SLABTOWN.

THE BODY FOUND.

The Cruel Fate Which Befel General Havelock Allan in India.

Calcutta, Dec. 30.—Colonel Sawyer, commanding the British forces at Fort Ali-Munjid, telegraphs: "On learning that General Sir Henry Havelock Allan had left his escort and had not been seen since, a search was organized. He rode a restless horse and it was thought must have been thrown near the camp. The search, however, resulted in the finding of the horse stripped and shot, with Sir Henry missing. It is feared that he is dead or a prisoner of the Sakkaheis. The search is being continued."

Calcutta, Dec. 31.—The mutilated body of General Henry Havelock Allan, it is announced from Fort Ali-Munjid, has been found and is being conveyed to Peshawar. Sir Henry Havelock Allan is commander of the Royal Irish Regiment and left England recently to investigate charges of cowardice and insubordination during the campaign that have been brought against the regiment. He was born in Bengal in 1830. His father was the celebrated Sir Henry Havelock, the hero of Cawnpore and Lucknow during the Indian mutiny. He is the first baronet, though the baronetcy had been conferred on his father, who died before receiving it. He served in the Persian expedition in 1856-57 and was with his father in the campaign against the rebels in Orde. In 1880 he assumed by royal license the additional surname of Allan. From 1874 to 1881 he sat as member of parliament for Sunderland, but resigned his seat to assume the command of a brigade at Aldershot. In 1895 he was elected member for Durham (South-eastern division). He married Lady Alice Moreton, daughter of the Earl of Duclak.

THE CRISIS IN THE EAST.

France Preparing to Cope With the Situation—The McLeary Brown Incident.

London, Dec. 31.—A special despatch from Paris says that M. Roume, head of the Asiatic department in the French colonial office, starts on a secret mission to China on Sunday, in connection with the crisis in the far east. The despatch adds that a special military mission will also start for China soon.

Pekin, Dec. 31.—Advices received from Seoul, the capital of Korea, say that a compromise has been effected by an agreement according to which McLeary Brown, the British customs agent, and M. Alexieff, Russian agent, to make room for whom Mr. Brown was removed, will work the Korean customs together. The British warships which are present at Chemulpo are there in order to give moral support to Mr. Brown.

THE NEWS CONFIRMED.

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—The Chronicle says: "The dispatches received some weeks ago announcing the sale of the Alaska Commercial Company's property to a London syndicate are confirmed. The British-American, the purchaser, was financed by the London and Globe Finance corporation and has the Marquis of Dufferin, formerly governor-general of Canada, as chairman, and Lord Loch, late governor of Cape Colony, and C. H. Mackintosh, lieutenant-governor of the Northwest Territories, as directors. The English company will carry on the business of the Alaska Commercial Company, and will also engage in banking and mining."

I write this to let you know what I would not do. I would not do without Chamberlain's Pain Balm in my house if it cost \$5 per bottle. It does all you recommend it to do and more.—J. R. Wallace, Wallaceville, Ga. Chamberlain's Pain Balm is the best household liniment in the world, and invaluable for rheumatism, lame back, sprains and bruises. Be ready for emergencies by buying a bottle at Langley & Henderson Bros., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

Smart Weed and Belladonna, combined with the other ingredients used in the best known Plasters, make Carter's S. W. & B. Backache Plasters the best in the market. Price 25 cents.

CANADIAN BRIEFS.

Winnipeg, Dec. 30.—C. B. Beauchene, of La Patrie, Montreal, indignantly denies the report that he is here for the purpose of inspecting the public schools of Manitoba. He says he is merely soliciting subscriptions for La Patrie, and has no connection with the editorial department.

At Regina yesterday Sir Charles Tupper was presented with an address by the Liberal Conservative association of that town, to which he replied at length. He claimed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had not redeemed one of his pledges, and expressed confidence that upon the next appeal to the country the Conservative party would be returned to power. Sir Charles will be banquetted at Carberry on January 7.

Winnipeg clearing house returns for the week ending to-day are: Clearings, \$1,000,000, balances \$337,500. Reports were sent that the Winnipeg troop of cavalry had been disbanded are false.

A Regina dispatch says: The following members of the N.W.M.P. left today for Skagway: Sergeant Green, Corporal Harris, Constables Allen, Spence, Dameron, First Drury, Seymour, Oatden, Ross and Brown and Dog Driver Macbeth. More men will be picked up at Calgary and McLeod. There will be 30 all told. The party is under Inspector Belcher.

Montreal, Dec. 30.—The Canadian Pacific's next dividend is now the question before Montreal's Wall street, and while all believe the half-yearly dividend to be declared in February will reach 2 per cent, some bets are offered that it will be 2 1/2.

The C.P.R. has issued a new tariff of freight rates to the Northwest and Kootenay making the reductions required by the government when the contract for the building of the Crow's Nest Pass railway was given to the company. On agricultural implements, building material, etc., the reduction is ten per cent, and on fruits of all kinds thirty-three and a third per cent.

The trouble at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary still continues. Last night while one of the guards was serving a meal to a refractory prisoner, when he opened the cell door he was struck by a brick, receiving a deep cut, and he is now in the prison hospital. Between 30 and 50 convicts, the worst in the revolt, are now locked up in the punishment cells.

Toronto, Dec. 30.—At James street church this afternoon, Rev. A. Grant, who leaves shortly to become a Presbyterian missionary to Klondike, was tendered a farewell. Lieutenant-Governor Sir Oliver Mowat presided. Mr. Grant is said to be very short in engineering talent and deficient in gunnery.

The dispatch adds that a secret agreement has been reached between Great Britain and Japan by the terms of which the Russian pretensions in Korea are to be overcome and Russian agrandizement in Asia permanently checked.

Capt. Ronald Rolfe, R.N., on inspection service, just returned from the west, on his way to Egypt via New York, says that in his opinion the force alluded to is intended to increase the efficiency of the fortifications at Esquimaut and relieve the crews of the North Pacific squadron.

THE EMPRESSES.

Montreal, Dec. 30.—Vice-President Shaughnessy, of the C.P.R., denies the correctness of the press dispatch from Shanghai to the effect that the British admiralty has requisitioned three Empress steamships belonging to the C.P.R. for service in the war cloud in the Orient. He says it is no secret that the steamers, in accordance with the conditions governing the Imperial subsidy, are available at a moment's notice for the service of the British government; but he does not anticipate that this contingency will arise. The arrangement for the use of the steamers is now stored at Hongkong and Esquimaut.

THE NAVAL RESERVES.

London, Dec. 30.—According to recent estimates the reserve force of the British navy numbers about 28,000 men. Of this number it is calculated that at least 10,000 men would be required in case of war to complete the manning of the warships of Great Britain, which are understood to require a complement of 110,000 men, whereas only 100,000 are said to be actually in service. The naval reserve problem has long been discussed by the British authorities, and the general opinion appears to be that the number of men available is far short of the number which would be required in case of war.

In addition to the men of the naval reserve Great Britain has a large reserve fleet and a number of reserve merchant cruisers, including such vessels as the Canadiana, Lurania, Etruria, Umbria, the Majestic and Teutonic on the Atlantic; and the Empresses of India, China and Japan and others on the Pacific.

New York, Dec. 30.—Regarding the rumor that the British government has decided to call into active service its naval reserve fleet, Mr. Bruce Ismay, agent of the White Star line, when seen this afternoon, said he had no official information on the subject. At the office of the British consul surprise was expressed at the report, inasmuch as Great Britain has a sufficient naval force to cope with any emergency that might arise in the east without calling on the naval reserve. The British consul here has no official information on the subject.

London, Dec. 30.—A dispatch from Peking says the action of the British minister in asking the Chinese government to delay the arrangement for the proposed Russian guaranteed loan of 100,000,000 taels for a few days to enable him to consult with Lord Salisbury in the matter was largely influenced by British opinion in China. British residents throughout China are earnestly urging the financial intervention of Eng-

THE WAR CLOUD IN THE ORIENT

Believed That the Russians will Evacuate Port Arthur at the End of the Winter.

Statistics Regarding Great Britain's Naval Reserves—France and Hainan.

London, Dec. 30.—The Daily Graphic asserts on authority that the British squadron was definitely instructed to assemble at Chemulpo to support a strong British expedition with Corea on the dismissal of Mr. McLeary Brown, the British superintendent of the Korean customs, who, under the advice of the British consul, has twice returned the notice of dismissal served on him. With regard to Port Arthur, the Daily Graphic asserts that there is every reason to believe the Russians will adhere to their pledge to evacuate at the end of the winter, and there is, therefore, no ground for complaints on the part of England. Neither does the government regard the occupation of Kaio Chau as calling for action, because British interests are not threatened. According to the Daily Graphic, both the foreign offices and the admiralty are agreed upon this point.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 30.—The following "startling" information is given in a special dispatch to a morning paper from Minneapolis, Minn.: Advice from Ottawa indicates that the British government is preparing to actively resist Russian influence in Corea, also that the co-operation of the Japan fleet with that of Great Britain is a well settled fact. Information has been received from an inside source that the Ottawa government thirty days ago notified the Canadian Pacific officials to be in readiness for the immediate transportation from Montreal to Vancouver and Esquimaut of 3,500 men, the contingent consisting of Engineers, gunners and deck officers. According to information at hand the road has prepared for hauling 10,000 men, five trains being held in readiness for the service. The officers included in the first contingent are intended to reinforce the Japan fleet, which is said to be very short in engineering talent and deficient in gunnery.

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THE ENGINEERS' STRIKE

Yukon, England, Dec. 30.—A largely attended meeting of the Engineers' Employers' Federation to-day unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the action of its representatives at the recent conference with the delegates of the striking engineers, reiterating the opinion that it is impossible to shorten the hours of labor without advance of pay. Railway traffic is good, with receipts larger than last year.

Remittances are good, owing to the fact that farmers have had an unusually profitable season. In consequence of low prices the past few days in Britain money continues unchanged; call loans are still quoted at four per cent, and prime commercial paper is discounted at six per cent. The feature in speculation is the activity and higher prices for Toronto railway shares, which are being bought chiefly by Montreal. There is a little better market also for cable, while Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunks are weaker.

There has been a continuation of the activity in holiday trade at Montreal, more generally reported by the retailers last week, as most of our French-Canadian citizens do their present giving on New Year's day, and all indications would justify one, and the belief, that the aggregate of sales is more satisfactory than for several years past.

The hardware trade held the annual meeting this week, at which it was decided to restrict credits to four months, instead of six months, in some lines, and to allow three and one-half per cent discount for cash.

The notable features of the week with regard to values are a further advance of an eighth in sugars, also an advance in molasses, while in canned goods there is evidence of greatly strengthening values.

NICARAGUA CANAL

New York, Dec. 30.—A party of fourteen prospecting engineers who are accompanying a number of capitalists interested in the construction of the Nicaragua canal sailed on the steamer Finance, of the Panama line, to-day. Upon their arrival at Nicaragua, they will investigate as to the feasibility of undertaking the completion of the canal and will submit a report.

REMOVES PAIN QUICKLY

For pain in the back, sides or chest, a little "Quickcure" spread on a piece of linen or cotton, and applied to the sore spot will remove the pain and inflammation in one, two or three minutes. "Quickcure" pots hold three and nine times trial size. Only a little is required.

Catarth of Ten Years' Standing Cured by Dr. Chase.

I suffered from catarth for ten years and was treated by some of the best physicians in Canada. I was recommended by Mr. C. Thompson, druggist-Tulsoburg, to try Dr. Chase's Catarth Cure, and can state positively it cured my catarth and Catarth Sore Throat. Yours respectfully, ANNA A. HOWEY. J. D. Phillips, J.P. Eden, Ont. Witness.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER



ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.

Japan Making Ready.

London, Dec. 30.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Shanghai, dated yesterday, says: "A British fleet of eight ships and four torpedo boats has arrived off Chemulpo (the port of Seoul). It is reported that there are two Japanese cruisers in the Yang-tse Kiang river. Japan is working night and day preparing for war. It is believed that the British and Japanese fleets are in close touch."

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Tokio says Marquis Ito is forming a cabinet. A dispatch to the same paper from Nagasaki, dated Thursday, says that Marquis Ito is maintaining a peaceful attitude.

London, Dec. 31.—The Daily Mail has received a message from Hongkong and Touquin denying the French occupation of the island of Hainan but it regards it as morally certain that Hainan was occupied about a fortnight ago when Port Arthur was occupied by the Russians. The coincidence forces the suspicion that France and Russia were acting in concert.

A despatch to the Daily Mail from Singapore, dated yesterday (Thursday), says: "The news that the French had occupied the island of Hainan was brought here from Saigon, capital of French Cochinchina, on Tuesday, by the French mail boat, Ernest Simon. Before the latter left Saigon on the 25th, a French cruiser arrived with either Admiral Bedelirio or letters from him to the French governor of Saigon. The Ernest Simon was delayed for an hour at Saigon in order to take the governor's despatches relating to the hoisting of the flag on the island of Hainan to the French government."

The cause of the delay was only known to a few on the boat, but inadvertently the secret was imparted to a French officer here (Singapore), who, not being bound to secrecy, let the matter out. It is believed that the French hold the telegraph office at Hoihow and prevent communication to Hongkong. The cable between Hainan (Touquin) and Saigon has broken under repairs and hence it was impossible for Admiral Bedelirio to telegraph the news of the seizure of Saigon.

Admiral Bedelirio, with the warships Bayard and Descares, left Hongkong on December 11. He called at Halphong on December 13 and attended the meeting of the defence committee at Halphong about that date, when the seizure of the island of Hainan was decided upon.

SHERMAN TO RETIRE.

Ambassador Hay likely to succeed the U. S. Secretary of State. Washington, D.C., Dec. 31.—It is probable that Secretary Sherman will retire early in the New Year in which event he will be succeeded by Ambassador Hay, whose experience fits him for this position.

THE ENGINEERS' STRIKE

Several Scotch Shipyards Post Lock-Out Notices. Glasgow, Dec. 31.—The Fairfield shipyards which has hitherto held aloof from the Engineers' Federation has posted lock-out notices, to become effective January 6. Many other Scotch yards will follow suit to-night.

HIGH AET.

There is a man in Detroit, no matter what his name is or on what street he lives, who, if there was no knowledge in the world, would simply sit down as the process of ignorant humanity passed by and make knowledge. He is overwhelming in his comprehension of concrete and abstract things, ordinarily and who he is in the bosom of his family and any of the women folk, old or young, ask him anything he utterly paralyzes them by the floods of information he pours upon them. In the matter of his record it was art and his little daughter was talking to him. She has taken more lessons in drawing and painting in a month than he has in his lifetime, yet he would not fail to attempt an answer to any question she might ask him. "Papa," she inquired the other evening, after dinner, and while he was reading "Quo Vadis" as if it were a Sunday school book, "what is the difference between a seascape and a landscape?" "Well, now, I didn't understand you, my dear," he answered, coughing slightly and reading his book on his knee. "I asked you what was the difference between a seascape and a landscape, papa, yes," he said, straightening up in his chair and assuming his well-known air of knowing ten times as much as he was telling. "I was thinking about something in the book here. I should say that the difference between a seascape and a landscape is that a seascape was that one was painted in water colors and the other was not. By the way," he went on confidently, "I saw a man getting along in your art studies now, my dear?" "Well enough, I suppose," she replied. "But I'm sure I'd learn lots from you, that my teacher never teaches," and she, no doubt, would—Detroit Free Press.

IF YOU HAD TAKEN TWO OF CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS BEFORE RETIRING YOU WOULD NOT HAVE THAT BAD COUGH OR BAD TASTE IN THE MOUTH IN THE MORNING. KEEP A TIAL WITH YOU FOR OCCASIONAL USE.