

As a result of the conference of steel manufacturers, held in New York last week, it is understood there will be an advance of an average of one dollar per ton in the price of steel rails.

The total vote thrown at the recent presidential election was 11,286,000. Of these Cleveland received 5,569,990 and Harrison 5,490,491, giving Cleveland an apparent popular majority of 79,500.

The Portland Me., Press tells of a locomotive bicycle that is building at the Portland Locomotive works at the cost of \$12,000 to \$15,000. It is to travel at the rate of two hundred miles an hour.

Miss Laura Schirmer the Boston opera singer, who was recently reported murdered by order of the Sultan of Turkey, has been found alive and well. She now wants to go on a starring tour of the United States.

A Maine genius has discovered that spruce sawdust is an excellent substitute for making common mortar for plastering houses. He has used it in making a house in Greenville, and other masons in the state are experimenting with it.

The Gloucester fishermen claim to have discovered that cod will bite at artificial squid, and they assert that the squabble over the last problem is settled. The artificial bait consists of a rubber squid, the counter part of the squid, the favorite bait of the cod.

The Department of State at Washington has been informed by the United States Consul at Ottawa that the Privy Council of the Dominion has just passed an Order-in-Council raising the export duty on pine logs from \$2 per 1,000 feet, board measure, to \$3 per 1,000.

It is definitely settled that Mr. Edwards will not return to the post of Secretary of the Washington Legation. Mr. Herbert will remain as Charge d'Affaires until after Gen. Harrison's inauguration, when it is all but certain Sir Francis Clare Ford will go out as Minister. Lord Sackville's name is mentioned in connection with a colonial governorship.

John Bright is still dangerously ill.

There is talk of a union of all the European powers for the suppression of the slave trade.

It is reported that another great loan has been decided upon by the Russian Government.

The Land Commission has reduced the rents on the Kenmare estate at Killybegs, 50 per cent.

Baron Hirsch has made a donation of \$5,000,000 for schools for Jews in Galicia and Bukowina.

The appointment of Mr. Munro as successor to Sir Charles Warren has been confirmed by the Queen.

The British East African Company has paid the Mombassa Arabs £3,500 for the fugitive slaves harboured by the Mission.

The proprietors of the London Times estimate the probable cost of the legal expenses before the Parnell commission at £50,000.

Remeyin, the great violinist, has been touring through South Africa. He is said to have no less than £30,000 worth of jewels given by admirers.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has taken a large house at Kensington. He is furnishing it splendidly, and is preparing for a series of brilliant socials and political receptions.

Leopold Rothschild has offered an income of \$10 a week for life to the man who will give information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the Whitechapel murderer.

During Emperor William's late hunting trip at Lelzlingen he and his party bagged in one day 630 pieces of game. Most of them were pheasants and hares, but the bag also included a dozen stags and other big game.

Advices received from the West Coast of Africa say that a rumor has reached Bonny from the Upper Niger that Henry W. Stanley is proceeding at the back of the Great Oil River under the British Flag, and that the natives are friendly.

One of the discoveries recently made in Central Africa is a village of houses built along a street and having gabled roofs. The inhabitants are of a superior order of intelligence, keep good order in the village, and sleep in beds raised above the ground.

At a council meeting of the British Medical Society, a resolution was passed deprecating the publication of the details of the Late Emperor Frederick's sickness as a violation of professional confidence. The *Lancet* says Sir Morrell Mackenzie has resigned from the College of Physicians.

There have been sundry reports in Court circles in London of late that Emperor William is suffering from an acute attack of his chronic trouble, a swelling inside the ear about which the doctors are much alarmed. It keeps him awake almost continually, and drives him to constant occupation for relief.

From Lloyd's return for the quarter ending September 30, 1888, it appears there is a remarkable increase in the amount of work in progress in the ship-building yards of the United Kingdom. The number of vessels in the course of construction is 400 as against 240, in the corresponding quarter last year.

London advices state that a conference to consider the Pacific Cable project will be held shortly, at which most of the leading houses interested in Canada and Australia will be represented. It is understood that the necessary Imperial and Colonial guarantee of £75,000 per annum is already practically assured, and that the early completion of the survey is alone needed to enable the project to proceed.

The case of Valery Weidmann against Robert Horace Walpole, heir presumptive of the earldom of Orford, for breach of promise, was heard last Thursday. A verdict was given for the defendant.

The *Cologne Gazette* declares that the diplomatic relations between Russia and Persia threatens to become strained almost to a point of breaking, owing to the ascendancy of England in Persia from a military standpoint as well as commercially. It is asserted that the Shah has refused an exequatur to a Russian Consul at Meshed, where an English Consul has long been stationed.

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