

Trouble is said to be brewing between China and Japan in Corea, and war, rumor says, may be declared at any moment. Brushed between troops of the two Oriental powers, in which several men were killed, marked the origin of the present strained relations.

The new British battleship cruiser, *Inflexible*, was given her official trials last week and attained a speed of 27½ knots, breaking all previous records. The *Inflexible* is the latest vessel of the improved Dreadnought type in the British navy, and represents the highest development of naval construction. She is one of the trio of mysterious battleships laid down in British yards in 1906 and launched, last year. She is 530 feet long and 78 1-2 feet beam. She has a displacement of 17,250 tons and is equipped with turbine engines of 41,000 horse-power.

The number of unemployed in Great Britain is rapidly increasing, and, as was remarked in this column a week ago, providing for the army of workers and their families, who are on the verge of starvation, will be a problem for grave consideration by the government, civic bodies and charitable institutions. Labor union statistics just completed show half a million skilled workmen and a million unskilled workmen unemployed. Their families total another six million, so there are seven and a half million people in England already in want.

The Chicago Cubs, the National League baseball champions, played off with Detroit last week in the world's championship series, and won for the third time in succession the most coveted baseball pennant in the world. Strangely, it was by a fluke only, that Chicago got into the world's series at all. Had not one player in the New York Giants, by his carelessness, given the deciding game in the National series to Chicago, the Giants so Detroit would have contested for final honors, with the odds in favor of the former winning.

The present American presidential campaign will go into history as one of the quietest ever waged. While great crowds attend the various meetings addressed by the two principal candidates, very little interest is being taken in the issues that are being discussed. As far as appearances go Taft seems to have rather the better chance of election. He is supposed to be reasonably certain of getting 188 electoral votes. Bryan is credited with 166 that are sure. The "great silent vote of the country," as it is called will be the deciding voice and whichever way it goes so goes the election. Betting at the present time on the issue is about 3 to 1 in Taft's favor. Bryan, however, has the advantage of being the better known of the two candidates, he has a much larger following in the country than he ever had in any previous contest, and unprejudiced onlookers are inclined to believe that he has a much stronger chance of election than is generally supposed.

The International Food Congress

The first Congress of an international character which has just been held at Geneva will be memorable because of the widespread interest it evoked. The idea of such a Congress has often been in the minds of those associated with food supply, but the standards vary so much in different countries that at the outset it may be admitted that the difficulty of meeting upon some common ground has so far prevented international action.

The Congress, which was held at Geneva from 8th to 12th September, inclusive, under the auspices of the Society of the White Cross of Geneva, owes its origin to Frenchmen, and M. Ruau, the French Minister of Agriculture, attended its deliberations and also outlined his own, and presumably his Government's, attitude in relation to the food supply. The fact that out of the 400 odd delegates present from all countries, some 250 were French, serves to illustrate the point that voting upon any resolution under such conditions could not be described in any sense of the word as representative of international opinion!

The primary object which the Society hopes to attain is described in the title, which states that it exists for the repression of frauds in food and pharmaceutical preparations. There were 29 different nations represented at the Congress, but some of these had only a very limited number of delegates present, and many were quite unofficial, having come on their own initiative. This was noticeable with regard to the United Kingdom, which was not officially represented.

The programme presented to the Congress was a large one and dealt with many subjects in varying aspects, the discussions being largely made up of a mixture of science and commerce. The first day's proceedings were taken up with arriving at definitions of wine, vinegar, cider, perry, beer and liqueurs.

The second day was voted to defining milk, butter, cheese, eggs, fats used for foods and various commodities associated with "charcuterie," which is in reality the business of pork purveying and the manufacture of pork products. With it, however, is associated preserved and other provisions. The definition of butter proved to be the one in which most interest was taken, and the discussions regarding what pure butter really was sometimes became very animated indeed. Finally, however, it was agreed

that butter was a mixture of fatty matters exclusively derived from cow's milk after fermentation, and made either from whole milk, separated fat, or a mixture of both.

The use of preservatives in butter naturally occupied much attention, and while many of the French delegates opposed it, others, as effectively, supported it, and it was soon apparent that a large number, inclusive of the British delegation, were strongly in favor of a definition that boric acid preservative should certainly be allowed. Such opposition as exhibited itself seemed to be from a section which did not attempt to specify any objection from the point of view of health, but rather from the point of view that the use of preservative favored the manufacturer as distinguished from the farmer or the co-operative societies. No decision, however, was reached, and the whole question was postponed to a future conference, to be discussed under the head of "manipulation."

The British section, through their spokesman Dr. Tunnicliffe, pointed out that the descriptive text in which the attitude of the various nations to this matter was given, was entirely wrong in stating that the use of preservative in the United Kingdom was prohibited, and that, on the contrary, it was allowed by the responsible department of State up to 50 per cent. A further discrepancy in this definition also appeared in the absence of any reference to the allowable percentage of water. On the whole the matter was left in a very unsatisfactory condition.

Cheese was defined as being the product of whole milk treated in the usual manner but, of course, such a definition can have no weight whatever. The milk from which cheese is made varies considerably, as does also the recognized fat contents of cheese, and it will need much greater precision in definition before a clear understanding can be arrived at. Eggs again were only entitled to be described as fresh when not submitted to any process of preserving, and oils and other fats did not attain any more definite descriptions. Frozen meat was placed in the category of preserved meats! A definition which will hardly be accorded general approbation, and sausages were only entitled to be described as "pure" when free from all other ingredients except meat, pork or veal in addition to the seasonings! They ought not to contain any greater percentage of moisture than the natural moisture of the ingredients. Of the other articles in the same class none call for any special notice except salted meats, which were defined as being made from meats salted exclusively with commercial salt with the addition of variable quantities of saltpetre and sugar. The inclusion of such a preservative as saltpetre may be regarded as indicating that the principle of using other preserving agents besides salt is unavoidable, and in this connection the general opinion was that it will be found impossible to inhibit the production of certain ptomaines without the use of borac acid or other similar preservative.

The manufacturers of cocoa seem to be very much divided as to what that article really is as, judging from the discussion, the partisans of the use of alkaline carbonates maintained successfully that the addition of such chemical products did not interfere with the purity of the substance. The question is one for manufacturers and some of those whose names are known in many countries insisted on the recognition of this principle. As with cocoa and its cognate productions, so with tea and coffee. Purity from admixtures of all kinds was the keynote throughout.

On the whole, the first International Food Congress may be said to have been interesting as an opportunity for the exchange of opinions on many questions affecting the food supply, and the very inconclusiveness of the discussions would seem to demonstrate the necessity for better organization in the future. The Congress may be looked upon as being established and as likely to continue from year to year.—L. M. DOUGLAS in *The Farmer's Gazette*.

Navigation in Hudson's Bay

Major Moodie of the Northwest Mounted Police in a report to headquarters dated July 1st, gives some interesting information in regard to ice movements in Hudson's Bay. He tells of the arrival at Fort Churchill of a patrol boat which left Fullerton on June 3. The members of the patrol reported that all the ice was well off the shore until within 100 miles of Churchill when they found that it was driven in and the party was detained 13 days near Driftwood Point. From that place they had to work through ice all the way to Churchill.

In the Churchill river a channel was broken through the ice on the night of June 15th, and next day the harbor was practically free, but owing to the prevalence of easterly and northeasterly winds the ice did not drift off into the bay but remained in the river current, travelling back and forth with the tides.

Spring at Churchill this year was early, the snow having completely disappeared from the level by May 6. Summer, however, was late in coming, and there was practically no warm weather until the end of June, when the mosquitoes began to get in their work. In the north the weather has been about as usual, with not quite as bad winds as during the winter. Besterfield Inlet, on Hudson bay, was free from ice when the patrol passed in the first week in June.

English Notes

The August returns of the Board of Trade show heavy declines in both imports and exports—the most severe of any month this year. The imports declined by £6,544,000 and the exports by £7,012,000. Lower prices are partially responsible, but there is certainly a heavy shrinkage in trade.

The Board of Agriculture has issued a new leaflet on swine fever. The disease is declared to be due to a microbe so small as not to be seen through the microscope. From its effects it is said to be an organic scourge. The best policy for owners of healthy pigs is to breed from them and bring in no fresh animals except a boar when needed, and which must be isolated for a due period. Swine fever exists in 14 counties, but is abating in virulence.

The custom of warranting farm animals as free from disease when sold to butchers is spreading in England. In Sussex, where the custom has made the most progress, the farmer pays a small fee to an insurance company, which is a percentage of the sale price of the animal. If the carcass is condemned and destroyed the butcher is reimbursed by the company. The Meat Traders' Association is demanding warranties for all animals bought for slaughtering after Nov. 1st, and recommending no compromise. This is a different matter from the voluntary agreements used up to now, and farmers' associations are resenting the demand. The government has declined to move in the matter and the question must be settled between the farmers and the butchers.

That all English agriculturists are not opposed to the entry of live cattle is shown by a petition to the Minister of Agriculture from the Herts Agricultural Society asking that Canadian and other cattle be allowed to enter England.

A very stringent inspection order from the Local Government Board regulating the landing of foreign meat comes in force on Jan. 1st. The customs officer at the port of landing must inform the Medical Officer of Health if meat forms a portion of the cargo, and this official shall grant a certificate, or forbid the removal of the meat except for exportation. The owner of the meat will be given immediate notice, and if the shipments have been condemned must undertake exportation within three days or the meat will be destroyed, except it can be proved that it is not intended for human consumption. Under the previous order exposure for sale was necessary before action could be taken.

The annual ram sales in connection with the Border Society at Kelso had favorable weather and a fair attendance of buyers. Twelve firms of auctioneers were engaged. A Border Leicester brought the highest price—£200. Many of the highest priced rams were sold for export.

This year's show of the Cheshire Agricultural Society was very successful, in spite of threatening weather. There was a splendid entry in all classes, the total being 2,431 against 2,335 last year. Heavy horses were a feature. An excellent show of cheese was well worthy of this famous county and year by year the demand more than holds its own.

One of the most famous bulls in the country has been sold to Senor De Alvear for export to South America. "Pride of Tees" is a roan colored two-year-old Shorthorn and was a winner at the Royal at Newcastle, and at many county shows. The price was 2,500 guineas.

There is always a great deal of interest displayed when Sir Tatton Sykes' yearlings are offered for sale at Doncaster in the St. Leger week. This year was a record sale, as thirteen lots realized an aggregate of 16,600 guineas, or an average of 1,235 gs. A Persimmon colt brought the highest price—3,000 gs. The Earl of Clonmells' yearling, "Wady Halfa" brought 1,800 gs. Business upon the whole was comparatively quiet.

The Altrincham agricultural show has the distinction of being the largest one day show in the country. This year's entries numbered 5,500 and constituted a record. The prize money offered was £1,900. An interesting new class in the horse section was for army remounts and the fifteen entries in the class were judged by an army officer who was present to give information of government requirements to horse breeders.

The directors of the International Horse Show are already organizing for next June's show in London. They have voted £50,000 for all purposes, of which amount £15,000 is for prizes. American entries promise to be ten times larger than at the last show.

Continued rains in the last half of September caused grave anxiety in those localities where grain was unharvested, but October has brought more settled weather so far, and much of the corn has been housed. Wheat prices are steady at practically last year's prices, with an excellent demand. Barley is slightly higher, but little is coming forward. Oats are being marketed freely at about last year's prices. Leeds, England. F. DEWHIRST.