Branching Out MUNYON I will grant that my Rheu Cure win size has no sin size has no size has no size has no sin size has no size h

The American Agent Is Active in the Old Country---British Manufacturers Warned.

Yankees Capture the Iron Markets-Uncle Sam Selling Steel Rails to Russia-Retirement of the "Hanging Judge"-Britain and the Nicaragua Canal-Curious Request Credited to the Queen-Christmas Pantomime.

Mon to assert that the foremost topic compelling attention in Europe in general and in Great Britain in particular overshadowing the dreary broils of domestic politics, is the remarkable, aggressive commercial prosperity which the United States is manifesting. Hardly a newspaper review or a public speaker during the past month has failed to notice with what giant strides America is coming into the first place in the alignment of the powers. It is certainly the chief object of conversa-tion on Lombard street and on the continental bourses

NEW YORK FORGING AHEAD. The manager of one of the greatest can business man into his private office and said in awestruck tones: "This is the first time in the history of finance that New York has been in a position to dictate money rates to London, Ber-lin and Paris."

The bank manager added that London's purchases of American securities the feathers-weight compared with the balances of trade in New

MR. BRYCE GIVES WARNING. Mr. James Bryce, in a speech before the Leicester Chamber of Commerce, sounded a warning to British manufacturers. He pointed out that the business of the United States was developing along many important lines which Creat Britain, he added, should have held against all competitors. Mr. Bryce unhesitatingly asserted that the United States could produce rails cheaper than Great Britain, and said he saw no possibility of opening new markets except in China. CAPTURED THE IRON MARKETS.

Great Britain seems to have become reconciled to the capture of the iron markets by the United States. American firms are uniformly successful in adding against the British firms. The Carnegie Company and the Illinois beel Company have opened extensive inces in London, and are making inroads upon the British preserves. UNCLE SAM HUSTLING.

A dispatch from Berlin says it is a ordered 80,000 tons of American rails, and the prospect of American competithe contracts in connection Russia's extensive railroads alarms manufacturers there and elsewhere. Consuls assert that all Europe is swarming as never before with the agents of American manufacturers of steel, street railroads, electrical apparatus and all kinds of machinery, who are leading the commercial invasion.

A RUSSIAN LOAN. The reports of attempts to float a

Russian loan in New York have been received skeptically here.

Several financiers have told representatives of the Associated Press that Russia tried to raise money in London, Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam, and that she seems to have turned to the United States as a forlorn hope, possibly with the hope of reaping incidental political advantages. But it is admitted that it is a question of a short time when capitalists will have to recken with New York as a competitor

The Daily Chronicle comments upon the fact that American capitalists have the courage of their financial opinions if they think they know the European situation better than the capitalists of the old world."

THE HANGING JUDGE. Judge Hawkins, a ruddy, keen-eyed old gentleman of sporting proclivities, is the largest personage in the public eye, since the announcement of his retirement from the bench on Dec. 19. The newspapers and clubs teem with dotes of his sharp temper, kind heart and quick wit. His departure from the bench was as eccentric as his care upon it. It has been said that he adjourned court after recording the verdict in his last case, and walked out, cutting off the attorney's attempts et the customary valedictory laudations with the remark, "No speeches." His popularity was greater with the public than with the profession, the people believing that in spite of his trascibility and his habit of violently taking sides, he seasoned his judgments with the sauce of common sense. The

Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg. Your future wealth depends upon your present health. Take care of it in your own interests. ABBEY'S EF-PERVESCENT SALT is the best known regulator of health. It's daily use will keep your spirits bright and your health good keep you in a moneygists sell this standard Eng-

lish preparation at 60c a

CARARARARARARARA

large bottle; trial size, 25c.

London, Dec. 26 .- It is no exaggera- bar's chief grievance was that, although 81 years of age, he persisted until the last in holding court far into the night. The retirement of Judge Hawkins leaves the bench unusually colorless in personality.

SIR GEORGE'S NEW BOOK.

Sir George Trevelyan, the former secretary for Scotland, promises an interesting book in a month, a "History of the American Revolution." He recently wrote a biography of Fox, the minister of George III., and his studies convinced him that a history of the parliament of that period could not be judged without a record of the events beyond the Atlantic. So the new work will be in the nature of a sequel of Sir George Trevelyan's biography of Fox. Its spirit is indicated by Tennyson's London banks recently drew an Ameri- lines, which have been prefixed as a

> "Strong Mother of a Lion line, Be proud of those strong sons of thine, Who wrenched their rights from thee."

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME. The old institution of the Christmas pantomime holds many theaters here. Among the Americans appearing in leading parts are Amelia Stone, at Drury Lane; Thomas Murray, at Manchester; Julie Ring, at Birmingham; Julie Mackey, Madge Ellis, Ed. Tredway and Billee Barlow at other places. The American comedy "What Happened to Jones?" has attained its 200th performance here. Reports of new opera enterprises are unusually numerous. It is announced that steps are being taken towards founding a Wagnerian theater on the Beyreuth plan, and an Austrian millionaire is credited with the intention of building a grand opera house in the heart of Belgravia. A scheme to exchange artists and operas between the grand opera at Paris and Drury Lane is under dis-

BRITAIN AND THE BIG CANAL. A London correspondent, cabling this afternoon, says: Although much has posed abrogation of the Clayton-Bullar tariff war. wer treaty. It is still premature to speak of any formal negotiations to tinued for some time before any formal negotiations are opened.

The result of the tentative inquiries is reassuring and satisfactory to the foreign office. They indicate the United States administration's willingness to accept the Clayton-Bulwer treaty as the starting point for new negotiations, and consent to meet half-way the British views of a neutral canal with equal privileges to ships of all nations.

On the English side there is no desire to share in the construction or control of the canal, providing the United States undertakes both. On these terms there is reason to believe the preliminary soundings about a canal are much more satisfactory to the British Government than is the progress made in

the Canadian negotiations. With respect to the latter, England's poistion is very difficult. For world purposes, especially in the far east, Lord Salisbury does not desire to ampair the Anglo-American friendship. He wishes also for imperial purposes to uphold the Canadian preferential tariff for British goods; and thirdly, for Canada's sake, he would like to obtain for her trade advantages with the United States in the present settlement of differences.

A QUEER REQUEST.

The English habit of entirely dropping serious affairs at the holiday season has respited the squabbles about the Liberal leadership. But Sir Edward Russell, who is writing his reminiscences, furnished material for a new controversy. He writes that when Lord Rosebery was resigning the premiership the Queen earnestly, almost affectionately, begged him not to turn Conservative. He explains that her Majesty dreads the alignment of all the aristocracy on the Tory side against all the commonalty on the Liberal side. Lord Rosebery has promptly requested the newspapers to deny the statement, and Sir Edward Russell says: "I have good reason to believe it is true, though nobody shall drag from me my auth-

The English newspapers pursuing their traditional policy of keeping the sovereign above partisan politics, refrain from commenting upon the incident, but the people discuss the story with the utmost interest.

ANGLO-AMERICAN FEELING. Commenting on the work of Prof. Woolsey, of Yale, on America's foreign policy, the Saturday Review commends it to the careful consideration of wellmeaning sentimentalists, bewitched with the dream of an Anglo-American alliance. The chief value of Proz. Woolsey's addresses, says the Review, "is found in the fact that it shows that the normal attitude of the United States towards Great Britain before the spring of this year was one of settled hostility. People, ho build high upon the sudden friendship of the United States ought to remember that this friendliness, short-lived, has behind it a century of hatred, not that the people of the United States hated Great Britain, but the policy of their govern-ment and the attitude of their poliucians have been persistently unfriendly. Can it be supposed that a long, deep-set hostility will suddenly disappear from the policy of the political bosses in Washington, as if it never

WOMEN VOTE IN FRANCE. Commercial Agent Atwell at Roubaix, France, in a report to the state department at Washington, says that for the first time in that country women paying



that my Rheumatism Cure will relieve lumpago, sciatica and all rheumatic pains in two or three hours, and cure in a few MUNYON.

At all druggists, 25c. a vial. Guide to Health and medi-

a tax on the profession or trade in which they are engaged will be entitled to vote. Judges of a class, which considers commercial matters are to be elected during December and women will be allowed to vote for them. In Roubaix, although there are several hundred women entitled to suffrage, adde Mr. Atwell, it is a remarkable fact that not one has yet inscribed herself. The women of Turcoing, an adjoining town, seem to be more progressive, as twenty have complied with the necessary formalities. French wo-men as a rule are not enthusiastic concerning the right of suffrage. 8-9 COMMENT ffJ- J- J-

TOOK A HINT FROM WILLIAM. Berlin, Dec. 25.-The result of the trial of Frank Knaak, of New York, who was acquitted of the charge of referring to Emperor William as a "blockhead," on the ground that he was in no position to realize his offense, came as a great surprise, even to counsel for the defense, as the testimony was precisely similar to that of the majority of such cases which have ended in conviction. The presiding judge, Herr Denso, convicted R. F. Kneebs, the American horseman charged with "ringing" the mare Bethel on the German turf, and sentenced him to nine months' imprisonment and to pay a fine of 1,000 marks. Judge Denso is considered to be very severe and learned, and there is the very best authority for saying that the acquittal and unusual leniency shown Mr. Knaak were due to a hint from Emperor William that his acquittal, if legally possible, would be appreciated by his majesty and by the German Government, in view of the present delicate relations between the United States and Germany. GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

The officials of the United States embassy generally express the opinion that the German Government sincerely desires to improve its relations with the United States, and sees indications pointing to a successful issue of these efforts, though the bills simultaneously introduced in the House of Representatives and in the Senate at Washington, foreshadowing retaliation, have been received with a great show of indignation by the governmental press, while the Liberal, and especially the commercial papers, have unanimously expressed fears that the legislative ac-

The Vorwaerts says: "The greed of the agrarians has disturbed our relations with America for years past. that end. All that has taken place so Under the pretext of protecting the far has been merely a preliminary teethealth of the German people, the iming of the ground by each government, portation of American products has been prevented in spite of the treati Continuing, the Vorwaerts demonstrates that German exports of sugar, textiles and wines to the United States are worth 18,000,000 marks, and says: 'As the financially weaker of the two, Germany will undoubtedly be the loser. But the agrarians ignore this. Provided the enhanced food prices flow into their pockets, they snap their fingers at the

hungry masses." The Boersen Courier, a leading commercial organ, says: "It is evident that the United States is preparing for a commercial war with Germany, which the German agrarians seem to regard as a trifling matter. We hope the Berlin and Washington Governments are more conscious of their responsibility. We fear the German export trade will have to pay the score the federation of husbandry has run up."
The agrarians are jubilant at the

prospect of a tariff war, which has been their dearest aim for years. A number of insuring articles have been published in their newspapers deriding the

Are a Very Independent Class of Men.

Have No Unions, but Manage to Bring the Bosses to Time Easily.

Havana, Dec. 25. - There are 18,000 cigarmakers in Havana. They have no union, and are not affiliated with any organization. Once upon a time they organized a union, but it died young. Although not organized they earn good wages, and they will struce as quickly as any organized workingmen in the Unitel States if things the shope are not going to suit What is more, they can bring the bosses to their terms. There is no question about it, for they have done so in the past. The fact that done so in the past. they can do it without a union is, however, no argument against a union. There are reasons why it is not.

SPANISH STEADIEST WORKERS. While the whole number in the city is 18,000, probably not more than haif that number are steady workers. The rest are men who work irregularly. Some of them have not the skill to make fine cigars. Others cannot be depended upon to work only when the factories are rushed with orders, and there are no more steady hands to hire. In point of skill there is no difference between the Spanish and the Cuban cigarmakers. The Spanish cigarmaker is, however, said as a rule to work more days in a year than the

Most of the shop foremen are Spaniards. A reason probably why there are so many Spanish foremen is that before English and German syndicates bought up most of the large cigar fac-tories in Havana, the owners were Spandards. They not unreasonably gave positions of responsibility in their factories to their own countrymen. The Spanish foremen and the Cuban cigarmakers have generally gotten on

very well. Inasmuch as the finest cigars in the world are made in Havana, the best cigarmakers in the universe work here.

Who can roll cigars that will suit kings and princes and other royal smoking personages of Europe — or even cigars that sell for \$1 each in the United States. The cigarmaker who can roll these kinds of cigars never has to hunt for a situation. He can take a vacation any time he pleases and when he feels like settling down to work again he can find an opening in any big factory. He commands a centen a day, or \$5 30 in Spanish gold, and his board.

ONLY GOLD GOES FOR PAY. All factories pay their cigarmakers in Spanish gold. If they united to pay in silver there would be a strike right away. The bosses tried it once this year. During the four months of the blockade mighty little gold was to be had. The cigar manufacturers notified their men that they would have to shut down unless silver was have to shut down unless silver was accepted for wages. The men agreed to take silver. When the blockade was raised the bosses gave notice that was raised the bosses gave notice that they were going to continue paying wages in silver. The men in most of the factories said they would strike. They had been living on half-fare during the blockade, half-starving, and they would stand it a while longer. The bosses gave in. They are paying wages still in Spanish gold. wages still in Spanish gold.

HAVANA'S DURTY KITCHENS. It may strike American cigarmakers that manufacturers should board their cigarmakers. They do it in many factories here. Not all the men, however, are boarded in any factory. Only the more skilled as a rule are boarded and provided with sleeping quarters. It does not hurt the sanitary condition of a factory, because workingmen eat and sleep in it. One Havana cigar manufacturer, who is worth several million dollars, lives with his family in a part of the building where he has his factory. It can be said for Havana's cigar factories that they are by far the cleanest build-

ings in the city.

There are cafes in Havana with marble floors and glass chandeliers, and where everything that is expected to meet the eyes of guests is very expensive. The guest will be wise who doesn't peep into the kitchen. It is one of the singular things of the country that public conveniences, which in hotels or cafes in the United States are placed in the basement or some such place, are here invariably located as near as possible to the kitchen. An American, after a tour of a Havana cigar factory, will enjoy a Havana cigar better than ever before, for the notion will be gone—if he ever had it—that Havana cigars are made by dirty workingmen and in the midst of filthy

PRETTY EXPENSIVE SMOKES. By \$1 cigars is meant cigars that United States \$1,000 cost dealers in st of making them is per 1,000. Th 00. That is what the about \$110 p He may make 60 or he makes 50 it isn't a cigarmaker 70 in a day. Cigars that have a bad day's wo in the United States very large sa who get \$32 per 1,000. are made by me Prices of fine grades run from that figure up, but some grades are made cheaper. The men who pack these fine grades of cigars, and who can distinguish shades where the ordinary eye could see no difference, gets as high as \$35 a week, while men who select

the tobacco for the cigarmakers get from \$18 to \$40 a week. So, on the whole, Havana cigarmakers are pretty well paid. They live and dress well.
With the reputation for excellency
that Havana cigars have the world over, manufacturers find it to their interest to hold the goodwill of the cigarmakers. They get enough for their cigars so they can afford to pay good wages. Every cigar is handmade. No molds are made. There are no restrictions as to the number of apprentices who can be em shop. Few manufacturers try to keep down their pay roll by hiring more than the proportionate number of boys

states. POINTERS FOR CIGARMAKERS. Now that so many eyes in the United States are turned towards Cuba many American cigarmakers who learned trade in American shops may be thinking of coming down here and seeking employment in Havana shops. There are a few things they must bear in mind. Havana cigare are all made in what is known as Spanish styles. A first-class United States cigarmaker could not enter a Havana shop and do himself justice. They make cigars here without binders, and they roll them differently than in American A bright American cigarmaker might, however, after some weeks of practice and observation in Havana

that work in shops in the northern

shops, catch on to the style. There are a small number of cigarmakers who learned their trade in either Germany or the United States, They have learned the Spanish style. Cigarmakers can individually determine for themselves whether they can change the style of making cigars that they learned in American factires, and that they have always fol-lowed. As for the chances for learning the Spanish method-well they might find some and then again they might not. If a man has worked 10 or 15 years making cigars a certain way he can determine for himself whether he can change to a new way.

During Gen. Weyler's rule some of the Havana cigar manufacturers combined to reduce wages. The men began to talk strike. Gen. Weyler heard of their talk. He notified the manufacturers that he had trouble enough on his hands without having an army of striking cigarmakers loose on the town. If the manufacturers didn't head off the strike he would coak them with a new and increased rate of tax-ation. The manufacturers concluded continue the old rate of wages. There was no strike.

The Nutritive Properties of



The Best Tonic

are so great in proportion to bulk that a wineglassful three times a day will secure results. Weakness and fatigue own up to its mastering power.

All druggists sell it.

Canadian Depot: PABST MALT EXTRACT, 66 McGill St., Montreal.

A Useful Present And a Good Investment Would Be a Genuine

Heintzman & Co. -Piano-

\$325 00 We are offering Special In-\$10, \$12 \$350 00 ducements in Prices and \$375 00 Terms this Xmas week to Month \$400 00 purchasers, and will give you Will \$450 00 better value for your money Buv \$500 00 \$600 oo than any one else in London. One....

When you buy a Piano with a reputation, indorsed by noted musicians such as W. Caven Barron, Principal London Conservatory of Music; J. T. Wolcott, Organist First Methodist Church; C. E. Wheeler, organist St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church; Miss Armstrong, musician and graduate of the Brantford College; Prof. Fisher, Vogt, Torrington, and all the best musicians and artists in Canada; the Piano that is the favorite in the homes of the cultured n your own country, you naturally feel that you are getting a superior piano, such as the Heintzman & Co. Pianos are.

Would you select a Piano that stands the Peer of all Canadian

Pianos. Then choose only a genuine

HEINTZMAN & CO. PIANO.

Some Rare Snaps in Slightly Used "Upright" and "Square" Pianos and Slightly Used Organs.

WAREROOMS OPEN EVERY EVENING UNTIL 10 P.M.

Heintzman

217 Dundas Street, Corner Clarence. J. A. CRODEN, Manager.

BORNO CONTRACTOR SOLVEN SERVICE SERVIC

Solid Comfort.

It is not enough to have rubbers keep out the wet. If the fit be not perfect they will g draw the feet. It costs money to employ skilled pattern ma-& kers, in order to turn out rubbers in all the latest shoe I shapes, but the Granby Rubber Co. do it and the result is that



Grandy Rudders - Overshoes §

are known to be right up-to-date. The thick ball and heel make them last twice as long; while the thin rubber used in the other parts makes the whole very light. Insist on seeing the Granby Trade Mark on the sole.

GRANBY RUBBERS WEAR LIKE IRON.



John Ferguson & Sons FUNERAL DIRECTORS and EMBALMERS. FIRST-CLASS IN ALL APPOINTMENTS. 174-180 King Street. Telephone-House No. 373; Store No. 543.



MERRY BELLS! WE MAKE

Bells and Brass Work 121 Clarence Street,

LONDON, ONTARIO JOHN LAW, Esq., London, Ont.,
Dear Sir—We have been using your No. 1
babbit for our motors and find it the best we
have tried and very satisfactory, our journals
having run exceedingly cool, and we have no
hesitancy in advising its use. Wishing you
success with the sale of the same, we are,
Yours truly

Yours truly, The Electrical Construction Co., of London, Limited. E. L. Sifton, Manager.

Our Babbits Metals are equal to any and cannot be beat. What John Law says is true.

IF YOU DESIRE TO FEEL COMFORTABLE

this Xmas, purchase a pair of the Webb Glove-Fitting Corsets, Price \$1, worth \$1 50. A specialty until 1st January. If you want a bargain now is your chance. E. J. WEBB, 290½ Dundas street, between Wellington and Waterloo streets.

Ulcers in Mouth, Hair-Falling? Write Cock Bemedy Co., 1,667 Masonic Temple, Cl. cago, Ill., for proofs of cures, Capital \$100,000. Worst cases cured in 15 to 35 days 500 page book free.