The Planet.

B. STEPHENSON Proprietor.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1903 OUR LATE QUEEN.

Sunday marked the fourth anniversary of the death of the late Queen Victoria, recalling a reign that in its profound effect upon English national character merits to stand beside that of Alfred or Eliza-

It was at a critical period for the English monarchy that Victoria, a mere slip of a girl, ascended the throne. Belief in the divine right) of kings had received rude jars during the uncertain Stuart period. It was more unsettled even by the inadequate sway of the early unkinglike Hanovers. The French and American Revolutions had stirred the imagination of the fearners. tion of the "common people," while the Napoleonic campaign had occasioned such real distress through out England that the stolld masses were at last stung to open dissatisfaction with their social conditions A new basis of constitutional administration was needed-by the people for the people.

The time being ripe for change it may be regarded as provident at that no masterful son of kings was sent then to England's throne, but a girl, sens ble and sympathetic with a high perception of duty and with tact that made it easy for her to settle into the position British sovereigns must occupy in fu ure. With the natural deference of her sex to masculine judgment she permitted herself and the nation to be ruled by her subjects through her statesmen. These men upon whom the duty of reorganization developed were alive to their new responsibilities. The traditional joyalty of Englishmen to

their rulers was heightened, too, by a strong flavor of chivalry. The image of the girl-Queen, of the de-voted wife and mother, and later the pathetic little figure in black—always a striking example of virtue in public and private life-put Downing street upon its honor. So that back of its ponderous machinery of office and red-tape sm it is the most honorable of governments among the great nations to-day.

When Victoria ascended the throne it was to find the masses demanding efficient franchise laws and better education. A widespread commerce that had grown steadily since Elizabeth's reign required reliable home government to sustain its prestige. Matters relating to labor and the relief of the poor clamoured for ad-justment. As these questions came up one by one for settlement-deliberately, as is England's wontthe well known wishes of the sovereign exerted a strong, if silent influence for the betterment of social conditions among the masses, When a satisfactory system of home-government had been established in the Motherland, new interest in the colonies was awakened, and Victoria, crowned Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, d'ed the Sovereign of a unit-ed world-wide Empire.

This fact, perhaps, rather than the initiation of social reforms will give Victoria's long reign its distinction in history. It was an age of Imperial thought as well as social advance, and the unobtrusive figure on England's throne was a potential factor for all that tended to strengthen the Empire.

THE ST. PETERSBURG TRAGEDY.

The news from St. Petersburg makes a cryptic writing as yet, which all the world is trying to read. Is it street disorder arising out of a strike, or is it—Revolution? Is it a Homesteadriot, or is it an attack on the Bastile ?

The action of the authorities in dealing so harshly with what purported to be a gathering of striking workingmen to petition the "Little Father," and risking the shedding of citizen blood at so critical a juncture in the affairs of the Empire, would seem to indicate that they, at all events, regard the movement as more than industrial. This is a time when a wise government would conciliate the people as much as possible; and, if we can take the point of view of an autorrey, the Russian Government has not been unwise as a rule. Xet we see that it has ordered the reception of labor petitioners with ball cartrfidge, and has taken a step which must allenate the strikers and their sympathisers from the Ozar's Government if that had not been done already.

One of the main bulwarks of the

Russian autocracy in the loyalty of the people has been the belief of the on man in the real fatherhood of the Czar. The Czar may be badly advised, he reasons, or he may be deceived and kept in ignorance of the true state of affairs; but his heart is with his people, and he would never willingly do them harm. This be-



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lief has prevented the spread of revo lutionary doctrine among the toiling classes more than any other 'on thing; but the shooting down of workingmen who merely wished t approach the "Little Father" with a filial petition, is just such an ac as will dispel this belief and open th way for revolutionary propaganda.

The next steps in the tragedy will reveal much of its meaning. We are told that the soldiers have been generally loyal so far, though one de spatch relates that a few hundred men threw down their arms at th bidding of the people. But a mo significant comment on this gener loyalty is that the troops in Mosco and other great centres are not the same class as these loyal regiments in St. Petersburg. The St Petersburg soldiers are looked upo generally as the "crack corps" of th army, their officers being wealth aristocrats and the men being re cruited from the better classes. Thes troops will have a class sympathy with the court and against the people, which will make it as natural for them to be loyal as for regiment drawn largely from the masses to follow the example of the old French Guard and go over sto the revolutionists. Consequently we may not be told of the same readiness of the soldiery to fire on the people if we are asked to read accounts of rioting in other cities.

That real trouble at home must caralyze the armies on the Shakhe, plain enough. The Government had as large a task as it could carry, keeping the fighting line supplied with men, food and ammunition before its attention was diverted by domestic trouble; and now, with the victorious and resourceful Jap forcing the pace, and with spring bring-ing the prospect of far greater activity, it is difficult to see how the Russians can maintain the struggle. They have to choose between a southern port and a northern As for the outside world, Germany

undoubtedly the most directly in-

terested if there is real trouble in the air, And Germany is the one nation which can effectively intervene, Still the experience of Germany and the rest of Europe with their efforts to set the Freach revotion right, will not invite to rash action—in case a copular rising does come. Britain, at all events, cannot either gain or lose very much by the explosion. Her sympathies are sure to be with the effort to establish a freer 'government in the land of the Czars, though the experience of the French again will remind us that her sympathies are apt to be repelled by excesses. Still in any case she must be a mere spectator, unless the action of Continental Europe

We are as often duped by difference as by confidence.

threatens to disturb the balance of

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OFFICIAL RETURNS

Reference Record of Results in East and West Kent at the Last Pro-vincial Election

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T.	CHATHAM CITY.	
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1.	I flompson's	
2.	Uidershaw's hones 111	
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5.	SHELL CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY	
6,	Cherry's 75	
7.	Town Hall	
8.	Gulden's Lation shop 30	
9.	Oldershaw's office 24	
10.	ILDOU'S	
11.	MCNav's 87	
12.	Calmeyn's 67	
13,	Savage's 93	115
14.	Waterhouse's bakery. 56	
15.	Kelly's 54	
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D	fajority for Fraser-27.	905
	DOVER.	
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2.	Town Hall 54	42
3.	La Vasseur's Hall 97	57
4.	Hag nall's	110
5.	Cheff's Hall	32
6	Raymond's Hall	83
DE CO	Raymond's Hall 56	. 20

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е	WALLACEBURG.	
	Fraser, Pa	rdo.
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E.	Z. Town Hall 103	108
е	3. Fire Hall 97	66
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	Fraser, Pa	rdo.
d	1. Taylor avenue 78	90
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3.	Cooper's school house	26	
4	Oddfellows Hall, Mer-		
	Lin	42	
5.	Public Hall, Oninn	61	
U,	Jeannette's Creek	28	
1.	S. S. No. 2	18	
8.	Grange Hall	47	

	Pardo's majority-135.	277	41
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	RALEIGH.		
	Frae	er. I	ardo
1.	Boley's house	80	4
2	Bloomfield	52	7
3,	School House, Con. 7	58	5
4.	North Buxton	57	6
5.	Doyle's school house	33	7
6.	Merlin	64	6
7.	Forester's Hall	39	5
8.	Mrs. Jenner's house	23	5
9.	Ouvry school house	14	6
10.	School House No. 10	31	9
			1.70

	454	639
Pardo's majority-185.		
RECAPITULATION	ON.	
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7 142 HARWICH. Davidson, Johns. Lee

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Grand total-2292, 197, 2468. Lee's majority-276. Rejected ballots-21. Spoiled ballots-20 MAKES MEN

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