

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR.

VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1896.

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Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

MADAGASCAR EXCITED.

Narrow Escape of Europeans—German and Dutch Flags Torn at Lorenzo Marques.

Elected to the French Academy—A Prominent Witness in the Russell Trial III.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—Despatches received in Paris from Antananarivo, capital of the island of Madagascar, announce that the insurgents, during the night of November 18th, looted Amoronimanga, 10 miles from Antananarivo. The insurgents captured 40 prisoners and all the cattle. The English residents had a narrow escape from being massacred.

The English steamer British Peer, Capt. Jones, which sailed from London October 4th for Cape Town and Portland, Or., has been wrecked in Saldanha Bay, South Africa. It is believed 14 persons perished.

Alfred Nobel, inventor of nitro-glycerine, died yesterday evening at San Remo, Italy.

The German and Dutch consulates at Lorenzo Marques, Portuguese South Africa, have been attacked, during which a British flag was torn to shreds and the Dutch consuls wounded. Germany has, in consequence, demanded satisfaction of Portugal. The Cologne Gazette says that the German warship Condor is on her way from Port Natal to Lorenzo Marques, to enforce the demand if need be.

Lady Selina Scott, the principal defendant in the suit brought against her and three men by her son-in-law, Earl Russell, for criminal libel, is critically ill.

Andre Theunet, the French literature, was to-day elected a member of the French Academy, receiving eighteen votes to four cast for Emil Zola. Zola was also elected to membership, receiving twenty votes to Zola's two.

It is reported that prosecutions will be commenced against the newspaper Bank von Haudeils Zeitung for publishing the statement that Prince Bismarck made his disclosure in the Hamburger Nachrichten because the Czar had been dissuaded by high personages from visiting the ex-Chancellor.

The Reichsanzeiger announces officially that the intrigues in which Baron von Luetnow is alleged to have been connected were discussed by crown counsel at Hubertusstock on October 7, when a report was made to the council to the effect that the Baron was the author of the article "Die Welt am Montag," which brought about the recent trial and conviction of journalists and the disclosures which developed during the hearing of the case.

The ninth games of the chess match between Lasker and Steinitz, a queen's gambit, declined by the former, was played yesterday evening in Moscow and ended in a draw after 46 moves. The present score is, Lasker 5, Steinitz 0; drawn 4.

MR. TARTE PROTESTS.

MONTEAL, Dec. 10.—(Special)—Mr. Tarte protests to-day in his paper, Le Cultivateur, against the reference made to him by Rev. Mr. Corbett, of St. Columban's church, Cornwall, last Sunday, stating that Mr. Corbett's statements constitute a political harangue, which, he said, should not have been made in a church—at a place where people go to pray and not to discuss politics. "If Mr. Corbett," says Mr. Tarte, "is anxious for a full and entire discussion of the political side of the school question, there is a fine hall in Cornwall, where I am prepared to place myself at his disposal. All day. He has not been in Manitoba while I have just returned from there."

THE TURKISH SETTLEMENT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—A special cablegram to the Evening Post from London says: "The truth about that reported agreement of the settlement of the Turkish problem is that the powers agreed upon a joint peremptory demand on Turkey for special reforms on the return of M. Nildoff, the Russian ambassador to Constantinople. But Russia absolutely excludes coercive measures, so that no practical result is expected in reliable quarters."

HAWAII AND THE UNITED STATES

HONOLULU, Dec. 4.—(Per steamer to San Francisco Dec. 10.)—Annexation club No. 2, of Honolulu, has adopted a resolution declaring that it is still the earnest desire of residents of Hawaii to secure annexation to the United States and urging the Hawaiian government to press the matter upon the consideration of the American congress.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—The aquarium which has been established in old Castle Garden, was, after many delays and postponements, formally opened to-day. It is considered to be the finest exhibition of its kind in the world and will be open to the public from 10 to 4 every day except Sunday and Monday.

pelled to retreat to Punta Brava. At Punta Brava the soldiers delivered the jewels and documents which they found with the two bodies, and then the chief of the column became convinced of the death of Maceo in the recent engagement with Major Ciriujeda, after crossing the trocha in the western part of Cuba. "This is the seventh time the news of Maceo's death has been circulated with the semblance of official authority," said Dr. Castillo. The doctor said it had always been the custom to report that Maceo had fallen in conflict whenever he compelled the Spanish to retreat with heavy loss of life. If he is dead, his death will not end the contest," said Dr. Castillo, who intimated that he looked upon the report in the light of a Spanish "fake."

"I shall reserve my decision until I receive more authentic information," was all that Gen. Palma would say. Dr. Castillo thinks it strange that in the identification of Maceo's body no reference to the four bullet wounds on Maceo's breast was made. When the sixth report of his death had been circulated one of the points of identification was the finding of his initials "A. M." on the saddle. "I saw the saddle and knew there were no such letters on it," said the doctor, who is hopeful that the later report will turn out to be a pure fabrication.

The World's Key West special says: Private Havana advices flatly deny the Spanish report that Maceo has been killed. The story was concocted at the palace to counteract the bad effect of Maceo's success in crossing the trocha between two Spanish forts without losing a man.

The news as to Maceo given the local press by Major Ciriujeda himself and to the foreign correspondents by the press censor, contains no proof of authenticity which is not authorized by the general staff, and did not bear the customary heading of "official."

The inspired government newspaper, L'Union Constitutionnel, this morning affirmed nothing of its own knowledge, and qualified every statement, and editorially referred to Maceo's death as "unofficial," if true. High officials in Havana are loath to admit that Weyler failed with 60,000 men to accomplish what less than 500 did.

Only yesterday heavy reinforcements left Havana to co-operate with Melguizo in the attack on the rebel position near San Juan y Martinez, where Maceo is believed to be encamped. He was there Sunday with over 3,000 men. Various residents of Punta Brava who talked with the World's correspondent denied Ciriujeda's reports. They say the Spanish troops under Ciriujeda were subjected to a humiliating defeat and lost one-third of their force. The rebels pursued them to the outskirts of the town.

Neighboring pacificos seen said the insurgents were commanded by Serafin Sanchez, whom the Spanish reported killed last month in Santa Clara province, adding that Maceo were with the party the fact was kept quiet.

The most important Cubans in Havana, sympathizing, aiding or helping in the revolution, disbelieve the story of Maceo's death. They admit his entry into Havana province and believe he forced the trocha in response to an order from Gomez to assume command of the operations in the centre and reorganize the insurgent forces in Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara provinces.

Another fact proving that the truth is not in the Spanish despatches about Maceo is that a World correspondent was refused all information as to his body, a subordinate Spaniard explaining it in this way: "Maceo, seriously wounded, was being conducted east, probably to the principal hospital of the Cubans in Cienega de Saepola for safety. The escort was attacked by Spaniards under Major Ciriujeda and two of the chiefs killed." Ciriujeda attempted to return to Punta Brava with the corpse, when rebel reinforcements attacked him on the road and rescued the body.

AGRICULTURE IN FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 10.—The agricultural budget was discussed in the chamber of deputies yesterday. Premier M. Meline admitted that the farmers were suffering from the continued fall of prices, and that the import duties had partly lost their efficacy, owing to the fall in value in foreign coin and the fall in exchange. The remedy, he explained, was in bimetalism; but, he added, the question needed international settlement. The government, he further stated, intended to study the effects of speculation in

THE ABBE LEMIRE

The Abbe Lemire called the government's attention to the increase in the exports of pork from the United States, and M. Meline said the imports of pork and salt meats had decreased from 17,000,000 to 12,000,000 francs. Therefore, the premier pointed out, foreign imports had not caused the fall in prices, which he explained was due to increased home production.

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TRUTH OR FALSEHOOD?

The Spaniards Insist That Maceo Was Killed but Did Not Identify the Body.

Cubans Deny the Story and Say It Has Been Seven Times Repeated.

HAVANA, Dec. 10.—The confident claims of the Spanish officials that they have abundant proof of the death of Antonio Maceo and his young aide, Francisco Gomez, son of Maximo Gomez, continue without abatement.

The details announced yesterday, however, of the facts relied upon for the identification of the two Cubans have caused an undercurrent of doubt in this city. Major Ciriujeda, who commanded the Spanish forces in the engagement at Punta Brava on Monday, and whose troops discovered the two bodies and gave the evidence of identification, consented to be interviewed on the circumstances of the case. He said to the correspondent of the Associated Press that when the rebels were routed it was evident that the body of the chief was abandoned on the field. The Spanish column, without stopping to explore the field, went in hot pursuit of the insurgents, and followed them for a mile or more. Meantime young Gomez is supposed to have committed suicide by Maceo's side.

While the troops were returning to Guano, after the pursuit had ceased, various guerrillas belonging to Major Ciriujeda's command, went over the field where the rout of the insurgents had occurred and searched the bodies remaining there for anything of importance. "The body of Maceo," Major Ciriujeda continued, "was relieved of a ring, clothing, etc. The guerrillas who performed the act were at the time quite unaware that the body was that of Maceo. In fact little attention was paid to the identity of the bodies. It was already dark on the field, and it was raining. Various other bodies were also searched."

It was an adjutant, according to Major Ciriujeda's further statement, who insisted that the above mentioned body and the other which was lying by its side were evidently of first rate importance, and that they must not be left without identification.

"The two bodies were therefore tied by the feet to the tails of some horses," said the Major, "and thus dragged over the ground, the intention being to carry them to town for identification. But without identification, if true, high officials in Havana are loath to admit that Weyler failed with 60,000 men to accomplish what less than 500 did."

When the troops reached Guano, Maj. Ciriujeda proceeded to read the documents which had been found upon the bodies, and, as described exclusively to the Associated Press, they include a letter addressed to "Dear Pancho," signed "A. Gomez"; a diary of Maceo's operations from November 28 to December 7, and a note in pencil found on the body of the younger man, saying he died rather than abandon the body of his general, Maceo. The undershirts and socks on the body of the older man were marked with the initials "A. M." and a ring on the finger contained the engraved inscription "Antonio Y. Maria."

After reading these documents, Maj. Ciriujeda says he became convinced that the bodies which his troops had abandoned were those of Antonio Maceo and young Gomez. But it was too late to return and recover them. Maj. Ciriujeda, however, expresses the firm conviction that they were those of Maceo and Gomez's son.

With the insurgents in the battle, Major Ciriujeda says there was a beautiful Amazon about 23 years old, who urged the rebels to a last desperate stand, and at the same time interposed to protect the prisoners.

Major Ciriujeda has taken charge of the objects found on the body said to be that of Maceo, for further examination. There was a gold watch, a splendid pair of cuff-buttons made by Moreu Torin, Paris, with five pointed stars on them and enclosed in a big strapped leather case, a hunting knife with an ebony handle and gold-mounted, and a good water-tight tin of tools, which were taken from the body by the scout Santa Ana.

It is thus seen that there has been no actual identification of the bodies themselves, the conviction as to identity resting upon the evidence of documents and articles found upon them. There is no doubt, however, of the assurance of the general public here that Maceo is dead. It is in a similar manner to that of Jose Marti and Zelayas. His loss is regarded as the heaviest blow the revolution has received, and it is felt that his continued life was all that could save the insurgent movement. He was the most striking personal character of the outbreak.

Major Ciriujeda telegraphed to headquarters that after the battle at Punta Brava he had been obliged to abandon the bodies, which, in the course of a reconnaissance, his troops had discovered to be the bodies of Antonio Maceo and Francisco Gomez. The guide of the column said that the body looked like Maceo. Some one standing by observed that Maceo was in Pinar del Rio, but it is nevertheless believed the bodies were those of the Cuban leaders. The bugler of the battalion of San Quentin was taking a ring from the falling Cuban, when he found he was still alive. He then pointed out that he met his death in a similar manner to that of the bodies of the Cuban leaders.

The insurgents, upon noting the small force of the reconnoitering party, rushed in with large numbers of troops and succeeded in carrying away the body said to be Maceo's, but without securing any of the jewelry and papers which had been found upon it.

Major Ciriujeda, in order not to abandon his dead and wounded, was com-

TO VISIT WASHINGTON.

Sir Richard Cartwright to Negotiate a Reciprocity Treaty—Canadians in Brazil.

Misunderstandings in the Queen's Own—Issue of Lee-Enfields—The Tariff.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
OTTAWA, Dec. 10.—The important announcement is made that Sir Richard Cartwright will visit Washington at an early date. The object of his trip is to sound the Republican leaders as to the possibility of an early commencement of negotiations for reciprocity between Canada and the United States after the McKinley administration is installed.

Owing to strong representations respecting the unfortunate condition of Canadians in Brazil the British Consul at San Paulo has been requested to send back to Canada those in his district in indigent circumstances, their expenses being defrayed by the Dominion government.

Hon. Mr. Borden, minister of militia, has ordered a formal inquiry into the dispute between Col. Hamilton, of the Queen's Own, and his subordinate officers.

The militia department is commencing to issue Lee-Enfield rifles to the city corps.

The tariff committee will commence its sittings in Montreal next Wednesday, and will probably be there till Christmas.

FROM JOHANNESBURG.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—The Herald says: Charles Butters, an American mining engineer of high reputation, whose fame is as well known in Europe as in this country, has arrived here from Johannesburg, South Africa, where he has been for about six years in charge of some of the largest mining interests in the Transvaal. Mr. Butters' visit to the United States is chiefly for the purpose of examining into the gold resources of the country, with a view to their future development by Americans and Europeans. He is one of the eleven Americans who, with John Hays Hammond, were arrested by the Boer government because of affiliation with the reform movement in the Transvaal last year at the time of Dr. Jameson's raid. Mr. Butters was released on May 29, fined \$10,000, and obliged to give a bond not to interfere in the affairs of the Boer government.

In an interview Mr. Butters said: "The Transvaal government is now settling down to assist the mining interests in every possible way. The government feels that to be absent is essential. A large amount of capital that has been made there is going to Australia or New Zealand, or else coming to this country. Many capitalists think that less attention has been paid to the gold resources of the United States than should be the case. Foreign as well as American capitalists are now turning their attention to this country and are sending engineers directly into this field, so that the slump in values in the Transvaal is really a benefit to other gold producing countries."

"The United States hold first place as a gold-producing country," said Mr. Butters, "and I do not think it will ever be overtaken. The business of gold producing has really become one of the most important in the world. The financial houses of Europe are beginning to recognize that fact and many of them are organizing a mining development in the United States that should be the proper here in the Eastern States for a first-class financial house to be interested in gold mining; this feeling he thought had been carried on the part of the work by foreign investors and the money that has been made by the skill and ability of those who are developing the investments will tend to bring about a general boom in the mining industry in such enterprises. One thing that prevents the enlistment of foreign capital in the mining in the United States is that there is no international exchange for gold mining stocks here."

"No European investor would think of buying shares in an American gold mining company whose shares are quoted at a few cents each," he observed, "as is the case for instance, with certain Cripple Creek stocks. Some of these days, when the best business elements in the United States begin to realize that Europeans are forging ahead of us in gold mining, these elements will combine and organize a first class mining exchange, which will have on its committee the ablest men who are known at home and abroad, and whose names will be a guarantee of the standing of the exchange. Such an enterprise will have the support of many of the principal financiers of Europe and will give gold mining shares here a chance to be dealt in abroad."

Mr. Butters, accompanied by his family, will leave New York on Friday for the West. He will look at different gold sections of the country and will go as far as the Pacific Coast. He will then sail for Capetown by way of England. They expect to return to the United States in about one year, to remain permanently.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 9.—(Special)—A large meeting of Roman Catholic residents was held this evening, at which strong resolutions were passed condemning the so-called school settlement and demanding British justice.

ESCAPE OF A SMUGGLER.

TACOMA, Dec. 9.—The daring ringleader of a big opium smuggling gang, which has been successfully operating on the Sound for a years past, was arrested at Roy yesterday afternoon with \$600 worth of dope in his possession. He was placed in charge of Deputy Sheriff C. A. Nettleton of Roy and brought to this city on the train from Portland. While passing through a big gulch on the outskirts of the city the smuggler attempted to break away from the officer and jumped from the front platform of the smoking car, dragging Nettleton with him. The chance was one in ten thousand that both would be killed, as the train, being late, was running at full speed towards the city. Nettleton got off with a severe scalp wound and a bad shaking up, but the smuggler escaped through the brush in the darkness, and has not been seen since. For desperate during this feat breaks the record in the annals of smuggling on Puget Sound.

The opium captured is valued at \$600 and is the largest seizure made on the Sound in years. The county is being searched for the smuggler, who is believed to be a criminal of note. If he by a miracle escape without a broken leg he may never be recaptured. The smuggler is described as being six feet tall, weighing about 200 pounds, smooth shaven and well dressed. He left a new hat purchased at Portland on the train. When arrested he was about to board the train for Chehalis.

TERRIBLE DISASTER.

Wreck of a North German Steamer With Three Hundred Souls on Board.

Most of Them Immigrants and On Their Way to the Argentine Republic.

VIGO, Dec. 10.—The North German Steamship Company's liner Salier was wrecked to-day off the north coast of Spain. There were 210 passengers on board and her crew was composed of 65 men. All 275 on board, passengers and crew, perished. The passengers consisted of 118 Russians, 36 Galicians, 61 Spaniards, and one German. The Salier was bound from Bremen to Buenos Ayres via Corunna and Villagarcia. The passengers were mostly in the steerage. The Corrobo rocks, on which it is believed the steamer struck, are situated off the southwest coast of Corunna, and are said to have been given a wide berth before the steamer was headed for the bay leading up to Villagarcia.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.

MONTEAL, Dec. 10.—The "Independence Club of Canada," which has been in existence in Montreal for some five months and whose object is the attainment of Canada's independence of Great Britain, held a meeting in this city on Monday night. The proceedings were secret, but it is said that the club has already over 200 members and is in a flourishing condition, both financially and as regards the social standing of its members. In Ontario where similar clubs have been formed, Toronto and Windsor dispute the honor of having the largest membership.

A convention will probably be held next March with a view to federating all the groups of clubs. One of the leading members stated that the movement is rapidly gaining ground in this province, especially in the rural districts, and that two organizers are now at work in the Eastern townships, where the idea seems to meet with great favor.

At the meeting in this city last night a constitution and by-laws were adopted. The object sought is the independence of Canada by legitimate and pacific means, and the chairman laid stress upon the fact that the means must be peaceful. The members are now considering the question of being incorporated.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN QUEBEC.

QUEBEC, Dec. 10.—The provincial budget, brought down last evening, appropriates 450,000 acres of the public lands to serve as a source of revenue for public schools of the province. Until the proceeds from these lands amount to \$50,000 annually, the required sum will be added from the general finances of the province. Free text books in all public schools is also announced. These steps on the part of the Quebec government are the result of the recent disclosures in the press of the proportion of illiteracy throughout the province and the general shortcomings of the educational system in vogue.

Another Big Flood.

TACOMA, Dec. 9.—(Special)—Western Washington has been suffering from the worst floods of the season. For hours the tropical Chinook, like a steam radiator, has been getting in its deadly work on the two feet of snow in the mountains. The process is being augmented by a warm rain that extends all over the Pacific division of the Northern Pacific. From these causes the water is sent rolling down in torrents into the mountain streams and brooks, which are swollen beyond the capacity of their banks. In many cases the rush of waters to the sea is accompanied by destruction. All small outbuildings in the valleys that remain in the path of the November flood are in danger of being carried away by the latter freshets, which now promise to exceed the earlier one of the winter.

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

Lively Discussion Over the Dingley Tariff Bill—The Tariff Issue.

Vigorous Resolutions Introduced in Favor of the Independence of Cuba.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The house of representatives held a three hours' session to-day and passed a dozen bills of minor importance. A resolution for the distribution of the President's message among the various committees entitled to jurisdiction on the several topics was adopted.

The senate by the decisive vote of 35 to 21 adopted a resolution to take up the Dingley tariff and the silver bill. Unexpected and surprising as this action was, it had not the significance which the vote itself appears to convey. Immediately following it Mr. Aldrich of Rhode Island, one of the Republican members of the finance committee, moved to recommit the bill to that committee, and this motion was pending when the morning hour expired and the entire matter lapsed as though no vote had been taken.

Neither the bill for Mr. Aldrich's motion enjoys the privilege of precedence, as a result of the action to-day. It served, however, for some lively parliamentary fencing between Mr. Allen, the author of the motion, and Messrs. Chandler, Hale and Aldrich, as well as for an exposition of the uncertain shifting elements within the Senate when a vote is precipitated on an important public question. The debate was at times sharp and personal.

Mr. Allen was very blunt in his expressions and taunted the Republican Senator for bringing in the Dingley bill after conducting a tariff campaign. "It has gone out from the Republican members in the Republican party," said Mr. Allen at one point, "that with the incoming administration, we are to have an extraordinary session of congress for the purpose of revising the tariff laws."

Thus Mr. Allen ran along, touching on many points that have hitherto been reserved for caucus consideration. Mr. Chandler reminded Mr. Allen that not only had the tariff won, but free silver by the U. S. alone had lost the recent election, and he urged Mr. Allen to aid in a genuine effort to execute the will of the people.

Mr. Hale took occasion to state with frankness that the actual majority in the next senate would make tariff legislation more easy of accomplishment than it is now.

Mr. Aldrich's first move was to have the bill referred back to the finance committee, with instructions to strike off the silver amendment, but later he accepted the suggestion of Mr. Harris, to omit the instructions. It was in this form that the question of recommitment was pending when 2 o'clock arrived and cut off the debate.

Early in the day three sets of vigorous resolutions for Cuban independence furnished an interesting feature. They came from Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Mills, of Texas; and Mr. Call, of Florida; and while differing in terms, all breathe the same spirit of recognition by the U. S. of Cuban independence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Pending the preparation of the next appropriation bill, the house again to-day devoted its time to the consideration of bills on the calendar, but only two were passed during the first hour's session. One of them was a bill which the prominent playwrights and theatrical managers of the country have been laboring for some years to induce congress to pass. The purpose of the measure is two-fold.

To secure to musical compositions the same measure of protection under the copyright law as is now afforded to productions of a strictly dramatic character, and

2. To add, by proper court injunction process, this protection to the authors of dramatic and operatic works.

The bill imposes a fine of \$100 for the first and \$50 for each subsequent unauthorized production of a bill to prohibit the sale of liquor in the capital building was also passed.

The senate will go into the regular channel of business to-day, taking up the immigration bill and partly perfecting it, and also hearing the first of the speeches on Cuba, those of Mr. Cullum, and Mr. Call.

The disposition to put through the immigration bill was shown by the defeat of a motion of Mr. Gibson, of Maryland, to postpone the measure until after the holidays. Only thirteen votes, all Democrats, were given in favor of the postponement. The proposition served to involve Messrs. Chandler, Lodge and Gibson in several spirited personal colloquies. The merits of the immigration question were discussed in a general way on several proposed amendments, Messrs. Vest and Palmer suggesting that lines should be placed on the restriction, while Messrs. Lodge and Chandler urged that the restrictions be sweeping in their character. The bill was not passed up to the time of adjournment, but the senate agreed to what is generally known as the Lodge bill as a substitute to the House measure. The substitute requires that all immigrants over the age of 14 years shall be able to read and write their native language, and shall be required to read and write in the presence of a United States official at least five lines of the United States constitution.

The subsequent speeches of Mr. Cullum and Mr. Call were listened to by crowded galleries indicating the public interest in the subject. The senate then adjourned over to Monday.

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