

American potatoes are scarce in Chicago, and thousands of sacks are being imported from Rotterdam. A recent consignment was 2,500 sacks. Minnesota farmers are importing potatoes from Manitoba for seed.

A coroner's jury, in the case of a man who met his death at Buffalo, N. Y., from contact with a broken electric light wire, held the company responsible. This affords matter for consideration. Underground wires would of course prevent such accidents. But the expense!

The Governor of Alaska has issued his official report for the past year, which is a document of no little interest, not only to the United States, but also to Canada. According to this report the country abounds in gold, coal, and other mineral wealth, and its rivers are full of salmon, herring and other good fish, while the seal fisheries on the coast are known to be of the greatest value.

It is stated at Massowah that the Dervishes defeated the Abyssinians in the reported battle.

Mr. Causton (Gladstonian) has been returned for West Southwark by an increased majority of 1000.

Lord Dufferin is reported to have accepted the Italian Embassy, in succession to Sir J. Saville Lumley, who will retire in August.

Sir Henry Holland has been raised to the Peerage. He will retain the office of Colonial Secretary.

The higher course of lectures at the Naval Academy, Rome, has been suspended, to allow the pupils to join men-of-war.

A Swiss and Italian syndicate has been formed which will advance to the Italian Government 50,000,000 francs to enable it to complete the Simplon railway tunnel and railway lines.

It is semi-officially announced that Russia will shortly request the signers of the Berlin treaty to notify the Porte that the election of Prince Ferdinand as Prince of Bulgaria was illegal.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach, who sought re-election to Parliament for the west division of Bristol, on his acceptance of the office of President of the Board of Trade, has been returned without opposition.

Roumania has notified the Porte that Austria has given her assurance that a Russian violation of Roumanian territory would be considered a movement against Austria, and would form a *casus belli*.

The Czar has shown his hand, and requires a substantial recognition of the right of Russia to control Bulgaria and Roumania. Prince Bismarck endeavors to persuade Russia from submitting this demand to Austria.

Wilkie Collins is reported to be writing a novel, "The Legacy of Cain," which is expected, we do not know by whom, to be his masterpiece. It is rarely, however, that a writer's late productions are his best.

An attack, in the worst style of party insinuation, was made by Mr. Labouchere on Wednesday on Lord Salisbury's foreign policy. Mr. Gladstone took up the subject in a fair and dignified manner, worthy of his best days.

The latest addition to the Russian ironclad fleet, the *Admiral Nahumoff* has been found to be useless. She requires such extensive alterations that she will practically have to be rebuilt before she can be put in commission.

The trial of M. Wilson, on the charge of swindling, in connection with the Legion of Honor decoration scandals, which was begun recently before the Correctional Tribunal, was concluded without one new fact being elicited.

Another great snow storm was raging in the north of England on Tuesday. The weather was intensely cold, the railways completely blocked, much suffering prevailed, several deaths occurred from exposure, and thousands of sheep in their pens were buried in the snow.

Advices from Venice state that the iron-clads *Ancona* and *Maria Pia* are arming with all speed. A commission of state officers from Rome is making an inventory of the stores at the San Giorgio arsenal. All the arsenals are now working day and night. Gen. Walter is inspecting the fortresses toward the French frontier.

Much uneasiness prevails in political circles. Col. Ponsonby, the Queen's Private Secretary, has recently paid several visits to Lord Salisbury and Mr. W. H. Smith, the Government leader in the House of Commons. Such visits are unusual, except when a crisis is imminent. After the Cabinet Council, recently, Mr. Balfour, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, walked to the Irish office. He was evidently greatly excited. Although the weather was bitterly cold, he was hatless, and walked with his hands clasped to his head. He was followed by two detectives.

The accounts of the state of the Crown Prince during the last week have been fluctuating, but it is evident that his state is very precarious, and seems to bear far too strong a resemblance to that of General Grant. Rumors of disagreement between Sir M. Mackenzie and the German doctors are again rife, and Sir M. Mackenzie's daughter has arrived at San Remo, a circumstance which is thought to indicate the prolonged stay there of her father. The Princess is exhausted with nursing and watching, and the outlook seems sad and gloomy enough.

It is somewhat positively reported that there is, not exactly an engagement, but still a distinct "understanding" that England will, in the event of war, lend material support to the Triple Alliance by naval protection of the Italian coast, should Italy be attacked. A leading Vienna paper extends the understanding to the Austrian coast, which indeed would be almost certain if the former be correct, as the only littoral possessed by Austria adjoins and faces that of Italy, at the head of the Adriatic. There is no doubt that England holds a balance of power, and it is fortunate that her foreign policy is just now vigorously directed.

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