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Egg Island Light Again in Order.

Keeper Brown Too Ill to Attend to Apparatus Returns to Victoria.

The Dread Bubonic Plague at Honolulu Alarms Coast Quarantine Officials.

D. G. S. Quadra returned yesterday evening from her Christmas visit to Egg Island to investigate the cause of the non-working of Egg Island light.

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LOCAL NEWS.

Wide Tires.—An effort is to be made at the coming session of the legislature to introduce an amendment to the Municipal act, making it compulsory to have four-inch tires on all freight wagons in the city.

Ready for Service.—Col. J. C. Randolph, a retired British cavalry officer, who has been sojourning in British Columbia for a year past, returned yesterday from a visit to Shawanigan lake and will leave shortly for England, being anxious to take a hand in the war in South Africa.

Golden Wedding.—Mr. and Mrs. William Cook, of Carey road, Saanich district, will celebrate their golden wedding on New Year's day.

Christmas Entertainments.—Yesterday evening there were three more Christmas entertainments for the special pleasure of the young folks, the Sunday school children of the Victoria Wesleyan Protestant church enjoying their annual treat.

Teachers' Salaries.—At their meeting on Thursday the board of school trustees only partly completed the work of revising the salaries of the teachers.

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City's Health Is Very Good.

Annual Reports Submitted to the Board of Health Yesterday.

Unsanitary Condition of the Indian Reserve the Subject of Discussion.

A meeting of the municipal board of health was held yesterday morning at the city hall.

The present method of flushing the surface drains and manholes is not satisfactory.

Most of the latter are from manure, miring camps, and places outside of the city.

The isolation hospital, though little used, was kept in constant readiness to receive cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, etc.

Considerable progress has been made with the sewer connections, though a great many are still pending.

The annual report of the health officer, Dr. Fraser, was read and approved.

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Fighting Blood of the West.

Defence of Prominent Military Men on the Force Now Being Enlisted.

Said to Be Just the Stamp Required for Service in South Africa.

From the Winnipeg Tribune. "If anyone had told me a year ago that we would be by this time sending troops to fight for the honor of the British Empire," said a citizen recently.

The sentiment expressed in these words seems to be the prevailing spirit of everyone who expresses any opinion on the subject.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant, JAMES WILSON, Major and Adjutant-General.

Dr. Fraser said that the Indian reserve as it existed without any sanitary arrangements, was a menace to the city.

After the board of health meeting, Mayor Beidern was waited on by the executive committee of the Jubilee hospital.

From the Canadian Military Gazette. It is to be hoped the recent transfer of Lieut-Col. Hon. E. G. Prior from the command of the 6th Regt. Canadian Infantry.

NEW SKATING RECORDS. Minnesota, Minn., Dec. 28.—The fastest skating ever done in the world for half a mile and a quarter mile straight.

One in Seven Dies of Consumption. And Consumption Begins with a Cold that Could Be Cured by Dr. Chase's Syrup of Lined and Turpentine.

That one in every seven persons dies of consumption is proven by government statistics, and when it is remembered that the average man and woman of woman who succumb to the effects of this terrible fatal disease, the ravages of consumption are more than made up.

Consumption always begins with a neglected cold, and how dreadful must be the misery of every mother who neglects to cure the cold.

It is rarely that a consumption is ever cured, unless it is prevented by a timely use of Dr. Chase's Syrup of Lined and Turpentine.

Dr. Chase's Syrup of Lined and Turpentine is composed of the best ingredients and is a most valuable medicine.

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THE PANAMA DITCH.

Trenton, N.J., Dec. 27.—The Panama Canal Company of America, with an organized capital of \$200,000,000.

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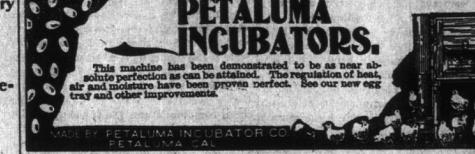
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100 Per Cent. Hatched. PETALUMA INCUBATORS.

E. C. PRIOR & CO., LIMITED SOLE AGENTS.

COFFEES DISCRIMINATING BUYERS SPICES PURE COFFEES PURE SPICES and PURE BAKING POWDER.

STEMLER & FARLE, IMPORTERS and MANUFACTURERS VICTORIA.

The Cumbria Flouring Mills Company.

Premier, Three Star, Superfine, Gahame and Whole Wheat Flour.

R. P. Rithet & Co., Proprietors, Victoria.

Western cowboy and policeman is that they can stay in the saddle for hours at a stretch without the least inconvenience.

Each is prepared with Calvert's purest Carbolic—the best dental preservative. They are the best of their kind.

Calvert's Carbolic Tooth Powder. Calvert's Carbolic Tooth Paste.

B. C. Year Book 1897.

By R. E. GOSNELL.

Cloth \$1 50 per copy Paper Cover.. 1 00 per copy

THE TRADE SUPPLIED.

Political Awakening

By-elections and Opening of Parliament Give Promise of Lively Times.

Tarte Tries to Shift Blame of His Own Misdeeds on Conservatives.

Conservatives Ready to Put up a Strong Fight in Quebec.

Special to the Colonist.

Montreal, Dec. 30.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Geo. E. Foster and Hon. Chas. Fitzpatrick were in the city today, and the prime minister had a conference with a number of leading local Liberals. The occasion of the by-elections was the chief topic under discussion. The calling of parliament for February 1, and the prospects of by-elections before the end of January will make things lively in political circles. In this district elections have to be held in Berthier, Chambly and Verchères and Sherbrooke. The Conservatives are determined upon putting up a big fight in all constituencies and are confident of success.

Mr. Tarte has an article in his official organ, La Patrie, referring to the calling of parliament, which is of some interest at the present moment. The article is significant as showing that Mr. Tarte is now trying to lay the blame for the recent political situation on the Conservatives of Ontario for political capital in Quebec.

STEELE ON HERCHMER?

Conflicting Reports as to Command of Western Division of Mounted Infantry.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—An Associated Press representative was informed this afternoon that the mounted rifles of the contingent will be divided into two regiments, the one drawn from points east of Manitoba to be under Col. Lessard, and the Northwest Mounted Police to be a separate regiment under Commissioner Herchmer, with Col. Steele second in command.

The Pomarancs will sail from Halifax five days later than the Laurentian and Montserrat, which carry the artillery and one regiment of mounted rifles, and are intended to leave on the 15th of January. She will take the balance of the mounted rifles, which are composed of smart, young unmarried men.

Beijing, Dec. 29.—The announcement that Major Steele is to command the Western men has given great satisfaction. In regard to the rumor that Major Steele would take the second command if Commissioner Herchmer would take first, all that is known here is that the command offered him and it is extremely unlikely he would accept any position that would be at all in the way of Major Steele.

BOERS WAR ON KAFFIRS

Attack and Capture With Small Loss Position Strongly Fortified by Natives.

Phrytonia, Tuesday, Dec. 26.—(Via Lorenzo Marques, Thursday, Dec. 28.)—Commandant Swart reports from the laager at Alouyn's Kop, near Zorust, that he had an engagement on Friday, December 22, with Kaffirs in the neighborhood of Deverpost. The Kaffirs occupied a strongly fortified ridge, and were well prepared for emergencies. After heavy fighting the hunters captured the Kaffir position, losing three killed and five wounded.

London, Dec. 30.—The reported engagement with Kaffirs is very vague and cannot be explained pending the arrival of later despatches.

SCARED OF METHUEN'S MEN.

Boers Show Panic in Causeless Firing—Their Position Becoming Intolerable.

London, Dec. 30.—The Modder River correspondent of the Times, referring to the scare-firing of the Boers, says: "Their nervousness causes much amusement to the British. It is quite certain that half the Boer force is employed watching by day and the other half by night. Probably the consequent weariness, with the scarcity of water and the presence of fever, will render the Boer position intolerable. Their present action is due either to a scare, or to a wish to cover a retreat."

GREAT GUNS FOR AFRICA.

London, Dec. 30.—The Daily Mail asserts that several guns have been removed from the forts at Plymouth in England, and that these will be sent to Capetown.

TWO THOUSAND REBELS.

London, Dec. 30.—The Capetown correspondent of the Daily News says: "A leading resident of Yvrington, who was released by the Boers for 2,000 colonialists from Oriskany West. He says colonial forces are to be seen everywhere in the Boer ranks."

TORONTO MAYORALTY.

Clark's Friends Think it a Sure Thing Against the Penning Candidate.

Toronto, Dec. 29.—The mayoralty campaign has proceeded briskly all week and practically closed to-night with a meeting in Massey hall for P. Clark and two meetings in smaller halls for E. A. Macdonald. Clark's meeting was a failure in point of attendance, not more than 1,000 people being in the hall, holding 5,000. The election takes place on Monday.

CHURCHILL'S OBSERVATIONS.

The Escaped Correspondent Says That Boer Forces Are Greatly Weakened by Desertions.

New York, Dec. 29.—Winston Churchill, cabling to the World, says that although the Boer army is confident, they want to return to their farms, and complain bitterly of hardships. The Boer army is now about 20,000 men, and the only burghers remaining on the farms are those who are unfit or have bribed the officials.

The food supplies are not large and latterly the crops have suffered terribly from locusts. The tight British grip on Delagoa Bay is the fact also.

Reviewing the general situation he says it is foolish not to recognize that the British are fighting a formidable and a terrible adversary of high qualities. The burghers increase their efficiency and their government, although vitally corrupt, devotes its whole energy to military operations. Time is, however, on the British side, and must eventually weaken the Boers.

VOLUNTEERS FOR AFRICA.

Hundreds of Canadians in the United States Make Offers to Dominion Government.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Col. Hutcheson of Nashville, Tenn., sends an offer to the government to furnish 200 trained soldiers to serve with the Canadians in South Africa. The offer of 500 men has also been received from Chicago.

It is not improbable that the Canadian contingent for South Africa will be provided with rougher hats instead of helmets, owing to some difficulty in getting the latter.

VOLUNTEER COMMANDS.

London, Dec. 29.—Sir Charles Howard Vincent has been appointed to command the infantry division of the city of London Imperial Regiment.

William Waldorf Astor has subscribed £1,000 to the Buckinghamshire fund to equip the Yeomanry.

Mines Paying Boers' War Bill.

Transvaal Makes New Levy of From Thirty to Fifty Per Cent. of Output.

Gatatec Re-opens Important Colliery—Railway Connection Around Ladysmith.

London, Dec. 29.—The Transvaal government has promulgated a new gold tax by which individuals and companies working their own mines are taxed 30 per cent. of the output, while mines worked by the government will pay 50 per cent.; suspended mines will pay 30 per cent. on their probable output calculated on three months' working, and reducing works will pay 30 per cent. of their net profit. The law is retrospective to October 11.

IN GATATEC'S DISTRICT.

Advices from Capetown dated December 24 say an investigation shows that the reported disaffection among the Boers in the district west of the Orange has been overdrawn.

A despatch received by the war office, dated Capetown, December 28, says there is no change in the situation so far as General's French and Gatatec are concerned.

Capetown, Dec. 28.—A despatch from Cradock reports heavy firing in the direction of Stormberg. It is supposed this is connected with the Gatatec's attempt to reopen communication with the Indwe collieries.

London, Dec. 29.—The war office has received this despatch: "The Indwe colliery line is now working again."

AT LADYSMITH.

Pietermaritzburg, Dec. 28.—A despatch from Ladysmith dated December 28 says: "The Boers have mounted another howitzer replacing the one captured in the sortie of the Rifle Brigade. They show no signs of assaulting the town. The total number of Boers are 70 killed and 236 wounded."

Pretoria, Dec. 25.—Gen. Schalkburger reports on December 23 that trains are not running to Colenso, indicating that the Boer have built a connection around Ladysmith.

MODDER RIVER.

Capetown, Dec. 25.—Gen. Crenje reports from the Modder River on December 24 that the Boers captured two British forts at Kurman on December 17. It is rumored that Gen. Methuen's 17th naval gun has exploded.

STALE NEWS.

London, Dec. 29.—A war office despatch from Col. Baden-Powell dated December 28 announces the safe arrival of Lady Sarah Wilson, and reports the health and spirits of the garrison very satisfactory.

GEN. ROBERTS' POPULARITY.

London, Dec. 28.—Despatches from all parts of South Africa emphasize the great enthusiasm occasioned by the appointment of Gen. Roberts and Gen. Kitchener. The soldiers anticipate from the presence of "Bobs" everything from success in battle to cheaper beer.

BLIZZARD IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Corry, Pa., Dec. 29.—A terrific blizzard, the worst in years, has been raging for the past 24 hours and will continue. About eighteen inches of snow has fallen and that already on the ground makes the depth on the level four feet. All the railways are suffering. On all roads huge snow ploughs are working but fail to keep the track clear.

THE KIPLINGS ILL.

London, Dec. 30.—Rudyard Kipling and family are confined to their rooms suffering from influenza, but there is no anxiety as to their condition.

Horsemen In Demand.

Yeomanry Invited to Increase Their Offering to Ten Thousand Men.

Honorable Artillery Company Also Called Upon—Scheme of Finance.

British Will Stop Suspicious Cargoes at Risk of Compensation for Mistakes.

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 29, 4:40 a.m.—The Imperial Yeomanry committee has issued a statement to the effect that the government considers the formation and despatch of Yeomanry as one of the most pressing needs of the situation and has indicated that it is now prepared to accept from 8,000 to 10,000 Yeomanry, instead of 3,000 as originally asked for. It is expected that the first contingent of 1,000 will call about the middle of January. Lady Chesham and Lady George Curzon have issued an appeal for public funds to establish a field hospital for the Yeomanry.

The government has announced that it will accept the service of a battery from the Honorable Artillery Company. It will be attached to the city Imperial corps.

During the continued lull in the military operations in South Africa, the papers are filled with letters and articles criticizing the government and the campaign and suggesting remedies, improvements, alterations in the plans and the like.

The Times complains of needless censorship and of the fact that nothing has yet transpired to show how Gen. Gatacre came to lose 600 men at Stormberg.

The number of men at the front represent the Boers as in a nervous condition and constant dread of the British attack, but this is probably an exaggeration.

Capetown despatches complain of the inadequacy of the hospital arrangements. It is now estimated that the war will cost at least eighty million pounds and it is suggested that the sinking fund of the national debt should be suspended for five or six years in order to defray the cost.

"It is satisfactory," says the Times editorially this morning, "to hear that the Transvaal government is acting with regard to the American cargoes seized in Delagoa Bay as we should have wished and expected. It is a matter of course that we shall make full reparation, if reparation is proved to be due. In the meantime it may be noted, as the Americans themselves admit, that the facts are in considerable doubt and that some of them seem to be rather compromising to the vessels seized. There will be time enough to talk law and the policy of the step when the facts have been authoritatively ascertained."

THE BRITISH VOLUNTEERS.

Generous Contributions in Aid of Their Movement—Hint From the War Office.

London, Dec. 30.—The Earl of Mount Edgumbe, brother-in-law of Lord Lansdowne, says the war office would countenance a scheme to enroll volunteers in a sort of preparatory stage in order to learn drills and the like.

The number of members of the House of Commons who have offered to go to the front threatens to seriously affect the government side. The Rothschilds have donated £2,000 to the Buckinghamshire Volunteer fund. It is estimated that £200,000 will be contributed privately to Volunteer funds throughout the country. Already the fund for the relief of the families of soldiers exceeds £500,000.

TO CATCH FILIBUSTERS.

Two Fleet Vessels From Halifax Detached to Watch Suspected Craft.

Halifax, Dec. 30.—A report is current that one or two vessels of the British North Atlantic fleet now at Bermuda will be detached to watch for filibusters from the United States. A report called at the dockyard and was told that none of the officials could possibly impart any information for the public while Great Britain is at war with another power. Detection would meet with the prompt dismissal of any employee. It was learned that the fleet at Bermuda has been enabled instructions but nothing could be ascertained as to the nature of them beyond the fact that if the United States government failed to prevent any violation of neutrality laws, vessels will keep watch for any craft conveying contraband of war for the Boers. An official interviewed believed the United States government would enforce the neutrality laws but should America neglect to do so then two cruisers would in all probability be employed for patrol service.

AT A RIFE OLD AGE.

Parish Clerk of the Shakespeare Church Passes Away After Long Service.

LI HUNG CHANG ADVANCED.

Has Been Appointed Viceroy of Two of the Most Important Provinces.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The Chinese minister, Mr. Wu Ting Faag, has received a despatch from China stating that Li Hung Chang has been appointed acting viceroy of two provinces in the south of China adjacent to Canton. The minister says that Li is reported to be the venerable Chinese statesman, and the provinces are among the most populous and commercially important in the empire.

COAL FAMINE THREATENED.

Unprecedented Demand for Fuel in Great Britain Causes a Shortage.

London, Dec. 30.—The United Kingdom is threatened with a coal famine. Unless conditions improve many industrial concerns depending upon the coal supply may have to suspend before February as their margin of profit is gradually being wiped out. Wages have gone up and it is hard to find. The normal Christmas competition of the coal trade, the situation, while the government need of fuel for transport, war vessels, and other uses, has created an unprecedented demand.

Heavy Work At Colenso.

Buller Faces Position of Marvellous Strength and Plans Elaborate Assault.

Rails Laid to Carry Great Guns to Hill Commanding Boer Position.

Enemy Show Extraordinary Industry and Evidence of Skilled Direction.

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 29.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Pietermaritzburg, dated Saturday, December 28, says: "The heavy work at Colenso, thanks to the services of the Continental officers, the character of the camp again has changed. We are no longer fighting a foe who relies upon guerrilla tactics, but we have to deal with what is rapidly becoming a disciplined army enjoying the advantages of knowledge of the country and of selecting the scene of contest without the burdens of a cumbersome commissariat."

"The Boers have converted the hills near Colenso into a fortress of immense strength. Everywhere they have splendid trenches, many of them being built by the Boers. The Boers are now equipped with guns with astonishing rapidity. The main positions are connected with the railway lines and the forts proper bristle with machine guns, that command the approaches. Probably mines are laid in the trenches and the Boer shells are not bursting. Observers of the Colenso fight say the Boer shells were fired from the town at that time, but the distances are marked off with white paint."

"The enemy's discipline is improving. The Boers' present great manual labor, for which the Boers have a keen dislike, and the way in which they train their fire when their troops were advancing is another proof of improved soldiering."

The correspondent of the Daily News at Frere Camp announces that a tramway is being constructed from the railway to a hill commanding the Boer position and that the Boers will use this to convey heavy guns.

A special from Ladysmith dated Wednesday, December 28, says: "The Boers are then late, being 104 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade. There were many cases of fever before others what is happening on the other hand Boer sources on the continent assert that typhoid fever is epidemic in Ladysmith."

BOERS AND DELAGOA BAY.

Their Agent at Portuguese Post Well Placed to Manipulate Supplies From Abroad.

London, Dec. 29.—A correspondent of the Standard at Lorenzo Marques says: "Delagoa Bay is the residence of Herr Pott, a Hollander, who is agent-general for the Transvaal and consul for the Netherlands. Pott is the principal medium between Pretoria and Dr. Leyds in Europe. He controls the Netherlands railway through the Transvaal and is the head of the Transvaal customs. He is also head of the Dutch East Africa Co., and has the ear of the Portuguese government as well as the chief of each department."

"It is openly asserted that Pott has a private wire to the frontier, and knows the Boers before others what is happening. About him gather all the other consuls, the Portuguese officials, and the German forwarding agents."

BOEIS ABOUT BULLER'S CAMP.

Skirmish With Considerable Force Results in Several Boer Casualties and Capture of Six Wagons.

Chieveley Camp, Natal, Wednesday, Dec. 27.—A heavy Boer gun on Bulwhans hill fired readily on Ladysmith throughout the morning. Ladysmith did not respond.

The enemy having been detected again attempting to improve their trenches facing Gen. Buller, the British heavy guns opened upon them, and the Boers scattered. It is reported that six Boer wagons were captured.

ATTACK FROM MAFFEKING.

British Make Valorous But Unsuccessful Assault on a Boer Fort.

Pretoria, Tuesday, Dec. 26.—Commandant Smyman reports as follows from Mafeking: "On Monday morning the enemy from Maffeking attacked one of our forts in force with some Maxim and an array of modern guns, persistently firing there was fighting right on the walls of the fort. But we have retained our fort. The Boers are reported as 35."

"The other commanders report 'All quiet' with the exception of the usual bombarding of Ladysmith."

NEW YORK'S POPULATION.

Report of the Board of Health Estimates the Population of Greater New York at 3,550,960, a Gain of About 100,000 Over Last Year.

AFTER TIGRE REBELS.

Rome, Dec. 30.—A despatch from Mas-sarrah says an Abyssinian army of 10,000 men, sent north to subdue the Tigre rebels, has reached that province. The army is reported as 35."

WESTMINSTER'S OBSQUITIES.

London, Dec. 28.—The ashes of the Duke of Westminster, who remains were cremated at Woking cemetery, Dec. 24, were today privately interred in the churchyard of Eton Hall, Cheshire, in the presence of his relatives and a large number of friends, representing Queen Victoria.

Spies In a Consulate.

Pretoria Kept Well Informed With Regard to British Military Movements.

French Liner Under Suspicion of Bringing Two Guns From Madagascar.

Hint That Transvaal Secret Service Funds Corrupt Portuguese Officials.

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 30.—The Times has the following, dated December 27, from Lorenzo Marques: "Cargoes for the Transvaal have been divided to one-fifth of the average, but large shipments are expected from Europe. In the meantime there are persistent rumors here and in Durban that guns and ammunition are smuggled through for the Boers."

"A French liner now in the harbor is said to have brought two large guns from Madagascar. The head of the customs assures me that there is absolutely no ground, however, for such a charge. All goods, he says, are daylight, examined and despatched by the local importers, except in small lots and under written guarantee. The same precautions are taken with reference to all contraband articles. Of course, much depends upon the competence and incorruptibility of subordinates."

"The Times has a later despatch from Lorenzo Marques, dated December 28, which says: 'The suspicion that even the Boer intelligence department is in close touch with a foreign consulate at Pretoria is confirmed by the fact that news of the appointment of Lord Roberts as commander-in-chief in South Africa is generally known in Pretoria. It is also known that the Boers are generally indirectly reaching Delagoa Bay from the Transvaal ten days later. Suspicion rests upon a consular agent in Pretoria, who is reported to be a Boer sympathizer. There is reason to believe that Pretoria is kept well informed with regard to British military movements.'

"With this reference to rumors of smuggling contraband, it is significant that Major Erasmus, of the Free State artillery, is reported to be on his way to the coast, and that the French liner, considering the freedom with which the Transvaal military movements, and the considerable mischief may be done under a cover of inspection by British searchers who understand foreign bills of lading, it is believed that all military and other machinery should be stopped, owing to the possibility of hoodwinking the British."

SILVER AND GOLD.

Large Increase in the Production in the United States.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The preliminary estimate of the production of gold and silver in the United States during 1899 made by the director of the mint shows a total gold production of \$70,794,194, an increase over the production of last year of \$12,000,000. The production of silver during the year is estimated at \$74,424,096, an increase during the year of \$4,040,211.

NEGOTIATIONS Successful.

Powers Concur in Proposal Made For Open Door in China.

London, Dec. 30.—The negotiations opened by Secretary Hay with the great powers of Europe and with Japan towards securing a complete understanding for a continued open door policy throughout China, have met with the most gratifying results. The cabinet is unwilling to make public the nature of the replies received, as this information would be embodied in a report to congress. But in other quarters thoroughly reliable and in a position to have trustworthy and accurate information, it is learned that favorable responses have been made by Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia and Japan. There is no doubt, it is thought that Italy, the remaining country addressed, will make favorable answer, if it has not already done so. According to the preliminary conversations, the first to be submitted and was exceptionally comprehensive and explicit, yielding to every suggestion made by the United States. The British answer is said to emphasize the concurrence with the United States by adopting word for word, much of the phraseology employed by Secretary Hay in his original note to Great Britain and the other Powers. Great secrecy was maintained by Great Britain in returning her reply, but the contents reached the other powers and great irritation was felt on account of the apparent working accord between the United States and Great Britain. The German answer was rather more vague than that of the other powers, but it was the only conditions being that any arrangement as to free access to China should be universal, and assented to by all the powers.

MONEY FOR FRENCH FLEET.

Four Hundred Million Francs to Be Spent in Five or Six Years.

Paris, Dec. 29.—The government will submit to the chamber of deputies at the beginning of January a bill providing for the defence of the French coasts and colonies, and to increase the strength of the fleet. This does not involve an increase in the expenditures. The cost of the defence of the coasts and colonies is estimated at 120,000,000 francs, by spread over two and a half years. This sum will be provided for by 50,000,000 francs annually set aside to pay off certain bonds, which become free this year by the final payment of those bonds.

The expense of the increase of the fleet will be met by utilizing 65,000,000 francs of the 105,000,000 francs annually devoted to the construction of new vessels. At the end of two years the 105,000,000 francs can be devoted to the new naval programme.

The total outlay, which is estimated at 400,000,000 francs, will probably be understood for the construction of twelve first-class ironclads, several torpedo boat destroyers and a large number of torpedo boats. Already the press denounces the scheme as "inadequate."

La Patrie says: "It is tantamount to a rejection of the proposal of M. Leclercq (former French minister of marine) to expend 500,000,000 francs for the immediate reconstruction of the French navy, because the present scheme only asks that 400,000,000 francs be expended within the next six years, while the building of the proposed ironclads will take almost as long."

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FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

All British Rule Will Make the Country More Desirable One for White Men.

The supremacy of the British Empire throughout South Africa is assured, not by the force of any man or of any fleet, but by the fact that upon it depends the security, the good government, the humane treatment of the blacks, and the progress, prosperity and well-being of all to communities, black or white. And the Boer government must succumb, simply because it is hostile to civilization, whose march it seeks to oppose, and because it seeks to establish the power of an oligarchical minority, which is ever growing smaller and weaker in proportion to the white population of the country. It has sought to ally itself with the Portuguese, whose oppressive, iniquitous rule in South Africa has been a curse both to black and white wherever it has prevailed.

Portugal's rule south of the Zambezi will soon be superseded by that of Great Britain, which has, by all accounts, come to an agreement with her by which that part of Mozambique shall be taken under the British flag and rule. Portugal has been the champion of the slave and slave trade, and her duplicity and enmity which have been without limit, have made her the enemy of the blacks, and the progress of the Boers by the native populations. The Portuguese officers ordinarily procure labor by kidnapping the blacks, and by the entrap by false promises. They and again the Zulu blacks, who are physically splendid giants, as compared with the diminutive, degenerate Portuguese, would have driven the latter into the sea but for the protection afforded to British subjects of Lorenzo Marques by British ships in the port.

Delagoa Bay is by far the finest harbor on the southeast coast of Africa, and its shipping and commerce, which has already, would become very great if conducted under even ordinarily favorable conditions. But a recent revelation by Delagoa Bay gives the following description of the state of affairs: "The Boers have been in the harbor for some time, and their presence is a great nuisance. They have been without limit, have made her the enemy of the blacks, and the progress of the Boers by the native populations. The Portuguese officers ordinarily procure labor by kidnapping the blacks, and by the entrap by false promises. They and again the Zulu blacks, who are physically splendid giants, as compared with the diminutive, degenerate Portuguese, would have driven the latter into the sea but for the protection afforded to British subjects of Lorenzo Marques by British ships in the port."

MAIL STEAMER In Peril.

Big German Liner Stranded in Terrific Gale Off English Coast.

Tugs and Lifeboats Urgently Called For But Move Out With Great Difficulty.

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 30.—A large German mail steamer, whose name has not yet been ascertained, has gone aground during a terrific gale in East Bay, about a quarter of a mile off Dungeness, the southern extremity of Kent. Heavy seas are breaking over the vessel, and the lifeboats are unable to reach her. The crew are entertained for the safety of the passengers. It is believed that the grounded steamer is one of the Hamburg-American liners.

Latest reports are that the position of the stranded liner is very serious. Tugs and lifeboats were urgently requisitioned from Dover and Folkestone, but they had the utmost difficulty in getting off, owing to the gale. The signals of distress were observed on the Sang Head Lightship.

AN EXPERT ON PAPER.

Would Insist