

SEES EARLY END FOR REBELLION

General Bernardo Reyes Predicts Collapse of Revolutionary Movement in Mexico in Two Months

CALLS JAPAN STORY AN ABSURDITY

Finance Minister Limantour Gives Out Statement on Eve of His Departure for Mexico City

ROME, March 15.—General Bernardo Reyes, the former Mexican secretary of war, today gave his views of the Mexican situation. He predicted that the revolution would soon be over, and expressed satisfaction at the action of the United States in concentrating troops along the frontier. He was convinced of the good will of the American government towards Mexico, and characterized the reports of an alliance between his country and Japan against the United States as absurd.

General Reyes has been in Europe for more than a year, and said he had no idea of returning home at present, his reason being that his return might be interpreted as a desire to profit politically by the disturbed conditions.

"The internal situation in Mexico," he said, "by reason of the so-called revolution has not the gravity attributed to it. I am sure the rebellion cannot last more than two months. President Diaz possesses the influence and force necessary to crush it and bring about peace.

"In the past the strength of the revolutionists consisted in the dependence they were able to put on the hands of their followers who found it easy to pass from Mexico to American territory and back again into Mexico. Now the American troops will guard the frontier, and the guarantee of American neutrality, according to the treaty between the two countries, will be effectively carried out.

"The revolutionists cannot now receive any further help. In addition, the troops of the Mexican government have occupied the principal strategic positions and the number of rebels will diminish daily.

"With reference to our relations with the United States, I believe in the loyalty of the American government, and I am convinced the assembling of the American troops on the frontier has as its only object a friendly manifestation towards Mexico, which Mexico highly appreciates, for besides insuring neutrality it renders considerable help in putting down the rebellion.

"The talk of an alliance on the part of Mexico and Japan as opposed to the United States is simply absurd. It has doubtless resulted from the fact that there is an old agreement whereby, in 1908, Japanese citizens were allowed to land in Mexico for agricultural work.

"Should Diaz die, which I hope is distant, the constitution of Mexico provides for the succession of the vice-president."

SCENE IN DUMA

Attack on Female Students Causes Rage Among Deputies—Collision Narrowly Averted

ST. PETERSBURG, March 15.—An extraordinary scene against women students caused a sensational scene in the Duma this evening. An interpretation of recent incidents in the high schools was under discussion, when Deputy Ushakov alleged that female students during the revolutionary period, consorted with drunken sailors in order to carry on the revolutionary propaganda more successfully.

"Shouts of 'Down with the black-guard' and similar indignant protests arose from the left benches and started a scene of uproar and great disorder. The president was unable to control the deputies.

Ushakov tried to resume speaking, but in vain, and the president was obliged to ask him to leave the tribune, as the hour allowed to speakers had elapsed.

Ushakov's supporters raised a great outcry and the president closed the sitting. The opposing factions rushed toward the tribune, but officers there themselves between the two parties and prevented a collision. Only when the lights were turned off did the deputies quit the hall.

NEW HOMESTEADS AVAILABLE

TORONTO, March 15.—Pronounced approval of the opening up of the Northwest provinces by the construction of the trans-continental railway is shown in the announcement that this year the Canadian Northern Railway has opened the way for 25,000 homesteads. Of these 6,000 will be in the Jackfish Lake district, 9,000 in Athabasca, 6,000 between Saskatchewan and Calgary, 6,000 in the Carrot River district, and the remainder in the Shellbrook district.

BANK SCANDAL IS VENTILATED

Motion Offered in Commons for Royal Commission to Inquire Into Organization of Farmer's Bank

ALLEGED DISREGARD OF MANY WARNINGS

Discussion of Bill Prohibiting Use of Dangerous Drugs Brings Out Fact of Extensive Importations

OTTAWA, March 15.—The house sat until after midnight debating the following resolution by Mr. Henderson, of Halifax:

"That a royal commission should forthwith be appointed to inquire into and investigate the incorporation and organization of the Farmers Bank of Canada, and the granting of a certificate of deposit to the bank, in relation to the sale of notes and commerce business, and all circumstances connected therewith, and generally to inquire into and investigate the operation and efficiency of the bank act in relation to the affairs and transactions of said bank."

It was contended by Mr. Henderson that in face of repeated warnings of fraud, the treasury board had issued a certificate to the bank, therefore the government was liable to recover losses caused by the failure of the bank.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier admitted that the minister of finance, but it was by Manager Travers, whom the shareholders had elected as their agent, and who had also received the bank's funds, so that the government was not responsible.

The debate will continue at the next sitting.

WHAT IT MEANS

Mr. Osborne, One of Negotiators of Reciprocity Agreement, Makes Interesting Statement

PORTLAND, Maine, March 15.—Discussing Canadian reciprocity before the Portland Economic Club tonight, John B. Osborne, chief of the bureau of trade relations of the state department at Washington, predicted that in five years hence in the event of the adoption of the pending agreement, Canada's total imports will be about \$540,000,000, and that the United States will supply \$350,000,000, or sixty-five per cent. Mr. Osborne was one of the officials who prepared the agreement.

Col. Albert Clark, of Boston, president of the Home Market Club, a leading high protectionist organization, argued that the agreement as prepared would make a large inroad on the protective policy of the country. He said it discriminated against the farmers, lumbermen and fishermen, and that it was entirely one-sided and to Canada's advantage.

COLLAPSING WALLS BURY THIRTY MEN

Disaster in Nashville Caused by High Wind—Eighteen Bodies So Far Taken from the Ruins

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 15.—By the collapse of the walls of the building of the Fall Hardware company, which burned about ten days ago, about thirty men were buried under tons of brick, mortar and lime this morning.

Eighteen bodies have been recovered from the ruins. Seventeen were more or less injured.

Ralph McCallum was the only white man known to have been killed and Edwin Hart the only white man injured. The others are negroes.

High winds were responsible for the collapse of the walls. McCallum was superintending a salvage corps.

TROUBLED BY STRIKE

Tie-up of Freight Trains on Queen and Crescent Road Causes Shortage of Fuel

CINCINNATI, O., March 15.—Aid from the summoning of 800 deputy sheriffs at Somerset, Ky., to preserve order, there were no developments in the strike of the firemen of the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific (Queen & Crescent) railroad today. Apparently no move was made by either side looking toward peace.

Passenger trains were running nearly on schedule time in and out of here today but freight trains were not moving, and according to reports have not moved north of Somerset for 48 hours.

That various points are beginning to suffer from the strike was indicated by reports of a fuel shortage. The first real indication came tonight in a report from Somerset, Ky., which said that the electric power there would close down tomorrow for lack of fuel.

Gets Seven Years

WINNIPEG, March 15.—Nikolai Bryscka, convicted of manslaughter for the death of Harry B. Spalding last November, the result of a fracas at this afternoon sentenced by Mr. Justice Richards to seven years in the penitentiary at hard labor.

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PEKIN, March 15.—When intimidated by the threat contained in the original Russian note, China replied apparently acquiescing in the demand that she adhere more closely to the treaty of 1881, affecting Russian consular and commercial privileges in the 11 provinces and in Mongolia.

Russia thereupon stated that the reply was generally satisfactory, but asked for more explicit declarations. In the meantime the Chinese government, encouraged by comments in the foreign press, had grown bolder, and its second note stated that the Russian charges were groundless in declaring that Russian traders did not enjoy the treaty right to trade freely except in foreign goods, contended other points and declined to permit to establishment of the consulates which Russia demands.

Russia's many grievances arouse the suspicion that she possibly is playing for time, and is also preparing the world's opinion for an act of aggression when the snows have melted.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 15.—There were unconfirmed rumors today that the interview which Mr. Korostovets, the Russian minister at Peking, had with the prince regent yesterday, made more probable a peaceable outcome of the negotiations between the two countries.

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EXPLOSIVE USED ON BARRACKS

Rebels Cause Scare in Juarez by Attempting to Blow Up Buildings—Parts of Structures Torn Out

SOME CAVALRYMEN REPORTED WOUNDED

Battle Between Federals and Blanco's Men Expected Near Douglas—Lower California Operations

EL PASO, March 15.—An attempt was made tonight to blow up the barracks at Juarez, Mexico. Two heavy charges of nitro-glycerine were exploded, tearing out parts of the buildings occupied by the Mexican troops. Two members of a small band of insurgents who secretly entered the town were wounded and captured.

A number of Mexican cavalrymen are reported to have been injured. The shock of the explosion was felt throughout Juarez, and immediately a cry was raised that the insurgents had surrounded the place in great numbers and were attacking. Merchants left their stores, and crowds prepared to make a general exodus to the American side. Extra guards were placed about the quarters of Col. Tamborel, the commandant and of General Navarro.

The barracks were occupied by the 14th Mexican cavalry, and are located in the heart of the town. There has been a general feeling that the insurgents were surrounding the city. A small band of insurgents is supposed to have crept into the town along the railroad tracks shortly after 8 o'clock. After placing the bombs, they attempted to get away. Soldiers on the lookout on top of the barracks immediately opened fire, bringing down two of the insurgents. They escaped into the country.

All the Mexican soldiers in town were called on duty. A guard was placed around the barracks, and no official information as to the extent of the damage was given out. It was seen from adjacent streets, however, that a number of the barracks buildings were wrecked.

The captured insurgents were picked up by soldiers and carried away. A report that some Mexican soldiers were injured resulted from the general agitation about the scene.

The Mexican officers denied that any one had been killed, but would say nothing further.

The town soon quieted down, and the people who had prepared to cross the bridge returned. It has been known for several days that insurgents were within a few miles south of Juarez, but they were not in great numbers. Yet the town has had the aspect of a city preparing for war.

Sandbags are piled up at the edges of the roofs of houses to act as breastworks, people have been forbidden to venture far beyond the environs, and the rifle loopholes knocked in the walls of the old mission in the heart of the town have been kept open.

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NEWS

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Exhibition Al- lapped Out by Officials - Ex- mated

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CHINESE WIVES AS IMMIGRANTS

Senate at Ottawa Discusses Proposal to Allow Them to Enter Canada Without Paying Head Tax

OTTAWA, March 14.—There was an interesting discussion in the senate today on the proposition of a Chinese immigration amendment act allowing Chinese born in Canada to bring in their wives without payment of the head tax. Senator Loughheed suggested that the law be broadened so as to allow every Chinaman entitled to enter Canada to bring in his wife without extra charge. He thought such a law would be in the interests of morality. Mr. Richard Cartwright seemed to favor the suggestion, and promised to bring it before his colleagues. Senator Macdonald said the proposal was a good one. Victoria had Chinese residents of excellent character. The patients were honest and industrious, and the boys and girls were students in the public schools. There had to be some restriction upon the admission of Chinese, no doubt, but it seemed a pity they were most useful residents of British Columbia. They cleared land and domestic work and performed a thousand useful offices. With the development of mines and the great increase in the cost of labor he believed many families could not live in Victoria without Chinese help. It seemed a monstrous thing in this age to place a head tax on peaceful people who loaded our ships with silk and teas, who clothed and fed our work and whom the gates of every country in Europe were open. It would be in the interest of morality, he argued, to accept Senator Loughheed's suggestion. Senator Thompson asked if there were any marriages between Chinese and white women. Senator Macdonald replied that he believed there were a good many, and with Japanese too. Some women were so anxious for marriage they would take a man of any color, white, black or yellow. Senator Thompson said it was unusual to have British Columbia favor opening the door wider for admission of the Chinese, but it would be humane and good for society to let them bring in their wives for companionship in Canada. Senator Domville asked: "How many wives?" Senator Thompson answered: "One each."

COMING TO B. C.

Party of English Retired Officers and Professional Men to Settle in Baynes Lake District

COLONEL'S TOUR

Routes Through Texas on Special Train with El Paso - Speaks at El Paso Today

Wages Increased

WINNIPEG, March 14.—The Winnipeg Electric Railway Co. announce an increase of two cents an hour for its motor men and conductors.

Death of Klugean Lady

KINGSTON, Ont., March 14.—Mrs. Francis Hanson, aged 31, died here early this morning. She was a daughter of Wm. Archibaldson MCM. of this city and well-known. She leaves four children.

Los Angeles Verdict

LOS ANGELES, March 14.—The coroner's jury in the Times disaster of October 1, after an adjournment of several weeks, held its concluding session today, and returned the following verdict: "The Times building was destroyed and a great number of the employees by an explosion followed by fire, said explosion being caused by high explosives other than illuminating gas placed there by a party or parties unknown to this jury."

Smugglers of Arms

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The department of justice has a warrant for Harvey Phillips, a private detective of this city, and formerly a federal secret service operative. He is charged with making interstate shipments of small arms and ammunition, and concealing the true nature of the shipments. Of officials of the department say the ammunition was for the Mexican insurgents. Phillips is not charged with violating the neutrality law, because there is no evidence that he shipped arms, munitions of war into Mexico. Special agents of the department say the shipments were sent only to the American border, and taken in hand by insurgent agents. The new criminal code has a section governing the shipment of high explosives in interstate commerce.

FOR STEEL PLANT AT PORT MANN

Sufficient Capital Said to Have Been Subscribed for First Unit - Coal and Iron Deposits Secured

U. S. ARMY CHANGES

Department Considering Question of Reorganization on Broad Lines - More Commands in Field

Called to Revelstoke

Rebellious Moors

HONOLULU, March 14.—Another case of cholera made its appearance today among those who had been exposed to infection and are in quarantine. This makes 27 cases since the disease first appeared here. There have been 21 deaths.

H. B. Stars in Calgary

WINNIPEG, March 14.—The Hudson Bay Company, through its sales commissioner, Mr. Burridge, today announced the company will build in Calgary this year, a ten-story building, to cost a million and a half dollars, to be the largest department store in Canada.

SPEECH EXCITES PUBLIC FEELING

Sir Edward Grey's Utterance in House of Commons Looked upon as Most Important for Years

LONDON, March 15.—Sir Edward Grey's epoch-making speech, as every Liberal calls it, has aroused enormous interest throughout Europe, and was again the absorbing topic in the parliamentary lobbies yesterday. By universal consent, it is the most important made in parliament in years. Some Conservative morning papers, taking the ground that the foreign secretary's ideal is almost impossible of attainment, comment somewhat coldly and point to the difficulty of the path.

The Liberal organs, on the other hand, hail it with unbounded enthusiasm, and express a strong resentment at the scoffing remarks heard from the Conservative benches, while Sir Edward, was speaking, such as "How About Mexico?" and similar interjections offensive to the United States.

The wagon of the English-speaking people is now hitched to a star, said Sir Henry Norman. "The rest may come slowly, but it will come, and it will date from 1911."

Similar opinions were expressed by the most progressive members of the Commons. Indeed, many members connected with the arbitration movement found it difficult to believe that Sir Edward Grey had not made sure of his ground with regard to negotiations with the United States before going so far in public utterance.

Lord Reay, the British delegate to The Hague conference in 1907, in an interview thinks that a general arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain might be the occasion for the establishment of a permanent arbitration tribunal, and that the only possible opposition in America would come from the Irish sections.

The Nationalist members in the House of Commons, discussing the matter, are frank in declaring that it would be quite impossible to secure acceptance of the treaty until Home Rule had been granted Ireland.

The Morning Post in an editorial says that such a treaty would involve on the part of both nations the sacrifice of what is called sovereignty, at that sacrifice, the agreement is possible.

The Morning Leader says that American diplomacy has often shown to advantage by the side of the elaborate European methods, but such a treaty would make all former triumphs pale.

Some of the morning papers point out the difficulties in the way of giving to Great Britain's foreign alliances. The Daily News remarks that incidentally this is the first time a British foreign secretary has recognized the right of parliament to share in the treaty-making power.

The Times says editorially Great Britain is equally ready, as at the time of the Pauncefote-Olney negotiations, to accept the arbitration treaty, provided it can be shown that the American people desire it, and that the negotiations will not prove abortive.

Money for Families Sufferers

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Continuing its attempt to relieve the distress of the starving millions of China, the American National Red Cross today called \$2,000 more to the stricken people. The money came from popular subscriptions and was sent to the American consul-general at Shanghai for distribution.

Winnipeg's Contingent

WINNIPEG, March 14.—Winnipeg's contingent to the coronation, outside of fifty Highlanders and officers to be sent over at Colonel Thomson's expense, are: Sergeant Grindley, field battery; Sergeant Cyrus Oliver, Stroud and Williams, of the Hussars; Color Sergeant of the Kingston and Thornton, Sergeant Voyer, St. Catharines; Staff-Sergeant Tyler, Field Ambulance.

Another Skirmish

MEXICO CITY, March 14.—After having captured a detachment of twenty state troops, a band of 200 rebels was driven from Santa Eulalia in Chihuahua by 100 federal troops. Fifteen of their number were left dead on the field. The report of the engagement contained in a telegram received here says but one federal soldier was killed.

According to the message, the rebels were surprised while attending a service in one of the churches at Santa Eulalia. For three hours they defended their position by means of dynamite bombs. This effort they repulsed the building and took its defenders prisoners. Late in the afternoon reinforcements arrived and the rebels were forced out of the town into the hills.

INCREASE FORCE ALONG BORDER

Troops of Cavalry to be Added to-Manoeuvre Division—All Arms Ready for Active Service

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The present forces on the Mexican frontier will be increased in a few days by several troops of cavalry from the mounted forces now being assembled in the southern border states. It is announced at the war department that the increase will amount to six or seven troops of cavalry to be added to the patrol on the Rio Grande. In making this announcement, officials explained that the increase of the infantry regiments now mobilizing at San Antonio, Galveston and San Diego will be dispatched to the order. The increase will be made at the request of General Duhcan, commander of the Texas department.

Previous to the receipt of this report the department had not intended to augment the southern patrol. There are already stretched along the frontier three regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry and two companies of the signal corps.

Because of the great extent of the boundary line, more than 1,500 miles, the patrol is a mammoth task. Constant reports are reaching Washington of the smuggling of arms and ammunition, and it is the American government to stop this practice. The part of the boundary in the southwest which is marked by an arbitrary line is regarded as adequately patrolled.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., March 14.—When asked the Washington dispatch of the Associated Press referring to the disposition of the forces now on station in the Mexican line and elsewhere, Admiral Thomas, in command of the army, replied that the Pacific squadron and other vessels of the Pacific squadron, are detailed to express any opinion on the subject. The ships have been made ready for any event. Coilers are to arrive within the next few days with coal and supplies. The marines sent here on the Buffalo have been distributed to the different cruisers of the fleet, of which there are five vessels now at anchor here. There has been no diminution of preparedness in any section of the naval forces in this station.

The forces of General Bliss, in command of the provisional brigade here, as those of the navy, are prepared for immediate service. An indication of this was shown this evening when Company B 30 was ordered to reinforce Evans on the Mexican border, and reported ready to leave in less than an hour. GALVESTON, Tex., March 14.—Eighty military mules arrived at Camp Crockett today. They are attached to the field hospital corps and ambulance train No. 5, sent here from St. Louis to join the brigade commanded by Brigadier-General Mills. The field hospital will contain 18 beds, and there are five surgeons in the corps. The corps companies prepared for active service. General Mills is not attempting to speculate upon the probable move to be made by his brigade, once it is organized. He is just hustling things along as he has his men ready for any service that may be required. Company and battalion drill for three hours daily is occupying the attention of 1,200 men. The transports are expected to arrive on Thursday. Quarrel With Railway SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 14.—Captain Normayle, depot quartermaster here, and the Southern Pacific railway, are at odds over the handling of army freight. The trouble became acute today when the depot quartermaster threatened to abandon the army yards on the Southern Pacific tracks.

Advertisement for Penman's Hose and Campbell's Waist Values. Includes text: "Waist Values That Are Different And Better", "Spring Suits - Exclusive", "Ladies' College Style, Sweater Coats".

Advertisement for Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne. Includes text: "Chlorodyne", "THE ORIGINAL and ONLY GENUINE", "Acts like a charm in DIARRHOEA and is the only Specific in CHOLERA and DYSENTERY".

Land Fraud Cases

CHICAGO, March 14.—Fifteen witnesses were examined today in the government investigation of the Alaskan coal land entries. No definite conclusion has been reached, and no indictment will be returned until all the evidence is in. Assistant Attorney General Hanson, who is conducting the inquiry, said that it probably would not be concluded before the end of the present week.

Fire in Toronto

TORONTO, March 14.—Thirty-six people were driven from their homes by flames this morning when a fire broke out from the kitchen of Wm. Cox's home, 812 King street west, and spread with such rapidity that the inmates were given no opportunity to do more than grab up a very few of their scanty clothes and run for the street. Three other houses caught, but the inmates got out safely.

Crazed by Jealousy

SAN FRANCISCO, March 14.—A sailor on the cruiser California, today shot to death Miss Jessie Cook, a "Barbary Coast" dance hall singer, and Hugo Rhunn, night clerk in the St. Louis hotel on Montgomery street and then blew off his brains. Sharkey, it is said, had obtained his discharge from the navy in order to marry the girl. When he arrived at the hotel early today a quarrel commenced. When Rhunn interfered, Sharkey drew a revolver and shot the girl through the left breast. Sharkey then dropped Rhunn with a bullet through the brain. When the sailor realized the effects of his shots, he blew out his own brains.

Telegraph Operators' Wages

TORONTO, March 14.—The G.N.W. Telegraph Co. has replied to the Dominion Government with reference to the request of its telegraph operators for the appointment of a board of conciliation. The company denies the right of the union or committee selected by the men to deal with the alleged grievances, and it points out that

a large portion of the employees signed a circular issued by the management repudiating the committee's action. A further objection was that President Konenkamp, of the Telegraphers' Union, is a foreigner. President Konenkamp stated last night that some of the employees had signed the circular referred to, but had done so to avoid summary dismissal.

LONG DISTANCE WIRELESS

Dominion Government Station at Point Grey Exchanges Messages with Honolulu

VANCOUVER, March 14.—Point Grey radio-telegraphic station near this city was in communication tonight for the first time with the Honolulu wireless station. Congratulatory messages were exchanged between the operators. It was noted that the atmospheric conditions greatly favored long distance transmission.

Fatal Shot Fired

ROSEBURG, Ore., March 14.—In the presence of Miss Lillian Spiker, with whom he had attended a theatrical performance, Roy McCallan, a local contractor and a member of a prominent Douglas county family, shot and killed B. A. Mahan, proprietor of a plumbing store shortly before midnight. The shooting occurred on the principal business street of Roseburg. In fall today McCallan said that he was shot in self-defence, and that Mahan was attempting to draw a gun when he was shot. A revolver was found on the body of Mahan. McCallan says Mahan had followed him and Miss Spiker from the theatre, and as he overtook them he uttered several oaths and had placed his hand in his rear pocket as though to draw a weapon. McCallan

Disregarded Quarantine

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 14.—Captain Crayston, of the American auxiliary schooner Adventurers, was fined \$50 in the police court today for a breach of the quarantine laws. In coming from Cienfuegos, the vessel passed Port Royal without waiting for the usual quarantine code were heard quite distinctly, though the dashes were somewhat mixed. Telegraphic messages in transmission between Point Grey and Honolulu they were also caught by the operator at the Vancouver end of the Colonists' leased wire. The date of the continental code were heard quite distinctly, though the dashes were somewhat mixed. Telegraphic messages in transmission between Point Grey and Honolulu they were also caught by the operator at the Vancouver end of the Colonists' leased wire. The date of the continental code were heard quite distinctly, though the dashes were somewhat mixed. 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STORES OF GOLD IN RUSSIA'S DOMAINS Countless Millions to be Won, but Russia's Bureaucratic System of Government Stands in Way

ST. PETERSBURG, Mar. 14.—Russia appears to have countless millions of gold in her vast territories, but there is no way of getting it out of the ground. A report has just been made for the guidance of the Russian ministry in its future policy in regard to the gold production of the Empire, but like so many reports of the present day, it conveys the impression that Russia up to date has lacked the supervision of the practical business man—has been ruled by the bureaucrat instead of the administrator. What has been done is either insufficient or in the wrong direction. What is needed, to produce practical results has been left unattended. Thus the enormous tracts of land owned by the Emperor as "cabinet territories" produce the insignificant amount of \$100,000 or \$145,000 gold per annum, while three and four times that amount is either known or suspected to pass over the Chinese frontier by various routes.

The report points out that, although in the past twenty years Russia has increased her production of gold by 50 per cent, yet this is nothing in comparison with the increase in other parts of the world. For reasons are found for the backwardness of Russia in a production for which nature had particularly fitted her in the following: Russia lacks roads and railways, and cannot get at her gold with the facility necessary. She is hampered by legislative and administrative orders that put serious obstacles in the way of private enterprise, and she has not the superabundant capital required to place the industry of gold-getting on a satisfactory footing. To compare with other goldfields the world over.

The necessity of paying closer attention to the gold-mining of Russia is urged on the following lines:—Gold alone of all the industries is capable of creating colonization in waste places of the kind found over a great part of the regions of the Empire known to be auriferous; it is an industry that is not subject to the same uncertainties of markets and prices as other industries of all kinds are; on the contrary, it creates markets for all other goods, for it has been estimated that for every unit of gold got out of the earth, from 2,000 to 2,500 units of other goods must be provided for consumption by the workers. Owing to redundant harvests, Russia is now exceptionally well situated in the matter of gold, which connotes a ready market for the country in return for grain and other commodities; but this cannot be reckoned on to last for ever, and Russia, with her gold value, must get more gold out of her territory if she is to avoid difficulties in maintaining her gold value.

The measures proposed in this direction are various. New laws for Siberia, involving either some form of local self-government or the placing of administrative powers in the hands of the gold-getters, whose organizations, in fact, do administer for all practical purposes the small part of the wilder districts of Siberia and the regulation of the practice of "gold-running" which at present is illegal, but so profitable as rarely to incur penalties at the great distances from the seat of authority at which it is practiced. This "gold-running" is treated as highway robbery, and most severely punished. In all other countries it is called "prospecting" and allowed of a practical nature allow of the successful prospector making his account of the value of the mine in the pale of the law, instead of being treated, as in Russia, as an outlaw and thief.

Yet most discoveries of new goldfields owe their first suggestion to the prospectors, who in Russia "run" their gold across the Chinese frontier, being unable legally to market it in Russian territory. The "gold-runners," or prospectors, should be encouraged in every possible way, that they may find it in their interest to market their discoveries and gold in Russia, and become citizens and diggers instead of hunted criminals or sources of illicit income to minor officials.

Russia has the gold in quantities known to be for all practical purposes inexhaustible; it does not lie so conveniently, perhaps, for getting as the gold of the Transvaal, for instance, but it has already made over a small portion of the territory known to be auriferous. But Russia does not possess the essential to successful working—ready capital. Labor can be found, cheap and plentiful. If only some recent mistaken legislation be altered. The law prohibiting the employment of Koreans, apparently a political enactment, clouded the decline of many and the ruin of the prosperous gold-mining underlings in Siberia.

Foreign companies in the past have been less successful than might be expected, but the reasons are to be found not in any lack of gold. Partly it is owing to Russian regulations which hamper free enterprise to no small extent. These may be altered, and, indeed, steps have been taken already towards altering the company laws of Russia in a sense likely to be acceptable to the practical business mind of the world.

Baron De Constant's Opinion. WASHINGTON, March 15.—Regarding what he termed the "alarmed exaggeration of pessimists" in their interpretation of the attitude of the United States toward Mexico in the present crisis, Baron De Constant, one of the leading diplomats of France in Washington, expressed tonight at the Pan-American Union, urged faith in the "conciliation policy" of the United States. Senator De La Barra, the Mexican ambassador; M. Jusserand, the French

CAUCUS SYSTEM IN AUSTRALIA Labor in Office Continuing on Line Adopted for Its Opposition Days—Effect on Legislation

SYDNEY, N. S. W., March 14.—In three of the Australian legislatures—the Federal, the South Australian, and that of New South Wales—Labor is in office with a clear majority behind it, and it has brought with it into those legislatures the caucus system which stood it in good stead while it was a "third" party, and which directed the regular Ministerial or Opposition party, several of its ablest leaders were anxious to abolish. It is interesting to note the first experience of this new constitutional device—a ministry perpetually and immediately responsible to the mass of its followers, and bound to submit to their criticism in detail, and to their measures before and during their passage through parliament.

It must be understood that this perpetual supervision is not an essential or original part of the caucus system. The governing idea of caucus is that on matters affecting the party's platform the whole body of members must vote as the majority decides. The original caucus was thus rather an occasional thing, a regular meeting of the members of the party, and the second reading of an important bill was impending. But enthusiastic members found regular weekly meetings during the session a valuable aid to their political education, as well as a means of promoting mutual understanding between the various sections of the party, for labor has always been a name common to men of very diverse political views.

Once made regular, these caucus meetings assumed the character of their own, quite apart from the mandatory character of any decision arrived at. The leaders were kept in close touch with their followers on points of the merest detail, and, while still in Opposition, acquired the habit of explaining their own views in considerable detail to any doubtful or recalcitrant member. While Mr. Watson was the leader of the Labor party he managed to retain a personal dominion which vied even from its members the powers of the caucus weekly meeting; but he foresaw the possible danger, and did his best to extract the sting. When he resigned, however, and a new leader had to be chosen, the caucus woke to a knowledge of its power, and the slight that Mr. Fisher was chosen as "chairman" not as "leader" of the party.

Another step was taken when the party was called on to undertake ministerial responsibility. Mr. Watson in 1904, chose his colleagues for himself, the caucus later on Mr. Fisher, both in 1908 and in 1910; still, he allotted the officers among the men assigned as his fellow-ministers. Even that privilege seems doomed to extinction; particular ministers have been chosen by caucus, and the caucus is now to be the power to transfer another to a different department.

This application merely, but the actual everyday use of caucus, is quite startling enough already. Although its nominal control of individual members—or ministers as of others—is confined to general decisions on points concerned with the fighting platform, in practice it dominates ministerial actions, and in detail. The party is pledged to act solidly in certain matters; it prefers to act solidly in all matters; it tries therefore, to thresh out its internal differences in caucus. But the younger members, while the caucus is in the charge of their power in caucus, are still too undisciplined to accept any measure of control outside their obligation. While they ventilate all their grievances and attack ministers as freely as they please, inside the labor room, they refuse to be guided by the majority of the party when its caucus decision is against them, and merely transfer the scene of their campaign to the House itself, where some Oppositionists can usually be found to "back them up." This during the members' sense of solidarity and, unless he has strong personal views on the point in question, and old member is inclined to preserve solidarity by agreeing with the man who will not accept defeat rather than with the minister who is bound to accept it. If it comes, since he is in the method of his election subordinate to the caucus. So the extremists and the grumblers obtain power beyond their numerical weight.

Curiously enough, the external effects of the caucus system, seem to have fallen as much behind expectations as the internal have gone beyond it. If one trusts solely to the reports of the partisan dailies, the external effects have been horrible; discussion has been bruted, debate has been stifled, and brute force has hung upon the country's neck a mass of tyrannical legislation. The truth, however, seems to be this. The Labor party not only has not done what its astonishing victory in April last constituted a mandate for certain proposals embodied in its fighting platform. Its work for the session, it felt, must be to take the most important and most easily dealt with of those proposals and share them into actual legislation. It was not inclined to let time be wasted in restating the arguments against the underlying principles—the elections had settled all that of the moment. It felt, however, its chosen leader knew little, never having been in office long enough to gain the requisite experience. They were compelled there-

RAILWAY REACHES FOR THE INTERIOR Copper River Road Making Good Progress Towards the Tanana Country—Carries Mail for Fairbanks

CORDOVA, Alaska, March 14.—E. C. Hawkins, general manager of the Copper River and Northwestern Railway, returned from an inspection of the line tonight, and reports that work is progressing so rapidly that the line will be completed to Bonanza earlier than anticipated. It is possible that the line will be finished early in April.

The mild winter has made fast work possible, and re-laying has been carried on at a rate of more than a mile a day. Despite the early rains which fell last month, causing snowdrifts and brief interruptions in train service, the road has been operated all winter between Cordova and Chitina, where it connects with the Fairbanks railway. The mild winter has made it possible to get a larger amount of material to the interior, and yesterday the post-office here began forwarding all classes of mail to Fairbanks and other points beyond the mountains. Heretofore such matter has not been sent over the trail during the winter season. Mr. Hawkins said tonight that the Copper River road is ready to construct its branch line to the Bering River coal fields and erect bunkers, of the buildings and a station at Kantala, whenever the government takes definite action that will assure the opening of the coal fields.

Le Roi No. 2 Mining Company has paid another dividend. Silvertown, on Slocan lake, is enjoying a real estate boom. Vernon will improve its electric light system.

A branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce is being established at Vernon. The C.P.R. plans a total expenditure of \$3,000,000 this season on its lines west of the Rockies. A. E. Dochow, who has been appointed Census Commissioner for West Kootenay. The Kootenay Jam Co. has sold its Nelson factory to Doukhabor colonists and will establish on the Coast. The Anglican denomination will erect a new church at Creston. The improvements to the New Westminster court house and the office of the provincial assessor in the Royal City have been completed.

The Western Canada Power Company has consented to lease its lines over Pitt river whenever it may be necessary to do for the accommodation of shipping. New Westminster property owners are to be asked to provide \$35,000 for park improvement purposes. On the eve of his departure for Europe, Rev. A. J. MacGillivray, retired pastor of St. John's church, of Vancouver, was tendered a farewell reception, and presented with a purse containing \$1,000 in gold. A complimentary banquet is to be tendered J. H. Schofield, M. P. P., by the Kootenay River Conservative Association, at Slocan Junction, on the evening of the 23rd instant. The deer are reported very plentiful in the Pemberton Meadows country. Several Indians have lately been fined there for running deer with dogs. A band of twenty oak came down to the flats near Hommer last week, feed having been found scarce in the hills. The new government offices at Fernie were last week taken possession of by the official staff. Mayor Bleasdel, of Fernie, has consented to allow his resignation to remain on the table until he leaves the city, which he expects will be next month. A Hindu at Ehoit made \$2 in nine days this month unloading oak for the C. P. R. In Vernon any pup under six months old is entitled to roam about at its own sweet will without the regulation municipal badge. The Kootenay Rifles at Fernie have unanimously resolved to ask the militia department to disband the corps in that city or provide a suitable drill hall. Fred Shaw, a lad of sixteen, employed on the tipple at Cook Creek, met death last week by being struck by a train. Prince Rupert's council is seeking a favorable site for a new city hall. More money will be expended in the Kamloops district this year than ever before in its history. The Point Grey municipality has accepted tenders for laying water pipes to the amount of \$145,000. A coroners' jury has found that the death of Gustave E. Jacobson, through a fall from the new wing of the Hotel Vancouver, resulted through gross negligence. Milton Greive, of Nanaimo, suffered a double bereavement last week in the death of his father and sister, occurring within a few days. A campaign for better mail facilities between Prince Rupert and Hazelton is being actively urged in those places. The strikers in Prince Rupert are taking firm for forty-five cents an hour, and refuse to discuss a suggested compromise. Frank H. Mobley, of Prince Rupert, has been officially advised of his appointment as Dominion Census Commissioner for Comox-Alta. The work is to be completed by June 31st. It is announced that the British Columbia Lumber Corporation will shortly establish a pulp and paper mill at Massena. The Dickens Centenary will be celebrated in Vancouver by the production

AROUSES CONTROVERSY Use of English in Synagogue Services Not Appealing to All London Jews

LONDON, March 14.—The decision to introduce English into Jewish services here has created quite a sensation. The measure was sharply criticized by the members of the Berkeley Street Reform Synagogue held to decide on introducing important changes into its ritual. He said the changes were the outcome of prolonged deliberation, and represented a compromise between two opposite parties. A proposal that the sexes should sit together had been withdrawn. "A moderate amount of English is to be introduced," he said, "much against the wishes of myself and others who believe that the retention of Hebrew is closely associated with the preservation of our religion."

"A moderate amount of English is to be introduced," he said, "much against the wishes of myself and others who believe that the retention of Hebrew is closely associated with the preservation of our religion." "It is a bond that united Jews all over the world. Apart from religion its educational value is very great. I fear that the introduction of English into the service will operate to discourage the teaching of Hebrew, and will not increase the attendances at the synagogue."

BODY OF GRACE Corps Found in Ostend Harbor is Thought to be That of Unfortunate English Aviator

OSTEND, Belgium, March 14.—A body was brought to the surface in this harbor today which is thought to be that of Cecil Grace, the aviator who was killed last December, while attempting a return aeroplane flight from Calais to Dover. Although greatly disfigured, the body was identified by the examination it has undergone as that of the luckless English aviator.

Cecil Grace was the son of the late J. A. Grace of New York and a nephew of former Mayor William R. Grace. He was a member of the Royal Aero club, and in an attempt to win the Baron de Forest prize of \$20,000 on December 22, flew over the English Channel from Dover, reaching the Belgium frontier. He was turned back by adverse winds, and after a vain attempt to gain shelter on the return trip across the channel. He was never heard from again, but his cap and glasses were picked up in the North Sea off Marlerkerke, Belgium, on January 8, and later what was supposed to be the wreckage of the aeroplane was found near the same place.

PLAGUE IN MANCHURIA Twenty Thousand Deaths in Harbin Consular District Since First Outbreak

WASHINGTON, March 14.—This plague is continuing its ravages in China, as shown by the mail advices reaching the state department from American consular officers. It is estimated that twenty thousand people have died in the Harbin consular district since the outbreak of the epidemic. In Harbin and its suburbs, Fuchsin, 6,014, including fifty Europeans, died up to February 11. The disease is playing havoc with the Chinese troops at Chang Chün, according to Japanese statistics, 150 deaths among them being reported up to January 26th.

French War Vessels. MEXICO CITY, March 14.—Admiral Dufaure De la Jarte and other officers of the French Atlantic squadron sailed from Vera Cruz tonight aboard the cruiser Gloire, and Admiral Aube, the former being the flagship. The Condey, the third of the vessels that came to Mexican waters to pay complimentary visits, remained at anchor awaiting instructions. It was said, from the home government, that Admiral La Jarte and party are bound for Annapolis, where they will visit the naval academy, going later to New York and Washington.

Million-Dollar Lumber Deal. NELSON, B. C., March 14.—For one million dollars the Patrick Lumber Company, Ltd., yesterday conveyed to the British-Canadian Lumber Corporation with headquarters at Montreal, its mill at Crescent Valley and 9,000 acres of white pine, spruce and cedar timber on the east and west branches of the Little Slocan River. The timber lands, which are conceded locally to be about the most valuable limits in the interior, have been owned outright. The sawmills especially ordinary run in 10,000,000 feet per year, and the plant is claimed to have no superior in the interior. Two ladies walked last month all the way from Kilmalea to Prince Rupert.

PROVINCIAL NEWS Le Roi No. 2 Mining Company has paid another dividend. Silvertown, on Slocan lake, is enjoying a real estate boom. Vernon will improve its electric light system.

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BLACK HAND GETS HIM Sicilian who Left Home to Escape Camera Vigilance is Shot Down in Chicago

CHICAGO, March 14.—Esquale Marcano, once a resident of Palermo, Sicily, quarreled with members of the Camorra before leaving there four years ago, the police say. To escape the vengeance of his former associates, he fled to America. Last night he was shot by an unknown person while entering his home here. He died early today. When Paquale came to America, he went to work as a railroad laborer and never had money to send home. He got a small sum saved that he received a letter. It was the usual demand of "the Black Hand." "We must have money. You must give us \$500." Paquale threw away the letter and bought a revolver. He carried it strapped to his belt by day and slept at night with it under his pillow. He watched closely for the flash of a stiletto when walking through the Italian parts of the city. For two years of more he met with no member of the "Black Hand" and thought he was safe. Last night he abandoned his wonted caution.

Proposed Ice Mookley. NELSON, B. C., March 14.—Frank Patrick, on his return from Vancouver, stated that the Western Canada Hockey League, comprising the cities of Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary and Edmonton would positively be re-nuniated next season, and that bids would be made to every high class hockey player in the game. He said there would be no salary limit. This league will be bound to have its effect on the hockey in the eastern Canadian leagues, for there is no question but that these western cities will attract many of the eastern stars. The gasoline launch Agnes blew up at Prince Rupert recently, the two men on board having a narrow escape.

THE CURSE OF THE BIRTHS MARRIAGES DEATHS

From the Lighthouse at Lobster Cove Head, Bonaventure, Newfoundland, Mrs. W. Young sends, as a remembrance of her husband, who died of scurvy, a true beam light, guiding all sufferers from skin disease to a safe harbor of refuge. "I suffered with scurvy seven years, and to my great delight Zam-Buk has been sent. The disease started on my breast, and spread until it extended over my back. The itching and burning—especially when the affected parts were warm—was terrible, and yet when the eruption was scratched or rubbed, it turned to bad sores, and caused great pain. I went to a doctor, and tried various prescriptions, but seemed to get no benefit, so tried another doctor. Again I got no relief, so tried a third doctor, and then a fourth. Although they all did their best for me I got no relief from my pain. "Seven years is a long time to suffer, and I had got used to the thought that I never would be cured when I saw a report in The Family Herald calling attention to Zam-Buk. I bought a box of six dollars, and to my surprise it was so good. I thought there would be no harm in giving this balm a fair trial, and bought some. "Well, from the use of the very first box I saw Zam-Buk was going to do me good. I persevered with it, and the improvement it worked in my condition was simply wonderful. I ceased the irritation, stopped the pain, and the sores began to dry up and disappear. In short, I found Zam-Buk all that was claimed for it, and within a very short time it worked a complete cure in my case. "Not only for scurvy, but for ulcers, abscesses, various sores, bad leg, poisoned wounds, cuts, cold sores, chapped places, bites, ringworm, children's eruptions, pimples, acids, and all skin injuries and diseases. Zam-Buk will be found unequalled. All drug stores and stores sell it. 50c. box, or post free from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, for price. Refuse harmful substitutes and imitations."

LAND AOT. Take notice that Norman McMillan, of Bulkley, B. C. farmer, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands: Commencing at a post placed at the north-west corner of Lot 188, and 80 chains east 80 chains south 20 chains west of the said post, a commencement, containing 64 acres, more or less. NORMAN McMILLAN, December 20, 1910.

BIRTHS MARRIAGES DEATHS. MARRIED. PRINGLE-BRAGG—At St. Barnabas's church, on Wednesday, March 8, 1911, by Rev. E. G. Miller, Mrs. Gibson Pringle of Nanaimo, Ont. to Miss Lillian Clara Louise Bragg, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bragg of Piquet street, Victoria, B. C. BRETHER-GANT—At Seattle today, Margaret Wallace Grant to William Herbert Bretther.

BORN. STANDERWICK—On Tuesday, March 7th, at 839 Princess avenue, to Mrs. and Mr. R. S. Standerwick, a son. ROBBINS—On the 8th inst., at St. Joe's hospital, the wife of W. A. Robbins, of a daughter. BITTANCOURT—On March 7th, the wife of F. J. Bittancourt, of Head street, a son. MILLER—On the 8th inst., the wife of H. D. Miller of a son.

DEED. March, J. W. Spring, second son of the late Capt. William Spring, late of Victoria, B. C., in his 57th year. PORTER—On the 11th inst., at St. Joseph's hospital, Victor Herbert, the 12-day old son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Porter. McQUADE—On the 12th inst., at the residence, 355 Vancouver street, Louis Gregory McQuade, aged 18 years, and a native of Albany, N. Y. SPRING—On the 7th inst., at Carstairs, Alberta, John William Spring, son of the late Captain Spring, of this city, a native of Victoria. The funeral will take place on Tuesday.

Motion, Australian 150000
Wool, dressed, per lb. 100000
Wool, undressed, per lb. 100000
Ducks, dressed, per lb. 100000
Hams, per lb. 100000
Pork, per lb. 100000

LOCAL MARKETS. RETAIL. Potatoes, per 100 lbs. 1.80
Onions, per 100 lbs. 1.70
Cabbage, per 100 lbs. 1.50
Carrots, per 100 lbs. 1.40
Beets, per 100 lbs. 1.30
Turnips, per 100 lbs. 1.20
Cauliflower, per 100 lbs. 1.10
Broccoli, per 100 lbs. 1.00
Spinach, per 100 lbs. .90
Lettuce, per 100 lbs. .80
Cucumbers, per 100 lbs. .70
Eggplants, per 100 lbs. .60
Peas, per 100 lbs. .50
Beans, per 100 lbs. .40
Corn, per 100 lbs. .30
Rice, per 100 lbs. .20
Flour, per 100 lbs. .10
Sugar, per 100 lbs. .05
Tea, per 100 lbs. .02
Coffee, per 100 lbs. .01

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If Insects Were Larger

We know that there was a time when heads and turtles were as big as men—in fact, several times bigger—for the skeletons of these huge creatures now adorn museums. But has there ever been a time when insects were as big as men, and what would happen if that time were to come again?

M. Plateau, a French scientific man, once undertook to measure the strength of a beetle. He arranged a paste-board tube, rough inside, with a bit of glass set into it, against which the beetle could push in trying to get out into the light. This glass plate was connected with a tiny instrument made to measure force, like those which tell how many pounds a man can lift, but this one, of course, was the right size to fit the beetle. It has been found that a beetle can draw 40 times its own weight, and if some beetles were the size of a cart horse, each one could haul something like 150,000 pounds.

The pyramids are only about 450 feet high, and the highest building in the world is about 900 feet, about 150 times the height of an average man—but, the termitenests of Africa are a thousand times the height of the little insects that build them. If men could build as the termites do, or if termites were the size of men, we should have a city the size of New York or Chicago all under one roof, with its highest windows more than ten times as high as the Washington monument.

The locusts that come in swarms every few years and eat up all the crops can travel a thousand miles in one season, and any man who could get over the ground as fast as they do would be able to go around the world several times while the average tourist was crossing the United States by express.

The maggot of a little black fly has been seen to jump out of a box six inches deep, and if a man could jump like that he would be able to stand on the ground and jump to the roof of a ten-story building without taking a running start. A flea can do better than that. It can jump 200 times its own length, which for a man would be over 1,000 feet at a jump. At that rate a man would not need to take the street cars to his office. He could hop there in four or five jumps to the mile.

The ordinary house-fly can go five feet in a second, and when scared it can travel several times faster than that. The fly is less than half an inch long, so this means that it can go 120 times its own length in a second, or that, if it were a man, it could fly 600 feet a second, and over 30,000 feet, some five or six miles, every minute. No aviator has done anything like that.

Insects, moreover, are very hard to kill. Grasshoppers have been known to live after being put in boiling water, and a mite has been found alive after 11 weeks without food or drink, stuck to the head of a pin. "Walking sticks" and other insects can reproduce lost limbs. If a man could do that he could have a leg or an arm cut off, and a year or so later have a perfectly new one in its place.

If men had insects' appetites there would be lively times in this world getting enough to eat. A dragon-fly has been seen to eat 40 house-flies inside of two hours, which is much as if a man sat down to a hearty meal of a whole roast chicken, vegetables and pie, ate it up in five minutes, then ate another, and kept this up during an entire afternoon. A chicken is about the same size in proportion to a man as a house-fly is to the common "darning needle," and we do not eat it bones and all at that.

The babies of the insect world have still bigger appetites. A silkworm grub eats in its first month of life what would be 300 tons of food, if it were a human baby, and increases 9,500 times its own weight. The average baby weighs about ten pounds, so that if it ate in the way the silkworm baby does, and grew as fast, when a month old it would be bigger than any giant you ever read about in a fairy tale.

No wonder insects do so much damage to trees and crops. It is usually the baby insects, the grubs, that do the mischief. In 1773 there was a plague of beetles in the Hartz mountains, and 80,000 grubs were found on one single tree, while the beetles destroyed more than two million fir-trees in those mountains alone. In Germany, without going outside that country to look for injurious insects, one can find 650 kinds that eat the crops.

And there are so many of these baby insects! In one single season on the island of Cyprus, which is not a very big island, as may be seen by looking at the map, the people collected and destroyed 1,300 tons of locust eggs.

Insects all have large appetites, although the dragon-fly's is one of the worst. A dragon-fly will actually stay quiet on a pin and make no struggle so long as it is constantly fed, and one naturalist actually cut a piece off the insect's tail and fed it into the hungry mouth! It is not written how long he kept on with this peculiar feeding before the dragon-fly noticed that it was not all there.

And this is the reason why insects have never been as big as men, and why they never will. They need too much to eat. It is a case of the cost of living. When there came to be so many insects that they had eaten up all the grass and leaves where they happened to be they began to eat other insects, and when the supply of other insects gave out they had to die, except such of them as could live on animals.

Some beetles, like the sexton beetle, eat the flesh of dead mice, birds, and other animals, and naturalists who have a specimen that they want made into a clean skeleton, often leave it where the beetles will do the

CHINESE FAMINE PICTURES



SEEKING ALMS

Perhaps some of the readers of The Colonist would be interested in hearing what Mr. Helmer of the China Inland Mission in Toronto writes regarding the sad condition of things in China; his letter is dated 17th February:

"As nearly as we can learn there is about a million people affected by the famine, many of whom would starve to death if not helped, others perhaps could survive until they might get another crop.

"We are receiving quite a large number of small donations, which we are forwarding to our treasurer in Shanghai, to be used as far as possible by our own missionaries.

"In sending forward these donations we certainly do remember sufferers in prayer that God will not only use the money to save lives, but that it may turn to their souls' salvation."

Now may I ask all who read this to do all in their power to send help to these poor people? We cannot realize what it is to be slowly

work. "There is not enough food in the world of any kind to feed a creature that eats in the way an insect does, unless the creature is very small. If one single race of insects were created today as big as men they would starve in a very short time.

There are some other reasons why insects have remained small. One is that they have fought each other a great deal more fiercely than the most warlike men ever were known to do, and there is no insect that is not considered a good dinner by some other insect that has been fitted particularly for the job of hunting it.

The huntress-wasp eats spiders; the spider eats flies and other winged creatures; some kinds of flies imitate bees, and sneak into the hive and eat the baby bees; dragon-flies are particularly fond of mosquitoes, and so it goes. Sometimes there is one kind of wasp, or beetle, or spider, that is on the lookout for the grown insect, and another enemy that is all ready to eat up the larva or grub. Our scientific men at Washington spend a great deal of time experimenting with insects in this way. When the farmers are troubled with a grub, or weevil, or other insect that damages the crops, the scientific men go looking for some other kind of insect that will eat that insect. But they have to be careful about bringing it into the country, or the remedy may be worse than the disease.

There have been times when some scientist brought a wasp or moth from Europe, thinking it would clear out the grubs of some insect that was spoiling the crops, and the moth started out on its own account and ate up the leaves on the trees when the grubs gave out. There are a great many kinds of insects in this world, and some of them are good policemen.

Still another reason why an insect is safer when small is that it can hide better. If insects were as big as men, it would be almost impossible for them to keep out of sight of their enemies, and man, with his cannon and dynamite, could make an end of most of them in very quick time. But so long as they are little enough to hide in the grass, on the bark, under logs, in the water, and in holes and cracks, they manage to keep on living and satisfy their appetites. They can hide, better, and escape quicker, and do more in proportion to their size than any other live things in creation, and they have been taught this by thousands of years of dodging enemies.

Besides the hungry insects, there is the whole bird creation which lives largely on insects, and the birds, when let alone, will keep the insects from getting too big or too numerous. A bird's appetite is almost as big as an insect's, and a good, active bird can dispose of more bugs in a season than a farmer can kill by scraping them off with a big stick. The only way human beings can kill off in-

sect faster than they can grow is by not letting them have a chance to grow—killing the grubs before they wake up and begin to eat. If the people who need grain and fruit for their own use did this, and also let all the insect-eating birds religiously alone, we would not have so many million insects to board as we do now. This is something worth thinking about.

Leaves From The Bible of Ireland

A Small Tribute to the Noteworthy Fact that Next Friday Will Be the "Sivinteenth"

Did ever ye hear of the reign of Conaire, ye Victoria folk? Well, then, if ye did not, sure it's high time ye were learning, and if ye did, ye'll be pleased to hear of it again; so, either way, I'll be after repeating the legend as it was set down by one that was a good deal cleverer than I, or you either, for the matter of that, although by the same token, that isn't very polite. Whist now:

Now there was great plenty in Ireland through his reign; seven ships coming at one time to Inver Colpcha, and corn and nuts up to the knees in every harvest, and the trees bending from the weight of fruit, and the Buiras and the Boinne full of fish every summer, and that much law and peace, and good will among the people, that each one thought the other's voice as sweet as the strings of harps. And the wolveys themselves were held by hotsgaes not to kill more than one calf in every pen. There was no thunder or storm in his reign, and from spring to harvest there was not as much wind as would stir a cow's tail, and the cattle were without keepers because of the greatness of peace. And in his reign there were three crowns in Ireland, the crown of flowers, the crown of acorns and the crown of wheat ears.

And now then, this is the pretty little story all about Deidre and the sons of Usnach:

One day Deidre and her companions were out on a hill near Emain Macha, looking around them in the pleasant sunshine, and they saw three men walking together. Deidre was looking at the men and wondering at them, and when they came near she remembered the talk of the hunter, and the three men she had seen in a dream, and she thought to herself that these were the three sons of Usnach, and that this was Naoise that had his head and shoulders above all the men of Ireland. The three brothers went by without turning their eyes at all upon the young girls on the hillside, and they were singing as they went, and whoever heard the low singing of the sons of Usnach, it was enchantment and music to them, and every cow that was being milked and

W. W. Perrin, Victoria, is glad, as you know, to forward all subscriptions sent to him. I shall be glad to do the same with all that are sent to me, and with all my heart I beg you not to forget these sufferers, but to send something, much or little, just what each one feels he or she ought to give, and may God bless the givers as well as the recipients.

May I add the wish that every church should take up this matter, and among their members respond heartily to the appeal. I am sure any of our clergy will gladly forward gifts on behalf of the sufferers.

Envelopes marked for this purpose can be obtained from the Victoria Stationery Company, 1207 Government street.

Any who are kind enough to send to me my address, Miss Caroline Machlem, 1126 Richardson St., Victoria, B. C.

Subscriptions for the relief of Chinese famine sufferers will also be received and acknowledged by The Colonist.

heard it, gave two-thirds more milk. And it is what happened, that love for Naoise came into the heart of Deidre, so that she could not but follow her. She gathered up her skirt and went after the three men that had gone past the foot of the hill, leaving her companions there after her. So Naoise turned back and met Deidre, and Deidre and Naoise kissed each other three times, and she gave a kiss to each of his brothers. And with the confusion that was on her a blaze of red fire came upon her and her color came and went as quickly as the aspen by the stream. And it is what Naoise thought to himself that he never saw a woman so beautiful in his life; and he gave Deidre then and there the love that he never gave to herself alone. Then he lifted her high on his shoulder and he said to his brothers to hasten their steps. And they hastened them. "Harm will come of this," said the young men. Although there should harm come," said Naoise, "I am willing to be in disgrace while I live."

If ye liked that little bit of a love piece, here's some good advice for ye, such as will stand ye in good stead, I'll be bound, when ye are like to be mulvathered entirely. And when it was told Cuchulain (that's Cahoolin), that messengers were come for Lugaid, to make him king in Teamhair (Tara) he rose up and began to advise him, and it is what he said:

"Do not be frightened man in battle; do not be light-minded, hard to reach or proud; do not be ungentle, or hasty or passionate; do not be overcome with the drunkenness of great riches like a flea that is drowned in the ale of a king's house. Do not scatter many feasts to strangers; do not visit mean people that cannot receive you as a king; do not let wrongful possession stand because it has lasted long; but let witnesses be searched to know who is the right owner of land. Let the tellers of history tell truth before you. Do not use too many words; do not speak noisily; do not mock, do not give insults, do not make little of old people. Do not think ill of any one; do not ask what is hard to give. Let you have a law of lending, a law of oppression, a law of pledging. Be obedient to the advice of the wise; keep in mind the advice of the old. Be a follower of the rules of your fathers. Do not be cold-hearted to friends; be strong towards your enemies; do not give evil for evil in your battles. Do not speak any harm of others. Do not waste, do not scatter, do not do away with what is your own. When you do wrong, take the blame of it; do not give up the truth for any man. Do not be trying to be first, the way you will not be jealous; do not be an idler that you may not be weak; do not ask too much that you may not be thought little of. Are you willing to follow this advice, my son?"

Then Lugaid answered Cuchulain, and it is what he said: "As long as all goes well I

(Continued On Page Twelve.)

Witchcraft in China

Although there was considerable interest aroused, some time ago, by the announcement that Dr. Wu, the noted Chinese minister, had taken an active part in a spiritualistic seance, it seems to have been forgotten that the diplomatist in question comes from a nation in which various forms of occultism have always been held in the highest honor. In fact, as occasionally pointed out in The Scrap Book, there is scarcely a field of human endeavor or speculation, even, in which China has not, at one time or another, been pre-eminent. This holds true for the occult.

According to Chinese data, one thousand three hundred years before the birth of Christ, witches and wizards, ghosts and spirit-com-munion were familiar subjects of Chinese respect. It is even alleged by the Spiritual Review that a certain part of the Chinese Empire is allotted to a tribe of magicians, and anyone wishing to acquire magical art can proceed there and put themselves under the immediate instruction of an adept.

Strange and wonderful things are written of these people. One method prescribed by adepts for making a person invisible, is that of opening a coffin, taking out the body, and putting the pupil to sleep in it for several nights in succession. It is said that, at the end of so many days, the sleeper becomes invisible until dawn, and can thus gratify his lust for revenge on an enemy, or commit robbery without fear of detection.

The idea of one being possessed by an evil spirit is flouted in the west. But cases of "possession" are very frequent throughout the ancient empire, and there are many methods of casting out evil spirits, or devils.

Taoist priests find great favor with many people for their powers, but there are also special adepts who enjoy a reputation for their skill in being able to cast out devils, and control the spirits of both living and dead.

These witch-doctors are anything but gentle. The fingers, nose and neck of the patient are punctured with needles. They also apply a certain pill made out of "aitsau" in the following manner: The thumbs of the two hands are tied tightly together. The two big toes are also tied to each other in the same manner. Then one pill is put on the big toes at the root of the nails, and the other at the root of the thumb nails. At the same instant the two pills are set on fire, and there they are kept until the flesh is burned.

Whether in the application of the pills, or in the piercing of the needles, the invariable cry is: "I'm going; I'm going immediately. I'll never care to come back again. Oh, have mercy on me this once; I'll swear never to return."

Ordinary people who cannot afford to employ any professional exorcists, will paste all sorts of written charms upon the doors and windows of the room that the patient occupies. This is also resorted to at a certain period of the year, known to us as the Chinese New Year, by shopkeepers, to keep bad luck from their business.

Another sovereign remedy, and perhaps the simplest, is to take a certain piece of wood with a hole in it, insert a small piece of ivory in the hole, making the form of a cross, and throwing it into the water; thus will the devil, or spirit, go to the deep.

Illness is also looked upon in the light of a possession—the clothes of the sick person will be taken from them and exposed to the sun, and incantations made for the evil one to depart. Sometimes sacrifices are resorted to, such as fowls, etc.

In the old times, it was no mean position to be appointed by the authorities as an officer for "hooting at" or "shooting" evil spirits. In some cases, as a last resort, people will go to a missionary or a convent, for exorcism.

The willow tree is used by the celestial in this connection for various purposes. It is considered by many as efficacious, as an extract, in driving away evil spirits, who might obstruct the way hereafter of the departed, and also for raising spirits, and for those reasons a twig will frequently be seen at funerals carried by the eldest son or chief mourner.

WHO WON?

The late Duke of Wellington got a letter once from a lady saying she was soliciting subscriptions for a certain church and had taken the liberty of putting his name down for £200 and hoped he would promptly send her a cheque for that amount. He forthwith replied that he would respond to the call, but he too was interested in a certain church which needed subscriptions, and, counting upon his correspondent's well-known liberality, he had put her down for £200. "And so," he concluded, "no money need pass between us."

YOUTHFUL STRATEGY

Mr. Slimson—"Willie, didn't you go to the trunk-maker's yesterday and tell him to send around that trunk I ordered?" Willie—"Yes, pa."

Mr. Slimson—"Well, here is the trunk, but no strap."

Willie—"Yes, pa; but I told him I thought you hadn't better have any strap."

The MacTartan (very much frightened)—"Two tickets for Inverness, Mister."

Clerk—"Right, sir, change at Aberdeen, please."

The MacTartan—"Na, na! I'll tak it the noo; we've heard about the fouk in Aberdeen."—Sketch.

WITH THE P...

Long To every normal in-

and most beautiful thi- old times, who would g- doms for the elixir of- generations the major- the statement that the- three score and ten, a- decrepitude and diseas- During the last few ye- ern scientists have led- can refute the above c- lieve in a happier orde- from which we quote b- British Medical Journ- ago, and investigations- not only have strengt- author's opinions. Th- but that a proper mod- petites are held in c- followed, when the fac- kept practise-perfect, life, until its normal sp- and when even the ce- from decay, senile- finish his years as a h- of his duty, serenely o- of his work, and in the-

"Centenarians are s- which they were once- England and Wales i- seventy-six reputed ce- ed, and of late years a- have been strictly inq- could be no reasonable- prolonged beyond 100 y- have been inquired in- legitimacy of their cla- their century of life, bu- and mental character- know something of cen- recognize the fact that- hundred do so by virt- degenerations, and suc- age, which may be de- general atrophy. But t- atrophy, although of g- not very seriously cri- close upon his term o- might be quoted of mu- ment in life even bey- age.

"According to our es- a fifth of his life befor- years what may not- Brewster married at 76- Vienna, Janos Mervess- suicide, his reason bein- er support his father a- aged 115 and 110, respec- ish Medical Journal of- given the portrait of a- 102 had undergone an- the lip without anaesthe- ing.

"The atrophic char- enumerated as charact- altogether beyond reme- ble, perhaps, they can- much may be done by- regulation of diet and- therapeutic agents, to- or arrest their advance- many ways to lessen the- patients, although you- fer upon them that reju- of them, and those gen- dated, will expect of yo-

"There is no short- win it is the work of a- tion of it is a branch- chance, one of these day- ternational Congress on- hibition of dotards for- and hearty centenarians- any rate you may rest- steady obedience to the- age may be attained, and- that it may be prolong- cessary for the promoti- large scale lie beyond the- cal profession. We can- the age, abolish avarice, of power, or quell even t- of the struggle for exist- but we can do somethi- those who will listen to- that may be avoided by- ples of mental hygiene; weight of our support i- culated to promote the be-

BOOK N...

Jack London, whatever accused of a lack of ver- newspaper report publish- scribed him as having- while leading a band of i- in the same day we rece- book, and learn that he- after soon to be given to- on has had experiences- varied enough to supply- scores of good stories, an- any hesitation that this- the title of which we tak- nothing if not blasphem- he has yet written. Th- God Laughs," is rather a- there are several other- by a lack of lurid London- readers could find it pos- brutality of "The Francis-

Literature Music Art

WITH THE PHILOSOPHERS

Longevity

To every normal individual life is a precious and most beautiful thing, and most of us, old or young, can sympathize with the princes of old times, who would gladly barter their kingdoms for the elixir of life. For a great many generations the majority of us have accepted the statement that the span of a man's life is three score and ten, and that old age means decrepitude and disease with stolid fatalism. During the last few years, however, some modern scientists have led us to believe that we can refute the above claims and steadfastly believe in a happier order of things. The article from which we quote below was written in the *British Medical Journal* nearly twenty years ago, and investigations since may be said to not only have strengthened, but confirmed the author's opinions. There is no doubt at all that a proper mode of living, when the appetites are held in check, and hygienic rules followed, when the faculties are cultivated and kept practise-perfect, will lengthen a man's life, until its normal span is a century or more, and when even the centenarian will not suffer from decay, senile or otherwise, but will finish his years as a healthy man finishes his day's work, serenely content in the fulfilling of his duty, and in the rest that shall be his.

Centenarians are not now the rara aves which they were once supposed to be. In England and Wales in 1889 the deaths of seven-hundred and sixty-seven centenarians were reported, and of late years a great number of cases have been strictly inquired into, which there could be no reasonable doubt that life has been prolonged beyond 100 years. And these cases have been inquired into, not only as to the legitimacy of their claims to have made out their century of life, but also as to their bodily and mental characteristics; so that we now know something of centenarian pathology, and recognize the fact that those who live to a hundred do so by virtue of their freedom from degenerations, and succumb to inevitable old age, which may be described as simple and general atrophy. But this simple and general atrophy, although of gradual invasion, need not very seriously cripple the centenarian until close upon his term of dissolution, and cases might be quoted of much activity and enjoyment in life even beyond the hundred years age.

According to our estimate, a man at 80 has a fifth of his life before him, and in twenty years what may not happen? Sir David Brewster married at 76. Four years ago, in Vienna, Janos Meryessie, aged 84, attempted suicide, his reason being that he could no longer support his father and mother, who were aged 115 and 110, respectively; and in the *British Medical Journal* of May 9 last, there was given the portrait of a brave old man, who at 102 had undergone an operation for cancer of the lip without anaesthetics and without flinching.

The atrophic changes which have been enumerated as characteristic of old age are not altogether beyond remedial treatment. Curable, perhaps, they can scarcely be called, but much may be done by change of climate, by regulation of diet and habits of life, and by therapeutic agents, to slacken their progress or arrest their advance. You will be able in many ways to lessen the frailties of your senile patients, although you will not be able to confer upon them that rejuvenescence which many of them, and those generally the most dilapidated, will expect of you.

There is no short cut to longevity. To win it is the work of a lifetime, and the promotion of it is a branch of public medicine. Perchance, one of these days we may have an International Congress on Old Age, with an exhibition of dotards for warning, and of hale and hearty centenarians for encouragement. At any rate you may rest assured that it is by steady obedience to the laws of health that old age may be attained, and by judicious regimen that it may be prolonged. The measures necessary for the promotion of old age on the large scale lie beyond the control of the medical profession. We cannot change the spirit of the age, abolish avarice, vainglory, and the lust of power, or quell even the gratuitous excesses of the struggle for existence that rages around; but we can do something by pointing out to those who will listen to us some great perils that may be avoided by inculcating the principles of mental hygiene; and we can give the weight of our support to all movements calculated to promote the betterment of our race.

BOOK NOTES

Jack London, whatever his faults, cannot be accused of a lack of versatility or energy. A newspaper report published a few days ago described him as having been taken prisoner while leading a band of insurgents in Mexico; and the same day we receive a copy of his new book, and learn that he is at work upon another soon to be given to the press. Mr. London has had experiences many enough and varied enough to supply him with material for scores of good stories, and we can say without any hesitation that this last volume of his, the title of which we take exception as being nothing if not blasphemous, is the best thing he has yet written. The first story, "When God Laughs," is rather a remarkable one, and there are several others happily distinguished by a lack of lurid London details, though few readers could find it possible to forgive the brutality of "The Francis Spaight." There is

a year of touching pathos running through "The Apostate" and grim-humor in the tragic tale of "Just Meat."

The first story, which might just as well, if not better, have been called "When the Gods Laugh," and been no desecration, tells of a man and a woman, the latter "Holy as Love and sweeter, just a woman, made for love; and yet—how shall I say?—drenched through with holiness as your own air here is with the perfume of flowers." The two married. "Love was desire, they held, a delicious pain. He was ever seeking easement, and when he found that for which he sought, he died. Love denied was Love alive; Love granted was Love deceased. Do you follow me? They saw it was not the way of life to be hungry for what it has. To eat and still be hungry—man has never accomplished that feat. The problem of satiety. That is it. To have and to keep the sharp famine-edge of appetite at the groaning board. This was their problem, for they loved Love. Often did they discuss it, with all Love's sweet ardors brimming in their eyes; his ruddy blood spraying their cheeks; his voice playing in and out with their voices, now hiding as a tremolo in their throats, and again shading a tone with that ineffable tenderness which he alone can utter."

"They were all this that I have said, and they were made for joy, only they achieved a concept. A curse on concepts! They played with logic, and this was their logic—but first let me tell you of a talk we had one night. It was of Gaudier's *Madeline de Maupin*. You remember the maid? She kissed once, and once only, and kisses she would have no more. Not that she found kisses were not sweet, but that she feared with repetition they would cloy. Satiety again! She tried to play without stakes against the gods. Now this is contrary to a rule of the game the gods themselves have made. Only the rules are not posted over the table. Morals must play in order to learn the rules."

"Well, to the logic. The man and the woman argued thus: Why kiss once only? If to kiss once were wise, was it not wiser to kiss not at all? Thus could they keep Love alive. Fasting, he would knock forever at their hearts."

"As he said (I read it long afterwards in one of his letters to her): 'To hold you in my arms, close and yet not close. To yearn for you, and never to have you, and so always to have you.' And she: 'For you to be always just beyond my reach. To be ever attaining you, and yet never attaining you, and for this to last forever, always fresh and new, and always with the first flush upon us.' However, after all, the self-sacrifice of these two was wholly unavailing, for 'one day the drowsy gods ceased nodding. They aroused and looked at the man and woman who had made a mock of them. And the man and woman looked into each other's eyes one morning and knew that something was gone. It was the flame-winged one. He had fled, silently, in the night from their anchorites' board."

"They looked into each other's eyes and knew that they did not care. Desire was dead. Do you understand? Desire was dead. And they had never kissed. Not once had they kissed. Love was gone. They would never yearn and burn again. For them there was nothing left—no more trembling and flutterings and delicious anguish, no more throbbing and pulsing, and sighing and song. Desire was dead. It had died in a night, on a couch cold and unattended; nor had they witnessed its passing. They learned it for the first time in each other's eyes."

Macmillan & Co., Toronto, Canada.

We have received a charming book for children by E. Nesbit, than whom there is no more popular author among the boys and girls. It is called "The Magic City," and tells of the wonderful adventures of a delightful little lad in dream life and in real life. Macmillan & Co., Toronto, Canada.

MISPRONUNCIATION IN SINGING

The mispronunciation of the language in singing, which we have called singers' English, is not a mere matter of taste or of individual defect or of general slovenliness, but a much more serious evil which does not seem to be recognized. It is based on a radical misconception of the nature and function of singing, and it is systematically imparted to pupils and students as part of their training. In other words, a practice which negates the very purpose of song is regarded as a necessary part of it. And this is a recent thing. Mr. Anstice has reminded us that Sims Reeves never uses singers' English himself or allowed his pupils to use it; nor did any of the great artists of his generation and the next to it. Some remain to prove it. There are, for instance, Mme. Patti and Sir Charles Santley; their diction is always pure and straightforward. They do not roll their r's and distort the vowel sounds in the modern fashion. Sir Charles Santley has asked many hundreds of times why the people imagine a vain thing, but it has never occurred to him that they imagine a vain thing, which is as near to the current pronunciation as spelling can get. Individual singers may have taken liberties here and there, with some particular vowel falling on a particular note, but that was because it presented a special difficulty to them. Sopranos, for instance, generally find it difficult

to produce certain vowels near the top of their register; and when the tissues lose their elasticity with the lapse of years all singers are liable to some trouble of the kind, which they have to evade. In his later years Mario used to take great liberties with the words in high passages. But alterations made on that ground are compulsory, not intentional, and are entirely different from the deliberate practice of mispronouncing words on principle. That is wholly modern. The old ideal was an equal mastery of all vowels in every part of the voice and the most natural enunciation possible. It is still the ideal in other languages. The most accomplished and effective singers are those who most nearly realize it.

That this is the true ideal becomes at once apparent when we recognize the proper function of singing. The singer is saying something to the listeners, is interpreting to them the words of the poet, the dramatist, or the sacred writer, but in tones more expressive than ordinary speech. Singing is speaking enlarged or magnified. The ordinary spoken sounds are magnified in three ways—namely, in regard to (1) extension, (2) intensity, (3) inflection. That is to say, they are more sustained, louder, and more varied in pitch. This is the rule, though the modification may also take place in the opposite direction in regard to all three characters. Thus the sounds may be shorter and more rapidly emitted than with ordinary speech, as in buffo or patter songs; they may be softer, as in the use of the mezza voce; and they may be less inflected, as in monotone passages. All these variations in both directions have their proper application, but the object of all of them is to heighten expression. The same meaning is expressed as in speech, but expressed more powerfully by means of the changes indicated. Consequently the sounds themselves, the words which embody the meaning, remain the same; they may be more prolonged, louder, and extended over a wider range of pitch, but their character and formation is the same as in speech. This may be very easily tested by uttering any word on a given note, first in a whisper, then with the ordinary spoken voice, and gradually prolonging the sound until it becomes singing, with variations of loudness and softness introduced at will. The quality of the sound is the same all through and it is formed in exactly the same manner. That is the real meaning of Pacherotti's saying about speaking and breathing. He did not mean that some peculiar and unnatural way of speaking and breathing must be learnt and then the learner would know how to sing, but that singing is merely an extension of the natural action of the organs in speaking and breathing. It may be perfected by practice, but should not be altered in character.

Singers who have something to say to their audience, who feel the words they are uttering and realize the intensified expression given to them by the musical form, who desire to convey this meaning to others in the fullest measure at their command, instinctively adopt a natural diction and make the words as clear as possible. That is real singing, and that alone; it is sincere, the expression of feeling, and a true art. It reaches the greatest perfection when it is exercised with the aid of exceptional gifts, but it is not dependent on them. Moderate voices, when so used, will give more pleasure than fine ones that utter a series of sounds but say nothing intelligible. The effect of simple diction, heightened by beauty, power, and control of voice, is extraordinary. Sims Reeves could utter the simplest phrases in a way that modern English singers and audiences have no conception of; the words dropped out as if they were spoken, but with a dramatic effect of astonishing force. Nothing could be simpler either in words or sequence of notes than "The night was drear and dark" in "The Bay of Biscay," and he used to drop the words out in the most natural way but with an intensity of meaning that conjured up the whole scene—the dark night, the laboring ship, and the heaving sea; and in Samson the exclamation "Total eclipse!" uttered with the utmost simplicity on three descending notes, was made to convey the whole tragedy of blindness. Brahms had the same power. A musician has left on record the impression made by that great singer's enunciation of a perfectly simple phrase. He was taken as a boy to hear "Israel in Egypt." The performance had begun when they entered the room, and he saw on the platform a little man in a seracoon wig take a tremendously deep breath and say "He turned their waters into blood" with such overwhelming expression that the whole miracle seemed to pass before his eyes. That is singing in its highest form, and it is attainable only by a perfectly direct and unaffected enunciation of the words.

The conception of singing which lies at the bottom of intentional mispronunciation starts from an opposite point of view. It regards sound not sense as the ultimate object. According to it the singer's function is not to say something to the listeners, not to interpret a meaning, but to make an extraordinary sound, which may mean nothing. This notion of singing is very widespread. A vast number of people desire to sing, and they start with the idea that the essence of it is to make some unnatural sort of sound, for which it is necessary to take an unnatural attitude, contort their features, and distort their vocal organs. The first thing they ought to be taught is that this is all wrong, and that the position

of the body and the emission of the voice should be as unconstrained and natural as possible. They are, indeed, often told so; but unfortunately the false idea with which they started is confirmed by all the would-be scientific methods, the theories of "production," and the anatomical details with which many "professors" of singing love to impress their pupils. All these modern tricks direct attention to the pupil's own person, foster self-consciousness, and confirm the belief that singing cannot be accomplished without some "unnatural proceedings." Into this scheme mispronunciation readily falls. Learners feel that they are really getting on when they alter the vowel sounds; and so they are, in the wrong direction. They take to it the more readily because it is exceedingly easy; any fool can roll an "r" and turn "a" into "ah"; and to feel that they are becoming accomplished singers without any trouble is agreeable.

Mr. Rowland Briant, whose letter we published yesterday, defends the practice to a certain extent. He says that it is impossible to sustain sound on the short vowels, and he instances the difficulty of the double and triple vowels of which we have so many in English. The latter difficulty also occurs in Italian, though not to the same extent, and the double sounds when sustained are not enunciated exactly as in speaking; but good singers come very near it. As for the short vowels, they usually occur in particles and unimportant words on which composers who know their business do not place emphasis. We have, however, admitted that individual singers come very near it. As for the short vowels, they usually occur in particles and unimportant words on which composers who know their business do not place emphasis. We have, however, admitted that individual singers have difficulties with particular vowels and particular notes. This does not touch the real point at issue, which is the aim. Mr. Briant apparently does not consider mispronunciation desirable or meritorious, but regards it as an unavoidable evil, whereas the practice we deprecate is deliberate distortion as a regular thing for its own sake without any necessity.

This practice has become general among professional singers in recent years. It is not followed by a few intellectual and artistic singers any more than by the older ones whom we have mentioned; but it is almost universal among the rest, not excluding many leading platform artists; and it is carried to extravagant lengths. The "r" is so rolled that such a word as "Lord," which occurs very frequently in oratorio, becomes "Lorrad" in two syllables, and hardly any vowel sound is left alone. Affectation is brought to a fine art and is made to cover real vocal deficiencies. The moving force behind this deplorable perversion is obscure. It does not seem to be of foreign origin. On the contrary, singers trained abroad are conspicuously freer from it than those turned out by the musical schools at home; and the few foreign singers who use English have never been guilty of it. In former days Mme. Titiens, Mme. Nilsson, and Mme. Trebelli all sang English with great purity; their singing of oratorio was irreplicable in style, and in point of means they belonged to a different class from the present. They had complete mastery of the music, which presented no difficulty to them. The same may be said of Agnesi, an operatic baritone of the first class, who used to sing at the Handel Festival. In recent years M. Maurel has sung a few English songs, though he does not speak the language, with a perfectly correct enunciation in which every word is as audible as if it were spoken. Our native users of singers' English are, on the contrary, absolutely unintelligible. In the standard oratorios it is of less consequence than in unfamiliar works, though the glaring affection takes all sincerity and consequently all emotional value out of their rendering, and English platform songs have for the most part so little meaning that the loss can be borne. But in opera, and particularly modern opera, the obscuration of sense is a grave drawback. And we gain nothing in return. It is impossible to claim for the new style superior tone, or control when most of its exponents cannot sing trying numbers such as "Hear ye, Israel," or "The Enemy Said," but only get through them with perceptible difficulty and without any of the fire, volume, ease, reserve power, and mastery which are needed to give them due effect.

OUR OPINION OF OUR FELLOWMEN

There is a common fashion nowadays of classifying men as if they were animals or plants, which is supposed to be scientific. It is not knowledge, but the lack of it, that produces these classifications. To the hasty European all Chinamen look alike. That is because he thinks of them, not as men, but as Chinamen. He has only one kind of relation to them, which is entirely negative. They are to him merely non-Europeans. So to the complete egotist, if there were such a man, all other men would be merely not himself. It is this kind of negative relation, based upon ignorance and lack of interest, that makes us think of whole multitudes of men as ordinary and causes us to resent their supposed uniformity. If we go about the world expecting to be amused and judging mankind by their power of amusing us, we are naturally led to condemn all who do not amuse us as com-

monplace. But the proper business of mankind is not to amuse us. We have no right to expect a pleasant and passive experience of life. We can only attain to wisdom and knowledge by an active experience of it and by entering into active relations with other men. Directly we do that, we find that all men are individuals like ourselves, not to be classified any more than we are to be classified, but each one having his own secrets of character, his own peculiar reaction against circumstances, his own process of growth and decay. The saying that no man is a hero to his valet is supposed to be cynical, but there is a truth in it that is not cynical. Every man, to those who know him closely, cannot be described by any title or label. The hero is something besides a hero, just as the ordinary man is something more than an ordinary man. He is himself, with an identity that cannot be described in terms of mere praise or blame; and those who have intimate relations with him are more aware of this identity than of any general effect produced in his public actions.

The greatest masters of drama and fiction, such as Tolstoy and Shakespeare, seldom present their characters to us in terms of praise and blame, nor do they make us feel that some of them are ordinary and some distinguished. For them there is not one law for the picturesque and another for the commonplace. They are interested in men because they are men, and their curiosity about humanity is insatiable and disinterested. They seem to have a boundless power of creation because they do not classify men according to some narrow or negative relation of their own with them. We feel that they have not gone about the world expecting to be amused, that their experience of mankind has been active, not passive, that they understand men because they have seen each one of them from his own point of view and by that means learned the secrets of his identity. The chief weakness of lesser writers is that they classify according to some system in vogue at their time. Some divide men sharply into the good and bad; others into gentle and simple. Our present novelists are very apt to insist upon the difference between the distinguished and the commonplace. If one of their characters is distinguished, he may do, with the applause of the writer, what he pleases. If he is commonplace he can do nothing that is not ridiculous. The very words "distinguished" and "distinction," so often used now, betray the nature of our classifications. We praise a man because he has evident points of difference from other men, because he catches the eye in a crowd and seems an exception to a wearisome uniformity. But it is the business of a master of fiction to see distinctions where they are not forced upon him, and, if he condemns any man as ordinary, he condemns himself for his own lack of observation. The Christian doctrine that everyman has an immortal soul has an artistic as well as a moral importance. The writer who believes it more than conventionally will feel that he is concerned with the immortal souls of all his characters; and he will realize that, when he presents a character as merely commonplace, he is only betraying the fact that he has not discovered his immortal soul, which is the one thing worth discovering about him. So it is with all of us when we find ourselves wearied with the uniformity of man. We are wearied with a delusion produced not by the delicacy of our perceptions but by their bluntness. Some men have more power of expressing themselves than others, and men of genius express themselves in all that they do or say. But the lack of expressive power does not mean that there is nothing to be expressed. Every man is aware that there is a great deal worth expressing in himself, and he may be sure that he knows himself better than he knows others.

USE OF LIGHT IN MAKING NIGHT EXCAVATIONS

Night excavation work as efficient as that done in daylight is now possible by the use of an electric headlight on derrick-operated bucket outfits. The first really successful test of the scheme was made during the rush work on the Evanston channel of the Chicago Drainage Canal. The light used was of the locomotive head-lamp type, of 3,000 cp. This was backed with an 18-in. reflector, 3-in. deep, which focused the light into a slightly divergent beam directly under the boom from which the bucket was hung. When it was necessary to obtain great diffusion of light, the reflector was put out of focus by advancing the arc a fraction of an inch, projecting the light over a large area. The lamp was mounted on the turntable of the derrick crane and was rotated with it so that it followed the bucket in all positions.

THE COWARD

The big steamer had left the pier. The young man on the tar barrel still waved his handkerchief desperately.

"Oh, what'er you waiting for? Come on," said his companions disgustedly.

"I daren't," with one fearful glance backward.

"What's the matter?"

"She has a field glass," said the young man.

