

FRANCE TAKES A HAND.

the Tri-Color Over Hainan Island a Liberal Slice of the Empire.

Shanghai, Dec. 31.—It is reported that the admiral of the French fleet has hoisted the French flag on Hainan Island. The Chinese offered no objection.

The News Confirmed. London, Dec. 31.—A dispatch to the Mail confirms the reported seizure of Hainan Island by the French. It is off the south coast of China, and separates the Gulf of Tonquin from the China sea. It has an estimated area of 12,000 square miles, and a population of 1,000,000 Chinese, exclusive of tribes in the interior.

Suggested by England. London, Dec. 31.—The Tagelisch mission, on what it alleges to be the authority in London, declares that Russia and China have been negotiating for many months; that China consented last October to a temporary occupation of Port Arthur and that upon hearing of this, demanded a hearing of the islands at Hong Kong, and the coast opposite Kow Loon, and the mouth of the River Canton, but, as France also wanted compensation, England suggested that she should take Hainan Island.

An Unnecessary Protest. Paris, Dec. 31.—The French press is beginning to protest loudly against French inaction in the far East, and the alleged subservience of the government to Russia.

Waiting for the Crisis.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 31.—The officers and passengers of the steamship Georgia, just in from the Orient, say that all is excitement on the other side of the Pacific. People in all the walks of life expect that there will be a crash among the great powers over the seizure of different ports in China. The fleets of each nation have been massed in readiness, either to fight or to make a show. The British flagship Centurion at Hong Kong, has been ordered to begin no work that would delay her in port longer than 24 hours. Japanese officers are anxious for England to make some move, but they advise Japan to take a prudent attitude and simply watch the progress of events. The German admiral, in a proclamation to the residents of the districts seized by Germany, advises them to continue their peaceful avocations, and warns them that any breaches of the law will be punished. There were at Nagasaki, December 8, nine Russian warships, two American cruisers, the Olympia (in dock), and the Boston, and the British cruiser Lamortal.

Nine of the Chinese bandits who took part in the murder of Chinese priests at Yen Chau Fu, which gave Germany a cause for the seizure of Kaio Chou Bay, have been apprehended, and much of the plunder recovered.

The Partition of China.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The rapid movement of events in the far East continues to be an absorbing topic in diplomatic circles here, particularly at the embassies and legations of the powers which are allying for an apparent struggle for Chinese territory. There is no further talk of the United States as a possible factor in the contest, as this recent understanding at a cabinet meeting is accepted as removing this government from the field of controversy.

At the same time an eminent authority on international affairs said today that a situation might develop when the United States would be called upon to go much further than protect American interests at the treaty ports in China. This situation would come, he said, if the scramble for Chinese territory went to the extent of the extinction of China and the complete absorption of the old empire by foreign nations. Such was the apparent drift of the present movement, he said, and if it became a reality, a condition would arise similar to the termination of the government of Poland. Poland had established a precedent in international affairs, he said, and following that precedent, if China was to be absorbed, it was a question of which the United States, in common with all the nations, must take cognizance. Until this final movement occurred, however, it was plain that the United States had no interest in the fencing between the European nations and Japan for coaling stations and ports on the Asiatic coast.

Increase in Customs Receipts.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The forthcoming monthly statement of government receipts and expenditures will show a material increase in the revenue. Today's increase from customs alone was \$735,567, the highest figure reached since the new tariff law went into effect. Several times during the last few weeks the customs revenues exceeded \$600,000, and according to the expectations of the treasury officials, these figures will be fully maintained for an indefinite period. The increase from customs this month will probably exceed November by \$2,500,000 or \$3,000,000, which will leave a large surplus for the month.

Judge Cyrus Heren, whose father was ex-Governor Altgeld's tutor, has moved from Kansas to Chicago, and it is said that he and Altgeld will form a partnership early next year.

REINDEER WILL DIE.

Dr. Nansen's Views Upon Algor's Klondike Relief Plan.

Binghamton, N. Y., Dec. 30.—Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, was asked what he thought of the plan of bringing reindeer for taking relief to the Klondike miners. He said if the reindeer were taken overland across the country they would probably reach Alaska in time to accomplish the desired object, and if they could reach Alaska they would be of great assistance in the relief work. The difficulty would be to get the deer transported.

Dr. Nansen said the moss on which the deer fed was about the only food they would eat, and they would starve before they would eat much of anything else. They had sometimes been trained to eat bread, but not very successfully. While there was an abundance of moss in Norway, he thought it would be impossible to gather it in such quantities as would be necessary for the feeding of 500 deer in transportation from Norway to Alaska. The deer themselves seemed to know how to gather it better than human beings. He believed that if 500 reindeer were shipped from Norway it would be impossible to keep more than a small percentage of them alive until Alaska should be reached.

According to his opinions, Iceland horses would be better for this work, for they would subsist on the moss of the Arctic regions and also on hay or other provender. They were also hardy, and would do the work after they reached Alaska almost as well as the deer. It would be much easier to transport them, he said.

HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

Recent Events in the East Will Probably Hasten the Event.

Washington, Dec. 30.—"Affairs in China and the East generally," said Senator Cullom, "have put an entirely different complexion upon Hawaii's prospects for annexation. Since congress adjourned for the holidays there has been a marked change of sentiment concerning Hawaii, and it would not surprise me if the pending treaty should be ratified by the necessary two-thirds of the senate."

"It would be the height of folly to let such an opportunity slip as Hawaii presents to the United States at such a critical time. Here is a most desirable piece of property only waiting for a nod from Uncle Sam to become his own, without firing a gun or precipitating any trouble."

"As soon as congress meets we will get at the treaty, and my impression is that a number of senators who have hitherto been against ratification will be found on our side. It has always been my opinion that we ought to have Hawaii, and I am confirmed in this belief more than ever by the recent course of events in the Orient."

FIRST COLONY READY.

Progress of the Salvation Army's Work in California.

New York, Dec. 30.—Commander Booth-Tucker has started for California to complete the work of founding the first of the Salvation Army colonies in this country at Soledad near Monterey. Most of the cottages have already been built and the work of cultivation is well installed on the farm of 500 acres, but numerous applicants are ready to start the moment Booth-Tucker reaches San Francisco.

The commander said that there was no doubt that the experiment would prove a great success. Claus Spreckles, he said, is erecting a million dollar beet-sugar factory in the immediate neighborhood, which will be able to consume all that the colonists can produce, and the product of as many farms as they may care to start in the neighborhood.

"I shall spend several weeks in the West and take a look at our Colorado farm in the Arkansas valley before I return," said the commander. "A delegation of men connected with a tinning establishment in Chicago recently came to me and asked that I establish a farm near that city. They were not out of work, but said they would rather go into something that promised a permanent occupation than to remain where they were."

Dan Daly's Bad Fall.

Boston, Dec. 30.—Dan Daly, the popular comedian, and one of the leading lights in the "Belle of New York" company, received probably a fatal injury at the Park theater last night. At the close of the first act Daly makes a "flying entry," sliding in on an inclined wire. In some way either the wire or handle broke, Daly falling to the stage, striking on the shoulders and back of the head.

Two physicians were summoned from the audience, and worked over him half an hour, but could not bring him back to consciousness. He was him back to consciousness. He was sent to the Massachusetts general hospital, and at an early hour he was still unconscious, the physicians believing he was suffering from concussion of the brain.

Utica, N. Y., Dec. 29.—A special from Amsterdam says that one of the engine houses of the Sanford carpet mills was wrecked by an explosion, presumably of dynamite, at 10:30 o'clock. Only two walls were left standing. Few facts can be ascertained.

ACTUAL STARVATION.

Thousands of Cubans Are in the Direst Distress.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The most profound distress prevails among many thousands of people in Cuba. Starvation not only impends, but is an actual fact. The president has been informed of the facts from sources whose reliability cannot be doubted. He has gone to the length of his constitutional power in calling the state of affairs to the attention of the American people. The state department has used all of its authority to mitigate conditions, and the letter to the public sent out by Secretary Sherman the day before Christmas pointed out the way to further alleviate the miserable condition of the concentration camps. Today the sum of \$5,000 was received by Assistant Secretary Day from certain charitable disposed persons, whose names are not disclosed, and this sum will be remitted by telegraph tomorrow morning to Consul-General Lee for disbursement among the more pressing cases.

It is hoped by the department of state that the American people will come to the relief, and promptly, by subscriptions of money, clothing and supplies of various kinds. The newspapers are expected to lend a generous aid in carrying forward this movement. The machinery for distributing has been provided by the state department, and Consul-General Lee has undertaken, with the aid of the American consular agents in Cuba, to give personal attention to the alleviation of distress by the distribution of the gifts of the American people. One line of steamers plying between New York and Havana—the Ward line—it is said, has undertaken to forward any contributions of goods to General Lee, at Havana, and it is believed that the American railroads will do their part by carrying the goods to the seaboard.

The Spanish authorities have consented to remit all duties on relief supplies so forwarded. The state department directs that they be sent direct to Consul-General Lee, either money draft, or check, or goods. Consul-General Lee tonight cabled the state department just what is wanting at this juncture, and his list is as follows:

Summer clothing, second-hand or otherwise, principally for women and children; medicines for fevers, including a large proportion of quinine; hard bread, corn meal, bacon, rice, lard, potatoes, beans, peas, salt fish, principally codfish; any canned goods, especially condensed milk for the starving children. Money will also be useful to secure nurses, medicines and for many other necessities.

BURNED TO DEATH.

Terrible Fate of a Woman and Her Aged Mother.

Pittsburg, Dec. 29.—During a fire at New Haven, a suburb of this city, in the residence of Mrs. Mary Ann Browdy, this evening, Miss Nancy Browdy, aged 46, was burned to death, and the mother, aged 76, was so badly burned that she cannot survive the night. Miss Browdy, who came here about a month ago from Butte, Mont., to visit her mother, lost her life in trying to save some personal property. She went to the upper floor after the flames had made good headway on the structure, and was suffocated. When the house had been gutted, the body of Miss Browdy was seen hanging over a joist, and, in the presence of about 500 people who had gathered at the scene, was literally burned to a crisp. The mother threw herself into the burning building twice in an endeavor to save her daughter, but each time was dragged back, not, however, until she was so badly burned that the physicians say she cannot recover.

THE CZAR ADVANCING.

Kinchau, a Remarkable Point of Vantage, Now Occupied.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—The Russians have occupied Kinchau, north of Port Arthur.

Can Defy the World.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—E. L. Shephard, who recently returned from China, where he had an official position, commenting upon the reported occupation of Kinchau by Russia, said today:

"Kinchau is an important walled city (not an open port), at the head of the gulf of Lau Tung, and it commands the mouth of the river Yalu, where the battle between the Japanese and Chinese was fought, and the other important rivers which flow into the gulf. It is about equally distant between the mouth of the Yalu river and the terminus of the great wall of China. It commands the railway system recently constructed from Tien-Ten to the capital of Manchuria, and is of pre-eminent importance as a strategic post."

"The seizure of the point shows that Russia has practically taken possession of Corea, Manchuria and the gulf of Lau Tung, and possesses a significance which will cause consternation among the diplomats in the Old World. Its situation is such that its possession practically places Russia in a position to defy the world."

The gizzard of a hen recently killed at Covington, Ga., contained 21 brass tacks, 31 birdshot, two pins, a tiny brass ring, a bit of steel and some crushed brass caps.

FRUITGROWERS' CONVENTION.

Annual Meeting to Be Held in Portland January 11, 12 and 13, 1898.

The arrangements for the meeting of the Northwestern Fruitgrowers' Association, for the state of Oregon, Idaho, Washington and British Columbia, which will be held in Portland, January 11, 12 and 13, 1898, are well under way.

The committees upon whom the success of this meeting depends are:

Executive committee—Buell Lamberson, chairman; Henry E. Dosch, secretary-treasurer; H. M. Williamson, L. M. Spiegel, Alfred Tucker and Frank Lee.

Transportation—A. H. Devers, H. R. Lewis and T. D. Honeyman.

Finance—L. M. Spiegel, Edward Hughes, David M. Dunne, J. H. Hazeltine and Mark Levy.

Exhibit—F. H. Page, John A. Bell, W. F. Carroll, Mark Levy, M. L. Harvey, and one from each county and fruit district within the territory covered by the association.

Arrangements—C. V. Coper, H. M. Williamson, Frank Lee, E. C. Masten and Alfred Tucker.

Chairman Buell Lamberson and Secretary Henry E. Dosch of the executive committee, will act as ex-officio members of the sub-committees.

The meetings heretofore held by this association at Walla Walla and North Yakima were very successful, being not alone profitable to those attending the meetings, but beneficial to the entire fruit interests. Representative men from far and near were present to discuss the various phases of the growing industry.

The foregoing committees are fully alive to the situation and are now actively at work to make it surpass any of the prior meetings held. Already many letters have been received by the chairman and secretary from various cities within the limits of the association, as well as from other states, from St. Paul, Omaha and Chicago, asking about reduced transportation rates.

The transportation companies with the usual courtesy extended to this association, have made the rate on the Northern Pacific, Great Northern, and Union Pacific lines, one and one-fifth fare; and on the Southern Pacific line one and one-third fare for the round trip. The apparent difference of rates is caused by the Southern Pacific's lower tariff rate, it being only four cents per mile as against a five-cent per mile rate of the other companies. They have also expressed a willingness to transport all legitimate exhibits of fruits, both fresh and evaporated, trees, etc., free of charge. Such exhibits should be carefully labeled, packed and shipped to Buell Lamberson, 180 Front street, Portland, on or before January 5.

The programme, which is now being arranged and will be published later, will cover all the questions pertaining to the fruit interests, notably the shipping of fresh fruits to Eastern markets at a profit to the grower. This will be thoroughly discussed, especially the charges by refrigerator car companies, which must be adjusted on a live-and-let-live basis.

Gray's Harbor Lumber Shipments.

That the Gray's harbor country has enjoyed a fair degree of prosperity during the year 1897 is shown by the foreign lumber shipments as compared with those of 1896, the increase being nearly 300 per cent. In 1896, only 11 vessels with lumber sailed from that harbor for foreign ports, the aggregate amount of lumber being 3,400,000 feet, while during the present year 22 vessels cleared from Gray's harbor, carrying 10,640,000 feet of lumber, valued at \$110,000.

Of the 22 vessels clearing for foreign ports from Gray's harbor during the present year, 16 of them loaded at the mills in Aberdeen—14 at the West & Slade mill, with cargoes amounting in the aggregate to 5,328, feet, and two at Wilson Bros. & Co.'s mill, whose cargoes aggregated 975,000. The E. K. Wood mill at Hoquiam, shipped four cargoes foreign, 2,782,000 feet, and the Northwestern Lumber Company two cargoes, aggregating 1,600,000 feet.

Most of this lumber went to Mexican ports, although Honolulu received several cargoes, while Africa, New Caledonia, Australia, and Peru each received one cargo. At the present time the mills have orders for foreign cargoes of lumber, and the owners anticipate that the 1898 foreign trade will greatly exceed that of 1897.

Northwest Notes.

The presiding elders of the Methodist Episcopal church, comprising all the elders in the Pacific Northwest, will hold a convention in Spokane on the 11th, 12th and 13th of January, 1898. Bishop Cranston, of Portland, will preside.

A logger at Seaside, Or., says that he proposes to put in 9,000,000 feet of logs before the end of the freshest season next year. The timber will be taken from the Sothan, Bracker, Eberman, Gearhart and Starr places, near Holiday Park.

Hops in Yakima seem to be a drug on the market, notwithstanding high quotations elsewhere. Local buyers say that choice grades can easily find sale at 13 1/2 cents, but they maintain that only one or two choice lots remain in the valley, and that the best of the poorer qualities left are not worth more than from 9 to 10 cents.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

(Office of Downing, Hopkins & Co., Chicago Board of Trade Brokers, 711-713 Chamber of Commerce Building, Portland, Oregon.)

The trade has fallen into a way of thinking that the big receipts of the past week will clean up the surplus wheat that is liable to come out at present prices. Most of this wheat is contract, when it is all in the bulls think that they will control the situation.

In the Northwest the claim is made that 80 per cent of this crop has been marketed, and that country elevator stocks are very light compared with previous years. Every one is looking for a sharp falling off in receipts after the first of the year; also for higher prices, while the situation on all sides is admittedly bullish the world over, the prices have not responded to what the bulls think the position of stocks to estimate requirements justifies. They have fixed the standard of values in their own minds, and because they are not realized they feel disappointed. Most of them are too much inclined to lose sight of the fact that the price of wheat has reached a point where substitutions of other articles cuts greatly into the consumption, and that the speculators are more solicitous as to the price and the probable supplies than the consumers.

The outlook for supplies from Argentine is uncertain, the probability being that the exportable surplus will not exceed 30,000,000 bushels. Traders lose sight of the fact that Argentine is a large country, and that unfavorable conditions will hardly exist over the entire territory.

Harvesting is now in progress, and the rains might reduce the exportable surplus. There will be little wheat to ship from Australia, but India's prospects are evidently good, judging from the free offerings in Liverpool for September. The American visible supply this week showed a larger increase than expected, being 1,051,000 bushels more than last week, and now totals 36,616,000 bushels, as compared with 54,443,000 bushels at the same time last year.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 75@76c; Valley and Bluestem, 77@78c per bushel. Four—Best grades, \$4.25; graham, \$3.40; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel.

Oats—Choice white, 35@36c; choice gray, 33@34c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$19@20; brewing, \$20 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$18.

Hay—Timothy, \$12.50@13; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton.

Eggs—18@25c per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 55@60c; fair to good, 45@50c; dairy, 40@50c per roll.

Cheese—Oregon, 11 1/2c; Young America, 12 1/2c; California, 9@10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$1.75@2.25 per dozen; broilers, \$2.00@2.50; geese, \$5.50@6.50; ducks, \$4.00@5.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 8@9c per pound.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 35@45c per sack; sweets, \$1.40 per cental.

Onions—Oregon, new, red, 90c; yellow, 80c per cental.

Hops—5@14c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4@6c.

Wool—Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@12c; mohair, 20@22c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, \$3.50; dressed mutton, 6 1/2c; spring lambs, 5 1/2c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.00; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$4.50@5.00 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75@3.00; cows, \$2.50; dressed beef, 4 1/2@6c per pound.

Veal—Large, 4 1/2@5c; small, 5 1/2@6c per pound.

Seattle Market.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 28c; ranch, 16@18c.

Cheese—Native Washington, 12 1/2c; California, 9 1/2c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, 28c.

Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10c; spring chickens, \$2.50@3.00; ducks, \$3.50@3.75.

Wheat—Feed wheat, \$22 per ton.

Oats—Choice, per ton, \$19@20.

Corn—Whole, \$22; cracked, per ton, \$22; feed meal, \$22 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$22; whole, \$22.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5 1/2c; mutton sheep, 7c; pork, 6c; veal, small, 7c.

Fresh Fish—Halibut, 5@6c; salmon, 3c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4; ling cod, 4@5; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2 1/2@4c.

Fresh Fruit—Apples, 50c@1.25 per box; peaches, 75@80c; prunes, 35@40c; pears, 75c@1 per box.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Nevada 11@13c; Oregon, 13@14c; Northern 7@8c per pound.

Hops—10@14c per pound.

Millstuffs—Middlings, \$20@23; California bran, \$17.00@18.00 per ton.

Onions—New red, 70@80c; do new silver skin, \$2.00@2.25 per cental.

Eggs—Store, 24@25c; ranch, 30@34c; Eastern, 16@20; duck, 20@25c per dozen.