# GEORGE'S LETTER.

## Discusses the Expense of Fortifications.

## GETTING ON WR FOOTING.

**Destructive Science Has Already Advanced Beyond the Plans, and Rendered Them Obsolete.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 29—Listening only to some of the speeches in Congress in behalf of the naval appropriation bill, the shipping subsidy bill creating a naval reserve, the bill transferring the revenue from the treasury to the naval department, the sea coast fortification bill, the Henderson militia bill, and the project to transfer the management of the Indians from the interior to the war department—listening only to some of the speeches in behalf of all these things one might think war imminent and that the immediate building up of the naval and military establishments was necessary for the public safety.

In repudiation of this rang out the words of Mr. Holman of Indiana during the debate in the House on the naval appropriations bill. "The enormous increase in the navy which is manifestly in contemplation," he cried, "and which is steadily going on, is only a feature of the remorseless growth of extravagance in our government. Sir, there never was a day when the peace and safety of this government were so absolutely assured as they are at the very time when we are appropriating vast millions for this costly glitter of a splendid navy. The idea of feeling alarm when we stand not simply in the front rank of nations, but the first of the nations! The mere declaration of an embargo upon our part against any naval and commercial power would produce a revolution among its people. Providence has made us secure against external force. We have not been in peril during the last 40 years by the unfriendliness of any nation. We are now beyond the point of danger, recognized by the nations as the first, and all this by gift of Providence, intelligence and courage of our people, and the conquests and triumphs of liberty and peace."

EXPENSE OF THE NEW NAVY.

The naval appropriations bill as it passed the House carried the expenditure in round numbers of $31,000,000, nearly $7,000,000 more than the last previous annual appropriation. This extra expense is occasioned by work on ships previously contracted for. The bill also authorized the building of another protected cruiser to be of "about 7300 tons displacement at a cost, exclusive of armament, not to exceed $2,750,000, and to have a maximum speed of not less than 21 knots." Moreover, the act of March 2, 1890, authorizing the construction of an armored steel cruising monitor of not less than 3000 tons displacement, was repealed. The fight arose mainly from these two provisions, ground being taken in the first instance against any further increase in the navy, and in the second place against the condemnation of monitors and the substitution of larger cruisers and sea-going battle ships that "can sail around the world" and "show the flag in foreign ports" and all that sort of thing. This opposition led to some revelations.

Mr. Sayers, of Texas, member of the appropriations committee and a foremost member of the naval committee in the last congress, after a careful and detailed examination of the best information he has been able to obtain, announced that the hull and machinery of the 40 vessels, built or authorized, to construct the "new navy," and the ordnance for 38 of them, would cost not less than $64,810,336. But this did not include armor, so that in his opinion these vessels, if all completed, would entail an expenditure of not less than $75,000,000. Then, too, as he pointed out, the operation of such ships will be very heavy, as more men, more stores and more fuel will be required, all of which will greatly add to the annual expense, and, for that matter, provision is made in the appropriation bill for a "naval militia of various states under such regulations as the secretary of the navy may prescribe." More than this, such ships must undergo extensive and frequent repairs, so that the expense is enormously augmented. Twenty-one years is the average life of ships like these, but this does not mean that they will remain effective that long. How long they will be effective no one can say.

During the years of 1858, 1859 and 1860, when our population was but 30,000,000, the naval appropriations averaged nearly $13,500,000. The war came, and in a few short months, with the introduction of first the Merrimac and then of the Monitor, the whole system of naval warfare was revolutionized, and the ships on which millions and millions had been spent were worthless. In the short period since then we have seen the single turreted monitor, modeled on Ericsson's plan, superseded by the heavier, double turreted ones, and these "improved" and "improved," only to give way in their turn to enormous sea-going line-of-battle ships armed with terrific guns and belted with huge plates of steel armor. What soon may we not expect, so rapid is the march of invention, making these new ships of ours obsolete? No less an authority than Admiral Porter declares that they are now useless because of their lack of sail power, since any injury to the machinery would completely disable them.

FORTIFICATIONS NOT LASTING.

And what is said of rapid changes in the navy applies also to fortifications. With the opening of each of our wars we have been constrained to arm anew. This was notable so at the opening of the civil war. Though thirty millions were spent on fortifications just before that event, not only had those fortifications to be greatly strengthened or rebuilt, but heavier guns had to be supplied. Said Secretary Stanton in December, 1862: "In consequence of the introduction into naval warfare of iron-clad vessels, comparatively safe from the effects of such batteries as had hitherto been sufficient to guard effectually against the passage of hostile vessels, it became necessary to provide heavier and more powerful ordnance. The whole system of such armament was carefully revised and amended by a board of the most experienced and competent officers, and measures have been taken to carry their recommendations into effect." Such was the improvement in guns, however, that only three or four years after that it was deemed necessary to strengthen the sea coast works. In 1873 it was estimated that the number of guns of all kinds required to arm our forts, as far as yet determined, amounts to 4,181." Though experiments as to new and more powerful guns were made, there was no effort to re-arm, save that later on some ten-inch smooth bore Rodman guns, which but a few years before had been the most powerful guns made, were converted, by the Palliser process of lining with a steel tube, into eight-inch rifles. Supposing the fortifications had been fully armed with the improved guns of that day, what would such guns now be worth? And yet, in the face of such facts, Secretary Proctor says that a "modern land battery, when once constructed and armed, needs few repairs and few renewals!"

PRESENT PLAN OF FORTIFICATIONS.

It may be worth while examining what the present plan of seacoast fortification is. The fortification bill which has passed the House of Representatives carries only a little over four million dollars of expenditure for heavy ordnance, the enlargement of the gun factory at Watervleet, N. Y., etc, but the Board of Fortifications and Board of Engineers, in expectation that it soon will be needed, have drawn up a plan of fortification, the main feature of which are: 1st. Armaments of the heaviest rifled guns, which, while widely dispersed, can concentrate their fire on the enemy's vessels; 2nd. Submarine mines planted in the channels and roadways, "for the purpose of holding the vessels of the enemy under the fire of our guns and preventing their running the batteries and reaching the harbors and cities;" 3rd. The protection of those mined areas from countermining, and removal by batteries of rapid-firing guns of small caliber and wide range. The gun defense provides for five classes of works mounting the heaviest rifled ordnance: 1st, mortar batteries, with or without scarp walls and flank defenses; 2nd, barbette batteries armed with guns mounted on disappearing cartridges; 3d, barbette batteries armed with guns mounted on vertical lift carriages; 4th, casemated batteries; 5th, iron or steel turrets.

WHAT IT WILL COST.

There is no estimate of what all this would cost, though partial estimates are given. It is proposed to expend on batteries, casemates and turrets alone, and exclusive of armament and gun platforms, carriages and plants for the manipulation of the armament, at Boston, $7,657,882; at New York, $16,200,400; at Hampton Roads, $3,300,802; at San Francisco (not complete), $5,035,000; at Washington, D. C., $520,000. Twenty-seven ports are said to "urgently require" such fortifications or other defenses.

The cost of guns and mortars is estimated to be as follows:

STEEL GUNS.

| Caliber. | Weight. | Est. Cost |
|---|---|---|
| 10 inches | 50 tons | $36,000 |
| 12 inches | 52 tons | 60,000 |
| 14 inches | 82 tons | 100,000 |
| 16 inches | 126 tons | 150,000 |
| 20 inches | 246 tons | 300,000 |

MORTARS.

| Caliber. | Weight | Est. Cost |
|---|---|---|
| Cast iron—12 inches | 14.25 tons | $4,000 |
| Steel—12 inches | 13.00 tons | 15,000 |

The cost of disappearing, barbette and casemate gun carriages is from $27,000, for a 10-inch gun, to $40,000 for a 14-inch gun. The 16 and 20-inch guns would be mounted in turrets. The estimated cost of a turret for two 16-inch guns is $700,000.

Even the cost of firing these guns is immense, as the following official figures will show:

STEEL GUNS.

| Caliber. | Estimated cost of projectile, steel. | Weight of powder charge. |
|---|---|---|
| 10 inches | $287 50 | $89 12 |
| 12 " | 500 00 | 118 80 |
| 14 " | 790 00 | 189 00 |
| 16 " | 1,185 00 | 289 00 |
| 20 " | 2,315 00 | 548 00 |

MORTARS.

| Caliber. | Estimated cost of projectile, steel. | Weight of powder charge. |
|---|---|---|
| 12 inches | $280 00 | $27 00 |

But there is still another cost in firing these immense guns, which is based on the injury they sustain from "crystalization" of the metal at each discharge. The average life of 10-inch rifles is 250 round; of 12-inch rifles, 250 rounds; of 14 and 16-inch rifles, 200 rounds, and it is calculated that a 20-inch rifle would last but 150 rounds. After such discharges these guns are absolutely unfit for service and have to be "relined." The lease of life of the English Armstrong gun is even shorter. The 45 ton, 12-inch gun will fire 150 rounds; the 67 ton, 13½-inch gun will fire 127 rounds, and the 110 ton, 16½-inch gun will fire but 95 ordinary rounds.

WHAT HAVE YOU TO SHOW?

Add to all this the cost of submarine mines, batteries of rapid firing guns and the augmented garrisons that must come in consequence, and no one dare estimate how enormous the expenditure will be. And for all these millions spent, what in a short while would there be to show? According to the best calculations it would take from 12 to 15 years to make simply the guns necessary to "arm the coasts." Yet 12 years hence what will these guns be worth? Improvement and invention have in much shorter time made utterly worthless what had been deemed invincible arms. Even now it is announced that Krupp, the German gun maker, is experimenting with ore taken from the Canadian Sudbury nickel and copper mines, expecting to obtain a gun metal, which for strength and durability will also as far surpass the metal now used as steel surpasses pig iron. And it is a matter of public knowledge that Dr. Justin of New York has invented a shell from which he can fire dynamite from an ordinary, old style gun. Furthermore, new processes have made aluminum cheaper than copper. Who can predict what momentous changes these things will work? As to this irresistable tendency of conditions to change, General Benet himself, chief of the bureau of ordinance, gave testimony in his most recent report in these clear terms:

The casualties natural to a period of human life extending more than forty years have changed the entire personnel of the department since my graduation, and the great lights of the past have in the course of nature given way to their more youthful successors. Smoothbores have yielded to rifles, and 500 yards' range and uncertain accuracy to the unerring bull's eye far beyond the unaided reach of human vision; and the brittleness of cast-iron spheres have been superseded by the marvelous perforating of steel armor by elongated projectiles. Gunpowder, with Rodman's marked improvement in size and burning and consequent reduced pressures, seems to be yielding to a smokeless compound not yet perfectly developed, and to the destructive power of the titanic explosives of the day. Great are the inventions for the destruction of human life and public and private property, which, supplemented by the new chemical and mechanical processes, governed and guided by electricity as the motor, makes this era in the military history of the world a marvel.

THE SIMS-EDISON TORPEDO.

But without looking to the future for revolutionizing inventions it is more than doubtful that all this battle-ship building and sea coast arming is already rendered useless. There has now been perfected the Sims-Edison controlable torpedo that is more terrible than heavy ordnance. Against it guns and armor are of no avail, and with the utmost precision, it can strike a blow that will send the strongest iron clad to the bottom. It is propelled, directed and exploded by electricity from the shore, has a range of four miles, carries a charge of 500 pounds of Emmens's high explosive, is invulnerable to fire, runs at the rate of 25 miles an hour, cuts through or automatically dives under obstructions and strikes a blow below water line and armor that will tear a ship's side out. This torpedo, which has sustained the most crucial tests of the great torpedo expert, General Abbot, at the U. S. School of Application, Willet's Point, N. Y., can be made very cheaply, and the whole coast lined at an infinitesmal fraction of the millions to be expended on enormous battle-ships and sea coast fortifications. If extraordinary circumstances at any time made it necessary to adopt further measures for defence, there would be time. Common sense and experience confirm what Ex-Secretary Chandler once said: "With our isolated position and traditional peace policy, war is a remote contingency. Any difference that would involve us in a conflict with one of the great powers should be the growth of time, affording opportunity for gradual preparation."

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

But we have not yet considered all this business of getting on a war footing. Mr. Henderson of Iowa has introduced a bill into the House, which while ostensibly repealing obsolete provisions in the present militia law which comes down from 1792, really makes the militia a reserve of the regular army. It provides that the militia of the state shall be divided into two classes, to be known as the National Guard and the Reserved Militia, respectively, prescribes conditions as to time and manner of enlistment and provides for regular reports to the secretary of war. "The National Guard shall be trained in accordance with the same system of drill and tactics that may from time to time be prescribed for the army," and "every officer and enlisted man of the National Guard called into the service of the United States shall be held to be in such service, and any officer or enlisted man who shall refuse or fail to obey such call shall be subject to trial by court-martial." "Each State or Territory furnished with stores and supplies under the provisions of this act shall require every organization in its National Guard, not excused by the governor of such State or Territory, to go into camp of instruction or to be quartered at a United States fort for instruction in heavy artillery, as hereinafter provided, at least five consecutive days in each year, and to assemble for drill and instruction not less than 12 times in each year, and shall also require an annual inspection of each organization in its National Guard to be made by an officer or officers thereof." The secretary of war is authorized to detail an officer of the army to make inspection of the National Guard, and the appropriation for furnishing the States with arms and equipments for the militia is increased from $400,000, which it has hitherto been, to $1,000,000.

DIMINISH THE ARMY.

Instead of increasing the army we should diminish it, if for no other reason than that the institution begets in officers that insufferable arrogance which leads to all manner of outrage and disorder and to war itself, and which was fittingly described by Joseph La Fleche, chief of the Omaha nation, when he said the soldiers acted "just as if they were the only human beings." Old John C. Rives, partner with Francis P. Blair in the publication of the daily and of the Congressional Globe here, used to say that it would be cheapest to board all the Indians at first class hotels than to keep an army to keep them in order. The extraordinary number of desertions of seamen from the navy has its parallel in the army, and, in truth, the amount of running away from the latter has at last become so scandalous that extreme preventative measures have been adopted and a general order (No. 145) has been issued, increasing from $30 to $60 the reward for the return of deserters. It is not the officer who runs away. It is always the common soldier and the common sailor.

Writing from Philadelphia in 1799 to Elbridge Gerry, of Massachusetts, Thomas Jefferson used these imperishable words: "I am not for transferring all the powers of the states to the general government, and all those of that government to the executive branch. I am for a government rigorously frugal and simple, applying all the possible savings of the public revenue to the discharge of the national debt; and not for a multiplication of officers and salaries merely to make partisans, and for increasing, by every device, the public debt, on the principle of its being a public blessing. I am for relying for international defense on our militia solely, till actual invasion; and for such a naval force only as may protect our coasts and harbors from such depredations as we have experienced; and not from a standing army in time of peace, which may overawe the public sentiment; nor for a navy which, by its own expense and the eternal wars in which it will implicate us, will grind us with public burdens and sink us under them. I am for free commerce with all nations; political connections with none; and little or no diplomatic establishment."

If there ever was a time of peace when we should have been armed, it was at the time when Jefferson wrote—when we were a weakly little nation, making "but a mouthful the more" as he described it, to either England or to France in her interminable warring. If, then, when this was but a puny nation Jefferson had such a horror of the "ruinous folly of a navy," what terrible words of condemnation would he visit upon those who are today trying to surround the greatest and strongest nation on the face of the earth with fleets of iron clads and steel forts and rifled cannon, and attempting to build up within its borders a large, permanent military establishment!

HENRY GEORGE, JR.

## A PASTORAL CALL

**Leads to Unpleasant Charges Being Made Against a Minister.**

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, Feb. 6—Great excitement prevails here in the Wiley Methodist Episcopal church over the formal filing of charges of gross immorality against their pastor, Rev. Henry W. Simmons, by J. W. Haines, on complaint of his wife, who said that during a pastoral call Simmons attempted improper liberties with her. Presiding Elder E. W. Hammond will begin an investigation Tuesday.

The trustees have tried to have Simmons fired, but he boldly holds his ground. At one meeting Simmons was present and occupied the pulpit. One of the trustees, filled with indignation that the pastor should sit in the pulpit while under a cloud, pulled him down from the rostrum. He arose and attempted to explain his position, addressing his remarks to Mrs. John Wilbur, and calling her sister. She arose and indignantly exclaimed: "Don't you call me sister." Simmons denies the charges.

Hop growers of Kent have organized a bank with a capital stock of $10,000.

# THE WIZARD'S WAND.

## Jay Gould Accomplishing His Purpose

## A TRANSCONTINENTAL LINE

**Consolidating With the Northern Pacific a Line of Greater Mileage Than Any Other System.**

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6—When Jay Gould returns from his southern tour of railroad inspection with John C. Mann and other officials of the Richmond terminal and Louisville & Southern companies, plans for a big railroad deal will be completed and the wand of the "Little Wizard" will be made more effective.

Three years ago it was shown that Gould was endeavoring to obtain control of the Atchison, Richmond Terminal, Baltimore & Ohio and Reading, together with the New Jersey Central and possibly the Lackawanna. Since then he has accomplished part of his purpose and the Atchison and Richmond Terminal are in his possession. With these lines, linked with the Missouri and Northern Pacific, one of which he own, and having a big pull with the others Gould will have practically a transcontinental line with greater mileage than that of any system.

But there are certain connecting matters to be worked up. This is the object of Gould's present trip. The eastern terminus of the Richmond Terminal is not entirely favorable as a point of export, and that road practically pays tribute to the Pennsylvania in the shape of reshipments. The Baltimore & Ohio is a factor in the situation, and it is reported that Gould has dickered with its management so successfully, and with the Reading & New Jersey Central, that now he is assured of a traffic agreement that will cut out the Pennsylvania on northbound freight.

Another blow at the same interests will be, if effectual, a deal between Gould and the Louisville & Nashville, by which the latter's freight is to be diverted from the Pennsylvania road.

## ALASKAN GOVERNMENT.

**Bill Reported to the House With Important Changes.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 5—The House committee on Territories today favorably reported a substitute for Representative Carter's bill providing for a Territorial form of government for Alaska. The changes are important. No delegate in Congress is provided for, but the governor is authorized to establish precincts wherever required, each precinct to have one justice of the peace and one constable, who are to serve two years under the privileges and emoluments of the Oregon law. The inhabitants will be allowed to take timber from the public lands for industrial and domestic purposes on the payment of a reasonable price for stumpage. In this connection the secretary of the interior will make rules to prevent permanent injury to the interests of Alaska, and to prevent the removal of timber outside of Alaska.

In its report the committee says the substitute is safe and convenient, and intended to protect the people from local disorders. There are now only four justices of the peace and constables to conduct the affairs of 400 towns and villages, and in an area of 580,000 square miles, containing a population of 35,000 people, 7500 of whom are white. In the summer the population is increased by 2500 tourists.

The committee then say that the territory's exports amount to $10,000,000 annually, and that it has added $2,000,000 to the gold supply of the world; that its salmon fisheries bring $4,000,000 a year, while more than that amount is permanently invested in the business, and that the cod fisheries, yet in their infancy, are worth $500,000.

The census bureau will soon issue a bulletin upon the subject of the population of Southern Alaska. The total population is given as 19,929, as far as ascertained. Full returns will, however, probably increase the number for the whole territory to about 28,000. The total number of males who would be entitled to vote, should Alaska be granted a representative government, is 969, of whom 69 are among the transients.

## LEGISLATURE.

**What was Done at the State Capital Today.**

OLYMPIA, Feb. 6—The House met this morning at 10 o'clock with a larger number of men promptly on hand than might have been expected, in view of the ball of last night.

The committee on railroads reported back Fellow's bill with a recommendation that it pass, with a few unimportant amendments.

Anderson, of Mason, and Tyler, of Pierce, will make a minority report. Both are railroad men, the former being sole owner of a small line in his section. Anderson made a vigorous speech against the majority report.

Miller, of Whatcom, gave vent to some anti-corporation remarks, which brought forth applause.

Several others made some talk pro and con, and further consideration of the bill was finally postponed until next Thursday.

The nine jury bill was next taken up, and after discussion that lasted until the hour of adjournment, this matter was also postponed until Tuesday.

## FARMERS GETTING BACK.

**They Advocate a Sort of Back-Handed Protection.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 6—The council of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union had under discussion this afternoon a resolution looking to the betterment of the agricultural and commercial industries of the country, and after quite a lively exchange of views the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Of the three great industries of the United States, agricultural, commercial and manufacturing, the first two are in the most depressed state, with a view to the betterment of their condition, be it

Resolved, That the legislative committee of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union be requested to prepare a bill for presentation to the present or following congress, containing a provision that all vessels built, owned and manned by citizens of the United States that carry full outgoing cargoes, two-thirds of which, at least, consist of home agricultural products, shall be allowed to enter and discharge their returning cargoes, provided said cargoes shall consist of manufactured products, at any port of the United States, free of all custom duties. We are persuaded that such a measure, properly carried out in detail, will not only build up the shipping interests of the country, but will result in creating a foreign market for the surplus agricultural products of the United States.

A resolution was adopted urging congress to enact a law in accordance with the Ocla memorial in opposition to the Louisiana State Lottery.

The report of the committee on plans was submitted. In addition to the various Alliance organizations already in existence, it recommends among other things the formation of congressional district alliances in each state and territory, each district to have a lecturer.

A resolution was passed instructing the president of the council to appoint a national legislative sub-committee of three members to formulate bills to be presented in congress in accordance with the demands of the Ocla meeting. These demands include the sub-treasury land loan, the free coinage and the anti-lottery bills.

## ANTI-TRUST BILL.

**A Stringent Measure Passes the Indiana Senate.**

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 6—The senate today passed the most sweeping measure that was ever aimed against trusts in this state.

The bill provides that all trusts, pool contracts, combinations, arrangements or corporations, which attempt to decrease the output, or control prices, or limit production, shall be considered conspiracies to defraud the people, and any person being a member of such organization shall be subject to a fine of from $1000 to $5000 and imprisonment in the state prison from two to five years.

The provision is made to apply to any stockholder or agent, or person interested in any way in the management or the profits of a pool, contract, combination, agreement or corporation.

In cases where the company is organized under the Indiana laws the charter is to be forfeited in addition to the punishment prescribed in the penal section of the bill.

In another section it is provided that any person who is injured by the operations of the trust or pool may sue and recover damages in double the sum of injury which his business has suffered.

## SALMRON DEFEATED.

**Growing Republican Discontent Manifested at Barcelona.**

BARCELONA, Feb. 6—Senor Salmron, the Republican candidate for election to the Chamber of Deputies, has been defeated by the Conservative candidate, according to the returns as announced. Senor Puig, the Conservative candidate, received 5874 votes, and Salmron 5285 votes. The Republicans are intensely exasperated at the result of the election and assert there has been official tampering with the ballots. They also insist that Salmron is duly elected. The popular discontent, which has been smouldering for a long time, has been fanned by the Conservatives' victory, and is now being made generally evident.

An explosion of two petards in a prominent thoroughfare last evening tended to increase the anxiety and the government is making elaborate preparations to crush a possible uprising. It is understood that in the event of an attempt at a revolutionary movement the ministry are determined to put it down at whatever cost.

## ACCUSERS ASTONISHED.

**Church Members Fail to Discipline One Of Their Number.**

BOSTON, Feb. 6—The good brethren and sisters of the South Congregational church of West Roxbury, were called together Wednesday evening by their standing committee to consider a case of discipline which assumed astounding proportions. Harry W. French, a well known traveler and lecturer, was accused and the accuser was S. D. Smith, president of the Smith Organ and Piano company. The standing committee had investigated the charges and found a verdict of guilty and the meeting was called for the purpose of suspending French.

The latter put in an appearance, to the great astonishment of all, and made an eloquent avowal of his love for Smith's daughter Fanny, and of his suit for her hand, stating that he had sent the young lady to Europe, adding certain details which are here omitted. French then asked that his name be stricken from the roll of members.

The meeting was so surprised by the avowal that it was dissolved without taking any action. Miss Smith's hand has been promised to an Englishman whom she dislikes.

**Conflicting Reports of a Collision.**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 6—News of a serious wreck on the Cotton Belt Railroad, six miles south of Clarendon, Ark., has just reached here. The north bound passenger train which left Pine bluff at 2:20 p. m. yesterday was wrecked. One report says that nine people were killed. Another says only three, and still another, from a railroad man, that only a fireman was killed and several others injured. There is no telegraph station near the place. Full particulars are expected shortly.

**Pullman Car Works Burned.**

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 6—Fire has destroyed the Pullman Car shops and other property to the amount of $250,000. The fire started at 1:15 o'clock in the Pullman shops, and spread so rapidly that it was necessary to send in a general alarm and put the entire department at work. At 1 o'clock this morning the fire was still burning fiercely but was under control. The shops are entirely destroyed, with their contents, as were also 11 cars in various stages of completion, and about $50,000 worth of tools and machinery. The Pullman row of small dwellings occupied by employees, was also destroyed. There were several narrow escapes but no loss of lives.

**A Returned Thief Arrested.**

NEW YORK, Feb. 6—Charles Knothe, a young clerk in the employ of Horace Ghardy & Co., jewellers, at No. 30 Maiden Lane, who disappeared suddenly with $5000 worth of diamond, was traced to San Francisco, where all track of him was lost. Knothe returned to this city today and was arrested on landing from a Jersey City ferry boat. In this pockets were found pawn tickets for $2500 worth of jewelry, which he had stolen from the firm and which will be recovered. He was locked up at police headquarters.

**Columbus Shooting Festival.**

BERLIN, Feb. 6—Genoa proposes to hold a grand shooting festival in honor of the Columbus Centenary. France, Spain and Switzerland will attend.

## THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER.

**How San Franciscans Like Algers' Proposition.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7—The Examiner says: The announcement in a telegram from Chicago that General Alger, General Clarkson and others had organized a syndicate to boom the Puget Sound country at the expense of San Francisco's commerce by establishing a line of steamers from the Sound to China, is received with a good deal of incredulity by local financiers and railroad people.

When it comes to diverting the commerce of the Orient from this port, General Alger and his syndicate will run plump up against the Southern Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, and on the northern side they will meet a decided obstacle in the Canadian Pacific.

The Canadian Pacific, as is well known, already has a line of steamers from Vancouver to China. Three new vessels have just been built on the Clyde with special adaptations to speed, to knock out competition in the China trade.

The Canadian Pacific does not want a rival, and the lines doing freight business out of San Francisco does not want the business to go north or anywhere else.

General Alger has extensive interests in the Northwest—timber interests mostly—and the scheme which he proposes is not altogether impracticable, but he will find himself in a hard row of stumps, in the opinion of the local railroad men, when he throws his energies against a trinity of railways united to defeat him.

The whole affair is probably a part of the timber and land scheme which was published in the Examiner last week. Two of the men mentioned in this article as having negotiated with the Southern Pacific for the purchase of $500,000 worth of timber land are from General Alger's part of the country and have been interested with him in big timber deals, and this story coming from Chicago is a mistaken interpretation of what the Examiner has already published. The scheme is not to develop the northwest by the establishment of a steamship line to China, but by developing the timber country and working up the lumber trade with the countries beyond the Pacific. Very little of that business is done through San Francisco now.

## SALMON MARKET.

**A San Francisco Paper Comments on The Combines.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8—A local commercial paper reviews the salmon market as follows. Considerable business has been reported this year, but nothing of special interest has transpired since last week. Some inquiry is reported for Columbia river for future delivery. The combination made by eight canning companies drawing fish from Karluk, in reference to catching fish next season is likely to prove advantageous to the parties interested as it will considerably reduce the expenses of conducting business. Under this arrangement one gang of fishermen will be allowed to each cannery and the catch distributed pro rata on the basis of the pack of 1890. Expenses are to be divided. Besides this advantage arrangement will afford better protection to salmon, as it is intended to let the fish run up stream on stated days each week, instead of killing them indiscriminately without regard to their future propagation. It is understood that a similar combination has been made by canners operating at Chilcat, and that others are under negotiation by those at Bristol Bay, Chinig Bay and Cook's Inlet.

Our correspondent sends the following:

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 17th, 1891—There has been a good deal of activity during the last few days experienced by distributors, as retailers have commenced to replenish their stocks, and were it not for thd very severe weather we should have had an advance in values, but holders are adverse to advancing values at present, as they do not wish to induce further shipments from your markets. But the situation is strong and a general firmness of tone prevails throughout the market.

## DEMPSEY ON THE COAST.

**He Tells a Little About His Plans to a Reporter.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8—Jack Dempsey, wife and child arrived from the east this morning. With the utmost difficulty Jack was induced to speak to reporters. As soon as he reached the city he went to his hotel and tried to evade interviews.

When finally cornered he spoke very little, contenting himself with saving of his eastern trip that he was outclassed in the fight with Fitzsimmons. He looks very much crestfallen. He leaves for the north this evening where he will attend strictly to business. He expects to return in time to train Mitchell for the latter's fight with LaBlanche, the "Marine" and may challenge the winner.

**After McAuliffe's Scalp.**

NEW YORK, Feb. 7—Jack Smith, of Harlem, a hard hitting but unscienced pugilist, believes he can whip Joe McAuliffe in 10 rounds. He issued a challenge at the "Police Gazette" office today in which he stated that he is eager for a try at the "Mission Boy" and will box him five or ten rounds in Brooklyn or Hoboken for gate receipts. Billy Oliver is anxious to bet considerable money that Smith can defeat McAuliffe.

## A MEXICAN VICE-PRESIDENT.

**Talk of Selecting a Man to Run Things When Diaz Gets Tired.**

CITY OF MEXICO, Feb. 7—During the past month the leaders of the Liberal party have been considering the advisability of changing the law of succession to the presidency. The law provides that in case of vacancy in the presidency the President of the Senate during sessions, and the President of the Permanent Congress committee during a recess, shall succeed. This has given rise to numerous idle rumors concerning the intention or President Diaz to retire or at least go to Europe for a year or two. It is rumored also that Ex-President Gonzales will be chosen Vice-President to take charge during the absence of Diaz.

The best information obtainable is to the effect that a vice president is decided upon, but that his name is not agreed upon. The names of both Gonzales and of Secretary of the Treasury Dublan are mentioned. Intimate friends of Diaz declare that he will not go to Europe or elsewhere during his incumbency, no matter who may be chosen vice president. They furthermore assert that Diaz will serve another term should he be chosen without much opposition.

**Buying Armor Plates.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7—The navy department is about to enter into a contract with Carnegie, Phipps & Co. of Pittsburg, for 6000 tons of armor plate of various thicknesses for armored vessels now in course of construction. The details of contract have not yet been arranged, but it is understood that the prices are to be about the same as those in the contract made with Bethlehem Iron Works in 1887 by Secretary Whitney, and that the total amount will be about $350,000. The contract with Carnegie, Phipps & Co., was made necessary by unforeseen delays encountered by the Bethlehem Co. in putting in their plant which has prevented them from making any plates for delivery.

## A GOOD MOVE.

**Abolition of a Feudal System of Justice.**

LONDON, Feb. 7—Charles Seale Hayne, Liberal M. P. for Ashburton, has prepared a bill providing that Justices of the Peace shall hereafter be elected instead of appointed by the government. The tenth of March is set down for the second reading of the bill, which will be opposed by the government but receive general support of the Liberals. The bill embodies an entire revolution in the minor administration of justice in England. Justices of the Peace now are nearly all well-to-do Tory squires who have their own way in dealing with the poor people brought before them and who not infrequently come into court booted and spurred and whip in hand. Their decisions are almost always adverse to the Liberal cause, and for this reason Mr. Furness, the member elected from Hartlepool, has refused to submit to the magistrates certain charges of intimidation in the recent election because he fears they would not do justice. It is desired to sweep away this oligarchic system of justice and have all the minor magistrates elected by the people. Sir William Harcourt has pronounced in favor of the reform and will support it.

## HEART DISEASE DID IT.

**Intended to Go Around the World, But Is Prevented.**

LONDON, Feb. 7—The steamer Empress of India left Liverpool today for a circuit of the globe as far as Vancouver, via Asia. The passengers were from all parts of the world, but included a large number of Canadians interested in the new steamship line to connect with the Canadian Pacific. Among the intending passengers was Mr. Houliston, a lawyer, of Three Rivers, Quebec. He came to Great Britain for the express purpose of taking the trip on the Empress of India. He went to meet a friend in Edinburgh, and while in an office there suddenly died of heart disease.

**After Eight Hours in Germany.**

BERLIN, Feb. 8—A manifesto has been issued by the social democrats which asserts that the principal reasons for postponement of the labor demonstration until the first Sunday in May, are the long period during the present winter in which workmen have been without employment and the gravity of the economic crisis, which has thrown thousands of wage earners out of employment and subjected them to the arbitrary actions of their employers. The manifesto says the present crisis constitutes a reason for an imposing demonstration, mass meetings and workmen's excursions in advocacy of a law which will provide for a working day of eight hours.

**Large Soda Works Burned.**

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Feb. 8—Church & Co.'s soda works, which covers 43 lots in Greenpoint, was burned early this morning. The loss is about $200,000 and the insurance $30,000. There was about 300 men employed in the works and the night force of 120 were at work when the fire broke out. Twelve boilers in the works were to be inspected today. A watchman said he visited the place when the fire first made its appearance, 10 minutes before, and saw no indication of it. Horses and trucks were saved by workmen, and bookkeepers succeeded in saving the books. There was a large quantity of barrels and boxes in the packing department which burned rapidly when the flames reached them.

**In the Legislature.**

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 7—The House convened this morning at 10. Smith of Okanogan, presented a petition from citizens of that county praying that in view of the alarm felt concerning the hostility of Indians they should be authorized to form and equip a cavalry company.

A petition was presented signed by 2000 persons praying for the creation of the county of Sherman out of the southern part of Spokane and the northern part of Whitman counties.

Considerable discussion was indulged in when the Sachs investigating committee asked leave to go to Port Townsend. Sharpstein of Walla Walla, seconded by Tiffany of Whatcom, led the opposition to move, but the House sustained the committee's proposals.

**Chilian Legislators Hiding.**

GALVESTON, Feb. 7—The latest passengers from Valparaiso state that those members of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies who are not imprisoned are in hiding. Valparaiso has been blockaded since January 16th by the Blanco, Encalaza and Obigino, which are about 5 miles from shore. Revolutionists have taken three steamers belonging to a Chilian company, also a new cruiser.

**Caprivi Balted.**

BERLIN, Feb. 8—In the reichstag today Chancellor Von Caprivi warmly repudiates the Liberal charges that the government has neglected to protect German interests abroad, and that it has been especially remiss in defending those interests against English aggression.

**Stole a Gunboat.**

PARIS, Feb. 7—After long and patient waiting the police have succeeded in arresting at Mayence the once noted Tilgen who, in 1873, headed a band of raiders who stole a captured French gunboat lying at Coblentz and sold the vessel to Holland.

**A Long Tramp on Stilts.**

LONDON, Feb. 6—The latest eccentric character to bid for the curious gaze of Western Europe is a Frenchman named Dornan, who hails from Landes in Gascony. Dornan has laid a wager that he will walk on stilts from the Russian frontier to Paris in 30 days. The result of the feat will be awaited with much interest. Dornan is an expert on stilts and a good many other wagers have been laid on his attempt.

**Mrs. Dietz's Father Missing.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8—Alarm is felt by the friends of the Dietz family over the non-arrival of Mrs. Dietz's father. When she was killed by her husband her father telegraphed he would start from Chicago at once to remove the body and the little child to his home in the east. He is now three days over due. The body of Mrs. Dietz was taken from Fort Alcatraz to the undertakers and embalmed.