

INCITED BY FIERY SOCIALISTS.

London the scene of a formidable riot inaugurated by "Starving Mechanics."

London dispatch, Feb. 8th: "The starving mechanics" held a meeting to-day at Trafalgar square, around the Nelson monument, which resulted in a riot.

Conspicuous among the leaders of the multitude was Burns, who ran as a socialistic candidate in Nottingham in the recent election.

Burns had now removed some distance from the position he attempted to occupy. He became emboldened by the mob and made a desperate effort to recover the lost ground.

He then read a fiercely worded resolution. It denounced the authors of the present distress in England; demanded that parliament start public works to give employment to the tens of thousands of deserving men who were out of work through no fault of their own.

After futile efforts to disperse the crowd the streets were abandoned to the rioters, who, finding themselves no longer opposed, vented their ill-will against well housed people and clubs along the way by stoning them.

A SHORT TARIFF MEASURE.

The Free List Expected to Bring About a Bitter Contest.

A Washington special to the New York Post says: Mr. Morrison's tariff bill will be about fifteen printed pages in length of the ordinary bill size.

Columbus Delano of Ohio, who represents the association of Western Wool Growers, became convinced that the bill will propose a reduction in rates on wool, and in anticipation of this he expects to call a convention of wool growers to meet here to use their influence with congress to prevent the adoption of such a recommendation.

ORDNANCE AND WAR SHIPS.

An Exhaustive Report Submitted by the Select Committee of the Senate.

Senator Hawley, chairman of the select committee of the senate on ordnance and war ships, has submitted the committee's report. It gives an exhaustive account of the examinations by the committee of the principal works and yards in this country and England, and of the information gained from other sources, and as a result gives the following conclusions: The United States is metallurgically independent for all purposes of warfare.

A DOOMED WOMAN RESPIRED.

Mary Ellen Williams, sentenced to hang at Yorkville, S. C., on the 12th, for poisoning her husband and three children, has been respite until March 19, in consequence of approaching maternity.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS AND NOTES.

A Record of Proceedings in Both Branches of the U. S. Congress.

SENATE, Feb. 8.—On motion of Logan, the senate took up and passed the bill providing for the sale to the Chicago and Great Western railroad company of what is known as the Bridewell property, in Chicago.

SENATE, Feb. 9.—The chair laid before the senate a message from the president transmitting information relating to surveys of public lands in Nebraska. The senate took up and, after a short debate, passed the bill to extend the laws of the United States over the unorganized territory south of the state of Nebraska and known as "the public land strip."

HOUSE, Feb. 9.—Morrison, from the committee on ways and means, reported the resolution calling on the secretary of the treasury for information as to the sums of money claimed in suits against collectors of customs for duties illegally exacted on imported merchandise, now pending in the treasury district of New York and Newport.

HOUSE, Feb. 10.—The bill to allow discharged army officers one year's pay and allowances, was reported adversely. The following bills were reported favorably: By Senator Manderson—To provide for holding at least one term of the United States district and circuit courts for the district of Nebraska in each year at the following named places: Omaha, Lincoln, Nebraska City, Hastings, Norfolk and Kearney.

HOUSE, Feb. 11.—Wallborne, from the committee on Indian affairs, reported the Indian appropriation bill and it was referred to committee of the whole. Adams, of Illinois, on behalf of the committee on banking and currency, called up the bill to enable national banking associations to increase their capital, return and to change their names or locations.

HOUSE, Feb. 10.—Mr. Blanchard offered a series of resolutions reciting that this house has learned with profound sorrow of the great and irreparable loss which the country has sustained in the death of that great and good man, Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock; that this house, in common with the countrymen, mourn the death of him who was the stainless soldier in uniform in war and the undaunted defender of the constitution and of civil liberty in peace, and at all times the stainless man and incorruptible; that as a mark of respect and affection for the exalted virtue and patriotic spirit of this noble soldier, which is alike her's and the country's. The resolutions were adopted and the house adjourned.

SENATE, Feb. 11.—Among bills introduced was one by Mitchell providing for the repeal of all treaties permitting the coming of Chinese to the United States and prohibiting their coming except in case of diplomatic and official personage. The bill to regulate the promotion of West Point graduates was passed. Senator Dawes, from the committee on Indian affairs, reported favorably Van Wyck's bill authorizing the secretary of the interior, with the consent of the Winnebago Indians in Nebraska, to cause to be surveyed and appraised in forty-acre tracts about thirty-five thousand acres of the Winnebago reservation and to sell the same to settlers and allot the remainder of the reservation, except that portion sold to the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad company, to the Indians severally.

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MINISTER SOTOLDO GETS IN TROUBLE.

Charges Against Him Filed With the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Charges have been filed with the senate committee on foreign relations against Mr. Soteldo, who has for several years been stationed in Washington as the accredited diplomatic representative of Venezuela, that Mr. Soteldo, while negotiating as the representative of Venezuela with Secretary Bayard for the conclusion of a treaty to set aside the Venezuelan bond awards on the charge of fraud, was simultaneously trying, in a confidential correspondence with a New York merchant in the Venezuelan trade, to take advantage of the depreciation in the market value of the awards on the bonds issued by the Venezuelan government, and that the depreciation was caused by his diplomatic actions.

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—In Huntington, Pa., a few days ago an unknown boy called at the residence of train dispatcher Thomas Westbrook, and informed Mrs. Westbrook that her sister Lizzie, living on Washington street, was dying. Mrs. Westbrook and her daughter hurried immediately to the supposed sick sister. Finding themselves duped, they returned home, only to find their residence broken into and robbed of \$4,500, mostly in gold, the savings of a life time, and a large number of valuable papers. There is no clue to the perpetrators of the robbery.

A VERY BOLD, BAD MAN.

Who, in Order to Commit Robbery, Became Reckless With His Shooting Irons.

One of the most sensational attempts at robbery in the history of the city, says a Kansas City dispatch, occurred last night. Shortly after 7 o'clock the sharp report of a revolver rang in the jewelry store of Mr. S. S. Baker, 554 Main street. It was quickly followed by another, and then a bald-headed man, with a revolver in his hand, burst through the front door. As he reached the sidewalk he steadied himself for a moment and then fired through the store door at a second man who was in hot pursuit. Then he started on a run across Main street toward Sixth, followed by cries of "Stop thief! Stop thief!"

The shooting was the result of a bold attempt at a diamond robbery. Shortly after 7 o'clock a well dressed man entered Mr. Baker's store and asked Mr. R. F. Mohr, who has charge of the house in Mr. Baker's absence, to show him some diamonds. Mr. Mohr set out a tray of the precious stones, and the man began to examine them. Suddenly he picked up a handful of the diamonds and commenced to back toward the door. Mr. Mohr ran out from behind the counter and the man drew a revolver. Mr. Mohr caught hold of him and the struggle began, in the course of which the thief dropped the diamonds on the floor. Mr. Mohr was struck over the head with the revolver several times, but he held on gamely. A. N. Oehler, a clerk who was in the rear of the store, seized a 45-caliber revolver and started to help Mr. Mohr. The robber saw him coming and raised his revolver. Oehler saw the motion and jerked his head aside as the revolver exploded. The bullet just grazed his neck and crashed through a glass case in the rear of the store. Then the robber fled. Mr. Mohr, who was following him, and then dashed across the street. At the corner of Sixth and Main he met Mr. Charles H. Surles and wantonly shot him down.

As soon as word of the shooting was received at the Central police station, the men on duty were furnished with a description of the thief and notified to keep a sharp lookout. The detective who caught him through the alley to Seventh street, and found that he had been seen at Seventh and Grand avenue, but there all trace was lost. Chief Speers said last night that they had a good description of the man and they thought that his capture would be effected in a late hour this morning. He had not been heard of.

THE REMAINS OF GARFIELD.

Their Removal to a Sarcophagus of Undoubted Durability.

Cleveland (O.) dispatch: The bronze casket containing the remains of the late President Garfield having shown unmistakable evidence of decay, it was decided by the widow and family to have the remains transferred to one of undoubted durability. The new casket is a marvel of beauty and workmanship. This morning the undertaker, accompanied by James L. Garfield and a half dozen others, took the casket to the cemetery, where the transfer was made without incident. The casket was not opened, but placed in the sarcophagus and in direction of the undertaker. The outer cover was then hermetically sealed, and the remains lost to mortal view forever. The sarcophagus was then returned to the vault, where it will remain till the handsome monument which is to be erected is completed.

The sarcophagus is a work of art. It is of solid bronze metal and handsomely ornamented, and weighs 450 pounds. The top is partially oval, and massive handles run along the sides and ends. The entire sarcophagus rests on four lion's feet, one at each corner, indicating strength. A hand, carved by fifteen inches is placed on top of the sarcophagus. On each side are arched oak leaves and acorns ornament the projections in the center, while the fichen and calicanthus are intertwined, giving a beautiful effect. The tablet was designed as a symbol of the ideal of a hand, the love of mankind by calicanthus, the purity by the lily, and his courage by the oak. The cost of the sarcophagus was \$2,000. The military guard will be continued about the vault till next June.

An officer of the army in Salt Lake received a letter from a brother officer in Arizona in a position to know, saying: "Crawford was foully murdered by the Mexicans. That is all there is to it. They knew who it was they were killing, and had been talking to them nearly half an hour before shooting at him."

THE MARKETS.

Table with market prices for various commodities like wheat, corn, oats, butter, etc. in Omaha, St. Louis, and Kansas City.

A DEFENSELESS CITY.

The Fortifications in New York Bay—Forts and Batteries.

For Show Only—No Possible Resistance to an Iron-Clad.

Along the Narrows.

If any European nation should declare war on the United States to-morrow, says The New York Tribune, the people of New York might naturally begin to wonder what could be done to keep the enemy from capturing this city. It would not encourage them to learn that if they set to work immediately, and spared neither men nor millions, the defenses in the harbor could not be put in fair shape in six years. Possibly by using the electric light, and keeping up the labor by relief gangs night and day, the task might be finished in about four years. Evidently that would not do much good. Within two weeks after war was declared probably a foreign iron-clad would appear off Sandy Hook. If any one of the American war vessels, which by that time doubtless would have been collected here, should go out to give the enemy battle, a couple of shots from a twenty-inch gun would speedily make a wreck of it. It is not likely, however, that the United States fleet would venture outside Sandy Hook. It would take up a position near the narrows, which is the true line of defense for this city.

The hostile iron-clad, meanwhile, if she were one of the best, like the Duilio, of Italy, for instance, would like about a mile east of Sandy Hook, and just to give the Yankees a taste of what was to be expected, might send a shot from a twenty-inch smooth-bore toward Fort Wadsworth, eleven miles away. Probably at that distance the shot would do little harm. It would not be possible to aim with any accuracy on shipboard so far off; but if by chance the shot should strike the stonework of old Fort Richmond, which constitutes the lower part of Fort Wadsworth, it would certainly break it all up. There would be no reply to these attentions from the foe from any point in the harbor. There is no gun here that could begin to reach an enemy eleven miles away. Presently the iron-clad would steam slowly into the lower bay, having no fear of the fort which was begun long ago on the point of Sandy Hook and never finished. If the officers chose to go ashore and examine the spot, they would find the outline of a fort larger than any other fortification on the Atlantic coast. But its parapets are entirely unfinished, and are of stone, only ten or fifteen feet high. At present the ground is used only for testing ordnance, as the guns lying about there testify.

Approaching the narrows the enemy for a moment might be impressed by the strong position of Fort Wadsworth. The ship channel there is only three-quarters of a mile wide, and with the high hills rising on the west the whole situation naturally offers excellent opportunities for defense. The big fort, however, is antiquated and of little account in its present condition. The masonry in the water line was old Fort Richmond. Without an armor of iron over the stonework it would be only a slaughter pen in a fight with a ship armed with modern guns. Above is the main fort with impressive outlines in earthworks. But the parapets, which are neatly sodded, are all too narrow, being only twenty to twenty-five feet wide. In order to resist fire from high-power guns they should be at least fifty feet thick. Some of the work is of masonry, which, although high up, would be easily damaged by mortar-boats. The cost of covering stone-work with iron plate thick enough to withstand the heaviest guns is great, being about \$25,000 per gun; that is, if the fort mounted a hundred guns the cost of plating it would be \$2,500,000. Plating of this kind is preferred by foreign nations to earthworks. Other means of defense at Fort Wadsworth are the outlying fortifications—the batteries. The North Cliff battery, lying north of the main fort, is an earthwork of twelve guns. Thence going to the south one comes to Fort Richmond on the water line, already described. Further down the South Cliff battery for twelve guns; thence veering around toward the west are Hudson battery and two mortar batteries. Fort Richmond would hold a hundred guns, but it would be of no use to put them there now. In the north and south cliff batteries the guns are all unserviceable. Within the entire fortification there are comparatively few cannon that could be used at all. At present at Fort Wadsworth there are only thirty-eight men of the 5th artillery, under Lieut. Col. Closson. This is not enough of a force to keep the place in order, to say nothing of protecting the property. It is only a few years ago that some thieves stole the brass work from a lot of gun-carriages and the \$10 locks from the magazines. Since then the officers have been obliged to keep most of the gun-mountings in their quarters as well as the loose parts of the tackle—ropes and blocks. The stolen property has never been replaced.

Across from Fort Richmond on the water is Fort Lafayette. It is composed of brickwork, stone, and old iron. In its present condition it is absolutely good for nothing but a store house, and not very good for that, as the woodwork inside was all burned out some time ago, but both Fort Richmond and Fort Lafayette might be made exceedingly useful as termini for a torpedo system. The masonry should be protected by an iron plate thirty inches thick, and then the electric apparatus by which the torpedoes could be exploded would be of safety within.

Fort Hamilton, which rises on the east side of the narrows just above Fort Lafayette, is also an antiquated structure. Its parapets are only twenty-five feet thick and the main part of the fort is of stone. It is a mere shell now, but it could be plated with iron and made substantial. At this point is the only twenty-inch smooth-bore mounted in this country. There are in addition thirty fifteen-inch guns, smooth-bore, two eight-inch rifle guns, and one eleven-inch rifle gun. All these pieces are mounted in the water battery (earthworks) lying along the shore south of the main fort. A lower battery along the water-line has no guns at all upon it, but it could be made a strong point. There is no cannon in the fort proper, except the morning and evening gun. Its condition in this respect is like that of Fort Wadsworth, except that at Fort Wadsworth the solitary gun in the main fort can not be fired. It is feared that the recoil would knock it over into the parade ground.

The present state of things in the fortifications at the narrows would probably not continue long after a declaration of war; but not a great deal could be done to strengthen them in two weeks except to send more men there; and the men could really do nothing when once they were there. In approaching the narrows, however, an enemy's iron-clad would move cautiously, being on the lookout for torpedoes, or during these two weeks Gen. Abbott and the engineer corps, stationed at this port, would have been busily at work placing explosives in the channel for some distance below the forts. It is a surprising fact that there are torpedoes at Fort Wadsworth now, and it is supposed that Gen. Abbott even now knows how these explosives should be best placed in the harbor. Of course the plan is a secret; but there are the torpedoes and the wire, and by the time a hostile iron-clad was steaming from Sandy Hook, Gen. Abbott would be standing somewhere with his hand on the electrical apparatus ready to touch off any number of submarine monsters. As there is no place either at Fort Hamilton where this apparatus could be placed in perfect security, owing to the weakness of the fortifications, the enemy by a few well-directed shots might knock Gen. Abbott and all his electricity into nowhere before he had a chance to explode a single torpedo effectively. But granting that Gen. Abbott could be kept alive, with all his appurtenances unimpaired, the enemy would then hardly be badly scared. The iron-clad would doubtless be attended by lesser war-vessels which would precede her. If the American men-of-war had not disappeared up the North river they might show fight, for which pluck they would presently find themselves blown into atoms by hot shot from the iron-clad, on whose armor their little cannon balls would make only a scratch. The opposing men-of-war having been thus disposed of, the enemy could easily afford to send ahead a vessel or two to be blown up and thus exhaust the torpedo system. In some such manner a way would be opened to let the dreaded iron-clad pass the narrows. She would be fired at by the few eleven-inch guns at both Fort Wadsworth and Fort Hamilton, but if they hit her at all they would not do much more than make a dent in the monster's sides. It is doubtful, indeed, if the iron-clad would be hit at all. No money is allowed by the government to pay for floating targets, and the consequence is that the officers and men in the forts who have charge of the eleven-inch rifle guns have had no practice, and would not be able, therefore, to aim or fire with accuracy.

It is not believed by army men that an iron-clad such as is thus supposed to be coming up the bay would take the trouble to reply to the peppery fire of the forts. It would cost her anywhere from \$200 to \$400 to fire a shot, and the commander would not consider any of the forts worth firing at unless it were thought best to disable them entirely. Yet it is possible that Fort Richmond and Fort Lafayette would be knocked down. It would take just about one shot apiece to finish them, and the cost would not be over \$800. That would be effectively put an end to the project of using them as termini for a torpedo system.

When once a mile past Fort Wadsworth nobody on the iron-clad would need to take the trouble to keep out of sight. The officers might sit on deck and smoke in safety, for not a gun in the harbor that could reach their vessel could be aimed at her, owing to their defective carriages. At this point a small-boat with a white flag would probably put up to the city to inform the terrified mayor and board of aldermen that for two or three hundred millions (in gold, not silver, coin) the city would not be bombarded. If the authorities should hesitate a shot from a twenty-four-inch gun would knock the city hall into gravel and bring them to terms.

There are fortifications on Governor's island; but if an enemy could pass the narrows these would be of little avail. On the island, however, are Fort Columbus and an open battery to the south. Neither would be good for much, if anything, as a means of defense. On the water's edge to the west is old Castle William, a mere shell of stone. It is absolutely good for nothing except to hold the saluting guns and the morning and evening gun. Contrary to popular opinion, the guns on top of the castle are not of painted wood, but are real cannon. But they are old and "wormy" and explode easily, as several accidents of late years have proved. No salutes are fired at any of the other forts in the harbor without special orders. insignificant as the fortifications are, it will be notified that they are the theater of all the war-like exhibitions now indulged in about the port. From Castle William the official salutes thunder forth, and there the morning and evening gun is fired. This gallant act is performed by a soldier designated as No. 4 in his company, and at sundown and sunrise he goes to the exposed spot west of the castle, pulls a string, and boom!—the sun can either rise or set as it happens to wish. It is also remarkable that South battery on the island at present is famous as being where the officers' mess is situated; also the billiard-room is there. Also to be seen there are five ten-inch guns. Between this battery and Castle William is a mortar battery near the water's edge; but there are no siege guns or mortars in it. In the main Fort Columbus, mounted in barbette, are twenty-five ten-inch guns, smooth-bore. The officers' quarters are inside. At present the following are all the United States troops stationed about the fortifications in the bay:

Table listing the number of troops stationed at various forts and batteries in the bay.

The Boston Examiner thinks collecting clergymen should never osculate with brides, and does not know "by what right ministers kiss any woman but their wives and children, or some other very near relatives."