

WASHINGTON.

A special telegram says: There is evidently some big lobbying to be done this winter, which requires the presence of some of the leading monopolists in the country in Washington.

A decision was rendered by the supreme court of the United States on the 19th in the important Mercer colony land case of Wm. C. Walsh, commissioner general of the state of Texas vs. Wm. Preston.

A special says: General Rosecrans was asked to-day what he thought about the speakership contest. He said he thought that no one could tell yet how it would come out, but that the chances were, in his opinion, first for Carlisle and second for Cox.

The president appointed John R. Turner United States Marshal for the Southern district of Illinois.

The annual report of Admiral Porter is notable for its criticism of the new armored steel cruisers, designed by the naval advisory board, as being deficient in various ways, and so constructed as not to work under sail.

The national league of the base ball association met on the 21st. The league will arrange a schedule of games for next season, but will not announce the details of arrangement until March.

The Chinese minister, in behalf of his government, delivered a letter to Secretary Frelinghuysen relative to Annam. The following extract gives the spirit of the communication: "If France desires to maintain friendly relations with China, why should we not discuss the matter amicably?"

The secretary of the treasury has authorized the payment, without rebate, of the three per cents embraced in the 122d call, maturing December 1st. The amount outstanding is about \$14,760,000.

The second chapter of Comptroller Knox's report shows that 282 national banks were organized during the year ending November 1, the largest number organized since 1865. Of these 132 are in the western states, 40 in the middle states, 46 in the southern states, 11 in the Pacific states, 26 in the territories, and only 7 in the eastern states.

The comptroller of the currency refers to the probability of all the 3's being called for redemption within the next three years, and says this will reduce bonds held by banks from \$53,000,000 to \$151,000,000 and cause a contraction of national bank circulation of about \$50,000,000 per annum.

FOREIGN. EGYPT.

The British foreign office on the 16th allowed to be issued the first authoritative information regarding the withdrawal of British troops from Cairo. The information comes in the form of official dispatches which have passed between English commanders in Egypt and the war office, and they show that the evacuation of the city was in consequence of persistent demands by the Egyptian government.

It is noticed that many vessels have recently been bought or chartered in London and Liverpool by certain merchants and speculators who have intimate commercial relations with French houses. The interpretation put upon this fact in commercial circles is that the French government is quietly arranging through these agencies for an extensive transport service in view of a war with China.

The report that the French government presented an ultimatum to China is semi-officially denied. The committee of the chamber of deputies to report upon the bill for Tonquin credits, examined Prime Minister Ferry and the minister of marine, who explained the military situation in Tonquin and affirmed that offensive operations by the French forces were imminent if not already begun.

It is stated that fresh confidential instructions have been sent to the Catholic bishops of Ireland enjoining them to endeavor to create a sentiment influencing the Catholics to act with the government. The recent orders forbidding the holding of Orange and other meetings, is considered due to the good offices of Errington, the English agent.

The Prussian diet was opened on the 20th by Van Putkammer, minister of the interior. A speech from the throne set forth that the financial situation had improved, and the working of railways by the state had resulted in the accumulation of considerable surplus. The new budget does not make any claim upon the credit of the state, but certain disproportion continues in regard to the resources of the treasury as compared with the demands upon it arising from the pressure of communal charges and inadequacy of salaries of public schools.

The statement of a New York paper of October 26th, that O'Donnell, was evasive in answering questions regarding his American citizenship to Secretary Hoppin of the American legation, O'Donnell regarding Hoppin as a British detective, is pronounced untrue. Hoppin, on the contrary, was agreeably impressed by O'Donnell, who was open and frank and gave him all the evidence he had as to his American citizenship, which has been sent to Washington. Probably his trial will be postponed a week in consequence of the non-arrival of witnesses from the Cape of Good Hope.

Owing to cable interruption information of the military operations in Tonquin are not expected for a week. The fleet will make a naval demonstration on the Chinese coast during the attack upon Bacninh.

The republican military society has issued an address to the army and the people, declaring that if the government does not establish universal suffrage at the next session, the Corps society will adopt a revolutionary attitude.

China has issued a circular declaring that she has done her utmost to preserve peace, but that the demands of the French are so exorbitant that she can only maintain her present attitude, and abide the results.

The fact that no information of any character comes from Hicks Pasha is causing anxiety in government circles. The idea prevails of completely abandoning Soudan if he is defeated. Mahmand Pasha, the officer who commanded the Egyptians in the recent disastrous combat with rebels in Toka, is to be tried by court martial.

Ten thousand people gathered at Madrid to witness the landing of the prince and greeted him with loud cheers, while the men-of-war in the harbor and the batteries on shore fired salutes. General Blanco, Count Von Solms, the German ambassador, of Madrid, aides-de-camp of the emperor of Germany and King Alfonso, the civil governor of the province of Valencia, and other persons of distinction, received the crown prince at the landing point. The reception took place in a tent tastefully decorated with

German and Spanish colors. Troops lined the route along which the prince and party passed. He proceeded to the palace of the captain-general of Valencia. The crown prince subsequently proceeded to the Alameda promenade, where he witnessed the parade of the troops.

Captain Hoofston, who was with Hicks Pasha's forces, and escaped disguised as a dervish, says that on the way from the battle field he counted 150 wounded, survivors of the engagement, among these an European artist named Power. Hicks Pasha had divided his army, sending half to Elobel to demand the surrender of that place. He awaited the arrival of Mahdi, who was advancing from the south-east. Mahdi, however, met half of Hicks Pasha's army advancing on Elobel and attacked it. Hearing firing, Hicks Pasha came up with the whole force and formed a hollow square. Mahdi brought up fresh regulars, who he supposed were soldiers captured when Elobel fell and who agreed to take service under Mahdi. These numbered 3,000. The square of Hicks Pasha's men was then broken and his army annihilated. The English officer with the Egyptian army fought gallantly.

Colonel Coettogian, with Hicks Pasha, sent a telegram from Khartoum to Gen. Sir Evelyn Wood, [confirming the previous reports of the disaster to Hicks Pasha's army. He says the whole country has risen. The government asked Baker Pasha to send 1,000 gendarmes to Saoukim to help clear the desert, but Baker refused to send them, thinking they were required in upper Egypt. It is stated that Turkey offered to send 20,000 troops to re-establish Musselman authority in Soudan. Intense excitement prevails elsewhere in Egypt, and the country is not safe above the second cataract of the Nile. The khedive has ordered the evacuation of the military posts on the Blue Nile and White Nile. The troops on the former will be massed at Sennar and those from posts on the latter at Khartoum. Three principal officers at Khartoum have been ordered to consult and adopt defensive measures. If necessary Sennar will be abandoned and troops massed at Khartoum.

A telegram from Power, the European artist who was with the Hicks Pasha expedition at Khartoum, reports that the first attack by the Egyptian army was successful and not until the enemy was believed to be routed did Hicks Pasha accept the guidance of an emissary of El Mahdi, who led the army into a waterless defile, where it was annihilated.

The news from Hsi Phong is that 3,000 Chinese attacked Haid Zuong on the 17th. The French garrison, supported by a gunboat, maintained its position. The engagement lasted from 9 a. m. until 4 p. m., when the Chinese retreated. The loss to the French land force was twelve killed and wounded. The French gunboat had her hull pierced in several places, and eight of the crew wounded.

News from North China is that a secret treaty exists between the Chinese government and the Black Flags, and Chinese reinforcements continue to arrive in Canton. War with France is regarded as inevitable.

Gen. Wallace, United States minister, has again complained of the inaction of the authorities of Bitlis in not punishing the authors of the recent assaults on American missionaries. In a fresh note to the porte he insists that unless the governor of Bitlis is dismissed the trial of the assailants shall be held at Constantinople, as no confidence can be placed in the present governor for the proper execution of the sentence against the malefactors.

How Nutmegs Grow. Boston Journal of Commerce.

Nutmegs grow on little trees which look like pear trees, and are generally over twenty feet high. The flowers are very much like the lily of the valley. They are pale and very fragrant. The nutmeg is seed of the fruit, and mace is the thin covering over this seed. The fruit is about as large as a peach. When ripe it breaks open and shows the little nut inside. The tree grows on the islands of Asia and in tropical America. They bear fruit for seventy or eighty years, having ripe fruit upon them at all seasons. A fine tree in Jamaica has over four thousand nutmegs on it yearly.

The Dutch used to have all this nutmeg trade, as they owned the Banda Islands, and conquered all the other traders and destroyed the trees. To keep the price up, they once burned three piles of nutmegs, each of which was as large as a church. Nature did not sympathize with such meanness. The nutmeg pigeons, found in all the India islands, did for the world what the Dutch had determined should not be done, carried those nuts, which are their food, into the surrounding countries, and trees grew again and the world had the benefit.

Rebuilding Solomon's Temple. Portsmouth, N. H. Times.

A gentleman named Durgin, belonging in York, Me., a stone mason, left this city on the 11 o'clock train to-day for Boston, where he will join a party of twelve other men bound for the city of Jerusalem. The party go to help rebuild the temple. This man from York is prompted by a sense of duty, and takes his family, personal effects, tools, etc.

Sewing aprons are made with one pocket low down on the right side; the materials are lace, silk and muslin embroidery; the trimmings are ribbon bows.

From Lima to Chiola.

From a recent private letter we take the following account of a journey by rail in Peru, made by an officer of the flagship Hartford in company with the Admiral and his staff:

"To visitors to Lima the Oroya railroad will ever be a source of interest and wonderment. It was originally intended to connect the Peruvian seacoast with the headwaters of the Amazon and establish the communications with the rich silver mines of Cerro de Pasca. The project had been a long-cherished one, but the difficulties to be overcome proved so great that it was only after surveying three routes that the present one of Oroya was deemed practicable. In happier times the Peruvian government bore the expense, amounting to \$25,000,000, although only eighty-six and one-half miles have been completed, and the object is still some hundred miles from attainment. But this, the most difficult part, was undertaken by Henry Meiggs, the famous American contractor, and with the help of American engineers successfully accomplished, in spite of the greatest obstacles, both of nature of climate. Many thousands lost their lives during the four and a half years this work was progressing; and singularly enough, at the highest elevations many died of fevers and malaria. A disease called the Ferrugas was also generated, very peculiar in its effects. It causes great red warts to appear all over the body, and the blood turned to water. In many cases death resulted.

"To give some idea of the amount of work done, it will be sufficient to mention that forty tunnels occur in the space of as many miles. The highest point reached is Chiola, that being 12,220 feet above the sea level, or about two and a half miles. The longest tunnel is 500 feet, and in one place the road zigzags up the mountain for two miles to reach an elevation of 700 feet. This produces a most peculiar effect upon the traveler, as in several places he sees three lines of road, one above the other.

"There are many bridges spanning wonderful chasms, where thousands of feet of living rock tower above fathomless abysses. These bridges are built mostly of iron, one of them being 575 feet long and at its center 252 feet high. Further on one comes to the 'Puente del Infernillo,' which is well named, for the imagination of Dante or Dore could conceive of nothing more terrible and grand.

"We saw fields of corn, cotton and sugar cane, interspersed with meadows of the long alfalfa grass in the valley of the Rimac; and occasionally ruins of the old Inca pueblos broke the monotony of the landscape. These latter are built of large blocks of clay, the walls being very thick, and the edifices clustered together, many of them under a common roof, as in the ruins found in Texas and New Mexico. The country must have been very thickly populated in former times, and the evidences of past cultivation are even now truly remarkable, consisting in some places of the traces of extensive terraces up the sides of almost inaccessible mountains.

"At all the villages along the route companies of Chilian infantry were stationed, and sad evidences of the war exist in burned and deserted dwellings, whose inhabitants, if not slain, have fled to the mountains for safety. Eucalyptus trees may be seen in nearly every village, and are said to have their usual good influence in keeping off malaria.

"On reaching Chiola, the highest point on the road, we alighted from the engine, and soon found ourselves all more or less affected by the rarified condition of the atmosphere. Headache and extreme lassitude, often accompanied by nausea or palpitation of the heart, constitute the usual symptoms. It is said that a person's chest will increase two inches in girth during a stay of a few months in these altitudes, and the mountaineers are noted for their development in this respect. They sicken and die when removed to the seacoast. At Chiola we saw a flock of llamas wending their way up the steep mountain sides—a novel and interesting sight.

"We returned to Lima on a rapid rate, using steam on the brakes alone, owing to the down grade, and reaching our destination just twelve hours from the time of departure."

No Mystery to Him.

Detroit Free Press. A stubbed farmer, who had come to market with a load of potatoes, entered a restaurant near the Central market and called for a dozen oysters on the half-shell. A couple of jokers happened to be in the place, and, while one attracted the farmer's attention for a moment, the other dropped a bullet into one of the oyster shells. The man gulped down one after another, until he got the one with the bullet in his mouth. Calmly and quietly he bit at the lead with his teeth—calmly and quietly he removed it from his mouth and turned to the light.

"By George! but it's a bullet!" cried one of the men.

"Probably shot into the oyster to kill him," added the other.

"Well, that is a mystery!" said the man behind the counter.

"Gentlemen, that's no mystery to me," replied the farmer, as he deposited the ball in his vest-pocket. "At the battle of Fair Oaks, over twenty years ago, I was hit in the leg by that very bullet. It's been a long time working up, but she's here at last, and I'll have it hung to my watch chain if it costs \$5."

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