



An accident on a branch of the Grand Trunk railway near London, Ont., caused the death of twenty-eight persons and the injury of many others. The accident is said to be due to some mistake in the orders of the dispatchers and on account of the severity of the weather at the time the accident took place, the injured suffered severely.

From various provinces in China come reports of a grave state of affairs as regards the activity of the rebellion. It is said that the people are not only suffering from the depredations of the rebels, but also suffer from the destruction of property by the imperial troops, in some places this destruction being carried on so wantonly that it is feared that a famine may ensue.

On December 27 it was reported from St. Thomas, one of the islands of the Danish West Indies, that the cable ship Newington, which arrived at St. Lucia, B. W. L., yesterday, reported having passed Mont Pelee, island of Martinique, at 10.30 Tuesday morning. The volcano was then in violent eruption. Dense clouds of gray smoke and dust were pouring out of the crater and ascending to an enormous height. Other advices say that the cone was luminous during the night.

A cablegram from Tokio, Japan, dated December 28, says: The imperial diet reassembled today. The house of representatives was immediately dissolved by imperial order and the house of peers was prorogued. The elections have been fixed for February. The dissolution of the diet is due to the opposition of the party leaders to the government's plan to raise the money for the naval program by increasing the land tax. The leaders refused the government's offer to compromise by reducing this tax. The opposition desired that the land tax be abolished and that the funds for the naval increase be secured from other sources.

Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont, widow of General Fremont, died on December 27 at her home in Los Angeles, Cal., at the age of 78 years. Mrs. Fremont was the daughter of Thomas A. Benton, for thirty years a member of the United States senate.

Considerable interest has been aroused by the celebration of the golden jubilee of the Passionist Fathers in Pittsburg, Pa. The meetings are attended by delegates from all over the United States together with many notable church dignitaries and priests.

It was recently reported from Mazatlan, Mex., that the bubonic plague there is abating, although a strict quarantine is still being maintained.

An Associated press dispatch from Havana, under date of December 29, says: United States Minister Squires has formally begun negotiations in the matter of securing a coaling station on the Isle of Pines. It is said that the United States asks for one naval and three coaling stations.

According to the Times of New York city plans are being made to effect within a short time the consolidation of the National Broadway, the Seventh National and the Mercantile Na-

tional banks of this city. The bank will be known as the Commercial National and it is likely that its capital and surplus will amount to \$100,000,000.

A concern known as the Alabama Steel and Wire corporation of Hartford, Conn., has recently been incorporated at that city, with an amount of capital stock estimated to be \$5,000,000.

A special dispatch from Monterey by way of Laredo, Tex., says: General Pearson, the Boer commander who became famous during the war between the Boers and the English by appearing at New Orleans and opposing the sale of mules to English agents, is in Monterey as the agent of the thousands of his countrymen who propose to establish colonies in southwestern Texas or Mexico. A committee of Boers is expected to arrive at New Orleans January 15.

Later advices from the scene of the recent earthquake disturbances in Russian Turkestan report the destruction of eleven villages around Andijan and that 6,000 houses are in ruins. The disturbances continue with more or less severity. On December 29 severe volcanic eruptions were reported from the Samoan group of islands, and it is said that the eruption was accompanied by thirteen earthquake shocks, occasioning some property damage.

The sultan of Morocco is finding a great deal of trouble these days in attempting to cope with a serious situation in his empire. It appears that his claim to the throne is contested and in a battle on December 22 the imperial army was routed in great disorder. The situation is regarded as critical in the extreme and European residents of the city are preparing to flee. The Spanish government has ordered a cruiser to Tangier and troops are to be sent to Malaga, Cadiz and Algeciras in case of needed reinforcement of the garrisons in Morocco.

The Bulgarian government is facing a critical situation in the movement of the Macedonian refugees. The hope is expressed that Turkey will give better treatment to these people and so render unnecessary any general movement in their behalf. The situation is being closely watched by Europe.

It was announced from London on December 27 that an agency dispatch from Belgrade, Serbia, predicts that the first result of the visit of Count Lamsdorff to the Servian capital will be a ministerial crisis; that some of the cabinet has already resigned and that the remainder will probably follow the example. The dispatch adds that the Russian foreign minister's visit will lead to an approachment between Russia and Serbia and that a visit of the king and queen of Serbia to the czar will certainly follow.

On December 27 a suit was instituted in Michigan by the Michigan Central railway against the state for \$6,000,000 for damages resulting from the revocation of the railroad's special charter by the special session of the state legislature just at the close of Governor Pingree's administration. The state, in revoking the charter, gave its consent to be sued. Under

the charter the road could charge 3 cents a mile passenger fare and paid a specific tax on gross earnings in lieu of other taxes. Under general law it can charge only 2 cents a mile and is subject to an ad valorem tax on its property, which is doubling its annual taxes. The damages of six million are alleged to be for one year.

It was recently reported that France and Guatemala have agreed to submit to the international arbitration court at The Hague the French claims against Guatemala. They are similar to those against Venezuela. The terms of the protocol are now being discussed.

The depression in the industrial situation in Germany still continues according to the report of the Hamburg chamber of commerce recently published. In conclusion this report addresses an energetic appeal to the German press to refrain from attacks on Great Britain and urges that in an economic respect and especially in regard to her colonies, Great Britain must continue to be the model which Germany should strive to imitate.

A conference of anthracite coal operators and their attorneys was held at Philadelphia, Pa., on December 30 for the purpose of arranging for the presentation of the mine owners' side of the controversy to the commission when that body reconvenes shortly.

An interesting cablegram from Capetown, under date of December 30, says: General Schalkburgher, former acting president of the former Orange Free State, in an open letter, published in Onsland, appeals to the government to be merciful to those who suffered as a result of their devotion to the Boer cause and to remove the grievances which now make it impossible to live up to the motto, "Forgive and Forget." In conclusion General Schalkburgher expresses the hope that the people will show that the power of the rule in South Africa lies in the Africander, who will remain loyal while righteousness re-

mains, and while his rightful portion is allotted him.

It was announced from Muskogee, I. T., on December 30 that the Indian territory statehood convention held at Eufaula today was participated in by representatives of ten towns and cities. Resolutions were passed favoring admission with Oklahoma under the Beveridge bill, with delegates and constitutional rights, but opposed to it under any other conditions. Arrangements were made for a large delegation from Indian territory to attend the Oklahoma City convention.

The annual meeting of the Panama Canal company took place in Paris on December 30. The negotiations for the sale of the canal to the United States were discussed and the hope was expressed that the sale would soon be consummated.

A movement has been started at Chattanooga, Tenn., looking to the combination of seventeen of the leading malleable iron companies in the United States with a combined stock of from \$16,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

It is rumored that the Erie, Lehigh and the Reading railroads will soon be consolidated. It is said that the merger will be planned after the manner of the Northern Securities company, the stocks of the companies to be pooled and held as a basis for the issuance of a large amount of common shares, which will take as their names the title to be given the consolidated companies.

A cablegram from Rome, dated December 30, makes the announcement that under the Franco-Italian agreement in regard to the Mediterranean, under which Italy undertakes to respect French aspirations in Morocco in return for analogous French undertakings regarding Tripoli, Italy has no direct interest in the Moroccan situation. It also can be said that Italy has no intention of occupying Tripoli unless obliged to do so in order to prevent other powers from

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