

that fled from Kishineff at the time of the disturbances must return.

During work at the new smelting works at Anaconda, Mont., on July 23 the structural steel inside one of the flues gave way and the walls bulged, burying the entire gang in the debris. Three men were killed and several injured.

The conferences of the American and Mexican monetary commissions with the German representatives was concluded at Berlin on July 23, and the American and Mexican representatives will proceed to St. Petersburg. Most of the conference was taken up in discussing the question of gold and silver money, and it appears that a unanimous report was reached at Berlin on a series of resolutions regarding a uniform monetary system for China on a gold basis with a silver circulation.

F. W. Hollis, secretary of the American delegation to The Hague peace conference, and more recently member of the international court, died at his home at Yonkers, N. Y., on July 23. Mr. Hollis was born on July 1, 1875, at Seelienople, Pa., and besides his work on important conferences had some fame as an author.

Two important firms failed in Wall street on July 24. One was W. L. Stow & Co., and the other T. J. Taylor & Co., each dealing in railroad stocks. The failures are ascribed to the recent period of excitement in the stock market.

Recent news from the far east seems to indicate that the situation between Russia and Japan is strained and may at any moment reach the breaking point. A Tokio correspondent of the London Daily Mail announced to his paper on July 23 that Japan is accumulating stores and ships, that a squadron has been sent to Vladivostok, where several Russian ships are stationed and that both fleets are ready for action at any moment. This correspondent declares that "Russia's retention of Manchuria, the increase of her fleet, the dispatch of reinforcements to Manchuria, the southward movement of the occupying army in Manchuria, and the defiant conduct on the Korean frontier all alarmed the Japanese, many of whom are convinced that it would be better to fight now than risk the eventual loss of Korea and the relegation of Japan to a secondary place." Reports from Tokio also seem to give corroboration to this view of the situation, the cabinet of Japan having adopted a strong policy in regard to the attitude on the Manchurian question. Russia is very busy massing troops along the frontier of Manchuria, forts are being strengthened and garrisoned and the coast and the railway to Port Arthur are to be strongly fortified.

It was reported from Rome on July 24 that the Vesuvius volcano has again become active. One report says that the lava from the crater has overflowed to the extent of 750 feet, but as yet the eruption is confined to the upper part of the mountain. No danger is yet anticipated.

The town of Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela, which has been besieged for some time by the government troops, was captured on July 20 after fifty-two hours of a desperate struggle. The loss of life was severe, the rebels mak-

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ing a most determined resistance. This battle is regarded as a decisive one to the cause of the rebels in Venezuela, General Gomez, commander-in-chief of the government troops, reporting that almost all the leading officers on the revolutionary side being captured together with large stores of ammunition.

A statement was recently made to the effect that the government at Washington would exercise supervision of the Cuban loan soon to be raised. This report was contradicted in a dispatch from Havana under date of July 24, it being asserted that Cuba will manage this matter for herself.

Four indictments resulting from the postal investigation are likely to be returned by the federal grand jury in Washington shortly. These indictments involve contract matters closely related to various transactions which have been under investigation by the officials.

Much interest is expressed as to the late Pope Leo's successor who will be chosen in a short time. It is said that the most prominent candidates for the succession are Cardinals Gotti, Oreglia, Aglerdia, Serafino Vannutelli, Capelatro Sarto, Rampolla, Di Pietro, Stampa, Ferrari, Satolli and Richelmi.

The first of the unique ceremonies which follow the demise of a pope was held at Rome on July 21 with great pomp and grandeur. All the cardinals in Rome to the number of twenty-nine, assembled at the palace to view the remains of the late Leo XIII. and to official pronounce him dead. The famous fisherman's ring was then taken from the dead pope's finger for the next pope. The body is to lie in state in St. Peter's church for three days, the interment to take place on Saturday, July 25.

It was announced from Rome on July 23 that all arrangements had been made by the cardinals to begin the conclave for the election of a successor to Pope Leo XIII. on July 31. The body of the late pontiff is lying in state in the basilica of St. Peter's and was viewed by thousands of people. According to the pope's expressed wish his body will be buried in the basilica of St. John Laternan in the tomb which he had already chosen.

Much interest and speculation as to the successor of Pope Leo XIII. is rife in Rome and other sections of the country, but little is known of the choice of the cardinals. It has been decided that the cardinals will gather and begin balloting on August 1. On July 24 not less than 30,000 people viewed the remains of the pope where they lay in state in St. Peter's.

Slavery of the Collar.

Perception of heat on these colorific July days is largely a matter of clothes. To parry its discomforts you are told to shun exertion, ice water, sunshine and mental activity; but not a word is said about taking off your collar, cuffs, coat and suspenders; and yet these are absolutely the greatest of all summer discomforts. They tower above every other cause of misery. Why is not the suffering man publicly warned against them? Because it would be absolutely useless. No power on earth will separate man in the street from his collar. Before he would remove it and allow the free air of heaven to breathe upon his bosom and toy with his Adam's apple he would fall prostrate in the throes of suffocation. This is the same man who, under provocation, or when the subject is pertinent, lifts his voice against "the fool corset" of his feminine sisters, "an instrument of distress and torture." He will not part with his "fool collar," not he. Why?

Because he is afraid. He is simply a timid, shilly-shallying, outright coward. He dare not face public opinion on the street collarless. Every man wants to discard that hateful neck-band; he yearns to do it, but his courage shrivels if he simply thinks of it. The Spanish inquisition did not make conformity more the universal rule than this wizened and witless public opinion on the subject of apparel. A man without a collar will be scorned, shunned, elbowed and cavalierly received—and dismissed—in every office, shop, dining resort and residence. He will be an outcast from good society. Dilate as you may on the power and majesty of the law, it is nothing to the thunderous and irrevocable verdict of the polite world against him who dares to violate its regulations in regard to this pitiful inch-wide strip of starched linen. Don't let us boast too liberally of the "freedom" of our age.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

To Tax Fat People.

The project of a tax on fat people is being considered in Sweden. The advocates of the tax argue that when a man is above a certain weight he is in a well-fed and consequently prosperous condition, and so in a position to contribute easily to the public funds. It is proposed that persons weighing 125 pounds and less shall be exempt from the tax, but that persons weighing more than 125 pounds shall be subject to a graduated tax, which would be doubled for those weighing more than 180 pounds.—London Express.

Modern Flagellants.

In Verbicaro, in southern Italy, a barbarous custom dating as far back as the time of the mediaeval flagellants has been revived. The young men of the town on certain religious fete days form processions in the streets and publicly scourge themselves. Some fanatics even inflict serious injuries upon themselves with lints of glass.

It is their firm conviction that unless they go through this ordeal at least once before they are thirty years of age all their limbs will become paralyzed. The local magistrate has decided to interfere, and the flagellants have been arrested on a charge of causing a public scandal, as they paraded the streets with little or no clothing on.

Sentence of two weeks' imprisonment was passed on the defendants.—Rome Correspondence London Mail.

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