

tee for the deposits, as in the case of the Aldrich bill. Representative Fowler says that had this scheme been in operation for the last twenty-five years the government would have made \$50,000,000 and never lost a cent."

THE THIRD FEATURE OF THE NEW FOWLER bill will be a provision for asset or credit currency. On this point the Times correspondent says: "National banks will be permitted to issue such currency by depositing in the United States treasury gold coin or government bonds equal to 5 per cent of the amount so issued, and this 5 per cent, together with the 2 per cent interest upon government deposits and a 1 per cent tax on the notes thus issued, would constitute a 'guarantee fund.' When this guarantee fund amounted to more than \$10,000,000 the excess over this amount would be utilized in purchasing gold bullion to be placed in the issue and redemption division of the treasury for the purpose of converting the greenbacks into gold certificates. This last feature will, therefore, supplement the first features for the 'impounding' of the greenbacks." Mr. Fowler expresses the opinion that his bill will very soon be enacted into law because it has been so rearranged as to meet the approval of bankers generally.

KARL VON BOECHMAN, FORMERLY OF Johannesburg, South Africa, and now traveling in this country, expressed, in an interview with a representative of the Chicago Chronicle, the opinion that South Africa will not be under British dominion for more than ten years at the most. Mr. Von Boechman said: "The Transvaal, Natal, the Orange Free State, as it was called of yore, and Cape Colony, will at no distant day form a federation and become as free of English control as Canada is now. I spent most of my life in South Africa, but after the war with England could never be content to live there. It is a good land naturally, and would become populous and rich but for the way the capitalistic combine which owns the Kimberley diamond field and the gold mines contrives to shut off development of native resources and to exclude foreigners who might come in and build up the country. The selfish and grasping combine does not look to the general welfare, but seeks only its private ends. It does all it can to keep the outside world from coming into any of this territory, which it now dominates and hopes to dominate for all time."

WHILE THE SHIP SUBSIDY BILL IS LIKE-ly to be revived at the coming session of congress, the Washington correspondent for the Philadelphia Public Ledger says that no final action is expected. This correspondent explains: "It is understood that it has been tacitly agreed by the republican leaders in congress not to enact any legislation this winter which will react upon the party in the presidential campaign of 1904. The ship subsidy measure is one of those, it is understood, which is regarded as a dangerous law upon which to go before the country. While the bill is likely to be renewed this winter and pushed to a certain stage, final action is not probable until the session of 1904. No measure will be allowed to progress to the voting stage at the first session of the Fifty-eighth congress which might require explanation and defense before the people in the campaign. Measures of this character will be carefully nursed, however, with the approaching session and be ready for action at the session which will begin December, 1904, following the election of the next president and of the lower branch of the Fifty-ninth congress."

IN THE ANNUAL REPORT OF W. A. RICH-ards of the general land office, which report was recently made public, it is shown that during the past year a large increase has been made in the total number of supposedly fraudulent land entries. Mr. Richards attributes the discovery of these frauds largely to an order given by the secretary of the interior November 2, 1902, directing an investigation of entries made under the timber and stone act in the states of California, Oregon and Washington. Under this order alone 10,000 entries were suspended and there are now fifteen special land agents of the land office in the field engaged in ferreting out fraudulent entries. According to Commissioner Richards, during the year there were reported 125 unlawful enclosures of public land, covering an area of 2,605,390 acres. Seventy-nine of these enclosures were removed and proceedings are pending to compel the removal of the remaining number. Mr. Richards says that the number mentioned are only a fraction of the enclosures in violation of the law, special agents having found it impossible to give at-

tention to many others because of the order for a special investigation of the entries under the timber and stone act.

SIR ALFRED JONES, A LEADING LIVER-pool merchant and the president of the chamber of commerce of that town, recently made a very interesting statement with respect to cotton. The London correspondent for the New York Herald quotes Sir Alfred Jones as having said that after a thorough study of cotton production, he had come to the conclusion that America soon would want all the cotton she grows and would in a short time even be required to buy cotton. Sir Alfred Jones pointed out that ten years ago America produced 7,000,000 bales of cotton and that Great Britain took one-half of them, but now America produces 11,000,000 bales and Britain takes no more than she did ten years ago. These facts indicated to him that it was absolutely necessary that England make some effort to provide a supply of cotton from other sources.

SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS AS TO THE accidents that happened this season in mountain climbing were recently issued from Berlin. The figures include Switzerland, the Tyrol, Italy and Germany. It is said that altogether 148 serious accidents are recorded, involving 196 persons. One hundred and thirty-six persons have been killed either by falls, lightning, frost, or other causes. Sixty have been injured, and of these several subsequently succumbed to their injuries. The fate of ten persons who disappeared in the mountains has still to be discovered. July is accountable for 37 accidents, August 44, September 30, the others being spread over the remaining months of the year. Geneva authorities put the number killed at 300.

THE MEASURE KNOWN AS THE IRISH land act went into effect on November 1, and to many people the success of the measure which will mean so much to the Irish people seems already assured. One of the first transactions under the new law is the sale of the Leinster estate, which will involve an advance of over \$5,000,000 to the trustees of the estate. This advance is to be repaid by the tenants in yearly installments, and it is said that in sixty-eight years the tenants will hold their holdings in fee simple, free of rent forever. The much discussed question of home rule as pertaining to the Irish people, is in a fair way to be settled if this land question adjusts itself satisfactorily, according to the opinion of many people in England and Ireland.

THE AIM OF THE LAND ACT, ACCORDING to the London correspondent of the Brooklyn Eagle, is "the general extinction of dual ownership, by buying out the landlords. Existing purchases will continue only on the mutual agreement of landlord and tenant. In order to hasten the transfer of land by purchase the government will give a free grant of \$60,000,000, to be used in making it worth the landlords' while to sell. The purchasing tenant is promised a reduction of his purchase installments, as compared with his actual rent, of from 10 to 30 per cent on second term holdings, and from 20 to 40 per cent on judicial rents fixed before 1896. When landlords and tenants come to a bargain the advance must be made, if within the limitations set, or, in the absence of any bargain, the commissioners may purchase, with power to resell to tenants in occupation or to other claimants, in accordance with the terms of the act."

A TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES and Hong Kong, China, relating to the parcels post system, was agreed upon October 31 and the treaty is to be formally drafted at once. According to the Washington correspondent of the New York Times, this treaty "provides a maximum weight limit of four pounds six ounces. The policy of the United States in extending the parcels post system is now to allow a maximum of four pounds, six ounces in the eastern hemisphere. Charge Raikes of the British embassy and Postmaster General Payne discussed the question of two-cent postage between the United States and Hong Kong, and Mr. Raikes will refer the matter to his government."

AN INTERESTING DECISION WAS MADE by Second Assistant Postmaster General Madden recently. Not long ago four tin canisters containing ashes of cremated persons, addressed from New York to San Francisco, were sent to

the postoffice department at Washington for classification in order to determine postal charges, and according to the ruling made by Mr. Madden, the ashes of a human being may be classed as "merchandise" provided the matter is securely packed.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT ANOTHER EFFORT will be made at the coming session of congress to create a colonial department with a secretary at its head who will be a member of the president's cabinet. Senator Foraker of Ohio has already announced his purpose to introduce a bill creating such a department. Col. Clarence E. Edwards, the present head of the insular bureau of the war department, is mentioned as the head of the new department if congress can be induced to pass such a measure. The Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, writing of this new plan, says: "At present the insular bureau has a force of 100 clerks. That is the chief argument in favor of the creation of the new department. As the colonel conducts the affairs of his bureau, he exercises almost as much authority as the average member of the cabinet, which is another argument for the creation of the new position. The name, insular department, has been agreed upon by Senator Foraker and others interested, as being the least objectionable, but it is not proposed to confine the authority of the department to the administration of affairs of the insular part of the national domain. The idea is to include Alaska in the sphere of activities of the department, notwithstanding it has a territorial form of government."

THAT IT COSTS THE UNITED STATES GOV-ernment the sum of \$2,329 to carry mail from New York to "the outer end of its territory," is the claim advanced by a writer in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. This "outer end" of territory is said to be Point Barrow in Alaska, a distance of 3,452 miles from New York, and such are the difficulties of travel that the journey one way covers almost five months, and five different methods of transportation are used, the cost to the government being the same if there is but one letter to be sent.

AFTER A COMPETITION IN WHICH THE leading engravers of the United States took active part, the task of designing the new seal of the United States government was finally awarded to a Philadelphian, Max Zeitler by name. It will be recalled that the old seal of the government in use since 1885 had become somewhat dimmed and congress had appropriated \$1,250 for a new one. Mr. Zeitler began work on the seal in the latter part of May and was under contract to complete it by June 15, which was done. From the moment he began work on the steel die until it was given to the government the engraver was under surveillance by secret service men, because of the fear of the government that the seal might be stolen. The new seal is now in use in the state department and is declared to be much superior to the old one.

THE KICKAPOO INDIANS, ONCE A POWER-ful tribe ruling over a large section of the Missouri valley, recently left Indian Territory and will hereafter pay allegiance to the flag of Mexico. It is said that in the days of their highest power, the tribe numbered 70,000, but now they have dwindled to less than 700. A dispatch to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch from South McAlester, L. T., recently, said: "During the civil war the Kickapoos, being a peaceful people, fled to Mexico and settled in a fertile valley in the state of Coahuila. After the war all but 176 of them returned to the Indian Territory. The descendants of those who remained in Mexico now number 442, while of the 412 who were in the Territory 30 years ago only 184 survive. The last of these have gone now to join the remainder of the tribe in Mexico. In the Territory, with an advance of civilization, the tribe found itself slowly, but surely, becoming extinct. Finally the death rate became so high that the tribal councillors decided the only thing left for them was to get as far away from civilization as possible. The Mexican absentees had invited them several times to join them in Mexico and finally, at a grand pow-wow of the whole tribe it was decided to accept the invitation. The Mexican government gave the tribe a grant of all the land embraced in the valley in which they had originally settled. The Indians will farm enough for their own supply and engage in stock raising for profit. This, with the income from their lands in the Indian Territory, will afford them a good living."