

NEWS OF THE WEEK

A Weekly Resume of the Really Vital News by the Editor

The new British minister to Washington is Sir Michael Herbert. It is said that he was selected for the place on account of his eminent legal ability.

Why the Canadians should get so angry over the result of the Alaskan arbitration is hard to comprehend. If any one of them had ever made even a slight investigation of the subject, they must have found out that Canada never had a ghost of a claim to the disputed territory. The Springfield Republican, one of the ablest papers in the United States, took exactly the same position in regard to that claim that The Independent did and it has always been a great friend to Canada and reciprocity. That paper remarked at the time of the decision that "the only reasonable object for carving out such an appendage to the great Alaskan territory was to preserve the coast line intact that distance south, and bar the country holding the hinterland from the sea along the whole length of the Aliers."

The republicans who are backing Low for mayor of New York are turning black in the face, they are so angry. They say the great municipal corporations are backing Tammany with their money this time instead of putting the money into the republican till. When one pulls a pig away from the trough, the pig always squeals.

A sentiment for national independence seems to be sweeping over Canada. Even the wily old Sir Wilfred Laurier has openly expressed regret that Canada does possess treaty-making powers. He never would have done that if he had not had his ear to the ground and heard the rumbling. All England is horrified at this expression of the great Canadian leader.

There is a sort of hellishness among the gold democrats of the east continually cropping out. It was manifested in the disgraceful performance of Judge Stoddard in the court in New Haven which had before it the Bennett will case. Judge Stoddard called Bryan a liar and in other ways showed his gold-bug venom. The dispatches say that all the way through Bryan kept perfectly complacent and demeaned himself so as to command the respect of all. It would take more than a \$50,000 bequest and a gold-bug lawyer to rattle Bryan.

The feverish state of the public mind in regard to the financial outlook is shown by runs on banks the beginning of this week. One was at La Crosse, Wis., and the others were at St. Louis. At La Crosse the scene was pitiful. Women who had small sums in the bank fought through the crowds, screaming and crying and for hours pandemonium reigned. What a pity it is that the plutocrats won't let the common people have postal savings banks as the poor have in other countries? With postal savings banks there would be no such scenes as those at La Crosse and St. Louis.

Alice Roosevelt and the Chicago horse show is the thing to which the massive intellects of the editors and reportorial skill of all the newspapers of that city was devoted during the week. The horse show, however, consists mostly of women and Paris-made gowns.

The commission sent to Europe to "fix the price of silver" has made its report, but the great Washington and New York dailies are very shy about printing it in full. From the summaries that have been given to the public we gather that it has been agreed that the various countries should not purchase more silver than is required to supply their actual demands, and that these purchases should be at regular intervals. It was agreed upon the part of five of the powers—Germany, France, the Netherlands, Mexico and the United States—that the best method was to begin the issue of new currency at a fixed gold parity, while upon the part of Great Britain and Russia there was a disposition to favor beginning on a silver basis with the view of first supplying the country with a uniform currency and then giving it, within a short interval, a fixed gold value. The countries having dependencies or interests in the Orient suggested a ratio of 32 to 1. This rate, however, does not meet with the approval of Mexico and one or two of the other powers.

Corruption everywhere. Given a place where the republicans have long ruled, from Washington to the Pa-

cific coast, there it will be found. The latest discovery has been made in Iowa, gold; Christian Iowa. A grand jury has been at work in Des Moines. The first crop is 16 indictments of public officials for blackmailing, vice and crime and the jury is still at work. Over on the Pacific coast the villains went after bigger results and stole a million or two acres of the public land. These were pretending also to be good Christian men. They were leaders in the churches—the sort of fellows who must have individual communion cups at the most solemn service in the memorial of the death of Christ.

There must be something the matter in Ohio. Every republican senator who can make a speech, and there are a good many of them who cannot, is in the state, besides them, there are about two hundred other spell-binders, all working night and day trying to "save Hanna."

A labor union can be fooled just as easily as some farmers on the plains of Nebraska. The Amalgamated Copper company out in Montana wanted to get the labor unions on their side on account of its fight with Heinze. So they go to work and shut down all their works. Then the labor unions held a great public meeting and rounded things up for the Amalgamated people. Thousands of men are idle in Montana. That is about the only thing that we are certain about. There will be distress in Montana this winter.

They have put a livery on the servants at the White house. What would Thomas Jefferson think of that? It is a small matter, but it shows the constant tendency toward aping the monarchs of Europe and the advance of imperialism.

It seems that the newly made member of the cabinet, Secretary Cortelyou, is one of the imperialistic sort. He has been running things with such a high hand that a judge out in Oregon has called him down. The judge says that Secretary Cortelyou is "guilty of exceeding his authority and of introducing tyrannical methods of deportation when he imprisons immigrants and orders them deported without first giving them a satisfactory public hearing."

When King George tried to subjugate our forefathers he hired the Hessians to fight them into submission. Since that time the word has been used to describe mercenary soldiers who are hired to fight for pay and not for patriotism. The Colorado militia, who are hired and paid by the mine owners are simply Hessians and they have no right to resent the application of that term to them.

There is a red hot campaign on down in Maryland, the state of Gorman—Gorman the great. He is the one democrat after Cleveland that republican editors mostly admire. The republican dailies never tire of telling us of the greatness, the shrewdness, the ability of Gorman. Gorman is greatly interested in the present campaign in Maryland. He has made one speech and only one. He will never make more this time. The readers of The Independent, no doubt, would like to read that speech. So here it is—the whole of it—verbatim et literatim: "The president of the United States invited the republican candidate for governor of Maryland to dine with him and to occupy the same seat which was probably occupied by Booker Washington. I tell you that no liberty, no safety, remains when you have a dictator or a czar or an emperor in Washington, who can send for Maryland republicans and tell them to harmonize their differences, to bring the negroes to the polls, to sustain him in his effort to establish social equality of the two races." After reading that, will any man deny that Gorman is a great statesman?

The old cry, "It will ruin the industry," which has always been raised whenever any re action in exorbitant duties has been suggested, should find its final quietus in the results accruing from putting coal on the free list last winter during the coal famine. The total increase in the importations of coal since then have been 1,140,969 tons. But it didn't "ruin the industry," for the increase in exportation of coal during the same time has been 1,583,859 tons.

In a speech at Ealing, Lord George

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Hamilton, late secretary of state for India, charged Premier Balfour with bad faith in advising the Duke of Devonshire of Chamberlain's resignation and withholding the news from other members of the cabinet.

The re-election of Colonial Secretary Lyttleton, liberal unionist, to the house of commons from Warwick and Leamington by a reduced majority (190 against 831 before) is taken as an indication that the food tax argument of the English free traders will figure heavily in the general election.

The zinc mill and mine owners of Galena, Kas., and Joplin, Mo., have arranged for a total shut-down of the mines and mills to force up the price of ore. It is not stated how many men will be thrown out of employment.

A Wall street rumor that the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad will build to the Pacific coast, brings out the following gossip anent the cut-throat game now going on, which in time must result in a complete merger of all railroads in the United States. Only a short time ago Mr. Harriman joined the Hill-Morgan party by entering the Erie directorate and this move followed a report for which there seems to be good ground that Mr. Harriman had fallen out with the Kuhn-Loeb interest. Mr. Harriman and the Rock Island interests are or the best of terms, and acting together, have been heavy purchasers of Atchison. By many it is believed they are already in control of the Atchison property. Controlling the Northern Securities, the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific and the Atchison, the Harriman-Morgan-Rock Island interest controls every route to the Pacific coast. The St. Paul and the Northwestern and the Gould system are cut off, their farthest western line being the Denver & Rio Grande of the Gould group, which ends at Ogden.

The threat of President Stickney of the Great Western to give Omaha decent grain rates seems to scare the other railroad magnates. President Harris of the Burlington has gone to St. Paul to induce Stickney to "modify" his action—which is a polite way of asking him not to interfere in the Burlington's graft in robbing the Nebraska farmers of the bulk of their products.

The Amalgamated Copper company shut down its properties in Montana Thursday night, throwing about 15,000 miners out of employment. The Great Northern and other Montana railroads will reduce their freight crews, so that fully 20,000 men will be out of work. A dispatch from Butte says that the streets are filled with the 7,000 miners thrown out of work last night. Boarding house keepers, storekeepers and others whom the miners owe besieged the justice courts seeking garnishment orders. The constables cannot serve the papers fast enough and the justice clerks are working overtime filling them out. So far there has been no violence.

The Amalgamated shut-down is on-

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tensibly because Judge Clancy decided the Minnie Neely mine was in the lot of Heinze. But Heinze says it is a move on the part of Heinze, president of the Amalgamated and a big gun in Standard Oil, to "beat" the copper stock and profit by the rule.

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