## CHEER FOR BRITONS.

Colonial Troops Distinguish Themselves In Battle.

Buller's Army In Pine Form and Confident of Future Success-The Cabinet to Expend Five Million Pounds For National Defense.

CONFIRMATION OF FRENCH'S VICTORY

LONDON, Jan. 3 .- The morning papers are unanimous in praising the gallantry of the Canadian and colonial The Times says:

"The mother country will share with the Canadians and Australians in the pride and gratification they must feel at the fine qualities displayed by their troops in this dashing little engagement."

The Standard says: The Canadians and Australians had been spoiling for a fight. Now they have had their opportunity, and they have greatly distinguished themselves by their coolness and discipline. From the view-point of imperial unity the little fight may fairly be described as one of the most gratifying events recorded in the

history of the British race."

Although the continuance of minor successes gratifies the British public, it is not forgotten that the larger aspects of the campaign are unchanged. As The Daily News remarks, "It is a day of small mercies."

The importance of both General French's and Colonel Pilcher's victories lies in the effect they are likely to have upon the colonial Dutch. The latest dispatch from Douglas confirms the earlier report that the Boer magers consisted chiefly of British subjects who, on the arrival of the small Free State commando, accepted probably an invitation to throw in their lot with the Boers.

Colonel Pilcher reports, through the officer commanding at the Orange river: "I have completely defeated a hostile command at the Sunnyside langer this day, Jan. 1, taking the langer and 40 prisoners besides the killed and wound-Our casualties are two privates killed and Lieutenant Adie wounded. Am encamped at Dover farm, 20 miles northwest of Belmont and ten miles from Sunnyside,"

The Daily Mail has the following dis-

patch, dated Jan. 1, from Rensburg: "Yesterday afternoon a big force of cavalry and infantry, with ten guns, under the personal command of General French, moving by detour, occupied some hills three miles from Colesberg, where the Boers were in strength, confident is the natural aid afforded them by the hills around.

'The enemy's position extended six miles around the entire village. At daybreak our artillery opened the battle. The Boers were taken by succeise, but replied vigorously. An artille - duel was maintained for two hours. Then a Boer Hotch kiss collapsed and was abandoned. We captured it. A Boer big gun was silenced but this and the other Boer guns were withdrawn to the northward, whither we are harassing the Boer retreat by a dam aging shell fire.

"Colesberg is in our hands, and the few remaining loyalists are jubilant. We have captured many wagons and a con siderable quantity of stores.
"Our losses were quite slight, but the

Boers must have suffered heavily. They may stop at Achtertang or cross the river altogether at Norval's Pont, where the bridge is still intact.'

The Daily Mail makes the following statement this morning:

We understand that the defense com mittee of the cabinet, after careful consideration of the question of the defense of the empire, particularly with regard to artillery, will shortly call for the expenditure of £5,000,000 to make good deficiencies and to place the nation on a par with other great powers.

The new equipment will be provided as speedily as possible, and, while sufficiently mobile for use in the field, it is intended to be adaptable to the necessities of what are known as guns of posi-

The queen has accepted the services of 12 battalions of militia for foreign sta-Seven of these are assigned to

The Earl of Albemarle will command the City of London infantry division in-stead of Colonel Sir Charles Howard Vincent.

### PILCHER'S RAID.

Brilliant Cavalry Skirmish by Colo-

nial Troops.

BELMONT, Cape Colony, Jan. 3.—Another dispatch from Dover farm, dated Jan. 1. says:

"The colonial troops, who have been longing to be allowed to meet the Boers. have at last been given an opportunity to do so and scored a brilliant success. The raid conducted by Colonel Pilcher was very difficult owing to the fact that the movements of the troops were immediately communicated to the Boers by natives. In order to prevent this Colonel Pilcher in making his forced march from Belmont left a British trooper at every farmhouse with instructions not to allow the natives to leave their huts, the pa trols calling the names of the natives

hourly in order to prevent their escape. In the maneuver at Cook's farm Colonel Pilcher sent mounted patrols cast. One of these, consisting of four men commanded by Lieutenant Adie, suddenly encountered 14 Boers, who opened fire. The lieutenant was severely wounded, and Private Butler gave up his horse in or-

der to carry the lieutenant out of range. Meanwhile Lieutenant Ryan, who had worked magnificently, reported that the yeldt on the right of the enemy was clear. whereupon Major de Rougemont ordered the guns to a trot. They arrived within 1,500 yards of the laager, unlimbered and planted five shells in as many minutes

Immediately the enemy could be seen streaming over the kopje. They were completely surprised, but quickly opened

a well directed fire. A press representative had the privilege of carrying an order to the Toronto company to double quick into action. The order was received with great satisfac-The company rushed forward until within a thousand yards of the enemy's position, when it opened a hot fire upon the kopje and completely subdued the

Boer fire.
The Boers lost 6 killed and 12 wounded. The Torontos stood the galling fire with admirable patience, never wasting

Burned While Playing Santa Claus. MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Jan. 3.— While distributing gifts in the garb of Santa Claus, Frank Tuthill's false beard eaught fire, and he was severely burned.

#### GREAT CANAL OPEN.

The Chicago Drainage Ditch Flooded

With Water. CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—The \$33,000,000 canal, at present used for sewage disposal, but ultimately to be a ship canal also, is in use after seven years of hard work by the trustees of the sanitary district, which is the name of a corporation including the larger part of the city of Chicago and many of its suburbs. At least the Chicago and of it is in use, but the water has not yet reached the other end, at Lockport, Ills., and will not reach it for several days.

Probably never before has the comple tion of a public work of such magnitude been marked with such absolute lack of ceremony. There were no speeches, no exercises and no cheering. About 8 a. m. the sanitary district trustees and engineer gathered at the scene. Besides a few workmen, there were not a dozen spectators present. There was no grand rush of water, to be followed by the cheers of spectators. Indeed, the opening of the canal resembled more the tiny stream of water that flowed over the Holland dike and grew larger and larger until it swept a great hole in the wall of That is the way the great canal opened. This method was used to avoid the danger of a sudden rush of waters, but it robbed the opening of all impress-

The canal had been built to carry 300,-000 cubic feet a minute, but only about 50,000 feet a minute will be admitted until the channel is full.

#### NIXON FOR SPEAKER.

New York Legislature Chooses Its Officers.

ALBANY, Jan. 3.—The Republican assembly caucus last night was presided over by James T. Rogers of Broome, The following nominations, all of which were confirmed by election today, were

Speaker, S. Fred Nixon of Chautauqua; clerk, A. E. Baxter of Chemang; principal doorkeeper, Thomas F. Murphy of New York city; first assistant doorkeeper, Charles R. Houghtaling of Albany; second assistant doorkeeper, Roswell B. Warren of Washington; stenographer, H. C. Lammert of Kings. The Democratic enucaus of assembly-

Speaker, J. Franklin Barnes of Schuyler; sergeant-at-arms, Jeremiah Burns of York; clerk, William Leonard of New York; doorkeeper, Thomas J. Barry of New York; first assistant doorkeeper. Henry Christie of Rockland; second assistant doorkeeper, Dennis McTighe of Erie; stenographer, Caleb Redfern of

Thick lee In the Hudson. RHINECLIFF, N. Y., Jan. 3.-The cold wave which entered the Hudson valley a week ago still holds sway. The ice in the river opposite this place is from five to six inches thick and of a fine quality. The Consumers' Ice company and the many private concerns along the upper Hudson are preparing to commence operations. It is estimated that nearly one-third of the ice stored last winter still remains in the houses. Iceboats have made their appearance. Several owners of yachts are out with their boats enjoying the sport.

Pingree's Measure Killed.

LANSING, Mich., Dec. 29.-The senate has killed the Pingree joint resolution for the submission of a constitutional amendment permitting amending of the state tax laws, which had been passed by the house, by a vote of 16 to 13. The senate adopted a resolution to adjourn today at noon. The large number of votes against the proposition was a surprise.

More Depositories Named. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.-The secreof the treasury has designated several additional national banks as government depositories to receive internal revenue receipts and, it is said, will continue to do so until the total sum so deposited amounts to \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000,

New Austrian Currency Laws. VIENNA, Jan. 2.-Under the new currency laws which are now in force throughout Austria-Hungary the florin and kreuzer disappear. The new unit is the krone, equating half a kreuzer. After the introduction of the gold standard the krone will be worth 1 franc 5 centimes.

Chicago Poor Well Fed. CHICAGO, Jan. 1 .- More than 10,000 of the poor people of Chicago enjoyed yesterday the fourth annual dinner given by the Volunteers of America. After this multitude had been fed there remained enough food to supply 400 poor faurilies

for several days. Me Boutelle's Condition.

BANGOR, Me., Jan. 1.-A letter has been received from the physicians who are treating Congressman Boutelle in Boston stating that his symptoms already show improvement, and therefore there is strong hope of his complete recovery in the near future.

Famous Old Church Reopened. BOSTON, Jan. 2.—That famous old structure, the old South Meeting House, has been reopened after undergoing ex-tensive interior changes which the hand of time had made necessary. The changes and finish give the several rooms a mod-

New York Markets.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—FLOUR—State and western quiet, but a little better in tone; winter patents, \$2.55a.75; winter straights, \$2.35a.45; Minnesota patents, \$3.80a4.05; winter extras, \$2.55a2.90.

WHEAT—No. 2 red opened firm on cables and was further advanced on prospects of a visible supply decrease and light offerings; March, 76a76½c.; May, 751-16a75½c.; July, 75½a75½c.

RYE—Steady: state, 56c.; No. 2 western, 60½c., c. i. f., Buffalo.

CORN—No. 2 was quiet, but firmer, with wheat and on cables.

wheat and on cables.

OATS—No. 2 slow: track, white, state,
21a344c; track, white, western, 21a344c.

PORK—Steady; mess, \$10a10.50; family, LARD-Strong; prime western steam,

BUTTER-Strong; state dairy, 20a27c.; State creamery, 23a29c. CHEESE—Firm; fall made, fancy, small, 12%a13c.; fall made, fancy, large, 12% al3c. EGGS-Firm; state and Pennsylvania, 24a25c.; western, ungraded, at mark, 15a

22c. SUGAR—Raw steady; fair refining, 3 13-16c.; centrifugal, 96 test, 4½c.; refined steady; crushed, 5 9-16c.; powdered, 5½c. TURPENTINE—Steady at 52½a53c. MOLASSES—Steady; New Orleans, 32a

RICE-Quiet; domestic, 4a6\20.; Japan, TALLOW-Steady; city, 5c.; country, #ASC. HAY—Quiet; shipping, 65a75c.; good to

## THOSECAPTIVESHIPS

British Right of Seizure Not Admitted.

## OUR GOVERNMENT AWAITS FACTS.

Department is Acting Firmly in the Delagon Affair and Will Proteet the Rights of Amerlean Trade.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.-The state department has received from United States Embassador Choate at London by cable a statement of the facts he had developed in connection with the seizure by British warships of American goods on the three merchant vessels, Beatrice, Mashona and Maria. The goods comprised not only flour, but miscellaneous articles of common trade, and while they were shipped for Lourenco Marques in British and German ships yet the contention of our officials is that they were not subject to seizure. They could not lodge representations on the subject until they were possessed of a knowledge of the facts, but as soon as Mr. Choate's statement came to hand an instruction was cabled to him to inform the British government that we could not admit the right of seizure in these cases.

This is the preliminary step usually taken in such negotiations. Next in order will be a report from our consular representative at Lourenco Marques respecting the present condition of the seized or detained goods and damage sustained. The department is not yet fully informed on these points, though that will be necessary to the further presentation of the cases. It is not even known just where the goods are or if they have all been seized or only in part.

It will be the duty of our consular agent at Lourenco Marques to ascertain and report these facts, and he is now engaged in doing this under the original instructions of the state department.

While the department is acting, as it promised in the beginning, to firmly proteet all American rights of trade, it is showing no unseemly haste in the presentation of the case. The instruction to Mr. Choate was not a demand for the release of the goods nor yet for indemnity, but rather a precautionary notice to the British government to save all of our rights in the case. It will be sufficient to inaugurate the settlement of the matter by negotiation, and the state department has not the slightest doubt that the British authorities will make full amends to the owners of the goods when the facts are all laid before it.

#### Public Debt Decreases.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 .- The monthly statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business Dec. 30 the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$1,134,300,007, a decrease for the month of \$5,791,824. This decrease is largely accounted for by the purchase of bonds during the month. The debt is recapitulated as follows: Interest bearing debt, \$1,026,772,320; debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, \$1,208,-500; debt bearing no interest, \$389,914,-649; total, \$1,417,894,460. This amount, however, does not include \$686,979,403 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding, which are offset by an equal amount of cash on hand.

Western New York Snow Bound. DUNKIRK, N. Y., Jan. 3 .- A fearful blizzard is raging in Chautauqua county. No trains have reached Dunkirk on the Western New York and Pennsylvania road, as the drifts between Mayville and Silver Creek are ten feet deep. Trains of the Nickel Plate road are using the tracks of the Lake Shore between Brockton and Buffalo. Lake Shore trains are getting through, but are late about two hours. Traffic over several stage routes is blocked. In many places the snow is six feet deep on a level.

Destroying Mint Dies.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 3.-The work of demolishing the steel dies that coined the output of the United States mints during 1899 has been commenced in the blacksmith shop of the mint here. Exactly 1,070 dies representing the money coined in this city were destroyed. The dies used at the New Orleans mint will also be rendered useless. Those from San Francisco have not yet arrived. Every die used by the United States mints is engraved and destroyed in this city.

Cooper Union Gets Half a Million. NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Andrew Carnegie has given \$300,000 toward the endowment of a mechanic arts day school in the Cooper Union. To this gift Abram S. Hewitt and Edward Cooper of the board of trustees of the Cooper Union have added \$200,000. The total sum of \$500,-000 will enable the trustees to put in running order a day school in addition to the night schools of mechanic arts which have been conducted for many years.

Railway Men Get Increase, BALTIMORE, Jan. 2.—Employees of the Western Maryland railroad received an acceptable New Year's gift in the shape of a 5 per cent increase in wages. In 1893, owing to the then financial depression, wages were reduced 10 per cent, with the promise that they should be restored as soon as financial conditions warranted. Early in 1898 one-half the cut was restored, and yesterday they were put back to the original schedule.

Church Destroyed by Fire. STROMSBURG, Neb., Jan. 2.—Eden Baptist church was totally destroyed by fire early Monday morning and two people seriously injured. The fire was caused by an explosion of acetylene gas, with which the church was lighted. New Year's watch meeting was being held, and a large number of people were present, but most of them had just left the building when the explosion oo-

Roosevelt Names Judges.

ALBANY, Jan. 2.—Governor Roosevelt has appointed Justice E. M. Cullen of Brooklyn, Justice Judson S. Landon of Schenectady and Justice William E. Werner of Rochester to be judges of the court of appeals under the new law pass-ed for the relief of that court. The court of appeals, through Judge Parker, asked for three additional judges,

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 2.—For the first time in many years the Mississippi river is frozen over here. Steady cold weather for a week or more has formed ice that resists the river boats. As a result no boats are arriving or departing, and the ferries have been compelled to tie up.

CONTRACTION OF CURRENCY.

Some of the Evil Results Certain to Follow the Proposed Currency Law. If we were to think of political effects only we would feel like praying

that the proposed currency bill might pass and become a law without delay, and we might add to that prayer the request that it might become a law by the solid vote of the Republican mem-bership and that no Democratic ballot would be east in its favor.

There can be no doubt about what the ultimate results of the passage of this proposed measure must be. legislation that shortens the supply of money among the people; that lessens the circulating currency or that adds to the difficulties of obtaining a medium of exchange, must bring disaster to business and distress to the people. These will bring dismay and defeat to the party responsible for that legislation, and it is because we hope and pray for that defeat that we would, if political results alone were looked to hope for the speedy passage of the bill just as it has been presented.

That its enactment into law will lessen the amount of money there will be to do busines with its warmest advocates admit. Is there a man in the country, no matter how little thought he gives to financial affairs, who does not realize that to lessen the supply of money is to cripple tusiness, decrease values, destroy confidence and insure panics? Are these what we want?

And then as to a legal tender. The proposed bill makes no provision for At present greenbacks are the only legal tender we have excepting These, under the provisions of the law about to be enacted, are to be redeemed and retired. When they are retired how in the name of all that is fair to business, or just to the people, are men to pay their debts? When greenbacks are not to be had the creditor will demand gold, and where is that to come from?

Today, with all the greenbacks that are in circulation and all the gold that is held by individuals and banks, there is not enough in any community to pay the one-fourth of the debts within it When one-half of this is retired and the demand is made for gold alone to liquidate these debts can any one point to where it can be had without paying an enormous premium for it?

And it is to make a premium on gold that the effort to change the currency laws of the country is now being made -to enhance its value and benefit the few who can own and control it. The real effects of such legislation may not be felt at once, but they are as sure to come as the sun is to shine on a cloudless day or the waters are to continue to run down hill. When they do come they will be the beginning of the end of the party that was responsible for them. Mark the prediction.-Bellefonte

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