TRANSVAAL'S ANSWER.

It Is Believed to Repudiate British Claims of Suzerainty.

PRESIDENT KRUGER'S ATTITUDE.

He Says That the Government Has Replied to Great Britain's Dispatch, and Declares That "We Shall Know We Are a Government."

Pretoria, March 16 .- A widespread sensation has been caused by the declaration of former Chief Justice Kolze that when the case of Mr. Brown, the American engineer, with claims against the Transvaal government pending in the courts, was awaiting judgment, subsequently given in his facor, President Kruger, in an interview with him (Judge Kolze) threatened him with dismissal unless he obeyed the volksraad resolution.

At a special session of the volksraad yesterday President Kruger declared Judge Kolze's statement false, and said: "The devil himself never spoke

a greater lie." Having given his version of the matter President Kruger, turning to the political situation, said that people were jealous of the country's independence and the progress it was making. No one knew what was going to happen, but they must stand together. The government, he declared, had replied to the British dispatch, and the reply would be published directly. He knew that it had reached the hands of Mr. Chamberlain.

President Kruger concluded his speech by exclaiming: "We shall show that we are a government."

His declarations left the impression that the government's reply denies the British claims of suzerainty.

Judge Kolze has published his notes supporting his statement as to the interview with President Kruger. He declares that he regards himself as still the chief justice of the supreme court until properly tried. He will first appeal to the people for redress, and if that fails him, he says, he is bound to prosecute his rights in other quarters and to appeal to the queen's gov-

THE WORK OF CONGRESS.

Senators Unanimously Ratify the \$50.-

000,000 Defense Appropriation. On Wednesday of last week the senate unanimously passed the bill appropriating \$50,000,000 for the national defense. Twelve minutes after the bill was reported to the senate the vice president announced its passage, and less than one hour later it became law by the president's signature.

On Thursday the house refused to concur in the senate amendments to the Indian appropriation bill, and the measure was sent back to conference.

On Friday only the lower house was in session, and the time was consumed mainly in filibustering against the Bowman claim for \$1,200,000 for supplies furnished the Union army dur- Feb. 1. ing the war. On Saturday neither house was in session.

On Monday last the senate passed a ed minister to England. number of bills, among them one au- Judge Archibald, of Scranton, Pa., the construction of eight new revenue cutters, to cost \$2,025,000. The house discussed District of Columbia

business. On Tuesday the house entered into an agreement to consider the bill for the relief of victims and survivors of the Maine disaster as soon as the postoffice appropriation bill is disposed of. The latter measure gave rise to many political speeches. Senators discussed the national quarantine measure, but made little progress.

LACKED PRESENCE OF MIND.

As a Result One Man Dead and An-

other Fatally Injured. Baltimore, March 16 .- One man was killed and another probably fatally injured yesterday in an attempt to escape being burned to death. The blaze was in a "sweat shop" on the fourth floor of a tenement house at 202 Albemarle street, and was occasioned by the explosion of gasoline. Michael Serwinski and Bartholomew Valentine, Lithunian tailors, found themselves hemmed in by the flames, and became frantic with fright. The only window in the roam opened

on a narrow alley in the rear, only three feet wide, on the other side of which was a roof just a little lower than the window sill. The frantic men crowded each other in the window and jumped together. They fell 40 feet to brains were dashed out. Valentine landed on top of him, which accounts for his not being killed also. Valentine was taken to the hospital, where he is in a critical condition from shock and internal injuries. The fire was extinguished with slight damage.

Barney Barnato's Trustee Murdered. Cape Town, March 15 .- Mr. Woolf Joel, the trustee of the estate of the late Barney Barnato, the South African millionaire, was shot dead in his office yesterday at Johannesburg by one Von Veltheim, a former soldier, Veltheim entered Mr. Joel's office and demanded Sc.; light skims, 5%984c.; part skims, 46 £2,500. Being refused, he snatched a 546c.; full skims, 263c. Eggs firm; New revolver from a desk and fired. The bullet entered Mr. Joel's forehead, and he fell to the floor and expired. His murderer attempted to commit suicide, but failed. Joel was Barnato's rephew.

Miners' Defense Fund Voted Down. Columbus, O., March 15 .- The proposition for the establishment of a defense fund for the United Mine Workers of America has been lost by a vote of the members of the organization. Some time ago a special commission submitted a plan for a defense fund and it was then sent out in circular form for a vote of the members. The count of the ballots shows 7,533 for and 10,214 against the proposed fund.

Mrs. Thurston's Sudden Death. Washington, March 15 .- Consul Genchanged.

East Liberty. Pa., March 15.—Cattle steady; prime, \$505.10; choice, \$4.5024.90; common, \$3.5024.10; fair Yorkers, \$4.502.50; common to fair Yorkers, \$4.502.50; common to fair Yorkers, \$4.502.50; common to fair Yorkers, \$2.5023. Sheep strong; choice, \$4.5525; common to good, \$4.752 to the oars, and are so light the started on the trip.

A WEEK'S NEWS CONDENSED.

Thursday, March 10. Senor Polo De Barnabe, the new Spanish minister, arrived at Washington today.

Cleveland, O., has ended in the defeat of the strikers. Great Britain's defensive prepara-

tions for next year call for an appropriation of \$240,000,000 The trial of Sheriff Martin and his

deputies, at Wilkesbarre, for the Lattimer shooting, ended in acquittal. Four men were given 12 years at Hagerstown, Md., for destroying monuments and tombstones in the cemetery

at Williamsport, Md. Friday, March 11. The Kachins, a Burmese hill tribe, have massacred five military policemen

at Allahabad. Mrs. "Jack" Wilmerding is said to have been committed to the Bloomingdale asylum.

Ross Smith, marshal of Morley, Mo., arrested for drunkenness, set fire to the jail and was fatally burned. Although the government Klondike

relief expedition has been abandoned the reindeer will be sent to Alaska. Insurance Commissioner McNall, of Kansas, says the insurance companies have formed a combine to prevent re-

Anna W. Corbin-Borrowe makes charges of mismanagement in the handling of the estate of her father, the late Austin Corbin. Saturday, March 12.

No treaty has yet been signed between this country and Great Britain fixing the Alaska boundary line.

Ex-Congressman Jason B. Brown, of the Third Indiana district, is dead of congestion of the liver, aged 59 years. A regiment has been organized in Chicago known as the "First Illinois Volunters," who will fight against Spain, if need be.

The women of St. John's Slavonian church, Bridgeport, Conn., have given the pastor, Rev. Father John Pribyl, 15 days to leave town.

Frederick Brotz, who was to have been married Thursday afternoon to Miss Gertrude Holbre, in New York, was found in his room with his throat

Monday, March 14, The homes of McKinley and Bryan will be represented at the Trans-Mississippi exposition at Omaha.

The safe in the postoffice at Ashland, Va., was blown open Friday night and robbed of \$600 in stamps.

Among the passengers who arrived at New York by the steamer Advance, from Colon, was Shen Sen Yu, secretary of the Chinese legation at Wash-

George B. Erb, formerly of Shermantown, Pa., who thought he had divine power and could fly, tried it, and is at the Eastern District hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., suffering from internal inuries a broken leg.

Tuesday, March 15. The finances of Korea will hereafter be managed by Russian bankers. Over 700 deaths occurred from plague

in Bombay during the week ending Senor Domingo Gana, Chilean min-

declares the school board of that city, which has been in existence for 20 years, to be illegal. Pennsylvania's supreme court refused to grant an injunction restraining the

contracts for the new capitol at Har-Wednesday, March 16.

building commission from awarding

night. The town of Middlesboro, Ky., has 70 new cases of smallpox and 400 suspects. There is no money to feed the

quarantined people. During February the exports of the United States increased \$15,500,000 and

the imports decreased \$6,000,000 compared with February, 1897. The ashes of William Appleby, a

Hempstead, L. I., farmer, were scattered to the winds by his wife, in accordance with Appleby's wishes. A considerable portion of the postoffice appropriation next year will be

devoted to rural free delivery, making it available to nearly 10,000,000 people. THE PRODUCE MARKETS

As Reflected by Dealings in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Philadelphia, March 15.—Flour steady; winter superfine; 43@3.25; Pennsylvania roller, clear. \$4.2094.40; city mills, extra, \$3.2593.65. Rye flour sold in a small way at \$2.9093 per barrel for choice Pennsylthe pavement below and Serwinski's vania. Wheat strong; No. 2 red, March, brains were dashed out. Valentine 99%c.@31; No. 2 Pennsylvania and No. 2 Delaware red, \$1.00%@1.01. Corn steady, but quiet; No. 2 mixed, March, 34%@ No. 2 yellow, for local trade, 34%c Oats firm; No. 2 white, 34c.; No. 2 white, clipped, 34c. Hay market favored buyers; choice timothy, \$12 for large bales. Beef steady; beef hams, \$23@23.50. Pork dull; family, \$12.50@13. Lard easy; west-ern steamed, \$5.32%. Butter firm; western creamery, 14019c.; do. factory, 110 15c.; Elgins, 19c.; imitation creamery, 140 New York dairy, 13@19c.; do. creamery, 14@18½c.; fancy Pennsylvania prints jobbing at 22@25c.; do. wholesale, 21c. Cheese quiet; large, white and colored, September, 8c.; small do. do., September.

> ern, fresh, 10%c.; southern, 10%c. Baltimore, March 15.—Flour lower; western superfine, \$2.70@3.10; do. extra, \$3.25@4; do. family, \$4.30@4.60; winter wheat, patent, \$4.7595; spring do., \$5.200 5.40; spring wheat, straight, \$595.15. Wheat strong; spot and month, 991/69 99%c.; April, \$1@1.00%; May, \$1.00%@1.00% steamer No. 2 red, 96c.; southern, by sample, 96c.631.60½; do. on grade, 96c.69 Corn firm; spot and month, 34@34%c.; April, 34%@34%c.; May, 34%@34%c.; steam-April, 34%334%c.; May, 34%234%c.; steamer mixed, 33½333%c.; southern, white, 23½334%c.; do. yellow, 23½334%c. Oats steady; No. 2 mixed, 223324%c. Rye firm; No. 2 nearby, 55½355%c.; No. 2 western, 56%356%c. Hay quiet; choice timothy, 312,56913. Grain freights rather firmer, unchanged. Sugar attents unchanged. Sugar strong, unchanged. Butter firm, unchanged. Eggs quiet, unchanged. Cheese steady, unchanged. Let-tuce, \$1.50@1.75 per basket. Whisky un-

York and Pennsylvania, 10@11c.; west-

JOKE ON ARTEMUS WARD.

The Humorist Got the Worst of It in a Bit

of Horseplay. The Bookman has an interesting article on Artemus Ward, dealing at The strike at the Globe shipyard at considerable length with his experiences in London. When he made his first appearance in that city he enriched his programmes with a note explaining that he would call on citizens at their residences and explain any jokes that they did not understand.

Artemus Ward was fond of telling stories and jokes at his own expense, and he had a habit when upon the lecture platform of purposely making people laugh at his own awkwardness, but he had one experience that he never referred to. During a part of the time that he lived in Cleveland he lived at a fashionable boarding house in Seneca street, and was in the habit of cutting up all sorts of capers there, to the amusement, sometimes, but as often to the consternation, of the other boarders, most of whom looked upon him as a "half-baked fool."

One of his favorite jokes was to scare women nearly to death by pretending to fall down stairs. The parlor where the boarders congregated was connected by a large arch with the hall, where the stairway was, practically making one big room of both. Every time a new boarder or a stranger happened to be present, Mr. Browne, as he was known around the house, would cough at the top of the stairway, to attract attention, then pre tend to trip on something, and tumbling headlong downward, always managing to catch the railing and thus escape injury. The women would, of course, yell and make a great fuss over him, when he picked himself up, and excursions to the National Capitol, to he would generally manage to make some droll remark that would set ev-

erybody laughing. But this sort of thing got tiresome after a while, and one day some of the men boarders decided to stop it. young lady had just arrived at the house, and it was a foregone conclusion that Browne would take his customary tumble at the first opportunity. So, promising the landlady that they would have things properly repaired, after the trouble was over, the joker's enemies sawed the spindles in the balustrade almost in two, leaving the rail so that a slight wrench would break it

That evening all the boarders congregated in the parlor, the newly arrived young lady, who had been let into the secret, among them. They didn't have long to wait for their victim. In passing up to his room Browne saw that a stranger was present, and, after making his toilet, he started to go downstairs. He coughed loudly several times while passing through the upper hall, and then, when he saw that everybody was looking at him, stumbled and shot out into the

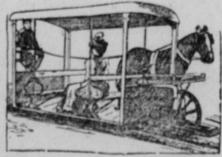
But when he grasped the rail of the balustrade there was a sharp crack, followed by a crash, and the man who afterward became famous as A. Ward lay stunned at the bottom of the stairs, with a skinned elbow and a bleeding

That ended the stairway joke, and ister at Washington, has been appoint- Browne soon moved to another boarding house.

SINGLE RAIL RAILROAD.

First and Only One-Rail Tramway on This Continent.

In the town of Caborca, in the Altar district of Sonora, Mexico, construction has been commenced on what will be, when completed, the first and only one-Sir Henry Bessemer, the inventor of rail tramway or railway in operation Bessemer steel, died in London last on the American continent. This novel railway will run from San Salinas to Caborca, a distance of twenty-five miles. It is most effective on long hauls through mountainous countries. where the grade is irregular.



SINGLE RAIL HORSE CAR.

The tramway is a French invention, owned by the Monorail Portatif a Niveau du Sol, or Single-Rail Portable Tramway Company of Paris. M. A. L. Cailet of Paris, who is one of the engineers of the company, is superintentending the construction of the railway at Caborca. According to M. Cailet the single-rail railway was invented only about five years ago. He states that he never heard of it before then, or heard that anybody had tried it but the French company for which he is engineer.

Sloper's Eloping Girls.

The six daughters of a Sydney (Australia), man named Sloper eloped in turn. This is the record: Annie went off at 21, Milly at 14, Carrie and Nellie when they were 17, Adelina and Florence both at 15. The husband of the latter, Russell by name, has been prosecuted for marrying a child. Two more female Slopers remain, Lucy, aged 9, and Patty, aged 7. Old man Sloper has given up his regular work now, and sits all day on the back fence nursing a shotgun.

The Tree Clock.

A Glasgow man has in his garden what he calls a "tree clock." Fir trees are planted in such positions that one of them will shade a portion of the house at every hour of sunlight. For example, at 9 o'clock in the morning the "9 o'clock tree" shades the diningroom, while, as the sunlight changes, the "10 o'clock tree" shades the room above or the room adjoining it, and so on through the day. On a sunny day this "tree clock" insures a succession of shady places around the house.

The German cruiser yacht Aluminum has rowboats of aluminum. They are built entirely of aluminum, even to the oars, and are so light that a man can easily raise them over his head

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