

WHAT ALL THE WORLD IS DOING
Trend of Civilization in All Lines From Week to Week

POLITICS and GOVERNMENT

Foreign.

North Sea Case Compromised. The official report of the international commission of inquiry as to the firing of the Russian fleet on the British fishermen in the North sea was somewhat at variance with the preliminary rumors. The arbitrators found that Admiral Rojestvensky had reason to believe that he might be attacked because the commander of the transport K m chatka, whose machinery broke down, had signaled that he had been attacked by torpedo boats. The report decides that there were not either among the fishing boats or in their vicinity any torpedo boats and that the opening of fire by the Russian fleet was not justified. At the same time the commissioners recognize that Rojestvensky personally did all he could to prevent the fishermen from being the objects of fire. They disclaim intention to cast disrespect upon the valor or sentiments of humanity of the Russian commander. The flare lights of the fishermen were what created alarm among the Russian men-of-war. Commenting on the decision, the American commissioner, Admiral Davis, thought that it should be in the interest of the principle of arbitration, which calls for some concession from both sides. In all essentials the report favors the British contention.

Higher Rate on Japan's Bonds. The fourth internal Japanese war loan, amounting to \$50,000,000, has been floated successfully at Tokyo at the rate of 7 3/4 per cent, which is considerably higher than previous loans. The bonds sold at 90 and are secured only by the general credit of the government, whereas former loans specifically mortgaged customs receipts. Bonds of the previous issues have steadily appreciated in value owing to the series of military victories.

Mad Mollah on War Path. Mohammed Abdullah, known as the "Mad Mollah" of Somaliland, who was announced to have been "absolutely crushed" by the British forces last year, is again reported to be on the warpath near Obbia, on the coast of east Africa. He is reported to have seized and killed a number of the followers of the sultan of Obbia.

Colombia Appoints Minister. The state department has received word from Minister Russell at Bogota that the government of Colombia had appointed Don Diego Mendoza as minister to the United States. This is regarded as an effort to resume friendly relations, as Colombia has had no minister at Washington for three years.

General.

California Senators Expelled. The California senate by unanimous vote has expelled four senators who had been convicted of accepting a bribe of \$350 each to give immunity from prosecution to several get-rich-quick concerns. This scheme of bribery was planned by a building company for the purpose of exposing the venality of the committee which had in charge the investigation of building and loan concerns.

Day of Prayer For Mayor. Between the hours of 10 and 4 Feb. 28 hundreds of the ministers of various denominations in the city of Philadelphia took part in prayer service for the redemption of the city from the clutches of vice debauched politics and prayed that "the shambles of the gang be stricken from our sinful mayor." At the same time about 1,000 women assembled and prayed for the city officials. When, after the prayer was over, Mayor Weaver was asked by a reporter to describe his feelings he angrily denied that he felt any different. During the day sandwich men paraded the streets with signs bearing the inscription, "Pray For the Mayor." Not satisfied, however, with prayer alone, the ministers, in league with the reform organizations, were said to be determined upon presenting evidence to the courts upon which to ask for the impeachment of the mayor.

Executive.

Sea Level Canal Favored. The engineering committee of the Isthmian canal commission after sifting a great mass of data collected by their subordinates on the line of the proposed Panama canal has recommended unqualifiedly the adoption of plans for a sea level canal 150 feet wide at bottom, not less than thirty-five feet deep and with two tidal locks 1,000 feet long and 100 feet wide, the whole work estimated to cost \$230,500,000 exclusive of interest and expense

of zone government. It was decided that the surface of the canal should be no more than sixty feet above the sea. The Chagres river is to be controlled by a dam at Gamboa 200 feet high. Actual work has shown that the excavation with American steam shovels can be done for 50 cents a cubic yard. The committee thinks the work could be completed in from ten to twelve years with 100 steam shovels installed.

Treasury Balance Higher. An increase of \$56,000 in the available cash balance of the treasury was shown by the March 1 statement as compared with Feb. 1, the present balance being \$140,681,839, including bank deposits. The deficit is now \$25,450,768. The gain in cash balance was due to a decrease in expenditures.

Garfield's Beef Trust Report. The report of Commissioner of Corporations Garfield on the beef trust was given to congress March 3 by the president. It shows that the six principal packers, known as the "big six," slaughtered 5,521,697 cattle in 1903, or about 45 per cent of the total. Their average profit was 69 cents a head. The existence of a combine is denied, and it is said that the profits have not been abnormal and that the companies are not overcapitalized.

Legislative.

Judge Swayne Acquitted. On all of the twelve articles of impeachment brought by the house of representatives Judge Charles Swayne of the northern district of Florida was acquitted by the senate sitting as a court, the arguments for and against the accused having been completed last week. In no case was there even a majority for conviction. This result was particularly displeasing to the Democrats of the house, as was shown on March 1, when they offered an amendment to the general deficiency bill to punish, fine and imprison any judge who made false certificate in connection with his expense accounts. This was defeated by the close vote of 97 to 104.

Constructive Recess Mileage. Notwithstanding that the senate judiciary committee had decided that the president was wrong in construing a recess between the extra and first sessions of the Fifty-eighth congress the house voted March 1 for an amendment to the general deficiency bill appropriating \$100,000 to pay to members of congress mileage which it was physically impossible for them to have used, inasmuch as there was, in fact, no recess. On this question the vote stood 90 to 79, while others who did not vote helped to make a quorum. The senate objected and the house receded.

To Protect Indian Trust Funds. The senate adopted a resolution prohibiting the use of Indian trust funds for the support of sectarian schools by an amendment to the Indian bill. Individual Indians are permitted, however, to contribute to the support of such schools by having the interest of their share in any trust fund paid to the school where their children are educated.

Two Recess Inquiries. In the last days of the session the senate authorized two important committee inquiries to proceed during the coming recess—one by the interstate commerce commission to investigate the railroad rate question, including the liabilities of railroads for accidents to employees, and the other by the finance committee to investigate the internal revenue, customs, currency and coinage as a step preliminary to the revision of the tariff.

Two Battleships Stay. The naval appropriation bill, with provision for two battleships, as it passed the house received the approval of the senate after quite an extended debate, during which Mr. Hale (Rep., Me.), Mr. Gorman (Dem., Md.) and others had fought strenuously for a limitation of the appropriation to one battleship. Mr. Hale predicted that the naval appropriation within five years would be permanently increased

to over \$200,000,000 a year. He said that the principal object of a big navy in time of peace was to bully small powers, as England had done for over a century. Mr. Lodge defended the naval increase on the ground of maintaining the Monroe doctrine, which he said was illustrated in the present Santo Domingo trouble. The amendment striking out one battleship was rejected—38 to 22.

Legal and Criminal.

Texas Antitrust Law Valid. The suit against the Southern Cotton and National Oil companies brought by Texas for the violation of the state antitrust law, which was decided against the companies in the state courts, is sustained by the United States supreme court unanimously. Thus the constitutionality of the antitrust law is affirmed.

Beef Trust Tax Legal. The supreme court has declared the Georgia statute imposing a tax of \$200 on agents of packing houses in each county of the state to be constitutional.

National Bank Tax Illegal. By a division of five to four the supreme court holds that the California law providing for the taxation of national banks is contrary to the national banking act, which forbids discrimination.

Mrs. Stanford Dies of Poison. Mrs. Jane L. Stanford, widow of Senator Leland Stanford, founder of the university named for his son, died at Honolulu, March 1, as the result of drinking bicarbonate of soda which had been charged with strychnine. Mrs. Stanford had recently left her home at San Francisco after discovering that the mineral water she was using had been similarly treated with this deadly poison. A member of Mrs. Stanford's household was suspected of preparing the poison, but no motive to justify the murderous act was discoverable. Mrs. Stanford had transferred almost her entire inheritance to the trustees of Stanford university and had devoted her time to the development of the institution at great personal sacrifice.



SCIENTIFIC

Another Bunch of Sun Spots. Professor Brashear, the Allegheny (Pa.) astronomer, announced that sun spots of alarming magnitude had appeared at the eastern meridian of the sun Feb. 26. They covered an area of probably 3,000,000,000 square miles and were much more active than those observed last month. He thought atmospheric disturbances would most likely follow. During the year past 127 groups of spots have appeared on the sun, but none so large or ominous as the latest.

Loeb's Chemistry of Life. Professor Jacques Loeb of the University of California announces that his long continued experiments have resulted in sexual fertilization of the egg of a sea urchin by artificial chemical reactions. He declares that the larvae raised by this method have the same vitality as those produced by normal fertilization. In the earlier stages of his work the artificially stimulated egg differed essentially from those fertilized normally. The rate of development was also faster in the natural process, and the larvae swam at the surface of the water, while the artificial larvae swam at the bottom. The process found most effective was to put the eggs first into hypertonic sea water, next into normal sea water, next into ethylacetate solution and finally back into their native element. Professor Loeb is now ready to enter the field of more complex organism and hopes to reveal the sources of life in higher animals.

Czar Temporizes; Kuropatkin Retreating

Driven apparently to desperation by the increasing signs of a popular revolt throughout Russia at the same time that his huge army in far off Manchuria was resting before the onslaughts of the Japanese enemy, Czar Nicholas, March 3, called on his subjects to rally to the throne against enemies within and enemies without. It was an uncompromising declaration of autocracy, bidding defiance to the reform forces. Hardly was the ink dry on this audacious document, a red flag in the face of revolutionists, when later on the same day the czar faced about by issuing a rescript to M. Bouliguine, minister of the interior, couched in soft and honeyed words, definitely promising to call a legislative assembly of "experienced forces of the community" to have a share in the "execution of the reforms announced by me." This was seen to be a shallow sop, as the assembly would not be allowed to initiate any measures of reform, but would merely echo the czar's wishes. Both announcements met with general disapproval among the striking laborers and Social reformers, who planned to tie up the railroads and telegraphs. Father Gopon in an address called on the czar as an assassin to renounce his throne. In Manchuria last week the whole Japanese army took the aggressive and by turning the right and left flanks of Kuropatkin compelled him to retire with his line of retreat from Mukden endangered. This great battle was fought in the face of a wintry storm.

6,500 Converted by Revivals. A systematic revival, which has been conducted in Louisville, Ky., by 18 evangelists for a period of two weeks, has resulted in 6,500 persons confessing Christianity. About 65,000 of Louisville's 225,000 population are not affiliated with any church, and the revival just closed has resulted in the conversion of ten per cent of the non-church members. On the last day meetings were held in 23 churches, theaters and halls, and 1,500 were added to the already large list of 5,000 which represented the previous two weeks' work.

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