

# The Herald.

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## FRANCE MEANS BUSINESS.

**SIAM MOST MAKE REPARATION AS THE MOKONG RIVER BE BLOCKADED.**

PARIS, July 19.—In the chamber of deputies yesterday M. Dreyfus questioned the government as to France's operations in Siam. M. Develle, minister of foreign affairs, said in reply to the interpellation that the government disavowed any intention to interfere with Siam's independence.

At the same time the government intended to insist that the frontier between France and Siam be respected. The interference of a third power in the dispute would not be tolerated. If Siam did not make complete reparation for the murder of M. Groscurain, the French inspector of native militia, by a Siamese mandarin, and for the other acts for which France demanded satisfaction, the French fleet would blockade the Mekong river.

The foreign minister further said that if it became necessary to bombard Bangkok, the Siamese might be forced to accept the demands of France, sufficient warning would be given to the representatives in the city of foreign powers to enable them to protect subjects of their respective countries.

# Royal Baking Powder

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

## ABSOLUTELY PURE

**A GIGANTIC BIRD.**

The "Moa" of New Zealand Said to Still Exist.

It is a Greater Curiosity Than Any Ever Exhibited by American Menageries.—Some Scientific Theories.

A dispatch from Berlin a few days ago stated that the ornithological society had discovered in the north island of New Zealand a living species of bird twice as large as the ostrich, and supposed hitherto to be extinct. The Boston Herald thinks that if the German scientist has really caught his bird the discovery is the most remarkable in natural history, and his prize is a much greater attraction than Barrum's white elephant or any other animal that the most enterprising circus manager ever exhibited to a curious audience. In short, this bird is the moa, which has interested ornithologists since white people first entered New Zealand. When the British settled in New Zealand they found numerous skeletons of a gigantic bird of the ostrich family. As the skeletons indicated, it was from twelve to sixteen feet high. Prof. Owen made a study of forty-seven almost perfect specimens sent to England by Mr. Williams, a missionary, who had them taken from the banks and beds of rivers, where they were buried only slightly in the mud and evidently within recent times. The interest of the European investigators was further excited by the tales that New Zealand natives told of this gigantic bird. The scientists named it the *dinornis giganteus*, but the Maoris called it the moa, and the native name prevailed. The Maoris said that the bird was alive in New Zealand not many generations ago, and their tribal lore contained many accounts of encounters with this enormous ostrich. There were legends of daring moa hunters, and some of the natives asserted that a few of the great birds still existed in lonely and almost inaccessible parts of the New Zealand mountains. Thus everything pointed to the fact that the bird was not confined to some former geological era, but has existed until a comparatively late period. This theory received further confirmation from the fact that the Maoris themselves have been in New Zealand only a few centuries.

According to their undoubted legends these Maoris were originally natives of Samoa. Their ancestors, cruising around in canoes, had been blown many hundred miles away to New Zealand in the thirteenth or fourteenth century of the Christian era. The island being uninhabited before they arrived, the great bird could have flourished there unmolested for ages. The Maoris slaughtered the birds in great numbers. The moa was not dangerous unless wounded or infuriated by the hunters, being similar in temper, as in form, to the ostrich. The moa captured by Owen's imagination. He pictured it the lord of the great Polynesian islands of New Zealand, and rulling all its animals, until the human animal, with his superior intelligence, came. According to Prof. Owen's theories, deduced from his studies of the skeletons, the moa was heavier and bulkier in proportion to its height than the ostrich, but less swift of foot. The shape of its skull indicated an affinity to the dodo, with a lower cerebral development, and consequently with greater stupidity. This heavy, stupid bird became comparatively easy prey to the Maori hunters, who are the boldest and most vigorous type of the modern barbarian, a few hundred of them holding ten thousand perfectly armed, equipped and well-officer British troops at bay for more than two years. Some such discovery as this German scientist is reported to have made is not unexpected. Scientists have been inclined to believe the Maori stories, and some of them have held that the living bird would be discovered yet in the wild interior of New Zealand. So far as can be ascertained there were two distinct species of these birds. One inhabited the North island of New Zealand and the other was a native of the South or Middle island. The South island bird was the largest and stood sixteen feet in height. Prof. Owen, on account of its size, called it the elephantopus. It was extraordinary for the massive strength of its limbs, breadth and bulk as well as height.

# READ

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WHETHER we shall succeed in obtaining what we ask of the arbitration conference, one thing is very sure, and that is that the fur seal will hereafter have greater protection from poaching sealers than ever before. An official decree recently issued by Great Britain prohibits all British ships from sealing within ten marine miles of the Russian coast on the Bering Sea or in the North Pacific Ocean, and within thirty miles of any Russian seal islands. The value and importance of these fur seal hunting grounds has been recognized and restriction of some sort will be placed around them by the arbitrators.

## IMMIGRATION HORRORS.

The conveyance to the port of New York of hundreds of destitute immigrants from Russia and other regions of eastern Europe on the British steamer Red Sea should be a subject of thorough investigation by the national authorities. This vessel appears to have taken passengers who had been rejected by other lines, and without concern as to whether they were paupers or in a physical condition to be acceptable additions to the population of the United States. The vessel is known as a "tramp steamer," and unlike the regular lines has no reputation to maintain by due regard to immigration laws. The Red Sea took passengers as it took freight, and the freight appears to have received more attention than the passengers.

Now that these people are in this country they should be treated humanely. It is painful to learn that grown up women, perhaps mothers of families, fainted with hunger when the immigration officials visited the steamer, and that the unfortunates devoured, like voracious animals, food sent them by Commissioner Senner. The worst features of the old time immigration business, supposed long ago to have been suppressed, are recalled by this Red Sea episode. The steamer is a British vessel, but she has brought passengers to an American port, and the maltreatment of those passengers is a matter of concern to Americans. The immigration laws should be enforced, fairly and humanely, and immigrants who clearly come within the prohibited class should be returned.

It is due to the American people that undesirable aliens should be excluded, and it is due to the regular steamship lines complying with the law in spirit as well as in letter that no tramp steamer traffic in obnoxious foreigners should be permitted. The Red Sea should be the last vessel with such a cargo to arrive in any port in this country.

## MIDWAY PLAISANCE.

Those individuals who are so unfortunately constituted that they never see the use of having any fun in the world have doubtless wondered often what was the good of vanity fair—Midway Plaisance—at the Chicago Exposition. If they only knew it, that agglomeration of grotesqueness and variety serves a very useful purpose. After walking his feet off and gazing at miles of wind mills, carriages, pumps, cars and locomotive engines, after doing the heavy business in the fisheries building, the agricultural building and elsewhere, how does the visitor to the World's Fair feel? Exactly as if he would like to hurl a bowlder, and a big one, at the head of the person who asks him to go to the woman's building or art gallery or cow show. He glares about him as if he would like to eat up somebody or something. At this moment there before his eyes is Midway Plaisance. It is a journey around the world except that, instead of his marching around the globe, the globe marches around him, so to speak.

The anatomist of Dahomey, battle scarred and fierce, glare at him. The Irish castle, with the original blarney stone to be kissed and make him sweet tempered, looms up here, with pretty Irish girls making lace near by. In the Algerian Village monkeys and baboons chatter, cameis and donkeys look wise, here and there dancing girls of the orient go through their paces in a way that is all the more fascinating to him because he is not quite sure whether it is proper or not. Japanese and Jap, Chinaman, Persian and South Sea Islander step out from the old story books he has read, and in a moment, as the touch of a magician's wand, are before him in real life. He becomes interested in spite of himself. Then he laughs. Then his weariness and grumpiness are gone. So says one who has been there, and this is what the wise man who planned the fair meant Midway Plaisance for.

## China Refuses to Make Reparation.

SHANGHAI, July 19.—The government has refused to make reparation for the killing of two Swedish missionaries by a mob in Machong three weeks ago. Foreigners in Hankow and Shanghai have called mass meetings to urge the European powers to compel China to respect her treaties and punish the vicarious and the city authorities in which the murders were committed. The situation promises trouble.

## Charged with a Heinous Crime.

WEST CHESTER, Pa., July 19.—The knowledge of a heinous crime having been committed here several days ago has just come to light. J. A. Davis was arrested on the charge of committing an outrageous assault upon the 14-year-old daughter of Isaac Smiley. Davis is a sewing machine agent here, a comparative stranger, and has a wife. He denies the charge entirely.

## Revolted Charge Against Man and Wife.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., July 19.—Charles McGuire and wife, foreman and forewoman at the lace factory in this city, were committed to the county prison without bail. The former was charged with committing rape upon a girl named Kelly, aged 15 years, his wife assisting him in forcing the crime. The details of the case are the most horrible on record.

## A Fatal Kick.

BROOKLYN, July 19.—William Conlon, 59 years old, was arrested, charged with having caused the death of Michael Glynn, 27 years old, by kicking him in the abdomen. The two were playing football at Hedgeswood Park on Sunday, when, it is alleged, Conlon knocked Glynn down and kicked him. Glynn lingered until yesterday, when he died.

## Secretary Vanbroeklin Arraigned.

BUFFALO, July 19.—Eric O. Vanbroeklin, the embazzling secretary of the board of fire commissioners, was arraigned in the county court on twenty indictments, divided equally between forgery and grand larceny in the second degree. Vanbroeklin pleaded not guilty and bail was fixed at \$25,000.

## Killed by an Electric Car.

INDIANAPOLIS, July 19.—Isaac and Peter Knott, Polish boys, aged respectively 8 and 11 years, were run down by an electric car at Washington and Pennsylvania streets. Isaac was instantly killed, and Peter probably fatally injured. Motorman Charles Peck has been arrested.

## The President's Fishing Trip.

NEWPORT, R. I., July 19.—E. C. Benedict's steam yacht Onondia paid another unexpected visit to these waters last night with President Cleveland on board. It is probable that the cruise will end today.

## Death in a Coal Elevator.

PHILADELPHIA, July 19.—Alfred Saforsky, aged 28, was caught in a coal elevator in the Reading's Richmond yard and hourly mangled. He died shortly after. He leaves a wife and five children.

## TOO PROFOUND.

A Learned Discourse That Was Too Deep for Comprehension.

Samuel Dexter was secretary of war and afterward secretary of the treasury under President John Adams. When Mr. Jefferson became president he asked Mr. Dexter to resign, and, on receiving a refusal, removed him. This was the first instance of the removal of a cabinet officer for political reasons.

It was said of Mr. Dexter, according to Yonah's Compendium, that a remark made about Edmund Burke might be applied with equal truth to him. "If you should meet him under a shed on a rainy day you would at once recognize him as a great man." Yet his mind was rather of the brilliant than the profound order, and he did not hesitate to confess his rare limitations.

He was once in company with Fisher Ames and Chief Justice Marshall. The great judge began a weighty conversation, which turned into a monologue lasting nearly three hours. When the two listeners had taken their homeward way they could talk of nothing but the mental depth and learning of their host.

They praised his natural gifts and his acquired wisdom; especially did they enlarge upon the profundity of the discourse to which they had just listened. "But," said Mr. Ames, after a pause, "to tell the truth, Dexter, I have not

## FIFTY-ONE DAYS UNDER SNOW.

The Experience of a Russian Girl, Who Is Alive to Tell Her Story.

An account has been received at St. Petersburg of a remarkable experience that befell a young girl named Alexandra Schtelkina, seventeen years of age, who was recently discovered lying in a state of complete exhaustion near the village of Bogorodskia. In the province of Moscow. She relates that she fell asleep one evening on a heap of straw, and on waking some hours afterward found herself lying under a mass of snow that had fallen during the night and enveloped her to the depth of some three feet. All the girl's attempts to extricate herself proved unavailing, and she remained buried among snow and straw for fifty-one days, her only nourishment during that time being a few morsels of bread that she happened to have with her. When at length rescued, the girl was, of course, found to be in a state of most complete inanition, and it required several days of constant care and nursing to restore her strength. On recovering she stated that she had not experienced any excessive cold, and had only occasionally been seized with shivering. She suffered much, however, from hunger, and, after her few crusts of bread were eaten, supported life by sucking the snow. The girl also described the anguish which she felt on finding that no one heard her piteous, half-stifled cries for help whenever the sound of footsteps in the neighborhood of her living sepulcher fell upon her ears.

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Don't talk without listeners—Place your "ad" where it will be read.

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