

## RELIEFWORK BEGUN RATHER LATE.

### WHERE MISERY DWELLS.

Starvation and Death in the Congested Central Provinces of Hindostan.

The special correspondent of the Associated Press who is inquiring into the famine raging in Kalpur, the largest district of the Central Provinces, having a population of 1,500,000, finds the situation very grave.

This is the center of the rice-growing industry, which is the only crop grown, and, as it has failed, there is a total extinction of food stuff in this locality and total famine exists. About 1,500 villages are affected. The relief works have given employment and the means of subsistence to 50,000 persons.

The worst part of the district is Bharnapur, 30 miles from Kalpur, where the mortality conditions prevail. Many people have already died of hunger and many others are dying.

The staff employed in the work of relieving the sufferers is inadequate to cope with the enormous area. If the work of relief had been properly arranged earlier the mortality would have been less, as the rains are increasing the spread of disease. It will take three good years to recoup the losses of this district.

The poorhouses are a fair criterion of the condition of the people. Besides the professional beggars, they are crowded with laborers reduced to the last stage of skeletons. The bodies are emaciated and the skin is hanging in large folds. Others have swollen stomachs, the sign of acute privation. Some horrible sights were witnessed. A man with both legs eaten away was a case of white swells, and others were nearly as bad. The condition in this district is the worst yet seen. There is urgent need of funds here.

The correspondent bears that in the Jubulpore district conditions are even worse than here. If seed is not sown the people will be utterly incapable of procuring food, and the conditions next year will be too awful to contemplate. The Government was late in realizing the gravity of the situation. Had relief measures been instituted earlier much of the distress existing could have been averted. The food supply in this district is scanty and will very soon be exhausted.

## FOREIGN NEWS.

### Fires, Wind and Rain Combine to Wreak Havoc in a Town.

Fort Darwin, a small but important town in South Australia, was almost wiped out by one of those fearful hurricanes, which periodically strike the coast of Australia, destroying property and very often life. Luckily in this case no lives were lost, but from the reports which have been received in Sidney previous to the sailing of the steamer Warrimoo, which arrived at Victoria, B. C., the loss of property must have been very large.

The wind was accompanied by a heavy rain, which ruined the furniture in residences and goods in stores which had been deprived of their roofs. The residents had to obtain shelter as best they could. The telegraphic wires were demolished by the storm, and consequently news from the scene of the disaster is meagre. A fire started Monday, January 4, and rain was pouring down on the following Thursday, when the barometer began to fall and the wind to howl. The wind was at its height by Thursday morning and kept it up all day. Among the few dispatches received from Sidney was one from the postmaster, in which the following paragraph appears: "The town is practically destroyed, all buildings being either heaps of ruins or very badly damaged. The rain fell Monday and Wednesday, was 4.30 inches. On Thursday one inch was recorded."

## TITLE LOSES ITS CHARM

### For a New York Marquis, Who Weighed of Supporting an Expensive Husband.

Another New York girl has discarded a foreign title and expensive husband through South Dakota divorce courts. Domade Julia de Latorre du Villard, of Paris, has become plain Julia Chapin, of New York, through a decree of divorce just filed, granting her release from M. Brice Ernest Gabriel Raymond Odde, Marquis de la tour du Villard.

The plaintiff and mother testified that Villard refused not only to support his wife, but that she had to pay his laundry bill, and to pawn her diamonds to pay rent in fashionable quarters.

Mme. Villard left her husband in September, 1896, coming to South Dakota to establish her residence. She testified that her husband was worth 275,000 francs at the time of her marriage, and that her father settled \$50,000 on him at that time. After her money was exhausted in Paris she says her mother furnished her with what was needed for necessary expenses. Her husband, she said, never paid one cent for living expenses, and took the position that his wife was under obligations to support him. Mrs. Chapin said Villard had told her he had an income of \$12,000 a year, but that she now knows the statement to be a lie.

Mrs. Chapin says she paid the Marquis' bills in order to keep her daughter's personal belongings from being attached.

Divorce was granted on the ground of non-support. The plaintiff was given the right to assume her maiden name.

## 40,000 MADE ORPHANS.

### More Money Needed to Save Armenian Orphans From Death.

The National Armenian relief commission recently forwarded to Turkey \$35,000. They have just received a cable message from the international committee at Constantinople, acknowledging the remittance and stating that the funds in hand are entirely inadequate to meet the awful suffering and destitution. Careful investigation has shown that no less than 40,000 children have been made orphans by the late massacre.

Those "wards of Christendom" can be easily saved from starvation or debasing enslavement in Moslem homes and can be cared for at the rate of a dollar a month, but thousands will perish before spring unless generous gifts are sent at once to Brown Brothers & Co., 29 Wall street, New York, who are authorized trustees.

## FIVE CHILDREN DROWNED.

### Four Boys and a Girl Went Through the Ice While Skating on a Pond.

Five children, ranging in age from 8 to 15 years, broke through the ice while skating on a pond near the Missouri river on the Iowa side, across from Nebraska City, Neb., and were drowned. Three boys belonging to the family of G. W. Gibson and boy to the family of Phoenix Gibson and one girl to J. Gibson.

The children failed to reach their homes at the accustomed hour, and search was instituted, and their bodies found floating on the water of the pond, where a small place had been broken through the ice. The bodies were found close together, all having coned down together. The parents are prominent farmers.

## Two Receivers

### Appointed for the Pennsylvania Lead Company.

The Pennsylvania Lead company went into the hands of receivers at Pittsburgh Tuesday. Liabilities \$1,400,000.

The application for a receiver was made by George S. Griscom as trustee, and H. E. Anderson, who set forth in the bill that the defendant company is indebted to Griscom in the amount of \$368,000 and that Anderson holds one hundred shares of its capital stock at a par value of \$100.

The liabilities of the concern are placed in the bill at \$1,400,000 in the form of commercial paper. Of this, \$550,000 matures in February, 1897. A large part of this has been guaranteed by President Schwartz, who was recently stricken with paralysis. These obligations and endorsements are held in Salt Lake, Utah; Pittsburgh, New York and London. Over \$50,000 worth of paper went to protest on February 1 for non-acceptance and non-payment.

The company, it is stated, is in its present condition unable to meet or renew its obligations and suits would be brought by creditors causing levies to be made upon \$800,000 worth of valuable property.

The concern's operating clerks in its offices and skilled men in its works to the number of 160. Many of them have rights and preference in its assets.

## M'KENNA ACCEPTS.

### He will be McKinley's Secretary of the Interior.

A special from Canton, O., says Judge Joseph McKenna has accepted the position of Secretary of the Interior in President McKinley's Cabinet.

## CAPITOL BURNED.

### The State House at Harrisburg a Mass of Ruins.

The famous old state capitol building, at Harrisburg, Pa., the cornerstone of which was laid in 1819 by Governor Findlay, is a mass of ruins. A fire that spread with such rapidity as the fire was unexpected has left standing gaunt, thick walls and the skeleton of the splendidly constructed dome, while the interior is a mass of falling ceilings, walls and furniture. Recalling the history of Pennsylvania, and the stirring and momentous scenes that have occurred in the venerable building during the last 78 years, it rains down upon the ruins with an interest full of pathos and regret. Not only old citizens of Harrisburg, but old-time legislators and officials, who are here now, gazed upon the funeral pyre of the ancient edifice with saddened faces and serious eyes.

The stone tower of the rotunda, dismantled and looks down in tragic silence on broken walls and smoldering embers. The destruction was as sudden as it was complete. It came almost without warning. The Senate had just taken a recess and a brief recess. Most of the senators were in their seats, and the galleries were filled with the usual crowd of spectators. In the House business was moving sluggishly along. The flames which had doubtless been kindled by the gasolene and kerosene, suddenly spread to the whole of the upper floors of the Senate wing, and volumes of smoke poured at once, almost, through the picture gallery. Even then so suddenly was the coming, few seemed to realize the truth, and before the fire had turned on by some of the officials of the school department, began to pour down, and a cascade of flames came, soon deepening into a roar, that the Senators saw their danger. An adjournment not calculated by any rule was taken, and every one rushed for the doors. The House took flight at the same time, and adjourned with equal haste. Representatives beating a retreat without any semblance of dignity.

They were gone too soon, for in a few seconds an explosion above shook the whole building, and the flying legislators were thrown from their feet by its force.

Estimates of the loss on the buildings and contents vary. Supt. Delaney says it will reach \$1,500,000. Other state officials believe that \$500,000 or \$600,000 is enough. The treasury department officials say that there was about \$200,000 insurance on the buildings. The exact amount cannot be ascertained, as the matter is in the hands of a Philadelphia lawyer.

The origin of the fire is blamed on several causes. Some say that it was done by electric light wires; other officials think that a fuse is to blame.

The loss in documents is heavy. This is especially so in the departments of education. There is no vault in the offices, and the papers are nearly all destroyed. The most important are the school appropriation books. They have been lost. This will leave these accounts tangled for a time. There are also many valuable records in the departments destroyed. They cannot be replaced. The bust of Higbee, purchased by the schools of the state a few years ago, was destroyed. The senate journals since 1890 were destroyed. They cannot be replaced. The senate journal for this session was saved.

In the house time was given to save all the records.

In Lieut. Gov. Walter Lyon's rooms there was a very valuable library of archives and law books. They were all destroyed.

In the committee rooms there were libraries. They contained the state laws.

In the basement of the senate were stored about 600 tons of reports. They had just come from the printer and were ready to send out.

The Correspondents' association had a complete copy of bills introduced this session. They were rescued from the flames by the officers of the organization, and will be turned over to the house. The senators' bills were also saved. The committees of committees saved all the bills in their hands, and as the journals of both branches were rescued, the work of the legislature can continue without interruption from this cause.

The flames had subsided considerably, a force of men were put to work to save any furniture and documents possible. A great deal of damaged stuff was taken out.

## THE VENEZUELA TREATY SIGNED.

### Andrade and Poncefets Affix Their Autographs to the Agreement.

The treaty between Great Britain and Venezuela for the settlement of the long-pending Venezuelan boundary dispute by arbitration was signed by the State Department in Washington, February 2, by Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador, and Señor Jose Andrade, the Venezuelan Minister.

The delay in completing the treaty was caused by the difficulty in making up the personnel of the arbitral commission, not so much from objections to persons nominated by either side as from the trouble experienced in arranging the tribunal so as to interfere as little as possible with the important routine work of the courts of the United States and Great Britain, from which bodies four of the arbitrators are drawn.

Notice, however, was received by cable Tuesday morning from London that the Privy Council had finally confirmed the selection made. The arbitrators, it is understood, will be Chief Justice Fuller and Chief Justice Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, and Lord Herschell and Sir Richard Henn Collins Knight, Justice of Her Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature. The fifth arbitrator, in case of need, will be named by King Oet.

By the terms of the treaty, the agents of the two Governments of Great Britain and Venezuela must deliver the complete cases at Paris, where the arbitration tribunal will meet, within eight months of the ratification of the treaty, with three months additional allowed for the submission of the counter cases, so that the entire arbitration probably will occupy a year and a half.

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## THE SCHEME APPROVED BY SPAIN

### FOR CUBAN REFORMS.

The Text of the Original Articles Made Public.

The Madrid Official Gazette prints the full scheme of Cuban reform, as approved by the queen regent in a formal decree. The following is a full extract of the decree proper, without the preamble, article by article.

Article I.—The laws of March 15, 1895, will be amplified in accordance with the following rules, which will be developed in by-laws.

First.—The municipalities and assemblies of the six provinces of the island of Cuba (Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas, Santa Clara, Puerto Principe and Santiago de Cuba) will enjoy all the liberties compatible with the laws and respect of individual rights. The assemblies will have the right to elect its presidents. In each assembly there will be an executive committee, elected by the assembly every six months, and its president will be elected by said committee. The mayors and deputy mayors will be elected by the municipalities, from among the citizens beyond the limits of the municipal rights; but, in this case, the municipalities will have the right of appeal to the highest court of the province. The provincial assemblies will exercise powers in matters of taxes, in accordance with the general and local system of taxation.

Thirty-Five Councillors.

Rule Second.—The council of administration of the island will be composed of 35 councillors; 21 of them will be elected directly by the people, with the same conditions of the municipalities when they go beyond the limits of the municipal rights; but, in this case, the municipalities will have the right of appeal to the highest court of the province. The provincial assemblies will exercise powers in matters of taxes, in accordance with the general and local system of taxation.

Rule Third.—The council will determine the annual expenses of sovereignty (imperial expenses) and will determine the total of the same.

Rule Fourth.—The attributes of the council of administration, as regards the customs tariff, will be as follows:

First.—It will fix all rules for the application of the custom duties.

Second.—It will determine what is most convenient regarding taxes on exports.

Third.—It will fix or modify the fiscal duties for revenue on importations in the island.

Fourth.—It is to be heard in an advisory manner regarding the rates, classifications and selection of duties.

These rights will have the following limitations:

First.—National products directly imported into Cuba will enjoy indispensable protection, that is, they will be exempt from all foreign products will be for revenue only.

Second.—Taxes for revenue established by the council of administration will be applied alike to foreign and to national products.

Third.—Taxes on exports will be equally levied and will not be differential; but it will be possible to exempt from these rules the direct exports to Spain for home consumption.

The custom tariff will have the following force: It will consist of two columns. One for revenue only, equally applied and in the same proportion to foreign and home products, and the other column will consist of differential duties imposed on all foreign products, and where there will be a margin of protection for the national industry, with a maximum that the cortes will establish.

The government will fix, for the first time, the articles of the tariff which will make up the differential columns. The taxes will not exceed 20 per cent of the value of the articles.

Rule Fifth.—Refers to the powers of the governor-general to appoint employes in the offices of the general government, and in the offices of the civil governors of the provinces.

Rule Sixth.—Refers to the secretariat of the general government, the power of the intendants (head of treasury), comptroller, director of local administration; names the clerks in their offices.

Rule Seventh.—Refers to the appointment of government employes by the governor-general, who may be Cuban born or foreigners, who have resided at least two years in the island. These appointments will be made with the advice and consent of the council of administration, and with regard to the legal and proper qualifications of the nominees.

Rule Eighth.—Refers to the members of the judiciary, who will be only appointed among Cuban born or persons having resided two years in the island. The municipal judges (justices of the peace), will be appointed by election by members of the municipalities, supplemented by a number of electors chosen by the people.

Rule Ninth.—The council of administration will respect the actual pending contracts, and at the expiration of the same will have the right to accept or to repeal them. The council will also have the power of enforcing in the island the treasury laws of the peninsula and of entering into a contract with the Bank of Cuba. A special decree, which will be submitted to the cortes will contain the rules for the maintenance of public order, and the suppression of secessionist movements.

Article II.—The government will embody in a single decree the present rules and those of the laws of May 15, 1895, developing both in by-laws, which shall not change the strict sense of the present decree.

Article III.—Disposes that the above mentioned rules will apply also to Puerto Rico.

Article IV.—The date for the application of Cuba of the law of 1895 and the present decree to Cuba and Puerto Rico will be fixed by the cortes as soon as the state of the war will permit it.

## A Steamer Lost.

### The British Steamer Omega, outward bound from Hull, England, has signalled Cape Carver, that the British steamer City of Agre, outward bound, from Glasgow, has been lost.

The captain of the Agre is on board the Omega. The city of Agre was a schooner-rigged screw steamer, built at Glasgow in 1879. She registered 2,099 tons net and was 285 feet long and 38½ feet beam and was 28½ feet deep. She was owned by G. Smith & Sons.

## TELEGRAPHIC TICKS

The woman's suffrage bill passed the Nevada senate by a vote of 9 to 5, and was sent to the assembly.

At Cincinnati Mrs. Lizzie R. Hewitt, a large land owner, assigned, with assets and liabilities \$40,000 each.

It can be definitely stated that J. Addison Porter, of the Hartford, Conn., Evening Post will be private secretary to President McKinley.

## PROGRESS OF THE PLAGUE.

### Not So Many Deaths in Bombay, but Outbreaks in Other Places.

William, Lord Sandhurst, Governor of Bombay, has sent a cable message to the effect that the bubonic plague patients patronize the hospitals more freely than at the time of the first outbreak of the epidemic. In the section where the disease had the strongest hold in the beginning it is now being suppressed, but it appears to be extending to new portions of the Bombay Presidency. In places most recently infected by the plague the mortality is evidently not so great.

In the city of Bombay the number of deaths diminished during the week ending January 20, and the feeling at that place is one of greater hopefulness. In the city of Poona, Bombay Presidency, 58 indigenous cases were reported, but a late report is to the effect that 48 cases were announced in a single quarter of the town.

Governor Sandhurst reports that the number of deaths from the plague at Karnool reached 206 for the week ending January 23, diminishing to 178 for the week ending January 29, decreasing in the two worst quarters of the town, but increasing in the two sections formerly least infected by the epidemic.

According to the cable reports from Governor Sandhurst, the inspection of travelers along the main lines of communication is very effective. Many cases of bubonic plague have been detected in this way and the travelers taken immediately to special hospitals arranged for their reception. All of the ocean liners, as well as the ships calling for foreign ports, are thoroughly inspected before leaving the harbor of Bombay. Arriving at an open port all of the pilgrim ships have been prohibited from leaving the port of Bombay.

Generally speaking, this same thing may be said to be true of other towns of the Bombay Presidency, besides the cities of Bombay and Poona, with the exception, however, of the towns of Bandora and Coorla, and their suburbs and villages and the unhealthy place of Bittoor.

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## WEYLER GIVES PERMISSION.

### Sugar Cane to be Ground on Central Plantations.

Captain General Weyler announces that he has authorized the central plantations of Caracaras and Andrelita to grind sugar cane.

It is expected that he will soon grant permission allowing other Cuban plantations to commence work.

Additional details received by the author regarding the engagement near Ciego Avila, are to the effect that the insurgents left seven dead on the field, and 23 wounded prisoners were taken. Inasmuch as the captain retained carrying their dead and wounded, it is believed that their loss was far greater than this.

La Lucha and Diario de la Marina received cablegrams giving extracts from the autonomy reform decree to be published officially next Saturday. These dispatches have not yet appeared in any of the local newspapers, but La Lucha, in an editorial commenting upon the reforms proposed by the Spanish Premier, says:

Diario de la Marina, until yesterday published the text of the autonomy reform decree issued by Prime Minister Canovas del Castillo on account of the liberal spirit manifested in these reforms. To the Premier we are solely indebted for this liberality, and we hope that the enemies of Canovas del Castillo, who have considered him a drachuck upon the cause of Cuban liberalism, will hereafter regard him as the illustrious statesman that he is, and that they will all be personally devoted to him as such a leader.

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## BATTLE NEAR LAKE TRINIDAD.

Spanish Column Surprised and Its Commander Badly Wounded.

Details have just been received of an engagement which occurred on January 24. A Spanish column left Guanaco, according to orders issued by General Melgarejo. The troops consisted of Marine forces, infantry and guerrillas, commanded by Major Cuadra.

Near Lake Trinidad the insurgents concealed in the dense forest opened fire upon them at a distance of 65 yards. Volley after volley was fired upon the Spanish, who were entirely without protection, owing to the nature of the surrounding country. After 10 minutes of this battle, General Melgarejo ordered the troops to make a detour, a number of the Spaniards having already been wounded. While attempting this movement, the Spanish commander fell, badly wounded, by the side of Dr. Guerrero and several nurses. The Spanish column was then routed, and the Spaniards rallied under the command of Don Captain, and the Cubans were dislodged from the position first occupied by them.

Darkness coming on, the Spanish forces returned to Guanaco, carrying their wounded. The following day, General Melgarejo and his aids noticed from an elevation of ground the Cubans carrying their wounded on stretchers, as they continued to retreat. Judging from appearances, a large number of insurgents must have been killed and wounded during the battle. The commander of the artillery, who was engaged in the construction of fortifications in this vicinity, fired three grenades at the retreating Cubans behind the earthworks which the Spaniards had constructed on the heights in the environs of Lake Trinidad.

## CHRISTIANS RETALIATE.

### Rumor That 3,000 of Them Have Burned a Mussulman Village.

A dispatch from Athens gives additional details of the troubles between Christians and Mohammedans on the island of Crete.

It is announced that 3,000 Christians have surrounded the seaport town of Canea and that they have already burned the Mussulman village of Taratid in revenge for the killing of a Christian at Gainta. Altogether six villages are reported to have been destroyed by fire at the hands of Mohammedans and Christians, and a rumor has been widely circulated to the effect that a massacre of Christians had occurred at Gainta. Continuing fighting can be heard in the vicinity of Suda. No details have been received owing to the interruption of communication. It is, however, known that the Mohammedans made an attempt to burn the telegraph station at Suda. The Creeps were landed from the English and Italian warships and aided in extinguishing the flames. The foreign fleet, on account of the increased danger in the vicinity of Canea, has left Suda and anchored in the harbor of Canea. It is said to be extremely desirable that another British warship should be sent to Retimo.

## BAYLINS ELECTED SENATOR.

### After One of the Most Bitter Fights in the Utah Legislature.

The fifty-third ballot of the Utah Legislature elected Joseph L. Baylins to the United States Senate and closed one of the most exciting political contests in the history of Utah.

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## THEY RECIPROCATED.

### Grace Church Once Worshipped in the State Capitol.

An interesting coincidence has occurred in connection with the use of the Methodist church by the Pennsylvania legislature.

Twenty years ago, when the congregation had sold its old building and began to erect the present structure, a long delay was occasioned in laying the foundation, because the site was not yet enough for those who had taken large stocks of materials or products on speculation.

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## NEWBY NOTES.

### The Fruit and Grain Outlook in California was never better.

Senator Palma says Spanish concessions to Cuba are too late. Only independence will do now.

A rumor is current in London that serious disturbances have taken place at Johannesburg.

As Gravelin, Mich., two children, aged 2 and 3, belonging to Seeley Wakoley, were burned to death.

Admiral Bence's squadron has sailed from Hampton Roads for a mock blockade of Charleston, S. C.

## A MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS.

### CARNAGE IN CRETE.

The Beautiful Island Bathed in Blood and Fire.

Advice received from the island of Crete are to the effect that the trouble at Canea originated in the unfounded report that the Mussulmans had killed 27 Christian sentinels at Akrostri. When this report was received the chief ordered the troops to proceed to the defense of the Christian villages. The troops were attacked, and it is reported that 20 persons were killed. Several villages were destroyed by fire. Canea itself is in a state of complete revolt. The Mussulmans, it is claimed, instigated the attack upon the Christians and commenced the discharge of firearms. A considerable number of persons perished in the conflict. Finally, it was observed, the soldiers themselves fired from the ramparts on the heads of the Christians.

The Mussulmans set fire to the quarters occupied by the Christians and the flames were visible from the warships of the powers anchored in the harbor. The flames appeared to be spreading in the direction of the town, and the Christians and the Greek soldiers on board the gunboats. The val and the consuls of the powers were near Halaipa when the outbreak commenced, but they were unable to enter Canea until nightfall. The fighting ceased, but according to the latest advice the fires started for the purpose of destroying the buildings have not yet been extinguished.

Three-fourths of the Christian quarters in the city of Canea have been burned to the ground, according to the latest advice received from the island of Crete. The Christians, while trying to escape to the warships, were attacked by the Mussulman population, and many were killed and injured. The total number of victims as a result of the rioting is estimated at 200.