

LANDING SUPPLIES FOR THE BOERS AT DELAGOA BAY.



DENMARK ANXIOUS TO SELL HER WEST INDIAN ISLES.

Renews Negotiations With Us.

ITHIN the past few weeks the acquisition of the Danish West Indies by the United States before the end of the Fifty-sixth Congress, and perhaps before the end of the present session, has become a subject of great interest to the people of this country, and has been well informed as to the attitude of both Denmark and the United States Government in the matter. Denmark is willing to sell and the United States are willing to buy, and in addition to this there are certain circumstances which, in the opinion of the officials concerned, will effectually dispose of any opposition to the purchase in the American Congress. It has been made clear to this Government that the Danish Government has definitely decided to dispose of its West Indian possessions without any great delay, and while the United States have first choice, Denmark has let it be understood that, failing to make a bargain with this country, she will seek a purchaser elsewhere, the Monroe doctrine to the contrary notwithstanding.

It is generally believed that Germany would be only too glad of an opportunity of securing the group, but she has been deterred from attempting to accomplish that end through her own and Denmark's regard for the position taken by the United States concerning the acquisition of territory on or adjacent to the American continent by European or other foreign nations. Should Congress fail to provide the amount necessary to buy the islands, an embarrassing international situation may be brought about by Denmark offering them to another nation, etc. Denmark's desire to get rid of the group is due mainly to the fact that the expense of maintaining the islands is greater than the revenues derived from them.

The price for the group was \$3,000,000. In the Seward treaty the price fixed was \$7,500,000, and this was for only two of the islands, St. Thomas and St. John. It was explained by Denmark at that time that she would not dispose of the remaining island, Santa Cruz, without the consent of France. This impediment has since been removed, and Denmark is now free to sell all three islands. The plan arranged for the transfer of the group to the United States was initiated by the introduction in Congress of a bill appropriating \$3,000,000 for their purchase.

Denmark has long desired to sell her three little islands in the West Indies, but she wished to drive a good bargain, and our Government thought the price she asked was too high. She did not care to sell at all till St. Thomas lost much of its commercial importance, and then \$7,500,000 was asked for that island and St. John, leaving St. Croix out of the question. She is now willing to take \$3,000,000 for the three islands. The inhabitants have always been willing to transfer their allegiance to our nation and Denmark is willing to part with the islands because they are of scarcely any advantage to her. She sells to them a little butter, but not much else. For years they have bought in this country most of the food they do not raise and nearly all the coal they sell to steamships.

These islands are on the point of the great bend described by the West Indies groups, and are thus most advantageously placed for trade with both divisions of the Antilles, the chain running east and west and that running north and south.

St. Thomas and St. John lie on the



PALMS AT THE LANDING PLACE, CHARLOTTE AMALIA, CAPITAL OF THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

same submarine plateau from which Puerto Rico rises and are really a prolongation of Puerto Rico to the east, but St. Croix, to the south, is geographically distinct, being separated from them by a deep ocean valley. The islands have felt severely the decadence of the West India sugar indus-

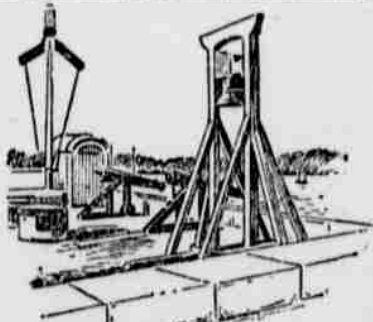
try and are not prospering. They are fair and fertile, but are suffering from neglect. Their people speak a little Danish and other European languages and a good deal of English, and there is no reason why, under more favorable conditions, they should not flourish as they did years ago. St. Thomas is the keystone to the arch of the West Indies; it commands them all. It is of more importance to us than any other nation!

A gallant officer of the navy, Captain G. V. Fox, has made the following report respecting the value to us of that port and island: "The harbor," he says, "is one of the best in the West Indies, admirable for naval purposes, and fully equal to the requirements of the commerce of those seas. The entrance is narrow and capable of being obstructed. The hills on both sides have a commanding elevation, sufficient to place the batteries thereon above the reach of the ships' guns, while an attacking



HARBOR OF ST. THOMAS, THE GEM OF THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

fleet would be subjected to their plunging fire. The harbor on the land side is covered by similar entrenchments. These are conditions which, together with its small area and insular position, give satisfactory security for a naval depot. The eminent strategic, geographical and commercial position which St. Thomas occupies arrests the attention of the most casual observer of the world's chart. In the hollow of the hills, its back against the central ridge, and sticking its feet in the placid waters of its



BATTERY OF ST. THOMAS, DANISH WEST INDIES.

peerless harbor, lies Charlotte Amalia, the capital and only town of St. Thomas. Herein are congregated the bulk of its total population of perhaps 13,000 people, most of whom are colored. It is one of the prettiest towns in the West Indies, and that is saying much, when one has seen them all. For it has, first, the advantage of unsurpassed situation, built upon and between three rounded hills, which buttress the backbone aforementioned. Along the shore are straggling rows of palms leaning lazily above beaches of doubtful cleanliness and color, like some of the inhabitants. But above the main street, which runs around the bay, there are others leading up the hills, and many flights of steps and stairs, wandering among gardens of fruit trees and fragrant flowers.

What Two Women Did.

Mrs. Jesse H. Sewell, who came to Texas from North Carolina after the death of her husband, twelve years ago, bought land to-day for which she paid cash with money she made by raising bees and poultry. Mrs. Sewell and her daughter, the latter a grown young lady, are preparing to start a blooded-stock farm. The ladies say they will not give up bees and hens, but will also raise cattle and sheep now that they have ceased to be renters.—Dallas News.

Plainly a Novice.

Mrs. Fogg—"A gentleman called to see you, David, this afternoon." Mr. Fogg—"Did he have anything to say?" Mrs. Fogg—"Only that he would call again." Mr. Fogg—"H'm—evidently a dun; but to give warning of his second coming betrays inexperience. Reckon there's no great danger from him."—Boston Transcript.

DELAGOA BAY, THE BOERS' ONLY PORT.

DELAGOA BAY is a name rendered familiar to newspaper readers by the arbitration proceedings of which it has been the subject for more than twenty years. All eyes are now turned toward Delagoa Bay for a reason of an infinitely more sensational character in connection with the Boer-British War.

Delagoa Bay belongs to Portugal, which is too weak to defend it against any act of aggression on the part either of the Boers or of the English. Not only is it the sole port worthy of the name and offering any harborage to men-of-war and to merchantmen along the entire East Coast of Africa, but it is the only port by means of which the Boers are receiving both the men and the war material that enable them to continue the struggle against the English. True, English cruisers have the right to stop and examine upon the high seas any foreign shipping which they may suspect of carrying contraband of war for the Boers. But any real search at sea is out of the question, since it is manifestly impossible to shift the entire freight of a big trading steamer in order to ascertain whether guns and war material are secreted at the bottom of the hold. So long as the Boers are able to draw unlimited supplies of war material and all the reinforcements they need from Europe via Delagoa Bay, the English will be to such an extent handicapped in their efforts to get the better of the Transvaal that the war is likely to be indefinitely



prolonged. On the other hand, were Delagoa Bay to be suddenly closed to the Boers, and were the latter in this manner entirely cut off from the outer world, the war could be brought to a speedy conclusion by Great Britain.

Now that everything connected with South Africa is of paramount interest, the accompanying picture, showing native signalmen on the Netherlands railway, running through Komati Poort into the Transvaal, is not without timeliness. It was up this railway and through this pass that the ammunition consigned to the Transvaal by way of Delagoa Bay had to pass before it reached General Joubert and his men. Owing to the wildness of much of the territory through which this railway passes, a large corps of watchmen and signalmen are necessary all along the line. The responsible duties of signaling and guarding the roadbed are left to Kaffirs.

Dr. Leyds, the Boer agent in Europe, says that the war material accumulated in the Transvaal will supply the republican armies for several years, and his opinion is supported by facts that have come to light since the war began. We know now that ever since the Jameson raid the Transvaal Government has been buying in Germany and France rifles, ammunition, and light and heavy artillery, to the amount of over a million dollars a



KAFFIR SIGNALMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

year. This is proved by the generalized statement as to the expenditures of the Transvaal war office beginning in 1896, in January of which year the Jameson raiders were captured. Every dollar's worth of these munitions passed through Delagoa Bay and over the railroad to Pretoria. The Delagoa Bay route and doubtless the port authorities at Lorenzo Marques have thus been of inestimable service to the Boers. They made it possible for them to strain every nerve to place their country on a war footing and at the same time to deceive the British completely as to the magnitude of the preparations.

The Needless Question.

Peaceful Idiot—"Are you insured?" Irritable Man—"No; I used to be, but I'm not now." Peaceful Idiot—"Oh, really! Did you let your policy lapse?" Irritable Man—"No, you silly fool! Can't you see that I died?"—Ally Sloper.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Designs For Costumes That Have Become Popular in the Metropolis.

NEW YORK CITY (Special).—There are so many ways of finishing off a bodice at the throat nowadays that the only difficulty is which to choose.



NOVEL NECK ARRANGEMENTS.

From tailor-made suits up, every kind of costume has its neck arrangement in lace, tulle, chiffon, satin, silk or a combination of all of these. In the cut on the left we have a dainty decoration for the throat in Alencon lace. The design is known as the "Louis Quinze"—that monarch having supposedly worn cravats of this style. The stock has a foundation of white satin covered with the lace put on plain, but frilling about the upper edge in a very graceful way. This frill is much deeper in the back than in the front. The jabot of very wide lace is draped most artistically and apparently held in place by a couple of small diamond buckles.

Sometimes the cravat is a combination of cravats, such as the one in the center of the group. There's no law

Turquoise blue velvet studded with turquoises is introduced also among the lace folds of the corsage. This lace and jeweled robe is mounted over white satin and this in turn over white satin.

Simple gowns of white spotted net are worn by many of the season's debutantes, with dainty garnishings of lace and ribbon, ruchings about the low corsage and tunic. Coral pink velvet ribbon encircling the waist and tied in a snood in the hair is a favorite finish to such a toilet. Often it happens, however, that the girlish net dress is made to gleam and glitter with spangles that rival in brilliancy an empress' jewels. Single sequins are not heavy enough; so they are sewed on double or triple, and the brilliant, embroidery designs really cover a robe from neck to hem.

Miss Marie Winthrop, one of New York's famous beauties, wears such a dress; hers is of faint-tinted yellow satin, veiled with fainter yellow chiffon finely plaited and filmy and all agleam with silver spangles. The low bodice is softened with tulle and lace, and from under this trimming peep out pink and yellow velvet roses.

A Cape Made of Feathers.

A three-quarter length cape made entirely of grey ostrich feathers was seen on one woman the other day. The feathers are not in plumes, but cut short and look like so many little grey bristles. The effect is not pretty and only a desire to look like some queer new bird will make this



WHITE SPOTTED NET AND WHITE SILK AND LACE.

nowadays against a woman's dressing her neck with a four-in-hand, an Ascot and a butterfly bow, all three at once, if she so desire. A plain stock of white silk has a narrow finish to its upper edge in black velvet. A four-in-hand scarf in white silk repeats the black velvet scheme in its border, three rows of narrow silk fringe being each headed by a faucy checked pattern in black and white velvet. The ends of this scarf are cut sharply on the bias. The scarf at its knot is backed by a big butterfly bow in white lace. We thus have length, breadth and two kinds of cravats, all combined in a single arrangement for the neck.

The present fancy for Persian patterns finds special expression in neckwear. The example shown on the right of the cut is a commendable model that may be worn with almost any species of bodice, though it is most effective with black. There is a stock with two deep pointed turnover tabs of Persian patterned silk edged with plain, bright green silk, stitched finely. The stock proper, as the parted tabs in the middle of the front reveal, is of the green silk laid in flattest, narrowest folds. The cravat of the Persian silk has a cross fold in the plain green.

Costumes For Debutantes.

A wilderness of transparent stuffs is in vogue, especially for the young girls whom this season introduced into society. Miss Mary Crocker, who, as befits a multi-millionaire's daughter, is credited with wearing an evening dress but twice before discarding it, has appeared in a lovely gown of two sorts of lace over two petticoats, one of chiffon, the other of satin.

The upper part of the dress is of an exquisite creamy silk net draped at the corsage to give a clinging, jacket effect, and then falling in a graceful tunic. Upon this exquisite background leaves and flowers, some of cream guipure lace and others of black gauze, are appliqued, and these are flecked here and there with turquoises.

The lower part of the dress is made of a deep flounce of black lace over white silk, and the long, narrow train flowing out from the waist at the back is again of the net with cream and black applications.

The bodice is cut very low, as is now the mode, and is sleeveless, a large bow of black and turquoise blue velvet being placed on each shoulder.

fashion popular, even with novelty-loving women.

For Trimmings the Fact.

The enormous quantity and the expense of the furs that are worn this year is one of the most noticeable things in dress. It is rather surprising, in the face of its being, or having been so far, a very mild season, that the use of furs should have prevailed to such an extent. The fur coats have not made their appearance except on the two or three cold days; but no matter how warm the weather has been, no street gown with any pretensions to being smart but has been either trimmed with fur or worn with a fur wrap—a boa, a collar, or cape—not of the poor, cheap kind of fur, but of the most expensive description.

In the accompanying cut is shown a long cloak of light gray cloth,



LONG CLOAK TRIMMED WITH FUR.

trimmed with two bands of fur. Wide revers are edged with the fur, and the high collar is also trimmed with fur.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

AN HEIR TO MILLIONS.

Sales of Valuable Land in Randolph and Pocahontas Counties—Noted Forger Caught.

Fire swept away one of the landmarks of Clarion by destroying the drugstore of John C. Reid. The building was one of the first erected and John C. Reid, the owner, was the pioneer pharmacist of Clarion. He is expert in his profession, but has unique ideas of business, one being that he would never allow his store to be cleaned, and the accumulation of various articles had made a curiosity shop of the interior. There were drugs stored away in the shelves and under the counters which long since were taken off the list of the wholesale houses and have ceased to be manufactured. Drugs from which Mr. Reid filled prescriptions, the component parts of which are familiar only to himself and some few of the gray-haired medicals of Clarion county. The fire had also destroyed a valuable collection of daily newspapers and magazines. Mr. Reid has been an omnivorous reader in his long life, and early contracted the habit of keeping a file of all the publications to which he subscribed. Especially during the Civil war time was he careful to get complete files of the publications of the day and preserve them.

During the past week the following persons have been granted pensions: David Vipon, Parsons, \$10; Thomas K. Hill, Pittsburg, \$6; William Lane, Three Springs, \$8; Michael Gans, Milton, \$6; John L. L. Rodgers, Hartstown, \$8; George T. Hudson, Green Castle, \$10; Henry Getz (dead), Beaver Springs, \$12; Henry Behe (dead), Lilly, \$8; Benjamin Bodle, Filmore, \$8; John Sheriff, Pittsburg, \$10; Jonathan D. Rhodes, Johnstown, \$17; George F. Hudson, Green Castle, \$10; Emma O. Smith, Sayles, \$17; John Keating, Berling, \$17; Mary Ann Fry, Harrisburg, \$8; Rachel J. Campbell, Butler, \$8; Sarah A. Lingenfelter, Gallitzin, \$12; Sylvia D. George (mother), Townville, \$12; James McGlinchey, McKees Rocks, \$8; Thomas E. Metzger, Erie, \$8; Samuel Barnett, Bakers Summit, \$6; Christian Swartz, Bellefonte, \$12; William Gillsett, Kreamer, \$17; Isaac Orris, Walsall, \$10; George W. Dunning, Pittsburg, \$12; Emeline Armstrong, Mercer, \$8; Hannah H. Kirkpatrick, Rural Valley, \$8; Charles S. Roxborough, Pittsburg, \$24; F. Cleveland, Lawrenceville, \$6; William Austin, Allegheny, \$8; William Mundorff, Airydale, \$14; Martin Gleason, Wellsboro, \$8; Isaac Wheeler, Jackson Center, \$12; Elizabeth E. Blanchard, Meadville, \$12; Eben Pennell, father, Bedford, \$12; Gertrude Stauffer, Steelton, \$8; minor of John Johnson, Milton, \$10; John L. Smith, Johnstown, \$12; William H. Fields, Altoona, \$8; Joseph Hackett, dead, Plymouth, \$10; Garland Bricehead, Canonsburg, \$12; Robert H. Smith, McKeesport, \$10; William Peck, Altoona, \$10; David G. Lindsay, Oakland Crossroads, \$17; Adam J. Thompson, Tricket, \$24; Samuel H. Smith, Manheim, \$5; Maria E. Smith, Johnstown, \$8; Susan V. Weir, Adamsville, \$12; Susannah Hackett, Plymouth, \$3; minor of Isaac Edwards, Bloomsburg, \$10; Emma L. Lebkicher, Wingate, \$8; Edward Blair, Pittsburg, \$6; Isaac M. Gandy, Bradford, \$6; Edward M. Morrison, Mahoning City, \$6; James Morris, Buell, \$8; John L. Jones, Butler, \$8; Jacob Hazlett, Shickshinny, \$10; Charles Bartolet, Shamokin, \$8; Alexander S. Snowden, Hollidaysburg, \$10; Charles L. Hoyt, Elkland, \$10; Michael Eichelberger, Hopewell, \$12; Freeman N. Wilcox, New Albany, \$24; Susan J. Jacobs, Austin, \$8.

A little colored boy, aged 6 years, named Fitzgald, of Allegheny township, is reported to be in a precarious condition from treatment inflicted by the children of a neighbor at Hyde Park, with whom he had been temporarily left by his father. The boy says that these girls threw him down stairs and then pushed him against a red-hot stove. They heated a poker red-hot and burned his feet and legs, so that he is unable to walk. The boy managed to crawl to a neighbor woman's, where he now is. Anti-Cruelty Agent Cline has been notified, and will bring the children to justice.

Two large dynamite powder factories form additions to the list of Blair county industries. The Crescent Powder Company, financed by Pittsburg and New Castle capitalists, has begun business at Williamsburgh. The many large limestone quarries in this region will afford a home market for the output. Wolfe Bros., of Altoona, will establish a powder manufacturing plant at Fosteria.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the National Delaine Morino Sheep Breeders' association was held at Canonsburg, Tuesday. The financial report showed that the year had been a prosperous one. The balance in the treasury is \$161.21. The old officers were re-elected.

A factional struggle in the First Presbyterian church at Greensburg became so warm that the ballot box, after an election had been held for trustees, was abstracted from the sanctuary. The ballot box was securely locked in a room in the church building, and to make matters doubly sure the janitor of the church was placed on guard. When the church people returned later in the evening the ballot box was gone. The janitor could not account for it.

Drink Habit Abating.

A "Committee of Fifty" headed by Seth Low, President of Columbia University, and William E. Dodge, Treasurer, some time ago ended a full and thorough investigation of the liquor problem. The subcommittee investigating the economic aspects of this problem contemplates the assertion that the consumption of intoxicating drinks is largely on the increase. Statistics prove that this is partially true, as the last fifty years have witnessed a steady substitution of malt for distilled liquors. The consumption of the latter has fallen from 2.52 gallons to 1, while the consumption of the former has risen from 1.13 to 1.16; an increase in the number of gallons, but an actual and important decrease in the alcohol consumed. In the last two years, moreover, the amount of malt liquors used has been nearly stationary, while the use of distilled liquors has fallen off nearly one-third. This shows progress toward moderation, whatever the cause.

About 400 sets of Christmas cards—that is to say, over a thousand new designs—are placed upon the market every year by one firm.