THE AFGHAN SQUABBLE.

Sir Peter Lumsden's Report of the Penjdeh Incident Received.

WHAT TURKEY IS DOING.

Gladstone to Ask a Vote of Credit and Make a Statement.

A last (Friday) night's London cable says: The Russian Imperial Council in session at St. Petersburg to-day raised its first public signal of financial distress by deciding to tax coupons on Government bonds. The levy is not to include Russian bonds held abroad, nor railway bonds guaranteed by the Russian Government. Their exemption, however, will not avert the disastrous effect which this extraordinary measure is bound to have on Russian credit. The argument is that if Russia is compelled to partially repudiate her interest obligations at home, to prepare for war, she may have to extend the repudiation abroad when war actually comes. A general and heavy decline in Russian securities is expected to-morrow morning on the London Stock Exchange and the continental bourses.

In the House of Commons this afternoon Mr. Gladstone stated the Government had to-day received from Sir Peter Lumsden a reply to their request for an independent report upon the Penjdeh incident. In this it is stated that General Komaroff was aware at as early a date as 28th of March of the understanding agreed upon on March 17th between Russia and England. According to the terms of this understanding, England was to deter the Afghans, and the Czar was to deter his troops from advancing beyond the position they then respectively occupied, until some subsequent agreement about the demarcation of the Afghan frontier could be reached between the two Governments. The battle on the Kushk was fought, therefore, several days after General Komaroff had been made aware of the agreement not to advance. Captain Yates, the British officer who witnessed the battle, was assured by the Russian officer who commanded in the fight that he knew nothing of the understanding of the 17th of March. General Lumsden's present report appears to warrant the inference that whatever Gen. Komaroff knew officially about the St. Petersburg arrangement with London, he kept it to himself. Mr. Gladstone being asked if the Government had protested against the recent occupation of Penjdeh by General Komaroff and his establishment of Russian administration there, answered that the Government had not yet made either occurrence the subject of official communication with Russia. The Government was awaiting further information concerning these events.

It is stated that Turkey has positively assured Russia that in the event of war no English ironclad will be allowed to enter the Black Sea. Turkey also declared she could make the Dardanelles impassable in a few hours if necessary. The papers at St. Petersburg are chuckling over the fact that two hundred English steamers are at present in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov. The Turks are rapidly building forts at Batoum.

A TRIPLE CREMATION

Of Three Children in a Burning Building.

A last (Friday) night's Quebec despatch says: Shortly before 11 o'clock this morning a fire broke out in a large wooden building near the foot of Davidson's Hill at Levis. The whole structure was quickly wrapped in flames and completely destroyed. The structure, which was let in tenements, was a double one of three stories, built of deals and faced with brick. The first flat was unoccupied. On the second flat resided Onezime Gravel, laborer, and Iser Gay; on the third flat Timothy Lizotte, Louis Conture and Edward Lafleur. The fire seems to have originated in the apartments of Gravel, and two of his children and a daughter of Lizotte were burned to death. Mrs. Gravel states that she left her two children and the girl Lizotte at play in the kitchen. She was absent about ten minutes, and was horrified on returning to find the premises on fire. She made a rush for her rooms, but was unable to enter, as the place was completely enveloped in flames. In her efforts to get in the poor woman was herself badly burned. The victims are Joseph Gravel, 5½ years old; Adelard Gravel, aged 3 years, and a 5-year-old daughter of Timothy Lizotte.

GHOSTLY EXPLOSIONS.

New York Apartment House Tenants Panic-Stricken by a Series of Mysterious Explosions.

A New York despatch says: The mysterious explosions which a month ago startled the tenants of the Stoney apartment house in the upper part of the city recurred with increased force on Saturday night, and have since continued daily. Yesterday morning a terrific explosion occurred, displacing furniture, cracking the walls, and creating a semi-panic among the occupants. The tenants say the explosions are similar to the discharge of cannon, and seem to come from the centre of the building. The owners of the property have instituted all manner of investigations to ascertain the cause of the disturbance without success. Many theories are advanced, and the explosions have been variously attributed to dynamite, settling of the building, blasting in the vicinity, and steam in the pipes. But none of the causes mentioned when thoroughly examined were sufficient to convince the most credulous that they produced the reports. Experts are completely nonplussed, and the tenants are seeking other quarters.

Here is an advertisement, taken from a recent issue of the London *Court Journal*, which suggests that in the matter of shrewd advertising the English can easily hold their own: "To ladies going into mourning through the unfortunate war in the Soudan, having their wardrobes to dispose of, Mrs. —— would feel honored by their patronage. Furniture, carriages, jewellery and plate bought. Money sent the same day for country parcels. New street, Dorset square, N. W. No post cards."

A HUSBAND'S MURDEROUS ATTACK

On his Eloped Wife and her Paramour—His Attempt at Suicide.

A last Saturday night's Newburg, N.Y., despatch says: A week ago James Barclay, aged 23, eloped with the wife of Joseph Myers, of Montgomery, this county. The parties came here and commenced housekeeping. This evening Barclay, on returning home, found Myers stabbing the woman with a large jack-knife. She was covered with blood from a gash in her neck six inches long and another under the left ear. Seeing Barclay, Myers turned and attacked him, inflicting two terrible gashes, one in the throat and the other under the ear. Supposing he had finished his deadly work, Myers drew the knife across his own throat, cutting it from ear to ear, and then threw the knife out of the window. When the neighbors arrived a terrible sight presented itself, the three bodies being covered with blood. Barclay, who is the least injured of the three, was taken to a neighboring drug store, where his wounds were dressed. Physicians were called to attend Myers and his wife, whose injuries will likely prove fatal.

TOO MUCH BASEBALL.

A Mother Who Neglects Her Family to Attend Baseball Matches.

A Pittsburg, Pa., telegram says: The commissioner appointed to take testimony in the divorce proceedings of Thomas Carlin against his wife, Mary Carlin, has completed the taking of testimony in the case and will file his report in a few days. The affidavit of the libellant charges, among other things, desertion and neglect of household duties. The parties live in Alleghany. The defendant did not appear at the hearings and the principal witness examined was the husband. He alleged that his wife, during the spring and summer of last year, was a frequent visitor at the baseball games played by the Alleghany Club. When she was not able to get in she used to go to the residence of a family near by the park and anxiously wait to hear the result of the innings.

"I remonstrated with her," he said, "and told her that she was allowing her children to go to the dogs by her neglect. Supper was never ready when I got home in the evening. The children were dirty and crying for their 'mamma.' She would often bet small sums on the Alleghenies winning, and as that finally became a rarity it also became rather expensive. When I complained about her conduct she told me to hire help, as she had no time to attend to her household duties. It finally became so bad that I had to leave her, and the last I heard of her she was talking about joining a female baseball club."

Both parties to the suit are young, and the wife is rather prepossessing. The husband is at present taking care of their children. Other witnesses examined corroborated the testimony given above as to the wife's fondness for baseball. One witness said:

"I have seen a good many men wild over baseball, but Mrs. Carlin beats them all. She had a sort of mania for it."

THE COMING CATTLE QUEEN.

A Dashing Celebrity with her Large Flock in the Far West.

A Chicago despatch says: Among the drovers who alighted from a cattle train caboose at the stockyards to-night was a tall, majestic-looking woman of about 30 years. Though not a beauty, she would have commanded attention in a metropolitan thoroughfare.

"Men are all frauds," she said, with a laugh. "I wouldn't marry the best one of them that ever lived. I prefer to be their superior by remaining in such circumstances that I can always buy their labor and esteem." Miss Mary Meagher was the name to which the lady answered. In Washington Territory she is known as the coming cattle queen, the companion celebrity to Miss Iliff, of Denver. In the train she had ten car-loads of cattle which had endured the experiment of a 2,500-mile ride. She values the stock at $10,000, and says if the trip is financially successful she will return as soon as practicable from Walla Walla with 400 additional head. She employs a number of cowboys and is the owner of a large herd cattle, to the raising of which she gives her personal attention.

WHAT GRAHAM HAS DONE.

The General Quietly Doing a Great Work in the Soudan.

A London cable says; Attention has been so completely diverted from the Soudan, designedly so, some say, by the immensity of the question pending between Russia and England, that the good work being unostentatiously performed by Gen. Graham is almost lost sight of. He went to Suakim without a flourish of trumpets, and he is pursuing his work without the beat of drums. His work has been onerous rather than great and useful more than ostentatious, and the result is that he has received but little notice. As a matter of fact, he has cleared the district surrounding Suakim of rebels. He has not defeated Osman Digna in pitched battle, because that worthy has taken to the hills, but he has reduced many hostile tribes to submission, and has opened the way for the construction of the Suakim-Berber railway far beyond the present requirements of the contractors. With the exception of the one mishap, for which Gen. McNeill is entirely responsible, Gen. Graham's work has been uniformly good, and greatly enhances his reputation as a commander.

The title of the Turkish Ambassador to England is His Excellency Hassan Fehmi Pasha, Envoy Extraordinary from His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of all the Turks, the Commander of the Faithful, the Shadow of God upon Earth and the Caliph of Islam. He is between 40 and 50 years of age, well-built, of medium size, and his singularly expressive oval face is dark without being swarthy. His fine eyes are full of intelligence; his high forehead is furrowed by care and anxiety; his chestnut brown beard is carefully trimmed and a Turkish fez covers his slightly silvered hair.

The ocean steamships will not strive this summer to make the "fastest trip on record" for economical reasons.

The number of mules attached to the hearse denotes the respectability of a funeral at Rio Janeiro.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Sir John Macdonald, rising to move the second reading of the Franchise Bill, said he would not occupy the time of the House long for this Bill had been more or less before the House for years. The present state of the franchise was anomalous and out of accord with that of Great Britain. The British North America Act contemplated that the franchise would be in the hands of the Provinces. At first that was a necessity, for the Parliament had to be elected before the franchise could be fixed, but it was clear that a Parliament which was elected ought to control the franchise. There could be no more opportune time than the present to introduce this Bill. Franchise Bills had recently been passed in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and other Provinces, showing that it was possible that half of a constituency of a member of this House might be swept away or a constituency might be enlarged, and thus representation in this House changed for purely local reasons. Every person of common-sense must admit that there should be as little difference in the franchise in the different Provinces as possible, otherwise they would be sowing seeds of discontent. If in contiguous Provinces one class was represented and another not represented there would be discontent. If there was to be a change in the franchise of the electors of the representatives of the Dominion it should be by the Dominion Parliament. He would not go over all the changes in the Bill, for it would be a waste of time. He thought that this Bill would enlarge the franchise in Ontario and Quebec, probably also in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but not in Prince Edward Island. There was one thing in the Bill which he strongly favored. That was the enfranchisement of women. He was, and always had been, in favor of that franchise, believing that it must come, just as women were rising from the position of being mere slaves of their husbands. Mr. Gladstone in England favored that franchise, but would not imperil his Franchise Bill by including it. He (Sir John) would follow Mr. Gladstone's example. He had included woman suffrage in the Bill, but only in order that there might be a discussion and a vote upon it. He moved the second reading of the Bill.

Sir Richard Cartwright said he regretted very much that the First Minister had decided to bring down a Bill of such importance under the present circumstances. No Bill could be more vitally important to the country. It would be heard with surprise in Canada, and not only here but elsewhere, that a man in the exalted position of the First Minister should speak on such a Bill as this just eight and one-half minutes by the clock. He would have thought that the hon. Minister would have entered upon a discussion of the far-reaching consequences of such a Bill as this. This Bill involved new principles which had never been at all fully discussed either in the House or the press or on the platform. The First Minister must know that the steps taken in this direction were practically impossible to be retraced. This Bill has been introduced, he believed, seven times. The hon. Minister has cried, "Wolf, wolf," so often that the people had ceased to expect that this Bill would be pressed forward. Under what circumstances was the Bill introduced? The House met on the 29th of January. This was the 16th of April, 78 days from the opening. He had known sessions when in that time all the business of the country had been thoroughly discussed. Yet what had been accomplished this session? The Budget Speech was delayed five weeks for no reason that appeared in the speech itself or in the changes in the tariff proposed when it was made. The discussion was allowed to go from week to week for four weeks without any apparent effort or desire on the part of the Government to bring it to a close. It was only when the Northwest difficulties had assumed alarming proportions that the discussion was, more by what might be called accident than by the desire of the country, brought to a close. Late as this measure was pressed forward, it was at a time when public attention was almost wholly directed to affairs in the Northwest, when it was impossible that this vitally important measure could be fairly considered by the people. He could not remember any session when public business was so much in arrears. At such a late period of the session the estimates had hardly been entered upon, yet at no time had there been a greater reason why these should be carefully scanned. The Finance Minister himself admitted that he only saved himself from a deficit this year by taking the $500,000 received on capital account from the sale of public lands. Next year, according to the Financial Minister's own figures, they might expect a deficit of $250,000, and since that statement was made the House had been called upon to vote $700,000 to defray the expenses of suppressing the rebellion in the Northwest. So that it was probable there would be very considerable deficits. The debate on the tariff was not yet concluded, there being still several of the most important changes to be discussed. There was a proposition before the House to double the Mounted Police Force, involving an increased annual expenditure of about half a million of dollars. They had every assurance that Parliament would be called upon to deal with a new proposition for further assistance to the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Secretary of State had introduced a Chinese Bill, and the First Minister had stated that the Insolvency Bill was to be taken up. It was quite evident that this Bill could not be pressed through this session with the discussion which would be in accordance with the dignity of the House and the importance of the subject. They were bound to ask what could be the excuse for this action of the First Minister. It looked like very little short of a conspiracy to shut off discussion. (Oh, oh.) The practical result was the same as if it was a conspiracy. This course was rapidly making Parliament a farce. It was clear that a one-man's power was becoming recognized, and that a practical despotism was being established. The First Minister himself admitted that this Bill affected the relations of all the Provinces of the Dominion, and yet for such an important matter he gave an opportunity for discussion only in the eleventh week of the session. This showed one of the great disadvantages of the Opposition being numerically so weak. The First Minister attempted to press through measures such as he had never attempted to pass when the Opposition was more numerous, but, though only one-third of the House, the Opposition represented almost one-half of the people according to votes cast, and it was their duty to see that all measures brought down were fairly discussed. To press this measure forward now was to make certain that other business would be neglected, for the business now before the House, apart from this Bill, could not be fairly discussed in less than seven weeks. There was no reason in the Bill for this haste. Canada had existed for almost twenty years without such a Bill, and the First Minister did not allege that there was a strong demand in the country for the Bill now. He moved, in amendment to the motion for the second reading of the Bill, "That in the opinion of this House it is not possible at this late stage of the session, having regard to the present condition of the public business, to discuss the said Bill satisfactorily."

Sir H. Langevin excused the brevity of the Premier's explanation by saying that the measure had been before the House for some time. The Premier had explained the Bill on its first reading. The measure was intended to give a franchise for this House independent of Local Legislatures, and free it from the changes which Local Legislatures might choose to make from time to time They remembered what occurred when one of the smaller provinces passed a law which deprived a number of voters known to be Conservatives of the franchise. The Ontario Legislature had just passed an Act making great alterations in the franchise. Why should this House allow itself to be dictated to by Local Legislatures? The question whether we should have a franchise for this House was the principle which was involved in the second reading of this Bill. This measure had been announced in the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Blake took up first the statement made by Mr. Chapleau that the Bill could easily be disposed of by a discussion of six or eight hours. He pointed out that the measure was a complicated one, and could not very well be anything else, as it had to deal with all the Provinces. It would not do to refuse to consider the circumstances of those which Mr. Chapleau had contemptuously referred to as the smaller Provinces. Mr. Blake proceeded to give a history of the Franchise Bill up to the present time. Sir John had proposed it through the Speech from the Throne in the first session of Parliament after Confederation. A uniform franchise was then announced as part of his policy, but although he had been in power continuously since (except five years) he had not been able to carry out his plans. If the measure was, as the Secretary of State had said, one of ease and simplicity to consider, the question was why he had not sooner carried it through Parliament. It was, however, found to be a very difficult question. The experience of the United States also pointed out that there was no necessity for any change from the present method. There the various States provided the franchise which elected representatives to the Federal House of Representatives. It had been conceded by the Secretary of State that the people of Quebec would be opposed to one principle in the Bill. This was only proof that each Province could best determine the question for itself. It had been stated by the Premier that the Bill would enlarge the franchise in Ontario. This was untrue. The statement might have applied some time ago, but it did not apply now. The fact was that the Bill before the House was a great limitation of the franchise in Ontario. An Act was passed last session which largely extended the franchise in Ontario. Both parties were a unit as to the extension, and Sir John's deputy leader went farther and proposed manhood suffrage. Mr. Blake then compared the provisions of the Ontario Act and the Bill before the House, and proved that the latter would deprive a large number of electors of the right to vote. Mr. Blake next referred to the difficulties and confusion that would arise from a double franchise, and which would add a large burden of expense to the treasury. Parliament also had nothing to do with property, as that was a question of civil rights. The simplest franchise which this Parliament could deal with would be one based on citizenship, residence and intelligence. Figures were given showing the number of the various classes mentioned in the Bill and the manner in which they would be affected. Referring to the clause regarding female franchise, it was pointed out that marriage was treated as a disability. If the franchise was given to the spinsters it could not justly be refused to married women. A question which would arise out of the enfranchisement of women would be that of representation. Were the enfranchisement of women carried to its logical conclusion, the future might see a woman occupying the Speaker's chair. The question was a momentous one, and should only be decided after the fullest consideration, and not be dismissed as it had been by the Premier with only one minute's discussion.

AN IDIOT'S FREAK

Causes the Death by Burning of Four People.

A last (Sunday) night's Reading, Pa., despatch says: A frame building on the Alsace truck farm, several miles from the city, owned by Augustus L. Wentzel, was burned this morning. Harry Wentzel, aged 11; Charles Wentzel, aged 13, sons of the proprietor, Charles and Fred Helzinger, brothers, aged 16 and 26, were burned to death. The building was a short distance from Wentzel's residence and was occupied by the male hired help. The cause of the fire was a mystery until Danny Knoll, a half-witted vagabond, 40 years of age, who has been an object of charity in the neighborhood, related that he came to the place last night, made a bed for himself and fell asleep. About 3 o'clock this morning he awoke, put some coal on the fire, and then walked over to a neighbor's house, a mile and a half distant. When he reached there he saw the fire. The coroner's jury this afternoon placed the responsibility for the fire on Knoll, and he was jailed. Knoll was considered harmless, and it is unknown whether the fire was the result of carelessness or design.

REVIVING A LOST ART.

What Women Can do With a Pair of Scissors and Tissue Paper.

In the good old days "before the war," when the stout matron of to-day was a demure and dainty maiden, she was taught, along with water color painting, jack-in-the-box curtsies and the manipulation of balloon skirts, how to make paper flowers. Then the art fell into disuse, and as the girls progressed from their teens to their forties they put aside their scissors and tissue paper, and in their place succeeded hair work, wax flowers, embroidery and crazy quilts. Now the flowers are blooming again. Old ladies who have not forgotten how and girls who are just learning and wish to be in the fashion spend their spare moments in snipping bright colored tissues and crimping them into roses that are as gorgeous as painted lilies.

So universal has the craze become that even high art and Kensington work are affected by it. Since it became "the thing" it has proved a bonanza for the stationery men, who have boomed the price of tissue paper from a penny to a nickel a sheet. Recently three schools have been established in the city to furnish instruction in the art. The products are used to fill baskets for set prices, trim gas shades and ornament a room in various ways. As prevalent a way as any is to utilize them as buttonhole bouquets and trimming to ball dresses. A paper daisy in the lapel of a dress coat is very lasting, realistic and popular.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Merchant Fleets of the World.

It may be said that one-half of the world's tonnage engaged in carrying the world's commerce on the high seas sails under the flag of Great Britain. The sea-going merchant fleets of all nationalities aggregate about 56,000 vessels, and about 23,000,000 tons. The tremendous preponderance of England in the carrying trade of the world and the order in which competing nations follow her long lead are shown in this table of approximate figures:

	Vessels.	Tons.
Great Britain	22,500	11,200,000
United States	6,600	2,700,000
Norway	4,200	1,500,000
Germany	3,002	1,400,000
France	2,900	1,100,000
Italy	3,200	1,000,000
Russia	2300	600,000

England's tonnage on the ocean highways is between four and five times that of the United States. It is seven times that of Norway, eight times that of Germany, ten times that of France, eleven times that of Italy, and eighteen times that of Russia. If the comparison is confined to steamships, which now carry so large and so important a part of the commerce of the world, the supremacy of Great Britain is exhibited in a still more striking way:

	Steam Vessels.	Tons.
All nations	7,764	9,232,000
Great Britain	4,649	5,919,000
France	458	667,000
United States	422	601,000
Germany	420	476,000
Spain	282	305,000
Italy	135	166,000
Holland	127	155,000
Russia	194	149,000

England's steam tonnage is almost ten times as great as that of her nearest rival, France. It is ten times the steam tonnage of the United States, and forty times Russia's. The British flag covers nearly two-thirds of all the ocean steamers afloat.

Latest Scottish News.

Abergeldie estate, on which is situated the castle used as a Highland residence by the Prince of Wales, is to be greatly improved.

At a meeting of combined Liberal Associations on the 3rd inst. Mr. A. Craig-Sellar, M.P., was adopted as the Liberal candidate for East Lothian.

It is reported that Sir James Fergusson, ex-Governor of Bombay, will contest the northwestern division of Edinburgh in the Conservative interest.

By the deed of settlement of the late Miss Duthie, of Ruthrieston, the public educational and charitable institutions of Aberdeen have the sum of £10,500 divided amongst them.

Four eminent Scottish sculptors have agreed to send in designs for the statue of Wallace which it is proposed to erect on the corbel for that purpose on the Wallace monument at Stirling.

Sir Thomas McIlraith, ex-Premier of Queensland, a native of Scotland, has intimated that he will give £1,000 towards any expedition from that colony to assist the British forces in Egypt.

A movement has been set on foot to have a memorial to General Gordon erected in Aberdeen by members of the family and clan of Gordon. The movement is appropriately headed by the Marquis of Huntly, the Duke of Richmond and the Earl of Aberdeen, and is almost certain of success.

Jerseys Owned by Women.

It is a noticeable feature of the advancement of the Jersey interest that many ladies become deeply interested in the welfare of their husband's herds; in fact, quite a number of herds are registered in the ownership of ladies. The subject affords a wider field of profit than the poultry business, and gratifies a spirit of legitimate speculation that is not unpleasant to the female mind where suitable opportunity occurs for its indulgence. The dairy, which is an almost inseparable companion to the breeding herd if any considerable number of cows are kept, is a feature of no little importance, and one that, to be successful, requires a peculiar care that is seldom disassociated from a greater degree of intelligence (one may almost say refinement) than is often found among hired help. Where it is conducted on a large scale it necessitates the employment of expert help: but many an owner of Jerseys in a small way has failed to get his butter to suit him until his wife became sufficiently interested to study the subject that was once her grandmother's pride and special accomplishment, and take the matter in hand.—*Hark Comstock, in Harper's Magazine for May.*

The ex-director of the conscription under the first empire computed the actual loss of men born within the old limits of France, and destroyed in the imperial wars from 1804 to 1815, at 1,700,000. This estimate does not include the wars of the Republic, or the loss of men not born in the kingdom of France, and goes far to explain how population in France has kept low.