THOSE STRAINED RELATIONS.

No Change in the Situation Between England and Russia.

REPORTED RUSSIAN ULTIMATUM.

Great Preparations in India and Russia for War.

A last night's London cable says:

The peace party have now enlisted a powerful female influence on their side. The fair pleader for peace is the Duchess of Edinburgh, who is the only sister of the Czar of Russia, and who is said to have written a most imploring letter to her Imperial brother, begging him to prevent a war with England. Her position is a most painful one, and the Duchess is all ready to start at an hour's notice for Coburg, of which her husband will some day be the ruler, as he is the Prince Royal of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha as well as a Prince of England. If the Duchess is compelled by a declaration of war to seek an asylum in Coburg, she will be accompanied by her son and three daughters, who range from ten to six years of age, but not by her husband, who is a rear-admiral in the British navy. The Duke appears to believe that war is inevitable.

The cable news correspondent at Bombay telegraphs that in that city war is considered a certainty. Large numbers of men, and immense stores of guns, ammunition and provisions are being collected with all possible haste. There is no abatement of the vigor with which troops and supplies are being pushed forward to Quetta on the Afghan frontier, and, indeed this movement has received a distinct impetus since it has been evident that Russia was determined upon seizing Herat. The patriotic feeling among the native princes is intense, and a combination of rich zemindars, or feudatory landholders under England, has offered to contribute 80 lacs of rupees (about $3,088,000), toward the expense of a defensive war against Russia.

A St. Petersburg correspondent states the Imperial Council yesterday decided to favor the maintenance of Russia's demand in respect to the delimitation of the frontier. Russia consents to the appointment of a special mixed commission to examine into the reports of General Komaroff and General Lumsden and decide which is correct. M. de Giers says if England refuses to accept these proposals Baron de Staal will be withdrawn and negotiations will be broken off.

The Cabinet sat for three hours and a half yesterday. It is understood the Afghan situation has not improved.

The situation appears to be very serious. It looks as if Russia desires war and as if England will be compelled to accept.

The Government has ordered the immediate construction of forty gunboats on a new plan of naval architecture. The Government has chartered the steamer Energia.

The British transports at Woolwich have been ordered to load in future, until otherwise instructed, all their war stores for India.

British merchants, fearing the transfer of the ocean carrying trade to the United States or other Power in the event of war have organized a movement to influence the Cabinet to undertake the issuing of war risks on shipping at rates that would prevent this.

The *Economist* says it looks as if the remainder of Europe would remain quiet during the struggle if war occurs, and that the war would end in two years through the exhaustion of Russia and the fear of her statesmen that it might end in a state of anarchy throughout the Russian empire.

The Duke of Connaught has been suddenly recalled to Simla. The recall is due to the receipt of a telegram from England, indicating that the political outlook is extremely critical.

Lord Dufferin has held a prolonged military council at Simla. It is believed it was resolved to concentrate the Indian force at Quetta immediately.

The revival by the Moscow *Gazette* of the question of the cession of that portion of Russian Poland bounded on the east by the River Vistula and including the capital of Warsaw to Germany is looked upon as a strong bid for German support. In some quarters it is thought that this has been agreed upon secretly with Prince Bismarck as the price of active German aid in suppressing a possible Polish revolt or against England herself.

Russia is hurriedly fortifying Kieff. It is stated there are 30,000 Russian troops there now.

It is believed that England has received a plain ultimatum from Russia that she will not accept mediation if offered.

THE STILLWELL TRAGEDY.

Not Enough Jurymen in St. Thomas to Try the Case.

A last (Thursday) night's St. Thomas despatch says: At the Assizes this morning Ransom Forbes and Sarah Jane Stillwell were placed in the dock, Forbes being charged with murdering Louis Napoleon Stillwell on the first of January last. Sarah Jane Stillwell is charged with being the instigator, and procuring Forbes to commit the murder. Mrs. Stillwell was dressed in black. She looked thin and pale, and was nervous for a short time, but soon assumed a composed appearance, and pleaded not guilty in a distinct tone. Forbes seemed cool and indifferent, and pleaded not guilty in a firm voice.

Mr. Colin MacDougall, counsel for Forbes, requested that the prisoners be tried separately. Mr. Idington, on behalf of the Crown, refused the request. The selecting of the jury then began. Only five jurymen were accepted and sworn when the clerk announced that the panel was run out, there having been but forty-eight jurymen empannelled. The different counsel for the prisoners challenged the balance. This brought the case to an abrupt termination, which was a great disappointment to the large number of witnesses summoned on the case. His Lordship said there would have to be a new jury empannelled, and adjourned the case until May 18th. The Crown was represented by Mr. J. Idington, of Stratford, and C. W. Coulter, of Cayuga; E. Meredith and Chas. F. Clarke for Mrs. Stillwell and Colin MacDougall for Forbes.

"THUMBS UP."

Whiskey Men Get the Better of the Police.

A Kingston despatch says a letter has been received here from Michipicoten, Lake Superior, which says that whiskey, which is not allowed to be sold there, sells for $20 a gallon, and continues: "At this season of the year a great many men come to the lake shore to go east by the first boat. These men have lots of money. Last night the police got wind of the arrival of a dog train with whiskey from the Sault. A couple of Indians brought the information. Chief of Police J. O'Connell and Policeman D. McLellan started out to intercept the peddlers. The police had a dog train of four dogs and a toboggan. Through carelessness on their part the police allowed themselves to be surprised, and the first warning they had was two of Colt's six-shooters staring them in the face, and the usual order given in this part of the country, "thumbs up," uttered by the whiskey men. O'Connell was completely taken by surprise, but although owning up that they "had the drop on them," he would not hold up his hands. McLellan made a move, when he got a shot in the top of his head that completely stunned him. The two whiskey men then pounced on O'Connell, beating him on the head with their revolvers. The whiskey men took the weapons from the police and also took the dogs and toboggan, leaving the police nearly dead. This happened five miles from here, and the police have had an awful time getting home. The place where the fight happened and the snow for yards around was covered with blood. O'Connell's head is badly cut in three places, and McLellan has the furrow of a bullet for three inches on the crown of his head. This afternoon one of the gang was arrested with the whiskey, dogs, toboggans, etc., in his possession. The other is yet at large, but the police are after him.

A FATAL MISTAKE.

Railway Magnates Killed and Injured in a Collision.

A last (Monday) night's St. Louis, Mo., despatch says: A special train bearing a number of Pennsylvania & Missouri Pacific Railroad officials left here this afternoon via the Iron Mountain Road on a tour of inspection of the Texas Pacific Railroad. When 20 miles from St. Louis the train collided with an accommodation train, and a serious wreck resulted. The trains met on a sharp curve under a cliff on the river bank. Both engines were wrecked. The engineers and firemen went into the wreck with the engines. Wm. Stevenson, engineer of the special, received a concussion of the spine and was injured internally. Fireman Louis Christ had both legs torn off and his chest crushed in, and was killed. The engineer and fireman of the accommodation were only slightly injured. Philip Toland, nephew of General Wistar, of the Texas & Pacific, and connected with the locomotive department of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was on the engine of the special and was frightfully mangled, one leg being torn off and his chest crushed in, killing him instantly. The other members of the party were in the rear car. The most serious injuries were to ex-Governor Brown, General Solicitor of the Missouri Pacific, who had his shoulder dislocated, and Gen. Wistar, slightly hurt about the head. The special train had the right of way, but owing to a misunderstanding of Train-Despatcher Burns, the accommodation was not ordered to wait till the special train had passed. An inquest was held and Burns was declared responsible for the deaths.

A BELFAST WELCOME

To the Prince and Princess of Wales.

A last (Thursday) night's Dublin cable says: Notwithstanding the early hour at which the Royal visitors started for the North this morning there was a large turnout all along the route from the Vice-Regal lodge in Phœnix Park to Amiens street, the terminus of the Dublin, Drogheda & Belfast Railway, and the crowd was very enthusiastic. The engine was handsomely decorated, and the special train made good time. At all the stations, where the train stopped long enough to permit it, addresses were presented and replies made, and everywhere, even from the cottages along the line, there were signs of welcome, in the shape of banners and arches and mottoes. Arrived in Belfast the Royal couple were met by the Mayor, the members of the corporation and an immense crowd of citizens. The route from the station to Ulster Hall was packed with people, the houses were gay with flags, the windows were crowded with ladies and the streets were spanned by arches. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed. The cheering was incessant, and the Prince and Princess had, perhaps, never a more hearty and spontaneous welcome anywhere than was accorded them in the metropolis of the North. Arrived at Ulster Hall, the various public bodies of the city presented addresses and the Prince made feeling replies. Throughout the whole reception there was not a single discordant element. The Prince and Princess embarked in the evening on the royal yacht Osborne for Carrickfergus Roads, where the yacht will be moored for the night.

Old Von Moltke.

Count von Moltke is staying at San Remo, on a visit to Dr. Goltz, a well-known German physician. His health has greatly improved since his arrival from Berlin, and he is to remain on the Riviera till the beginning of May. The Count looks very thin and pale; but must be strong for his age, (84), as he takes long walks every day in the olive groves and up the hills, usually accompanied by his nephew, Capt. Moltke.—*London World.*

In the graduating class of forty homœopathic pupils of the New York medical college a Brahmin, of Bombay, India, received the first honorable mention for excellence in his studies.

A well-made and painted grape arbor is a thing of beauty and a joy forever near a farmhouse. It is a source of profit, as the fruit, if of good early varieties, will be worth many times the cost of vines and of making the arbor. The painting of the trellis is to keep the wood from decaying, as during the growing season the foliage of the vines effectually hides it from view.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The debate on the Franchise Bill was resumed by Mr. Fairbank.

Mr. Dupont (Conservative), speaking in French, said this Bill ought never to have been proposed at all. For eighteen years no inconvenience had resulted from the fact that the Provinces had controlled the franchise. We lived under a federal system and not a legislative union, and therefore he thought the Provinces should be represented in the Federal Parliament in the way the Provinces thought best. Female Suffrage would be a new thing in the Province of Quebec, a reversion of all their ideas. The mission of woman was quite different, her sphere being the home. It would be as impossible to protect women from insult in election contests as to prevent them being killed if they went to the field of battle. It would be a difficult matter to make the lists in a large county. The new law would mean a great cost to the country. Such legislation was wholly without precedent. Such a Bill was not necessary to win success for the Conservative party. The Conservative party had been strong enough in the past and was still strong enough to win victories without this law, so that it was not necessary to the success of the Conservative party. If, on the other hand, he voted for the Bill, instead of helping him it would tend to defeat him. It was better for a general to lose a battle than to gain a battle by using a weapon prohibited by the law of nations. If we deprived our adversaries of their liberty, had we a right to expect that on another occasion they would not extend the same treatment to us? The Government claimed that they would appoint judges as revising officers, but judges would have their political feelings revived by giving them political duties to perform. At present those who prepared the lists were subject to punishment if they did wrong, but the officers created by this Bill could do wrong, covering it up with impunity. If the Conservative party took this advantage of their adversaries they could not but expect retaliation, and a system of retaliation of this kind would lead to anarchy. He warned the Premier that the passage of this Bill would break the ranks of the Conservative party and be disastrous not only to that party but to the country.

Mr. Gigault (Conservative) said there were no petitions or popular demands for this legislation, and no abuses were shown to have resulted from the present system. If there was any necessity for the proposed law, why was it that it had been postponed for eighteen years? It had been said that no petitions had been presented against this Bill. Why? Because it was not necessary until to-day to present such petitions; because every time such a Bill had been proposed it had been withdrawn; because it was opposed by supporters of the Government. Two years ago he (Mr. Gigault) had opposed that measure as he opposed it to-day. Why not leave every Province to deal with its own franchise? The member for Beauce said that this was a Conservative measure. He (Mr. Gigault) declared that it was not. At the same time the member for Beauce declared he was opposed to manhood suffrage, but, as pointed out by the editor of the Montreal *Herald*, the arguments in favor of enfranchising farmers' and mechanics' sons also applied with equal force to manhood suffrage. He regretted to see that there were Conservatives in favor of manhood suffrage, and if this Bill was passed they had no guarantee that those Conservatives from Ontario and other Provinces who believed in manhood suffrage would not try to force that principle upon Quebec. Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Conservatives in Ontario, had moved a resolution in the Ontario Legislature in favor of manhood suffrage. In order to have this Bill the Ontario Conservatives might not press the principle of manhood suffrage, but once the Bill was passed what guarantee had they that next session the Ontario Conservatives would not move in favor of that principle and force it upon Quebec, notwithstanding the opposition of Quebec's representatives? If this law were passed a revising barrister would have as arbitrary a power to rule the country over which he was appointed as the Czar of Russia. Under the English law the system of appeal was such that appeals were difficult to make, and only aristocrats and wealthy persons could afford to make them. They should look also to the enormous expenditure which this Bill would involve. It would create a burden upon the public treasury, and would cause great expense to the electors themselves. He did not forget that in 1841, when Lord Sydenham ruled the country, the polling booths were placed far from the centres of population, so that many were disfranchised. In the United States they saw a few years ago the Government officials elect a man as President against whom a large majority of the people's votes had been cast. He closed with these words: "I took the determination to part from my political friends on this question. A member must have very grave reasons to do so, but I think those grave reasons exist, and it was impossible for me to support by my vote a measure which I consider anti-Conservative, a measure which would place in the hands of the Government officials arbitrary powers which may bring some of the worst consequences which can be conceived." (Cheers.)

The debate was continued by Messrs. Cockburn, Kirk, King and Carey.

On motion of Mr. Chapleau, the Civil Service Bill was referred back to committee for the purpose of making some amendments. The amendments were made, and the committee rose and reported. Mr. Chapleau moved the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. Mitchell moved a three months' hoist. He said he did so because our Civil Service system was based upon the system in force in England, where the circumstances were entirely different. It would have a tendency to create and perpetuate in Canada a privileged and hereditary class. This Bill was another step in the same direction, and he intended to test the opinion of the House upon it.

Mr. Blake referred to the system of granting increases of $50 a year to all regular Civil servants. He quoted from the Budget Speech the Finance Minister's statement that the statutory increases had been $120,000 a year. This was equal to a capital charge of over $3,000,000. If this was necessary to the efficiency of the service it must be borne, but it was a fair question whether it was necessary. In 1878 the salaries were $545,000; contingencies, $158,000; total, $703,000. There was a steady increase from that time to 1884, when the salaries were $763 000; contingencies, $203 000, or a total of $966,000. Was this necessary, and when was it to stop? He thought it not necessary, and that now was a good time to take steps towards stopping it. If a man showed special ability, and was promoted to higher work, he should have an increased salary, but under the present law this enormous increase of expense was, as the Finance Minister said, "inevitable." He moved a resolution which, after citing the facts he had quoted, declared in favor of referring the Bill back to the Committee of the whole House to modify those parts relating to increases so as to do away as far as possible with the evil he had pointed out.

The Bill was read a third time on a division.

Mr. Caron said he regretted that, in consequence of the illness of the Minister of Finance, the duty devolved upon him of moving the House into Committee of Supply to consider the vote of $700,000 to meet the expenses of the Northwest troubles. He was certain that, under the present circumstances, he could count upon the support of the hon. gentlemen opposite in passing the vote and obtaining their concurrence immediately. This was necessary, because the amount placed at the disposal of the Militia Department was exhausted. The amount was made up as follows: Estimated amount required for a period of two months for pay, subsistence, etc., of the troops, say 6 000 at $1.50 per day, $360,000; transport, $300,000; supplies and equipment, $40,000; total, $700,000.

Mr. Blake said they all deeply regretted the circumstances which prevented the Minister of Finance from being present. The Minister had not unduly counted upon the readiness of the Opposition to facilitate in every way the taking of this vote. He had thought that a proposal of this kind would be laid on the table and was somewhat surprised that it was not done before. It was unfortunate that the wise rules with reference to money votes should be departed from, but, on the statement of the Minister that supplies were absolutely necessary, he would not interpose any obstacle in the way of its obtaining concurrence. He supposed this was strictly a vote of credit for which an account in detail would be presented afterwards, as it would be impossible for the Minister to defend or for the House to criticize it at present.

Mr. Caron—Certainly.

Mr. Langevin asked whether it was proposed to pay the volunteers who were in the Northwest a sufficient sum to support their families. There were at present families in Quebec who were supported by public charity. He hardly thought it was fair to expect the public to do this, and it was also humiliating to the families themselves to be maintained in this way.

Mr. Caron said the matter was controlled by law. The statute pointed out the amount to be given to the troops. Beyond that he could not go. The Government had provided that, by the consent of men, their pay might be handed over to their families.

Mr. Langelier asked whether it was proposed by the Government to make a temporary alteration in the law in order to pay the volunteers something for their families.

Mr. Caron said such a payment could not be made out of the vote now asked for.

Mr. Gault said the citizens of Montreal had provided a fund for the maintenance of the families of their absent volunteers.

Mr. Caron replying to Mr. Blake said it was the intention of the Government to form a Bill on the resolution.

The resolution passed through committee and concurred in by the unanimous consent of the House.

Mr. Blake asked whether it was true that General Middleton's instructions are to the effect reported by the Toronto *Mail's* correspondent in the issue of the 20th inst., and as to the authority of the statement made to that correspondent by General Middleton himself, as follows: "That the General's only instructions were to quell the rebellion and to hang the murderers and the responsible head men, and these orders he will carry out."

Mr. Caron—The General's instructions are to vindicate the law, and put down armed resistance to it. The other portion of the question seems so ridiculous that I do not consider it necessary to notice it.

Mr. Blake asked whether the Government had received a petition from the residents of Calgary, N.W.T., on the subject of Judicial Reform in the Territories, and a petition from the settlers in the district of Alberta on various subjects; whether the said petitions will be laid before the House; whether any action has been taken or is contemplated on any of the subjects referred to in the petitions?

Sir John Macdonald—The Government have received not only one, but several petitions from the residents of Calgary and the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains on the subject of judicial alterations in the Territories. There have been many petitions received from settlers in the district of Alberta on various subjects. The petitions, if moved for, will be laid before the House. The questions to which they relate are under the consideration of the Government.

On motion of Sir John Macdonald, the Bill to provide for the inspection of artificial fertilizers was removed to the Government orders.

Mr. Pope moved the third reading of the Bill respecting contagious and infectious diseases among cattle.

Mr. Fisher asked if the amendment promised by Mr. Pope had been made exempting horses from the operation of the Act.

Mr. Pope said he intended to leave the decision in that matter to the House.

Mr. Mulock pointed out that the compensation for slaughtered animals was wholly inadequate. There were in the country many thoroughbred animals the value of which was far above the limit fixed by the Bill. He thought that while the animal was merely suspected of disease it should be segregated until the matter was decided one way or the other. He moved an amendment to the effect that where the value of the animal is $200 and upwards, it shall not be slaughtered, but segregated until the nature of the disease is accurately determined.

Mr. Pope said that if the amendment were carried it would render the Act unworkable. Cases of contagious disease among thoroughbred animals were extremely rare, a fact which was no doubt largely due to the vigorous quarantine of imported thoroughbreds.

Mr. Trow strongly supported the amendment as calculated to cause the least interference possible with the enterprising stock breeders and dealers of Canada.

Mr. Casey suggested that the Minister of Agriculture should leave this an open question as he had in the case of the former amendment. He would like the attention of the Minister for a moment.

Mr. Pope—Don't bother me.

Mr. Casey contended that the amendment was a reasonable one, and the Minister would be doing himself a favor by refraining from making this a Government question.

Mr. Fisher strongly supported the resolution, pointing out that if no outbreak of disease arose among the thoroughbred cattle it would cause no expense. If there was an outbreak it would be checked at the minimum of expense to the Government and to cattle owners.

The House divided on the resolution, which was lost on the following division: Yeas, 54; nays, 90.

Mr. Catudal moved an amendment to the effect that where an animal was killed and found not to be diseased the owner should be compensated to the full value of the animal. He said that in his county many sheep had been killed, by the order of the inspector, which were not diseased at all and the farmers got hardly any compensation for the loss. He thought that this was a reasonable amendment and one that would commend itself to the good sense of the House.

Mr. Scriver strongly supported the resolution.

The House divided on the amendment, which was lost on a straight party vote except that Mr. Pinsonneault and Mr. Dupont voted for the amendment; yeas, 58, nays 89.

A PIG'S PREDICAMENT.

Together With the Adventures of a Commercial Traveller.

George B. Macredie, of Kingston, a commercial traveller representing a Toronto house, says the *Whig*, is at his home and quite ill with a lame back and rheumatic limb. He was through the Belleville flood, and has a lively recollection of its effects. On Thursday he was in the sample room in the Queen's Hotel preparing his goods for inspection. The hotel is but a short distance from the river. Looking towards the door, he noticed that water trickled in upon the floor. He walked over, lifted the latch, opened the door and was struck by the incoming volume of water. In a moment it was three feet deep in the sample room. Macredie seized three fine raccoon coats and jumped upon one of his sample cases in order to throw them beyond the reach of the water. The trunk turned bottom side up, and the commercial man went down into the water head first. His back struck another sample chest, injuring him severely. Completely saturated Mr. Macredie rose, waded through the water now waist deep and walked around so that another door could be opened and the water let out. When he got back to his room he found a pig upon the table. It had its head through one of the traveller's best plug hats, while a mantle lay across its back. Help was secured and the animal, loudly squealing, drawn out of the sample room by the hind legs. A large portion of Macredie's goods was destroyed, a case of hats completely. Icebergs twelve feet square are lying four blocks from the river bank."

TRICKS IN ALL TRADES.

Crafty Mongolians Who Counterfeit European and American Trade-Marks.

The imitative quality of the Chinese extends even to counterfeiting European and American labels and trade-marks, says a letter writer in Hong Kong. The knowledge of certain small articles of foreign make has caused a desire for them in China, and an effort to imitate them. So we find at the small shops Chinese-made clocks and watches, and at the stands of the street vendor, combs, tooth-brushes, shoe-horns, pocket cutlery and razors, which are vastly inferior to the foreign goods, but as the price is as low as the quality is poor, no one can reasonably complain. The knives and razors often bear very distinctly the brands of Sheffield firms, whose names are household words wherever the English language is spoken. These knives are sold for five or six cents each, while the razors, Sheffield brand and all, can be bought for fifteen cents. The last implements are roughly made, and to the thin-skinned man a torture to look at, but with the other articles enumerated they show to what an extent Chinese manufactures can be carried, and at what rates, defying competition, they can be furnished to the consumers. The reasons why the Chinese can make and sell so cheaply as to put competition entirely out of the question are the contracted quarters in which they can do business and the cheapness of their food and clothing. Their economical, or more justly, their sordid habits have been so often described in the general discussion of the Chinese question in America as to render all detail unnecessary.—*New York Mail and Express.*

POOR "BAGPIPES."

Why DeWitt Charles Clinton Fletcher Piper Wishes to Change His Name.

DeWitt Charles Clinton Fletcher Piper petitioned the City Council for leave to change his name to Charles Clinton Fletcher. He says his name is too long for convenience in correspondence and for transacting business. He has been known as Charles Clinton Fletcher for some time, and prefers that name. The name Piper he dislikes, as it subjects him to ridicule and humiliation, persons often calling him "Bagpipes" and "Pipestem," and reciting in his hearing such old-time sayings as "Tom, Tom, the piper's son, stole a pig and away he run," and "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers." He was born in Dereham township, Oxford county, Ontario, and his parents' names are Isaac and Sarah Piper. His mother's maiden name was Bull.

Judge Clement has given leave to the petitioner to assume the name of Charles Clinton Fletcher after May 10th.—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

There are 1,500,000 acres of swamps in North Carolina.