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## THE POWERS' INDEMNITY.

### China Would Not Object to Pay Two Hundred Millions.

A despatch from Peking says.—There is considerable talk about the amount of the indemnity to be demanded by the allies, and about China's ability to pay it. While it is impossible at this time to state accurately the amount of damages, \$65,000,000 is generally mentioned as the basis.

The national indemnities are what will swell the bill. These bills are for the movement of troops. Germany's is the biggest of all. It can be stated that her bill will be from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000. England, according to a man who ought to know, will come next with a claim of about \$12,000,000. France has not spent \$5,000,000 and Italy only appropriated 30,000,000 francs.

Russia's action in withdrawing from the concert of the powers and reaching an agreement with China to sign a treaty at St. Petersburg indicates that that Government need hardly be included in the matter of indemnities.

## HELPING THE BRITISH.

### Employing Prisoners.

The Cape Dutch Disapprove of the Boer Aid.

A despatch from Cape Town says:—The mounted infantry from Cape Town occupied Pickanier's kloof without opposition before the Boer invaders could reach that place. The expedition has arrived at Clan William. No Boers were seen in either of these districts.

The kloofs are guarded by blue-jackets and marines. Convoys of soldiers are taking their places in guarding the Boer prisoners on shipboard.

On the Piquetberg road, the Boers occupying Colvinia and Sutherland consist of two columns, one advancing in the direction of Clan William, and the other towards Worcester, or in this direction. All passes in front of Worcester have been occupied by sea-landed troops, which are gathering at strategic points. The tranquil Dutch openly disapprove of the raid, many even sending horses to the British camp.

## STARVING CHINESE.

### Instead of Relief.

A despatch from St. Petersburg reports that according to news received from Peking, the Japanese Legation the famine, disease and general misery in certain parts of the Chinese Province of Pechili are growing worse instead of better. The Russian and American officers have been most generous, but are still supplying a considerable quantity of rice and other foodstuffs to the sufferers, but their charity is insufficient.

Thousands of ragged peasants pour into Peking, demanding food and clothing. They have been rendered practically destitute by the severity of the winter. The hospitals are overcrowded, and even private dwellings are full of sick paupers. The Chinese authorities are heartless, and the English and German forces are indifferent to the suffering they see about them, although it is reported that large sums forwarded by both the English and German courts for charitable purposes have been stolen by the native authorities, to whom they were entrusted for distribution.

Eighty thousand pounds of rice and a quantity of clothes have been sent post haste from Tokio to aid in the relief work.

## COMMANDERING HORSES.

### There Will be No More Convoys for Boers to Loot.

A despatch from Cape Town says:—Horses and whistles are being commandeered for the use of the Colonial Defence Corps in the districts in which martial law has been proclaimed.

It is understood that Gen. Kitchener has decided to evacuate all the towns outside the lines of communication. Thus there will be no convoys for the Boers to capture and loot, his idea being to prevent the burghers from replenishing their supplies at the expense of the British taxpayers. All districts which cannot be adequately protected and controlled will be demoted, while the lines of communication will be more efficiently guarded.

## MOUNTED TROOPS SAIL.

### Five Hundred British Reinforcements Leave Gibraltar.

A despatch from Gibraltar, says:—Five hundred mounted British infantry left here for the Cape on Thursday. They arrived from Malta on board the troopship "Herald," and were reshipped by the "Herald" to the Cape.

## MARKETS OF THE WORLD.

### Prices of Cattle, Cheese, Grain, & in the Leading Markets.

**BREADSTUFFS, ETC.**

Toronto, Jan. 15.—Wheat—Western markets were quiet and easy today, and locally the market was practically at a standstill. Quotations are as follows:—Red winter, 65 1-2c; and white, 65 1-2c, middle freights; spring wheat, 66c; Manitoba No. 1 hard, old, g.l., 57c; No. 2 at 52c; No. 1 hard, North Bay, 56c.

Millfeed—Scarce and very firm. Tons lots, at the mill door, sell as follows:—Bran, \$18; and shorts, at \$15, west.

Corn—Tons easy. No. 1 American, yellow, 45c; No. 3 yellow, 43c; No. 2 yellow, 44c.

Peas—Steady. No. 2 sold, middle freights, at 61 1-2c; and east at 62c.

Barley—Quiet. No. 2 east, 41c; and middle freights, 40c; No. 2 extra, 39 1-2c, east; and 38 1-2c, middle freights.

Rye—Steady. New rye, 47c, west, and 48c, east.

Black-wheat—Steady. Car lots, west, are quoted at 49 1-2c; and east at 50 1-2c.

Oats—The active demand continues. Sales are made readily. No. 1 white, east, 28c; No. 2 white, north and west, 27c.

Flour—Steady. Dealers ask \$2.70 for straight rollers, in buyers' bags, middle freights, and export agents bid \$2.60.

Buffalo, Jan. 15.—Flour—Dull but firm. Wheat—Spring, spot prices unchanged; No. 1 hard, old, small lots, 88 3-8c; No. 1 Northern, new, 84 1-8c; do, old, c.i.f., 83 3-8c; winter, increased offerings; bids lower; No. 2 red, 78c; mixed, 77c; No. 1 white, 76c asked, on track. Corn—Weak; No. 2 yellow, 42c; No. 3 do, 41 3-4c; No. 2 corn, 41 1-2c; No. 3 do, 41 1-4c, through billed. Oats—Quiet and easier; No. 2 white, 30 1-4c; No. 3 do, 30c; No. 2 mixed, 28c; No. 3 do, 27 1-4c, through billed. Barley—Strong; fancy is quoted up to 67c for Western; nothing offered below 62c. Rye—No. 2 on track, 57 1-2c; No. 1, 58c asked in store.

## SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

### Neway Items About Ourselves and Our Neighbors—Something of Interest From Every Quarter of the Globe.

**CANADA.**

Locomotive building may become an industry in Nova Scotia.

Montreal's art schools, lotteries and policy shops have been closed under the new legislation.

The loss by fire in Hamilton in the past year amounted to \$34,000, the lowest in many years.

Over 1,800 criminal cases were disposed of in Winnipeg during the year, an increase of over 500, compared with 1899.

The receipts at the Halifax customs house during the year were \$1,361,460, an increase of \$153,448 over the previous year.

It is understood that the Dominion Government has decided to make an exhibit at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo.

Samples of milk from places in the Dominion, where no system of municipal inspection exists, are being analyzed at Ottawa.

Over 5,800 people visited the Patent Office at Ottawa last year; 18,000 the fisheries exhibits, and 36,000 the Geological Survey building.

Montreal sugar refiners anticipating the changes in the United States, have reduced their prices ten cents a hundred on all grades, except the cheapest yellows.

Mrs. William Thornton of West Oxford was killed at Woodstock. She was driving up a hill, when a trolley car ran into the buggy, throwing her out under the load of wood.

Notice is given by Messrs. Watson, Smoke & Smith of Toronto that application will be made to Parliament for authority to construct a railway from Toronto to Georgian Bay.

It is estimated that the postal revenue at the Winnipeg post-office for the past year will exceed by \$10,000 the revenue of the preceding twelve months, when the total was \$108,320.25.

Mrs. W. Munroe and her three daughters were poisoned by eating canned pineapples at Winnipeg. They were found by neighbors senseless on the floor. They will probably recover.

Mr. John Kennedy, Montreal harbor engineer, estimates that to run the steamer Stanley for the purpose of keeping the ice open at Cape Rouge, and as far above as possible, would cost \$1,900 per month.

Gordon McConnall and John McNeil, two Pekisko ranchers, visited friends last week and partook of liquor too freely. On the way home they were thrown from their rig and both died from the effects of the cold on the plains near Calgary.

Two people in the vicinity of Hamilton have lived to see three centuries. Mr. Adam Mieser of Troy, who was born on February 20th, 1798, and Mrs. Goodman, who is believed to have been born four years earlier than this. Both of these aged people have their faculties yet and are comparatively smart.

## RESCUED 470 PASSENGERS.

### Five Trains Snowbound for Several Days in Russia.

A despatch from Odessa says:—The police, firemen, and physicians have rescued 470 passengers from five trains which have been snowbound for several days after enduring the greatest sufferings. A force of 4,000 workmen is clearing the tracks to Odessa. Four days' mail has been stalled up.

## A STAFF COLLEGE IN INDIA.

### Great Britain Has About Decided to Found One There to Meet Local Needs.

The Boer war impressed the British Army authorities with the necessity for largely increasing the number of students at the home staff college at Camberley, since the value of the instruction there given was proved in the field beyond all cavil. Although in some conspicuous cases men have come to the front as military leaders without the staff college training, they would still have been the better for it, and are themselves willing to confess it. Moreover, throughout the campaign commanding officers have expressed their preference for staff college men.

The increase of the home college could not advantageously meet all the demands, consequently, the Acting Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Arthur Palmer, and many corps and division commanders, have recommended the creation of another staff college, locating it in India. Much expense is involved in the present method of sending officers from India to England to take the course at Camberley and then return to their regiments; moreover, the conditions of warfare in India are different in many respects from those in Europe, and the special training given in India is not so effectively given in England.

It has been decided to establish the new college in India, and to make its curriculum correspond to the conditions existing.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

### The Duke of York Has Been Gazetted a Rear Admiral.

It is reported that Sir George Newnes has purchased Madame Patti's estate in Wales.

The Queen sent New Year's gifts of meat and coal to over 900 poor persons in Windsor.

Sir John Tenniel, the noted caricaturist, is to retire from the staff of Punch after 49 years' service.

It is officially announced that Queen Victoria has decided to visit Cimiez, in the south of France, in March or April.

The foreign banking house of Scholze, Raschmann & Co., has been adjudicated a bankrupt at London, with liabilities at \$120,000.

The late Lord William Beresford is said to have accumulated \$600,000, mainly on the turf, which he bequeathed to his son, for whom he had also insured his life for \$250,000.

Overtaken by a storm almost with in sight of the home of his father, after having crossed the Atlantic to visit him, P. Collins died of exposure on the mountain side at Fermoy, Ireland. He had \$426 in his pocket.

## UNITED STATES.

### Caledonia, Wis., Has Nine Trees of Smallpox.

Philip D. Armour died at Chicago on Sunday.

The Grand Trunk Railway is arranging to build more wharves and sheds at Portland.

A Boer representative at New York suggests that the United States refuse to sell horses to Great Britain.

Influenza is raging in the Congo Free State.

Masked and mounted raiders killed 2,000 sheep for revenge on the range of the Tooney Creek, Montana, at day-break on Monday.

Noah Raby, born 1772, Caleb Baldwin, 1799, and Mrs. Sarah Allen, 1800, New Jersey State residents, are in their third century.

## EFFECTS OF WAR.

### All the Furniture, Food and Clothing Were Burned.

London, Jan. 8.—When the loyal British were forced to evacuate Jagersfontein in the Orange Free State Christmas eve, because of the activity of the Boers, all the furniture, food, and clothing that could not be taken away safely was burned. In the retiring party were 3,000 civilians and 800 soldiers. One thousand horses and 2,500 sheep were taken along.

The party marched for three days, suffering many hardships that cost some lives. One mother who started with her three children lost two of them on the way.

## RODE INTO AN AMBUSH.

### The Imperial Light Horse Suffered Very Severely.

A despatch from Pretoria, says:—In the recent fight between Gen. Buller's command and a Boer force near Zandfontein, the Imperial Light Horse suffered severely. Having learned nothing by previous experiences, they advanced in close formation up a hill that had previously been scouted by the Boers, who reported that they found no sign of the burghers. The Boers, however, were lying in the grass. They allowed the Hussars to pass without molestation, reserving their fire until the Imperial Light Horse were within 50 yards of them. When the British found they had ridden into another ambush, they dismounted and kept up a hot fire. Seeing that his men were losing ground, the colonel ordered them to be reformed in extended order, and drove the Boers from their positions, and secured a good part of their command. The colonel rode at the front of the brigade, and stimulated them by his brave bravery. The leading squadron sustained several casualties.

Seven hundred Boers at Lindley ambushed two hundred of the men who formed Lord Roberts' body guard when here, and killed Lieut. Lang. There were numerous other casualties from both commands, reported to be 1,500 strong, is east of the Springs.

## SPENT TAN BARK FOR FUEL.

### Boers of This Material are Substitute for Coal in Normandy.

From Le Houmeil, a town in the north-west of France, comes a letter to the London Daily Mail from La Compagnie, Rouennaise de Linoleum, agents for John Barry Ostellere & Co., of Cork, Ireland, saying that they have bought 67,500 francs, 51s. 6d., per ton for Welsh house coal and 65 francs, 52s., for Newcastle house coal.

Many parts of Normandy, the water adds, "spent bark" or "tan" is used by peasants as fuel. They get the tan for little or nothing, and then by means of a primitive sort of press they make it into cakes, which very much resemble peat in appearance. It is then dried in shelves erected on the walls of the house and garden, and protected from the rains by little sloping roofs.

These tan cakes make excellent fuel, and in Caudebec, a little place between Rouen and Havre, it is much used. It seems that thousands of tons of tan are thrown away annually, which at small cost, might be converted into excellent fuel.

## THE NEW GRANDMOTHER.

### With the evolution of the new woman, comes the new grandmother.

The grandmother of the past, sweet, patient, unselfish as she was, allowed herself to be relegated to a quiet corner, and the chimney-corner before she reached 50. She early developed wrinkles, gray hair and faded cheeks, and was brain-starved and heart-hungry, no doubt, because she was looked upon as hopelessly out of date.

The grandmother of to-day shrinks with the joy of living. The crudeness of youth and the experiments and mistakes of early middle-age past, she experiences to the utmost the fullness and richness of life. She knows herself as never before. She has grasped life's meaning; she has learned by mistakes, and she is enriched by experience. She has her clubs, her lectures, muscades and travel. She knows the value of a sound physique, and takes lessons in physical culture. She has some one absorbing interest outside of home, to keep from narrowing, which is the fault of the severely domestic woman. She would shudder at the thought of allowing herself to degenerate into a mass of ponderous fat or to become stoop-shouldered. She has her daily bath or rub-down, her masseur, manicure and massage.

She is far more helpful and companionable to her family than if she allowed herself to be effaced and crowded out of life's pleasures, as did her prototype of a few decades back, who oft sat alone with the monotony of the old-time accompaniment of her solitary thoughts.

## LONG-LIVED ANIMALS.

### Elephant and whale, but it is now thought that they may be capable of attaining the age of 400 years.

It is recorded that when Alexander the Great invaded the dominions of Porus, one of the Rajahs of Upper India, he sent a huge elephant from the conquered Prince, named him Ajax, dedicated him to the sun, and let him go with the inscription, "Alexander, the son of Jupiter, hath dedicated Ajax to the sun." The story goes on to say, "The elephant lived for 350 years, and the inscription still intact. The average age for an elephant is, however, 100 years. The age of whales is ascertained by the size and number of layers of the baleen, which increase yearly, and a period of 300 or 400 years has been indicated thus. In the Seychelles Islands, the tortoises are habitually kept, and are handed down from father to son as legacies. Many of these are known to be more than 200 years old. In Ceylon there is now living in the Government Gardens a tortoise said to be 500 years old; while another historic tortoise was kept as a pet of Archbishop Laud, who commended it to the care of a friend, and it eventually died in London in the reign of Queen Anne.

## THE ART-BOA.

### Why, Madge, where are all the tassels on your new chenille bonnet? Oh, I stepped on some of them, and some of 'em peddled 'em out.

Cook—How'm I goin' to make mince pie when we haven't any mince-meat in the house? Mrs. Peedem—Put some sugar in that cold hash.

The French army refused to send representatives to the review of British troops in honor of the Queen and the Australian Federation.

The reports of an outbreak of the plague at Vladivostok are confirmed. There have been nineteen cases, of which fifteen have been fatal.