THE S. S. LESS

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
APRIL 20.

Text of the Lesson, Acts x. 34-44.
Golden Text, Acts x. 43.

34, 35. Of a truth I perceive God is no respecter of persons.

As in Gen. i and ii and Rev. xxi and xxii so throughout this whole Bible the story is that of God working out His eternal purpose (Eph. iii, 11) notwithstanding the opposition of the devil and of sinful men controlled by the devil. The special story of the Acts is that of the beginning of the gathering out from the gentiles a people for His name (xv, 14), and the work began in the home of Cornelius under Peter as recorded in our lesson. Although the Lord had commanded before His ascension that the gospel be preached to every creature and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts xvi, 15; Acts i, 8), the preaching had up to this time been to the Jews only (xi, 19), and Peter had to receive a special vision to teach him that God was no respecter of persons.

36-38. Preaching peace by Jesus Christ.

These glad tidings were for Israel first (Luke xxiv, 47; Acts i, 8), but in order that Israel might reach out to the gentiles, which they were slow to do, God made the sinless one to be sin for us that we might in Him be made righteous before God (II. Cor. v, 21), and apart from Him there is no righteousness, no salvation, however devout or prayerful a man may be. Even Nicodemus had man may be. Even Nicodemus had order to enter the kingdom of God, and Peter had to bring to Cornelius the message by which he and his house might be saved (xi, 14), for there is no salvation apart from the reception of Christ and faith in His atoning blood (Acts iv, 12; Lev. xvii, 11).

39. We are witnesses.

A witness does not need to get up his little speech or make up anything. He simply tells truthfully what he knows, and the redeemed of the Lord are continually on the witness stand proclaiming something concerning Jesus Christ. If all the redeemed were true witnesses, what a glorious testimony would ever be going forth concerning Him who is altogether lovely!

40-42. He commanded us to preach unto the people and to testify that it is He which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

In all their preaching these witnesses fail not to declare that although the Jews killed Jesus God raised Him from the dead and showed Him openly to chosen witnesses, and now Peter declares, as Paul afterward does (xvii, 31), that He is the God appointed Judge of all mankind.

43. To Him give all the prophets witness.

On the way to Emmaus as He talked with those two that resurrection day He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself and taught that all things concerning Him in the law, the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled (Luke xxiv, 27, 44). The Spirit of Christ was in the prophets, and the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (I Pet. i, 10, 11; Rev. xix, 10), and the unified testimony of all in whom the Spirit speaks is that the first great essential is the forgiveness of sins, and this can be had only in Christ by His precious blood.

44. While Peter yet spake these words the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

The message was not Peter's message, but the Lord's own message through Peter, and Cornelius so recognized it, for he had said to Peter, "We are all here present before God to hear all things that are commanded thee of God" (verse 33). As the word was spoken the Spirit wrought, their opened hearts received Him of whom Peter in the power of the Spirit spake, and the Spirit Himself came in power upon them at the same time.

45, 46. They heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

It was as at Pentecost (chapter ii, 4), except that there was no waiting for the Spirit having come as our Lord promised there is no longer any need to wait, but where the heart is open and the Lord truly received there may be also the filling of the Spirit. While there is no need to wait any definite time to be filled with the Spirit, there may be a need to wait because of the unreadiness of the believer to receive. There came with Peter six Jewish brethren from Joppa (Acts xi, 12), who, although believers, were astonished when they saw the Holy Spirit given to these gentiles. It is to this day difficult for some believers to think that any people can be blessed outside of their so called churches, but they need to learn that God is no more a respecter of denominations than of persons.

47, 48. He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Here is something helpful for those who make baptism with water essential to the new birth, for behold in this company in Cornelius' house some saved and Spirit filled people who have not yet been baptized with water and are thus baptized after they have been saved and have received the gift of the Holy Ghost. On the other hand, we have in Acts xix, 1-6, some disciples who, having been baptized, had not heard anything about the Holy Spirit, so they were baptized again and at the hands of Paul received the gift of the Holy Ghost and spake with tongues and prophesied. I mention this to show that we must make essential to salvation only that which God makes essential—viz, receiving Christ (John i, 12; John v, 11, 12).

THE MARKETS

Prices of Grain, Cattle, etc in Trade Centres.

Toronto, April 15.—Wheat.—No. 1 Northern, 80c bid North Bay, and it offered at 80c Toronto and west. April delivery. No. 2 Northern offered at 77c, April delivery. Ontario No. 2 white offered at 72c east, and No. 2 goose at 67c on Pacific, and at 66c on Midland.

Barley—No. 3 offered at 49c middle freight on C.P.R.

Peas—No. 2 offered at 79c high freights, and No. 2 white eyes at 85c middle freight, without bids.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Dried Apples—The market is quiet, with prices nominal at 5½ to 5¾c. Evaporated 10 to 10½c.

Hops—Business quiet, with prices steady at 13c; yearlings, at 8c.

Honey—The market is dull at 9½ to 10c for strained; combs, $1.15 to $2.25 per dozen.

Maple Syrup—Supplies fair, and prices steady. Pure (new make), imperial gallons, 90c to $1; old, as to quality, 65c to 85c. Sugar 9 to 10c.

Beans—The market is quiet. Prices $1.10 to $1.30 per bush as to quality. Handpicked, $1.35 to $1.40.

Cranberries — Market unchanged, with stocks small. Cape Cod $9.50 to $10 per barrel.

Hay, baled—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. Timothy is quoted at $10.25 on track Toronto, for No. 1, and at $8.50 to $9 for No. 2.

Straw—The market is quiet. Car lots on track quoted at $5 to $5.75, the latter for No. 1.

Poultry—Receipts are small, and prices firm. We quote:—Fresh killed turkeys, 13 to 14c per lb; chickens, 75c to $1. Ducks, 75c to $1. Geese, 8 to 10c per lb.

Potatoes—Market unchanged, with offerings fair. Car lots quoted at 55 to 58c on track, and small lots out of store sell at 65 to 70c.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The market is steady with a fair demand for the best grades. We quote:—Finest 1-lb rolls, 20 to 21c; choice large rolls, 18c; medium and low grades, 12 to 14c; creamery prints, 22 to 24c, and solids, 21 to 22½c.

Eggs—The market is steady at 12c per dozen in case lots.

Cheese—The market is firm, with sales at 11½ to 12c; the latter for best makes.

HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Dressed hogs are firmer. Hog products in fair demand, and firm. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, 10c, in ton and case lots. Mess pork, $20.50; do short cut, $21.50 to $22. Smoked meats—Hams, 13c; breakfast bacon, 14c; rolls, 11c; backs, 14 to 14½c, and shoulders, 10½c. Lard—The market is unchanged, with good demand. We quote:—Tierces, 11 to 11¼c; tubs, 11¼c; pails, 11¾c; compound, 9 to 9¾c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, April 15.—Flour—Quiet but firm. Wheat—Spring steady; No. 1 Northern carloads, 77⅞c; winter firm; No. 2 red, 81c. Corn—Higher; No. 2 yellow, 64½c; No. 3 do., 64 to 64¼c; No. 2 corn, 63¾ to 64c; No. 3 do. 63½c. Oats—Firm; No. 2 white, 48½c; No. 3 do., 47½c; No. 2 mixed, 46½c; No. 3 do., 45½c. Barley—Scarce; no sales. Rye—No. 2 offered at 61½c through billed.

Toledo, April 15.—Wheat—Active and strong; cash, 79c; May, 79c; July, 77½c. Corn—Dull, easier; cash, 57c; May, 59⅝c; July, 59⅞c. Oats—Dull, steady; cash, 44c; May, 42½c; July, 35c. Cloverseed—Active, firm; cash, $4.93; April, $4.92½; October, $5.05; No. 2, $4.35 to $4.72½c; No. 2 timothy, $3; No. 2 alsike, $8 to $8.10.

Detroit, April 15.—Wheat closed—No. 1 white, cash, 80½c; No. 2 red, cash, April and May, 79½c; July, 74½c.

St. Louis, April 15.—Wheat closed—Cash, 78⅞c; May, 78⅞c; July, 71c.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Toronto, April 15.—The receipts at the Western cattle market to-day were 38 carloads, including 647 cattle, 500 hogs, 272 sheep and lambs, 50 calves, 50 spring lambs, and a few milch cows.

There was a light run, a brisk demand, everything sold early, and prices all round were steady and unchanged. This to all intents and purposes sums up the market.

Hogs to fetch the top price must be of prime quality, and scale not below 160 nor above 200 lbs.

Following is the range of quotations:—

Cattle.		
Shippers, per cwt.	$4.75	$6.00
Do., light	4.25	4.62½
Butcher, choice	5.00	5.50
Butcher, ord. to good	4.00	4.50
Butcher, inferior	3.50	3.75
Stockers, per cwt.	3.00	3.75
Sheep and Lambs.		
Choice ewes, per cwt.	3.50	4.00
Yearlings, per cwt.	4.50	5.80
Spring lambs, each	2.50	5.00
Bucks, per cwt.	2.50	3.00
Milkers and Calves.		
Cows, each	25.00	45.00
Calves, each	2.00	10.00
Hogs.		
Choice hogs, per cwt.	5.75	6.15
Light hogs, per cwt.	5.50	5.85
Heavy hogs, per cwt.	5.50	5.85
Sows, per cwt	3.50	4.00
Stags, per cwt.	0.00	2.00

LORD DUNDONALD.

He Will Succeed Major-General O'Grady Haly.

A London despatch says:—The appointment of Major-General the Earl of Dundonald as General Officer commanding the Canadian Militia, in succession to Major-General O'Grady Haly, whose term will soon expire, has been officially announced.

RHODES AT REST.

Consigned to Last Resting Place in the Hills.

A Buluwayo, Matabeleland, despatch says:—On Thursday, amid an immense throng of soldiers, civilians and natives, the body of Cecil Rhodes was committed to its rock tomb in the Matoppo Hills. The coffin was shrouded in a Union Jack and the wreath sent by Queen Alexandra was laid upon it as it was lowered into the grave.

The funeral party started from Fuller's Hotel early Thursday morning. The procession was five miles long as it wound through the hills and gorges. Every sort of conveyance was made use of; some were on foot, others were on horseback or on bicycles, while still others were in wagons and carriages. When the procession was a mile from the grave everybody dismounted and concluded the journey on foot.

Twelve oxen hauled the coffin to the almost inaccessible summit of the kopje, where the Chiefs Shombli, Faku, and Umgula and two thousand natives had assembled to witness the Christian burial rites, which they afterwards supplemented in their own fashion, by the sacrifice of 15 oxen to the shade of the great dead chief. Thousands of white persons congregated around the wind-swept hill. The grave was encircled by six boulders. The interment was extremely impressive. The Dead March re-echoed through the hills, and the natives stood like statues. Tears were in the eyes of many of the onlookers.

The Bishop of Mashonaland, who conducted the burial service, said:—"I consecrate this place forever; here he thought, here he lived, and died for the Empire."

When the coffin was lowered into the tomb chiselled in the solid rock, all those present sang the "Old Hundredth" and "Now the Labor-er's Task is O'er." The remainder of the burial service was chanted, and the band played the Dead March in Saul. The tomb was covered with wreaths.

PEACE IS AT HAND.

Boer Delegates Think Negotiations Will be Successful.

A despatch from the Hague says:—A report is current in official circles that terms of peace in South Africa will be signed in a few days. It is impossible to verify the report on any definite authority.

The Associated Press understands that the peace negotiations are progressing satisfactorily, so far as the Transvaalers are concerned, but the latest advices indicate that there is small probability of the Free Staters surrendering in a body. The negotiations thus far have been mainly explanations of British intentions. It has been made plain to the leaders that their surrender will not entail banishment, and this has a potent influence. The leading Transvaalers urge their allies to arrange peace terms. The inner circles of the War Office believe that if the present indications are fulfilled, and the Transvaalers agree to surrender, the backbone of Boer resistance will be broken, and that the Free Staters' opposition will soon be overcome.

DISORDERLY SCENES.

Members of Austrian Parliament Storm Platform.

A Vienna despatch says:—The Pan-German Parliamentary manners were again unpleasantly exhibited in the Reichsrath on Wednesday. The trouble arose over the educational question in Bohemia, over which the Czechs and Germans are at loggerheads. The Ministers being absent, the President of the Chamber became the victim of the Pan-German fury. Whistling and the slamming of desk lids drowned the sound of the President's bell when he attempted to restore order. Finally, a dozen Pan-Germans stormed the platform and coarsely abused the President. They seized the bell and hammered the table with it, and threatened the President with fists and sticks. They also pelted him with wads of paper. The President left the House, thereby suspending the sitting.

LYNCH'S SYMPATHY.

Blatherskite Colonel Sues His Tenants.

A London despatch says:—Col. Arthur Lynch, the Irishman who claims to have fought on the Boer side early in the war, and has since been elected Nationalist member of Parliament for Galway, brought a suit on Thursday before the Quarter Sessions at Kilrush against a number of tenants for arrears of rent. The tenants belong to the fisher class, and are all poor people. They asked the magistrate to allow them time to pay. He said he sympathized with them, but was unable to comply with their request. The affair has aroused great indignation against the colonel in Kilrush. He has never attempted to take his seat in the House of Commons.

KAISER HONORS OUR TARS

Order of the Red Eagle for Admiral Seymour.

A Berlin despatch says:—The Emperor has conferred upon Rear-Admiral Sir Edward H. Seymour, formerly naval commander of the first British expeditionary force in China, the Order of the Red Eagle, with sword of the first class, and upon Capt. Jellicoe, of the British navy, the same order of the second class. The Emperor thus shows that he was prompted to decorate these officers by reading the report of Capt. von Usedom, the senior German naval officer present on the operation for the relief of the Pekin Legations.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

NOTES OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE FEDERAL HOUSE.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Frank Oliver introduced a bill respecting the Hudson Bay & Northwest Railway Co.

Mr. Samuel Barker introduced a bill respecting the Calgary & Edmonton Railway Co.

Mr. Brock introduced a bill to incorporate the Penny Bank.

Mr. McCreary introduced a bill to incorporate the Manitoba & Keewatin Railway Co.

Mr. Hugh Guthrie introduced a bill to incorporate the Dominion Railway & Power Co.

Mr. Leighton McCarthy introduced a bill to incorporate the Montreal Subway Co.

Mr. Demers (St. John) introduced a bill respecting the Montreal & Southern Counties Railway Co.

Mr. Arch. Campbell introduced bills to incorporate the Toronto & Niagara Power Co. and the Nepigon Railway Co.

Mr. Maloin introduced a bill to incorporate the Lake Champlain & St. Lawrence Canal.

Mr. Talbot introduced a bill to incorporate the Gaspe & Western Railway Co.

MANITOBA SCHOOL LANDS.

Mr. Ross presented a petition from the Local Legislature of Manitoba in reference to the reduction of interest on school lands held in trust by the Dominion Government for the Province of Manitoba.

CANSO BRIDGE COMPANY.

The bill to incorporate the Strait of Canso Bridge Company was read a third time and passed, after inserting an amendment to make it quite clear that the tolls may be regulated from time to time by the Governor-in-Council.

SECOND READINGS.

To incorporate the Canadian Northern Telegraph Co.—Mr. Davis.

Respecting the Bay of Quinte Railway Co.—Mr. Hardy.

Respecting the Medicine Hat Railway and Coal Co.—Mr. Scott.

Respecting the Temagami Railway Co.—Mr. McCarthy.

Respecting the Calgary and Edmonton Co.—Mr. Barker.

Respecting the Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence Ship Canal Co.—Mr. Geoffrion.

ST. LAWRENCE CANAL.

Mr. Henderson was informed by Mr. Mulock that in 1896 the amount of money expended in paying the employes on the St. Lawrence Canal was $148,826, and the amount collected on the said canal, $120,256. In 1897 the wages were $137,543, and the collections $122,437. In 1898 these amounts were respectively $145,623 and $120,338. In 1899 they were $150,291 and $141,979. In 1901 the wages were $190,840, and the collections were $147,637.

SUPREME COURT.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that within the past five years the number of appeals taken before the Supreme Court of Canada was 494. Of these there were only 16 heard before the full bench of six judges.

GEORGIAN BAY CANAL.

At the Railway Committee of the Senate the Montreal, Ottawa, and Georgian Bay Canal Bill was reported. The company asked for an extension of time for eight years. Mr. Wisner, C.E., addressed the committee. He pointed out that there were 445 miles from the Georgian Bay to Montreal. About ten per cent. of this distance would require canaling. The remainder was open waterway. His estimate of the whole cost of construction to Montreal was $80,000,000. The change on the average level of the lakes would be about a foot. Mr. Gibson said that three feet more excavation would be required than was shown in the Government surveys on account of the rise and fall of the lakes. He thought that the canal should be 150 feet wide. The bottom of the prism is now put at 100 feet. Some vessels were 48 and 50 feet wide. The canal should be wide enough to let them pass easily. Mr. Wood (Hamilton) asked the probable duration of navigation. Mr. Wisner said 235 days, practically eight months of the year. The bill was reported without amendment.

TRANS-CONTINENTAL LINE.

The Railway Committee of the House of Commons had under consideration a bill which was practically the granting of a charter for a trans-continental line to the Canadian Northern. The company asks power to build a number of lines and branches which bring it from the St. Lawrence seaports to the Pacific coast. The Minister of Railways said that the Government looked with favor on a second trans-continental railway to the Pacific coast, and anything they could do or ask Parliament to aid in the promotion of that undertaking they propose to do. There were subsidy matters which required more critical consideration. He did not feel at present like putting any one company in unlimited possession of such a great extension of country as the Canadian Northern would cover with two parallel lines across the prairie. The charter which they are asking practically gave them two lines, and it would be time enough to give them the second when they made the first a success. The bill was discussed at length, and all the sections were passed except the one increasing the capital from $24,750,000 to $35,000,000.

THIRD READING.

The bill to incorporate the Nipissing and Ottawa Railway Co. was read a third time and passed.

RAILWAY COMMISSION.

Hon. A. G. Blair introduced the Government railway bill. Its chief features are the constitution of a railway commission and the regulation of the tolls. The Railway Committee of the Privy Council is abolished. The powers of the Railway Committee of the Privy Council are conferred on the Railway Commission and new powers are added. Membess of the commission will be three in number. They will be appointed for ten years, and are eligible for reappointment. Age and salary have been left blank. The Government will be guided by the opinion of the House. No member of the commission can be removed except on an address from both Houses. One member will be experienced in law, one in railway transportation, and the third will probably be chosen from the business community. The Board of Commissioners will determine all questions of rates, subject only to an appeal to the Governor-in-Council. They will have jurisdiction in the matter of rates over ordinary, commodity and competitive traffic. Much discretion is allowed the Commission. The Commission will have no control over the Government railways.

JAPAN EXPOSITION.

Mr. Lemieux was informed by Mr. Fisher that it was the intention of the Government to have Canada take part in the Japan Exposition in 1903.

KING'S BIRTHDAY.

Col. Hughes was informed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the Government has not reached a decision as to whether a bill should be introduced fixing the 24th of May as the day of official observance of the King's birthday.

POST OFFICE EMPLOYES.

Hon. Wm. Mulock Introduced his Pott Office bill. The bill applies to messengers, packers, letter carriers, porters and sorters. In their case the civil service examination has been done away with. Instead of a yearly salary a per diem allowance will be substituted. Instead of waiting for nine years to reach the maximum salary, half that time would be all that was necessary. A superintendent of city postoffices would be provided for in the bill. The first one to fill the position would be George Ross, assistant postmaster of Toronto.

MILITARY REFORM PLAN.

Minister of Militia Borden outlined in the House an important scheme of military reform. Increase of the militia to 100,000 men, the establishment of a rifle factory and the increase of staff and militia officers, with a higher standard of military education, are some of the projects which the Minister of Militia is bent on carrying out. As to the report of the Major-General, he agreed in the main with every suggestion it contained. Under the present law, the permanent force is limited to 1,000 men. The General proposed to increase it to 1500, and he himself thought it a wise proposal. He was afraid it would not be possible to get men away from their avocations for 21 days every year. But it might be practicable once in three years to give the men a longer period of drill than twelve days.

He was quite in accord with the Major-General's proposal to form a body of reserves. At this moment, he said, the suggestion is being carried out, and it would involve very little more expenditure for the extra men, sufficient of whom would be raised to increase the present force of 35,000 up to 100,000, and this would be done by bringing them into the rifle clubs, for which provision was made last session. Undoubtedly the day is near at hand; Dr. Borden said, when we should have at least one more arsenal, situated in a central part of Canada. But as to the present. He would say that in the course of the year the output of ammunition from the present arsenal at Quebec would be increased from two millions to six or seven million rounds a year, working on the 8-hour basis, and 18 or 20 million cartridges could be turned out by the arsenal working full time. As to arms, continued the Minister, the Government hoped in a short time to have in operation in Canada a factory capable of turning out from 12,000 to 15,000 rifles yearly, working 8 hours per day, and more than double that number when working full time. The arm to be turned out was the Sir Charles Ross rifle. It was possible to have in this country, he said, a very effective defensive force at very little more expenditure than the present outlay. We wanted educated, well-trained officers, and he agreed that there should be, to that end, a severe examination. Canada had raised at headquarters a medical corps second to none in the world. That had been shown in South Africa for they had only been landed there with the Mounted Rifles, when they were put at once to the most severe test possible, and he had received a cablegram from Col. Evans stating that they had acquitted themselves with the greatest possible credit.

LITTLE FELLOWS WANTED.

Small Troopers and Light Horses for South Africa.

An Ottawa despatch says:—As the result of a conference between the Minister of Militia, General O'Grady Haly, and Col. Pinault, it was decided that the minimum height of men who are to be recruited for the fourth contingent will be 5 feet 4 inches. Recruiting will commence at all the usual points in Canada about the 18th inst.

No particular quota will be assigned to any one city or locality. Thus, if Toronto can furnish 500 good men, who comply with the conditions of service, they will be accepted. Daily reports of enlistment will be sent by telegraph to headquarters, and as soon as the 2,000 men have been enrolled orders to cease enlistment will be telegraphed to all points. The rate of pay will be the same as the 2nd Mounted Rifles. It is understood that somewhat lighter horses will be taken, the idea being that with light men and smaller horses, greater mobility can be secured.

It is said that Major Merritt and Major Cameron, now out with Col. Evans, will each be given a regiment.

STRANGE DEATH.

Traveller Smothered in a Peterborough Hotel.

A Peterborough, Ont., despatch says:—A commercial traveller who registered as Harry L. Boyd, of Boston, was found dead in his room at the Oriental Hotel here at noon on Thursday. Boyd arrived here by the 5.35 Grand Trunk train Wednesday evening, and was around the hotel during the evening. It is not known at what time he went to his room, but this morning the chambermaid, making unsuccessful efforts to gain access to the room or arouse its inmate, reported the fact to the office. Looking into the room the hotel clerk saw the unfortunate man lying on the bed. Entrance was gained, and it was found he was dead. He had bolted the door on the inside, and thrown himself on the bed face downwards, fully dressed. The doctors and coroner were summoned, and their supposition is that the man was suddenly seized with illness, and throwing himself on to the bed on his face was smothered. No inquest was considered necessary. His papers indicated that he travelled for the Chase & Co. confectionery house of Boston, Mass., in the confectionary line. He was a stranger on the ground, for the hotel men did not know him. He was about 37 years of age. A telegram was sent to the firm's address in Boston and a reply was received in the evening saying that deceased's friends had been notified and instructions would follow.

MEDALS FOR OUR HORSES.

Will Be Awarded at Toronto and Winnipeg Shows.

A London despatch says:—In view of the movement to improve the breeds of Canadian horses by the importation of registered Shire stallions the Shire Horse Society of England, with which the King is prominently associated, decided at the suggestion of John Dyke, to award two gold medals for the best registered Shire stallion and mare at the Toronto and Winnipeg shows this year.

A SIGNIFICANT STEP.

Russia Preparing to Mobilize Black Sea Fleet.

A London despatch says:—The mobilization of the Black Sea fleet of Russia, the Times' correspondent at Odessa wires, has been fixed for the end of July, and the depots at Sebastopol are receiving unusually large consignments of naval stores.

The simultaneous mobilization of the Black Sea and Baltic fleets this summer, the correspondent continues, and the unprecedented military concentration north of Odessa, is considered to be very significant.

REPAIRS BY A BLIND MAN.

Puts Farming Implements and Watches in Order.

There is in the Clay county, Ind., infirmary as a pauper, a blind man, who is as much of a prodigy as "Blind Tom," the musician, or any of the mathematical lightning calculator freaks, who have from time to time been exhibited over the country. "Gus," as he is called by his fellow-inmates and the keepers of the institution, is a rare mechanical genius and manifests as much ambition to excel in his work as though all the avenues of competitive industry were open to his hand and application. He maintains a general repair shop on the premises, which he built himself, which is provided with a variety of tools and appliances, all of which are kept in excellent order and every piece in its proper place.

When any of the farming implements on the place become impaired, garden tools or domestic utilities, including watches and clocks, broken or out of order, they are taken to the shop, where "Gus" feels them over, and quickly discovers what is wrong and what is wanting, then proceeds to make the repairs. Should it be an unusual break, for which he does not have the necessary tools, the work is laid aside until he provides with his own hands and skill the appliances required.

Two years ago the superintendent of the institution desired to put a new picket fence around the large front yard, and "Gus" was given charge of the job, with authority to summon other paupers to his assistance. But when he proposed to run the lines and locate the different sections of the fence, "Gus" told the superintendent that he would do that himself; that he was ambitious to do the whole job from "cellar to attic," and he did. Having prepared the pickets, which were all cut true to his model, he proceeded to run the lines, which he did as accurately as would a man with two good eyes. He then planted the posts, put on the railing and drove every picket to its place.

"Gus" also hunts rabbits and goes fishing, unaccompanied. He fishes with hooks which he baits and from which he disengages the "finnies," just as any other expert Izaak Walton might do. But when he hunts rabbits he takes with him (not a gun) a dog and an axe, and when his dog trees a cotton-tail, "Gus" is sure of his meat.

"Gus" was not always blind, having been deprived of his sight a good many years ago by an explosion while at work in the mines.

WHISTLING LANGUAGE.

The aborigines of the Malabar Islands employ a perfect whistling language, by means of which they can communicate with each other over long distances. A stranger wandering over the islands is frequently surprised to hear from a hill on the sound of loud whistling, which is quickly repeated on the next hill, and so is carried from summit to summit, until it dies away in the distance.

NEWS ITEMS.

Telegraphic Briefs From All Over the Globe.

CANADA.

Edmonton will spend $14,000 for waterworks, electric light and sewerage.

The extension of the Canadian Northern Railway will bring Edmonton 250 miles nearer Winnipeg.

Canada has been invited to send an exhibit to an international exposition to be held in Osaka, Japan, in 1903.

Ex-Chief Deasy, of Victoria, B. C., has been appointed chief of police at Dawson City with a salary of $3,000 a year.

Edward Laurin was sentenced at Montreal on Saturday to fourteen years in penitentiary for killing his father's colored coachman.

Hon. S. N. Parent, Premier of the province and Mayor of Quebec, has been invited to the coronation, though he refused a knighthood.

The Canadian Northern Railway Company are going to build a steel storage elevator at Port Arthur, with a capacity of 1,500,000 bushels.

It is believed in Hamilton that the fire insurance rates in that city will be reduced before long, in view of the introduction of improved fire apparatus.

Mr. Thomas Wardell of Dundas, who was chief Conservative Whip in the Legislature, died in the hospital at Hamilton on Saturday while undergoing an operation.

The Militia Department at Ottawa has cabled to the War Office an offer of the service of half a dozen skilled dental surgeons for duty in the base and general hospitals in South Africa.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Natural gas is now being used for heating and lighting in Heathfield, England.

An alarming epidemic of diphtheria is reported from Adlington, near Chorley, England.

The new British cruiser Albemarle has been placed in commission, and will go to China shortly.

The British Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to deliver his budget speech on April 17.

The Laird and Armstrong Companies are building third-class cruisers for the British navy.

Major-General the Hon. H. F. Eaton will be in command at Bisley Camp during the rifle meeting in July.

Newcastle-on-Tyne firms have received orders from the Admiralty for the construction of torpedo-boat destroyers.

Contracts for ten torpedo destroyers for the Imperial Government, to be the most powerful in existence, have been placed.

Max O'Rell has been talking since his arrival in London. He attributes the commercial prosperity of the United States largely to the training that young men receive.

The tercentenary of the John Robinson church, of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, noted for its association with the early history of the Pilgrim Fathers, takes place next month.

Almost all the trans-Atlantic passenger steamship lines have agreed to the adoption of a new passenger schedule, which shows an advance in cabin passenger rates of from $15 to $35.

UNITED STATES.

A grand jury has reported a most appalling state of corruption in St Louis municipal affairs.

The Legislature of New York has voted $100,000 for a monument at Buffalo to President McKinley.

A young lad while playing with his sister, aged 3, in Danvers, Mass., on Thursday, shot her head off.

By drinking milk from a cow that had poison weed with her hay four members of N. L. Adamson's family, of Nelson, Neb., are dead.

European capitalists are financing a plan to populate 4,000,000 acres of land along the Santa Fe Railway as far as Mexico.

Philip Mitchell and his five children were burned to death on Tuesday night at their home in Prosser Hollow, near Johnston, Pa.

Mr. George P. Blow, of Pittsburg, paid fifty thousand dollars for Rogers's painting, "Holy Family," at a sale on Wednesday in New York.

An American company with a capital of $6,150,000 has purchased the American rights and patents of the Marconi Wireless Telegraphy Company.

A company has been formed to make ice from the famous ice caves of Arizona to supply the towns on the Santa Fe Railroad during the oppressive summer months.

Policeman John O'Brian of Brooklyn had been drinking heavily, and was on the verge of delirium tremens on Wednesday, when his wife handed him his revolver, and without a word of warning he shot her dead on the spot.

GENERAL.

The Parisians' latest fad is note paper hand-painted and embroidered.

Carnegie has offered to give Hanna $250,000 toward a public library.

There have been ninety cases of cholera in Manila and seventy-two deaths.

Marseilles is now in perfect telephonic communication with London and Manchester.

Recent commercial statistics show that Germany's trade with foreign countries has declined.

The Johannesburg Town Council has passed an assessment bill to levy rates on land only.