

CABLE NEWS.

Russia in Bulgaria — Emperor William's Grief at the Death of his Grandson — Severe Weather in Europe.

LONDON, Feb. 29. — The soul-wearying Russia game has made progress for a step during the week, or perhaps I should say for two steps, for a note has been sent around to the powers asking them to ask Turkey to ask Prince Ferdinand to get out, and the Nineteenth Infantry division in the Caucasus has started on its march to the quarters that have been prepared for it at Proskuroff, a town in Podolia about a dozen miles from the Austrian frontier and on the line of the railway running to Lemberg. Both are of importance, but the latter is the more significant of the two.

To the best of my information, England and Italy will refuse plumply to consent to the Russian request. France will assent to it eagerly, Germany will assent formally, and even Austria may accede with reservations. It is a case where England and Italy, not being directly concerned, can play Bismarck's game better than he or his Austrian ally could. They will reply that the Bulgarians elected Ferdinand, and his orderly rule fulfills all the conditions desired by the signatory powers of the Berlin treaty. Hence, they see no reason why he should be expelled. Then Russia will have to say more clearly what she means, and there will be more negotiations, circular notes, and delays. All this time Russia will be bringing troops forward until she is ready to declare that she has got a mission to go in and fix the Bulgarian Government in her own way and defy Europe to prevent her. This will take a long time if Russia is allowed to go on writing dilatory notes and massing troops, but it may be wound up very shortly if Germany and Austria decide that they had better fight before Russia's preparations are complete, or if what is equally likely — they agree that the best thing will be to let Russia run Bulgaria to suit herself. Meanwhile the Russian ruble is now at the lowest point of depreciation it has ever reached.

No doubt the chief thing which has deterred him thus far is the bitterly cold and stormy weather which all Europe has felt in the past eight or ten days. Here there is more snow now than fell all last winter, and the cold is intense, that is, for this hothouse island. The whole Continent is buried in snow, and the cold in some places almost reaches zero, which is an unheard-of severity. The Danube is frozen over for the first time in a long while, and the wolves are coming out from the forests in Alsace, Baden, Thuringia, and Auerberg. The whole Bordeaux wine district is covered with 18 inches of snow, and there are great fears of disastrous floods if a sudden thaw comes on. Such a wintry visitation in the last of February is said to be unexampled in the records of Europe.

A Berlin letter from a friend gives a pitiful picture of the grief of the poor old Kaiser at the calamity of the death of his grandson, Louis of Baden, coming as it did on top of his chronic anguish at the state of the Crown Prince. The physician resident in Neue Schloss went into the Kaiser's bedroom at 4 o'clock the other morning and found him sitting up in bed. Sobbing, he cried out, "Doctor, I cannot sleep for thinking of Fritz. For Heaven's sake hurry and make preparations to let me go to San Remo to be with him." It is with great difficulty that he has been dissuaded from making this journey all along, and if the case takes a worse turn he will probably insist on going, even if the trip kills him.

Britain and Russia in India.

British statesman of all shades of politics drew a sigh of relief at the conclusion and acceptance of the work of the Afghanistan Boundary Commission. Yet those who are accustomed to suspect the Russian, even when making treaties, — and they are many — will sorely hope that this delimitation ensures anything more than a temporary rest. A writer in the London Mail points out the two-sided nature of the problem which now confronts the British in India, in their relations to the great Northern Power. Formerly the rivalry was for the friendship of the feeble tribe of Afghans whose territories lie between the British and Russian possessions in the West. The conquest of Burma has now interposed the great Chinese nation between the same two great rivals in the East, and the contest bids fair to be equally keen between them for the friendship or alliance of the Mongolian. The inducement to Russia to continue to push southward toward the open sea is still even greater at the Eastern than at the Western end of the great mountain range which hitherto barred her way southward. She has already secured in Vladivostok a port which is open for nine months of the year, but the Korean peninsula is invitingly situated with harbours open the whole year round. In this light the rather unusual course of England in ceding to China the strategic post of Port Hamilton in the Korea becomes explicable. To have retained this stronghold would have materially weakened China's power, and possibly her disposition to resist the Russian desire for a harbour on the Northern Korean coast.

The Experience of a Vegetarian.

Dr. G. B. Walter, in a paper recently read before the Society of Cyclists in London, Eng., strongly advocated a vegetable diet. Those animals, he contended, who did the hard work of the world, the horse, for instance, lived purely upon vegetable food, and he instanced a number of cases of cyclists who had performed remarkable feats of endurance, and who were strict vegetarians. He admitted that he found some difficulty in getting vegetable food at the ordinary houses of accommodation. His oatmeal was not always very skillfully prepared, and in more than one bill it figured as gruel. In the course of a recent journey of over 900 miles, however, he had managed to subsist quite comfortably without animal food of any kind, and to do a very fair average of work, amounting to about 55 miles a day, without the slightest feeling of fatigue. His diet consisted of oatmeal porridge, eggs, whole meal bread, cheese, macaroni, fruit, tea, coffee, cocoa, milk and sodawater.

THE CAPITAL OF THE CAUCASUS.

Some interesting information on an Almost Unknown Part of the world.

I arrived here last week, after a fifteen hours' ride by train from the seaport town of Batoum, having enjoyed frequent glimpses of very beautiful and varied mountain scenery on the journey. Tiflis, the capital of the Caucasus, is a large town situated in a valley and surrounded by mountains of varying heights. It possesses very wide, sanitary streets, bordered on each side by a row of trees, which confer grateful shade on the foot passengers in this tropical weather. Some of the buildings are also very fine, especially those connected in any way with the Russian Government. The most interesting portion of the town is the Asiatic quarter, among the booths and bazaars of which a stranger meets with all kinds of strange sights and sounds. Here are men of all nations: The Georgian, Russian, Persian, Armenian, Greek, Jew, etc., who, rushing to and fro through the narrow streets, some on horseback, others riding in phaetons, create a medley only to be seen and appreciated in an Eastern city.

The shops, or rather booths, in this quarter are exceedingly interesting, containing all kinds of ancient relics, things to delight the eye of the antiquary and curiosity collector. Here are, situated, the famous hot sulphur baths, renowned for their curative properties for skin diseases of all kinds. The waters of these baths are unadulterated, running directly from the spring into the bath ready for use.

Not the least quaint is the Georgian costume which although uncouth and wild is very picturesque. It is composed of a long buffalo hide made into the shape of a very large cape, which being suspended from the shoulders reaches to the heels. Under this a long gown is worn, ornamented on each side of the breast with little, case-like pockets, originally intended for cartridges. Round the waist a belt — silver or gold — beautifully embossed, serves to hold the numerous arms in which the real Georgian delights. These weapons, although worn exclusively for ornament, are very real, and consist of a "kinjal" (long narrow knife) stuck slantwise into the belt, a dagger, the sheath of which is also embossed, and last but not least, a revolver ready for immediate use.

Very good sport can be enjoyed here, goats and hares abounding in abundance in the neighboring forests.

The commodities are wonderfully cheap here, among which figures the native, so called "Khakatsky" wine. This is sold in skins of various sizes, the usual small skins containing about eight quarts, costing from two to four roubles (four to eight shillings.) Of course, much commoner wine can be obtained which is naturally cheaper.

The real Khakatsky wine is rather expensive, that being of the best quality grown in the Caucasus. It obtains its name from the beautiful province wherein it is cultivated, viz: "Khakaty," which is situated about seventy versts from Tiflis.

It is a matter of great surprise to me, after having experienced a few of the beauties of this comparatively unknown part of the world, that it is not better known and appreciated by our Canadian, English and American tourists, who would find abundance of mountain scenery, equal in point of beauty to any in the world.

Nadiya.

The old Hindu capital stands at the junction of its two upper head waters, about 65 miles above Calcutta. We reach the ancient city through a river, chaos, emerging at length upon a well-marked channel below the junction. It was from Nadiya that the last Hindu King of Bengal, on the approach of the Mohammedan invader in 1203, fled from his palace in the middle of dinner, as the story runs, with his sandals snatched up in his hand. It was at Nadiya that the deity was incarnated in the fifteenth century A. D., in the great Hindu reformer, the Luther of Bengal. At Nadiya the Sanskrit colleges, since the dawn of history, have taught their abstruse philosophy to colonies of students, who calmly pursued the life of a learner from boyhood to white-haired old age. I landed with feelings of reverence at this ancient Oxford of India. A fat, benevolent abbot paused in fingering his beads to salute me from the veranda of a Hindu monastery. I asked him for the birthplace of the divine founder of his faith. The true site, he said, was now covered by the river. The Hoogly had first cut the sacred city in two, then twisted right round the town, leaving anything that remained of the original capital on the opposite bank. Whatever the water had gone over it had buried beneath its silt. I had with me the Sanskrit chronicle of the present line of Nadiya Rajahs. It begins with the arrival of their ancestor, one of the first five eponymous Brahman immigrants into Bengal, according to its chronology, in the eleventh century A. D. It brings down their annals from father to son to the great Rajah of the eighteenth century, Clive's friend, who received 12 cannon as a trophy from Plassey. So splendid were the charities of this Indian scholar-prince that it became a proverb that any man of the priestly caste in Bengal who had not received a gift from him could be no true Brahman. The Rajahs long ago ceased to reside in a city which had become a mere prey to the river. Nadiya is now a collection of peasants' huts, grain shops, mud colleges, and crumbling Hindu monasteries, cut up by gullies and hollows. A few native magnates still have houses in the holy city. The only objects that struck me in its narrow lanes were the bands of yellow-robed pilgrims on their way to bathe in the river; two stately sacred bulls, who paced about in well-fed complacency, and the village idiot, swollen with monastic rice, listlessly flapping the flies with a palm leaf as he lay in the sun.

A summer palace is being erected at Merv for the reception of the Czar of All the Russias. To recuperate his nerve he'll seek repose in Merv. This much-to-be-pitied man states that he does not intend taking over India just at present, but will bide his time. By the way, the Great White Czar's unfortunate papa must have had considerable confidence in the stability of the British Empire, or he would not have placed £4,800,000 in the hands of London bankers.

Railways in Denmark are blockaded owing to heavy snow storms. Berlin military experts estimate the Russian troops on the frontier at 800,000.

The Vintage in Cyprus.

The first days of August open the general vintage — although the grapes from the warmest spots are sold and eaten from the end of May onward — and its duration of some six weeks is due partly to the widely differing altitudes and aspects of the vineyards, and partly to the custom of first gathering and pressing the inferior grapes, and leaving the best until the end of October to overripen and grow sweet for the choicest wines. They are pounded with flat mallets on a sloping hard floor before pressing, and the deep red must ferments in immense inverted pear-shaped stoneware jars, half sunk in the ground. When the jars are at the end of some six weeks covered over the wine has become lighter in color. The jars, which are baked so large as to hold from 12 to 20 barrels, have been made probably from all antiquity at the villages of Liphos, Korno, and Varoshia. The custom of burying those holding the best wine in deep trenches has long furnished the cunning Cypriot with a means of evading the gauger. Being porous, these jars are coated with pitch, or a compost of pitch, turpentine, vineashes, sand, and goat's hair. This, applied boiling, penetrates the substance of the jar, and never quits it; and partly accounts for the repulsive taste and smell of almost all the coarser and newer Cyprus wines. But the chief cause of this tar flavor is the transport of the wine in skins, which are also stanch with pitch within. The churning of the wine in these, under an Eastern sun during a tedious journey, completes the ruin of the wine for a European palate, and it takes it twelve or fifteen years to recover. The local taste of course improves, and it is no worse from a hygienic point of view than Berkeley's once famous tarwater, which is still upheld here and there at the tables of the French and Belgian bagmen. The only radical cure for it is to make roads practicable for carts into the wine districts, so that the merchants of the towns — for Mohammed must go to the mountain — can send up pure casks, and bring down the wine themselves. Some efforts have lately been made in this direction near Limasso, and wine now in some places comes down in wood on camels, instead of in skins on donkeys and mules, but the vast majority of the communications are all but impracticable mountain paths and mule tracks, which drive the peasant to the use of the wine-skin. The more fastidious residents of the Scaldas have long been accustomed to send up the large glass demijohns (Arabic, *demaiana*) cased in wickerwork on donkey-back, to bring down their household wine in cleanly fashion from the vineyards, and the wine keeps better in a dame-jeanne than in wood, but then they are fragile. So long as the wine was worth little or nothing the pitch did not much matter — many a Spanish village was plastered with mortar made with wine, as being handier than water — but now that France's difficulties have given Cyprus an opportunity, we ought no longer to have Cyprus wines offered in a positively repellant condition, as they were at the celebrated bars of the Colonial, exhibition last year. It is curious to find that, so long as 120 years ago, some winemakers from Provence established themselves at Omodos to eradicate the pitching practices, and found a good foreign market for their produce.

A Ship Officer's Pluck.

Once saw three young tigers, larger than Newfoundland dogs, loose on the deck of a British India steamer crowded with several hundred Mecca pilgrims. The cage, in which they were confined was large, and barred on each side, with a partition running along its middle which had a drop door. The man who had charge of the animals would drive them over to one side of the cage, close the partition and clean out the other side at his leisure; then, barring up the clean side, he would open the partition and drive the tigers back, while he went through the same performance on the other side. One morning he neglected to put up the bars on the side he had finished, and so drove the tigers out of the opposite side of the open cage. The animals, on obtaining their liberty, took different directions, and, crouching in the nearest corners, lay snarling and exposing their teeth, showing unmistakable signs of a most dangerous fear! That side of the deck was deserted, and the crowd gazed in interest at a respectable distance. Mr. Fleuse, the third officer, the second officer and the keeper each placed himself before a tiger, barring their exit should they attempt to move away. Fleuse, inquired if the tigers had been fed that day. They had not. They had always been fed on living fowls. Fleuse called for three chickens from the hen coop. Taking these he threw one in the face of each tiger. The chickens seemed simply motionless, glued to the spot, so instantaneous was the fixing of teeth and claws. Fleuse then went deliberately up to a tiger, coolly took the loose skin of the back of the neck with one hand and the root of the tail with the other, and putting out his full strength, dragged the heavy brute along the deck to the cage and forced it through the open bars. The chicken diversion acted perfectly. The brute had no object but that of retaining its prey. It growled fearfully; its eyes blazed; its teeth crashed through the chicken; its unsheathed claws clasped and pierced its quivering body. Red-hot irons would hardly have made it loosen its grip of the bird. Then the keepers and the others helped Fleuse in carrying the remaining tigers into the cage. — [From "Three Years of a Wanderer's Life."

The Paradise of Pisciculturists.

"Rev." W. H. H. Murray was a guest of the Megantic Fish and Game Club, Boston, Mass., Feb. 14th, and he entertained the gentlemen with a most entertaining and instructive description of trapping and fishing in Northern Canada. He recently returned from an extended trip throughout the region north of Quebec, and he fired the hearts of his enthusiastic hearers by his description of that paradise for sportsmen. He said that in a region 1,500 miles long and 1,000 wide there were no less than 200,000 small lakes abounding in fish, and streams that were the feeding grounds of myriads of ducks and geese. The region was practically a wilderness, unknown to civilization until within ten years. He said that the Canadian Government had nearly completed a railroad from Quebec to Lake St. John, 250 miles distant. When the road was opened he said that the region would be accessible to all sportsmen, and urged all who could to visit that country before it became civilized. He said that for the first time fishing lost its charm, because he was always sure of getting fish, and big ones, too.

CHUNKS OF WISDOM.

Beesmer's steel patents have brought him \$35,385,000 in royalties.

An estimate places the number of persons supported by all forms of employment furnished by electricity at 5,000,000.

Dr. Stephen Mackenzie, lecturer on medicine at the London Hospital, recommends Indian hemp in doses of one-half grain night and morning as a remedy for persistent headache.

The luminosity of phosphorus is impaired by a dense and increased by a rarefied atmosphere. At a pressure of sixty pounds to the square inch, or four atmospheres, phosphorus is non-luminous.

According to Munnhall's dictionary of statistics the average age of all the people living in France is thirty-two years, two months and twelve days. In the United States the average is only twenty-four years, ten months and twenty-four days.

Glass blowing is an art nearly 4,000 years old, perhaps older; yet there has never been any device discovered to take the place of the human lungs in the blowing. Bottles, however, are blown with a mold and mechanical bellows.

Bulk windows that are cased up from the main store may be kept free from steam and frost by a small door or a pane of glass that will swing open near the top of the window, so as to let hot air near the top escape, and the cold air from outdoors will go in and keep the glass clean.

The electric motor railway at San Diego, Cal., was recently tried and worked satisfactorily. The grade is 8 1/2 per cent. The motor, crowded with people, moved up the grade, stopping on the steepest portion and again starting with ease and running all day without a hitch. The line is four miles long.

A new organ, called an orgue electricque, has been placed in the Church of Sainte Clotilde, in the Faubour Saint-Germain. It is the first instrument of the kind that has appeared in a Paris church. The accumulators are placed behind the high altar, whence the wires are connected with the keyboards and the organ pipes.

The value of condiments in the preparation of food is being discussed. Authorities that may be considered reliable assert that red pepper and salt are especially valuable as aids to appetite and digestion. Various herbs and spices are also good, while all the condiments used in salads promote digestion and the assimilation of food.

Extended observations at Paris and at Munich indicate that the sanitary condition of a locality depends on the amount of water contained in the ground. The years in which there has been a large quantity of groundwater present have invariably been the healthiest while those in which there has been a smaller quantity have invariably been the unhealthiest.

Belts conveying power are very apt to slip on pulleys, but a new pulley has been devised to prevent this. The pulley is covered with perforated sheet iron one sixteenth of an inch thick, which is riveted to the pulley. The tension on the belt causes it to slightly grip the holes, and thus slipping is avoided, while at the same time the pulley is strengthened.

The apparent paradox that the most transparent water is at the same time perfectly opaque from a certain point of view is shown by a simple experiment. Partly fill a glass goblet with clear water and hold it a little above the level of the eye and distant a foot or more. No object can be seen when held just over the surface of the water, but the water surface appears like a burnished mirror.

When a small piece of potassium, the size of half a grain of corn, is dropped into a tumblerful of water some of the oxygen of the water leaves its hydrogen, owing to the intense heat which the chemical action produces, and combines with the metallic potassium, causing a violet, bluish flame. When the potassium is placed on the wick of a coal oil or alcohol lamp the flame produced by touching the potassium with a bit of snow, or ice or a drop of water will inflame it.

Capturing a Schoolma'am.

"Yes," said the young man as he threw himself at the feet of the pretty school-teacher, "I love you and would go to the world's end for you."

"You could not go to the end of the world for me, James. The world, or the earth, as it is called, is round like a ball, slightly flattened at the poles. One of the first lessons in elementary geography is devoted to the shape of the globe. You must have studied it when you were a boy."

"Of course I did, but —"

"And it is no longer a theory. Circumnavigators have established the fact."

"I know, but what I meant was that I would do anything to please you. Ah! Minerva, if you knew the aching void —"

"There is no such thing as a void, James. Nature abhors a vacuum; but admitting that there could be such a thing, how could the void you speak of be a void if there was an ache in it?"

"I meant to say that my life will be lonely without you; that you are my daily thought and my nightly dream. I would go anywhere to be with you. If you were in Australia or at the North Pole I would fly to you. I —"

"Fly! It will be another century before men can fly. Even when the laws of gravitation are successfully overcome there will still remain, says a late scientific authority, the difficulty of maintaining a balance —"

"Well, at all events," exclaimed the youth, "I've got a pretty fair balance in the savings bank and I want you to be my wife. There!"

"Well, James, since you put it in that light, I —"

"Let the curtain fall."

The Sultan's jubilee gift to the Pope was an *anneau* of gold profusely studded with precious stones, which is valued at £10,000. It was presented by the Armenian Patriarch. The President of the French Republic sent two magnificent vases of Sevres, along with a cordial letter of congratulation; and his Holiness has received £20,000 from the monks of the Chartreuse; a diamond rose, valued at £25,000, from Ecuador; and a huge golden staff, filled with gold dollars, from San Francisco.

The sulphur in the yolk of eggs, it may not be generally known, acts chemically on silver spoons, turning them black, and forming a sulphide of silver that cannot be removed without taking off the surface of silver, thus rapidly wearing away the spoon.

A Ring Advocate.

The American railway interest has applied to Congress for aid against the competition of Canadian railroads. The United States railway magnates see that the Canadian railways are already seriously interfering with their sovereignty over the citizens of the Republic in matters relating to the carrying trade of their country, and they have invoked the aid of the representatives of the people to prevent the foreigners from infringing upon what they have come to regard as their prerogative. General Wilson did not, of course, say in plain terms that American railway combinations have a right to rule over the American people with a rod of iron, and that any encroachment on that right by Canadians is not to be tolerated. He was much too shrewd to allow the people a glimpse of the motives by which he and those whom he represents are actuated. He appeared before the Interstate Committee of the Senate, as a patriot who had none but the interests of the Government and the people of the United States at heart. He declared that the competition of Canadian railroads deprives the United States Government of "the power to properly regulate interstate commerce." If he had said that Canadian competition will aid and very materially aid the Government of the United States in regulating interstate commerce and preserve the people of the United States from the extortion of railway monopolies, he would have been much nearer the truth. Congress has been obliged to interfere to protect the citizens of the United States from the greed and injustice of railway combinations. The oppression of these monopolies had become so galling that the people were forced to apply to the Legislature for relief. The Interstate Commerce law has not proved a very effective check to the tyranny of the American railways. What was needed to give the users of American railroads the relief they so badly need was not so much the restraint of law as the healthy action of free competition. The connection of the Canadian roads with the railroad system of the United States supplied that competition; and in a natural and perfectly legitimate way made the work of the Legislature much more simple and easy, and, at the same time, did much to free the people from the yoke of the railway rings. It is hardly to be expected that Congress will, by according to General Wilson's modest request, increase its difficulties and fasten upon the people a bondage which they already feel to be well nigh intolerable. The true policy of the representatives of the American people is certainly not to strengthen the hands of the railway monopolists by taking away almost the only check that exists to the exercise by them of almost unlimited power. They should rather encourage railway competition, no matter from what quarter it may come, and if they interfere with Canadian roads at all it should be to prevent them entering into combinations with the roads on the American side of the line. Canadian competition, as long as it remains free, is a benefit to the American people. The danger to them lies in the liability of the Canadian lines entering into an alliance with the lines on the other side of the border and thus killing a competition from which they already derive many and great advantages, and which are certain in the progress of time to become more and greater.

The allusion which General Wilson makes to the navigation laws of the United States is peculiarly unfortunate. Those laws are not working for the benefit of the people of the United States. Under them their foreign mercantile marine has almost entirely disappeared and their domestic trade is hampered and embarrassed. So injurious have these laws become to the trade and commerce of the United States that thoughtful and patriotic men are agitating for their modification and repeal. It is amusing to see General Wilson's attempts to excite alarm among Americans at the growing importance of Canada. It is surely an insult to the American people sixty millions strong, to tell them that they have anything to fear from either trade competition or the military prowess of a neighboring community numbering barely five millions. This doughty general must regard his countrymen as the veriest poltroons when he tries to excite their fears by telling them that twenty-five years hence, when the population of the United States will, if it increases in the same ratio as the General calculates for Canada, be considerably more than two hundred millions, they will be in danger of an armed invasion from these terrible Canadians, who will, according to him, then number some twenty millions. The Americans will certainly not feel complimented when they are told that one Canadian is more than a match for ten American citizens. Surely General Wilson must greatly underrate the intelligence as well as the courage of his countrymen when he thinks that such an appeal to their timidity can have any other effect than to make himself ridiculous.

The advocate of the railway rings had a weak case and he did not, in our judgment, manage it at all skillfully. We very much mistake if both the Congressional Committee and American public are not shrewd enough to see that the real objects of his attack are the rights and interests of the citizens of the United States and not the Canadian Government or the Canadian railways.

PRINTING-INK AND PAPER. — Printing-ink appears blacker and colder on white paper than on tinted paper; while on yellow or tinted paper it appears pale and without density. For taking printing-ink most perfectly a paper should be chosen that is free from wood in its composition and that is not too strongly glazed. Wood paper is said to injure the ink through the nature of its composition. Its materials are very absorbent of light and air and its ingredients go badly with colour. Pale glazed or enamelled paper, on the other hand, brings out colour brilliantly.

In order to get as much information as possible out of the movements of an isolated barometer, its indications should be watched in conjunction with the readings of a thermometer in the shade, and very careful attention should also be given to the direction of the wind and its changes. There is a couplet which conveys an important rule with respect to the change of wind-direction, and the truth of which is well known to every sailor. "When the wind shifts against the sun, Trust it not, for back it will run." The wind in the northern hemisphere usually shifts with watch hands, and a change in this direction is called veering. A change in the opposite way is called backing, and indicates that a storm is approaching.