LAKE SUPERIOR COMPANY.

Speyer Claim on "Sco" Properties Must be Paid Off.

Francis H. Clergue Waits on Premier Ross.

Senator Dandurand Tells of Visit to London.

Montreal report: Senator Dandurand, who went to London with Mr. Clergue in connection with the Lake Superior Company's affairs, speaking to-day of the present position of the company, said:

"The arrangement made with the English syndicate was that if the Reorganization Committee of Consolidated Lake Superior could take care of the Speyer loan it would be willing to advance sufficient capital to put the companies on a sound basis. Mr. Clergue and myself were assured during our stay in England that the committee would be successful, and that was the reason we wired to make such arrangement. As soon as the Speyer claim is paid off, the English syndicate will be heard from."

Mr Clergue has submitted a report to this effect to the Reorganization Committee: "I have been informed by wire that the sale by the Speyers will not affect the plans of the company."

New York, Dec. 16.—Counsel for the Reorganization Committee of the company stated that Speyer & Company were notified that if a further extension of three weeks had been granted the Speyer loan would probably have been paid off, and made public a letter addressed to Speyer & Company this morning asking for such extension.

The statement closed as follows:

"Notwithstanding the sale, counsel do not propose to abandon their efforts to bring about a successful reorganization."

Toronto, Dec. 17.—There have been no new developments in the Consolidated Lake Superior tangle during the past twenty-four hours. Speyer & Co. are still in control, but the statement is made that they would be quite willing to reopen negotiations with the Reorganization Committee. Those back of the proposed rehabilitation of the works still have hopes that the end desired will yet be reached.

Mr. Francis H. Clergue arrived in Toronto yesterday, and together with Mr. Cornelius Shields, Mr. H. C. Hamilton and Mr. James Conmee, M. P. P., waited upon the Government. Premier Ross and his colleagues were urged to take such steps as would protect the Canadian creditors. To do this the Government would be called upon to withhold the concessions granted to the company. This would have the effect of incommoding Speyer & Co. in their efforts to put the works on a paying basis. As matters now stand everything is shaping for a big legal battle, in which the rights of Speyer & Co. to possession of the property will be hotly contested.

Mr. Clergue's position in the present situation is rather difficult to define. Whatever equity he holds in the property must have long since vanished. He failed in his mission to England largely because the capitalists there were not satisfied with the position in which the company was left by the suspension. With the Speyer loan out of the way they would have been disposed to put their money in the venture. It is even stated that should the committee succeed in reorganizing the company, the Britishers stand prepared to come in and furnish the working capital. This has been the plan on which Mr. Clergue has been proceeding.

Speyer & Co., on the other hand, have a reorganization plan, and will shortly submit a proposal to the Government, the Canadian creditors, and the shareholders. They absolutely refuse to treat further with Mr. Clergue or the members of the Reorganization Committee, on whose representations the sale of this mortgage was postponed from time to time.

MURDER STORY DENIED.

Patients Declare Canadian Was Not Robbed or Maltreated.

New York, Dec. 21.—That Adolphus Drucker, a Canadian and former member of the British Parliament, and once wealthy, who died in the prison ward of Bellevue Hospital on the morning of Dec. 9, was murdered and robbed by the hospital attendants, as stated by James Murphy, another patient in the ward, the hospital authorities and other patients deny and the police disbelieve.

Inspector McClusky and the District Attorney are making a thorough investigation of the case, and Coroner Jackson will hold an inquest next Friday, when Murphy and all other witnesses in the affair will be summoned.

Dr. William V. V. Mabon, superintendent of Bellevuee, said yesterday that investigation had convinced him that no crime had been committed or malicious cruelty inflicted.

Five other patients in the prison ward who witnessed Mr. Drucker's treatment and his death, were interviewed by a reporter yesterday, and all emphatically denied that there had been any unnecessary cruelty or any robbery. Two of these patients were Joseph Brandt and Daniel McConnell, both elderly men, who have been in the ward with fractured bones for several weeks. Mr. Brandt said: "It is true that Drucker's condition was distressing. He was delirious and very violent.

"He constantly talked in English, Dutch and German, and said much about an insurance policy on his life for $200,000 that had been stolen from him. I saw him when the officers searched him and know that he was not robbed. It is true that he was strapped to his cot, because he was so violent it was necessary."

William H. Otto, a harness maker, of 243 East 110th street, who was a patient in the prison ward at the time, alone corroborates Murphy's statement of the cruelty and robbery.

"All that Murphy has said is true," he said last night, "and I will tell more when I am called to speak under oath. I am a Hollander, and Mr. Drucker kept talking to me in Dutch."

When Mr. Drucker's effects were examined at the hospital yesterday a dozen pawn tickets were found showing where he had pledged small articles of jewelry in New York and Montreal during November and December. In strange contrast with these were letters and documents which told of large financial transactions in this country and Europe.

Mr. Drucker was arrested near the Grand Central Station on Dec. 9th and taken to Flower Hospital, and from there transferred to Bellevue. The hospital physicians and Dr. Schultze, Coroner's physician, diagnosed his case as extreme alcoholism and heart failure.

WILL LOSE SOUTH AFRICA.

Dutch Population is Increasing While the British is Not.

New York, Dec. 21.—At a meeting of the Armstrong Association to-day Andrew Carnegie surprised his hearers by asserting that he believed Great Britain would surely some day lose South Africa, because the Dutch population is increasing, while the British are not. Mr. Carnegie added:

"What would Great Britain give for nine million negroes as placable and lovable as those in the United States? They give us 11,000,000 bales of cotton a year, and this I contend makes the United States the most powerful nation in the world."

He said in case of war all this country would have to do would be to stop exporting cotton and the war would be done.

"My knowledge of the question leads me to the opinion that no political measure can ever save or benefit the negro," said Mr. Carnegie.

The Armstrong Association work in behalf of the colored man in the United States.

SLAVERY IN ABYSSINIA.

All Children of Present Slaves to be Made Free.

London, Dec. 21.—William N. Ellis has arrived in London from Abyssinia and will sail for the United States int en days. Upon his arrival there he will proceed direct to Washington and deliver to the Department of State a letter from Emperor Menelik welcoming Americans to Abyssinia "in peace and without fear." Menelik was very much interested in Mr. Ellis' narrative concerning American affairs, especially the development of the colored race from slaves to the status of the whites. Upon hearing of President Lincoln's liberation of the slaves tears came into his eyes, and he insisted that the story be told to him a second time, exclaiming "What a great man." He explained that he was abolishing slavery gradually. He said: "I cannot do as Lincoln did; it would upset things too much, but I have decreed that while those at present slaves, shall remain such, their children shall be free. Thus will slavery disappear."

What above all impressed Menelik favorably, said Mr. Ellis, was the attitude of the Americans. They did not seek territory in Abyssinia. On this subject the Emperor said: "Other nations come to Africa like sons of their fathers, saying, 'Father, you are going to make a will and leave us something!'" He added that America was alone without land in africa, and wanted none. She only wanted liberty of trade.

Mr. Ellis was emphatic in declaring that there is nothing suggesting barbarism at Menelick's court. The Emperor wears European clothes, and a felt hat of American shape. The Emperor and court ladies were dressed in Paris models. The palace is a comfortable frame building of Swiss architecture. It has baths and other modern conveniences, and furniture of the Louis XVI. period is predominant.

GIRL KIDNAPS BOY.

Will be Prosecuted for Abduction by Lad's Father.

Sioux City, Dec. 21.—Because eighteen-year-old Jessie Lane, of Homer, Neb., accepted the offer of 17-year-old Albert Dineen, of Yankton, South Dakota, to elope with him, she has been charged with kidnapping the boy. Being of age she is responsible for her acts, and the law cannot prevent her eloping if she wants to do so. But she has, according to the charge of the boy's father, John Dineen, enticed him from his home.

She was given the alternative today of being prosecuted for kidnapping, of which she might be proven technically guilty, or giving up the young man. She said that whatever happened she would stick close to Albert and never leave him until he should be her husband.

CASHEL STILL AT LARGE.

Police Believe the Murderer is Hiding in Calgary.

Calgary, N.W.T., Dec. 21.—There is absolutely no trace of Cashel. The police believe him to be in the city, but cannot find him. They disbelieve the report that he was seen in Montana. The police force here have been reinforced by ten men from Regina.

It was reported to the police to-day that Cashel was making his way in an easterly direction, and one theory is that he got out of the city by crossing Bow River on the ice, some miles west. After getting across he made his way to Clouston's ranch, at Nose Creek, where he had dinner yesterday. He was on foot. He walked on to Sheppard, eleven miles from Calgary, and up to noon to-day he had been traced by an expert Indian tracker to Langdon, twenty miles from here. Several men have been sent out to assist in following the escaped prisoner up.

ORDERED U. S. CRUISER AWAY.

Mother and Two Children Burned to Death in Philadelphia.

Colon, Dec. 21.—The United States cruiser Atlanta returned here last night from the Gulf of Darien. She discovered, Dec. 17, a detachment of Colombian troops, numbering visually about 500 men, but according to their statements totalling 1,500 or 2,000 men, at Titumati, on the western side of the Gulf, just north of the mouth of the Atriato River and due east from Yaviza. The commander of the Atlanta sent ashore an officer, who conversed with the Colombians' commander. The latter protested energetically against the presence of American warships in Colombian waters, insomuch as war between Colombia and the United States had not been declared, and politely requested the Atlanta to leave the Gulf, because it belonged to Colombia. Commander Turner, of the Atlanta, ignored the request, and the Atlanta returned to Colon to report to Rear Admiral Coghlan. The Colombians are clearly busy with protective and strengthening measures. Although they treated the Americans courteously, they declared they resented the presence of the Atlanta's landing party. The Colombian force was composed partly of the men landed recently at the Atriato River by the Colombian cruisers Cartagena and General Pinzon.

Early in the morning of December 15th, the Atlanta sighted a small schooner in the centre of the Gulf of Darien and followed her to the western shore, where the schooner attempted to hide behind an islet. Lieut. Perrill, of the Atlanta, was ordered to board her, he thereupon took another boat and pulled toward the schooner. Through the courtesy of the naval officer, the correspondent of the Associated Press accompanied the party in the whaleboat.

It was found that the schooner had on board a hundred armed Colombian soldiers, commanded by Gen. Rafael Novo, who said General Daniel Ortiz, commander in chief of the Colombian forces of the Atlantic and Pacific, had a large camp a mile away on the mainland.

The Colombian camp appeared to be permanent, was well provisioned and probably destined to be used as a base of operations. Gen. Ortiz and others freely expressed the determination of Colombia to fight to the bitter end, in case Gen Reyes' visit to Washington is not successful, and Panama is not returned to Colombia.

Swiss President Elected.

Bernes, Switzerland, Dec .21. —M. Comtese, a member of the Fundesrath, from Neuchatel, and M. Ruchet, a member from the Canton de Vaud, were to-day elected respectively President and Vice-President of Switzerland for 1904.

Panama Elections.

Dec. 21, via Panama, Dec. 21.—The Agua Dultce, Republic of Panama, Junta's decree fixing Dec. 18 as the date for the election of representatives to the national convention has been received with enthusiasm in the interior of the republic. There is no doubt that public opinion favors the canal treaty with the United States and candidacy of Dr. Amador for the presidency.

Burglar Shot Dead.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 21.—In a running fight between two policemen and five burglars, who had broken into an office in East Boston early to-day, one of the burglars was shot dead. The others escaped. The identity of the dead burglar is not known. Although all five of the hunted men used their revolvers freely on the pursuing police, neither of the latter was hit.

Three Burned to Death.

Philadelphia, Dec. 21.—Mrs. Harry L. Smith and her two children, Harry, aged 3 years, and Albert, aged 3 months, were burned to death early to-day by a fire which occurred in their home at Oak Lane, a suburb. They were asleep when the fire started. Mrs. Elizabeth Shelmire was badly burned while endeavoring to awaken them. The cause of the fire is unknown.

BRITISH FORTIFYING.

They are Strengthening the Defences at the Esquimalt Naval Station.

Washington, D.C., Dec. 21.—Esquimalt, British Columbia, where an important English naval station is located, is being heavily defended, according to a report to the State Department from Abraham E. Smith, United States Consul at Victoria.

Consul Smith says that while the strength of the British fleet at Esquimalt naval station has been reduced to three cruisers and two steam launches the strength of the station has really been increased. Large 9.2 guns, weighing, with their equipment 30 tons each, were placed in position at the top of Signal Hill, which commands the whole harbor. These guns are said to throw a 380-pound projectile five miles, and with an elevation of fifteen feet they have a range exceeding seven miles.

A battery of quick firing guns in the navy yard covers the entrance to Esquimalt harbor, where extensive mines have been laid. It is reported that the work of constructing a fort on the high bluff overlooking the approach to the harbor is soon to be begun. The dry dock is to be enlarged.

SEAGULL ON BUOY.

Why H. M. S. Flora Went Ashreo Near Nanaimo, B. C.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 21.—Investigation seems to show that a seagull caused the wreck of the British second class cruiser Flora, which was hauled off Village Point reef near Nanaimo, Friday. When the accident happened both Capt. Baker and the navigating officer were on the bridge. They mistook Spar buoy at Village Point, for Cage buoy, two miles farther down the sound, and steered their course toward shore, grounding on the reef in consequence.

A seagul perched on top of Spar buoy is said to have given it resemblance in the fog to Cage buoy. Both buoys are on the same side of the channel, and navigators have declared that they do not give as efficient protection as is required in the dangerous waters of the foggy Vancouver Island coast.

The seagull incident will be investigated at the official enquiry at Victoria.

The steamships Williamette, Danube and other vessels have been lost in that neighborhood.

AN UNFORTUNATE MARRIAGE.

Daughter of British Officer Duped by Ticke -of-Leave Man.

London, Dec. 21.—On the strength of the statement that he was a war correspondent, with an income of £600 ($3,000) a year, and a life insurance policy of £500 ($2,500), a certain Aubrey Newton won the hand of a daughter of the late Lieut.-Col. Pope, formerly commander of the Connaught Rangers, and married her last year in a church at Pimlico.

Unfortunately, not only did Newton make a false statement regarding himself, but also omitted to mention such important facts of his previous career as that he had been sentenced to penal servitude for theft, and that he had already been married, and that his first wife was still living.

This resulted in his being tried at the Old Bailey on Tuesday on the charge of bigamy.

Miss Pope, the second wife, in the course of her evidence, stated that by permission of her mother, her marriage with the prisoner was expedited because he said he was suffering from an internal complaint and had only a few months to live.

After the wedding in January last year they went first to Eastbourne, then to Nice, and subsequently to Torquay, where to her great surprise the prisoner was arrested as a "ticket-of-leave" man.

The recorder asked the witness: "Had you any fortune, Miss Pope?" to which she replied: "No; but I had a reversionary interest in my mother's income, and this I sold for £225 ($1,125), to pay the debts incurred by the prisoner."

The prisoner—I have been good to you.

"You have never struck me," answered the woman, "but you have never told me the truth from the day of our wedding."

The prisoner—I had to conceal it.

The recorder said the prisoner had cruelly deceived a young woman of good family. He had committed a singularly cruel crime, and would be sentenced to seven years penal servitude.

WOMEN DRUNKS IN U. S.

Tendency of Women to Patronize Saloons.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 21.—"The great problem before this country to-day is the increase of drunkenness among the women of the land," declared Rev. Chas. A. Eaton, at the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church last evening. "It is as ominous a thing as we have before us to-day."

Eaton is John D. Rockefeller's pastor.

"It was in London," he went on, "that I first saw a drunken woman. The sight disgusted me, nauseated me. And a man said to me, 'You don't have that in your city, do you?'

"When I came home I found that our saloons had their ladies' entrances, and that it was getting to be a serious question. We are dead morally! dead morally! dead morally!

"The country is paralyzed in a struggle for money. The people are beginning to seek the sensations of sensualism. It is bad enough for men to go far in that direction, but when even women step over the line and go towards the king of death there is struck a blow at the race as deadly as has ever been dealt it.

"The other night when I was in the grill room of the leading hotel of the city I saw more women there than men, and every woman was drunk. There was not a sober woman in the place.

"I have three little girls at home, and I would rather see them in their graves than in a public place like that at any time."

CRUELTY IN GERMAN ARMY

Kaiser Adopts Means to Put a Stop to the Practice.

Berlin, Dec. 21.—It is stated that the constantly increasing instances of cruelty in the army have induced Emperor William to order that the officers of the Guard Corps shall periodically make a thorough inspection of the men naked to find wounds or bruises. If injuries are found the officers must ascertain how they were caused, and they must report cases of ill-treatment. Eventually, the order will be extended to the whole army. A corporal has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment at Rendsburg, he having been charged with having committed 1,600 incredible brutalities upon men inferior to him in rank.

LIKE EUGENE ARAM.

Imitator of English Murderer Daily Visited Victim's Body.

Cape Town, Dec. 21.—One of the most sensational murder trials in the history of South Africa has concluded in a verdict of guilty against an Englishman named Hart, who was charged with the murder of his friend, James Armstrong, in remarkable circumstances.

Armstrong, a native of Monteith, West Perthshire, arrived in South Africa early this year, and shortly afterwards mysteriously disappeared. In April his headless body was found on the shore of a lonely lake near Cape Town.

Suspicion fell upon his friend Hart, and at the inquest it came out that he had told his brother that he had been informed by spirits that the body of Armstrong would be discovered near water. Later Hart was seen near the spot walking away with something in his hand, which proved to be a skull. This he threw away, but it was eventually discovered, and it was found that the jaw was broken.

The trial proved a memorable one. The Judge and counsel likened the case to that of Eugene Aram. Armstrong's body had lain for months by the shore of the lake, and had been visited daily by Hart.

Counsel quoted the following stanza from "The Dream of Eugene Aram" in reference to this peculiar feature of the case:

"One stern tyrannic thought that made
All other thoughts its slave;
Stronger and stronger every pulse
Did that temptation crave—
Still urging me to go and see
The dead man in his grave."

The prisoner gave evidence, declaring he was gifted with second sight, and had discovered the body owing to revelations vouchsafed him from Heaven.

The sentence was that he should be detained during His Majesty's pleasure. The case has excited enormous interest owing to its gruesome features.

SOCIALISTS DEFY THE KAISER

Bebel's Party Sneers at Imperial Advances to German Workingmen.

Berlin, Dec. 21.—Emperor William and Chancellor von Buelow's renewed overtures to Germany's 600,000 anti-Socialist workingmen to join hands with the monarchy in uplifting the laboring classes causes no consternation in the Social Democratic camp. Vorwaerts, the Socialist organ, to-day defiantly advises the workers if they think they can better their condition by approaching the sovereign with bent backs and cap in hand forthwith to join the "belly crawlers," and await results. "Might can only be overcome by might," is the Socialist reply to the Government's compromise offers.

Bebel's party has required nineteen years to increase from 600,000 to 3,000,000, so it is not disposed to view with alarm official coddling of the new workingmen's party, which was characterized by Count von Buelow on Sunday as a welcome manifestation. The Chancellor has now repeated thrice the assertion that the Government will pursue a beneficient social policy, regardless of either Socialist criticism or demands for repressive measures emanating from the enemies of that party.

NEW TELEPHONE A WONDER

The Electograph is a Combination of the Telephone and Phonograph.

London, Dec. 21.—The Daily aMil announces that it has conducted reasonably successful experiments with a recording telephone, called the electrograph, which is the invention of E. G. Craven, an English engineer, who was once an assistant of Thos. Edison at Mendo Park, New Jersey. The mechanism combines a telephone and phonograph. Messages spoken into the telephone transmitter were sent over a dozen miles between London and Twickenham, where they were received by the phonograph, without audible sound, by direct electrical effect on a vibrating diaphram. When the phonograph was disconnected from the telephone wire and reversed, the messages were reproduced audibly and distinctly. Mr. Craven declares that his invention will be the greatest addition to the conveniences of business since the invention of the telephone a generation ago, as the electograph leaves a permanent record of conversation.

FUTURE OF BOERS.

Gen. Viljoen Declares British "Pacification" Efforts are a Failure.

New York, Dec. 21.—Prospects for the rehabilitation of the Boer country are very poor, according to the reports brought here yesterday by General Ben J. Viljoen, one of the Transvaal leaders in the fight with Great Britain, who was a passenger on the Umbria. He is now on his way to Mexico, where he hopes to engage in agricultural interests, for his home is wrecked and many of the people of his native land are unable to recover from the effects of the war which devasted their lands.

"As the war is all over there remains nothing to be done but to make the best of a bad job," said the General. "I believe the British government is making an honest effort to restore the Transvaal and the Orange Free State to their former prosperity, but it is handicapped to a large extent by the fact that many of the men assigned to the task are not fitted for the work."

"The Boers are trying to make the best of the situation, but in many cases their efforts to be friendly are repulsed. On my voyage from the Cape to England I met several British officers who did everything they could to show their comtempt and dislike for me. I do not care for such things on my own account, but I think the English should do all in their power to reconcile a conquered nation.

"Many of the Boers never will be re-established in their homes, and hundreds have wandered off and have become lost. There was a plan to settle many of them in Chihuahua, Mexico, where a concession of 85,000 acres had been given. There are now four families down there. The Mexican government promised to furnish transportation to fifty, but it has not done so and has constantly postponed fulfilling its obligation. I shall go to Mexico soon to look after a tract of two million acres in the same State which has been offered on more favorable conditions, and probably a large colony of Boers will settle there. I shall make my home there."

Scottdale, Pa.—Contrary to expectation, the depression in the coke trade last week was more pronounced than at any time during the last three months. Instead of the expected improvement, nearly 1,000 were thrown out, and production fell off over 10,000 tons. The posting of the new wage scale is looked upon as indicating a resumption of work in the near future.

A COMMISSION BEING FORMED.

An Important Announcement by Mr. Chamberlain.

Canada to be Represented on a Trade Enquiry.

Commission to Form a Tariff for Discussion.

London, Dec. 21.—In the course of a speech at Leeds, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain announced that under the auspices of the Tariff Reform League a commission was being formed to consider the condition of British trade and the remedies applicable thereto. He said it would be an unofficial and non-political commission, representing every principal industry. It would comprise representatives of India, the Crown colonies, and the autonomous colonies. It would invite witnesses from every trade, and would endeavor, after hearing all interests, to frame a model tariff. He added; "Whenever the country is ready to give us the date we ask and there is a Government in power prepared to accept our principles, we will have ready all or most of the information that it will desire, and it will have before it a tariff which has been presented to the country, and upon which the people have had every opportunity for expressing their opinion." There is no example to which Mr. Chamberlain oftener appeals in clinching his fiscal arguments than that of the United States. On this occasion, he said, "we, like the United States, have community of race, community of interests, common patriotism, and common sentiment, yet the United States has got something we lack. She has got a common constitution, a common system of defence, and a common commercial bond. Why should not we have these too? It is our business to try to secure them."

Talked of Preference.

Mr. Chamberlain stigmatized the objection raised by his opponents, that the colonies never asked a preference, a monstrous misrepresentation. He asked if they had forgotten the Ottawa conference, and the two London conferences, where every premier urged consideration of a mutual preference. "Let them send me as Ambassador to the colonies," said the speaker, "with full powers, and I am perfectly willing to stake my reputation on that I shall be able not merely to satisfy the colonies that we have something to give them worth acceptance, but also to secure an equal measure in return."

Mr. Chamberlain then read a letter which he had received a day or two ago from Mr. Fielding, Finance Minister of Canada, "for whom," he said, "we feel the greatest respect as one of the new race of colonial statesmen who will be second to none in the councils of the empire."

Mr. Fielding had been asked if the Canadian Ministers intended refraining from replying to some of the press statements as to what was the position taken by the Canadian Ministers at the colonial conference last yer.

He said; "It was in favor of Imperial preferential trade, which is cordially endorsed by both of the great political parties. Some difficulties might arise as to the details of so large a scheme, buti it is surely not too much to believe that if the principle is approved, the intelligence of British and colonial public men can be relied upon to overcome them, and to put the project into practical form." (Cheers).

Federation of the British Race.

The speaker added that no physical difference would prevent the federation of the British race. The distance between the Yukon and Hudson Bay was greater than the distance from England to Canada.

Continuing, the rest of Mr. Chamberlain's speech was largely a repetition of his former arguments. He said he had been blamed for saying that preferential trade with the colonies would not mean an addition to the cost of living. He quoted a letter from Charles Booth, of the firm of Alfred Booth, & Co., Liverpool, saying he did not believe the proposals would add to the cost of living.

Mr. Chamberlain said that the country was now at the parting of the ways, and posterity would never forgive the Government if it lost the slightest chance of securing what was actually needed by the nation.

In conclusion, Mr. Chamberlain said he advocated "the splendid isolation" of the Mother Country and her colonial children as a family, standing together through good and ill.

Press Comment on Speech.

London, Dec. 17.—The Standard, referring to Mr. Chamberlain's speech, says the commission proposed is so novel and striking that it completely overshadows all other topics. It is a grand inquest of a nation. A tour of the colonies would be a good idea; if he cannot convince the colonies he may modify his own opinion.

The Times says the work of the commission will be purely experimental. The fact that leaders in staple British industries are supporters of the Chamberlain policy secures the best possible personnel.

The News calls the commission "eccentric and anarchic," and as showing distrust of the House of Commons, the Board of Trade and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Chronicle says it is amusing. The commission will be on the lines of the Montreal congress, except that the members are bound to a preconceived conclusion.

The Post says it shows the tremendous force behind the Imperialist movement.

Paris.—The imports of France for the past eleven months increased $51,303,200, and the exports decreased $6,524,200.

ONTARIO ARCHIVES
TORONTO