

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Railway traffic in Winnipeg is seriously impeded by snow storms. The final dividend to Commercial Bank of Manitoba creditors was paid on Tuesday.

The Ontario Rolling Mills Company will erect a new steel building in Hamilton.

Frederick Waskin, an old pensioner, who lived alone in Hamilton, lost his life in a fire.

The Kingston Locomotive Works has received an order to build three locomotives for the Intercolonial Railway.

Wm. M. Ogilvie, son of the explorer, has resigned his connection with the Interior Department to go to the Yukon.

It is reported that Governor Valle, of the Montreal jail, is to be appointed warden of St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary.

The secretary-treasurer of the municipality of St. Boniface, Man., is short in accounts, and an investigation is being held.

The fisheries of the Dominion yielded over \$20,000,000 last year and employed 7,000 men.

E. P. Jennings, an expert, has arrived at Sault Ste. Marie from the Michigan gold fields. He says that the ore looks very promising.

Those persons who wish to prospect for coal must, according to an Order-in-Council, passed at Ottawa on Saturday, pay a fee of ten dollars.

A seaman, named Adolph Carlson, jumped overboard from the lumber ship Magellan, in Vancouver Harbor, on Saturday and was drowned.

Several Atlantic steamers are detained at St. John, N.B., unable to get their cargoes or mails on account of the railways being blocked by snow.

Mrs. John Shaw, an insane woman of Pierson, Eastern Assiniboia, committed suicide there on Tuesday. She had previously tried poison and a rope.

Lady Abbott, widow of the late Sir John Abbott, Prime Minister of Canada, died suddenly at the house of her son, Mr. J. B. Abbott, Montreal, on Friday.

The War Office scheme for the reform of the British army adds 28,000 men to the army, the largest increase ever proposed in Great Britain in time of peace.

An Order-in-Council has been passed giving effect to Mayor Walsh's order increasing the dues to be paid for permits to sell liquor in the Yukon district from 25 cents a gallon to \$2 under proof.

A deputation from the northwest waited on the Government at Ottawa to advocate the opening up of the Edmonton route to the Yukon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised that an expedition would be made.

At Camrose, Alberta, fire destroyed the Pullman and Waverley Hotels and a number of other buildings. Forty inmates of the Pullman Hotel escaped in their night clothes, but Clara Christenson, the ten-year-old daughter of the proprietor, was burned to death.

Trade returns show exports for January increased by \$4,000,000 over January last year, and imports increased \$2,400,000. Imports for past seven months have been \$72,888,599, compared with \$65,568,611 a year ago, and exports \$111,274,332 against \$86,602,099 a year ago.

Sir George and Lady Kirkpatrick were the recipients, at their home in Toronto, on Tuesday, of two handsome silver punch bowls and an address, by a number of gentlemen, in appreciation of the hospitalities and courtesies of the family during their stay at Government House. Miss Kirkpatrick was remembered with a bracelet and watch.

The Ontario Agricultural Department have just issued the 23rd annual report of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm. President Mills says that the past year has been one of hard work and satisfactory progress. There were 275 students on the roll during the past year, 63 of these taking a special dairy course.

In addition to equipping the system with extra sixty-thousand-pound freight cars, the Grand Trunk authorities are making arrangements to have their roadbed, locomotives, etc., beamed Toronto and Portland, put in condition to haul thirty-five cars to a train-load from the former to the latter city, without having to cut the train.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Robert Stapleton-Cotton, Viscount Combermere, is dead, at London.

Two Government cutters have been seized in a gale off Wells, Norfolk, drowning sixteen persons.

A receiver has been appointed for the estate of Sir Robert Peel, whose liabilities are estimated at £100,000.

The British Board of Agriculture is taking steps to prevent the introduction of San Jose scale into Great Britain.

Mr. Gladstone will shortly undergo an operation to alleviate the pain caused by necrosis of the bone of the nose.

There is great activity in the Clyde shipbuilding industry, 50,000 tons having been ordered in February against 26,000 tons in January.

Mr. John H. Parnell, brother of the late Charles Stewart Parnell, is a candidate for the post of City Marshal of Dublin. He urges his poverty as a reason for his appointment.

Judgment was rendered in London, England, on Tuesday in a gambling case in favor of the defendant, who had issued L.O.U.'s to the extent of £1,538, while playing at bacarat.

Snow continues falling in the southern and western districts of England. Many roads and railroads are blocked and snowploughs are working at drifts from three to twelve feet deep, and telegraphic communication is interrupted.

At a bye-election in the Crickdale Division of North Wiltshire, in consequence of the resignation of the Unionist member of the House of Commons Mr. Alfred Hopkinson, Q.C., Lord Edmund George Fitzmaurice, Liberal, was elected by a majority of 489.

The carpenters in the large shipbuilding yard at Sunderland were suddenly called upon to defend the most sacred prerogative of the British workman last week. The boss asked some of them to "hurry up," and all the carpenters went on strike at once.

In Birmingham a valuable piece of ground is over a railway tunnel, which will not bear the weight of a building. An architect has devised a house which project over the tunnel on cantilevers, and is held up by an apparatus like a butcher's steel-yard. It consists of steel bars, with the house on the long ends, and a huge block of concrete hung at the short ends, to balance the building.

UNITED STATES.

Rev. Sam Jones is an independent candidate for Governor of Georgia.

Norman McLachlan, one of Queen Victoria's pipers is on a visit to his sister in Marquette, Mich.

W. M. Boggs, paying teller of the First National Bank of Dover, Del., has been arrested on a charge of embezzling over \$100,000.

The motion for a new trial in the case of Adolph Luetger, the Chicago wife-murderer, has been refused, and the sentence of life-imprisonment confirmed.

John Mulligan, president of the Connecticut River Railroad and one of the best known railroad men of New England, is dead at Springfield, Mass.

The Supreme Court of the United States has begun its hearing of the joint traffic case in which is concerned 31 of the leading roads of the country.

Morris V. Bancroft, an American Express Company messenger, received a bullet wound from his own revolver, which dropped from his pouch and discharged at New York on Tuesday. He will probably die.

Two passenger trains collided in a blinding snow storm on Saturday night at the crossing of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul and Burlington roads, near Rockford, Ill., killing two trainmen and injuring about twenty-five passengers.

The Ohio Coal Trust has been perfected under the name of Central Coal and Coke Company. It is incorporated under the laws of Ohio, and its headquarters will be at Columbus. Its capital stock is \$200,000. It is understood that prices are to be raised.

The Temple Magazine publishes an interview with Bishop Whipple of Minnesota, who says he once left his things scattered about in an Indian tepee, and asked the chief if they were safe. "Yes," said the chief, "perfectly safe. There is not a white man within a hundred miles."

At Philadelphia, William M. Singery, proprietor of The Record Publishing Company, President of the Chestnut National Bank and the Chestnut Savings Fund & Trust Company, which recently collapsed, and President of the Singery Pulp & Paper Mill, died suddenly from heart disease.

GENERAL.

An insurrection is imminent in Bulgaria.

War is imminent between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Berlin, Germany, is to have an underground railway.

The Czarina is suffering from a mild attack of measles.

Fire has destroyed a plague hospital at Bombay. The patients were saved.

The coast of Newfoundland continues to be blocked with ice and shipping is helpless.

Col. Picquet, who testified for the defence in the Zola trial at Paris, has been retired from the army without a pension.

There are, it is said, 14,000 people absolutely without food and clothing within the limits of the city of Matanzas, in Cuba.

The British battleship Victorious, which was ashore for some time off Port Said, necessitating her being lightered, has safely traversed the Suez canal.

The Zola trial has closed at Paris. M. Zola was found guilty on all counts, and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and fined 3,000 francs.

The 200 fishermen who were carried into the Gulf of Finland by the breaking loose of ice have all been saved, according to reports from St. Petersburg.

In the German Reichstag on Tuesday General Von Gossler, Minister of War, accused Herr Bebel, the Socialist, of appealing to revolution, and therefore of being a national enemy. "Should these Socialists enemies," said General Von Gossler, "some day proceed to action we would advance against them with the same sword as we would against a foreign foe."

CANADIAN FISHERIES.

A surplus of 238,000 Over the Total Value of the Previous Year.

According to the Fisheries report just issued, the value of the Canadian fisheries last year was over \$20,400,000. This amount divided by provinces is as follows:—Nova Scotia, \$6,970,890; New Brunswick, \$4,769,433; British Columbia, \$1,183,999; Quebec, \$2,025,754; Ontario, \$1,605,674; Prince Edward Island, \$976,126; Manitoba and North-West, \$745,543. The provinces of New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario give an aggregate increase in 1897 of \$575,310 and the other provinces show a decrease of \$367,224, making a surplus of \$208,000 over the total value of the previous year.

A MILLION ROUNDS.

British Officers Leave England for West Africa Well Equipped.

A Liverpool despatch says:—The British steamer Bonny started on Saturday for the Niger with a party of officers, 10 non-commissioned officers, three hospital nurses, a number of huts, a quantity of military stores, and a million rounds of ammunition. The stores and the party are destined for Lokja.

FOR INSULTING THE KAISER.

The Police Spies Were Busy in Germany During the Carnival.

A despatch from Berlin says:—A big crop of lese majeste convictions was harvested during the carnival celebrations last week. The first inclination of the German peasant when he gets tipsy is to indulge in airy firstlings about the Kaiser, and the first inclination of the omnipresent police spy is to land the tipsy peasant in gaol. As a result, peasants all over the country have been given a couple of months in gaol to sober up enough to realize that the Emperor must be spoken of with respect.

AN ODD INFRACTION.

An odd infraction of the lese majeste laws has just come to light. A local business house received a postal card from a man in Wales. Just over the address some one wrote in English shorthand, while the card was in transit, "D—the Emperor." The card passed through the post-office all right, but the German who received it was puzzled to know what the marks meant. He kept the card until he found an Englishman who could read shorthand and submitted the card to him, and asked the translation, which was promptly and joyfully given. Thereupon the German wrote to his Welsh correspondent demanding that the man who made the offense be found and punished, and that if he were not the matter would be referred to the Prussian Minister to England for investigation. Thus far the culprit has not been located.

SMALLPOX IN A PALACE.

The Czarina of Russia Stricken Down With the Dread Disease.

A despatch from Vienna says:—Within a few weeks of the date on which, according to official announcement, the Czarina is about once again to become a mother, she has been stricken with smallpox, and, although the most strenuous efforts have been made at St. Petersburg to conceal the fact, measles being given out as the cause of her malady, yet the true nature of her malady, is the subject of conversation in all the court circles, news having been received here therof by letter, as of course the censor would not permit any information of this kind to leave the Russian capital by wire. The announcement is not altogether unexpected. Instead it has been anticipated for ten days past.

CAUGHT AT A CONCERT.

It seems that about a fortnight ago Count Muravieff, the Muscovite Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave a magnificent concert and supper, in honour of the Czar and Czarina all the other members of the Imperial family who happened to be in St. Petersburg being present. The Count, completely overcome by the music, fell into the arms of a young girl, his looks corroborating his words and he was forced to take to his bed on the following day. Forty-eight hours later the physicians finally diagnosed his case as a very severe attack of smallpox. It was accordingly granted that he had already been in the first stages of that horrible malady at a moment when he was doing the honours of this official residence to the Emperor and Empress. Since then the utmost seclusion has prevailed at the Russian court, and both Nicholas and his beautiful consort have been said to have been under continual and close supervision of their medical attendants, on the lookout for any symptoms of smallpox.

PROVIDING FOR WAR.

The British Army Increased by About 23,000 Men.

A despatch from London says:—The War Office scheme for the reform of the British army, which was explained in the House of Commons on Friday by Mr. W. St. J. Broderick, Parliamentary Secretary of the War Office, seems to have greatly satisfied the various factions. The scheme adds 23,000 men to the army, the largest increase ever proposed in Great Britain in time of peace.

So great is the Empire's demand now that one in every sixteen able-bodied men in the country is serving either in the army or navy, and one in every four youths reaching the age of 18 years has joined one of the two services.

The great drawback of the present system Mr. Broderick said, was to provide for sudden small wars, and it was proposed to meet this situation by allowing 5,000 infantry to go on the reserve, and draw a shilling, instead of sixpence, per day, these men to be subject to call in any emergency.

Mr. Broderick outlined a scheme of War Office reforms conferring larger powers of initiative and financial control upon generals, and putting an end to the system of constant reference to the War Office of minor matters.

It was proposed, he said, to create three effective army corps, of which two would take the field immediately in case of war, and 10,000 men would be in readiness for minor emergencies without calling upon the reserves. No battalion of infantry would have fewer than 650 men, no cavalry regiment fewer than 350, and no artillery battery fewer than 150.

RIOTERS KILLED.

Serious Disturbances in Sicily Owing to the Scarcity of Food.

A despatch from Rome says:—Grave disturbances have occurred at Modica, Sicily, where a crowd of a thousand or more workmen and peasants organized a demonstration, parading the streets clamouring for bread or work. The crowd attacked the quarters of the gendarmes and broke the windows of many houses in the town. The troops were called out and charged upon the mob, killing two and injuring several others. The disturbances grew out of the scarcity of food and employment which prevails in Sicily, and similar demonstrations have occurred in various other places in that island.

WILL IT YET END IN WAR?

THE FRENCH AND BRITISH MAY FIGHT OVER SOKOTO.

Is the Old Fend Growing Out of West African Rivalry Soon to Reach a Crisis?

It is true that two French expeditions have advanced toward Sokoto, in Western Africa, and have thereby aroused the wrath of patriotic Englishmen, who claim that the British alone possess any jurisdiction over the Sokoto territory? M. Hanotaux says that he has no knowledge of any such proceeding, and he even insists that the story cannot be true, for the reason that there are no French troops in that region.

The report, if true, is interesting, not only because it is a signal evidence of that persistent and far reaching policy pursued by the French since they first set foot on the dark continent, but also because it may be the prelude to a new and sensational Franco-British feud.

The story as it reaches us by cable is simple enough. The French, we are told, advanced toward Sokoto and met with no check until the Sultan of that country sent them word that they must halt within forty miles of the capital. The Sultan presumably relies on receiving assistance from the Royal Niger Company, of Great Britain. On the other hand, some well informed persons in London think that the Sultan is not as sincere in his warlike intentions as he would have the British believe.

However this may be, the Royal Niger Company will certainly not countenance this alleged aggressive act on the part of the French. In Madagascar and other places, the French have had their own way, and to the average Englishman it is only too clear that they are now preparing to play the same game in West Africa. If so, they may find more obstacles in their path than they now look for.

AN OLD QUARREL.

After all, this is but the latest stage in a quarrel which is now nearly thirty years old. There were frontier difficulties between France and Great Britain as far back as 1868. In 1870 negotiations were opened for the settlement of the respective frontiers of the two countries in Western Africa on the basis of a mutual exchange of territories, the principal being that French influence and authority should be confined to the north of a certain line, while Great Britain should have a free hand south of the same line. As a result four agreements were made within the next ten years.

One of these dealt partially with Sierra Leone; the second with various disputed points in Gambia, Sierra Leone, the gold coast and Legos; the third with the Niger region, and the fourth with the interior frontier of Sierra Leone. By the third agreement the Kingdom of Sokoto was assigned to the British, and by the fourth the Hinterland was assigned to the French.

In spite of these agreements, however, there has been constant friction between the two countries, mainly owing to the inability of the Boundary Commissioners to agree on many disputed points, and to the absence of any boundary line to the southwest of Say. Serious trouble came in the autumn of 1891. The French, apparently intent on establishing a great African empire, extending from Algeria to the basins of the Congo and Upper Nile, had despatched Commandant Deceur to Nikki, the capital of Borgu, with instructions to negotiate a treaty. The Royal Niger Company, however, was not to be fooled in this way. Promptly it instructed Captain Lugard to go to Nikki with his ruler, and to negotiate a treaty with its ruler. He did so and carried off his treaty three weeks before M. Deceur arrived there.

A SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENT.

That Sokoto is within the British sphere of influence seems fully proved. The first treaty of the Royal Niger Company was dated at Wurru June 1, 1893, and was confirmed by a second treaty, dated April 15, 1890. This second treaty was again confirmed by a third treaty, which was negotiated on June 26, 1894, with Abdu, the successor of Umoru. The sixth clause of this treaty reads as follows:—"I recognize that the company receives its power from the Queen of Great Britain, and that they are Her Majesty's representatives to me. I will not recognize any other white agent, because the company is my help."

If these treaties are not sufficient proof, study the following passage from a letter which the Grand Vizier of Sokoto wrote to the company in April, 1894, a few months before the last treaty was signed:—"We saw your paper with the messenger. We saw and we understood it. They say in it that we have made a treaty with Montell, a Frenchman. On account of that we write you this letter to tell you that we have made a treaty with no one. All that Montell may have said was a lie. We will make no treaty with any one coming from your parts. We will make no treaty with any other from the white men's country except with the Royal Niger Company. They are the friends of the treaty."

These words sound very plausible, but there is other evidence to show that the Sultan of Sokoto is rather an accomplished Talleyrand in his way. Consider his position held in the last century by the Great Mogul toward the Mohammedan States of Nigeria, the position held in the last century by the Great Mogul toward the Mohammedan States of India. Naturally, therefore, when the British chastised his rebellious vassals in the Nupi campaign of last year,

he felt somewhat humiliated at the knowledge that he was more or less dependent on a foreign power.

A WILY POTENTATE.

Three courses were open to him. He could either make friends with the rebel Rabeah and bid defiance to Great Britain and France alike, or he could listen to the advances of France and obtain through French influence a supply of arms and ammunition, which would enable him to rally the subsidiary Nigerian states in a revolt against England, or finally, he could reaffirm the peaceful relations which had previously existed between him and the Royal Niger Company.

At first his policy was that of stubborn resistance. After some correspondence of an unsatisfactory nature with the company he declared that he could not sanction the British policy during the late revolt, and he declined to receive the annual instalment of the subsidy of £3,000 which the company had by treaty agreed to pay him. At the same time he sent messages to the chiefs of the subsidiary states, calling upon them to throw off the company's rule.

Most of these chiefs were at logger-heads with the Sultan and they at once forwarded their messages to the company. Of the others some might have proved dangerous had the Sultan taken the field, but such a thought never seems to have entered his head. Anyhow, it soon became apparent that the Sultan himself saw the danger of a revolt. The Sultan himself saw, after a few months, that the British were too strongly entrenched to be lightly disturbed, and he again announced his intention of adhering firmly to the British alliance.

At the same time he stated that he had refused overtures made to him by the French, and that he would never again attempt to stir up Mohammedan fanaticism against the British.

The question now is, Has the Sultan, after all these specious promises, allied himself with the French, or is he favouring their aggressive policy in the hope that he may thereby be enabled to free himself and his country from British domination?

MURDER IN MONTREAL.

A Man Named Coc Killed in a Drunken Row.

A despatch from Montreal, says:—A mysterious death, which it is claimed, was due to foul play, took place on De Montigny street, in the east end of the city, some time during Tuesday night. William F. Coc, aged 60 years, was found dead at 635 De Montigny street on Wednesday morning with a number of wounds on his head. The deceased returned home about 6 o'clock on Tuesday night very drunk, but whether he went out again none of his neighbors could say. The deceased was, however, heard singing, and evidently having a good time. Children were seen to enter the house frequently with jugs, surmised to contain beer. The deceased was a man who worked at odd jobs, and roomed at the house, which is occupied by John Nesbitt, a labourer. Nesbitt, as far as can be ascertained, was at work all day Tuesday, and returned home about half past six. A doctor was called to the house about half-past ten o'clock, but could not attend then. About two o'clock on Wednesday morning the doctor visited Nesbitt's house, where he found a man in the kitchen sitting in a chair, with his chin resting on his breast. A woman met him and asked him to examine the man in the chair. He looked and saw he was dead. The deceased's head was badly bruised and his face was covered with blood, showing signs of violence. The doctor questioned the woman, who gave very unsatisfactory answers, with the result that he left as quickly as he could. The doctor did not notice any signs of a struggle nor did he examine the wounds sufficiently to say whether they were caused by a blow from a blunt instrument or from a fall.

JOHN NESBITT ARRESTED.

John Nesbitt was placed under arrest on Wednesday afternoon on a charge of murder. The accused says the deceased fell, but the facts as ascertained by the police are as follows:—About six o'clock Nesbitt reached home, and after supper beer was sent for. He got drunk, and commenced to use vile language towards his sister-in-law and also struck her. Coc remonstrated, whereupon it is alleged that Nesbitt, in a violent rage, seized a hammer and struck the deceased a heavy blow on the head. Coc fell to the floor, and his assailant sought refuge in another room. The injured man was put in a chair, and Mrs. Nesbitt bathed his head with water. A doctor was subsequently sent for, but the man died before his arrival, and on Wednesday morning he was found in the same position in which he died.

DISTRESS IN CUBA.

One Who Has Seen Both Says It Is Worse Than In Armenia's.

W. W. Howard, of New York, returned from Cuba on Thursday on the steamer Vigilantia. "I was in Armenia with Clara Barton," said Mr. Howard, "but nowhere in Armenia did I see such suffering and famine as I have witnessed in Cuba among the pacificos and reconcentrados. Men, women, and children are so emaciated from privation that their ribs and bones almost come through their shrivelled skins. If ever people needed relief, it is these wretched reconcentrados. The men are well dressed, well armed, well horsed, and well groomed; indeed, they are sleek and live easy lives. Cuba has been laid waste. Outside the town one rarely sees a building, for all have been razed or burned. Grass and weeds grow where one ethe highest cultivation existed."

BY THE DOCTOR'S ADVICE.

Why are you cleaning the walks, Mrs. Buffy? Is Mr. Buffy sick or away from home?

Neither. But the doctor told the dear fellow that he must take more exercise so he's busy with his Indian clubs and a punching bag.

NEWS FROM THE KLONDIKE

FOUND DEAD WITH \$160,000 IN GOLD ON THEIR BODIES.

Returning Klondikers Laden With Fortune, Frozen to Death—The Horrors of Skaguay—Fifteen Dead Men Daily.

3rd edition.

A despatch from Victoria, B.C., says:—It is said by passengers on the steamer Islander, just arrived here from Alaska, that several days ago two Canadian Mounted Police came into Skaguay with two sleds in tow, over which were strapped two dead men. The attention of the Mounted Police at Tagish was attracted by the dismal howls of a dog. After a short search they found the bodies of two men. They had been frozen to death. It is said they were returning Klondikers, and had in their possession \$100,000 in paper and gold dust. Their names are not known.

FLAG AT SUMMIT LAKE.

Passengers on the Islander confirm the report that the Canadian flag has been raised at Summit Lake; also that the Canadians will establish a Customs house at Crater Lake. Martial law has been declared at Skaguay, and the United States troops who went up on the Queen are enforcing law.

The attempt to float the steamer Corona has so far been a failure. Captain Goodall, who has been conducting the wrecking operations, has gone with divers to make an examination of the Cottage City.

TERIBLE PLAGUE.

The death rate at Skaguay averages 15 daily, one of the latest victims being the postmaster. It is also stated by passengers on the steamer Islander that the Dyca trail is strewn with dead mules.

Capt. O'Brien, of the steamer Rosalie, reports that there are about 12,000 people in Skaguay and camped along the White trail for a distance of six miles from the town. Many are going over the passes, but a far greater number are arriving daily. En route down the Rosalie passed twenty-nine vessels bound for Skaguay and Dyca. There is little or no abatement of the epidemic of spinal meningitis at Skaguay.

TROUBLE FEARED.

A despatch from Seattle, Wash., says:—Five steamers arrived from Alaska on Thursday, the (Hoyia, Hueneme, Del Norte, Protection and Queen. The Queen brought the latest news, having left Skaguay last Sunday. The most important news was a confirmation of previous reports that a Canadian official had raised the British flag on what is regarded as American soil, and trouble at Skaguay with longshoremen, who objected to Indians unloading freight from steamers. The presence of United States troops alone prevented serious trouble. A compromise was made with the white men to perform the work at 50 cents per hour. It is feared that serious trouble will grow out of the Canadian attempt to collect duty on the summit of the White Pass and Chilkoot Pass, and the Americans will resist the payment on what they consider American ground. Last summer, the boundary line was at Lake Bennett, then Lindermann, and now at the summit of the mountains, which is only twelve miles from Salt Water.

Two days before the Queen left Skaguay the wind, which had blown from the north constantly for seven weeks, shifted to the west, and began to blow from the south-west, causing a general thaw to set in. The change in the weather caused hundreds of people who had been detained by the severe cold to start over these trails from both Skaguay and Dyca, and when the steamer left a general exodus from both towns was taking place. Both trails are reported in excellent condition.

On the trip down the Queen passed the Cottage City a short distance south of Wrangel Narrows. The latter city evidently had trouble, as her bow was smashed in and covered with canvas to keep out the water.

BEAUTIFYING OLD LONDON.

Government Will Spend Millions of Dollars on Extensive Improvements.

Extensive plans for the beautification of London have been decided on by the Government. No announcement yet has been made, but an expenditure of more than \$10,000,000 upon the approaches to the Houses of Parliament is among the probabilities, including splendid new public offices, really worthy of the English metropolis.

PLAYING WITH A FUSE.

Incautious Sailors Imperil a British Cruiser—Fire in the Shell-Room.

A despatch from Portsmouth, says:—The British first-class armoured cruiser Australia, twelve guns, 5,600 tons, had a narrow escape on Wednesday. Two seamen were playing with a fuse in the shell-room, when they set fire to some stores. The flames were extinguished by the prompt flooding of the apartment.

TEN KILLED, EIGHT INJURED.

Two Explosions at a Fire—Spectators and Firemen Burned in Dobris.

A despatch from Kalamazoo, Mich., says:—Fire on Saturday night partially destroyed the Hall chemical works. During the progress of the fire two terrific explosions occurred, blowing one of the buildings to pieces and burying a large number of people in the ruins. Six firemen and four spectators were killed and eight others badly injured.

VALUABLE ORCHID.

The sum of 150 guineas has been paid for a single orchid.