New-York Tribune.

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ACROSS THE BALKANS.

A RUSSIAN VICTORY REPORTED.

AN IMMENSE ARMY RESERVED FOR THE TRANS-BALKAN CAMPAIGN.

According to the Russian official report, Gen. Gourko's forces have defeated the Turks south of the Balkans, and are moving on Kasanlik, which is in the rear of the Ottoman forces commanding the Shipka Pass. The capture of Nikopolis and the surrender of 6,000 Turks and two monitors are fully confirmed. The Russian cavalry is being distributed widely in Bulgaria. It holds positions from 12 miles west of Rustchuk to 40 miles inland, facing the Turkish foremost position on the River Lom. The Russians are reported to have marched south of Silistria, which they intend to blockade with part of the forces in the Dobrudja.

THE WAR IN BULGARIA.

AN ARMY OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN AVAILABLE FOR CROSSING THE BALKANS—THE RUSSIANS WITHIN TWELVE MILES OF RUSTCHUK.

LONDON, Tuesday, July 17, 1877.

Regarding the steps prior to the crossing of the Balkans, a correspondent with the Russian army says that when he visited Tirnova on the 13th inst., Gen. Gourko's advance had gone forward 48 hours previously. Col. Judolmin's Circassian Cossacks were leading the column. So bad are the tracks through the passes of the Helena Balkans that Gen. Gourko's column of infantry as well as the cavalry resigned their wagon transport and conveyed the baggage and provisions on pack-horses. Gen. Gourko need have no fear of the Turks breaking in upon the line of his communications for he has cut himself adrift.

THE RUSSIAN OFFICIAL REPORT.

LONDON, Tuesday, July 17, 1877.

The following is the Russian official account of the crossing of the Balkans:

TIRNOVA, Monday, July 16, 1877.

"Gen. Gourko with an advanced guard of cavalry, infantry and artillery has crossed the Balkans. On July 14, he surprised and defeated a Turkish battalion, which guarded the outlet of the pass near the village of Khaukhoi.

"Gen. Gourko is now marching upon Kasanlik in the rear of the enemy, who occupies the fortified Shipka defile. Two companies of Cossacks have arrived at Jeni Saghra and cut the telegraph between that place and Nomgagra and Sliveno.

"On Sunday an engagement was fought near the Village of Orzazare, between a Cossack force and some detachments of Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, supported by Turkish infantry. The enemy held their ground until the arrival of dragoons and a battery of artillery sent by Gen. Gourko. On perceiving the approach of these reinforcements the Turks fled. The flag, several standard-bearers and a quantity of arms were captured."

This raid of Gen. Gourko, and his stubborn contest with the Turks, is only the preclude of the general plan of campaign. A news letter from Obirtunik, a place on the highway between Biela and Rustchuk, says that after blockading the fortresses of the quadrilateral, 100,000 men are available for crossing the Balkans by the Western line of invasion, exclusive of Gen. Zimmermann's army in the Eastern section of the theatre of war. As regards supplies, the Russians are determined to leave nothing to chance. Bucharest is the great central depot, and contains stores of meal to which the supplies of rice for the relief of the Bengal famine were a mere bagatelle. Sistova will be the intermediate and Tirnova the advance depot. As regards the Russian Army, a rapid advance on Rustchuk does not seem imminent. The cavalry divisions forming the outposts of the army, extend from a point on the Danube, 12 miles west of Rustchuk, to 40 miles inland, facing the Turkish foremost position on the River Lom. Small reconnoisances are pushed forward, but the mass of the divisions has been stationary for about a week.

Railway communication on the Adrianople line has been suspended for everything except troops.

THE ALLEGED RUSSIAN CRUELTIES.

The reported cruelties in Bulgariaare denied by the correspondent of *The Daily News* with the Russian forces at Obirtenik. It is noteworthy, however, that it is against the advance guards and Cossacks that complaints have been made. He says: "I may mention that about 50 Turkish families of Tirnova remained after the general exodus, and are living unharmed under the special protection of the Russian military authorities. Speaking as a perfectly impartial man who would have no hesitation of hearing testimony to the contrary, were the contrary true, and who has had exceptional opportunities for observation, I do not believe that in Bulgaria there has been a single instance of personal maltreatment of a Turkish civilian at the hands of Russian soldiers."

WAGON TRAINS ATTACKED.

Various correspondents at Shumla, however, concur in stating that they personally witnessed the results of the Russian attacks on the unarmed Turkish populations in the shape of wounded, old men, women and children. Refugees say that the Russian troops attacked wagon-trains fleeing to Shumla and murdered the people indiscriminately. They fired on some parties with artillery.

THE SISTOVA PONTOON BRIDGE INTACT.

It is officially announced at Constantinople, that the reported attack by Turkish monitors on the Sistova bridge is untrue.

The Turks have evacuated and the Russians occupied Medjidio and Mangalea in the Dobrudja.

THE CAPITULATION AT NIKOPOLIS.

Russian official dispatches claim that the Nikopolis garrison, consisting of two Pashas and 6,000 regulars, has surrendered.

NIKOPOLIS AFTER THE SURRENDER.

LONDON, Wednesday, July 18, 1877.

A *Times* correspondent telegraphs from Turna-Margurelli, July 16: "I have visited the two monitors captured from the Turks. They can probably be made ready for action without much delay. I have also seen the Turkish prisoners, who were transported to the Roumanian side of the Danube to-day. The prisoners are all regulars, the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians having left some time ago. On the hights commanding Nikopolis, empty cartridge-cases lying in every direction tell of a desperate struggle. Thousands of rifles, bayonets, and accouterments are piled along the road to the town where a train of 300 wounded Moslems await removal into improvised hospitals. The Turks burned their stores and the principal buildings of the town last night before surrendering."

RUSSIANS SOUTH OF SILISTRIA.

A Bucharest telegram, sent yesterday, says: "To-day the Cossacks of Baron Krudener are said to have reached Lom Palanka, advancing toward Widdin."

From the Dobrudsja the Russians are reported to have marched south of Silistria, which will be blockaded, thereby cutting the quadrilateral in two, and fully protecting Russian communications on the Danube."

THE SOFTAS AGAIN TURBULENT.

LONDON, Wednesday, July 18, 1877.

A Vienna telegram says that at Constantinople the Softas have demanded that the standard of the Prophet be raised for a holy war; but the Palace has decided to postpone this extreme step till the Russians are nearer Adrianople.

A SERVIAN PRINCE IN MONTENEGRO.

LONDON, Tuesday, July 17, 1877.

Prince Karageorgevitch, pretender to the Servian throne, has entered the Montenegrin Army. His offers had hitherto been declined for fear of offending Prince Milan, an alliance with whom was desired by Montenegro. Their acceptance is now considered a sure sign that no coöperation of Servia in the war is expected.

It is now definitely decided that the Roumanian Army will not assume the offensive, but will confine itself to covering the line of the Danube.

The Russian Telegraphic Agency publishes a general denial of the reports of Russian atrocities.

AUSTRIA STILL CAUTIOUS.

LONDON, Wednesday July 18, 1877.

The Vienna correspondent of *The Times* denies that the passage of the Balkans will make any difference in the attitude of Austria, which loyally promised and intends to maintain neutrality, unless the war approaches too near her frontiers, or unless Russia at the final settlement should depart from the programme which she has announced. Gen. Levachell, the Czar's Adjutant-General, has arrived in Vienna from Bucharest.

THE SCENE OF WARFARE IN BULGARIA.

The principal scene of hostilities in Bulgaria is presented in the above map, which shows the country south of Nikopolis and Rustchuk as far as the southern slopes of the Balkan Mountains. The Russians now control the Bulgarian side of the Danube, from Nikopolis to Sistova, and have sent cavalry to within twelve miles of Rustchuk. Gen. Gourko's forces, which crossed the Balkans, are reported to be marching on Kasanlik (see map), which is in the rear of the Turkish forces, holding the Shipka Pass.

WAR SCENES AND TOPICS.

PASSES IN THE BALKAN.

It is now known that the Russians have followed a secret pass over the Balkan. Tacir cavalry advanced along a bridle-path leading from Dranova southeast to a little village called Ivarditza, from twelve to eighteen miles northwest of Jeni Saghra. The country which they traversed is, however, indicated by that of the neighboring passes. After leaving Tirnova the road ascends the Schibka Pass, descending from its summit steeply to the village of the same name, whence it follows along the valley of the Kasanlik. This latter district is described as being exceedingly fertile, the stream being bordered by rows of nut trees, and the village surrounded with orchards and rose gardens. On the third road—that, namely, from Osman Bazar by Kasan to Slivno—are two old intrenchments, which of late have been again partially repaired. Kasan itself lies in a deep hollow, and thence the way runs through a narrow cleft in the rocks, a pass which, owing probably to the great difficulty which an enemy would experience in forcing his way through, has received the name of the Iron Gate. This narrow gorge may, however, be avoided by taking a zigzag and circuitous path which leads from Kasan to Selimno or Slivno. Here the descent from the highest point of the mountains to Slivno, and thence either to Karin or Dobroli, lies through a district very different in its character from the barren slopes on the north. Fruit-trees, rose gardens, cotton fields diversify the scene; and while snow still lies on the Bulgarian slopes, the southern are green with luxuriant vegetation.

The pass from Shumla to Tjalikavak and Dobrol t is, so far as natural difficulties are concerned, easily practicable as far as Tjalikavak. Thence to Dobroli, however, the route runs through a narrow pass, bordered on either side by steep rocks. Intrenchements also have been constructed which, if obstinately defended, would render the passage of an invading force along it an extremely precarious enterprise. From Dobroil again the road descends steeply through a long and defensible defile to Deli Kamijik.

The pass from Kosladji by Pravadi, Jenikoi to Aidos, is barred near the small town of Pravadi by a ridge of rock, which offers a natural fortification. This obstacle may, however, also be avoided by following a path through the Kirk-Getjin Pass, or "pass of forty fords," so-called because the road continually crosses and recrosses a small stream which flows through the pass, or by taking the Jenikoi road. Both these latter routes unite again on a hight free from wood and cover, and which consequently lends itself to defensive arrangements. These were the passes taken by Diebitsch in the campaign of 1829.

The defense, adds *The Pall Mall Gazette*, of a lengthened mountain chain, through which there are several passes, is, like the defense of a long line of river on which there are several points of passage, recognized to be a difficult undertaking; but it is pointed out by a writer in a German military paper, that if the mass of the defensive force is kept concentrated at some convenient and central point, with corps of observation only pushed forward into the mountains, it ought, if capable of maneuvring in the field, to be able to fall with the greatest success upon the heads of columns debouching from the defiles, and that, therefore, especially as long as Schumla and Varna, or even only one of these fortresses remains in the hands of the Turks, the passage of the Balkans will be a critical enterprise for the Russians to undertake.

THE RUSSIAN VANGUARD.

The Russian advance-guard crossed the Danube in boats when they captured Matchin, but afterward were transported to the Turkish side of the river in barges. These barges were protected at the side by huge wooden bulwarks, built up to the hight of a man, with loopholes through them. These bulwarks would ward off a bullet, but hardly a shell. Gen. Zimmermann, commander of one of the Russian corps in the Dobrudja, soon after the Russian vanguard entered Matchin, went over to its assistance with 2,000 more soldiers. As soon as the inhabitants saw the heavily laden barges coming, *The London Daily News* states, they formed into a procession and came down to the shore with banners, holy pictures taken from the churches, and various other religious emblems. They were led by three priests and some other church dignitaries in full canonical robes, who met the Russian troops chanting a hymn. General Zimmermann took off his cap and kissed the little wooden cross that was presented to him, while with a bunch of green leaves they splashed any amount of holy water over his head, and in fact almost drenched him. Each of those who followed were treated with the same copious shower-bath, and as the day was hot and all were in a terrible perspiration, the ordeal was by no means an unpleasant one. The people then greeted the troops with loud hurrahs, and marched after them, manifesting the most extravagant joy, especially the boys, whose delight was as unbounded as it was troublesome. Nevertheless, in spite of something that was grotesque about it all, this reception of the conquerors by the conquered, of the invaders by the invaded, had a profound political significance which the Turcophiles, if there were any present, would have done well to ponder. These people, instead of looking upon the Russians as enemies and conquerors and invaders and oppressors, hailed them with delight and satisfaction as their deliverers from a degrading and terrible bondage.

THE TOWN OF NIKOPOLIS.

Nikopolis, which the Russians have captured, is a town of twenty thousand inhabitants, founded by Trajan, 20 miles northwest of Sistova and 52 from Rustchuk. Near this place was fought the celebrated battle of Nikopolis, September 28, 1396, when Bayazid Ilderim defeated the Christian Army under Sigismund, King of Hungary. Like Sistova, Nikopolis is situated on two steep hills, and possesses an ancient castle. It has beside a few mosques, better than the ordinary run of such buildings in provincial towns, and some small trade of its own. The fortifications consist of irregular lines, with revetements and earthen parapets, surrounded by a deep ditch, flanked by flat bastions. On the opposite Roumanian bank is Gieli, where the Aluta flows into the Danube.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

LORD BEACONSFIELD REBUKED.

ONE OF HIS APPOINTMENTS CENSURED.

LONDON, Tuesday, July 17, 1877.

The House of Commons last night, by a vote of 156 to 152, passed a motion to the effect that the recent appointment of the Controller of the Stationery Office is calculated to diminish the influence and usefulness of the Select Committees of this House, and discourage the zeal of the officials of the public departments. The vote is interesting, as Controller Pigott was appointed directly by Earl Beaconsfield, who is a friend of his family. The appointment contravenes the recommendation of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, that the Controller of the Stationery Office should have a technical acquaintance with the duties of the office. Mr. Pigott does not fulfill this condition, having been previously employed at the War Office.

The Times, commenting on the affair, says editorially: "The results of last night's vote cannot be serious. The Ministry will have received a gentle admonition to be a little more careful in their appointments. As Mr. Disraeli more than once declared that it was a proud characteristic of genius to discern the spirit of the age in which its lot was cast, Lord Beaconsfield will read in the vote a warning that the spirit of the age must not be disregarded in the dispensation of patronage."

RIFLE-SHOOTING AT WIMBLEDON.

LONDON, Tuesday, July 17, 1877.

At Wimbledon to-day, the Canadian Shield was presented by Col. Gzowski to the Duke of Cambridge, representing the National Rifle Association. The Duke and Lord Carnarvon returned thanks. Private Jameison of the 15th Lancashire (Liverpool), won the Queen's Prize, scoring 70, the highest possible being 105, firing seven shots each at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards.

The Canadian shield goes to Scotland, having been won by Paton of the first Lanark, who achieved the best general aggregate score.

DR. STROUSBERG'S CASE.

Moscow, Tuesday, July 17, 1877.

Dr. Strousberg's sentence of banishment from the Russian dominions is still unexecuted. He is detained pending the arrival from St. Petersburg of papers which are necessary to determine the amount of costs which he must pay.

THE CANADIAN ORANGEMEN.

MONTREAL, July 17.—The streets after midnight were almost entirely deserted. The Orangemen and Young Britons played "Boyne Water," "Croppies Lie Down," and other party tunes, and indulged in other demonstrations on returning from the funeral yesterday. The hearse used was the same which conveyed the remains of Guibord to the grave. Chief of Police Penton yesterday showed the Mayor and Police Committee a paper picked up by Col. Bacon. This document contains a number of Irish names divided into four sections, with one person designated as chief of each division; and seems to show that there was a regular organization in view on the 12th of July.

William Elliott of Lenoxville, who was shot at Wellington Bridge yesterday, lies in a precarious condition to-day. The ball entered at the right side of the spine below the shoulder, and has not been extracted. Complaint was laid in the Police Court this afternoon against three volunteers who, attacked a man about 12 o'clock last night. Patrick Dwyer was committed for trial to-day, charged with attempting to shoot Messrs. Lemay and Duchesne yesterday. His only plea is drunkenness.

OTTAWA, July 17.—At a mass-meeting of Orangemen last night, it was decided to give the brethren who went to Montreal a grand reception. A procession will be formed at Orange Hall, at 5 o'clock to-day, and march to Queen's Wharf. On the arrival of the steamer Peerless, addresses will be delivered, after which the 400 will be escorted to Orange Hall. Several societies will take part in the demonstration.

THE TIDAL WAVE AT THE MARQUESAS.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 16.—Captain Nisser, of the brig Potoma, who recently arrived from the Marquesas Islands and Tahiti, says that the tidal wave of May 10 was not felt at Tahiti at all, but at Nukahiva, one of the Marquesas group and in the Bay of Taiohae, the water rose and fell all day, the greatest rise being fourteen feet on Captain Hart's plantation. On the other side of the island, the tide rose with great force, sweeping away houses and other property. The warehouses were all washed away and the inhabitants compelled to flee for their lives. The most remarkable feature of the phenomenon is, that although there had been no rain in the island for four years, a fall of rain occurred just preceding the tidal wave, and at the time of the Potoma's sailing, it had been falling heavily for twelve days. The floods thus caused were washing away bridges and doing considerable other damage.

MEXICO AND THE UNITED STAETS.

NEW-ORLEANS, July 17.—Gen. N. S. Reneau, who went to the City of Mexico bearing dispatches from Secretary Evarts, returned to-day by the steamer from Vera Cruz. Gen. Reneau reports that the country is quiet; says Diaz's authority is recognized throughout the Republic, and he believes that Mexico now has the best Government she has had for twenty years. In an interview President Diaz expressed a desire to do everything possible to assist in breaking up the lawlessness on the Rio Grande. General Diaz earnestly hoped his Government would be recognized by the United States at an early day.

BANK TROUBLES.

END OF THE RUN ON THE ST. LOUIS BANKS—RUMORED SUSPENSION OF THE BREMEN BANK.

ST. LOUIS, July 17.—This morning business at the banks opened with brighter prospects, and at 11 o'clock nothing of special note had occurred. Very few people, not more than half-a-dozen at any one time, have been at the Fourth National and Provident Savings Banks, presenting checks, which have been promptly paid. The run seems to have stopped and it is hoped there will be no further excitement or trouble. Still it cannot be known what a day will bring forth. The officers of the North St. Louis Savings Bank assert that the assets of the bank exceed the liabilities fully $150,000, and that these can be pretty easily realized. The deposits amount to $600,000. The bank will go into liquidation. It is said that Espy, Heidelbach & Co. of Cincinnati had a considerable sum in the bank when it closed. As stated yesterday, Mr. Merrill, President of the Bank of St. Louis, says the bank will pay its depositors every dollar. The current deposits amount to about $56,000, and the time deposits to $33,000, with assets more than sufficient to pay all. The bank had a large amount in New-York exchange which it could not dispose of, but it could have pulled through had not the North St. Louis Savings Bank closed up $27,000 of its clearings.

Later in the day apparently well authenticated reports came from the extreme Southern part of the city, that the Bremen Bank had closed its doors. No particulars can be given at this writing. The run on down-town banks may be regarded as stopped. The enforcement of the thirty days' notice rule yesterday regarding time certificates seems to have effected this result, and as the small current accounts in Savings banks were mostly drawn out, the excitement has about subsided, and business is progressing again in its regular channels.

RUNNING RACES AT PITTSBURGH.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., July 17.—The running meeting of the Iron City Jockey Club opened this afternoon at Friendship Park. The attendance was large, the weather favorable, and the track in fine condition.

The first race was a one-mile dash for all ages; $100 to first and $25 to second horse. There were seven entries, as follows: Gath, Probability, Moses Primrose, Edwin A., Jack Harkaway, Patriot and Daisy Miller. At the start, the horses got away well together. At the quarter Patriot took the lead and maintained it, coming in first, Daisy Miller second, Jack Harkaway third. Time, 1:47½.

Second race, for Pittsburgh cup, for all ages; 2¼ miles; entrance, $15 p. p.; $300 added; $50 to second, and $25 to third horse. Two horses started—Invoice and Kilburn. The latter took the lead and kept it for a mile and a-half, when Invoice passed him and won. Time, 4:15½.

The third was a hurdle race, one-and-a-half miles, over six hurdles; $250 to first, $50 to second, $25 to third horse. The following horses started: Culpepper, Bill Munday, Bay Fifty and Port Leonard. At the start Bill Munday fell to the rear, while the others kept close together and made the closest and most exciting race of the day. At the fourth hurdle the horses were side by side, and leaped the hurdle together. Coming down the home stretch Port Leonard gained the lead and came in first, with Culpepper second. Time, 2:59.

A BOSTON RAILROAD ENTERPRISE.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., July 17.—A party of gentlemen from Boston, including railroad men, business men and capitalists, and also officials of the Erie and the Delaware & Hudson Roads, were here to-day looking the ground over with a view to making a railroad connection between this city and Boston, via the Hoosac Tunnel. The party will go to Scranton to-morrow.

WASHINGTON.

THE PRESIDENT'S ORDER.

NO EXCEPTIONS TO BE MADE—ALL OFFICE-HOLDERS MUST RESIGN THEIR POLITICAL POSITIONS OR THEIR OFFICES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, July 17.—The question recently raised by members of the National Republican Committee, touching the application of the President's late Civil Service order to their cases, was discussed at much length in the Cabinet meeting to-day. It seems that the opinion previously reported as having been given by the President, that it would not be necessary for members of this Committee to consider that order as applying to their cases, since they would have no political duties to perform during the next three years, was given as his first impression in the matter. A further and more careful consideration of the subject has convinced the President and the members of the Cabinet that it is best to make no exception to the rule, and especially to make no such important exception, it would seem as had been determined upon from the statement contained in Assistant Secretary McCormick's letter to Postmaster Filley. Any other course, it is feared, would be widely misunderstood by the people, and cause dissatisfaction among office-holders to whom the rule was made to apply. No formal vote was taken in the Cabinet to-day on this subject, but a complete understanding was arrived at that members of the National Republican Committee who hold Federal offices will be required at no very distant day to choose which they will relinquish. The members of the Republican Committee who have raised this question are Postmaster Filley of St. Louis, A. B. Cornell of New-York, and Assistant-Secretary McCormick. It was reported in Washington several days ago that Mr. Cornell had made up his mind to make an issue with the Administration in regard to this order, and to refuse to resign either of his positions, thus forcing the President to remove him from his place in the Custom House. It is not known whether he still contemplates any such action or not.

MEXICO MORE REASONABLE.

DIAZ TO MAKE AN EXPLANATION TO THE UNITED STATES—A CONFLICT BETWEEN ORD AND TREVINO IMPROBABLE.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, July 17.—It can be stated on unquestionable official authority, that the Administration has made no modification of Gen. Ord's instructions, heretofore published, nor have any propositions for modifying them been considered. Advices received at the State Department to-day from Minister Foster (dated nearly a week later than other official or unofficial reports by mail hitherto published,) state that Mr. Foster had called the attention of the Government of Diaz to the invasion of American soil by a force of Diaz's soldiers, in pursuit of a body of Lerdo's adherents, and in reply had received from the Diaz Government some very interesting assurances. They admitted that this act was an infringment of International Law; promised, of course, that it should be promptly investigated, and assured him, for the information of our Government, that they would make all due amends in accordance with the requirements of International Law. It is therefore evident that the Diaz Government perceive that explanations are first in order from Mexico, she having made the first invasion. Minister Foster also reports that there was a universal newspaper outburst of indignation when Gen. Ord's instructions were issued, the being variously construed as contemplating either direct annexation, or a movement in favor of Lerdo, and at all events a hostile invasion of Mexican territory. Yet a few days of reflection, the receipt of additional news from the United States, and the publication of Mr. Foster's statement on the subject, led the Mexican journals, as well as the Diaz Government, to adopt a more moderate tone. One of the prominent journals, during the height of the excitement, used the following somewhat novel argument: "They tell us that Mexico is not prepared for war, but we answer there is one thing Mexico never was prepared for, and that is—peace."

The latest dispatches from Gen. Ord lead to the belief that no actual conflict will, under any circumstances, be likely to occur between the troops of Mexico and the United States on account of the border raids. The Mexican Indians who have been stealing horses and cattle in Texas recently did not cross the Rio Grande on their return anywhere in the neighborhood of Gen. Trivino's troops, and if the latter had been disposed to interfere with the progress of the American troops while in the pursuit of these Indians it would have been wholly impossible for him to have done so. It is hardly expected by the people in Washington, who are best informed on the subject, that there will be any occasion to pursue robbers from Mexico, either Indians or others, across the Rio Grande in the neighborhood of Mexican military stations. The freebooters will be as careful to avoid the Mexican troops as to keep, if possible, beyond the reach of American soldiers.

Later news from Brownsville confirm the reports previously received, that Escobedo is preparing for an attack upon some of the Northern States of Mexico. On the 12th of July he was seen about forty miles above Brownsville, with eighteen men, who are said to have had side-arms. It is also reported, from the same source, that for several days parties of men have been seen traveling up the country, and it was presumed that they were going to meet Escobedo, and that he had a camp somewhere on this side of the Rio Grande.

OFFICIAL GOSSIP.

APPOINTMENTS—THE COUNSEL BEFORE THE TREATY COMMISSION—GEN. PHILLIPS ILL.

[General Press Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, July 17.—E. A. Carman of New Jersey has been appointed Chief Clerk of the Department of Agriculture in place of Frederick Watts, Jr., son of the late Commissioner, and to-day entered upon the discharge of his duties. J. R. Dodge, Statistician of the Department of Agriculture, will leave to-morrow morning for the White Sulphur Springs to attend the Cotton Convention which will meet there to-morrow.

W. H. Trescott of South Carolina left Washington today for Boston, to consult with his colleague, Richard H. Dana, jr., those gentlemen having been appointed counsel for the Government before the Commission provided for by the Treaty of Washington to determine the amount of compensation which ought to be paid by the Government of the United States to the British Government for certain fishery privileges. The Commission will meet at Halifax, N. S., on or about the 27th inst. It is anticipated that a large amount of testimony will be taken.

Capt. Joseph Hildesdeimer, a prominent German citizen of North Carolina, will, according to present indications, be appointed Consul to Bremen. He is strongly commended by leading citizens of that State regardless of party affiliations.

The President has appointed Burt Van Horn to be Collector of Internal Revenue for the Twenty-eight District of New-York. Frederick Buell is retained by the President as Collector of Internal Revenue for the Thirtieth District of New-York.

Solicitor-Gen. Phillips, who is Acting Attorney-General during the absence of Judge Devens, was taken suddenly ill last night, and though somewhat better to-day was unable to be at the Department of Justice.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LOAN.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, July 17, 1877.

The American subscriptions to the new 4 per cent loan, as reported to the Treasury Department at the close of business hours this afternoon, amounted to $65,593,800. Sixty million dollars' worth of the bonds were sold by the Syndicate. The remainder were subscriptions received at the Treasury and Sub-Treasuries in different parts of the country. The subscriptions received by officers of the Department at one or two points have not yet been reported, but it is not supposed that they will make the aggregate exceed sixty-six or sixty-six and a half millions.

SPANISH TONNAGE.

The Treasury Department is informed by the Department of State that the Government of Spain has adopted since January 1, 1876, the Moorsom system in the admeasurement of the merchant vessels of that country, and is willing to admit the vessels of the United States which are admeasured upon that system into Spanish Ports and the Ports of Cuba without admeasurement, accepting the tonnage expressed in the certificate of registry of American vessels, as to tonnage, provided a similar courtesy is extended to Spanish vessels in Ports of the United States. Collectors of Customs and others are accordingly directed to take the registers of Spanish vessels in our ports as indicating their tonnage under Spanish law, with the addition of the amount of deduction, if any, under the Spanish law, not authorized by the admeasurement law of the United States. Usually the gross tonnage may be ascertained from the register; in such cases the vessel will be exempt from admeasurement.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday July 17, 1877.

The President has issued an order detaching the county of Niagara from the Thirtieth Internal Revenue Collection District of New York, adding it to the Twenty-eighth District of that State.

The President at this time has no intention of visiting the Green Briar White Sulphur Springs, but he will probably accept the invitation to visit Old Point, Virginia, to attend the Postal Convention which meets there the latter part of the month.

R. H Speake was before the Police Court in this city today on a charge of sending a postal card to John L. Sicken calling him an unmitigated and unprincipled liar. It was acknowledged that the defendant had posted the card, but his counsel argued that there is no law punishing the offence. No decision was rendered to-day.

The Department of agriculture reports that the improvements in cotton since the June report is just two per cent., ranging in the states from nothing in Arkansas to six in North and South Carolina. The region in which small and healthy plants, with clean culture, promised the most rapid improvement under favoring suns.

AFFAIRS AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

MR. JAY'S SECOND REPORT.

IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO SALARIES, BRIBERY, AND REGULAR INVESTIGATIONS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, July 17.—The second report of the Custom House Commission, of which John Jay is Chairman, is not the final one. Three important points are treated of in this report. First is that of a reorganization of the system of salaries, in order to make the pay of such officers as perform similar duties the same. Great incongruities in salary were discovered by the Commission, though the present Administration in the Custom House was very little, if at all, responsible for them. The salaries of employés of the Custom House are not fixed by law, and it has been customary for former Collectors and Surveyors to grade the salaries in their offices more in accordance with the personnel of their employés than with the character of the work to be performed. Favorites of the Administration of the Custom House at any given time have in many instances received much higher salaries than others, less fortunate, performing the same grades of duties. The Custom House Commission propose an arrangement of the different classes of clerical and other duty, somewhat as they are arranged in the Departments at Washington, making several grades of clerks with a fixed salary for each grade.

The second recommendation of the Commission is that whenever a Custom-House broker is detected in bribing or attempting to bribe any employé of the Custom-House, either for the purpose of inducing him to neglect his duty or to facilitate the transaction of business which the broker may have with the Custom-House, such broker shall not thereafter, under any circumstances, be admitted to the Custom-House. This regulation, if adopted, is intended to correct an abuse of which much complaint was made by merchants and others in their testimony before the Commission.

The third recommendation is that at stated intervals a thorough examination of the administration of the Custom-House shall be made by a disinterested committee, in order to prevent abuses from growing up, and to discover any reforms that ought to be adopted.

The Commission will hereafter report on the important subject of appraisements, and on other matters not included in the two reports already made.

A DISCUSSION AT CABINET MEETING.

WASHINGTON, July 17.—The question of reduction of force in the New-York Custom-House was discussed at the Cabinet meeting to-day, but no action thereon was taken. It appears that the conflicting recommendations of the Richard Grant White Commission and the Jay Commission, have been partially reconciled since the subject was last under discussion. The visit and views of Collector Arthur were referred to, and it was decided to have Surveyor Sharpe come on and give his ideas on the subject.

THE CABINET EXCURSION.

RECEPTION AT POTTSVILLE.

POTTSVILLE, Pa., July 17.—The excursion party, consisting of Messrs. Evarts, Devens, Forney and Keim, after visiting Bethlehem, Reading and other places, arrived here at six o'clock this evening. At eight o'clock a reception, at which many prominent people, were present was held in the building of *The Miners' Journal*. Howell Fisher welcomed the party on behalf of the people of Pottsville. Mr. Evarts, referring in his remarks to the Administration of President Hayes, said their efforts were in the direction of restoring harmony and peace throughout the Union. Gen. Devens and Col. Forney also addressed the assemblage. The party will leave in the morning to visit the mines and other prominent points of interest.

WHO OWNS MARE ISLAND.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 17.—In the suit of Bouldin to obtain possession of Mare Island, the taking of testimony began before the Court of Commissioners to day at Benicia. Both Bouldin and the Governmen. derived their titles through Victor Castro. He appears to have sold the land twice, once to Bryant in 1847, who decided it to Cooper the same year, and Cooper to Bouldin in 1849. Proof of sale to Bryant is defective but Bouldin expects to prove it by oral testimony. The other sale by Castro was to J. B. Frisbie and Byer Simons in 1849, who sold to Wm. Aspinwall and others, who sold to the Government. All these deeds are on record, except that of Gov. Alvorado to Castro. The latter, although he admits making the deed to Bryant, and his deed to Frisbie is on record, claims the island still to be his property, and says he will soon begin proceedings to gain possession. Bouldin, who is a citizen of Missouri, explains his failure to bring suit before by a statement that his father went back East in 1850 and did not know for many years afterward that the island had been occupied for a navy-yard. Then came the war, and after it there were certain political disabilities which prevented them from taking any action in this matter.

REFORM IN THE TAXES URGED.

The regular meeting of the Central Association of Householders was held last night at No. 140 East Fourth-st., Gen. Sigel presiding. A delegate reported that the English speaking tax-payers were already forming associations for the protection of their property. Gen. Sigel urged a union between tax-payers throughout the city, as by that means alone they could accomplish their purposes and keep their property from ruin. An address was then adopted unanimously and ordered to be distributed among all property-owners. The address declares that a rigid supervision of public expenses, and of the taxes is necessary, and that a more rational and just distribution of taxation is desirable, and calls upon all property-owners and taxpayers to assist in establishing a powerful organization for the accomplishment of these ends.

COUNTERFEITER ARRESTED.

BALTIMORE, July 17.—A man who gave the name of John Jenkins, was arrested to-day on the charge of passing counterfeit half and quarter-dollar pieces, and in default of $5000 bail was committed to await the action of the Grand Jury of the District Court in September. More than 200 pieces of counterfeit coin in halves and quarters were found in his possession after the arrest. He arrived here this morning on a steamer from Philadelphia and it is suspected that he was employed by a gang of counterfeiters in that city, to "shove" the counterfeits.

SAN FRANCISCO MINT INVESTIGATION.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 17.—At last evening's session of the Mint investigation the testimony of a number of employees was taken regarding the operations of the Mint. Superintendent Layrauge made a statement to the effect that the charges against him were trumped up.

TELEGRAPH NOTES.

NEW-ORLEANS, July 17.—The cargo of the ship Gov. Morton, which was recently scuttled at the passes, was bonded to-day by underwriters.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., July 17.—The incomplete Narragansett Hotel was sold at the Master's Sale to-day for $15 over the incumbrances, which amount to $321,977. The property is to be sold to-morrow under mortgage.

ST. JOHNSBURY, Vt., July 17.—The last rail on the Vermont Division of the Cortland and Ogdensburg Railroad was laid to-day, completing the connections with the West and the Canadas.

CINCINNATI, O., July 17.—Fifty thousand dollars in cash were paid over to the Secretary of the National Historical Society of this city, in accordance with the bequest of the late Charles F. Bodmann of this city.

THE STRIKE IN MARYLAND.

A BAD BLOCKADE.

A FIGHT BETWEEN THE TROOPS AND 400 RIOTERS AT MARTINSBURG—SCENES OF WILD EXCITEMENT.

BALTIMORE, July 17.—Late last night First Vice-President King, of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, telegraphed to Gov. H. M. Matthews of West Virginia, at Wheeling, that the trains of the Company had been stopped at Martinsburg by the firemen, who were on a strike for wages, and had driven from the engines those who were willing to work on the company's terms, and that the town authorities were powerless to suppress the riot. Mr. King, therefore, appealed for such aid as would enable the company to transact its business with regularity and safety. The answer of Gov. Matthews is as follows,

WHEELING, W. Va., July 17, 12:10 a. m.

KING, *Vice-President*:

"There are two military companies at Martinsburg, armed and supplied with ammunition. I have telegraphed my aide-de-camp, Col. C. J. Faulkner, jr., to aid the authorities with the companies to execute the law and suppress the riot. I will do all I can to preserve the peace and secure safety to your trains and railroad operations. Col. Faulkner is directed to look also to Opequon.

"HENRY M. MATTHEWS."

While quiet prevailed on other portions of the line, today, exciting events occurred in Martinsburg. It appears that Col. Faulkner, with 75 men of the Berkeley Light Infantry Guards, arrived with loaded muskets, and took charge of one of the westward bound freight trains which had been detained by the strikers, and placing his men on board of the train attempted to move it on its way West. The strikers and their friends gathered in the company's yards, 400 in number, armed with every conceivable weapon, and as the train was about to start they rushed upon it and cut the coupling of the cars. Col. Faulkner called upon them to disperse, and ordered them back. But these orders were met with jeers and threats. The colonel then threatened that he would order the soldiers to fire on them if they did not immediately desist. Scarcely had the words fallen from his mouth when a fusillade of small arms was opened on the soldiers by the rioters. One of the soldiers was wounded by a pistol shot, and the commanding officer immediately gave the order to his men to fire. The soldiers, acting like veterans, obeyed orders, and the fire was returned, and one of the rioters was badly wounded. Others are supposed to be wounded, as several were seen to be carried off the ground by their comrades. This firing caused a scene of the wildest confusion, and several times the mob charged on the train, but the military had reloaded and stood firm, and the rioters were repulsed. They rendered it impossible, however, for the time being to move the train.

A special dispatch from Martinsburg to *The Evening News* says: The rioters remained firm and determined, and the presence of the military only seemed to exasperate them. The town was wild with excitement all the afternoon, and the strikers and their friends, numbering fully one thousand men, marched about bidding defiance to the military and the authorities. Seventy-five or eighty engines were congregated there, and none were allowed to depart. A committee from the striking firemen had informed the engineers that in case any engineer should attempt to take a train out of town he would be immediately shot. At noon, a cattle train bound for Baltimore attempted to start, whereupon the rioters flocked on board, and with drawn revolvers placed at the head of the engineer and fireman, compelled them to run the train into the stock-yards, where the cattle were unloaded. The passenger trains were not interfered with as the strike was entirely confined to the transportation men. The strikers had everything their own way all the afternoon and the military were pass