New-York Tribune.

Vol. LVI... No 18,060. NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 1896.—COPYRIGHT, 1896, BY THE TRIBUNE ASSOCIATION.—THIRTY-FOUR PAGES. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

SWIFTEST OF HER CLASS

SPLENDID TRIAL RUN OF THE BATTLE-SHIP MASSACHUSETTS.

SHE COVERED A 62-KNOT COURSE AT AN AVERAGE SPEED OF 16.15 KNOTS AN HOUR—HER PREMIUM $100,000—NOTHING EQUAL TO HER IN ANY OTHER NAVY.

Boston, April 25.—In her official trial trip to-day the battle-ship Massachusetts covered the sixty-two knots of the official Government course in 3 hours, 50 minutes and 23 seconds, making the magnificent average speed for the four hours of 16.15 knots an hour, a speed which places her in the very front of the ships of her class in all the navies of the world. The average speed of the Massachusetts was over a half a knot greater than that of her sister ship, the Indiana, which made 15.61 knots on her official trial. The contract of the Cramps with the Government calls for a bonus of $25,000 for every quarter-knot made by the ship above fifteen, and by her performance to-day she earned for her builders a premium of $100,000. The manner in which the machinery worked was as satisfactory as the speed developed.

With their usual good luck the Cramps had a day for the trial in which the weather conditions and the sea were perfect. It was beautifully clear and the light sailing breeze which blew had only sufficient weight in it occasionally to whip the top of the little seas that were running.

The Massachusetts got under way shortly before 7 o'clock, and steamed slowly up the harbor. Two tugs, filled with members of the trial board, and invited guests, met the vessel about 8 o'clock. Among those aboard the tugs were Governor Wolcott, several members of his staff, and Henry W. Cramp, treasurer of the Cramp Company. After receiving the trial board and the guests aboard the Massachusetts came about and steamed ahead at three-quarter speed down the harbor.

During the run to Cape Ann the big ventilators were turned forward, and the blowers far down in the bowels of the ship began to suck air across the fires in the furnaces. So much steam was made that the usual circling about before crossing the line was dispensed with, and Pilot Lewis Chambers headed straight up the course.

WHERE THE COURSE LAY.

The course was from Cape Ann to Boon Island off the Maine coast. The distance is thirty-one knots, and it was marked off in equal periods by six can buoys. At each buoy was stationed a Government vessel in the following order: The revenue cutter Dallas, the Katahdin, the New-York Navy Yard tug Nina, the Boston Navy Yard tug Iwana, the revenue cutter Woodbury and the lighthouse tender Fern.

As the Massachusetts neared the Dallas the red flag which denotes that a trial is on was run to her masthead. Edwin S. Cramp dived below, and reappeared on deck in a moment with his lucky trial-trip hat on.

The ship passed the first buoy at 9:51:48. As she rushed by the Dallas, with a great "bone" in her teeth, the cutter lowered her flag in salute and blew good luck with her whistle. Steam just at this time was too precious to waste on sea courtesies. With scarcely a vibration of her decks from her throbbing engines, the racer steamed up the course. The other stakeboats were passed in the following order: No. 2, 10:16:35; No. 3, 10:39:09½; No. 4, 11:02:11½; No. 5, 11:26:25; No. 6, 11:47:45. The average speed in knots between the buoys was 15.4, 16.4, 16.1, 15.4 and 17.3, which made the average for the up run 16.4 knots.

The tide was running with the ship, but what little advantage she may have gained from this was counter-balanced by the wind, which was dead ahead. On the run from Cape Ann to Boon Island the Indiana averaged only 15.24 knots, and her maximum speed was 15.54.

The Massachusetts passed the Fern on her return run to Cape Ann at 12:03:14. The run back was full of excitement, as it seemed certain that the Massachusetts would exceed her contract speed by fully a knot. The anxiety of those aboard was directed toward the engine-room. If any mishap or breakdown occurred there, it meant the loss of thousands of dollars. Chief Engineers Towne, Patterson and Johnson watched the engines with the closest attention, and streams of water and oil were poured over bearings and journals.

A FINAL BURST OF SPEED.

Twenty minutes before the finish line was crossed word was sent to the engine-room that the trial was nearly over and that the ship was to be driven for all she was worth. The steam pressure increased as the firemen shovelled coal into the furnaces, and the ship jumped and quivered from end to end under the vibrations of the screws.

The finish line was crossed at 1:57:35½. The Massachusetts emitted one long triumphant blast from her whistle, and cheer after cheer went up from her decks. On the run back she averaged 16.26 knots, which brought up her average speed for the four hours to 16.15. The time in passing the stakeboats on the return was as follows: The Fern, 12:03:14; the Woodbury, 12:24:59; the Iwana, 12:49:18; the Nina, 1:12:47; the Katahdin, 1:35:23, and the Dallas, 1:57:35½.

The time consumed in the up and down runs was 3 hours, 50 minutes and 23 seconds. The speed between the stakeboats on the trip to Cape Ann was as follows: 16.6, 15.3, 15.8, 16.4 and 16.9, an average of 16.26 knots. The average run of the Indiana on this course was 15.99, and her maximum speed was 16.30. The total time consumed by the Indiana was 3 hours, 58 minutes and 28 seconds.

The maximum revolutions of the screw to-day were 138, and the steam pressure varied from 150 to 165 pounds. The horse-power developed can hardly be given, even approximately, but enough is known to justify the statement that it was over 10,000.

The success of the trial put every one on board in a happy frame of mind, and Edwin Cramp, Mr. Towne and Lewis Nixon, the designer of the boat, were kept busy receiving congratulations. Mr. Nixon was particularly pleased with the result, as it demonstrated fully the merit of his design. He is confident that, under similar conditions, now that her bottom is cleaned, the Indiana would do as well as the Massachusetts did to-day.

TALK WITH HER BUILDER.

Edwin S. Cramp, in speaking of the results, said: "The trial to-day makes the Massachusetts, and consequently the Indiana, class absolutely unrivalled among ironclads of the world. It was already conceded that her offensive and defensive qualities were superior to all others, and it only needed this trial to prove that she could carry these powers into action at a speed greater than that of any of her rivals. The speed of foreign battle-ships, where 17 knots is claimed, has been obtained under short measured-mile conditions. On this trip for 6.2 knots a speed of 17.3 knots was sustained, and unquestionably a much greater speed was made over single miles. The average speed of 16.15 knots, practically for five hours, shows beyond a question the ship's ability to sustain great speed for long periods. There is no doubt that the Indiana will do equally as well with a clean bottom, for when she was tried she had been overboard eighteen months without being docked.

"In every respect the engine performance was without equal. There was not a drop of water, not a leaking joint, or tube, or started rivet anywhere, and after this severe ordeal the ship could be made ready to go around the world at once, if it were necessary. To obtain such results, the workmanship must have been superb and must have gone hand in hand with excellence of the design, which is certainly the best ever produced by the Bureau of Steam Engineering."

After the trial the Massachusetts steamed to the Boston Light, where she came to anchor. As the firemen and engineers were exhausted by their five hours of confinement in the engine-room, they were given a rest to-night, and the ship will sail for Philadelphia Sunday morning.

TO WATCH SALOON-HOTELS.

ACTING CHIEF CORTRIGHT'S ORDERS TO PRECINCT COMMANDERS.

SOME PLACES THAT HAVE NOT ACTUAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR GUESTS MAY BE REPORTED TO THE DISTRICT-ATTORNEY.

The police will look sharply after the saloon-hotels in the city to-day, and although the saloon-keepers who lately obtained hotel licenses from the old Board of Excise for the purpose of selling liquor on Sundays may not be arrested immediately if they drive a thriving Sunday trade, they may be arrested later on warrants prepared by the District-Attorney. The commanders of police precincts have been studying the opinion of Corporation Counsel Scott, by order of Acting Chief Cortright, and to-day they will investigate all places having hotel licenses.

Under Mr. Scott's opinion, the police will make it their business to see that places having hotel licenses actually have hotel accommodations for guests, and that no drinks are served in the barrooms. In all cases where the accommodations are not bona fide the facts will be laid before the District-Attorney. The police will also keep close watch to see that drinks are only served with meals.

The question as to what constitutes a "hotel guest" is likely to give trouble. Early in the week Chief Conlin asked the Corporation Counsel for an opinion on "hotel guests." Mr. Scott did not determine who are to be considered "guests" to the satisfaction of the police. He said it was not an easy question to determine, but he thought that the Legislature did not intend to include in the term persons who resorted to a "hotel" solely for the purpose of drinking, even though they did go through the form of partaking of food. The inference drawn from this statement is that Mr. Scott holds that a "meal" consisting of a sandwich would be an evasion of the law.

Acting Chief Cortright had all the captains and precinct commanders before him Thursday. He told them that in every case where they believed there was an evasion of the law they were to make an affidavit and submit the facts to the District-Attorney. Special inspections will be made to-day of all the saloon-hotels. Where drinks are served without meals or liquors are sold in the barrooms, arrests will be made on the spot.

Speaking of the saloon-hotels, Mr. Cortright yesterday said that "fake" hotels would be reported to the District-Attorney, and that every effort would be made to see that the places licensed as hotels complied strictly with the law. Grocery stores that have liquor licenses may keep open up to 10 a. m. on Sunday and serve their customers, but no one is allowed to enter the store except the proprietor, servants or members of his family.

District-Attorney Fellows called his assistants together yesterday afternoon and told them that since the Raines law had been upheld, all excise cases must be attended to by them at once. There are now ten cases in the District-Attorney's hands, but a number more are being considered by the Grand Jury.

DRIVEN OUT BY FEDERAL SOLDIERS.

WASHINGTON MILITIA NO LONGER HAVE A HAND IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERIES DISPUTE.

Astoria, Ore., April 25.—Lieutenant Straub, of the 5th Artillery, U. S. A., with a detail of eighteen men, took possession of Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia River yesterday afternoon, ejecting a company of Washington State militia placed there by Governor McGraw for the purpose of protecting the rights of Washington fishermen. The Federal Government was applied to by the Oregon authorities, who said that the island was a Government reservation within the Oregon line, and that the Washington militia were intimidating the Oregon fishermen and permitting the Washington fishermen to place traps in the open channel of the river, contrary to the directions issued by the Government engineers.

The militia, upon receiving notice to go, at first refused to do so, but upon receiving instructions to get out within twenty minutes or submit to being ejected forcibly, they took a hasty departure. It is said that orders have been given to remove all fish traps from the channel immediately.

Washington, April 25.—The War Department has no information about the expulsion of State troops from Sand Island, in the Columbia River. The Oregon authorities recently asked the Department if any objection would be made to sending a detachment of the Oregon militia to the island, which is the property of the United States, to expel from it the obnoxious Washington State fishermen. To this the Department replied that it could not permit the Oregon Government to perform the expulsion, as such permission would be contrary to law, the island not being under State control. A detachment of regular troops was sent, with orders to expel all persons, and it is presumed at the Department that the officer commanding made the militia depart under these instructions.

SAYS SHE SHOT MONTGOMERY GIBBS.

A WISCONSIN FEMALE CONVICT CONFESSES A CRIME FOR WHICH THE ROBINSONS WERE SENTENCED.

Buffalo, April 25.—Information was received here to-day that a woman confined in the Wisconsin State Prison, at Waupun, Wis., has confessed to the murder of Montgomery Gibbs, the young lawyer of this city, for which crime Clarence and Sadie Robinson are now serving sentences in Auburn Prison. This letter was received by Warden Stout:

Wisconsin State Prison,
Waupun, Wis., April 21, 1896.

James C. Stout, Warden Auburn State Prison, Auburn, N. Y.

My Dear Sir: I will now state to you the reason of my desiring to get the name and address of the father of Clarence Robinson. There is a woman in this prison who has made a confession that she shot and killed Montgomery Gibbs in Delaware-ave., in Buffalo, N. Y., in April, 1894, for which crime the said Clarence and Sadie Robinson, his wife, are now imprisoned. She says she makes this confession for the sake of having them liberated. She has but one more year to serve here, and I desire the address of the father for the purpose of informing him, that he might take steps toward investigating the matter. I would suggest that you ask Clarence Robinson to name some friend or attorney who will make a thorough investigation.

Yours truly, W. W. BANCROFT,
Chaplain Wisconsin State Prison.

Montgomery Gibbs was shot on the night of April 28, 1894, while on his way home about 9:30 o'clock. Nearly a year later the Robinsons were arrested in Cleveland for the crime, Sadie having made a confession that they committed it. They were brought here for trial and were convicted, Clarence of murder in the second degree and Sadie of manslaughter in the first degree.

NEW LINES OF STEAMERS TO GALVESTON.

Galveston, Tex., April 25.—To-day it was positively announced by the Harrison and the Hamburg-American lines that their steamers will ply regularly into this port. The first steamer of the latter line to sail for here will be the Galicia, from Hamburg, next Monday. The first Harrison liner will be the Engineer, which will sail from Liverpool May 29. Thereafter vessels will arrive monthly.

HER LIFE SAVED BY A MINISTER.

Rahway, April 25 (Special).—Mrs. John W. Brower while descending the stairs in her house, in Clinton-st., last night, with a lighted lamp in her hands, tripped and fell to the bottom. The lamp broke, the oil ignited and communicated to Mrs. Brower's dress, and in a moment she was wrapped in flames. The Rev. Gilbert H. Winans, pastor of the First Methodist Church, who boards with Mrs. Brower, hearing her cries for help, rushed from his room and seizing a portiere succeeded in smothering the flames just in time to save her life. The victim's hair was almost entirely burned off and she was otherwise terribly injured.

MANY PERSONS BURNED TO DEATH.

Dunbar, Penn., April 25.—At 3:30 this morning fire originating in the Mahaney Hotel destroyed that structure and six adjoining buildings, all the property of James McCain. James R. Biers, a guest at the hotel, was burned to death.

Bangor, Me., April 25.—Yesterday in Dixmont Mrs. Helen Pipe was burned to death. Her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mildred Pipe, was badly, and Elias Seavy, a prominent citizen of Troy, Me., was probably fatally burned, by a brush fire, which spread while they were endeavoring to save the farm buildings.

Plymouth, Ind., April 25.—The house of John Kauffman, near Burr Oak, was burned at an early hour this morning. In attempting to save some of the goods, Kauffman was overcome and fatally burned.

Poughkeepsie, April 25 (Special).—Mrs. Alexander Hanlon was burned to death at Athens yesterday. She was alone in her house, when her dress caught fire from the kitchen stove.

VICTIMS OF A CRAZY MAN.

SEVEN PERSONS KILLED IN ROCKVILLE, IND.

A MAN WHO HAD ONCE BEEN IN AN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE SHOOTS A WOMAN AND HER TWO CHILDREN, THE SHERIFF, A CONSTABLE AND HIMSELF—HIS SISTER DIES FROM SHOCK.

Rockville, Ind., April 25.—Peter Egbert, twenty-three years old, shot and killed Mrs. Herman Hascke and her two children, Herman and Agnes; Sheriff W. D. Mull and Constable W. M. Sweem early this morning. He then killed himself, and Miss Florence Egbert, his sister, who was ill from typhoid fever, died shortly after the tragedy as a result of the shock.

Egbert was sent into the back yard about 7 o'clock to saw some wood for family use. Shortly afterward, while Mrs. Hascke was out milking her cow, Egbert secured a double-barrelled shotgun, and, going into her house, which was next door to his own home, shot Agnes Hascke, ten years old, dead. He wounded the boy, two years younger, who ran out on the porch, where Egbert shot him again, killing him instantly.

The murderer then went into the alley, and levelled his gun at Mrs. Hascke, who, seeing his intention, attempted to escape. He shot her, however, the charge taking effect in the top of her head, removing part of her skull. Mrs. Hascke lingered in an unconscious state for about two hours before she died.

Egbert shouldered his gun and deliberately walked up into the business part of the town. Sheriff Mull and Constable Sweem were planning a way of capturing him. He was walking across the north side of the square, holding his gun in position to shoot, when he saw Mull and Sweem crossing the street toward him. He called out to them not to come any nearer. The two officers then retired into a stairway in the National Bank Building for a moment's consultation. Egbert turned, and, coming upon them suddenly, shot and instantly killed them both.

The murderer then started to run, taking a westward course toward the Fair Grounds, with a number of men in close pursuit. He ran like a deer until, while he was crossing an open field just west of the town, a shot from one of his pursuers took effect in his heel. This crippled him and, though he managed to scale the fence of the Fair Grounds, he was unable to run further. Crawling into a stall, he shot himself in the right breast. The fire from his gun ignited his clothing, which was partially burned when he was found.

Business is suspended in the town. The dead are being prepared for burial, but no arrangements for their funerals have been made. Egbert was at one time confined in an insane asylum, but he was discharged as cured.

DOGS MADE NIGHT HIDEOUS.

FOUR HOWLING CANINES OF THE ESQUIMAU TRIBE REMOVED FROM THE PARK MENAGERIE.

The Esquimau dogs will be found no longer among the animals at the menagerie in the Park. They were taken away Thursday. In consequence great has been the rejoicing among the inhabitants along Central Park East in the immediate vicinity of the menagerie. It appears that these noble specimens of four-footed arctic beasts of burden, so necessary to those seeking the elusive North Pole, have been guilty of emulating the example of Macbeth. Such has been the wholesale murder of good old-fashioned metropolitan sleep among the palatial homes facing the Park on the East Side that the locality has for some time been anything but a desirable place in which to find domestic peace and repose. Night no longer was looked forward to as ending the day's toil. It ceased to knit up "the ravelled sleeve of care. As "nature's sweet restorer" it had lost its potency. It became a hideous, ugly, raw-boned, haggard monster which neither morphine nor patent medicine could drive away.

No sooner had the shades of evening fallen upon that part of the earth's surface called Central Park than the Esquimau dog, confined within the iron bars of its metropolitan apartment, conjured up visions of its ice-bound home, where sound travels merrily over the wide fields of ice to be cast back from the rock-ribbed sides of some huge iceberg, echoing again and again. From the throats of four poor pining beasts came forth sounds that made the Navarro flats tremble and caused tympanums by the thousands to vibrate in despair. The other animals growled in rage; the keepers grew prematurely old in their efforts to stop the uncanny roars. On every side could be heard the grinding of axes and the hum and tumult of an outraged populace. Complaints long and forcible filled the mail of the Park Commissioners, and it was at last decided that the dogs must go, and go they did.

Where they have been secreted it is hard to tell, but if any of the residents of the Central Park district are rudely awakened from sweet dreams of peace during these waning days of April it would be safe for them to credit the interruption to the ex-members of Lieutenant Peary's last expedition.

When seen yesterday Manager Smith, of the menagerie department of the Park, said that the dogs had gone, whither he knew not, although he had understood that they were to be taken to the Museum of Natural History.

"You see," he said, "they got no exercise and took to peculiar and annoying means of giving vent to their pent-up energy."

"How was that?"

"Well, to be frank, there were nocturnal exhibitions of vocal powers that did not meet with the views of those in the neighborhood as to just what night was intended for. No doubt the dogs meant well enough, but there were those who failed to appreciate their efforts. To continue in my avowed intention to be frank, we have received so many complaints couched in language regarding which there could be no mistake, that we concluded it would be best for all concerned to dispense with the exhibit of Esquimaux dogs as a part of the menagerie."

A visit to the Museum of Natural History resulted in a statement that the dogs had not been brought there. There seemed to be no rejoicing on the part of the attendant at the prospect of the return of the animals to the Museum. He admitted that the dogs had been under the charge of the Museum before going to the Park. He had a distinct recollection of the peculiar traits of the dogs. He said he was not the only one. He thought that "there were others."

Lieutenant Peary, when asked about the dogs, said that he understood that the dogs were to be taken away from the Park, and that it had been understood that they were to go to the Museum. He said that a pack of this breed of dogs were able, if the occasion presented itself, to awaken the echoes around the North Pole in an unexampled manner. He said that it was certain that he would not under any circumstances, reassume proprietorship of his late four-footed companions. In view of these facts, it may be well to keep an eye out for additions to the Museum of Natural History in the way of four stuffed dogs.

A DEAD WOMAN FOUND IN A DITCH.

Chicago, April 25.—The body of a finely dressed young woman was found at 10:30 o'clock last night in a ditch near the intersection of West Forty-fifth and Iowa sts. The dead woman did not appear to have been over twenty-five years old. An empty bottle was found in the grass near the body, and the police are inclined to believe it a case of suicide. They are puzzled as to the identity of the woman. The body was removed to the County Morgue. The only woman reported as missing on the police records, who might possibly be the one whose body was found in the ditch, is Mrs. Anna Harvey. She disappeared from her home, in H. H. Holmes's "Castle," No. 701 Sixty-third-st., on Wednesday. Her husband reported her absence yesterday, but he had not been called upon to identify the body last night. In many respects the descriptions coincide.

A TRAMP SUSPECTED OF MURDER.

Mount Morris, N. Y., April 25.—Deputy Sheriff O'Leary arrested a tramp here this morning who answers the description of a man wanted by the authorities at Hornellsville for the murder of Marshall Lerow, of Rathboneville, on April 19. The dead body of Lerow, who was a stationary engineer, was found on a gondola car of a freight train on the Erie. A coupling-pin near by was smeared with blood. The man's skull had been fractured. The tramp arrested here on a charge of vagrancy gives his name as James Faure, and says he is a Frenchman and has been in the State three years. He says he came from Owego looking for farm work, and that he is a railroad man. He was sentenced to ninety days in the Monroe County Penitentiary by Justice Gamble, so that he might be held awaiting an investigation and further information from Hornellsville.

THIRTY-DAY BILLS PILING UP.

Albany, April 25.—Governor Morton has only seven bills in his hands which expire before or on the day of the Legislature's adjournment, but already 122 thirty-day bills have been received at the Executive Chamber.

LONDON RUMORS UNFOUNDED

HOW THE VENEZUELAN DISPUTE REALLY STANDS AT PRESENT.

NO PROPOSALS FOR A JOINT COMMISSION HAVE BEEN MADE—NO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND VENEZUELA—THIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE UNCHANGED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 25.—In view of the many misleading statements made recently in connection with the Venezuelan boundary dispute, the following may be accepted as absolutely trustworthy:

1. There has never been a proposal made by this Government to that of Great Britain having for its object the creation of a Joint Commission to determine the true boundary line between British Guiana and Venezuela.

2. No propostion of this character has ever emanated from the Foreign Office in London.

3. There has never been an intimation on the part of the Government of the United States to that of Venezuela that it had better abandon its attitude, or, at any rate, abate somewhat its demands.

4. No attempt has been made by the British Government to re-establish diplomatic relations with Venezuela.

5. There have been no negotiations whatever between Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador in Washington, and Señor Andrade, the Venezuelan Minister here, touching the boundary dispute.

THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

The attitude of the Government at this stage of the controversy is in all essentials the same occupied by it last December, when it asked Congress for the means to defray the expenses of the Commission of which Justice Brewer, of the Supreme Court, is the president. The report of this Commission is awaited with a good deal of interest, but no one, not even the Commissioners themselves, is in a position to know what the nature of that report will be. As to the time when the report will be presented to the President, equal uncertainty prevails, for the simple reason that the progress made by the Commission so far has been very slow and has furnished no indications as to the time when the work is likely to be finished.

Since December last only one incident may be said to have occurred to affect the relations between the parties to the dispute. But even this incident has only an indirect connection with the boundary dispute. It grew out of the arrest of a British police constable by the Venezuelan authorities within the disputed territory. Upon an invitation of Sir Julian Pauncefote, Minister Andrade called unofficially at the British Embassy here. The Government of Great Britain presented a claim, assessing the damages done to the feelings of the constable at £1,500, or $7,500.

SENOR ANDRADE'S OFFER.

Minister Andrade, after consultation with Secretary Olney, and solely to show the good will of Venezuela and its honest desire not to embarrass the settlement of the main controversy by a dispute of secondary importance, agreed on the part of his Government to pay the amount, provided that an understanding should be formulated in writing in the presence of the Secretary of State to show that in paying the claim the Venezuelan Government in no wise admitted the justice of the claim itself, or waived its own claim of sovereignty over the territory upon which the arrest was made. To this proposition Sir Julian replied that he had no authority to deal with the question in that light, but that he would ask his Government for instructions. Those instructions have not arrived yet. When they are likely to arrive, if they ever do, is a pure matter of conjecture.

This, in brief, is the status of the Venezuelan controversy at the present moment. Disquieting rumors set afloat by way of London are absolutely without foundation.

SEEN THROUGH GERMAN SPECTACLES.

A QUEER VIEW OF THE VENEZUELAN QUESTION IN ITS PRESENT STATE.

Berlin, April 25.—The present position of the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela has reawakened German interest in the matter. The "Tageblatt," in alluding to the situation, expresses the opinion that English diplomacy has taken fresh courage through the weakened attitude of the United States Government both upon this and the Cuban questions. The paper thinks that President Cleveland is losing his former decisive grip, and is now content to allow the resolutions passed by the American Senate and House of Representatives to remain as they are.

The Berlin "Neueste Nachrichten," in an article based on the reported refusal of the Government at Washington to accept a standing court of arbitration, says: "If this report be true, the movement to secure a permanent international court has come to an absolute standstill."

SUSPENDED, NOT STOPPED.

EXPLANATION OF THE PAUSE IN THE VENEZUELAN NEGOTIATIONS—LORD SALISBURY MAY SOON RETIRE OWING TO ILL HEALTH.

London, April 25.—Though George N. Curzon, Parliamentary Secretary of the Foreign Office, declared in the House of Commons on Thursday that the negotiations concerning Venezuela were still proceeding, it is a fact that a delay has occurred. The cable dispatches to "The Times" alleging that they had been stopped altogether went too far. The Foreign Office denies that it proposed a cessation of the negotiations, and attributes the delay to unavoidable causes, which inquiries indicate to be Lord Salisbury's weakening health, combined with a great pressure of work.

According to "The Speaker," the retirement of Lord Salisbury from official life cannot be long delayed. It speculates on who his successor will be, and makes a forecast that the Right Hon. Arthur Balfour, now First Lord of the Treasury, and Lord Salisbury's nephew, will succeed him in the Premiership and be elevated to the peerage. It also predicts that the Duke of Devonshire, now President of the Council, will become Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and that Mr. Chamberlain will be the Government leader in the House of Commons in succession to Mr. Balfour.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

Albany, April 25.—Superintendent Aldridge, of the Department of Public Works, announced to-day that the Oswego and Cayuga and Seneca Canals would open May 1, as well as the Erie and Champlain Canals.

Boston, April 25.—Arthur Smith, George W. Wilson and Alfred B. Morse, each eighteen years old, were arrested to-day for robbing the pawnshop of James Carr yesterday of $2,000 worth of watches and jewelry. They all belong in the Charlestown district, where the pawnshop is located. The stolen property was found in the cellar of the house in which Smith lives.

Chicago, April 25.—A delegation of garment workers, representing every local union of the United Garment Workers of America, appeared yesterday by invitation before the County Board Commission on Outdoor Relief and made a statement as to the destitution prevalent among the garment workers on account of the strike that has just been declared off. It was estimated that 6,000 men, women and children were suffering for the necessities of life, and the county will extend relief.

Chicago, April 25.—Joseph Windrath, found guilty of the murder of Carey B. Birch, cashier of the West Chicago Street Railway, was sentenced this morning by Judge Horton to hang on May 15. The court deferred passing sentence on Julius Mannow, who, while on trial with Windrath for the murder, pleaded guilty, until the next term of the court. Windrath makes the third murderer sentenced to be hanged on May 15.

Cincinnati, April 25.—The Elwood Tin Plate Company has transferred all its properties, patents, stock, contracts, etc., to the American Tin Plate Company, of West Virginia, with general offices in Cincinnati. The Elwood Company was organized under Indiana laws with $300,000 capital stock in 1892. Last June the American Tin Plate Company organized with $1,200,000 under West Virginia laws, and secured these properties. The plant at Elwood, Ind., is the largest in the world.

A COOLNESS IN THE CABINET.

STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN MORTON AND HARMON.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S SELF-ESTEEM WOUNDED BY THE VIVACIOUS SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE'S LITTLE JOKE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 25.—There is a coolness in President Cleveland's Cabinet. This statement is vouched for by a distinguished statesman of National fame, who received it from a source which cannot be questioned. The present difficulty is not between the President and any member or members of his Cabinet, and it did not originate in a discussion of any matter of State. In short, it sprung, unless The Tribune's correspondent has been misinformed, from the application by the versatile and lively Secretary of Agriculture of an ancient joke to the equally distinguished Attorney-General, respecting whom an eminent lawyer was recently heard to remark that "if fine physical proportions, impressive manners and good looks only were necessary to the making of a great lawyer, Harmon would stand at the head of his profession."

Besides the advantages thus enumerated the Attorney-General is understood to be endowed with what a phrenologist would call a well-developed bump of self-esteem and a correspondingly large stock of sensitiveness, especially to anything which he regards as a reflection upon his professional ability or fame. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that he sharply and bitterly resented the application to him of the old story which the vivacious Secretary of Agriculture recently told at his expense, and, it is said, in his very presence.

According to Secretary Morton's version of the tale, the Attorney-General on a visit to his home soon after his elevation to the high office he holds met an old man whom he had known many years before, but who at first did not appear to recognize him.

"Why," asked the Attorney-General, "don't you remember me? My name is Harmon—Judson Harmon."

"Oh, yes, I do remember you now."

"Well, I am living in Washington now."

"Yes, I heard people say that you had got a job under the Government."

"Oh, yes, I'm now Attorney-General of the United States."

"Yes; appears to me I heard people saying you had got that job."

"Well, what did they say about it?"

"Oh, they didn't say anything in particular; they just laughed."

It is reported that the Attorney-General did not laugh when the Secretary of Agriculture told the story, if he has done so since, and that the personal relations between the two statesmen are extremely tense—as much so, indeed, as the former can make them. In fact, the correspondent's informant remarked: "Harmon has been as mad as a hatter at Morton ever since he told the story."

TO BRING THE THIEVES BACK.

THE MEN WHO LET THE BURDEN ROBBERS GET AWAY START ON A TRIP ABROAD.

Detective-Sergeants McCauley and Evanhoe sailed for Europe yesterday on the steamship Campania, and, as they had first-class cabin passage on this magnificent, luxurious, sumptuous and expensive vessel, they are expected to have an enjoyable trip. Their expenses will be paid by the county, and they probably will have a good time in London, if there is any delay in the extradition of Dunlop and Turner, the Burden diamond thieves. Probably every intelligent New-Yorker knows that it was necessary to send two officers to London to bring back the two thieves, but there were New-Yorkers who said yesterday that apparent incongruity was displayed in sending the two detectives who allowed the thieves to leave the city with the stolen diamonds.

McCauley and Evanhoe were the first of the Central Office men to investigate the robbery at the house of I. Townsend Burden, and the stolen diamonds were secreted in the house at the time they began the investigation, if there is any truth in the story which was told by a former kitchenmaid who is now a prisoner in the Tombs. The detectives suspected the butler and assistant butler, according to their own statements, but the watch set on the thieves did not prevent the transfer of the gems from the house to another hiding place. Later the detectives assisted in "shadowing" the suspected men up to the time when they went on the steamships which carried them to England. Having allowed the thieves to get across the ocean with the costly booty, the detectives will now have the reward of a delightful trip to bring the thieves back.

By permitting the diamond thieves to go to London the detectives also gave an opportunity to Colonel Fellows to load some additional expense on the county by sending Assistant District-Attorney John D. Lindsay on a junketing trip to London. Well-informed persons of this city have been saying since the departure of Mr. Lindsay that he will be of almost no use at all in the proceedings for the extradition of Dunlop and Turner. Under the English law he will not be permitted to appear in his capacity of an official or as a lawyer before the London magistrate. Reports from London have contained the information that an English barrister has been retained to arrange for the extradition of the prisoners, and the taking of testimony in the case has actually begun before Sir John Bridge in the Bow Street Police Court.

Persons who are familiar with the character and methods of the English courts have declared that the London magistrates are capable and prompt in extradition cases and that there is likely to be no difficulty in securing the extradition of Dunlop and Turner. Guilty persons are never allowed to escape on technicalities in the English courts, and the proofs against the diamond thieves are overwhelming because they were caught with the stolen jewels in their possession. Under the circumstances there is said to be no excuse for the sending of a highly paid Assistant District-Attorney on such an expensive trip. There is a suggestion that Mr. Lindsay may have been sent to London to use his discretion in getting some more witnesses against the two thieves. The extradition and conviction of the thieves are likely to be costly, but if the county has to pay for the additional expense of bringing several witnesses from London to testify in this city, the cost of the proceedings may even possibly prove in the end to be greater than the value of Mrs. Burden's diamonds, which were said to be worth $55,000.

EVEN VETERANS MUST QUALIFY.

AN ACT TO EXEMPT THEM FROM CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS OVERRULED.

Boston, April 25.—The full bench of the Supreme Court to-day declared that the Veterans' Preference act of 1895 is unconstitutional. The case was that of Frederick W. Brown against Charles T. Russell et al., Civil Service Commissioners. The Court ordered the writ of mandamus which was prayed for.

The petitioner was an applicant for appointment to the detective force of the district police, and, having passed an examination by the Civil Service Commissioners, was highest on the list of those found eligible for appointment. The Commissioners, under the Veterans' Preference act, gave the preference to a war veteran who had not taken an examination. The petitioner contended that this preference was in violation of his constitutional rights.

The Court holds that the Legislature cannot constitutionally provide that certain public offices and employments which it has created shall be filled by veterans in preference to other persons, whether or not the veterans are found or thought by some impartial and competent officer or board charged with the duty of making the appointment, to be actually qualified to perform the duties of such offices or employments.

This bill was passed by the Legislature over the veto of Governor Greenhalge.

THE HUSBAND UNDER SUSPICION.

MANY PEOPLE THINK COCKING MURDERED HIS WIFE AND HER SISTER.

La Plata, Md., April 25.—The murderer who took the lives of Mrs. Joseph Cocking and her sister, Miss Daisy Miller, on Thursday night is believed by the citizens of this place to be none other than the husband and brother-in-law, Joseph Cocking, who was himself found bound in the cellar after the tragedy, apparently half unconscious. This belief has become so strong in the minds of the neighbors and the citizens of the surrounding towns that threats of lynching are being freely made. Cocking is virtually under arrest, but Sheriff Wade will not say positively whether it is because he is suspected of the crime or because it is feared that he may come to harm at the hands of irate citizens who believe him guilty.

The fact that no clew has been unearthed whereby any one except the occupants of the Cocking store and dwelling could be connected with the crime is telling against Cocking. A number of extra deputy-sheriffs are stationed in and about the Cocking house with a view of guarding against any surprise on the part of those who believe in Cocking's guilt.

THE NEWS OF EUROPE.

ENGLAND IS IN NO HURRY TO SETTLE THE VENEZUELAN DISPUTE.

A CHANCE FOR AMERICAN SECURITIES—THE FRENCH CRISIS—MORE TROUBLE FOR JAMESON—CHAMBERLAIN'S PRESTIGE LOWERED BY RECENT NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA—BARON DE HIRSCH'S ESTATE DUTY—THE EPSOM MEETING.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, April 25.—The flurry over the Venezuelan question was as a bubble rising to the surface of stagnant diplomacy. American securities were depressed for a day, but quickly rallied. It is evident from Mr. Curzon's answers to Mr. Labouchere in the Commons and "The Times's" leader to-day that nobody in the Foreign Office is alarmed by diplomatic inaction, and that dawdling is regarded as a sign of progress. Mr. Cleveland may be in a hurry, but Lord Salisbury is not. What those nearest the Foreign Office have said from the beginning is that the adjustment of the Venezuela question should be attempted on the line of least rather than greatest resistance. The resumption of diplomatic relations between England and Venezuela would have been the more natural and easy policy, because it would have opened the way for the settlement of the frontier dispute without the intervention of a third Power. Secretary Olney, it is reported here, while professing a willingness to have the question adjusted in this way, has proposed a complex method of international mediation by a new commission, which could take the place of the present ex-parte American Commission. This was an unnatural and difficult policy, since it involved the recognition of the American claim to exercise a consultative or decisive influence in determining the frontier of the British Empire. English critics assume that Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Olney, having deliberately chosen the more difficult method of adjusting the controversy, ought not to complain of the inaction and delay for which they themselves are mainly responsible.

One thing is evident: The British Foreign Office is not in a hurry to settle the question, and cannot be spurred into action by a revival of the menace of a hostile report by the American Commission. Nothing is gained by waving the red rag before the eyes of John Bull. Lord Salisbury naturally prefers to deal directly with Venezuela, and expects to dispose of the dispute in that way, after wearing out the patience of the State Department at Washington.

The condition of the money market in London is such that the surplus capital now lying idle would go into American railway bonds and stocks of all kinds if the Venezuela menace were removed and the triumph of sound-money principles in the United States were assured. Never before have consols and the best classes of English stocks been so high as at present. Immense masses of capital are already locked up in South Africa and South America, and with political turmoil prevailing in one country and financial uncertainty in the other neither field of investment is now favored. If American credit had not been damaged by the Treasury deficits, the increase of the National debt and foreign complications, the United States would now be the natural outlet for the unemployed capital of England. Investors want a good return for their money, which they cannot get by buying consols and good English stocks at current rates. All that is needed is reassurance on the currency question, and American securities will rise all along the line.

The French crisis raises a constitutional question which may require a meeting of the National Assembly before it can be settled. M. Bourgeois, who defied the Senate so long as it passed votes of censure, has surrendered when it stopped supplies. In explaining the resignation of the Ministry, he has declared that the power of making and unmaking Ministries belongs to the Chamber of Deputies alone, and the popular House, elected by