

FISHERIES QUESTION.

Processes Employed at The Hague Clearing House.

London, January 22. The arbitration machine was not put out of gear by the gyrating windmills of the last peace congress. It can be started at any moment without friction or jar, since every cog or wheel has been oiled and readjusted, and there has been experience in operating it on various occasions. In view of the meagre results of the prolonged session of the congress of last year, it is fortunate that there is work to be done by the arbitration court.

The fisheries case, which is to be submitted by the two powers responsible for the establishment of the permanent tribunal at The Hague, will be a fresh proof of the utility of the mechanism for disposing of troublesome international controversies and promoting good feeling in the world. While the suggestion is preposterous that America and England would ever have come to blows over so dry and technical a question as the interpretation of an antiquated treaty, it remains true that it was inconvenient and unneighborly to have any dispute outstanding, especially when the colonial authorities of Newfoundland were clamoring for the right of settling it in their own way. Not only has a good example been set in referring to the arbitration tribunal a matter which has been the subject of diplomatic negotiations for many decades, but an important service has also been rendered to the cause of rational peace by an appeal to the court so soon after the failure of the unmanageable congress. Diplomacy over ambiguous treaty rights ends in an interminable tangle. Arbitration cuts through the knot.

While the two governments are now engaged in the preparation of the fisheries case, it is interesting to note the facility with which the mechanism at The Hague can be brought into use. The diplomatic corps, representing the powers which have signed the general convention of 1896, is organized as an administrative council, and has on file a list of judges or arbitrators appointed by the various governments. As the convention of last year has not yet become operative, the procedure is regulated by the original treaty.

The American and British governments will apply to the international bureau at The Hague for arbitration. The subject of the arbitration will be defined clearly in a special act or "compromis" signed by representatives of the two powers. The scope of the arbitration will also be indicated, and if an agreement be reached in advance the names of the arbitrators or judges will be designated. The bureau will place its staff and rooms at the service of the two powers, and the tribunal of arbitration will assemble on the date arranged. The procedure in the Venezuelan preferential claims and other arbitrations will be repeated. The practice is now strictly regulated by the precedents established under the supervision of the administrative council. Experience facilitates the processes.

Whenever there is a failure on the part of the powers applying for arbitration to agree upon the composition of the court the procedure is regulated by the general treaty of 1896. Each contestant can appoint two arbitrators, who may be empowered to choose an umpire. If the votes are divided the umpire can be selected by a third power, appointed by common consent. If there be another failure to bring about an agreement each contestant can name a power, the umpire to be chosen by the neutral governments. The umpire when appointed in this way becomes the presiding officer of the tribunal. If the arbitrators are agreed upon in advance without recourse to the friendly services of outside powers they will appoint their own president and organize the tribunal. This is the procedure which will probably be adopted in the Newfoundland arbitration, as there is a mutual desire on the part of the American and British governments to have the controversy settled with as little formality as possible. The court, when organized, is a bar unto itself and there can be no interference from the administrative council with its method of hearing argument and deciding the case.

The permanent tribunal has been created by the signatory powers and the diplomatic corps at The Hague has arranged the preliminary details and set the precedents in a spirit of mutual accommodation and good will. It has increased the diplomatic importance of the Dutch canal, and the members of the resident corps take a serious view of every process and formula connected with it. So also do the general secretary and the other officials of the international bureau. Susceptibilities were perhaps unnecessarily wounded in the preliminary proceedings of the Venezuelan arbitration when points of etiquette were overlooked by eminent counsel and the wishes of the resident diplomatic corps were disregarded. Fustiness on the part of the local officials and resident ministers is natural when so much tact has been required for settling the precedents and ordering the preliminary arrangements of a unique international tribunal and counsel presenting the cases of each government need to be cautious, tolerant and good natured in their relations with the administrative council.

It is unfortunate that David Jayne Hill, the experienced American Minister at The Hague, owing to his prospective promotion to Berlin will not be there when the Arbitration Court is organized, since he has mastered the details of a complex subject and knows every point of etiquette in a punctilious and sensitive school of manners. The court as a moral instrument of civilization, created in a spirit of enlightened self-interest by the powers, commands the respect of all disinterested friends of peace. Even fresh appeal to it by influential powers tends to increase its utility and importance. Anything that helps to discredit it or to impair its authority is a serious loss to civilization. It is the natural clearing house for tangled accounts and complex interests of diplomacy.

REPUBLICAN CLUB RECEPTION TO-DAY. The Republican Club of the 29th Assembly District will hold a reception and vaudeville entertainment at Terrace Garden, on 84th street near Third avenue, this evening.

DR. DUFFIELD'S FAREWELL SERMON. The Rev. Dr. Howard Duffield, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, who will start for Europe on Thursday morning, preached last at yesterday morning's service. Dr. Duffield said that during his absence the pulpit would be occupied by well known ministers during February. H. Stebbins preaching during February.

TRANSATLANTIC TRAVELLERS. Among the passengers who arrived yesterday from abroad were: PHILADELPHIA, FROM SOUTHAMPTON. Mrs. A. O. Gheld, Henry E. Linsaver, J. R. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Stak, J. G. Jacquy. LA SAVOIE, FROM HAVRE. W. H. F. Browne, Mrs. W. E. Daga, Manuel Guzman, A. W. Dan, John W. Robinson, Mrs. Catharina N. de Tonne, Miss Hortensia Hierro.

WHEN A BIG "D" IS SAFE. Kittanning (Penn.) dispatch to The Philadelphia Record. The word "damn" when applied to the word "har" is not a swear word, but is an adjective, claimed Burgess H. J. Hays, of this borough, who was held before Justice of the Peace J. E. Burgess Hays had been charged by the Rev. A. H. Boughton, pastor of the First Methodist Church, with having called the latter a "har," with the adjective, on the main street. Burgess Hays admitted the charge, and Justice Miller fined him \$20, or 60 cents each for the "caths." Burgess Hays said he was entitled to pay 60 cents, as the word "damn," when used with "har," could not be classed as profanity.

encouraging. It was agreed that there was no reason to expect that large contracts would be secured by a reduction in quotations, whereas lower prices would necessitate smaller costs of production, especially wages. The report of the Steel Corporation was used to prove almost anything from the most pessimistic to the brightest. While it is true that earnings in December fell below any monthly record in almost four years, and a continuance of those figures in 1908 would be most deplorable, it should be noted that much of the decrease in December was due to lack of confidence in the ability of purchasers to meet their obligations. Hence actual shipments were very small, but in many instances the steel was made and has since been forwarded. Consequently it is almost certain that the preceding month, and of late the mills have received more business, particularly in wire products, tin plates and structural steel. The situation in other leading branches of manufacture is much the same as in iron and steel. A large percentage of machinery was idle when the year opened, but each week of January brought a little improvement.

The Bryan-Berry ticket launched at the Democratic levee in Philadelphia last Saturday night better have been a Bury-Bryan ticket. Representative Slayden, of Texas, is reported as quoting, in approval of the President's message, the classic couplet: A man who takes what isn't his'n Ought to wait and go to prison. In the interest of literary accuracy we beg leave to suggest once more the desirability of always verifying quotations. Had the gifted but impulsive Texan consulted some anthology he would have perceived that the lines run thus: Him what hooks what isn't his'n, When he's caughted, he go to prison.

The authorized version, it will be observed, is not only more mellifluous and more perfect in rhythm, but also more positive in sentiment, expressing with confidence not merely a pious opinion, or even an earnest desire, but something which is or should be—an inevitable, universal and eternal fact. The commonwealth's attorney at Harrisburg is presenting to the jury specimens of the furniture for which the "furnishers" of the State Capitol assessed such altitudinous charges. Unfortunately, he could not produce the original air in the interspaces for which "per foot" prices were also collected.

The next time the Hon. William J. Bryan meets the Hon. "Littly Tim" Sullivan some admonitory remarks may be heard to the effect that the difference between the consumer of a \$1 dinner and the consumer of a \$100 dinner is the fatal difference between a Democrat and an Aristocrat.

Columbia Alumnus—That woman on the debate team is intolerable. You wouldn't like to debate with a woman, would you? Cornell Alumnus—Got so I don't mind it now. Been married five years.

Miss Elder—The idea of his pretending that my hair was white is playing. Miss Peppery—Ridiculous! Miss Elder—Wasn't it, though? Miss Peppery—Yes, but if you'd buy gray hair—Philadelphia Press.

"Solly" Joel's name came to him more by accident than design, says a writer in the "Wochenblatt." "His parents gave him the name of Solomon, and as Solomon the child was known in the Whitechapel district by the few Jewish people who noticed him at all. At school Solomon became 'Solly,' Isaac into 'Ike' and Moses into 'Moe.' When Barney Barnato wrote to the Joel boys to leave their Whitechapel home and follow him to Africa Woolf kept the name which had been given to him, but Solomon changed his to 'Solly,' and as 'Solly' he, like his kinsman Barnato, became a rich man. Woolf, who was murdered, and 'Solly,' who has been brought into prominence by threats from the man who killed his brother, were vulgar and unlettered, in many respects. They were vulgar and unlettered, in all of them, the money making quality was abnormally developed."

The professor was complimenting the violin virtuoso on the excellence of his playing. "Doctor of Divinity?" "By the name I have never heard of," answered the virtuoso. "Never heard of it?" exclaimed the professor. "Fiddle D. D."—Chicago Tribune.

IN THE WOODS. 'Tis sweet to worship God when Love commands In temples unadorned by human hands—The grand cathedrals of the solemn woods, Where no unworthy devotee intrudes; At mossy altars and in cloister-bowers, Where prayer is blended with the hush of flowers; In leafy corridors and woodland ways, Where all is resonant with hymns of praise; In shady groves festooned by drooping vines, Where babbling brooks with liquid tongues proclaim The glory and the greatness of His name.

DAVID BANKS SICKLES. "Pardon me," began the new acquaintance, "but are you the Mr. Cadley Northcutt who wrote that magazine article last month for us?" "Yes," answered the other, "of course, you'll understand that I don't make a business of that sort of thing." "Of course," said the other, "I know that. I read the article."—Philadelphia Press.

A. M. Devereux, of Castine, Me., has in his possession the ship's articles of the schooner *Clasita* and *Eliza* on a voyage from Boston to Castine, thence to some port in the West Indies and return. In 1862, the schooner was in command of one Mathias Rider, Jr., master, and was manned by a crew of first and second mates, cook, ship's boy and three seamen, which in these days would be considered a crew for a large three-masted schooner. The list is of interest, as compared with the present day, as by this paper the master received \$25 a month, the two mates \$22 and \$17, respectively, and the seamen \$12 a month, while the boy received \$10. The back of the articles shows a copy of the laws for the government of seamen in the merchant service signed by George Washington, President, John Adams, Vice-President, and Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State.

"Some one has written a play entitled 'The Girl Who Has Everything.' " "Well?" "Wonder what it's about?" "Society like it might be about the hired girl and her numerous ailments."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

PROTECTING THE EIDER DUCK. From The Kennebec Journal. At present there is but one breeding pair of the eider duck in the United States; that is Old Man's Island, situated in the town of Cutler, in Maine. It is one of our one-hundred-mile islands. The island is a small, rocky island, and was leased by the state for the protection, propagation and preservation of all wild birds. Captain Frederick Small, who is connected with the breeding station, has been appointed a warden to look after these birds. The state, through the efforts of the Audubon Society, is now advocating their cause, and trying to preserve three species of wild fowl, the eider duck, the puffin and the laughing gull, from extermination. Their eggs are large and very palatable and highly prized by fishermen for food. Those interested are asking the co-operation of gunners and fishermen to preserve the birds.

A MILLIONAIRE CLERGYMAN. From The London Express. One of the richest clergymen in England died at Guildford yesterday in the person of the Rev. Francis Paynter, who had been rector of Stoke-next-Guildford for thirty-four years. He was one of the best known and most respected of the Regent street and Piccadilly, and his income was reported to be between £70,000 and £80,000 a year. Mr. Paynter was a great benefactor of the Guildford. He built three churches, as well as many missions, and founded a coffee tavern in furtherance of the cause of the poor, in which he was keenly interested. He had travelled all over the world in the cause of missions. He established a college in his own country and supported a number of missionaries at his own expense.

a sanctuary? Poets are said to speak the things that linger in the subconscious regions of the uninspired citizen's mind; and here we seem to have a proof of this hypothesis. May not the relatively small Sabbath attendance at churches above ground be explained by the fact that the masses, in their subliminal cogitations, have been construing their visits to the subway as pilgrimages to a holy of holies? Be this as it may, we feel sure, however, that the poet's next thought does not voice a slumbering public sentiment. He says: "I Here found a fane where thunder fills Loud caverns, tremulous; and these Alone to me my reverend hills And moonlit silences."

The consensus of opinion among New Yorkers is unequivocally opposed to this view. We have yet to meet a citizen face to face who can say, without twitch of facial muscles, that the subway is a "just-as-good-as" substitute for a moonlight night in the country. Certain peculiarities of atmosphere, due to superheated currents of air, and the number and kind of one's fellow passengers; a certain intrusiveness of the human element, destroying solitude, the mother of contemplation, and a certain lack of suggestive detail in the landscape get between the proxy mind and the subterranean beauties divined by the lyricist. The simple Man with the Bundles, far from suspecting the high religious and artistic merits of the tunnel, crudely compares it with one of the circles pointed out in Dante's *Guide Through the Regions of Abandoned Hope*, where spirits disconsolate are borne for aye on fetid winds that let no rest.

In this difference of opinion betwixt ordinary and extraordinary citizens we find disclosed the poet's superiority and its causes. The ordinary citizen is fettered to facts, the poet is free. This contrast appears again in the lines: Death rides with me, on either hand, In my communion hour. Mortality statistics of the subway prove conclusively that Death is not allowed to pass the ticket choppers; the millions who daily journey under ground know this and cannot work up a qualm over subway hazards even for literature's sweet sake. Clearly, the poet who finds his "only respite of the day" in "this wild ride with God" gets more fun out of life than does the slave to statistics. Nevertheless, so long as bread must be bought with nickels, it is well that poets are few. For if everybody thought the subway a "scenic railway" its tariffs would be regulated by the curb speculators who now "corner" the best tickets of Broadway amusement enterprises.

Security prices last week failed to respond to the many unfavorable influences, emphasizing most emphatically the strictly professional character of the market and the absence of any considerable public interest. During recent preceding weeks the average of the sixty most active railway shares had recovered almost \$10 from the lowest point in November, and the leading specialties had gained much more. Had there been any extensive marginal holdings by outsiders the numerous adverse factors would have started profit taking by the long account, and aggressive work by the speculative shorts. But scarcely a ripple followed the closing of several banks, the increased losses in railway earnings, the poor showing of the Steel Corporation for December or the President's message, which was especially directed against speculation. Strong interests forced prices of Reading and Union Pacific to higher levels as the message appeared on the news ticker, and even after some weakness at the close, scarcely any net change for the week was recorded in the general list. Bonds, however, are steadily absorbed, trading in these issues showing large gains over the same week last year, whereas sales of stocks are much smaller.

Financial conditions are now almost normal, call money being freely offered below 2 per cent, while even mercantile paper finds buyers at 6 per cent or less. These factors have much more weight than the receivership of banks that could not recover from the shock of last fall. In fact, conservative bankers express relief at last week's events, believing that the suspensions were inevitable and that conditions can now get back to normal. Elimination of these mercates to confidence is expected to mark the turning point in the banking situation. Clearing House certificates are almost wholly retired, and the associated banks report a surplus far above the amount legally required. Despite many reductions in earnings, the dividend and interest payments to be made at this city in February far exceed all previous records for that month, and choice securities should find a market to the extent of about \$75,000,000. This fact has undoubtedly encouraged the offering of a large bond issue by New York City and several new loans by the railways. Exchange rates rose nearer the point at which it is cheaper to ship gold than to buy sterling bills, but many other factors complicate this situation.

Commercial reports improve slightly on the whole, but failures are still much more numerous than a year ago, bank exchanges show losses of from 10 to 15 per cent outside the zone of speculation, and prices of commodities have declined further. Retailers find a gratifying response to the first severe weather in a better demand for heavy wearing apparel, and coal sells more freely, but trade on the whole is distinctly backward, as might be expected when so many wage earners are idle or only employed part of the time. Jobbing and wholesale markets are attended by the usual number of spring buyers, but sales are much below normal, dealers preferring to have stocks inadequate rather than accumulate a burdensome surplus that can only be distributed at bargain sales below cost, as was the case with much winter merchandise. Returns of foreign commerce continue most satisfactory, exports each week far surpassing those of the same week last year, while imports have fallen off sufficiently to provide a large international trade balance in favor of this country. A steamship company has compiled some interesting statistics showing that outgoing steamer passengers in January numbered 58,757, while immigration declined to 15,422. These figures are significant as a barometer of the labor market.

Prices have declined very materially at the leading commodity exchanges, no speculative support being supplied in the option markets, and spot demand is poor. Cotton was not helped by the report that the long threatened Lancashire strike had been averted, attention being transferred to cables of contemplated curtailment at German mills. The quantity that came into sight was about the same as in the corresponding week last year, but this influence was offset by a similar fully maintained movement abroad. Quotations are now only about \$3 a bale higher than a year ago, which is sufficient to make up for the small decrease in quantity exported, holding the value of shipments at the maximum. Wheat declined most violently, in two days selling fully five cents a bushel lower, and for the month of January the loss was eleven cents. Yet there is still a rise of twenty cents as compared with the position a year ago. Exports are most double those of this time last year as to quantity, making the gain in value very gratifying, and contributing most toward the trade balance in favor of the United States. Record breaking shipments from Argentina started the speculative liquidation which disclosed an unwieldy long account.

Industrial conditions improve very slowly, yet there is some increase each week in the number of operatives employed in the factories and mills. Thus far the average wage earner has been fortunate in the general disposition of employers to maintain wages, and the action of steel manufacturers at many conferences last week was

REALTY TITLE REFORMS.

The commission appointed to investigate the present system of real estate title registration and report a measure for reforming it has just submitted a bill intended to clarify and simplify existing methods and to make transfers of title, as they should be, safe, easy and inexpensive. We think there will be little dissent from the commission's conclusion that the title system which we have inherited is outworn, cumbersome and fast tending to break down of its own weight. It involves delays, uncertainties and excessive expense and makes the passing of real property from one owner to another difficult and embarrassing, when it is clearly to the interest of the community that all transfers in good faith should be facilitated and made absolutely secure. Every person interested in the sale or purchase of real estate—except perhaps the middlemen who profit by the erection of obstacles and the heaping up of charges—will agree with the commission that "the multiplication of records, the complication of titles, the repeated expense of re-examinations and the 'delays incident thereto should be avoided if 'any feasible method of doing so can be devised.'"

The chief purpose of the bill reported is to fix the responsibility for a *prima facie* guarantee of title on the state, which has gradually divested itself of this duty and compelled the individual to resort to outside assistance in searching and proving his title. An additional gain has been laid on real estate by this neglect, and private corporations make profits by performing a service which the state itself ought to offer. But a still greater vice of the present system is that it leaves titles indefinitely open to challenge and fails to extinguish taints which have persisted for generations without a chance to be examined or cured. The new plan provides for a registration of title by judicial process, with notice to all hostile interests to present counter claims, and with the privilege of making a subsequent contest on the ground of fraud. It assigns to the courts the duty of reviewing and settling disputed claims, thus acknowledging the obligation of the state to supervise intelligently all transactions in real property, on which the chief burdens of taxation fall and to which the state owes an especial guardianship and protection.

In order times, when there was much confusion in records and little publicity, there would under the plan now proposed have been a good deal of danger of fraudulent registration and the extinction of genuis—but not promptly asserted claims. But we have advanced far enough to modify the ancient system, since nowadays information is more widespread and the courts can be depended upon more confidently to discover and nullify fraudulently obtained ownerships. It is quite economy to try to lessen the cost of holding and transferring real estate and to remove all legal obstacles to quick delivery and tranquil possession.

MYSTIFIED SPELLING.

Only a short time ago the Simplified Spelling Board was reported to have decided that it would remodel the English language gradually, so that none save the most tightly stuck-in-the-rind would resist the gentle, even pressure of phonetic reform. But, alas! the board now appears to be going the way of other revolutionaries who find a large, unwilling public thwarting their ideals; it is chafing under the restraint of popular opinion, and, consumed with the desire to see great strides taken toward perfect orthography, resorts to bomb throwing and terrorism generally. Its second list of revised words has just appeared, and among the seventy-five novelties which it buris at the head of the innocent public there are several infernal machines expressly calculated to blast out of the innocent mind the old-fashioned and English dictionaries. The chief purpose of phonetic spelling being to assist the feeble minded and the ignorant, we should like to regard the movement as a charitable one, kindred to the war against the swatling system, and as such beyond the reach of criticism, according to literary canons. Nevertheless, here, as in other notable instances, gross cruelties are committed in the name of mercy.

"Ake," which displaces "ache," is truly painful, as perhaps an ache should be. It reduces that in this appalling crisis the little Lusitanian kingdom does not stand quite alone. To precisely what extent the strength of England is available for her support is uncertain. But the close personal, dynastic and political relations between the two countries give assurance that in the time of her need Portugal will not be without an efficient friend. Neither will she be without the deep sympathy and earnest good wishes of the world.

THE SEGREGATION PLAN FOR BOYS.

This is an experimental age. There is nothing too seemingly impracticable to get its day in court with an opportunity to demonstrate whether or not it is deserving of serious consideration. And necessity being the parent of invention it is likewise the immediate ancestor of the experiment which precedes the invention. Some time ago a flat dweller in Manhattan discovered, as some of his predecessors had already discovered, that for various reasons it was not expedient to bring up a large family in a flat. As a consequence, not caring to give up the family, he relinquished the flat and moved to Berkeley Heights, N. J., where, after living for some time in a tent, he erected a house suited to his needs, without, however, running afoul of the building inspector, as did the Brooklynite who sought to escape the iniquitous landlord by building, in odd moments, a house after a plan that was all his own. The public did not become interested in the Berkeley Heights man until, after making the startling discovery that boys would bring in mud, leave the door open and break up furniture, he determined that either himself and his wife or the boys would have to be segregated, and proceeded to erect in his back yard a bungalow, where they might work out their own salvation or go without it, as the case might be. It is understood that the furniture placed in the new house was not of delicate design and that the quantity of it was as limited as the exigencies of the case would admit. The boys, we are told, fell in with the plan as enthusiastically as the parents, but some of the neighbors and the critical public eyed the former for purely personal reasons, fearful of the consequences of establishing a wild Indian camp thereabouts, and the latter because the public always loves to assist others in solving their problems, and it assumed that here was a proposition which must result disastrously for the young people, feeling that constant contact with civilization was necessary in order to prevent reversion to barbarism.

After a fair trial, extending over several months, the originator of the idea now declares it to be a success. Tolstoy's doctrine of non-interference has been the keynote of the arrangement, and the father has permitted the boys to manage their own affairs on condition that they permit him to conduct his. Put on their mettle, so to speak, he announces that the occupants of the bungalow have not only taken their responsibilities seriously but have become industrious and economical, and the older ones have a much better conception of the duties and possibilities of life than they would have had if they had been trained in the orthodox manner. One swallow doesn't make a summer, and one successful experiment does not necessarily demonstrate the truth of a questionable proposition. There is a possibility, too, that the parent has allowed his judgment to be roseteely colored by his hopes, but as the neighbors haven't risen in

THE SUBWAY POET. The poet's eye, in the frenzy rolling, does not have a chance to spring from earth to heaven when the poet lives in New York City, where daily tasks compel him to roll, in frenzy less refined, down to work and home again on a subway express. And yet poetry, like murder, will out; rhapsodists will find new themes in the midst of the most prosaic, commercialized environment. For poetry is not a philosophy, but a temperament, as we see proved in a recent effusion by a metropolitan lyricist who has set to verse the unsuspected glories of a ride on a subway express. In this pleasing and original effort many important points concerning the psychology of versifying are unintentionally brought to the fore, while simultaneously a valuable lesson is taught, to the sordid millions who see in bricks and stones only bricks and stones (and sometimes graft). How grossly ignorant the average New Yorker is of the artistic possibilities of his surroundings can be appreciated only after reading the poet's description of a subway ride from, let us say, Brooklyn Bridge to Washington Heights during a rush hour. It is avowed that: I who have lost the stars, the sod, For chiding pangs and aching sight, Have made my meeting-place with God A new and nether Night— Here we find sharply expressed the world-wide difference between poets and the proletariat. How many subway travellers have ever regarded Manhattan's great mole hole as

mission and engineers are assuredly not responsible.

The major part of whatever increase there may be in its final cost will, however, indicate a corresponding increase in the efficiency, security and general value of the canal. It will be a costlier canal than we expected, but it will also be a better canal. Also, it is going to be completed much sooner than was expected, which will mean some financial gain, as well as other advantages, for we shall not have to wait as long as was at first thought for returns upon the investment.

THE TRAGEDY IN PORTUGAL.

It will probably be difficult if not impossible for some time to determine precisely the origin of and the responsibility for the tragedy at Lisbon. The first impressions were that one of the murderers was a Spaniard and one a Frenchman. It would be grateful to be assured that the plot was conceived and committed by aliens and that no Portuguese had any share in it, and doubtless there are enough criminally disposed persons in various lands of Europe to make such a thing possible. But, on the other hand, it seems doubtful if international anarchists would have selected the royal family of Portugal, of all countries, as their victims. It is, moreover, notorious that there have of late been anti-governmental and anti-dynastic plots in Portugal itself. There have been attempts to murder the Prime Minister and at least to depose the King. In view of these circumstances it is inevitable that presumption of guilt shall lie against some traitor and falsely called "Republican" conspiracy among the Portuguese, a presumption which is much strengthened by the fact that not the King alone but the Queen and the two princes, all the members of the royal family, were the objects of murderous fury. The scheme was to exterminate the House of Braganza.

Assassination is in any case execrable. In the present case it is wicked with every conceivable accession of wickedness and unreasoning violence. It was utterly cowardly to attempt the murder of a helpless woman and of a boy in his minority. It was sheer devilry to assassinate an amiable young prince who had not yet reigned and whose whole character and repute were such as should have commended him to affectionate regard. As for the King himself, he had many claims to the love and gratitude of his people. In private life he was pure, genial, liberal and enlightened. No sovereign, at least of state of whatever name, more sincerely desired the welfare of the people than he did. In fact, his virtues were so distinguished as to make him enemies among the vicious. His desire for religious freedom made the bigoted secretaries hate him. His liberal principles of government made him odious to reactionaries. His honesty and his support of an honest minister's strenuous efforts to root out the sordid peculations and crimes which had impoverished and oppressed the people brought upon him the enmity of every thief and villain in the public service. We shall be surprised if it is not eventually found that the King fell victim to the resentment of those who hated him because of his goodness and because of his virtues were a bar to the gratification of their evil passions.

Happily, the hideous conspiracy was not entirely successful. The King and the Duke of Braganza were slain, but the Queen and her younger son escaped. The latter was badly wounded, but survives, and succeeds, of course, to the throne of his father. At nearly nineteen years of age he gives promise of high character and ability, and under the present guidance of his mother—a daughter of that Count of Paris who served in our army and won great esteem here—he may be expected to fulfill the functions of a constitutional monarch to the gratification of all believers in ordered government. Happily, too, Mr. Franco, the brave reforming Prime Minister, has escaped the fury of his foes, and we may expect him to continue on resolutely in the course which he has been pursuing so greatly for the good of Portugal. A dictator he is, no doubt, and whether because of the unbridled corruption which plundered the land before his advent or the murderous villainy which now makes it a land of mourning, we know of no country which more needs a dictator of benevolent heart but of iron hand than Portugal. It is likewise encouraging and reassuring, that in this appalling crisis the little Lusitanian kingdom does not stand quite alone. To precisely what extent the strength of England is available for her support is uncertain. But the close personal, dynastic and political relations between the two countries give assurance that in the time of her need Portugal will not be without an efficient friend. Neither will she be without the deep sympathy and earnest good wishes of the world.

THE COST OF THE CANAL.

Much comment is current upon the increased estimates of the cost of the Panama Canal, the major part of which appears to be more hasty than judicious. It is quite true that the estimates have increased, though they vary considerably, and none of them is by any means positive. It is safe to assume that the canal will cost more than was supposed at the time of our purchase of it. But that will not be surprising. Indeed, from almost any point of view it would be surprising if such were not the case. It is seldom that any great work, public or private, is completed at a cost not exceeding the original estimate. It would be little short of miraculous were that to be accomplished in the case of a work in which there was from the beginning so large a margin of unavoidable uncertainty.

There are various specific reasons for the increase of cost. One is found in changes of plans. These changes were found to be desirable as the work proceeded, and the making of them involved the abandonment of some work which had already been done and the incurring of unexpected expenses. It would be absurd to say that the desirability of such changes should have been perceived in advance, when in the very nature of the case it could not be, and it would be worse than absurd to say that changes, however desirable or essential they might be, ought not to be made lest the original estimates of cost be exceeded. It would be simply criminal to construct such a work as this canal in any other than the best way.

There have also been imposed upon the canal commission greater outlays than were contemplated at first through the increase in the cost of labor and supplies. Some of this increase has been a part of the general rise in prices in the last five years, while some of it has been artificially imposed by the refusal of Congress to sanction the purchase of supplies in the most economical market. We remarked at the time when Secretary Taft's proposal to buy in the least expensive market was opposed by Congress that the policy of restriction to certain markets, regardless of prices, would inevitably result in a considerable increase in the cost of the canal. For that increase the canal com-

Table with 2 columns: Page, Col. and Page, Col. listing various items and their locations.

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New York Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1908.

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN—Manuel II was proclaimed King of Portugal, Premier Franco remaining at the head of the government and the other Cabinet Ministers being retained in office; a strong policy of repression will be continued. A rumor from Oporto said that a republic had been proclaimed there. Many messages of sympathy were sent to Queen Amelia of Portugal. The cabinet of England in Turkey. A general opinion in Great Britain that Republicans were responsible for the murder of the King and Crown Prince. The arrival of the American battleship fleet at Palermo in Turkey. A report of the voyage, was reported to Washington by Rear Admiral Evans. Wholesale forgeries of princely titles were discovered by the College of Cardinals in Genoa, Italy. Negotiations were opened for the appointment of a Turkish diplomatic agent accredited to the Vatican to deal directly with the Papal officials on the protection of Catholics in Turkey. The negotiations were opened for the appointment of a Turkish diplomatic agent accredited to the Vatican to deal directly with the Papal officials on the protection of Catholics in Turkey. The negotiations were opened for the appointment of a Turkish diplomatic agent accredited to the Vatican to deal directly with the Papal officials on the protection of Catholics in Turkey.

CITY—Governor Hughes voiced his sentiments on the strike lockout at an anti-striking meeting at the Majestic Theatre. Justice Gaynor told the People's Forum at New Rochelle that the courts were abusing their power. Archbishop Farley announced plans for the celebration of the centennial of the Catholic diocese of New York. Two alienists who testified for Thaw at his trial went to Matteawan to examine him regarding the shooting of the water in the case of the St. Theatre. The liner carrying Bishop Worthington's body on board arrived after a stormy voyage. The Central Federated Union adopted resolutions asking the State Service Commission to push all subway work so that employment be furnished to the unemployed by the cold snap. Announcement was made of the election of H. C. Frick and Archer Huntington to the board of trustees of the St. Theatre. The liner carrying Bishop Worthington's body on board arrived after a stormy voyage. The Central Federated Union adopted resolutions asking the State Service Commission to push all subway work so that employment be furnished to the unemployed by the cold snap. Announcement was made of the election of H. C. Frick and Archer Huntington to the board of trustees of the St. Theatre. The liner carrying Bishop Worthington's body on board arrived after a stormy voyage.

WEATHER—Indications for to-day, fair and clear, temperature yesterday: Highest, 25 degrees; lowest, 15.

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