sight 21,000 less, being only 4,064,161 as against 7,42,000 last year, 5,845,000 in 1897 and 4,2,000 in 1896, the rest of the U. S. 5,000,000 crop. The interior shipments fell out and Liverpool's stock, almost all in cotton, is over 400,000 less than a year ago. The spot sales for three days are 30,000. Manchester report a better demand and private cables from Liverpool and that the covering there was due to rumors that Mr. Neill was going to reduce his crop estimates. A Fall River dispatch said: "Cotton are strong. Sales yesterday over 800,000 pieces, largely ex rsa at 3 cents. Many refuse to sell more on this basis and a further advance is probable." A public dispatch also spoke of an advance in Fall River as imminent. German houses and New England people bought on a large scale and so did the South and Liverpool.

COFFEE.—Rio on the spot was easier at 6¾c. for No. 7. Sales of 2,500 bags No. 7 and 8 at 6¾c. f. o. b. for shipment from Rio, 500 Savanilla. Futures declined 5 to 10 points and closed steady. Sales, 48,750 bags. Havre and Hamburg declined ½ fr. American warehouse deliveries, 5,800 bags. Rio was weak at 200 reis advance; receipts, 11,000; stock, 929,000; exchange, unchanged at 6 15-16d. Santos advanced 200 reis; receipts, 26,000; stock, 625,000. Prices here as follows:

	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.
November			5.85@5.75
December	5.75	5.70	5.85@5.75
January	5.75	5.70	5.70@5.75
February			5.75@5.80
March	5.90	5.80	5.80@5.85
April			5.85@5.90
May	6.00	5.90	5.90@5.95
June			5.90@6.00
July	6.10	6.00	6.00@6.05
August	6.15	6.15	6.05@6.15
September	6.25	6.15	6.15@6.20
October	6.30	6.15	6.20@6.25

The trading was fairly active, but prices were lower, influenced by easier European cables. There was some covering on the first day, but later on the local operators took up the slack, while importers sold as a hedge against coffee.

METALS.—Copper in London was steady at £75 12s. 6d. for spots and £75 2s. 6d. for three months, advanced £1 15s., but closed weak at £126 15s. for both futures and spot. The market here was dull and featureless. The closing was as follows: Copper, 17¾@17¾c. Tin easy at 27.50@27.75. Lead firmer at $4.40@4.75. Spelter dull at $4.40@4.50.

NAVAL STORES.—Spirits of turpentine, 50¼@51c. Common to good strained rosin, $1.30@$1.35.

PROVISIONS.—Lard was steadier. Western, $5.37½. Cotton seed oil was unchanged, $5.05. Pork was steady at $9.50@$10 for mess. Meats were firm; pickled hams, 9@9½c.; do. shoulders, 6½@7c.; do. bellies, 8@8½c. Tallow, 4½c. Dressed hogs, 6¾@7c. Butter—Creamery, Western, extras, 24@25c.; do. firsts, 20@23c.; State, extras, 20@22½c.; do. firsts, 18@20c. Cheese—State, full cream, small, September, fancy, 11@11½c.; large, 12¼@12½c.; good to choice, small, 11@11½c.; large, 11¾@12c. Eggs—State, Pennsylvania and Western, 23¼@23½c. Chicago, Nov. 24.—Provisions were quiet and dull, with prices about steady. A Western packer was a moderate buyer of May pork and ribs, and packers were the sellers. Balance of the trading was mainly changing. The cash trade was light.

SUGAR.—Raw was quiet at 4⅛c. for 96 test and 3 13-16c. for 89 test. Refined was quiet and unchanged.

CHICAGO, Nov. 24.—These were to-day's prices:

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.	Last Night.
Wheat:					
Dec.	68⅝	68⅝	68⅝	68⅝	68⅝
May	70⅞	70⅞	70⅝	70⅝	70⅝
Corn					
Nov.				31⅝	32⅛
Dec.	32	32	31⅝	31⅝	32⅛
Jan.	31⅝	31⅝	31⅛	31⅛	31⅛
May	33⅛	33⅛	32⅞	33	33⅛
Oats					
Nov.				22⅝	22⅞
Dec.	22⅞	22⅞	22⅝	22⅝	22⅞
May	24⅝	24⅝	24⅛	24	24⅝
Lard					
Nov.				4.90	4.90
Dec.	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90
Jan.	5.10	5.15	5.10	5.12½	5.12½
May	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.30
Ribs					
Nov.				4.87½	4.87½
Dec.				4.87½	4.87½
Jan.	4.92½	4.95	4.92½	4.95	4.95
May	5.07½	5.10	5.07½	5.10	5.10
Pork					
Nov.				8.05	8.05
Dec.	8.05	8.05	8.05	8.05	8.05
Jan.	8.52½	8.52½	8.50	8.50	8.50
May	9.02½	9.05	9.00	9.00	9.00

OTHER MARKETS.

	Opening.	High-est.	Low-est.	Closing.	Last Night.
Wheat:					
Minneapolis	Dec. 62⅝	62⅝	62⅝	62⅝	62⅝
	May 67⅛	67⅛	66⅝	66⅝	67⅛
Duluth	Dec. 65⅛	65⅛	64⅝	64⅝	65⅛
	May 69	69	68⅝	68⅝	69⅛
Toledo	Dec. 68⅞	68⅞	68⅞	68⅞	69
	May 73⅛	73⅞	73⅛	73⅛	73⅞
Detroit	Dec. 68⅝	68⅝	68⅝	68⅝	69
	May 73⅛	73⅛	73⅛	73⅛	73⅛
St. Louis	Dec. 67⅝	67⅝	67⅝	67⅝	67⅝
	May 72⅛	72⅛	71⅞	72	72⅛

Live Stock Market.

FRIDAY, Nov. 24, 1899.

Receipts of beeves were 2,941 head, including 39 carloads for export alive, 91 for slaughterers, and 34 for the market, and, with the state cattle, there were 45 cars in all. Trade slow, but good to choice beeves steady; medium steers were easier and common grades 10c. lower; bulls and cows barely steady and "canners" 10c. lower. About all the offerings were taken. Common to choice native steers sold at $4.10@$5.75; bulls at $2@$4.10; cows at $1@$4.50. Dressed beef active at 7@8½c. per lb. for ordinary to choice native sides; fancy beef, 10c. Cables, steady. Exports to-day, none; to-morrow, 1,153 beeves, 40 sheep and 5,767 quarters of beef.

Receipts of calves were 105 head, including 28 direct and, with the stock, there were 174 head on sale. Steady for all sorts of calves. The top prices realized were 7½c. for extra veals, 7c. for fair to good, and 6@6½c. for common to choice veals. Fat grass calves sold at $4.00 and grassers at $2.50@$3.00. City dressed veals steady at 8@12c. per lb.

Receipts of sheep and lambs were 3,302 head, including 2 cars for butchers and 14 for the market, making with the state stock, 21½ cars on a lb. Sheep were dull and but few wanted; lambs more active and a shade higher in the case, mainly sheep were held over. Inferior to prime sheep sold at $2.00@$4.00 per 100 lbs.; culls at $1.75; common to choice lambs at $4@$6.20, a car of Canadians at $6.10; culls at $2@$5.50. Dressed mutton slow at 4@6½c. per lb.; dressed lambs more active at 6@8½c.

Receipts of hogs were 2,538 head, including 114 for the market. Lower for live hogs and fair to choice grades were quoted at $4.25@$4.40 per 100 lbs.

NO STRIKE AT FALL RIVER.

Manufacturers Agree to Grant an Increase of 5 Per cent. in Wages.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Nov. 24.—The cotton mill operatives and the representatives of the Manufacturers' Association were in conference again to-day and as a result the former gained a concession. It was agreed that the help shall receive an increase of 5 per cent. in wages to go into effect on Dec. 11, provided they will make no further requests for an increase for the next six months. When the conference began the operatives informed the mill men that they could not accept the proposition regarding the sliding scale, which was suggested by the manufacturers at the former conference. They said that they wanted a satisfactory answer to their demand on or before Dec. 4, and in the event of a refusal they would strike on Dec. 11.

The sliding scale was discussed and finally the agreement was reached by which the increase of 5 per cent. is given. It was further agreed that the sliding scale shall be taken up immediately and settled by May 1 next. This settles the wage question in this city for six months at least and meanwhile the sliding scale, which is expected to prevent any discussions by regulating wages with market conditions, will be adopted.

It is probable that similar action will be taken all over New Eng and, as the example of Fall River has been followed by the other manufacturing places.

Girl Shirt Waist Makers on Strike.

A strike of about one hundred shirt waist makers, forty-five of whom are girls, took place yesterday in the shops of the National Shirt Waist Company, 360 Canal street, against a proposed cut in wages. A meeting of the strikers was held in the afternoon in a hall near the factory and pickets were appointed. Most of the pickets are girls.

Flames Close to the Raymond Street Jail.

Fire started about 5 o'clock yesterday morning in the big building at 249 Willoughby street, Brooklyn, occupied by the Perfect Carpet Cleaning Company and before it was stopped a loss of about $40,000 was sustained. The building is directly opposite the woman's prison in Raymond street jail, and the fire caused a good deal of excitement among the prisoners.

Third Battery Men on Drill.

A platoon of the Third Gatling Battery gave an exhibition drill last evening in the Clermont avenue armory in Brooklyn under the direction of Lieut. Mallock. The military experts present unanimously said it was the finest they had ever witnessed. The platoon will participate in the military tournament at Madison Square Garden.

Court Calendars This Day.

Supreme Court—Special Term.—Part II.—Ex-parte matters.

Surrogate's Court—Chambers.—No day calendar.

City Court—Special Term.—Court opens at 10 A. M.—Motions.

Court of Appeals Calendar.

ALBANY, Nov. 24.—Court of Appeals Calander for Monday, Nov. 27: Nos. 130, 94, 95, 96, 98, 120, 121 and 114.

The Expression of Contentment

worn by a SUN reader may be traced to two things—first, to the fact that he reads that paper; second, to the prosperity he enjoys through association with reputable advertisers who use its columns.—Adv.

CHILI'S POLITICAL STATE,

LONG STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.

Bad Results of the Frequent Changes of Ministries now the Rule—Increase of Corruption in the Republic—Three Foreign Disputes—Dishonest Financiering.

SANTIAGO DE CHILI, Oct. 7.—Political life in Chili has experienced some acute stages of evolution in the course of the last decade. It is an article of faith among Chilians that the Ministers named by the President to preside over the various departments of the Administration shall only hold their offices when supported by a majority of the votes in Congress. When political parties are subdivided into three or four nearly equal groups the result of this semi-parliamentary regime is that one Cabinet after another is forced to resign, and it is only with the greatest difficulty that the President can induce prominent men to accept the vacant portfolios with this condition of uncertain tenure of office attached.

The President of the republic has no power to dissolve the Chambers when the members become affiliated into small sections and to appeal to the country to return one of the other party with a substantial working majority, and the consequence of not being able to apply this remedy as is done in all governments where a true parliamentary system is practised, is to create a deadlock in the political situation from time to time. It was this very impractical character of the political machinery in Chili that was the real cause of the revolution of 1891, and the subsequent overthrow of President Balmaceda. From 1888 to 1890 a constant change of Ministers took place because no one political party in the Chambers was strong enough to control a majority of votes in the face of any combination of the remaining political sections. President Balmaceda, in order to eradicate this anomalous condition of affairs, took active measures to intervene in the elections of Senators and Deputies for the purpose of insuring the return of a sufficient number of members of the Liberal party to control Congress. The experiment was not, however, a success, as many of the new Congressmen joined other political groups as soon as their elections were duly approved and ratified. Finding his efforts unavailing in this matter of creating a substantial majority in the Chambers, and so obtaining some fixity of office for his Ministers, President Balmaceda determined to ignore custom and precedent and introduce the principle in vogue in the United States, to this end maintaining that Ministers were not subject under the law of the Chilian Constitution to the wishes or votes of Congress, and that the power lay with the Chief of the Executive to nominate and retain such ministers as he might consider fit without reference to the Chambers. Strictly speaking, from a legal standpoint, President Balmaceda had right on his side, but the Chilian Congress declined to accept his views, and promptly refused to vote the necessary supplies to carry on the government of the country. In 1890 President Balmaceda made peace with the Congress and tried once more to work with a ministry in accordance with the so-called parliamentary system. This endeavor also proved a failure, and the President again determined to make the Ministers independent of the caprice of the Chambers. Congress responded by again refusing supplies. When Balmaceda, in January, 1891, declared the budget of the former year to continue in force in order to provide funds for the departments of the Administration, the Congress promptly declared an armed revolution against what they termed the tyrannous and illegal practices of the President.

What occurred under President Balmaceda is to a great extent being repeated to-day under President Errazuriz, the five or six factions in Congress overthrowing every Ministry that takes office, and so rendering any beneficial administration of public affairs practically impossible. The present Ministry consists of a coalition drawn from three political parties, and only remains in power for the moment because Congress happens to be in recess. That a reform in the political machinery is imperative in the interests of Chili is beyond any question, but it is doubtful if any President who proposed such a measure could successfully carry it in view of the fact that Members of Congress are extremely jealous of any curtailment of their political power. In the meantime the country suffers severely from the lack of continuity of policy on the part of the heads of departments, as must be the case under a system which entails kaleidoscopic changes of lightning rapidity among the men nominally entrusted with the direction of public affairs and the expenditure of the national revenues. To-day the Chilian Congress is composed of groups of individuals entirely dominated by personal motives and without any real political principles to guide their conduct, and yet it is in the hands of such unstable elements as these that the Ministry is left. In the circumstances it is no matter for wonder that portfolios in the Cabinet often go begging for months at a time, and that the more respectable element of the community holds aloof from any part in the government of the republic.

This principle of the Ministry existing only on the sufferance of political parties in Congress was reasserted and firmly established in 1891 by the success of the revolution against President Balmaceda, but the evil effects of the present system did not become prominently developed during the following five years under the administration of Admiral Montt. The election for the Presidency and for Congress after peace was restored in 1891 was absolutely free, and a group of the followers of Balmaceda were returned to the Chambers. The influence and popularity of the victorious party were so strong that the composition of both Senate and Chamber of Deputies showed a very substantial majority on the part of the Conservatives in coalition with a section of the Liberals, these two groups being drawn together by the fact that they had made common cause in the revolution. The majority of this coalition party held together for some three or four years, and enabled President Montt to keep in office a responsible Ministry at a most critical stage in Chilian history. The institutions of the republic had been shaken to their foundations by the events of the rebellion, feeling ran high between victors and vanquished, commerce and trade were momentarily paralyzed. A cautious and somewhat conservative policy was essential to allow the country to recover from the effects of the recent struggle. The strong party in Congress upon whom President Montt could rely enabled this steadying policy to be put into practice.

Toward the close of the term of office of Admiral Montt, in 1895 and 1896, the majority, who had hitherto loyally supported the efforts of the President to establish a sound and stable administration, began to disappear. New elections brought to the front men of other political opinions than those who had fought out the quarrel against Balmaceda, and gradually the Chambers drifted into the conditions of to-day, where half a dozen small cliques hate one another cordially, uniting only to overthrow a Ministry and never for any purposes of useful legislation. It was under these circumstances that President Errazuriz was elected in June, 1896, and assumed office in September of that year. The new President has tried to form cabinets from one party after another in Congress, but it has never been able to keep his ministers in power for more than a few weeks at a time. The present Ministry, as already stated, is composed of members belonging to three different political sections; but it has no more stability than previous attempts, and its days are already numbered. Indeed, it is not too much to say that a careful consideration of recent political life in Chili almost forces the conclusion that people of Latin origin are unfitted for the full political liberty accorded by the constitutional laws of the majority of Latin nations, and that a strong one-man power in the form of a dictatorship, at least for a term of years, is infinitely more beneficial for these people generally.

President Errazuriz, who is now at the head of affairs in Chili, is a man of good family, the son of a former President who gained the esteem and respect of people at home and abroad during his term of office. He has thereby traditions to live up to, and he is, moreover, a man of large private fortune. While Errazuriz is not without an elegance and fair ability, he is essentially vain and pleasure loving, and all was these two characteristics to outweigh the dignity and duty of his official position is the serious detriment of the high place he occupies in his country. The models employed in the administration of public affairs have steadily deteriorated during the past two years as a consequence of the laxity in the moral standard of the Chief of the Executive. Corruption among governmental and political circles is increasing, public interests are subordinated to individuals, the credit of the national credit is depreciated, and a general want of confidence in the future is rapidly taking root among both Chilians and foreigners resident in this country. This feeling of anxiety in regard to present political conditions is now so strong that a reaction against the existing situation may possibly be brought about at no very distant date, if something of the kind does not occur to alter the course of events Chili threatens to drift into a state of political degeneration that must prove fatal to all her material interests in the present and future.

It is interesting to review the effects of the war between Chili and Peru and the influences these have exercised upon Chilian national character. Previous to the year 1879 Chili was a poor country as regards national wealth, but scrupulously honest in the fulfilment of her public obligations. The success of the Chilian arms in the struggle against Peru and Bolivia resulted in the acquisition of immense areas of additional territory and enormous wealth to the national treasury. From the nitrate fields of Tarapaca the Chilian Government in the course of the past twenty years has received from export duties alone no less a sum than $41,000,000, or, say, the equivalent of $200,000,000 in United States currency. Wisely applied to the development of the resources of the republic this fund of wealth would have added greatly to the material prosperity of the republic, but there is little or nothing to show where this money has been usefully expended. The official administration has become extravagant, luxurious habits of living have taken the place of frugal customs, the public debt has increased, and the idea among the Chilians of becoming government employees has developed to a distressing extent. Nor is this the only evil arising from the victory of the Chilians over their adversaries. A spirit of militarism has sprung up which has introduced an aggressive trait into the national character, leading to perpetual hankering after further conquests and a desire to try conclusions by force of arms whenever any dispute crops out. Money has been unnecessarily squandered on armaments and warlike material as a consequence of this condition of affairs, and the true interests of the country neglected in order to foster false ideas of military glory and national aggrandizement. This arrogant spirit has soaked through all elements of the population, creating a feeling of unrest and disinclination to steady work quite at variance with the temper of the Chilians in former generations.

It is painful to contemplate what might be the condition of Chili if this great wealth becomes exhausted through the failure of the nitrate industry of Tarapaca, or any reverse consequent upon a quarrel with some neighboring State. Nor is this condition at all impossible. Other fertilizers may take the place of nitrate, and in a very short space of time kill the export of that article from this country. The overbearing spirit of Chili since the war with Peru can made her hated on the South American continent, and the first opportunity that arises will be taken advantage of by the other South American Republics to inflict a humiliation on her. The prestige of this country and the prestige she now enjoys among her neighbors. At present, however, the Chilians are so self satisfied that they will not consider or openly recognize the dangers lurking near their doors and the necessity of putting their house in order in order to guard against serious disaster in the future.

The international political quagmire in which Chili is involved at the present time are the dispute with Argentina in connection with the boundary line between the two republics, the settlement of the ownership of Tacna and Arica with Peru, and the undertaking with the Government of Bolivia to give a port to that State in the Pacific coast of that country. The question with Argentina is one of long standing and mainly turns on the interpretation of the treaty between the two governments concerning the fixing of the dividing line in accordance with the clause providing that the ridge shall be the divide of the waters established in conjunction with the highest points of the Andes." The loose wording of the treaty led to serious divergence of opinion between the representatives of the two republics in the northern section adjoining Bolivia, and in the southern districts of Patagonia. In 1898 the dispute became acute and nearly led to war. Chili and Argentina both armed heavily in view of the probability of hostilities and strained relations existed for several months. At the end of August an ultimatum was sent to the Argentine Government that the question must be submitted to arbitration or relations would be broken off—in other words the Argentines were to consent to place the decision in the hands of arbitrators or accept the alternative of war. Arbitration was finally decided upon, the northern portion in the Andes being subjected to the consideration of the United States Minister in Argentina, Mr. W. Buchanan, Q.C., assisted by one Chilian and one Argentine representative. This part of the difficulty was brought to an end by the decision given by the commission in April of this year. The southern section was submitted to the judgment of her Britannic Majesty, and a Court of Arbitration has been nominated in England to hear the arguments on both sides of the case. It is now stated that the members of this Court of Arbitration will visit Patagonia in November or December next and examine the principal physical features of the ground before delivering their decision. The cost of the arbitrations will be borne by the two governments, and all danger of hostilities between the Chilians and Argentines in connection with this frontier difficulty is, therefore, at an end.

The trouble with Peru arises out of the terms of the treaty of peace entered into between the two countries. This treaty stipulated among other concessions wrung from the vanquished country, that the Provinces of Tacna and Arica should be occupied by Chili for a term of ten years, at the conclusion of which period a plebiscite should be taken as to the question of the ownership, Chili undertaking on condition of the Peruvians making payment of $10,000,000 to Chili. This sum was fixed as part of the war indemnity demanded by the Chilian government. The ten years in question expired in 1894, but Peru was then disturbed by internal revolutionary troubles and unable to demand the fulfillment of the treaty obligations. Negotiations have since been initiated between the two governments for a settlement of this question, and the matter is still pending without any great prospect of a speedy arrangement of a mutually satisfactory character. Chili should be returned on condition of the Peruvians making payment of $10,000,000 to Chili. This sum was fixed as part of the war indemnity demanded by the Chilian government. The ten years in question expired in 1894, but Peru was then disturbed by internal revolutionary troubles and unable to demand the fulfillment of the treaty obligations. Negotiations have since been initiated between the two governments for a settlement of this question, and the matter is still pending without any great prospect of a speedy arrangement of a mutually satisfactory character. Chili should be returned on condition of the Peruvians making payment of $10,000,000 stipulated by the treaty, and at the same time is loath to renounce her right to resume possession of her former territory in event of the plebiscite being favorable to Peruvian ownership. On the other hand Chili is willing to abrogate all claim to the money indemnity in favor of Peru, and to cede Arica and Tacna to Bolivia, but this proposition has been rejected by the Peruvians.

In the question between Chili and Bolivia the crux of the matter is the provision by Chili of a port for Bolivia in consideration of a definite treaty covering the cession of territory of which Antofagasta is the centre. This section of country was occupied by the Chilians at the time of the war with Bolivia and Peru, and not afterward handed back to the Bolivian authorities. It is, therefore, legally speaking a Bolivian possession not having been ceded to Chili by any formal treaty. The Bolivian government would be willing enough to accept Tacna and Arica and sign the treaty with Chili, giving the latter legal possession of the Antofagasta territory, and this settlement of the question probably will be decided upon eventually in spite of the opposition by Peru.

The financial position of Chili is sound at present, on account of the large revenue derived from the duties charged upon the exportation of nitrate of soda and iodine. Reduced to United States currency, the revenue and expenditure for 1899 are:

Revenue.		Expenditure.	
Import duties	$8,000,000	Interior	$3,000,000
Export duties, nitrate	17,000,000	Foreign affairs	420,000
Export duties, iodine	120,000	Worship	14,000
Stamps	150,000	Colonization	150,000
Railways	4,500,000	War	1,850,000
Post and telegraphs	400,000	Public works	3,500,000
Salt	1,800,000	Instruction	1,600,000
Extraordinary revenue	4,000,000	Industry	200,000
		Finance	10,000,000
		Marine	3,000,000
		War	4,700,000
Total	$37,970,000	Total	$28,690,000

It will be seen from these figures that the national taxation is very small, and aside from the nitrate duties, which are paid by shippers directly to the Government and hardly affect the majority of the population in any degree, the total amount of revenue collected amounts to only $20,000,000, or about $6.50 per head of population. Some small direct taxes are levied on real estate by the various municipalities throughout the country, but the amounts are light, and rarely exceed one-half of 1 per cent. on the annual rental of properties. The estimated revenue for 1900 is placed at the equivalent of $40,000,000 United States currency, and the expenditure at $32,000,000, thus leaving a substantial surplus available for the extension of public works if the moneys received be properly applied and the expenses sanctioned by Congress not exceeded or frittered away by the voting of extraordinary credits for what may best be designated as dishonest schemes. It is this power of the Congress to vote these extraordinary credits that reduces almost invariably an apparent surplus into a deficiency in the national exchequer, and this tendency to squander the revenues of the republic is now becoming more marked than was ever previously the case.

The public debt of Chili is not excessive. The external obligations now sum up to the total, reduced to United States money, of $82,000,000; the internal national and municipal debt is only $8,700,000, and the currency in circulation for which the nation is responsible is some 50,000,000 pesos. This brings the public debt to the amount of about $142,000,000 in round figures, requiring an annual service of $6,000,000. Against this indebtedness is the value of available national property, including the railways, and consisting of 1,250 miles of State railways, asserted to be worth £14,000,000 sterling, or, say, $70,000,000; national lands valued at $38,000,000; nitrate properties calculated at $50,000,000; guano deposits assessed at $800,000, and other liquid assets estimated at $800,000, a total of $159,700,000. At any time, therefore, under existing financial conditions the Chilian Government could pay off all its obligations and remain with a substantial surplus in hand if the realizable assets of the nation were disposed of under fairly advantageous conditions. Moreover, the marketable value of the national property enumerated is not overrated and it would probably bring a larger sum at public auction than the figures quoted. The value of urban property in Chili is now assessed at the equivalent in United States currency of $220,000,000, and of rural estate at $340,000,000, a total assessable value of $560,000,000. These figures do not show any great wealth, but they indicate a fairly sound and safe basis if the necessary amount of energy and push were present to insure the steady development of the natural resources of the country in the future.

The currency question in Chili has been a constant source of anxiety and worry to the Government for the past twenty years. At the time of the war with Peru notes were issued, nominally on a silver basis, but they were not convertible for silver or any other metal. A conversion fund was subsequently accumulated, and had reached considerable dimensions when the revolution of 1891 broke out. President Balmaceda, being in pressing need of funds to purchase war material, sold the silver reserve set apart for the conversion of the notes, and when the revolutionary party won the day a further issue of paper money was made to attend to immediate urgent necessities and assist the banking institutions. In 1894 the total amount of the notes in circulation was 55,000,000 pesos, and the exchange value fell to 20 cents gold to the peso. President Montt determined to redeem the paper and place the currency on a gold basis, and a law was passed to that effect. A conversion fund was formed by the sale of a portion of the national nitrate fields, the proceeds of a sterling loan issued in London and from other sources. In 1896 the notes were called in and paid off at the rate of 36 cents gold for each peso. The unit of value was then established as the peso of 36 cents, and a new coinage minted. The gold basis continued until August, 1898, when the speculators, using the scare of war with the Argentine Republic as a lever, induced President Errazuriz to decree the suspension of the Conversion law and the issue of 50,000,000 pesos in greenbacks for the ostensible purpose of the purchase of further supplies of arms and ammunition to place the country upon a war footing. There was neither rhyme nor reason in this policy of returning to an inconvertible currency, the Government being in a position to borrow on easy terms all the cash necessary for the purchase of supplies and other extraordinary expenses, but the steady value of the peso at 36 cents gold left no room for speculation, and, moreover, the owners of real estate who had borrowed heavily at this rate considered that they could more easily pay their debts with exchange at 20 cents than at the higher figure. This led to a combination between the debtors and the speculators. With the aid of a gang of unscrupulous political adventurers in Congress, the Conversion law became a dead letter, and an act of spoliation was achieved of a nature terribly detrimental to the national credit and ruinous to a very great number of private interests. As the law now stands, the conversion of the notes is to begin again on Jan. 1, 1902, but the confidence of the public is so much shaken in the good faith of the Administration of President Errazuriz that nobody believes the notes will be convertible at the date at present legally fixed.

It is in consequence of the deliberate adoption of a policy of dishonesty in the course of the last three years that Chili has lost her credit at home and abroad. Under the Administration of President Errazuriz the Chilian Government has bulldozed Argentina, blustered with Bolivia and intimidated Peru. At home the Chilian people have been deceived, their interests jeopardized, and the development of the country both morally and materially seriously retarded by the corrupt and vacillating administration of public affairs. A pack of gamblers now pull the political strings, and these men care nothing for the country or the inhabitants so long as they can steal the wherewithal to line the pockets of themselves and those composing their immediate circle of friends.

POST OFFICES IN TURKEY.

The Sultan Again Trying to Suppress the Foreign Mail Services.

The Sultan Abdul Hamid II. is again showing symptoms of unrest. He has addressed notes to the governments of the powers having separate post offices in Turkey demanding their suppression. The existence of these offices has long been a standing grievance with the Turkish Government, for they have, beside the central offices, branches in all the important cities and seaports of the Ottoman Empire. The British, German, French and Italian offices are less numerous than the Austrian, which may be said to be the principal foreign postal administration of the empire. These foreign offices use stamps of their own. In case of their suppression their stamps will have an increased value for collectors. The Russian Government utilizes its consulates as post offices, and has a special stamp of its own for that particular service.

This, however, is not the first time that the Turkish Government has endeavored to obtain the suppression of the national post offices in Turkey. It believes, rightly or wrongly, that they serve as channels through which the literature of revolutionary societies pledging the overthrow of the dynasty and Government finds its way all over the country, and, not entirely without reason, it wishes them closed. It also desires the revenues they furnish, and which would be a very welcome addition to the always impecunious Turkish Treasury. About the period of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877 an International Post Office was established at Constantinople under the late Sir Stephen Barlow, then Postmaster-General at the instance of the British Government, but the experiment failed, chiefly because of the want of confidence of the business community in the efficiency of the working of any institution under Turkish control. The commercial element in the European communities in Turkey, and there is hardly any other, compared notes on what they considered the saner national offices. As to the purely Turkish post offices, no one expect Turkey ever thought of using them, and since the late troubles no intelligent Turk would trust any missive except of the most colorless character in the hands of their employees. The reason is obvious.

On several occasions the Turkish authorities at Constantinople have resorted to devices peculiarly oriental to bring about the closing of the foreign post offices there, in order to have the precedent for suppressing them everywhere and the Austrian has usually been selected for the experiment. Under some pretence the mail bags on their way between the Post office and the steamers or railway station would be seized and then released amid protests on both sides, the Turks always alleging the incident was caused by the indiscretion or over-zeal of the offending official. A correspondence would then ensue, to be dropped after a while and the status quo resumed. Since the occupation by Austria of Bosnia and Herzegovina it has become hazardous to provoke Austria too far. An Austrian corps has always been in readiness to march into the Sandjak of Novi Bazar and perhaps further south, but the circumstances now are not the same as on previous occasions. There is, for Turkey, a formidable army in Macedonia and Northern Albania; Montenegro and Bulgaria are on the best of terms with each other and not unfriendly to Turkey, and it is tolerably certain that in the event of trouble with Austria they would be found united, while the situation in Austria-Hungary is such that a conflict with its southeastern neighbors would be particularly inopportune just now.

The other Post Office which the Turkish Government views with the most disfavor is the British. It may be that the Sultan is under the impression that England's South African proceedings presents a favorable opportunity for bringing the question of the suppression of these foreign offices to the front. Should he hold the view that now is his time, and should he be backed, as is not unlikely, by other powers, then there can be no doubt he is looking for trouble, and the presentation of the notes demanding the suppression of the post offices at Constantinople is the first step toward it.

BRITISH NATIONAL DEBT.

Growth Marked the Political Development of Europe—Present Condition.

The rumor that the British Government may find it necessary to raise more money for the war in South Africa by the issue of consols is of great interest apart from its financial importance, as it would be the first increase to the national debt since the close of the Crimean war. The creation of the debt took place in 1688, when the "King's Debt," as it was then called, contracted by Charles II. and James II. and amounting to $3,521,320, was incorporated by William III. On the death of William, owing to the wars with France into which he plunged England, the debt had risen to $65,750,000, and at the death of Queen Anne the war under Marlborough in connection with the Spanish succession had raised it to $135,000,000. When George I. died in 1727 the war with Spain had increased it to $262,500,000, and in 1775, 52 years before the outbreak of our war of independence, it amounted to $630,000,000.

The increase during this period was caused by the "Highland Scotch" war with Spain, and a war with France that arose out of the disputed succession to the Austrian throne. In this war England fought against Frederick the Great, among others, on behalf of Maria Theresa of Austria, and it ended in 1748. In 1756 England began the "Seven Years' War" against Maria Theresa and supported Frederick. The cost of this last conflict arising out of the previous one was $410,000,000, an enormous sum for the period. In 1792 the year before the outbreak of great war with France, the debt amounted to $1,187,000,000. The cost of the war of independence figured in the increase, the total sum spent in the intellectual effort to subdue the revolted colonies being $485,000,000. In 1816, the year after the battle of Waterloo, the debt had reached the enormous figure of $4,230,000,000, a large part of the increase having been spent in subsidies paid to Austria and the other allied powers in the coalition against Napoleon.

At the close of the Napoleonic wars an effort was made to reduce this enormous debt, but it was greatly interfered with by the Canadian insurrection of 1837, that cost $10,450,000, the first China war, 1840-48, that cost $11,005,140, and the Kaffir war in Cape Colony, 1848-53, costing $10,300,000. But in 1854, on the outbreak of the Crimean war, the debt had been brought down to $3,973,565,000. It was however, raised again by the war with Prussia to $4,130,000,000.

Since then by the operation of the sinking fund it has been greatly reduced, and at the end of the last financial year stood at $3,191,552,410. Successive reductions have been made in the interest, until now it is at 2¾ per cent. for the bulk of the debt, and will be still further reduced to 2½ in 1904. The total amount paid in interest since the creation of the debt is colossal, enough to have paid the debt several times over, but the money having been paid almost entirely to British holders of it the pressure has not been felt to the extent it would have been if sent out of the country. However, the possibility of an increase to the debt, now called national, is already causing an outcry among the British taxpayers.

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TALES OF THE GOLD LAND.

HOOTCHINOO, THE WORST MOONSHINE IN THE WORLD.

Heavy Gambling That Goes on Day and Night at Home—Trick of a Beach Comber—Use Found for a Woman's Curiosity—Where One Gets Rich in a Day.

SEATTLE, Wash., Nov. 18.—Seattle at this time is filled with gold seekers and gold finders from every part of Alaska and the Northwest where gold is ever thought of and the stories they tell are legion. These herewith are a few gathered at random. They throw a little new light on what is going on in a region much talked of but always furnishing something more than has been told.

"Don't know what hootchinoo is?" said a returned Alaskan miner, who had used the word in some remarks he had been making on the subject of temperance among the Indians of the Northwest. "Well, I'll tell you as nearly as words can describe it. It is first of all the moonshine of Alaska, only it is worst than the meanest moonshine ever made in the pine knot district of North Carolina or Kentucky. It makes an Indian meaner than an Indian. It is made in various ways, but the only true way is to fix up a mixture of flour and water, sour dough, they call it, and then put molasses or spoiled syrup into it, with a rotten raisin or anything to suit the taste. This mixture is then put into an old kerosene oil can. The oil flavor greatly enhances its value; in fact hootchinoo isn't the real thing without it. A board is laid across the top with a hole in it, and into this hole an old Hudson Bay musket barrel is stuck. The barrel has previously been bent into the shape of a U and the muzzle end is hung over the side of the can. The can is then set on a hot stove, and as soon as it begins to boil the distillation process takes place, the vapor rising up through the gun barrel which is kept cool with wet rags and the hootchinoo comes trickling out in a small stream. It is caught in any kind of vessel and bottled for the trade. When the Indian is especially fortunate, he is on the spot when the distilling takes place and he stoops down under the spout or lies flat on his back and lets the raw spirits drop straight into his mouth. He likes this method of taking it better than any other for all the bad he has to do when it gets in its work is to roll over and sleep off the effects of it. Hootchinoo is a great beverage; I'll give you a drink of it if you care to sample it."

"There are one dozen gambling dens at Anvil City and Nome," said a Government official just back from the gold country. "They are running all the time day and night and every gambler has got a full poke. Whether they are straight games or not I am not saying, but they keep right along just the same. Faro and black jack are the favorite games, but there is a good deal of poker also. Some men seem to need excitement, and as soon as one of them gets a poke of dust he wants to go up against a game. One of the big fellows there, if not the biggest one, dropped $12,000 one night to one man, not to mention $2,500 or $3,000 he lost to others. However, his claims were turning out about a thousand dollars an hour and he didn't miss it much. Besides he didn't always lose. I saw a hard looking citizen lose $4,000 one night in about four hours, and he didn't seem to be laughed occasionally as he lost but he only looked tight and glared. When he handed in his last dust he slapped his cheeks down on the table so hard that they broke into a dozen pieces, and turning to the crowd with an evil eye he growled: 'There you infernal fools, laugh at me.' But nobody laughed, indeed, we were just as qui