

ENGLAND FACES A CRISIS

New Year's Day Will Be a Gloomy One in the Kingdom.

NEEDS AMERICA'S HELP

Friendship of the United States Specially Becomes a Thing of Priceless Value—A Day of Reckoning for Some One.

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London, Dec. 30.—It is strange to note that as the New Year dawns for Great Britain the greatest army she ever put in the field remains passive in South Africa, held at bay by two of the smallest republics on the face of the earth, while at home, in spite of the large volume of trade and apparent prosperity, her financial interests are in a state of instability, not seen since the Baring crash. All Europe is yelping at her heels, and the necessity for America's friendship is recognized on all sides. Papers and people that for years have been ready with a jibe for America's good will no longer make any attempt to belittle the desirability of securing her friendship.

"America," says the Globe, usually humorous at the expense of all things trans-Atlantic, "with a crop of 142,000,000 bushels, is especially in a position to help us."

The economic shoe already begins to pinch the military foot. Not very seriously, but enough to suggest grave cogitations as to what would happen if Great Britain were to go to war with a great power. The fact that the government has chartered so many transports has resulted in a rise in the price of bread stuffs, while coal is rising by leaps and bounds. The Baring crisis is such unpleasant results as these that induce the scoffer at things American and induce such a vituperative publication as the Saturday Review to say:

"The Americans have had their eyes open as to the possibilities of a foreign policy and are taking a sounder, besides a cooler view of the situation. They are not less friendly to new points of view, but the instinctive element has been eliminated and has left a reliable sub-stratum of good will," which concatenation of the Saturday Review, under different circumstances would doubtless have come into damning evidence of the insincerity of American friendship.

It must not be inferred that this view is held by many of the sincere English friends of the United States, but to what they are pleased to term its great friendliness as proof of what they have always maintained.

With such a serious outlook for the coming year, it is not surprising that articles appear under the heading, "Are We Decadent?" and similar attacks.

On the other hand, there is still a small section of the press and public which devotes its energies to senselessly abusing the Boers and prophesying the speedy entry of the British into Pretoria. Yet on the whole, the organs of the better class of opinion, face 1899 and its eventualities in South Africa with an even-minded, unhyperbolic determination that compels admiration. That there will be a day when that even the most guarded and conservative do not try to conceal.

Whether it be Lord Lansdowne, Lord Ashley or General Buller, the information obtainable at present and the gist of criticisms point to Lord Lansdowne having to shoulder the onus for the terrible mismanagement.

While Great Britain feeds contentedly upon long special cables showing American friendship, the Boer agents in Europe believe sentiment in the United States is reforming and is now ripe to develop it into material effect. Under this impression the associated press learns they are contemplating dispatching a special agent to the United States for the purpose of influencing public opinion, possibly by open meetings and by personally assisting the efforts of those in congress whom they believe themselves to be able to consider it advisable to offset what they declare has been a systematic campaign of John Hays Hammond, the American engineer who was a member of the Johannesburg committee to influence Washington opinion. If the plans now under consideration are carried out the mission will include a very prominent Boer agent and a pro-Boer member of the British parliament, who intended to sail this week, but was prevented by what is thought to be a temporary hitch in the arrangements. Their desire is to affiliate themselves with a particular party, but influencing political and public opinion to secure at least an offer of mediation from the United States.

A representative of the associated press has made careful inquiries, but failed to find any circumstances to warrant the belief that such an offer, however made, would receive the slightest consideration.

The British government is threatened with a coal famine, the most serious development of recent weeks. Unless the situation improves in many particulars, the coal supply may have to be suspended before February, as their margin of profit is rapidly being wiped out. The root of the trouble appears to be the withdrawal of so many colliers to take their places in the ranks of the reserves. Wages have gone up, but labor is hard to find. The Christmas congestion of traffic aggravates the situation, while the government's need of fuel for transports, war vessels and depots on the way to the Cape has created an unprecedented demand.

GOLD AND SILVER OUTPUT

Director Roberts of the Mint Issues a Preliminary Estimate.

AN INCREASE OVER 1898

Production of Gold in Montana Is Placed at \$4,191,077, and of Silver at \$20,040,403, Compared with 1898.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The preliminary estimate of the production of gold and silver in the United States during the calendar year 1899, made by Mr. Roberts, the director of the mint, shows a total gold production of \$4,191,077, an increase over the production last year of \$2,253,070. The production of silver last year is estimated at \$20,040,403, an increase during the year of \$4,040,211. The gold production by states for the years 1898 and 1899 is given as follows:

Table with 2 columns: State, 1898, 1899. Includes Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Appalachian States, South Dakota, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Others.

SIGNAL CORPS ATTACKED

Four Either Killed or Captured—Marching in Manila.

New York, Dec. 30.—A dispatch to the Herald from Manila says: Six men of the signal corps were attacked Thursday at Talavera, east of Manila, by a force of 30 insurgents and four of them were either killed or captured.

A dispatch stating that the Filipinos were harassing the entire Lingayen coast from Vigan to San Jacinto in small bands, and that Lieutenant J. G. Gilmore and the members of the cruiser Yorktown's crew, who are prisoners of the rebels, had been separated and were with the insurgent bands in the northern mountains, is not believed, as General Young has advised.

The strength of the insurgents at Malabon caused surprise to the Americans. Merchants here are anxious to have the campaign in Cavite province begun so that the insurgent bands may be eliminated and the ports be opened to trade.

General Otis' recent decree authorizing civil marriages makes no provision for divorce. Only the Catholic reasons for divorce are recognized in the Philippines. Girls 12 years old and boys 14 are permitted to marry with the consent of their parents, but otherwise they must be 21 years old.

OTIS IS WORRIED

Twenty Thousand Well-Equipped Insurgents Oppose Him in Cavite. Special Dispatch to the Standard. New York, Dec. 30.—The World's War correspondent says that it is well known here that General Otis is much worried over the situation in Cavite province. There are 21,000 organized insurgents in Cavite, and as many peasants are also ready to take up arms. A shot at an American whenever opportunity is offered. Before General Lawton's death it had been planned that his movements to subjugate Cavite should be followed by Otis. It is longer if necessary. His death has had a depressing effect on the troops, and the fighting since then, with its list of American casualties, makes absurd the statement that the war is over. Negotiations are said to be in progress for the surrender of the province. There has been talk of this sort of thing before, but negotiations fell through. They fail now. Otis, it is thought, will depend upon American successes in the north, and famine in the south to bring about a disposal of the southern insurgents. No Manila papers are allowed to criticize the administration or to publish the news from the United States relative to the Philippine policy of the government. The \$50 reward brings in their number. The insurgent provinces no one is safe without a good sized military escort.

A Second Engagement

Manila, Dec. 21, 9:20 a. m.—Colonel Lockett has had a second engagement with the insurgents northwest of Montalban, and by a brilliant charge drove the enemy from their position. No American officers and five soldiers were wounded, but the loss of the insurgents was heavy. Our troops captured a number of rifles and a quantity of ammunition and provisions.

County Clerk Resigns

Special Dispatch to the Standard. Boulder, Dec. 30.—Eugene Ploot, county clerk and recorder, has tendered his resignation to the board of commissioners. He is being replaced by one who is to be appointed and qualified. Mr. Ploot has proved to be a very popular and efficient officer, and on Dec. 31 completes the first year of his fourth term in that office. The board of commissioners will have a special meeting on Jan. 9 to consider the matter of an appointment for the vacancy. Mr. Ploot will, as soon as released from his official duties, take a place with the Gaffney Mercantile company of Boulder.

"To Avoid Great Faults, Beware of Small Ones."

So, also, if you would be free from serious diseases, beware of the little germs of badness in your blood. That small germ, that little distress in the stomach calls for Hood's Sarsaparilla to prevent the development of dyspepsia, scrofula, or other painful diseases. Scrofula—"My boy suffered with scrofula when young. Two bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla cured him. He is now ten. Our physician advised its use. We always recommend it."—E. C. Clapper, R. Kidder St., Cleveland, Ohio.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

FREE ACCESS TO CHINA

European Nations Concur in the "Open Door" Policy.

RESPONSES WERE PROMPT

All of the Powers Addressed, With the Exception of Italy, Have Signified Their Readiness to Enter Into a Common Agreement.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The negotiations opened by Secretary Hay with the great powers of Europe and the Japanese toward securing a common understanding for a continued "open door" policy throughout China have met with most gratifying results. The state department is unwilling at present to make public the nature of the replies received, as this is not embodied in a special message to congress. But in other quarters, thoroughly reliable information is being obtained, and it is learned that favorable responses have been made by Great Britain, Germany, France and Austria, the Russian communication coming as late as yesterday. There is no doubt, it is thought here, that Italy, the remaining country addressed, will not be long in replying. The position of Italy is felt to be assured by the favorable course adopted by the other great powers of Europe. This unanimous verdict by all the first-class powers of the world—Great Britain, Russia, Germany, France, Italy and Japan, in conjunction with the United States, is hardly to be overestimated, so far as it relates to the future of China and the commerce of the world in that empire. The state department is loath to discuss the far-reaching agreement advanced, when the agreement advanced for each favorable response is conditioned on the favorable action of all the other parties, so that in each case the negotiation may be regarded as short of absolute finality. But, while the department is silent, the details come from sources believed to be fully conversant with what has occurred. According to this information, the British answer was the first to be submitted and was exceptionally comprehensive and explicit in yielding to every suggestion made by the United States in maintaining the "open door" policy to the ports of China. The British answer is said to emphasize concurrence with the United States by adopting, word for word, much of the phraseology employed by Secretary Hay when he addressed his original note to Great Britain and other powers. The wording is such as to make plain that the British government concurred in the present and future, without limitation, in a policy of free access to China.

Although much secrecy was observed in the transmission of the British answer, the general purpose soon became known to the other European capitals, and there was not a little irritation at what was regarded as a precipitate response, purposely designated to embarrass the continental powers by showing Great Britain and the United States acting in concert, while the rest of the world held aloof. But the situation was made much more satisfactory to the continental powers by the statement of the British minister in London, who is said to have been the next power to answer in the affirmative. According to the information already referred to, the German answer was not better than the one which had preceded it, but its general tendency was favorable, the only condition being that any arrangements as to free access to China should be universal and assented to by all the powers. The French answer is understood to have come next and the circumstances attending it were rather peculiar and not in the nature of a direct answer, although the result was regarded as most satisfactory. Secretary Hay's note had been forwarded to Gen. Horace Porter, the United States ambassador to France, who promptly called upon M. Del Casse, minister of foreign affairs in the French cabinet. General Porter made known his mission, whereupon M. Del Casse showed the most sympathetic spirit and stated that he had already replied to this effect to the French chamber. The main point of that speech, in his reference to China, was that France desired the most ample freedom of commerce. M. Del Casse had already replied to this effect to the French chamber. The main point of that speech, in his reference to China, was that France desired the most ample freedom of commerce. M. Del Casse had already replied to this effect to the French chamber.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The attempt to launch the Windsor armaments yards today was a failure, the new ship steaming on the ways. When the blocks were sawed away and the vessel started for her plumb line in the water, the ship's plumb line, the president of the committee, broke the traditional bowl of wine and spoke the words that named the ship. The huge hulk moved only about 18 inches and the stevedores were forced to shove the vessel on the ways had frozen. The vessel was made fast, shored up and it is expected she will again be started on Tuesday for her launching.

Additional Time Allowed

Washington, Dec. 30.—The Columbian Iron Works, Baltimore, which is engaged in the construction for the navy of the submarine boat Plunger and the torpedo boat Tincin, has notified the navy department that it requires an extension of time for the completion of the work. The navy department has granted an extension of 11 months.

Plague Kills Five

Melbourne, Dec. 30.—Advices from Noumea, New Caledonia, says five whites there have been attacked by the plague, and within 24 hours all of them had died. The Chinese died from the plague and 12 are under treatment.

New York Is Healthier

New York, Dec. 30.—The health board estimates that the five boroughs of New York city contain 2,300,000 inhabitants, a gain of 11,354 during 1899. The board's statistics show that no other city of 1,000,000 people in the world has so low a death rate.

Carnegie's Present to Cheyenne

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 30.—Andrew Carnegie to-day made Cheyenne a present of \$50,000 to be used in the construction of a free public library building.

Sir James Paget Dead

London, Dec. 30.—The death is announced of Sir James Paget in his 86th year.

LATEST THING IN BICYCLES

Wheels are Now Built That Overcome All Obstacles. From the London Leader. A large number of people yesterday witnessed the Hero gauge parade the application of a series of severe tests to a new patent cycle, so designed that it may with safety be ridden over obstacles of considerable size and variety. The machine was the invention of the inventor to produce a machine suitable for military purposes and the military authorities sent a cycle orderly to participate in the tests, with a view to its being used for the transport of mail in South Africa if they were found to be all that was claimed for them. Among those who were present were Shomburg K. McDonald, Lord Salisbury's principal private secretary, and a military officer. The machine has an absolutely rigid frame, hung on springs, much in the same manner as a locomotive and its tender, the hubs of the wheel sliding in a sleeve. It is claimed that an average amateur cyclist can ride along a 30 or 40 rung ladder, lying on the ground, without dismounting, and that even an elderly man can negotiate bridges, four or five feet high, and other obstacles which would ruin an ordinary machine and risk loss of life or limbs. There were several machines under test, the weights varied from 20 to 35 pounds. The wheels were solid cushion and pneumatic tires. The axlets used were blocks of timber 9 inches wide by 3 inches thick, placed singly, and a pile of bricks about 6 inches high, with a 4 inch thick board over not only be futile, but absurd. If there be a remedy for the complaining shippers, it lies in an appeal to your commission under the interstate commerce law.

ON TRIAL FOR CONSPIRACY

Four Men Who Are Charged With Defrauding the Government.

NEW YORK, DEC. 30.—Benjamin D. Greene, Col. John P. Gaylor, Edward H. Caplan, C. E. Williams and James W. member of the Atlantic Dredging and Contracting company, jointly indicted with Michael A. Connelly and former Captain Oberlin M. Carter, United States district court, today indicted a conspiracy, resulting in a loss to the government of \$77,749.80 in connection with the Savannah river and Cumberland sound contract awarded for examination by day before United States Commissioner Shields.

The indictment on which the Gaylor and Greene were arrested by United States Marshal Hendon was found in the early part of December in the Savannah district. The contractors are represented by the firm of Kellogg, Rose & Smith, who are endeavoring to make a bitter fight against the removal of the men to Savannah for trial. Counsel for the defendants contended that the indictment was defective, inasmuch as the count which alleges that the contract was in furtherance of their scheme arranged for materials at the least cost, to themselves, and that a copy was sent to the United States. He maintained that the allegation was too general and that it did not specify a single act which the accused could be held to answer in any court in the United States.

District Attorney Burnt offered a copy of the Savannah indictment in evidence, but counsel for the defense insisted that the original was within the jurisdiction of the court. The commission overruled the defense in both instances.

James C. Gillett, counsel of United States engineers, Savannah, Ga., was the first witness put on the stand by the government. The witness identified the four contractors in court and swore that the agreement between Captain Carter were not present. Captain Gillett said he had appeared as a witness before the grand jury in Savannah, which had found the indictments against the contractors.

Lawyer Reese said he was not prepared to go on with the cross-examination to-day, which, he says, would consume at least two hours. It was agreed that the examination should be continued on Wednesday.

BROKERS FAIL

Stewart & Co. Go to the Wall With Heavy Liabilities. New York, Dec. 30.—Stanley H. Stewart, doing business as Stewart & Co., bankers and brokers at No. 43 Wall street, filed a petition in bankruptcy today, which was accepted by the court. Mr. Stewart on Dec. 28 in Washington, D. C. The schedules give the liabilities as a firm at \$233,111, and those of Mr. Stewart, individually, at \$41,853. The firm's assets are valued at \$1,212,865, and individually \$1,090. The firm's assets include \$240,000 in stocks and bonds of the Commercial Gas company, the Morley Acetylene Gas company and the Union Trust company of Kansas City, Mo.; \$650,000 claim for damages, of which \$500,000 is against Charles A. Moring and \$150,000 against the St. Lawrence Construction company. The firm's liabilities include \$123,233 from the M. F. Armstrong & Co. Exploration company of London. Of the liabilities, \$241,477 are secured by stocks and bonds, valued at \$713,233. The firm's liabilities are \$1,090,000, and the Hanover National bank, \$60,202.

CHANGES IN OFFICIALS

Great Northern Announces a Number of New Appointments. St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 30.—Circulars were issued by the Great Northern today containing a list of changes in the staff of superintendents and assistant superintendents Jan. 1. One circular announces the resignation of J. M. Davis as superintendent of the Empire district, and the appointment of J. J. Hawn to succeed him. Mr. Hawn has been assistant superintendent of the Montana division for several months. He will be succeeded by J. M. Davis as superintendent of the Empire district. Another circular appoints R. A. Wilkinson as right of way and tax commissioner of the Spokane Falls & Northern, the Nelson & Fort Sheppard and the Great Northern railroads, with headquarters in St. Paul.

MRS. MAHER DEAD

Postponement of To-Morrow's Flight Is Now Inevitable. Special Dispatch to the Standard. New York, Dec. 30.—Peter Maher's wife died in New York last night at 10 o'clock. Mrs. Maher gave birth to a baby girl on Christmas morning. The child lived only two days, and to-night the mother died. The flight which was to have taken place on Monday afternoon, is now inevitable.

ON THE TRACK

At Oakland. San Francisco, Dec. 30.—Weather at Oakland cloudy, track slippery. Results: First race, five furlongs, selling—Bon Mateo won, Silver second, Etta H. third, time, 1:20. Second race, six furlongs, selling—High Hon won, Pat Morrissey second, Rosalora third, time, 1:15. Third race, mile and a sixteenth, selling—Imperial won, Elmer second, Gold third, time, 1:45. Fourth race, mile and a quarter—Dr. Benayna won, Meadowthorpe second, Lothian third, time, 2:10. Fifth race, seven furlongs, selling—E. B. Smith won, second, De Numbra third, time, 1:35. Sixth race, five furlongs—Atamada won, Plan second, February third, time, 1:15.

Colorado's Production

Denver, Dec. 30.—In its annual review of the business progress of the state of Colorado, which will be published to-morrow morning, the Rocky Mountain News gives the following estimates, based on what it considers authentic information, of the raw products of the state in 1899: Gold, \$31,329,955. Silver, \$12,880,250. Copper, \$1,854,238. Lead, \$4,841,259.

Oregon at the Exposition

Portland Ore., Dec. 30.—Fifteen cases of Oregon products, to represent the state at the Paris exposition, were started today. This will be in addition to 100 cases of products already sent forward, which represented grains and grasses, fruits and specimens of commercial woods.

Prospective Geom a Satellite

Chicago, Dec. 30.—While the lifeless body of James W. Peletier lies at the county morgue, a disappointed woman at Norfolk, Va., waits for the coming of her betrothed. It developed to-day that Peletier, who committed suicide Tuesday in a cheap lodging house, was on his way to Virginia to be married to a woman who has waited for him seven years. He came to Chicago from Maryland, with a good amount of money. But before he had been in Chicago long his money, railroad ticket and baggage checks were stolen. He made his way to a hotel on

REFUSES THEIR REQUEST

Attorney General Declines to Interfere.

NO CONSPIRACY IS SHOWN

Mr. Griggs Rules That the Proposed Action Does Not Come Within the Provisions of the Anti-Trust Law.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Attorney General Griggs to-day returned to the interstate commerce commission the transcript of the evidence taken at a hearing before the commission last week in the matter of the new freight classification, with a view to action by the attorney general under the anti-trust law if in his judgment the matter should warrant the same. In his letter to the commission, referring to the demand of the shippers that legal action against the railroad be taken, the attorney general says: "There is no official classification committee, composed of some 14 railroad officials from different sections. This committee meets on the call of its chairman and upon the request of three members. At its meetings suggested changes are considered. Such changes as the committee with substantial unanimity recommends are noted by the chairman and incorporated into a new official classification, which is then submitted to each company for its individual action. Some 60 railroad companies thus independently pass upon the classification. They signify their adoption of the chairman's recommendation by filing it with the interstate commerce commission in compliance with the law.

Discussing the methods of the railroads in establishing a common classification, the attorney general says: "There is an official classification committee, composed of some 14 railroad officials from different sections. This committee meets on the call of its chairman and upon the request of three members. At its meetings suggested changes are considered. Such changes as the committee with substantial unanimity recommends are noted by the chairman and incorporated into a new official classification, which is then submitted to each company for its individual action. Some 60 railroad companies thus independently pass upon the classification. They signify their adoption of the chairman's recommendation by filing it with the interstate commerce commission in compliance with the law.

Continuing Attorney General Griggs says that the legality of the method of preparing, adopting and filing this official classification has never before been questioned. In fact, he says, the question of legality was not raised in the case until after the railroad officials had refused, during the course of the hearing before the interstate commerce commission, to postpone the time for the new classification, which is in effect for 60 days. Furthermore, says the attorney general, it is apparent from the protests originally filed that it is the changes made, and not the method of making them, which is complained of.

Taking up this question of the reasonableness of the rates, Mr. Griggs says: "A railroad company may raise its rates to an unreasonable point, it may discriminate among its shippers, it may charge more for a short than a long haul, but none of these acts, however unjust and wrong, amounts to a violation of the anti-trust law. To authorize the attorney general to direct an injunction proceeding under the law it must be shown that there is a conspiracy in restraint of trade or commerce among the several states. In the first place, there is no contract, combination or conspiracy shown. There is consultation by representatives of railroad men in committee respecting suggested changes in classification. It is subsequent independent action by railroad companies in the adoption of the new classification, and not the action of the committee, that is complained of. The testimony taken does not show that any railroad acted under compulsion of a combination in adopting its official classification. It is a contract, combination or conspiracy by railroad companies operating in the same territory is a desirable thing. Will it be insisted that railroads, in raising their rates, respecting their classification, are not to raise one railway company adopts a certain classification, another cannot? The anti-trust law says there must be a contract, combination or conspiracy. There must be shown, and it must be shown that it is intended to restrain individual action. This is not shown in the testimony submitted.

Continuing, the attorney general says: "The testimony submitted does not show that any railroad acted under compulsion of a combination in adopting its official classification. It is a contract, combination or conspiracy by railroad companies operating in the same territory is a desirable thing. Will it be insisted that railroads, in raising their rates, respecting their classification, are not to raise one railway company adopts a certain classification, another cannot? The anti-trust law says there must be a contract, combination or conspiracy. There must be shown, and it must be shown that it is intended to restrain individual action. This is not shown in the testimony submitted.

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All of the Powers Addressed, With the Exception of Italy, Have Signified Their Readiness to Enter Into a Common Agreement.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The negotiations opened by Secretary Hay with the great powers of Europe and the Japanese toward securing a common understanding for a continued "open door" policy throughout China have met with most gratifying results. The state department is unwilling at present to make public the nature of the replies received, as this is not embodied in a special message to congress. But in other quarters, thoroughly reliable information is being obtained, and it is learned that favorable responses have been made by Great Britain, Germany, France and Austria, the Russian communication coming as late as yesterday. There is no doubt, it is thought here, that Italy, the remaining country addressed, will not be long in replying. The position of Italy is felt to be assured by the favorable course adopted by the other great powers of Europe. This unanimous verdict by all the first-class powers of the world—Great Britain, Russia, Germany, France, Italy and Japan, in conjunction with the United States, is hardly to be overestimated, so far as it relates to the future of China and the commerce of the world in that empire. The state department is loath to discuss the far-reaching agreement advanced, when the agreement advanced for each favorable response is conditioned on the favorable action of all the other parties, so that in each case the negotiation may be regarded as short of absolute finality. But, while the department is silent, the details come from sources believed to be fully conversant with what has occurred. According to this information, the British answer was the first to be submitted and was exceptionally comprehensive and explicit in yielding to every suggestion made by the United States in maintaining the "open door" policy to the ports of China. The British answer is said to emphasize concurrence with the United States by adopting, word for word, much of the phraseology employed by Secretary Hay when he addressed his original note to Great Britain and other powers. The wording is such as to make plain that the British government concurred in the present and future, without limitation, in a policy of free access to China.

Although much secrecy was observed in the transmission of the British answer, the general purpose soon became known to the other European capitals, and there was not a little irritation at what was regarded as a precipitate response, purposely designated to embarrass the continental powers by showing Great Britain and the United States acting in concert, while the rest of the world held aloof. But the situation was made much more satisfactory to the continental powers by the statement of the British minister in London, who is said to have been the next power to answer in the affirmative. According to the information already referred to, the German answer was not better than the one which had preceded it, but its general tendency was favorable, the only condition being that any arrangements as to free access to China should be universal and assented to by all the powers. The French answer is understood to have come next and the circumstances attending it were rather peculiar and not in the nature of a direct answer, although the result was regarded as most satisfactory. Secretary Hay's note had been forwarded to Gen. Horace Porter, the United States ambassador to France, who promptly called upon M. Del Casse, minister of foreign affairs in the French cabinet. General Porter made known his mission, whereupon M. Del Casse showed the most sympathetic spirit and stated that he had already replied to this effect to the French chamber. The main point of that speech, in his reference to China, was that France desired the most ample freedom of commerce. M. Del Casse had already replied to this effect to the French chamber.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The attempt to launch the Windsor armaments yards today was a failure, the new ship steaming on the ways. When the blocks were sawed away and the vessel started for her plumb line in the water, the ship's plumb line, the president of the committee, broke the traditional bowl of wine and spoke the words that named the ship. The huge hulk moved only about 18 inches and the stevedores were forced to shove the vessel on the ways had frozen. The vessel was made fast, shored up and it is expected she will again be started on Tuesday for her launching.

Additional Time Allowed

Washington, Dec. 30.—The Columbian Iron Works, Baltimore, which is engaged in the construction for the navy of the submarine boat Plunger and the torpedo boat Tincin, has notified the navy department that it requires an extension of time for the completion of the work. The navy department has granted an extension of 11 months.

Plague Kills Five

Melbourne, Dec. 30.—Advices from Noumea, New Caledonia, says five whites there have been attacked by the plague, and within 24 hours all of them had died. The Chinese died from the plague and 12 are under treatment.

New York Is Healthier

New York, Dec. 30.—The health board estimates that the five boroughs of New York city contain 2,300,000 inhabitants, a gain of 11,354 during 1899. The board's statistics show that no other city of 1,000,000 people in the world has so low a death rate.

Carnegie's Present to Cheyenne