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Arthur Johnstone, Editor and Prop'r.

TTESDAY..... MARCH 16, 1886.

WE must say that we do not understand why the PRESS was refused a passenger list last night at the suggestion of one of the employees of the *Advertiser* simply to favor a weekly newspaper—nor do we care, as we are generally able to keep even.

AMONG the numerous resolutions passed by the National Board of Trade in Washington City is one which urges upon Congress the importance of passing stringent laws in order to prevent the "under-valuation of merchandise imported into the United States, and the prevention of damage allowance frauds."

THE appropriateness of adopting the cental system, representing one hundred pounds avoirdupois, in the United States will be brought before Congress during the present session. The cental system is already current in the city of Liverpool and throughout the Pacific Coast States, and will more than likely be approved and recommended for general adoption as the standard for grain measure.

THIS is the way it is done; just as it was in the case of the Prison supplies; it is put up so that one man always draws the fat card—the *modus operandi* alone differs. For an explanation of this puzzling puzzle see an article, or report rather, headed "Tenders for Lighting the Streets" in yesterday's *Advertiser*. The enigma is not so deep as Indian necromancy when the intelligent reader runs against the name of a man who figured under the style and manner of E. C. Fishbourne in the recent Prison supply case, which attracted some attention at the time. It was quite unnecessary for the Government organ to attempt to explain the "put up job" in the following paragraph:

The contract was awarded to Geo. C. Stratemeyer, who informed the Minister that he regretted his inability to begin the service at the time specified (March 15, 1886), as he could not obtain the necessary material in Honolulu, the nearest source of supply being San Francisco. He was consequently, by force of circumstances, compelled to decline the award. Mr. Fishbourne, the next lowest bidder, was then communicated with, the contract accepted, and the service begins with this evening.

It was quite unnecessary to thus explain the fraud, we say, because nobody except a *fool* (good old Celtic is this word) or a Government supporter, which some people allege is a synonymous term, could be gulled by such buncombe in the face of the facts. The "By Authority" notice was published February 8th and the bids were opened on March 13th. The notice stipulated that the contract was to commence on the 15th of March and continue three years. The lamps are lighted with gasoline. The gasoline must be imported by the successful bidder, unless he is able to put up a corner in oil as the Government is in bids. The successful bidder has exactly thirty-six days from the publication of the notice until he commences to light the lamps; during this time he must be awarded the bid and get his oil from San Francisco. Under the terms of the notice he has exactly two days in which to get his oil from San Francisco to Honolulu unless he has a corner in oil as the Government has in bids. Go to, poor tricksters! ye are but sorry knaves, yet ye do overreach yourselves when ye assume that the public is playing *fool* to your official knavery.

The Soudan Rebellion.

LONDON, February 27.—Replying to a question in the House of Commons, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman stated that any fears that the Arabs would succeed in occupying Dongola were entirely groundless.

CAIRO, February 27.—It has been arranged that the present garrison of Indian troops in the occupation of Suakim shall be withdrawn in May next, and replaced by Egyptian troops.

FOREIGN NEWS.

TWO DAYS LATER NEWS BY THE "MARAROA."

The Eastern Crisis

LONDON, March 1.

The parleying which has been carried on for some time between the great Powers, concerning affairs in the Balkan Peninsula, still continues, but so far no definite result has been attained.

Bulgaria and the Porte have agreed to waive the projected defensive alliance which formed part of the scheme put forward by Turkey, but the Russian Government now takes objection to other portions of the arrangement.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 28.

The negotations between the representatives of Servia and Bulgaria, who met at Bucharest to discuss the terms of settlement, are now at a complete standstill, each of the delegates abiding by his own interpretation of the wording of the Treaty of Berlin.

The term of the armistice between Bulgaria and Servia having now expired, the Roumelian forces are now moving northwards.

Riots at Birmingham.

LONDON, February 28.

The operatives in the factories of Messrs. Nettleford and Co., screw manufacturers, Birmingham, have struck, and rioting has taken place in consequence.

Prosecution of Socialist Leaders.

LONDON, February 28.

The Socialist leaders who were remanded from Wednesday last were further examined before the magistrate yesterday. They called several witnesses for their defence, including Sir Edward Henderson, Commissioner of Police at the time of the outbreak.

Accident to the German Emperor.

LONDON, February 28.—The Emperor of Germany is at present confined to his room, suffering from the effects of a fall.

The Earth and the Moon.

Once upon a time, many millions of years ago, the Earth and Moon, then young, hot and plastic, were very near each other, revolving around their common center of gravity once in from three to six hours, and also whirling on their axes in the same time, so as to keep always *vis-a-vis*. Probably at some time before this they had formed a single mass, which on account of some unevenness of density or figure, separated into two under the rapid rotation. But starting from the condition first named when day and month were equal and each about four hours long, Mr. Darwin has shown that it is essentially an unstable state of affairs, and that if the Moon were brought ever so little nearer to the Earth, it would then draw closer and closer with ever-increasing speed, until at last it would rejoin the parent mass; but if, on the other hand, its distance from the Earth were ever so slightly increased, then it would begin to recede, and would slowly withdraw farther and farther from the Earth. As it recedes both day and month will lengthen; the month at first most rapidly and then the day, until finally, in some far distant future, a condition of stable equilibrium will be attained when day and month will again equal each other, the period then being something less than sixty of our present days, and the corresponding distance of the Moon about 60 per cent. greater than at present. After that, so far as their mutual interaction is concerned, there will be no farther change, but mother and daughter will live forever happily—apart.—*Professor Young, in Princeton Review.*

Burmese Ponies.

The famous Burmese ponies are not Burmese at all, but Shan, and are brought down from the confines of China, some 400 or 500 miles beyond our frontier. They are very sure-footed, and many of them are perfectly beautiful in symmetry. They are speedy for their size, and wonderful jumpers; they are very docile, for they are—like the pure Arabs—handled from their birth, and only require shoeing when brought upon the macadamized roads. They have a good deal of Arab blood in them, too, for a Shan has as keen an eye for a horse as a Yorkshireman, and many of them purchased officers' Arab chargers in days gone by, and took them to their own country. The ordinary Burman pony is very like the "tat" of India, but they get through a lot of work, and a Burman will perfer one of his own breed to that of the Shans—probably because they cost a tenth of what is asked for the latter; but they are hardier, and will live where a Shan pony would starve. The saddles, bridles and strrups in use among the Burmese are very peculiar. A Burman rides principally by balance; the knees are well away from the saddle, and when necessary they hold on by their heels. Only the great toe is inserted in the stirrup. Ungainly and unsafe as appears their seat, they get over the ground wonderfully well and seldom fall off. The ponies are all taught to amble, and a good pacer will fetch a long price. —*All the Year Round.*

A New Musical Instrument.

The "Pyrophone" is the latest musical invention. It is a novel instrument, constructed to make music from gas. Its compass is three octaves with a keyboard, and it will be played in the same manner as an organ. It has thirty-seven glass tubes, in which a number of gas jets burn. These jets, placed in circles, contract and expand like the fingers of a hand. When the small burners separate the sound is produced; when they close together the sound ceases. The tone depends upon the number of the burners and the size of the pipes in which they burn, so that, by a careful arrangement and selection, all the notes of the musical scale may be produced in several octaves. Some of the glass tubes in which the jets burn are nearly eleven feet high. When the "Pyrophone" is played upon with the keyboard it gives out a rich, full tone of remarkable delicacy, and to a great extent resembling the human voice.

YANKEE DOODLE.—Numerous claims to the authorship and birthplace of this soul-stirring signal in song have been made since the nation first woke to her importance, and ever since then some native Americans have stoutly asserted that the song is not an American one; notably the accomplished Duyckinck Brothers, in their popular "Cyclopedia of American Literature." These genial gentlemen claim the song and its rhythm for Holland, and print "Yankee didel dudel down, didel dudel lanter" as having been in vogue in Dutchland years and years ago, and was the refrain of the Dutch garden-sauce planters and gatherers before Columbus thought of the New World.—*N. Y. Mail and Express.*