

BRITISH PARLIAMENT OPENED.

Foreign Affairs Discussed in the Queen's Speech—Domestic Measures Promised. LONDON, Feb. 11.—The regular session of Parliament opened to-day. The Speaker, Rt. Hon. William Court Gully, presided over the House of Commons. At 2 o'clock the Royal Commission entered the House of Lords and at that hour the House of Commons was summoned. The members of the House of Commons headed by the Speaker at once proceeded to the House of Lords, and after they had assembled at the bar of the House the speech from the throne was read by the Lord High Chancellor, Lord Halsbury, after which the members of the House of Commons returned to their chamber. The speech was as follows: My Lords and Gentlemen: I continue to receive from other powers assurances of friendly sentiments. An agreement has been concluded between my government and France, the principal object of which is to secure the establishment of the independence of Siam. Commissioners for delimitation of the frontier which separates my Indian empire and Afghanistan from Russia have agreed upon a line, which has been accepted by myself and the Emperor of Russia.

The government of the United States of America have expressed a wish to co-operate in the termination of the differences which have existed for many years between my government and the republic of Venezuela upon the question of the boundary between that country and the colony of British Guiana. I have expressed my sympathy with the desire to come to an equitable arrangement, and trust that further negotiations will lead to a satisfactory settlement.

The Sultan of Turkey has sanctioned the principal reforms in the government of the Armenian provinces for which, with the Emperor of Russia and President of the French republic, I have felt it to be my duty to press. I deeply regret the fanatical outbreak on the part of a section of the Turkish population which has resulted in a series of massacres which have caused the deepest indignation in this country.

The sudden incursion into the South African republic by an armed force from the territory under the control of the British South Africa Company resulted in a deplorable collision with the burgher forces. My ministers, at the earliest possible moment, intervened to prohibit through the Governor this hostile action and to warn all my subjects in South Africa against taking part in it. The origin and circumstances of these proceedings will be made the subject of a searching inquiry. The President of the South African republic, acting in this matter with moderation and wisdom, has agreed to place the prisoners in the hands of my Governor and I have undertaken to bring to trial the leaders of the expedition. The conduct of the President of the South African republic upon this occasion, and the assurance which he has voluntarily given, leads me to believe that he recognizes the importance of redressing the legitimate grievances of which complaint has been made by a majority of the persons inhabiting the Transvaal.

The condition of affairs in Ashanti and the violation by the King at Kumasi of the provisions of the treaty of 1874 regarded the suppression of the practice of offering human sacrifices, freedom of trade and maintenance of communications have for some years engaged the serious attention of my government. All endeavors to induce the King to observe his engagements proved fruitless and it became necessary to send an armed expedition to Kumasi to enforce the condition of the treaty. While I rejoice to announce that the objects of the expedition have been achieved without bloodshed I have to deplore the loss from the severities of the climate of some valuable lives, including that of my beloved son-in-law—Prince Henry of Battenberg—who volunteered his services. I and my dear daughter are greatly touched and comforted by the widespread sympathy which has been shown by my subjects throughout the empire, at home and abroad.

I trust the establishment of efficient British control at Kumasi will put a stop to the barbarous customs which have hitherto prevailed, and have the effect of preventing inter-tribal conflicts, and attend to benefit the people and the interests of the peace and commerce on the northwestern frontier of India. Measures which were taken in 1895 to secure effective control of Chitral have been successful.

My Lords and Gentlemen: I have directed estimates for the service for the year to be laid before you. They have been prepared with the utmost regard to economy, but the exigencies of the time require an increased expenditure.

The extension and improvement of the naval defences of the empire is the most important subject to which your efforts can be directed, and will doubtless occupy your most earnest attention. I regret to say that the condition of agriculture is disastrous beyond recent experience. Measures will be laid before you with the object of mitigating the distress of the classes engaged in that industry. Measures will also be submitted to you for the creation of voluntary schools, for the regulation of alien pauper immigration, and for the construction of light railways for the rural districts. You will be asked also to consider the employees limited liability bill, an Irish land-bill and measure for the formation of an Irish board of agriculture. I commend these weighty matters to your experienced judgment and pray that your labors may be blessed by the guidance and favor of Almighty God.

K. D. C. is marked prominent and is in its effect.

VAS MARRIAGE A FAILURE.

Vas marriage a failure? Vell, now, dot de-berend. Altogether on how you loog at id, mine friends. Like d those double-horse teams dot you see at der races, Id d those pooty mooch on der pair in der traces. Eef dhey don't pull togeddher right off at der shtart. Ten dimes out'd off nine dhey vas beddher apart.

Vas marriage a failure? Der vote vas in doubt. D those dot's out'd would be in, d those dot's in would be out; Der man mit oxbterent; good look und dash. Gets a wife mit some five hundred dousand in cash. Budt, after der honeymoon, vere vas der honey? She haf der oxbterent—he haf der money.

Vas marriage a failure? Eef dot vas der case. Not vas to become off der whole human race? Not you dink dot der oldt "Pilgrim faders" would say. Dot came in der Sunflower to oldt Plymouth Bay. To see der fine country dis peoples haf got. Und dhen hear dhem ask soch comon dthings as dot?

Vas marriage a failure? Shust go, ere you tell. To dot Bunker Moog Hillument, wdere Varren fell. Dink off Washington, Franklin and "Honest Old Abe." Dhey vas all been aroundt since dot first Plymouth baie.

Vas marriage a failure? I ask my Katrine, Und she look off me so dot I feels pooty mean. Dhen she say: "Meegter Strauss, shust come here, out you please."

Und she dake me where Yawcob und leedle Loweeze. By d their shtet trundle feet, vas shust saying d their prayer. Und she say, nit a smile: "Vas dhere some failures dhere?" CHARLES FOLLEN ADAMS.

A Long Time on the Way.



Mrs. Budlong—Did you have a good serm on this morning? Miss Budlong—Very good; but some what disappointing. Mrs. Budlong—What was the text, dear? Miss Budlong—"Behold! the bridegroom cometh."

Mistaken in His Man.

He sauntered dejectedly into a drug store, bought a cigar, lighted it, and then inquired mysteriously of the clerk: "How much strychnine does it take to kill?" "I don't know and wouldn't tell you if I did," interrupted the clerk. "How much do you sell for a dose?" persisted the stranger. "We never sell strychnine without a prescription from some physician we know," answered the clerk.

Then he went to the telephone, rang up three figures, said a few cabalistic words, and returned to the counter. The sad man was quietly smoking his cigar. He took it out of his mouth to ask: "How much is arsenic a grain?"

At that moment a policeman entered the store hastily. "Where is he?" he asked, breathlessly. "There," said the clerk, pointing to the smoker, who was the only person in the store; "he didn't get any poison from me."

"You come along," said the policeman; "you can't kill yourself here, my man!" "Rats!" said the dejected customer, winking at the policeman. "Why didn't you say so before," said the clerk, "and not go and put one to so much trouble? I thought you was a suicide, snre."

Coming Across Lots.



Reginald.—There is one thing I can never get over—your turning my love into jest. Rosamond.—There is one thing I can never get over—a barbed wire fence.

Only One.

Merchant.—I shall advance your salary fifty dollars this year. You have been remarkably correct and careful for the last twelve months. Haven't made a single mistake, have you? Bookkeeper.—Only one. Merchant.—What was that? Bookkeeper.—I thought I should get a raise of a hundred at least.

The Last Resort.

Managing Editor.—Have you written that bunch of funny paragraphs, Mr. Sadman? Subordinate.—Not yet—I can't think of anything. Managing Editor.—Then write an editorial on "The Decline of Canadian Humor"—you've got to earn your salary, somehow!

No Snap.

Helen Hyler.—I suppose you had to tell a lot of girls this year that you would be a brother to them? Jack Lever.—Not much. I have three real sisters of my own; and I know what being a brother means.

How to Make It Go.

Miss Cutting.—You ought to have your poem set to music, Mr. Rimes. Rimes.—Why? Miss Cutting.—In a song, no one pays any attention to the words.

A Contemplative Season.

Tatterton Torne.—How are yer goin' ter spend de Winter, Raggey? Weary Raggles.—Plannin' out next Summer's loaf.



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Address the Editor of

The Review, Richibucto, N. B.

Seventy thousand tons of the stern and rock-bound coast of Maine were shipped from two quarries alone last year.

A flagstone, two feet square, was raised from its bed in a Liverpool street by muck rooms.

The largest police station in the world is the new Scotland Yard, London, in which 3,000 officers can be accommodated.

The notes of the Bank of England cost exactly one half-penny each.

It is estimated that 300 marriages are daily performed throughout the world.

It is said that the fossilized remains of an Irish giant, about 12 feet in height are lying unclaimed at a London railway station.

Mrs Black, music teacher, who has been in Harcourt for some weeks on account of the illness of her sister, has returned to Mencton.

DR. WOOD'S Norway Pine Syrup. Rich in the lung-healing virtues of the Pine combined with the soothing and expectorant properties of other pectoral herbs and barks. A PERFECT CURE FOR COUGHS AND COLDS. Hoarseness, Asthma, Bronchitis, Sore Throat, Croup and all THROAT, BRONCHIAL and LUNG DISEASES. Obsolete coughs which resist other remedies yield promptly to this pleasant piny syrup. PRICE 25c, AND 50c. PER BOTTLE. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

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THE RAG-PICKERS OF PARIS.

Thousands of People Who Gather Wealth from Rubbish and Refuse.

The wealth of Paris is so boundless that the rubbish and refuse of the city are worth millions. There are more than fifty thousand persons who earn a living by picking up what others throw away. Twenty thousand women and children exist by sifting and sorting the gatherings of the pickers, who collect every day in the year about 1,200 tons of merchandise, which they sell to the wholesale rag-dealers for some 70,000 francs. At night you see men with baskets strapped on their backs, a lantern in one hand, and in the other a stick with an iron hook on the end. They walk along rapidly, their eyes fixed on the ground, over which the lantern flings a sheet of light, and whatever they find in the way of paper, rags, bones, grease, metal, etc., they stow away in their baskets. In the morning, in front of each house, you see men, women, and children sifting the dust-bins before they are emptied into the scavengers' carts. At various hours of the day you may remark isolated rag-pickers, who seem to work with a more independent air. The night pickers are generally "novices," men who, having been thrown out of work, are obliged to hunt for their living like the wild beasts. The morning pickers are experienced and regular workers, who pay the privilege of sifting the dust-bins of a certain number of houses and of trading with the results. The rest, the majority, are the coureurs, the runners, who exercise their profession freely and without control, working when they please and loafing when they please. They are the philosophers and adventurers of the profession, and their chief object is to enjoy life and meditate upon its problems.

Where Ball Dresses Are Made. It seems that the lady members of the aristocracy run just the same risk as do the gentlemen of infection from their wearing apparel. Their grand dinner dresses, recherche walking costumes and delicate morning robes—even their bridal wreaths and beaded ball slippers are frequently made in the most unsanitary dens. A reporter has been having a chat with a lady who at one time was employed by a noted West-end costumier. "Many a titled dame would positively shudder," she exclaimed, "if she saw the poor, half-starved, ill-clad creatures who have the making of her finery." "Do your dressmakers, then, like fashionable tailors, employ outside hands?" "Yes, all do more or less, especially the smaller firms. Indeed, many of the so-called court dressmakers, whose places of business consist of small flats or drawing-room floors, really do little or no work on the premises. They 'fit' ladies, certainly, but as often as not the material is made up in the most wretched slums by women who can scarcely earn enough to keep body and soul together. For instance, in a certain London duchess ordered a wedding costume for a certain date. The linings were made by the firm, but the material for the bodice was given to one outside hand and that of the skirt to another. Much to her ladyship's chagrin, the costume was not ready by the day appointed. Now, what was the real reason? It was that the poor woman who had been entrusted with the making of the bodice had suddenly died of sheer worry and starvation. She was found lying on her old four-post bedstead in a little back room in Marylebone, with the half-finished garment grasped in her hand. "Is the pay of these outside hands so very small then?" "Yes, in the majority of cases. The court dress makers take good care to have nearly every farthing of the large profits for themselves. The middle hand gets no more than if she were employed on the most common work, yet so trying is their occupation that I have often known women to go blind or into consumption over it. Even when constantly employed they do not earn more than 10 shillings or 12 shillings a week, and out of this paltry sum they have to find their own twist or cotton. So poor are they, indeed, that it is quite a common thing for them to get 'dolly shop' keepers to advance small sums on the material for one job till they have executed and been paid for another. "I take it that all this applies to the small firms only?" "Yes; mainly to those people who call themselves 'Madames' or 'Mesdames.' But it amounts to much the same thing even in the case of the largest court dressmakers. Once they give out work they cannot tell for certain where it is made up. They may give it to A, thinking that she does it at home, but very often A, for the sake of extra profit, gives it to B, and B may give it to C, some poor creature living in the depth of squalor. It is just the same with ball shoes and bridal wreaths. The former are, in very many instances, ornamented amidst the most unsanitary surroundings; the latter are made and mounted in places equally unhealthy and miserable. The only remedy for the evil is to make it illegal for firms to give out work at all. As it is, the servant is much safer than her mistress. The ordinary dressmaker does her work with her own hands in places which, if humble, are at least cleanly; the fashionable dressmaker simply does the fitting and talking. Sometimes she is so ashamed of the obvious poverty of her outdoor hands that she gives them particular instructions not to bring back work during business hours, in case they might be seen by her customers. Whenever I hear of a case of fever among the aristocracy I ask myself if the clothing is not more to blame than the drains."—London Chronicle.

Tennyson as a Mesmerist.

Tennyson had extraordinary mesmeric powers, says the Boston Herald's correspondent. He went, as a young man, with his wife to some country inn, and soon after his arrival a doctor called, who, having introduced himself, said: "I am here with a lady who is suffering from severe physical ailments, and I want you to come and try your mesmeric passes on her, because I am quite convinced that you have strong mesmeric powers." Tennyson laughed at this, but he went with the doctor, who showed him how to make the passes, and he found that he had the power, and that it exercised a very beneficial influence on the suffering lady. Afterward when he went into the room the patient would fall into a mesmeric sleep almost before he began his passes on her. After the parties left the inn they did not meet for some years, and Tennyson did not recognize the doctor until reminded of the circumstances by the latter, who further said: "Do you know you saved the lady's life, and she is now my wife."