

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From the London European Times.

PROGRESS OF STEAM SHIP BUILDING.

The war being over, and steam transports no longer required by the government, the mail packet service is again looking up. Mail steamers have commenced running to South Africa; the Australian mail contract begins next month; Canadian mail packets have been put on, and it is probable that shortly screw mail steamers will again run to Brazil. Before long, there will be 150 English mail steam packets, the tonnage of which will amount to nearly 10,000 tons, and the cost to the British government will be not much less than a million and a half of money. Will steam-packet companies ever subsist without government subsidies; the General Screw Company and Mr Vanderbilt, the great American shipowner, who are very good judges, declare that subsidies are absolutely necessary to sustain the existence of steam-packet companies. To justify governments in giving subsidies it has been also said that, though mail steam-packet lines do not pay a government in the shape of postage, they pay the country well, in assisting and developing commerce. Moreover, the subsidy system certainly has not entirely prevented vast improvements being effected in steamship building. This will be obvious when we compare the present with the former ships of the mail packet companies, such as Cunard's Persia and Acadia, with the Royal Mail Company's Atrato and great Western, and the Peninsular Company's Pera and Royal Tar. Some years ago, the chief aim in building steam-ships was to attain speed. This it was thought, could only be accomplished by building them with little room for cargo, and working them by machinery, which consumed enormous quantities of fuel. The expense of working such ships was so great that they did not carry the little merchandise they had room for, because the charge for conveying it was necessarily so extravagant as to neutralise the profit arising from the speed with which the goods were sent into their market. For some time past the desideratum in steamship building has been to combine great speed and capacity for cargo with diminished working expenses. The South-western Company have been successful in attaining this object. Their French and Channel Island mail packets are some of the fastest ships in the world, and the two they have just built carry three times as much cargo, are equally fast, and consume one-third less fuel than the Courier and Despatch, which were built upon the old plan, for speed only. But the South-western Company's packets are comparatively small ones, and it is far more difficult to attain the desideratum in large steamers.

One of the most important eras in the history of steam navigation was the introduction of screw propellers. A few years ago, when the Peninsular Company built their first screw steamer, the government hesitated to accept it as a mail packet. Now one-half the large fleet of that company consists of screw steamers and a short time since, out of 40 large mail packets in the Southampton docks, upwards of 20 of them were screws. By the improvements in the build and machinery of these steamers they have attained enormous speed, and afford immense capacity for cargo with comparatively small expenditure of fuel.

What will ultimately be the sustained and working speed of steam-packets? When railroads were first thought of a speed of ten miles an hour was all that was anticipated; yet a sustained speed of 60 miles and a working one of 40 miles an hour have been attained. Steamers, of course, can never compete with railroads in speed, because the resistance of the atmosphere and wheel friction is much less than that of water; but the speed of steam-vessels has been gradually increasing. In the early government mail steam packet contracts 9 miles an hour was the stipulated speed. It was afterwards increased to 10 miles, and latterly to nearly 12 miles an hour. The working and paying speed is usually 5 or 6 miles an hour less than the experimental one. A steamer without any cargo on board, going over the measured mile in Stokes Bay, in smooth water, is very different from the same steamer deeply laden crossing the Bay of Biscay or the Atlantic Ocean. The Persia, however, on her recent celebrated quick voyage from New York to Liverpool, must have averaged 13 miles an hour for 216 successive hours. This may be considered then as the standard at present of a sustained profitable speed for ocean steamships. Take the fastest steamer now afloat, and she would, if unladen, and in smooth water, without any wind, tide, or current to overcome, run at the rate of upwards of 18 miles an hour. Now, when it is considered what is the resistance which water must offer to a ship, and that the speed of a brisk wind is only 15 miles an hour, the triumphs already achieved in ship-building are indeed something marvellous.

Tailoring Establishment.

The Subscriber returns his sincere thanks to his numerous patrons for their very liberal support since his arrival in Miramichi, and begs to assure them no effort will be wanting on his part to merit a continuance of the same.

G. A. BLAIR.

Opposite Bousser's Hotel,
Chatham, 16th August, 1857.

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—*Monetary and Commercial Review.*—The advices from Melbourne, received by the Sardinia, extend to the 26th of June, and are upon the whole, of a satisfactory character. Operations at the diggings had been impeded by the heavy rains, but the yield of gold had nevertheless turned out well. New gold fields are announced. One is in New South Wales, near Wellington. Large quantities of gold had been extracted. The other gold field is near Nelson, in New Zealand. The total sum of the gold received at Melbourne by escort from the beginning of the year to the 21st of June was 1,328,874 ounces. The balance of the trade continued to be largely in favour of the Colony. In the week ending June 19, the value of the exports were £305,000; imports £243,000. Surplus of exports over imports for the expired portion of the year about £2,000,000. Exchanges had fallen to 1 per cent. discount, the banks purchasing rates. Agriculture and domestic manufactures were extending.—The supply of labour at Melbourne was scanty, and suitable servants were much wanted.—Gold was worth £3 16s 3d per ounce.

The money market (according to Mr William Aven, 13, Tokenhouse Yard, Lothbury, London) is in a condition that has occasioned much perplexity, and a very general amount of uneasiness. The demand during the week has been large and constant, both upon the Bank and in Lombard Street, and there are no visible signs of its immediate abatement. At the same time, the Consol Settlement which was brought to a termination yesterday has caused much inquiry upon the Stock Exchange; and the pressure in this quarter can hardly be expected to diminish for the present, seeing that the Railway and Foreign Settlements occur next week, while the final instalment upon the Loan, amounting to £1,000,000, is due next Thursday. Concurrently with the adverse influence arising from these circumstances is the great demand for gold from the Continent. The market, besides being affected by these circumstances, has been unsettled by rumours that the Bank of England would yesterday find it necessary to increase the minimum rate of discount, from 4½ to 5 per cent.—So that on the whole, the condition of the money market is practically not one to give much, if any, hope of improvement, though we have reason to believe that the banks and discount houses have still good reserves.

In the manufacturing districts the general condition of trade has improved, owing to the satisfactory reports of the harvest throughout the Kingdom.—*Wilmer & Smith's European Times.*

The Windham Testimonial.—The Birmingham Windam committee have determined upon presenting to the distinguished hero of the Redan a magnificent piece of plate. It is in the form of a shield, surrounded by figures in bas-relief, representing the various events which took place in the attack of the Redan, from the first advance, when Windham, sword in hand, cut his way through the crowd of Russians, who vainly endeavoured to oppose his entrance, with the loss of two thirds their number, until his final retrograde, with the prudent and expressed purpose of returning with strong reinforcements to secure the possession of the Redan. The subscriptions for this testimonial already amount to about £200.

French and English Fishermen.—Hartlepool, September 10.—The malpractices committed by the French Fishermen with impunity upon the Northumberland coast have extended to this coast also, and many have been the complaints made by our Fishermen with respect to the conduct of the Frenchmen, who, not content with encroaching within the prescribed limits in contravention of the regulations laid down by the international treaty, have committed considerable damage among the nets of our men. During the past fortnight the two French government steamers Le Corse and the Chamois have been upon the coast, keeping watch over the interests of the French Fishers, but have been of no avail in preventing or checking their illegal acts, and, as no government vessel has been on the coast for the protection of the English Fishermen, there was no redress to be obtained. Our men got up a petition a few days ago, addressed to the Board of Trade, setting forth their grievances, and praying for the presence of a government vessel to look after their interests. In compliance, it is understood, with this request, the war steamer Otter, Lieutenant Groves, arrived on the coast last week, and, after holding an inquiry at Shields into the charges preferred there against the Frenchmen, she came down here, when, on Sunday night, she took by surprise five vessels encroaching upon the English grounds. These vessels were immediately captured, and brought into the harbour. It was at first proposed to bring the captains before the magistrates and deal with them according to the law regulating the fishery, but the two French vessels being at the time in the harbour, it was deemed advisable to leave the arrangement as to punishment in the hands of the commanders of the three vessels. This was accordingly done, and a suitable reprimand having been given, the vessels and the crews were punished by being detained in the harbour until last night, thus having lost two days fishing, which is hoped will prove a warning to the others.

Widows of Distinguished Officers.—The Queen has been pleased to ordain and declare that

Eliza Rosetta Massey Correy, the widow of the late Rear-Admiral Armar Lowry Corry; Elizabeth Boxer, the widow of the late Rear-Admiral Edward Boxer, C. B.; Caroline Bucknall Estcourt, the widow of the late Major-General James Bucknall Estcourt; Mary Tylden, the widow of the late Brigadier-General Wm. Burton Tylden; Katherine Adams, the widow of the late Major-General Henry William Adams, C. B.; and Sophy Eliza Fox Strangways, the widow of the late Brigadier-General Thos. Fox Strangways; shall have, hold, and enjoy the same style, title, place, and precedence to which they would have been entitled had their husbands (who lost their lives in the public service during the late war) survived and had been respectively invested with the insignia of knights commanders of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, for which honour they, among others, would have been recommended to Her Majesty, as notified in the London Gazette of the 10th July, 1855, had they survived. And also to command that the said Royal order and declaration be registered in her Majesty's College of Arms.

Monument to the Duke of Wellington.—Sir Benjamin Hall, Bart., M. P., as Chief Commissioner of Works, has given notice that it is the intention of her Majesty's government to erect a monument in St. Paul's Cathedral to the memory of the late Duke of Wellington, and has invited designs from artists of all countries.

IRELAND.—It is stated that the number of English and Scotch settled in Ireland is now more than double what it was only ten years ago.

Gen. Sir Colin Campbell has arrived in Dublin, and was entertained at dinner on Tuesday, the 9th by his Excellency, the Lord-Lieutenant.

A Tipperary paper says the potatoe in that locality is sound and healthy; while, according to another account from the same part of the country, there is not a single diseased potatoe to be found there.

The Rev. T. O'Mally, a Roman Catholic clergyman, suggests that the chaplains, Protestant and Roman Catholic, who had accompanied the army at the seat of war, should be entertained at the approaching Crimean banquet.

RUSSIA.—*Evacuation of Kars by the Russians.*—The Times correspondent at Constantinople writes, on the 28th August:—Kars has been evacuated by the Russians. The Turks took possession on the 6th instant. With reference to the unsuccessful attack on Kars, the Russian officers say that Mouravieff was entirely against an attack, and opposed it to the last moment, in spite of the urgent entreaties of several of his officers; but the troops were so dissatisfied at this seeming want of confidence in their leader, that he was in the end obliged to yield, and ordered the attack. The destruction of the citadel wall was only partial, orders having been received from St. Petersburg to stop, from whence also the order for destruction was given. The accounts of the state of the country are very sad. Not a Turkish house is standing on the whole territory which was occupied by the Russians. The few crops sown were eaten up by the Cossack horses. As soon as the Russians began to retire the Turks gradually came back; but it is difficult to say how they will be able to subsist during the seven or eight winter months.—The Armenian villages were unmolested. A number of families petitioned to be allowed to retire into Russia, after the withdrawal of the Russian forces, but they were told to remain, as they are thought much more useful in the enemy's country, where they had rendered considerable services during the war. The Kurds are, however, allowed to migrate into Russia, and the Russians will thus acquire a most efficient means of annoying the Turks, as these Kurds will be always ready to make predatory incursions into their former country.

Moscow.—Sunday, September 7.—His Imperial Majesty the Emperor Alexander II. was solemnly crowned to-day, at 12 o'clock. The ceremony took place in the Uspenski Sobor, and the act of coronation was performed by Archbishop Philaretes, the Metropolitan of Moscow. Among the special Ambassadors who were present were Earl Granville, Prince Esterhazy, M. Castalorgone, and the representative of the Sultan. The proceedings had all that august appearance which immense preparation had designed. An immense crowd assembled at the Kremlin Palace, and in the streets, and very great enthusiasm was everywhere manifested. The ringing of bells, the firing of cannon, the parade of troops, the ceremonies of the church, the procession to the Palace, and the decorations of the city, rendered the whole affair most inspiring. The coronation was favoured by beautiful weather. Count Orloff was created a Prince, Prince Woronzoff a field-marshal, and Generals de Berg and Soumarokhoff counts.

PORTUGAL.—The Madrid Epoca thus describes the situation of Portugal:—

That country has been extremely disquiet since the overthrow of the Saldanha Ministry. On the approach of the elections parties are in a state of the greatest agitation, and, unfortunately the army is not well disposed in favor of order and public tranquillity. We should not consequently be surprised to hear of an outbreak in the country. Cholera has begun to decrease in Lisbon, but the provision question continued to present the most alarming aspect.

In consequence of the recent events at Lisbon the Spanish Government had ordered the corvette Mazarredo, the brig Constitution, and the

steamer Cortes to proceed forthwith to the Tagus and remain there at the disposal of the Spanish Charge d' Affairs at Lisbon. The Mazarredo left Barcelona on the 28th ult. for that destination.

ITALY.—A letter from Ancona, in the Opinion of Turin, of the 3rd, states that the Austrians have established a new battery at Ancona, near the lighthouse, and exchanged all the old guns for new ones received from Austria, showing that they have no intention of evacuating the place soon.

The Parma Gazette announces that the state of feige will be raised on the 10th inst. The uncondemned prisoners will be sent before the ordinary tribunals.

A letter from Lucca of the 3rd mentions the condemnation of several persons by the Supreme Court of that town to various degrees of imprisonment for having formed part of a republican conspiracy. The chief members thereof, a schoolmaster, named Martinelli, and a tailor, named Peruzzi, have been condemned to sixty-three months' imprisonment in irons, the others to much shorter periods of the same punishment.

PIEDMONT.—A subscription for the purchase of 100 uns of Alessandria had been opened at Rome, notwithstanding the measures taken by the police to prevent it.

GREECE.—The Marseilles correspondent of the Times says:—A letter dated Athens, the 29th ult., received by the Caradoc, states that a serious difference had arisen between the commander-in-chief of the French army of occupation and the Greek government.

SWITZERLAND.—*Insurrection in Neufchatel.*—

The Suisse, under date of Berne, Sept. 4, publishes the following:—This morning the castle of the town of Neufchatel were still in the hands of the insurgents, when suddenly the report was spread that the town was surrounded by Republican troops. The Royalists first thought they had to deal with volunteers from Chaux de Fonds, but they were considerably surprised on finding themselves face to face with the patriots of the valley of Travers. 500 men, commanded by Col. Denzler, who had advanced during the night, and as they approached the town they were joined by reinforcements from all directions. They halted near Neufchatel, at the foot of the hills. A sanguinary engagement ensued, but it was soon decided, and the Republican colours were hoisted upon the castle. The Royalists lost 12 killed, 50 wounded and more than 100 prisoners. We are not yet aware of the loss on the Republican side. One of the Counts Pourtales was taken prisoner; he is dangerously wounded; his death is even reported. Some of the leaders of the insurrection, including Col. de Meuron have escaped. The councillors of State, Piaget, Humbert, and Jeanrenaud, are prisoners. The government has resumed its functions, and the perfect Matthey has returned to Neufchatel. Order is therefore re-established.

FRANCE.—The French government has prohibited M. Manin from receiving the subscriptions which he proposed to do for the purchase of cannon for Piedmont.

By a decree of the minister of Public Instruction, the functions of director of the Irish Religious Institution established in France, have been united to those of the head of the Irish College. The Abbe Miles has been named director.

Improvement of the Steam Engine.—M. Joyeux, a young engineer of Marseilles, has invented a new steam engine, which, it is said, will effect a saving of 80 per cent. in the consumption of fuel. M. Joyeux has obtained a patent for his invention, and has been further permitted by the Emperor to submit his plans to the minister of commerce, in order that they may be referred to a special commission. A model of M. Joyeux's steam engine is being constructed at a foundry especially established for that purpose in Marseilles.

Military Execution in Paris.—Sureau, a soldier of the 51st Regiment, who was recently condemned to death by a court-martial for the murder and robbery of an old woman named Gauthier, on the 29th of May last, was executed on Monday. At 4 o'clock in the morning a priest came to his cell in the military prison, Rue du Cherche-Midi, and awoke him.—Sureau jumped instantly from his bed, and on being told that his last day had arrived, he broke out into imprecations against certain persons for not having—as he alleged they might have done—procured him a commutation of punishment; but after a while he, on the exhortation of the chaplain, became calmer confessed to him, and expressed regret for his crime. He then wrote a letter to his mother. He was then taken to the chapel, where mass was said. When it was over he said to the prisoners present, My friends avoid brandy and bad women! It was when intoxicated with brandy that I committed my crime!—Adieu! I am about to expiate my fault!—He afterwards expressed a desire to have something to eat, and a breakfast was provided for him, of which he partook heartily. He was then conveyed in a van to Vincennes, and on his way he passed before the house in which his crime was committed. No fewer than 6,000 soldiers of the garrison of Vincennes and Paris were assembled in the Champ de Manœuvres to witness the execution, and several Prussian, Bavarian, and Belgian officers were present. The troops were drawn up in a vast square, so that each man could see clearly all that took place, and four soldiers, four corporals, and four sergeants, all the oldest of their grade were formed into a platoon to shoot the criminal. Several officers, deputed by the