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Lynching in Georgia.

During the past week another has been added to the long list of horrors in connection with negro lynchings in the United States. A few weeks ago a man named Henry Hodges, his wife and three of their children were murdered and their residence burned, at a place six miles from Statesboro, Ga. Several negroes, it appears, were concerned in the terrible crime, two of these Paul Reed and Will Cato, had been tried, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged, Sept. 9. The prisoners were securely guarded and there was no reason to doubt that the sentence would be duly executed. But the mob's thirst for blood was not to be appeased except by a lynching of the most sensational and cruel character. The condemned men were held in the court house under a military guard but the mob having learned that the rifles of guard were not loaded, easily overcame what resistance the soldiers were able or disposed to offer and gained possession of the negroes, whom they led two miles out of town and burned at the stake, having first saturated their clothing with kerosene. The murder of the Hodges family appears to have been a horrible and cold-blooded crime. But such crimes can never be atoned for by the perpetration of others equally horrible. The burning of the condemned negroes was no less murder than was the deed for which the negroes had been convicted. The lynchers will probably not be called to account for their crime, but such crime cannot go unpunished. Every community and every commonwealth which tolerates such atrocities must suffer therefor. Despatches from Statesboro indicate that something like a reign of terror exists among the negroes in that part of Georgia. Men and women are being flogged by mobs for comparatively trivial offences, while others are being shot down by the roadside or in their cabins.

Opium in the Philippines.

It will be remembered that a year or two ago public sentiment in the United States was strongly stirred over the proposal of the Philippine Commission that the opium traffic in the Philippines should be a monopoly to be sold to the highest bidder. So strong was the adverse criticism with which this proposal was met that for the time being it was abandoned and a committee was appointed to enquire as to the laws and conditions governing the opium traffic in Oriental countries and to report a plan for its control in the Philippines. The committee composed of Bishop Brent, Dr. Albert and Major Carter, president of the insular Board of health, after inquiry in China, Siam and Japan, has now reported, recommending that the opium traffic in the Philippines be at once made a Government monopoly; that after three years the importation of opium, except for medical uses, be absolutely prohibited; that smokers' licenses be issued only to those persons, over twenty-one years of age, who are confirmed users of the drug; that a campaign of education against the use of opium be started in the schools, that free treatment in the Government hospitals be given to those who use the drug, and that all Chinese who violate the proposed laws and regulations be punished by deportation.

Enemy of San Jose Scale.

The San Jose Scale, which has caused so much damage and created so much concern in Ontario as well as in many parts of the United States is said to have come originally to California from North China, having been imported on some ornamental trees. Its ravages in the United States led the Department of Agriculture at Washington to investigate the means by which it was kept in check in China and Japan, with the result that a small ladybird beetle (*Chilocorus similis*) was discovered to be the chief enemy of the scale. Experiments carried on by the Washington authorities have attracted the attention of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and the question has been under consideration of importing some of the beetles for propagation and work into that Province. It is thought unlikely, however, that the bugs will be sufficiently numerous for some time to come to admit of any being sent out of the United States. It is a question too whether they would stand the Canadian winters. The introduction of a new species of insect into a country might be attended with serious results unless it can be definitely known beforehand what the new comers will feed upon.

There is a possibility in such a case of the cure being much worse than the disease. It is believed, however, that no harm can result from the introduction of this species of beetle. It is said to feed only on scale insects, and ultimately may feed upon certain native species as well as on the San Jose Scale. It is a most voracious eater and has been observed to eat as many as five or six scale insects a minute. The appetite of the larva seems never to be satisfied and it is feeding all the time. The adults also feed actively.

The Senate.

The rapidity with which the personnel of the Senate of Canada changes by reason of death and new appointments is remarkable. Eight years ago the Conservatives were in a majority in the Upper Chamber of more than sixty. That large majority has not only been reduced to zero but when the two new senatorships for the Northwest Territories and the existing vacancies shall have been filled the present Government will command a majority of seventeen in the Senate. The three existing vacancies are in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario respectively. They are caused by the refusal of Mr. Rufus Currie of Windsor, N. S., to accept a proffered appointment, the death of Hon. William Dever of St. John, and the death of Hon. Mr. Aikins of Toronto.

Captain Thacker, the Canadian officer who was commissioned by Sir Frederick Borden to follow the movements of the Russo-Japanese campaign, has forwarded an article on Shimose powder, the new explosive used by the Japanese. Captain Thacker says that the shimose compound is two degrees more powerful than dynamite, while gun cotton, on which lyddite and other high explosives are based, comes directly below the Japanese compound. The cost of manufacturing the shimose powder, however, is only one half of that of gun cotton. The new compound is said to explode at a somewhat lighter degree of pressure than others. Ordinary explosives, for instance, explode after they have pierced an iron plate. But with the shimose powder the piercing and detonation are practically simultaneous, and the fragments are therefore numberless and scattered in all directions, which would mean the most fearful carnage if the explosion occurred on a ship's deck. One Russian blue-jacket on the *Variag* was wounded in no less than one hundred and sixty different places by the explosion of a shimose shell during the engagement at Chempulpo. Many deaths occurred from the mere blast where no wounds were shown at all.

Interchange of Courtesies.

The endeavor to establish more cordial relations between Great Britain and France is not confined to the rulers of respective countries. It is gratifying to observe that the working men of London and Paris have been exchanging courtesies. Some time ago a number of British workmen enjoyed a pleasant visit to Paris, and more recently a company of French workmen and their wives made a three days' visit in London, where they seem to have been very cordially welcomed and pleasantly entertained. By the King's instructions they were permitted to see the State apartments at Buckingham Palace, and the Earl of Pembroke acted as their guide. They also went over the House of Parliament, where Sir Howard Vincent, and Hon. Philip Stanhope, Mr. Burt and other members entertained them at lunch. Later in the day they were received by the Lord Chief Justice of England and shown over Lincoln's Inn, the Lane Courts and the Temple. By a happy chance, while they were on the embankment the Queen passed by on her way to the East-end. The Frenchmen gave her Majesty a hearty cheer coupled with the cry of "Vive La Reine!" Later the party was shown the Guildhall and afterwards received at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor. Such interchanges of courtesies will doubtless aid materially in the important work of cementing good feeling between the two nations.

Japan in re the Ryeshitelni.

The Japanese Government has given to the Associated Press a statement defining its attitude in the capture of the war vessel *Ryeshitelni* which took refuge in Chee Foo, a Chinese port, and was captured and taken thence by a Japanese vessel. The Japanese statement is in part as follows: "The status

of China in the present struggle is wholly unique. Nearly all the military operations are carried on within her borders. She is not a party to the conflict, nevertheless her territories are in part belligerent and in part neutral. That condition of things in the contemplation of international law is an anomaly and a contradiction. The Japanese Government engaged to respect the neutrality of China outside of the regions actually involved in war provided that Russia made a similar engagement and carried it out in good faith. The Japanese Government considered that they were precluded by this engagement from occupying or making use for warlike purposes of any kind of territory or parts of China outside of the zone which has been made the theatre of war because it seemed to them that any such occupation would ipso facto convert the places thus occupied and used from neutrality to belligerent territory. It equally seemed to them that any such occupation and use of neutral Chinese territory or ports by the Russian forces would give effect to the proviso in the Japanese engagement and justify her in considering territory or ports so occupied and used as belligerent. In other words, the Japanese government held that China's neutrality is imperfect and applicable only to those places which are not occupied by the armed forces of either belligerent and Russia cannot escape the consequences of an unsuccessful war by moving its army or navy into those portions of China which by arrangement had been made conditionally neutral. The action taken by Japan at Che Foo was a direct natural consequence of Russia's disregard of her engagement, but it is not alone in this matter nor alone in the Che Foo matter that Russia has flagrantly violated China's neutrality and ignored her own engagements. The statement of the commander of the *Ryeshitelni* that his ship was disarmed upon arrival at Che Foo is untrue. The vessel was fully armed and manned when visited by Lieut. Terashima early on the morning of August 13, but in any event disarmament would not fulfil the requirements of China's neutrality regulations and it was for China, not for Russia, to decide whether the alternative of disarmament was acceptable."

The Plague in San Francisco.

It will be news to a good many readers, we suppose—and certainly not pleasant news—that for four years now the bubonic plague which has proved such a terrible scourge in India has maintained a foothold in San Francisco. In reference to the history of the plague in that city *The Globe* of Toronto gives the following information: "The plague first appeared in San Francisco in 1900, there being 22 cases reported that year and 22 deaths. In 1901 there were 30 cases and 25 deaths; in 1902, 41 cases and 41 deaths; in 1903, 17 cases and 17 deaths, and in 1904, up to March 1st there have been 9 cases and 8 deaths, making a total of 119 cases and 113 deaths. These figures are from the regular weekly report of the United States Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. The City, State and Federal Government have all taken a hand in the effort to suppress the plague, and they are to be given credit for confining it to the limits of that city, but that is about all the credit they deserve. So long as the plague exists in San Francisco so long will the public health of other cities in the United States and western Canada remain in jeopardy, and it is about time dilatory measures were dropped and drastic ones adopted for the uprooting of such a menacing evil. The combined efforts of city, State and Federal authorities should be able to achieve in less than five years what one Scottish city accomplished in as many months. The high percentage of deaths among those affected and the extremely contagious nature of the disease warrant the strongest efforts and the most extreme measures in stamping it out."

In Great Britain the chances of boy Sir John Aird.

in humble station rising to wealth and distinction are of course much fewer than they are in America, but in spite of all disadvantages many a British youth of humble birth, by virtue of innate ability and the strenuous application of his powers to worthy ends, attains to eminence. A fine example of a large measure of success attained by one who started as a poor boy is that of Sir John Aird, M. P., who has become so widely known in connection with the construction of the great Assouan Dam on the Upper Nile. Sir John Aird is now seventy one years of age, and his long and busy life has been a succession of triumphs, for he has at the outset everything against him. His grandfather was a workman in very humble circumstances, who was killed by an accident during the construction of the Regent's Canal. His father held an insignificant position in a London gas Company, and young John's first start was a very poor one. To day he is a millionaire and the most famous of great contractors, builder not only of the wonderful dam at Assouan, but of the Millwall Docks and of half a dozen water-works.