A REFORM ERA FOR RUSSIA

Czar Issues a Decree For the Freedom of Religion.

CELEBRATES FATHER'S BIRTHDAY

Local Self-Government and Reform of Rural Laws Among Other Ameliorative Measures Proposed-Peasantry to Be Relieved of Enforced Labor-Step Most Important Since Emancipation of Serfs

St. Petersburg, Russia.-In commemoration of his father's birth (March 10, 1845), the Czar has issued a decree which is the most significant act of the Russian Homire since 1861, when his grandfather, Alexander II., emancipated 20,000,000 seris.

The sallent points of the decree are the providing of religious liberty, the easing up of communal life, freedom from ferced labor, reform in rural government and the improvement of family, school and public life.

Alexander II. left as a sacred trust his san, the father of the present. Czar, the continuation of the work he had begun to ameliorate the condition the people. But Alexander III, died before the work was completed.

The decree recites that the Czar, in order to assure the well-being of his people, follows in the footsteps of his predecessors, feeling that God has laid upon him the sacred duty of completing the "consolidation of truth and order" begun by them. "Agitation in the country works to the detriment of the and good of the people, confuses ic mind, removes the populaproductive labor and interferes with the internal development of the country."

To remove this (Nihillst) agitations Seems to be the object of the decree.

While the Orthodox Church is recognized as the ruling one of the Russian Empire, the believers in all other creeds are granted freedom of worship,

both subjects and foreigners. In accordance with impending measnres of national economy, the efforts of state exedit institutions, and especially the nobles' and peasants' banks, are to be directed to strengthening and develcoing the welfare and foundations of Russian village life and of the local nobility and pensantry.

It is also decreed that measures must he taken without delay to relieve the peasants of the burdensome liability to

Thornault reform is to be effected in the provincial governments and the distrief a iministration by the local repre-Wester African . while attention will be de ruted to securing closer co-operation elween the communal authorities and personal trustees of the Orthodox hes wherever possible.

The decree calls upon all subjects to co-operate in strengthening the moral foundations of the family, school and public life, which alone can guarantee the well-heing of the people and the confidence of every one in the stability of his rights. The ministers and chief officials concerned are commanded to submit to the Caar their views regarding the carrying out of his intentions in this direction,

MEDAL FOR HEROIC LIFE SAVER. Rowed Sixty Miles in an Oven Boat in a Dangerous Sea.

Washington, D. C .- The Secretary of the Treasury has forwarded a gold life-saving medal to Keeper George N. Gray, of the life-saving station at Churlotte, N. Y., for "extreme and herote daring in saving life from the perils of

On December 15, 1902, Gray with his crew rescued four men and one woman from the schooner John R. Noyes, which was wresked on Lake Ontario. twen y-three miles from the Charlotte station. Gray and his men were under rs constantly for fifteen hours, rowor about sixty miles in an open boat md in a heavy winter sea, and, says he Secretary in his letter to Keeper Gray, "exhibiting great bravery, diseretion, skill and sound judgment." This rescue is regarded by Superintendent Klimball as one of the most remarkable in the history of the service.

The following young men have re ceived appointments to the Naval Academy from President Roosevelt; Ralph Earle Sampson, son of the late Rear-Admiral William T. Sampson: J. Woodward Philip, a son of the late Rear-Admiral John W. Philip. of battleship Texas fame; Alfred Miles, a nenhew of Commander Hugo Oster haus, in charge of ships at the Naval Academy. Otis W. Howard, son of Majer Guy Howard, who was shot in the Philippines, and a grandson of General O. O. Howard, has received an appointment from Representative Mey-

Bebt of Centitude Paid.

Mrs. John Horkins, who lives in redweed Carcunistances at Ophir Gold Mine, Union County, S. C. it is annaunced will receive \$143,000, the fortime lost by the late Charles Hill, of Los Angeles, Cal. Mrs. Hopkins' first Bushand, Robert Alexender, while in Texas (wenty years ago, it is stated saved the life of Charles Hill, and Hill made a will leaving all his property to his preserver.

New Grave Robbing Indictments.

The Grand Jury of Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. Joseph Alexander, of the Central College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Rufus Cantrell, the alleged gloud, Dr. Alexander will be tried under the there is now pending a case against him in which a jury failed to agree.

Fremier Laurier Regards It as Victory Over United States.

He Deplores, However, the Choice of Measrs. Root, furner and Lodge as the American Commissioners.

Ottawa, Ontario.-Premier Laurier, replying to Mr. R. L. Borden, the opposition leader, in the House of Commons on the Alaskan treaty, made a lang statement showing the possibility always present of unpleasant consequences as long as the boundary question was unsettled.

He regarded the treaty as a distinct victory over the position previously assumed by the United States in the abandonment of the condition that territory now in America's possession such as Dyea and Skagway must be recognized as American in any event. The present provision on this point is fair and honorable to both parties, he

Decision or no decision, he continued, one result of the commission would be the best possible education for the American and British people on the points contended for by Canada.

He had expected the American Commissioners would be impartial jurists of repute. Mr. Root was much in the position of a party to a suit trying his own case. Senator Turner, he understood, was an interested party in connection with the enterprises in the Northwestern States. Senator Lodge had expressed very strong opinions against the claims of Canada, upon which he will be called to pass judgment. He agreed with Mr. Borden, however, that the British Commissioners should be impartial jurists of rebute the best to be found in the em-

Mr. Borden attacked the Government for not opposing the treaty. He said that the Clayton-Bulwer treaty should not have been abrogated without provision first having been made for the delimitation of the Alaskan boundary. He said that the American Commissioners were not impartial jurists, as required by the treaty, and questioned whether Britain should appoint Commissioners at all. If it dld, he declared It should not follow the example of the United States, but appoint competent and impartial judges.

KILLED WIFE AND SIX CHILDREN. Father Laid Their Bodies Side by Side and Then Attempted Suicide.

St. Louis, Mo .- Andrew Kraus, a wealthy farmer, of Bellefontsine, began to not strangely recently after a long illness. A neighbor passing his place thought it unusually quiet and

In the front room of the farmhouse he found Kraus, bleeding from wounds in his head and unconscious. adjoining room, behind a locked door, were the bodies of Mrs. Kraus and the six children, all with their heads

Apparently Kraus had locked the family in the room and attacked them with a stone hammer. The mother was struck down while trying to defend the children.

Then, it appears, Kraus tried to butfer his own brains out with the hammer, which was still grasped in his

The bodies of the woman and the children had been arranged in a row on the bed, except the baby, ift in a

NECRO RECTOR SURPRISES BISHOP. Arrived to Begin Work,

Los Angeles, Cal.—The arrival here of the Rev. George S. Brown, of Philaleiphia, who has been appointed rector of the Protestant Episcopal Congregation at Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, created much surprise. The Rev. Mr. Brown was named by Bishop Joseph H. Johnson, of the Southern California Diocese, and until his arrival neither the bishop nor the congregation, which is white, knew that Brown was a ne-

CONSUL TALKED TOO MUCH. Bittinger.Our Representative at Montreal, Invited to Resign.

Washington, D. C. - United States Consul John L. Blittinger, at Montreal, has been invited to resign. He will be succeeded by Major A. W. Edwards, a North Dakofa newspaper man.

Consul Bittinger, while on leave of absence at his home in St. Louis, talked very freely of the retaliations between the United States and Cau-This was ill received in Carada and led to the present action.

Warrant For Bank Treasurer.

The warrant for the arrest of Walter V. Cooke, former treasurer of the Milford Co-operative Bank, Issued sevrat days, figo, has been served on Cooke at his home in Rexbury, Mass. The document charges Cooke with the larceny of \$15,000 from the bank. The mar is ill from a bullet wound, selfhidleted on the day after the shortage at the bank was discovered

Three Men Killed in Mine Blast.

Three men were killed and fourteen severely injured by an explosion of Bre-damp in the mine of the Cardiff (III.) Coal Company. The dead are John McClosky, Joseph Huett and Zoel Axadino. Miners at the mouth of the shaft were awakened by the explosion and rescued the injured and removed the dead.

Woman Has Her Farm Animals Killed, Nora Gauze, Indiana organizer for National Humane Society, bad all her farm animals killed near Kocomo; Ind. She contemplated an exnew indictment, despite the fact that than trust her stock to other hands ortended visit in the East, and rather dered them killed.

DEFENDS ALASKA TREATY CUBA RATIFIES THE TREATY

Reciprocity With the United States Favored by the Senate.

ADOPTED BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE

Sixteen Senators For It, Five Against It-The Batification Bequired Only a Majority, So There Were Several Votes to Spare-Bustamente's Argument Made Deep Impression.

Havana, Cuba.-The Senate by a vote of sixteen to five ratified the reciprocity treaty with the United States.

The treaty was thus ratified by exactly two-thirds of the votes of the Senate. Fifteen Republican Conservrtives or administration Senators and one Nationalist voted in favor of the treaty, and five Nationalists against it. There were three absentees, all of whom, it is believed, favored the treaty, The ratification required only a majorfty vote, so that there were several votes to spare.

The vote was taken immediately on the conclusion of a forceful appeal by Senor Bustamente. He insisted that whether the trust or the producers ware the chief beneficiaries of the twenty per cent, reduction of customs duties on Cuban sugar shipped to the United States, it was not possible that such differential treatment favoring Cuban sugar in competition with that of Europe, could result other than fa-

vorably to Cuba's trade. Under the treaty, he said, the European producer would be unable to compere with Cuba. If the European nations were really seeking to prevent the ratification of the treaty in the United States Senate, it was not on account of the little they would lose in the Cu ban markets, but because they would no longer be able to send sugar to the United States.

The treaty would also provide the protection that Cuba needed on to-

Viewed in another aspect, the treaty would give Cuba national entity and allow her to enter into commercial relations with the nation which was hithefto considered only her guardian. "I vote," sold the speaker, "for the

treaty with the conviction that we in so doing are rendering a patriotic duty to Cub even if the treaty is not approved by the United States Senate. "I do not intend to retire to-night with my mind disquieted by thoughts of a weak and hungry Cuba selling her independence for a bag of money, but rather with the knowledge that rough our assistance she has taken progressive steps toward prosperity. nower and the protection of her inde

prodence and liberties." Senator Bustamente's speech was loudly applauded. The custom of anproving the treaty by articles was dispensed with and the recommendations of the committee were approved in their entirety.

SIX DEATHS IN HOTEL FIRE. Small Hostelry Burned in West Virginia -Several Escaped by Jamping.

Cumberland, Md.-Six persons were ourned to death and one was mortally injured as the result of a fire in a small hotel in Lelter, a mining town near Elkins, W. Va.

The dead are Maggie Coughtan Overhill, W. Va.: Annie Bucke and Henry Buck , Womelsdorf, W. Va.: George C. Anderson and Mrs. George C. Anderson and a child of the Andersons

Robert Long was morially injured. Several persons escaped with minor injuries by jumping from a secondstory window.

Similar Disaster in Alaska.

Dawson, Alaska.-Five people were burned to death in the Aurora Road house on Hunker Creek. Charles Bernsie, who owned the house, his wife and two children and Thomas Baird, who was in charge of one of the Government road houses, were burned to a

HOMER BIRD PANCED.

Killed Two Companions in Klondike -Case Fought Through Supreme Court.

Seattle, Wash.-A dispatch from Sitka says that Hemer Bird was executed there. On the gallows Pird made a short speech, without visible emotion, in which he protested his innocence.

In the great Klondike rush of 1897-'98 Bird started up the Yukon River with two companions. One day the two companions disappeared. When ourstioned Bird stoutly maintained that they had gone off on a prospecting expdition. The bodies of the two men were afterward found riddled with buckshot. Bird's sentence was offirmed by the United States Supreme Court, and President Roosevelt refused

DYING ORDER TO HIS SON-KILL. Ten-Year-Old May Swenrs to Murder His Father's Slayer.

Knoxville, Tenn,-Carrett Hedden, the noted moonshiner, was shot by his brother, Riley. He died an hour afterward in lds cabin in the mountains. His last words were to his ten-yearold boy, and these words were, "Don't forget, boy, you must kill your Uncle

The boy was at home twhen his father was dragged into the house dying. Ignoring everything else the wounded moonshiner called his hoy, made him place his right hand on his father's revolver and then swear to kill the man who had shot him. The sage the Governor stated that several myself had taken the part of the wife boy took the oath to avenge his father | members of the present Legislature

THE VIEWS OF ARGENTINA

Republic Resists Collection of Debts at Muzzle of European Guns.

Will Beault Only in the Absorption of the Wenker Nations by Powerful Countries of the Earth.

Washington, D. C .- The following statement was given out at the legation of the Argentine Republic:

"Recent publications referring to the note of instruction sent by the Argentine Government to its Minister in Washington, Dr. Garcia Merou, in regard to some of the features of the Venezenia incident, give the erroneon Impression that Argentina asked for an alliance with the United States, and that its proposal was rejected by the

Secretary of State. "In fact, the dispatch aimed only to explain the views of the home Govern ment relative to the coercive collection of public debts of American States by

European nations. "The Argentine Minister of Foreign Relations, in his note, says in part: The compulsory and immediate demand for payment at a given moment of a public debt by means of force would not produce other than the ruin of the weaker nations and the gether, with all its inherent faculties, by the powerful nations of the earth.'

"The principle which we maintain is that a public debt cannot give rise to an armed intervention, and much less to the territorial occupation of the soil of American nations by any European Power."

In his reply Secretary Hay stated that "Advocating and adhering in practice in questions concerning itself to the resort of international arbitration in settlement of controversies not adjustable by the orderly treatment of diplomatic negotiation, the Government of the United States would always be glad to see the questions of the justice of claims by one State against another growing out of individual wrongs or national obligations, as well as the guarantees for the execution of what ever award may be made, left to the decision of an impartial arbitral tribunal, before which the litigant nations-weak and strong-may stand as counts in the eves of international law

and mutual duty. "One of the more important features of the Argentine note," he declares. "is the recognition and indersement given to the Monroe Doctrine, which, for the first time, is acknowledged and accented as a principle of American public law by a nation of South Amer-

MRS. PENNELL DEAD.

Evidences That Her Husband Did Not Commit Suicide, Buffalo, N. Y.-Mrs. Arthur R. Pen-

nell, who with her bushand was carried over a ledge into a stone quarry in their automobile, died at the Sisters of Charity Hospital. She never recovered consciousness.

A search of the Pennell residence revealed a number of important doonments, including a will of recent date. What the provisions of the will were is not known as none of these who saw it would discuss the uniter. It is believed that Mr. Pennell carried \$215,000 life insurance and \$30,000 accident in-SUPERIOR.

Pennell and his wife in the plunge to the bottom of the stone quarry on Kensincton avenue was carefully exam-

The result of the examination left no doubt in the minds of any of the men present that Peanell did everythic: within human power to regain central of the vehicle, when it careened in its mad course toward the yawning chasm at the quarry.

The brokes were tightly set; the new er indicator notated to "Reverse," and the track of the whitely in the soft earth on the vidge between the stree payement and the quaere showed that the wheels were turning shackward when the porderous machine sped forward to destruction.

NECRO PERRY CONFESSED. Told Sheriff Fairbairn That He Committed the "Slugger" Murders.

Cambridge, Mass. - George L. O. Perry, the negro lad who was indicted for the murders of Miss Agnes, Me-Phee of Somerville, and Miss Clara Morton, of Waverly, made a confession when he realized that he could not live and now that he is dead Sheriff Fair beirn has made public what he said The Sheriff says be asked the prisoner "George Perry, did you hit those girls

-Misses McPhee and Morton?"
"Yes, sir, I did" was the renly,
"Did Mason have anything to do

with it? A negative shake of the head was the answer, and Perry, beginning to ween pitifully, said: "Do not ask me any At this fine Percy had just messed

erribly weak den he would not live. Mason, who is referred to, is the Ros

ich man, a member of a prominent family, who was once arrowled on ros-

Bribery Common in Rhade Island. Covernor Garvy rather standed folk ognition of the general penetics bribery at elections in Rhode Island He sent a message to the Legislature asking for the appointment of a commissioner who will have power to am ploy agents in detecting and preventing bribery at elections. In this mesand the family fend will be prolonged. held their seats through bribery.

DASHED OVER A PRECIPICE MINOR EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Pennell, Who Held the Key to the Burdick Case, Killed.

WAS IN AUTO WITH HIS WIFE

The Lawyer flad an Important Telephone Talk Before He Started on His Fatal Ride-Sentiment General That the Accident Cleans Up the Murder Mystery -He May Be a Suicide.

Buffale, N. Y .- Horror piled on horrer again shakes the whole social structure of the city, and the shadow of relentless fate enshrouds once light-hearted butterflies of the Elmwood set, for the savage murder of Edwin L. Burdick, in his home, is followed by the shocking death of Arthur R. Pennell, whom he had made co-respondent in his suit for divorce, and who, if he would, many believe, could have pointed the finger of justice straight at the mur-

Pennell was dashed over a precipice in an automobile with his wife a little after 6 o'clock p. m. He was killed instantly, and Mrs. Pennell was taken terribly injured to the Sisters' Hospital. Their fate is as mysterious as that of the rich merchant with which for ten horrible days Pennell has been involved. None can say whether it was accident or design that sent the vehicle plunging over the crest of a thirty-foot embankment. Only two young men saw the tragedy.

The two boys who saw the tragedy said that Pennell was driving his machine at a fairly rapid rate when his hat blew off and the automobile swerved and disappeared with its burden into the bowl of limestone a few feet from the road. Unless Mrs. Pennell recovers enough to tell her story. no one may ever learn Pennell's last words and impulses, or ever know whether the machine or its driver was responsible for the plunge.

Sensational in the highest degree is the fact that only an hour before starting on the fatal ride Pennell held an anxious conversation over the telephone with a friend; that the information given to him by that friend made a strong impression upon him-indeed, plainly weighed heavily on his mindand that the subject of that talk was the midnight murder of his former friend, Edwin L. Burdick. That was the last conversation he held with any one, unless, perhaps, his wife, for sixty thur R. Pennell - successful lawyer, brilliant society man and favorite with women-was lifted from a pile of jagged rocks at the bottom of the

quarry. The Gehnes quarry, into which the couple took their fatal plunge, has a frontage on the south side of Kensington avenue of about 600 feet. The line is irregular, so that while, in a general way, it parallels the street, the distance between it and the street curbing va-

ries at different points. It is asserted without qualification by those who mistake deductions for facts that it is known Pennell who is an expert automobilist, did not lese control of his automobile, but intentionally steered it toward the brink over which it is believed be found surcease from torturing thoughts. These say Pennell killed himself deliberately, as the murderer had slain Burdick, and that in his mad egotism he never naused to reflect he was taking his faithful wife with him to eternity.

Mrs. Pennell has been loyal to her husband and throughout his trying experiences during the past ten days she frequently said her faith in him was unshaken, and that she would stick to

him to the end. Pennell carried life insurance policies aggregating \$200,000. It is said that a large part of this insurance was taken out recently, and some of it may become invalidated because of the strange circumstances surrounding the lawyer's death.

Mr. Pennell was named as co-respondent in the suit for divorce brought by Mr. Burdick. He had been a friend of Mr. Burdick until two years ago, but objections were finally made to his attentions to Mrs. Burdick. He was supported by his wife, however, in the assertion that he had merely acted as Mrs. Burdick's legal adviser in her troubles with her husband.

After the discovery of the nurder Mr. Pennell was closely questioned by the police. He was in the city on the night of the murder, but fully satisfied the police as to his movements. He

was not under surveillance. There were evidences, however, that suspicion had been turned from women in the case, and that there was a disposition to look for a man as the murderer. There were several polated references to the divorce suit in newspaper househ a run of typhold fever and was articles, indicating that there was a He seemed to have an | new disposition to look into this feature

In this connection a statement was printed over the signature of Mr. Pen-nell. It was in the form of a letter which he sent to a friend at Pottsville Pa., and redd:

"In the mass of sensationalism which has followed the affair (the murder of Burdick) the truth was utterly lost. had no connection with the crime, name was brought in through the divorce proceedings which were pending There was no truth in the charges in those proceedings. They were abse lutely denied under oath by the defend ant and pryself. It was dragged in out of vindictiveness, because my wife and against the husband, and she had come to me for legal advice and protection."

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

It was expected that the Panama Canal and the Cuban reciprocity treat-les would be ratified by the Senate within two weeks.

The United States Supreme Court, in deciding an interstate commerce case, upheld the Elkins laws passed at the last session of Congress.

Secretary Hay appointed Charles M. Pepper special representative of the United States to advance the project for an intercontinental railway.

The gold held by the United States Treasury amounted to nearly \$635,000 .-000, the highest point reached in the history of the country.

American officers uncarthed important evidence bearing out this country in the Alaskan boundary dispute. The place of United States Assistant Treasurer in New York City was of-

fered to Robert Bacon by President

OUR ADOPTED ISLANDS. The Porto Rican House of Delegates passed the \$1,000,000 Insular Loan bill. The measure was not likely to receive the approval of the Council.

Ladrones were seriously active in various portions of the Philippine Islands, The immigration law passed at the ecent session of Congress applies to ali the new possessions of the United

States. A force of 1300 constabulary and scouts is continuing active operations against the ladrones in the vicinity of Manlia. Several of the ladrones are being killed dally.

DOMESTIC. General Harrison Gray Otis was attacked and severely battered by a rival editor in a theatre box at Los Angeles,

The police at Waterbury, Conn., were unable to find any traces of the men who killed an officer on a trolley car at Waterbury.

Grover Cleveland announced at New York City that he was "out of politics and out for good." Professor Strobel, of the Harvard

Law School, was selected as legal adviser to the King of Siam. After the examination of 1313 veniremen the twelfth man of the jury to try the indicted coal dealers on a charge of conspiracy was obtained at Chicago.

The Pan American Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches will fight the alleged attempt of Chicago University to control all Sunday-school literature and teaching. The United States transport Sheridan

reached San Francisco, Cal., with ninety-seven cabin and 1222 sengers from the Philippines. Owners of property in Chicago along the Chicago River's west bank were awarded 8697.686 for land taken by the

sanitary district. Carrie Nation was arrested in San Francisco, Cal., for malicious mischief, Having been smashing again.

Expressing sorrow for the murder of Thomas Walsh, William Ross was hanged at Bottineau, N. D. A special election was called for June 1 to fill the vacancy caused by the

First Oregon District. The worst blizzard of the year raged at Helena, Mont., over a foot of snow falling in a few hours.

death of Congressman Tongue, of the

A mining claim at Nome given to Frederick Niblo, of Brooklyn, six years ago by an old prospector he aided now proves to be worth \$2,000,000. Helen Keller, the famous blind stu-

dent, spoke, through an attendant, to a Massachusetts legislative committee. appealing to the State to provide some means of employment for the blind. In her official speed trial trip over the Cape Henry course the torpeda

boat destroyer Worden exceeded the contract requirements of thirty knots. Reading of Tolstol's novel "Resurrection" led to the suicide of a married woman in Chicago.

FOREIGN. The Rev. R. J. Campbell announced his acceptance of the pastorate of the City Temple at London in succession

to the late Dr. Joseph Parker. Business in the British Parliament came to a standstill, awaiting the return of Colonial Secretary Chamberlain

from Africa. The Honduran Government Army was disastrously defeated by the forces

of President-elect Bonilla. A Russian demand for a concession to lay the projected railway between Scoul and Wijn, a murely strategical line, was refused by Korea.

Two thousand redifs (Turkish reerves) from Asia Minor and large supplies of ammunition were dispatched from Constantinople to Monastir, Ma-President Francis, of the St. Louis Exposition, was received in audience

ng other courtesies from leading German officials, left Berlin on his return to America. The Canadian Government called for enders for two fortnightly services be

by Emperor William and after receiv-

tween Canada and an Irish port and Important concessions to Americans, sked for by Minister Leishman, were granted by the Ottoman Government,

Herr Rebel, Socialist leader, made a igorous attack in the Belchstag on dueling and abuses of privates in the German Army. Several Americans were presented to

King Edward at a levee held in Buckingham Palace, London.

A large number of Turkish reserves received orders to Join their regiments.