

"Xthaler," which is all very plain, but the moment a clerk, bookkeeper or other person makes an entry or jots down a memorandum he tells you that it is a "lb. X." The English pound sign, which is believed to be the oldest monetary abbreviation now in use, is the old initial letter by which the Romans expressed "pounds," just as we use the "lb." It has been suggested that we use our money abbreviation backward because the Romans, in expressing "pounds," always said "libra decem," instead of "decem libra," the first being "pounds ten" and the latter "ten pounds." When their initial letter or character was used it always preceded the figures, thus "£10," instead of the reverse. Thus the whole world has gotten in the habit of doing these things backward.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—A meeting of prominent silver men from all parts of the country will be held here beginning tomorrow. A preliminary conference of members of the executive committee of the American Bimetallic league was held today, at which steps were taken looking to the consolidation of the silver organizations into one body with headquarters at Washington, Chicago, San Francisco and some point in the south. One purpose of tomorrow's meeting will be to fix upon the time and place for the holding of a national silver conference at which a national silver ticket will be nominated. This action, however, is contingent upon the failure of both the old parties to recognize silver by nominating candidates unequivocally pledged to its rehabilitation on a basis of 16 to 1. It is not necessary that adherents of the proposed new party should already have severed all connection with the old parties, but it is essential that they be willing to do so, should the old parties fail to nominate candidates pledged to the silver cause. About a hundred silver leaders are expected to attend the meeting. About a dozen already have arrived, including General Weaver. Among those said to be on the way are Chambers, of Utah; Bartine and Light, of Chicago; Judge Miller, Chicago; Brown, Boston; Judge Coole, Iowa; ex-Governor Richards, Montana; Keeney, San Francisco, and Thomas and Patterson, Colorado.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Jan. 21.—A terrific explosion occurred this forenoon on the second floor of the four-story brick building owned and partially occupied by English & Mersick, makers of and dealers in carriage hardware. The explosion was followed by almost instant outbreaking of fire, and in a few seconds the three upper stories were in flames. It is stated that there were about forty persons at work in the building, and it was seemingly impossible for all to escape.

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.—Orders have reached the navy yard to the effect that the ram Katahdin must be ready to go into commission on or before February 12th. The officers at the yard have had their men at work putting the interior of the coast defender in shape and say they will have no difficulty in getting the vessel ready before the date fixed.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 21.—The steamer Coptic today brought news

from Honolulu, whence she sailed on Jan. 15th. Carl Klemme, exiled for participating in the last uprising, who was arrested for returning to the country without permission from the government, will not be prosecuted.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 21.—From the action of the House committee on commerce today, there seems to be little doubt that the bill authorizing the Pacific Cable company to lay a cable from the Pacific coast to Hawaii and Japan will be favorably reported.

WELLINGTON, N. Z., Jan. 21.—Hon. Richard J. Seddon, premier of New Zealand, at a public dinner here, referred to Venezuela and the Transvaal questions and to Germany's attitude toward the latter. He said that New Zealand was especially interested owing to the American and German interests in Samoa. New Zealand, he added, was British to the core, and the practical way to strengthen the hands of the home authorities was to be in a position to defend their rights and to be prepared for the worst.

LONDON, Jan. 22.—The news of the death of Prince Henry of Battenburg was received at Osborne, Isle of Wight, early today. The queen and princesses are prostrated with grief. It appears that the prince had a relapse yesterday on board the British cruiser *Blonde*, on the way to Madeira, and died at 9 o'clock yesterday morning. The *Blonde* then returned to Sierra Leone, west coast of Africa, from which place the news was cabled.

Prince Henry went to Antanree in a special capacity and contracted a fever there. He was the third son of Prince Alexander of Battenburg. He married Princess Beatrice of England in 1885. They have four children. He was born October 6, 1858, and was governor of the Isle of Wight and Carisbrook.

The first lord of the admiralty, after consulting with the queen, has given instructions for the *Blonde* to bring the Prince to England. Sorrow is manifest throughout the Isle of Wight and flags everywhere are at half mast.

LONDON, Jan. 22.—The review of the flying squadron, now off Spithead, has again been postponed. The reason given is that the weather is too foggy. But it is reported the real reason is the death of the Prince of Battenburg, the husband of the queen's youngest daughter.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 22.—J. O. Oswald, of Chicago, who arrived on the steamer *Coptic* from the orient, was an eye witness of the execution of the five men who had been ringleaders in the massacre of missionaries at Ku Cheng. The execution occurred at Foo Chow in the presence of a vast number of Chinese, only 24 Caucasians witnessing the death scene.

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—A dispatch from Pomona, Cal., says:

Children and grandchildren of Jas. Rogers have been amazed by the information that he married on Sunday last Miss Ida Nelson, at the home of the bride's parents, near Prescott, Arizona. The groom is 77 years old and the bride 15 next May. Mr. Rogers has been twice married, his second wife dying three years ago. He has six children, many grandchildren and several great grandchildren. He is well preserved, genial and level headed, and has a fortune of about

\$100,000 invested in farm lands and bank stock of Iowa, lots in Des Moines and about \$100,000 in property in Los Angeles. He has been an active business man and was a member of the Iowa legislature for several years. He came to visit his children in Los Angeles county last summer. The first signs that the marriage was soon to take place was last week when all of Rogers's Los Angeles property was transferred to Ida Nelson. Mrs. Rogers left school only a few weeks ago. She is a pretty girl of the brunette type.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—A dispatch to the Times from St. Petersburg says the czar has confirmed the budget. The navy for the next seven years is to have a total of 404,000,000 roubles, 57,500,000 of which is for the current year, increasing half a million annually. Should foreign navies grow faster, it is expected these credits will be increased. The main object is to reply to the appearance of every new English battleship, and specially of the cruiser type, by the production of a Russian one of equal or superior power.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—The twenty-eighth annual convention of the National Woman Suffrage association will begin tomorrow at the Church of Our Father. The convention will last through next Tuesday, with a religious service at the church next Sunday, which will be conducted by a woman minister. As a rule less time will be devoted to the reading of papers on general subjects connected with the suffrage movement than heretofore, and more than will be given to the actual business of the association. Miss Anthony, Mrs. H. Taylor Upton, Mrs. Carrie Upton and a number of other women who have for years been actively identified with the suffrage movement, are already here. They speak of the coming convention in the most enthusiastic manner, and with woman suffrage steadily gaining ground, especially in the western states, they consider that the outlook for the future is brighter and more encouraging than it has ever been since the question of giving women the right of ballot was first raised in the country. Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the veteran honorary president of the association, will not be able to attend the session of the convention, but she has promised Miss Anthony that she will send a letter to be read to her fellow workers.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—A dispatch to the Pall Mall Gazette from Constantinople, dated yesterday, says an offensive and defensive alliance has been concluded between Russia and Turkey. The dispatch adds the treaty was signed at Constantinople and ratifications exchanged at St. Petersburg between Aarej Pasha and the Czar. The basis of the treaty is declared to be on the lines of the Unkarskeles agreement of 1833, by which Turkey agreed in the event of Russia going to war, to close the Dardanelles to the warships of all nations.

Sam Mosk, formerly of Salt Lake City, but lately Rio Grande Western express agent at Glenwood Springs, Colo., has been promoted to the office at Colorado Springs, while D. W. Shorus, who has been in the office at Salt Lake City, takes charge at Glenwood Springs.