

Prince Henri of Orleans has returned to Paris after a short stay in Copenhagen.

Consul Carl Lund has bought 16 buildings on Skydebanegade in Copenhagen at a price of 1,665,000 kroner.

The collections for the families of the fishermen, perished during the November storm, have now reached the large amount of 300,000 kroner.

The Liberal voters Union of Copenhagen, at a largely attended meeting, passed strong resolutions against the present cabinet.

Mr. Klubien, one of the most prominent attorneys at law of Copenhagen, died from an apoplectic fit while pleading a case in the Supreme court, December 15th.

The woman's geographical work of 1,200 pages will be published by Salmonson Bros., Copenhagen, next year. The preparation of the work is in charge of nine authors, eight of whom are Danes and one Norwegian.

The syndicate which bought "Almindeligheden" or the commons of Copenhagen, has petitioned the city government for permission to connect the two pieces of ground on either side of Ny Toldbrogade by a tunnel under the street and a bridge above it.

### RELIEF IN TEMPERANCE.

In the northern part of the Sea of Japan, some forty miles distant from the large island of Ezo, lies a tiny island called Okushiri. Its soil is fertile. Trees of varying proportions cluster thickly over its surface. The agriculturist and the lumberman might find profitable occupation there. But the chief pursuit of the people is fishing.

Every spring, says the *Japan Mail*, great shoals of herrling approach the coast, and the fish are easily captured in such quantities that this one beautiful dispensation of nature suffices to feed and clothe the inhabitants from year's end to year's end. Living thus in ease and plenty the people might be expected to develop qualities usually incidental to such circumstances, and they appear to have fallen pretty freely into the vice of drunkenness. In 1885 there were some 260 souls in the island. They possessed only four fixed nets. They lived in houses thatched with coarse grass; they had scarcely any roads and they could boast only a single school. Yet they consumed annually \$8000 worth of sake in addition to shochu and other strong drinks. In short these common fisher folks spent upon intoxicating beverages more than \$1 per month for every unit of their number, including women and children. The same ratio of intemperance applied to the whole of Japan would signify an annual expenditure of \$500,000,000 on intoxicating beverages alone. In the face of this reckless outlay for liquor the people often suffered severely from hunger and cold during the winter, the price of rice ranging very high in the midwinter months and the dwelling-houses being ill-adapted to exclude the inclement atmosphere. The local authorities prevailed upon them to adopt a system of storing provisions against times of scarcity, but their sources, reduced by payments on account of sake,

were insufficient to accomplish anything effective in that line. These circumstances induced some bold men among them to openly denounce the excessive use of alcoholic beverages as the cause of all the people's sufferings, and to preach the necessity of applying to useful purposes the funds thus squandered. The crusade provoked violent opposition, but in 1894 the inhabitants were induced to enter into the following agreement:

Covenant made by the people of Okushiri island concerning the sale and purchase of alcoholic beverages and the use of the same in the Island of Okushiri.

This land which we inhabit is a lonely island in the Pacific ocean. Its inhabitants numbering ninety families, find almost their only means of amusement in drinking alcohol. Nine out of every ten are addicted to sake, the sums annually spent upon which aggregate a heavy amount.

Debtors are unable to meet their engagements, and some are even compelled to depend on official aid for supplies of food. We are threatened with misery and some extraordinary measure is necessary to save us. Frugality must be the rule of our conduct, and every kind of excess must be avoided. We, therefore, hereby resolve to abstain from the luxury which we relish above all others, namely, sake, so as to terminate the importation of the liquor into the island. The money hitherto devoted to the purchase of sake shall be applied to lay in stocks of rice and other grain as a provision against future want, on the one hand, and to increase the capital available for fishery purposes on the other.

#### SIGNATURES OF THE PROMOTERS.

Dated July, 1894.

Art. 1.—We, the inhabitants of Okushiri Island, jointly and severally, in accordance with the covenant hereby signed, do pledge ourselves to abandon wholly the sale, purchase and use of alcoholic beverages.

(Signed)

#### 117 OKUSHIRI ISLANDERS.

The consequences of this covenant were very marked. It was rigorously observed. Even government officials, whatever their rank, had to give up sake drinking when they visited the island, and as a matter of course, every dramsater who could not reform, was compelled to take his departure. Order thenceforth reigned completely, and prosperity came with rapid strides. The population increased fivefold in five years and the capital invested in the fishing industry tenfold. Reed thatches were replaced by shingles. Four large granaries were kept full of rice, and in addition, each house had a store of its own. It is stated that there is now stored in the island rice sufficient to support the people for three or four years, even though the herring fishery should fail entirely. Roads have been constructed in places where nothing of the kind existed before. The principal school has been greatly improved and several branch schools have been established.

New lands have been brought into cultivation, and hemp to the value of \$2,000 is grown annually for the manufacture of fishing nets which before the signing of the covenant, had to be imported entirely from the mainland. Statistics also show

a marked decrease of crime, and so famous did the success of the experiment become that a large community of settlers in the neighboring island of Ezo pledged themselves to a covenant similar to that of Okushiri and with similarly happy results. Finally, we may add that when the five years originally contemplated by the covenant expired, it was renewed for another term of five years, despite the opposition of an influential local official.

### BURNED TO DEATH.

MANASSA, Colo., Jan. 4, 1894.—A sad and fatal accident occurred in Bishop John Dalton's family on New Year's morning.

Breakfast was over and Sister D. had just stepped to the corral to attend to some chores and was not out five minutes, having left George M. (a little fellow of two and a half years) and the baby in the cradle in the house alone. During this short absence little George had taken up a new broom, undoubtedly trying to sweep with it, which caught fire from a small fire smouldering in the fire-place. From the broom his clothes caught fire and when found by his parents he was wrapped in flames, writhing on the kitchen floor in agony.

Medical aid was immediately called and all was done that could be to relieve the little sufferer, but all in vain to save life. He died about half-past 12 o'clock p.m., two hours after the accident occurred.

The funeral service was held January 2, at 2 o'clock p.m., at the family residence, and was largely attended by sympathizing relatives and friends.

This sudden and sad accident cast a gloom over the whole ward and all festivities of the day were dispensed with.

WM. CHRISTENSON.

### OBITUARY NOTES.

MARIA D. CHAMBERS.

On January 2nd, 1894, at 9:30 o'clock a.m., Mother Maria D. Chambers passed from this sphere of life at Ogden. For over a year past she has been a very severe and constant sufferer, and for several weeks has been confined to her bed. It always has been a pleasure to Mother Chambers to minister to the wants of the needy, the sick and the afflicted, and for several years previous to her affliction she was a zealous and active worker as counselor in the Relief society of the Fourth ward. She was highly respected and beloved by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

It is only fourteen months since the death of her husband, Father John G. Chambers, and now the parting of the mother from the large family of sons, daughters and grandchildren makes it doubly hard for them to bear. Her eldest son, John H., is at present performing missionary labor in England.

In company with her husband Mother Chambers left England, her native country, in February, 1853, and arrived in Utah in October of the same year, where she has resided with her family ever since.

WELCOME CHAPMAN.

St. Johns, Arizona, December 28, 1893. In your SEMI-WEEKLY issue of the 22nd inst. I saw the announcement of my father's death. I now forward a correct, but brief history of Welcome Chapman Sr., deceased. He was born in Red-borough, Vermont, on the 24th of July