

President has no more right to circumscribe the lawful action of a federal official than he has to prescribe what he shall think.

WASHINGTON, 24.—As an exaggerated statement relative to the annual consumption of opium by Chinese in the Pacific States has obtained a wide circulation, the chief of the bureau of statistics furnishes the following official figures: Opium prepared for making, imported into the U. S. during the fiscal year 1877 and on which a duty of \$6 per pound was paid, amounted to 47,428 pounds, costing at the port of shipment \$502,662, of which 46,615 pounds, costing \$494,236 came into San Francisco. During the preceding three years the average value of opium for smoking, which entered into consumption in the United States, was little less than \$600,000 per annum. The addition of duty and freight largely increased the cost of this article, which will not exceed \$160,000 a year. The cost to the consumers, at retail will, however, considerably exceed that sum.

The Patent Office building is on fire. The flames broke out in the model room, burned through the roof, and is blazing furiously. All the engines in the district have gone to the scene.

12.30 p. m.—The fire still rages, particularly in the Land Office wing of the Interior Department building. The heat is intense, making the approach to the fire difficult; doubtless valuable papers and records will be destroyed, many being stored in the attic. The upper portion of the west wing, on 9th Street, is in flames, which are creeping along between the ceiling and roof of the north wing, and of the main building facing F Street. An immense number of valuable models have been destroyed. Secretary Schurz and assistants are superintending the removal of files and records. They are removing the books and papers and organized as guards. A guard of the district militia is at the main stairway of the model room in the centre building, where immense numbers of models yet remain. The firemen are in the room endeavoring to save it. The flames first appeared in the conservatory, near the roof. There were an immense number of rejected models packed in the attic above the model room, and it is believed that spontaneous combustion there caused the conflagration. The land office records are stored in the rooms two stories beneath.

1.30 p. m.—At this writing the fire is under control. The most damage has been confined to the upper stories.

Several fire companies from Baltimore arrived about 12.30. The time from the making the application for them until their arrival in the city was less than an hour.

The Government engine from the Navy Yard and another from the Arsenal are at work, with those belonging to the City of Baltimore and Alexandria, making a total of ten engines. Strong hopes are entertained that the fire will not extend below the floor of the model room. The most valuable records of the patent, land, Indian, and pension offices, as well as those of the interior department proper, are stored on the first two floors of the building beneath the model room and none of them have as yet been reached by the flames. The heat was so intense at one time that the window frames and awnings on G Street were ignited, but the fire was extinguished before making much progress.

The number of models is variously estimated at from 50,000 to 75,000. A number of the more important were on exhibition and storage in the west hall, which, with the north hall, is completely wrecked and the roofs burned.

The fire, at this time, 2.30 p. m., is confined to the attic of the east hall, from which nearly all the models have been removed to the lower floors. The loss in the rejected models will be very great to government.

In the patent office building are offices, subordinate to the Interior department, except the pension office, land office, patent office, Indian office, which suffer by the mixing of the documents in the effort to save them. Many rooms on the lower floors are covered with water. A cordon of police has been thrown around the building, and a detachment placed in the inside, while a detachment of marines are between the burning building and the post office.

At 3 o'clock the fire was confined

to the northwest corner, and under control.

3:10 p. m.—Alright's building, on G Street, opposite the patent office, is now on fire, and two or three houses on Seventh Street, opposite the Indian Bureau, have caught. The general post office has been closed, and public work seems suspended throughout the city.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 21.

A correspondent who was present at the battle of Plevna telegraphing from Bucharest, September 17th, says, the Russo-Roumanian army has abandoned now even a pretense of prosecuting the attempt against Plevna, and have fallen back into the position occupied before the commencement of the bombardment. The field artillery remains still in some of the positions of the bombardment. It is announced that the third renewal is intended on the arrival of the Imperial guard, in a fortnight. I have great doubt whether another attempt will be made, and very much stronger doubt whether it made it can succeed. The Turks are better soldiers individually than the Russians. On that, after seeing not a few battles, I stand assured. The strategy of both, perhaps, is equally bad, but as regards both the major and minor tactics the Turks are simply immeasurably superior. They are better armed than the Russians, both in great and small arms. They have engineers who can design admirable defensive positions. The Russian engineers seem incapable of repairing a hole in a bridge. The Turks seem as well provisioned as the Russians, and are flush with success. The Russians are depressed by failure after failure; nor is this all that impairs the Russian soldiers, for that it is becoming impaired by reluctant personal observation of the war I can testify. There is no braver man than the Russian soldier, but a brave soldier cannot continually face more than fair chances of war. The Russian is called on to face these, and dangers in addition which appeal with infinitely greater intensity of horror to his imagination. He knows that if he but receives a bullet in the ankle joint when he is in front of an unsuccessful attack, the chances are that he will die a death of torture, humiliation and mutilation. No moral courage, no mental hardihood can stand against this horrible consciousness, and in the attack of the 11th inst. I distinctly saw his reluctance to begin storming.

It is announced that four large London firms, yesterday, were invited to make tenders for a supply of iron huts to be erected near Bucharest for 100,000 Russian soldiers.

The Telegraph's Pera correspondent says, a telegram just received at the war office from Mehemet Ali announces that serious fighting began to-day (Friday). The Turks were advancing steadily when the messenger left Shumla this morning. No other paper has anything touching the reported battle, although several have correspondents both with the Czarowitch and Mehemet Ali.

A correspondent telegraphs from the Russian headquarters as follows: The feeling here is not so gloomy as I expected. Military men acknowledge that they have been beaten, but as much by their own errors as by the bravery of the Turks. There is not the slightest hesitation or weakening of the determination to fight it out. Everybody says that it is a death struggle, and a final successful issue is not doubted for an instant. Every preparation is being made for a winter campaign.

A military railway from Guerovo to Siminitza is to be constructed, which it is hoped will be ready by the end of October. Steam ice boats have been ordered in view of the freezing of the Danube.

Gen. Todleben will immediately proceed to inspect the Plevna position.

Montenegrins have captured the Zolosts and N. sdie forts and are the undisputed masters of Duga Pass.

The bombardment of Gatchko is imminent, and a state of siege has been proclaimed in Trebinje.

A Bucharest dispatch reports that all the regulars in Widden have started for Plevna.

There has been no fighting in Schipka Pass since the Turks withdrew from Fort St. Nicholas.

It is reported that a great battle was fought to-day, at Biela, lasting from 9 a. m. to 7 p. m., and that

the Russians were completely defeated.

LONDON, 22.—Russia, evidently not Turkey, is Europe's sick man now, but unless the invading army can be annihilated within a few days, which nobody anticipates, he will recover eventually. His sufferings and defeats by criminal blunders of preparation and execution, are admitted, but his trusted friends, who best know his resources and reserves, are as confident as ever that this death struggle for either the Cossacks or Turks will yet result in Russia's extinction as a European power. Russia's aggressive campaign is probably ended for this season, and possibly diplomacy may prevent its renewal; if so it will be because Turkey is constrained by Germany and Austria to grant terms of peace acceptable to Russia, which would, at the same time, aggrandize their territory at Turkey's expense. The purpose of the recent interview at Salzburg, between Bismarck and Andassy, is now believed to have been to devise a concerted plan of action to that end. Germany and Austria cannot afford to permit a Russian overthrow, which would light the fires of revolution in the Czar's empire, and thus endanger the entire continent. Their ability to foment a Serbian, Roumanian, and Montenegrin hostility against the Turks, no less than the danger of an Austro-Germanic armed intervention, would leave Turkey little choice but to accept their dictated plan.

QUEBEC, 22.—Wm. A. Delafield, from Liverpool, was arrested in attempting to smuggle \$16,000 worth of diamonds. He had also a large number of Russian, Italian, and Peruvian bonds, besides £50 in Bank of England notes. He says he is a London diamond merchant.

LONDON, 23.—A great demonstration of workmen, of Northumberland and Durham, was held on the town moor of Newcastle, on Saturday afternoon, in honor of General Grant. Twenty-two trade societies participated in the procession. The number of persons present was 50,000. The demonstration has had no precedent since the great political meetings at the time of the reform bill. Thomas Burt, Member of Parliament, presented a eulogistic address to General Grant, who said he thanked the workmen for their very welcome address, and thought his reception was the most honorable he could have met with. Alluding to what Mr. Burt said concerning the late civil war, Gen. Grant declared that he had always been an advocate of peace, but when war was declared, he went to war for a cause which he believed to be right, and fought to his best ability to secure peace and safety to his country.

A Russian official bulletin, dated Gorny Studen, Saturday, says, the Turks renewed the bombardment of the Shipka Pass positions on Friday. In the afternoon they began an assault on the right flank, but were repulsed. They then attacked the left and centre, and were likewise repulsed. The fighting lasted until night. It is thought the attack will be renewed on Saturday.

A Russian official dispatch admits the loss in the Shipka Pass on Sept. 17th, of 31 officers, and 1,000 men killed and wounded.

The Porte has not yet replied to the Greek note protesting against the restrictions on the entry of vessels into the Gulf of Art, but it is thought that it will refuse compliance with the Greek demands, and that diplomatic difficulty with England will ensue. Italy has sent a note to the Porte supporting Greece.

Persons arriving at Bucharest from the headquarters of the Czarowitch, at Oelmoustin, think the Turks will not renew the attack of Friday, but will endeavor to cut a route to Tirnova.

Chevet Pasha telegraphs from Ordaine, Sept. 22nd, that Hifi Pasha, commanding a convoy provision train for Osman Pasha, arrived at Dublick, two hours march from Plevna, having defeated fifteen Russian battalions on the way. Osman Pasha is requested to make a sortie to establish a junction with this force.

PARIS, 23.—Le Bien Public has been again seized for reporting Gambetta's trial.

It is announced that Grevy will stand for the ninth arrondissement of Paris, which was represented by Thiers.

The official journal publishes a circular of the minister of justice, giving instructions that all elector-

al addresses be carefully read in order to prevent outrages against the president, violent menaces, or falsehoods.

LONDON, 24.—News has been received that 20,000 men, under Cheket Pasha, reached Osman Pasha with a fresh supply of ammunition. A dispatch from Constantinople gives a similar report.

A Vienna correspondent says, the encounters on Thursday and Friday, near Biela, are said to have been greatly exaggerated by the Turks. According to information received here they were drawn battles, and the forces engaged not large.

A dispatch from Constantinople via Syra says, the Austrian Ambassador at a private interview with the Sultan, is reported to have spoken about the probability of Austrian mediation, and to have urged the greatest moderation upon the Sultan, pointing out the necessity of saving Russia's amour propre, because Germany would not be indifferent to Russian humiliation.

A correspondent, who was an eye-witness of Friday's battle between the Czarowitch and Mehemet Ali, telegraphs from Tzeroung, as follows: Five or six different attacks were made, to-day, by the Turks, with from one to three battalions each, and all unsupported; the attacks failed. The loss to the Turks was very heavy. The number of killed and wounded can be seen lying on the open ground which the combatants passed. The Russians maintain their positions, which consist of a series of formidable trenches. There has also been some fighting at Kudicklei, by a division of Ahmet Eyoub's corps, and at Verbatza by two battalions detached by Mehemet Ali, but the Turks were unsuccessful at these places also. The whole action has been totally different from what it should have been. A feint had been turned into an attack, and the real attack had not been carried out. The same correspondent telegraphs on Saturday that all is quiet, each side is apparently fatigued after yesterday's hard fighting; doubtless another attack will soon be made.

Meheemet Ali's reported victory turns out to be a defeat. The Russian official bulletin announces, at the close of the engagement: We held all our positions. A renewal of the attack is expected. There is no estimate of the losses. A correspondent calls the affair an offensive reconnaissance by ten battalions. The armies occupy opposite banks of the Bonica Lom, and a steam ferry between Pyrgos and Parapou indicates that the Russians are recovering lost ground.

The principal Montenegrin army surrounds Gatochko.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Fatal Shooting Affray.

OAKLEY STATION, Idaho, Sept. 17th, 1877.

Editors Deseret News:

Allow me to take the liberty of informing you of a fatal shooting affray which occurred in my presence. On the 15th of the month I was in H. Stricker's store on Rock Creek, Boise stage road, when one Wm. Dowdle came into the store in company with three other men, teamsters. Soon after, a dispute arose and Dowdle was a disinterested party; but he took the part of one of the other men and drew a pistol and said he wanted to keep the peace. He then turned to one Mr. Norton and said, "I know you." Norton said, "May be so." Dowdle says, "You son of a b— I know you and I will kill you." Norton made no reply. He then drew his pistol on me and swore he would kill me. I got out of his way and his comrades caught him in time to prevent his firing. He then turned to the clerk of the store, one Chas. Walgomott, and said to him, "I will kill you, you son of a b—." The clerk retreated into the back room. After repeating he would shoot every person in the store several times, Dowdle again turned to Norton and said, "I will give you five minutes to leave the store in. If you do not go I will kill you." Norton started and Dowdle followed him and told him to come back or he would shoot him. But Norton had started, and he took leg bail for it, and I think he saved his life by it. Dowdle then went out into the road about twenty yards distant, and sat down

and commenced firing at a man by the name of Spencer, who was about one hundred yards distant. The first shot took effect under the hollow of the right arm. He then turned and commenced shooting at the store door, Chas. Walgomott, the clerk, was standing on the porch and started to run in the house. Meeting two other men in the door he turned around and saw Dowdle with his pistol presented at him. Walgomott drew his pistol instantly and fired at Dowdle, killing him. Dowdle exclaimed, "Oh God, I am gone!" He then said, "This is my last lay out and find. I was a desperado and a bad man." He drew a long breath and expired. I have since heard that Dowdle was once a "Mormon" and that he had a wife and two children living in Franklin, Cache Valley, Utah. If it is so I truly sympathize with her and the little ones, I hope they will not blame the man that fired the shot, as it could not be avoided.

Yours truly,
R. H. GILLESPIE.

Will Dr. Plant Explain?

BEAVER CITY, Beaver County, Utah, Sept. 19th, 1877.
Editors Deseret News:

In your semi-weekly issue of the 15th I find the following in a testimonial to Dr. Plant:

"Dear Sir—For the past seven years I have been confined to my bed, and afflicted with I know not what. I consulted Dr. Plant, when, after twenty-four hours' treatment, I passed from my mouth and nostrils upwards of two hundred stomach worms, resembling the snake, etc. Since which time I have gained my strength." * * *

"MRS. TANNER.
"Beaver City, Beaver County, Utah."

I have resided in Beaver over ten years, and can say positively that no such invalid by the name of Tanner, or by any other name, has resided in this city. Since reading the above I have inquired of the only "Tanner" families known in the place, and of business men and strangers, as to new comers, and can hear of none bearing the description here given. Will the Dr. or the good lady please give us the Christian name of Mr. Tanner, husband of the lady, and inform the public in what part of the city he and she reside, lest some should be wicked enough to question the facts. DANIEL TYLER.

Dr. Plant Explains.

Editors Deseret News:

In answer to your correspondent in last night's issue and signing himself Daniel Tyler, I beg to say the lady referred to is Mrs. C. Tanner Vallantine. She has resided in the centre of the town of Beaver for about three years and is well known to the Wilding family—Her husband's name is George Vallantine. The lady signed her maiden name in your office. Trusting to your insertion of this.

I am, Yours respectfully,

E. L. PLANT.
SALT LAKE CITY, September 22, 1877.

Caution Not Necessary.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder produces better bread, biscuits, cakes, etc., than any other. Its purity admits of any quantity being used with perfect safety, and without detriment to the articles prepared. Households where true economy is studied will use Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder.

DIED.

At Lake View, Tooele Co., at the residence of A. Milton Musser, March 12, 1877, JOHN WOODHEAD, aged 75 years.

Bro. Woodhead came from Bowlesover, Derbyshire, England in 1857, crossed the sea on the Tuscarora, and reached Utah in 1850. He died strong in the faith of the everlasting Gospel.—Com.

Millennial Star, please copy.

In the 16th Ward, of diphtheria and scarlet fever, GEORGE ASHTON, son of Robert and Mary Ann Bridge, aged 1 year and 4 days.

At Wanship, Summit County, September 14th, WILLIAM HADDON, born in Warwickshire, England, March 5, 1818. He died in full faith of the gospel.