

be hailed with great approbation, but thus far the British Chartered company has not been a great financial or commercial success. Its territory is vast, but the resources remain indefinite, so far as profits are concerned.—Commercial America.

### WHERE WAR NEWS COMES FROM.

The most ardent jingoes in Washington are the officers of the army and navy, particularly the latter, who are spoiling for a "scrap" with Spain, or any other nation for that matter, and since the disaster to the Maine have had their natural belligerence excited by the thirst for vengeance. Notwithstanding the newspaper reports the prevailing impression among naval officers still is that the ship was destroyed by accident except among the members of the construction bureau, who built the Maine, and therefore are confident that nothing could have gone wrong inside of her, and one of two others, who have especial theories to account for the catastrophe; but there isn't a man under the roof of the navy building, unless it be Secretary Long, who does not yearn for war. This belligerent spirit is encouraged by the contractors for projectiles, ordnance, ammunition and other supplies, who have thronged the department since the destruction of the Maine, anxious to furnish all the fighting material that can be paid for, and assist the correspondents of sensational newspapers in manufacturing canards and scare news to stir up an excitement throughout the country and influence Congress to vote additional appropriations.

There is no story too improbable for these men to invent and circulate. One of the New York papers today gives the details of a plan of war which was adopted at a conference of the President Secretary Alger, Gen. Miles, Secretary Long and various admirals and generals who have not been in Washington for weeks. The material for the story was obtained at a council of war held around a bottle at the Army and Navy club by a reporter and a few naval subalterns of fertile imagination. But this is the sort of news that certain papers seem to want, and it is easy for them to get it.

The proprietor of one of the yellow journals of New York a few days ago wired his correspondent here to send the details of a certain rumor that was floating around.

"There is no truth in the story," announced the reporter.

"D— the truth; give us something that will sell the papers," was the reply.—Chicago Record.

### A HUMAN GRAVEL PIT.

Dr. W. T. Corlett of Cleveland, Ohio, is described by the Plaindealer as a well known specialist, and the connecting of his name, and the names of two other responsible gentlemen, with a story told by the Indianapolis Sentinel, gives to the tale an air of plausibility, though it is so extraordinary as to challenge credulity, even with these references. It is as follows:

"While Dr. W. T. Corlett of Cleveland was here, Secretary Hurty of the state board of health and ex-City Sanitarian Ferguson called on him to show him some of the stones which exude from the skin of a citizen of Rush county, whose name the doctors had forgotten. The stones, if such they might be called, were obtained from Dr. Spurrier of Rushville, who has the case in charge. They were carried around by Dr. Hurty in a small tin box in which they rattled about like grains of wheat, which they resemble somewhat, only they were larger. The patient sheds them in such quantities that Dr.

Hurty said that he could get a peck of them, he believed, in a short time. The patient feels the stones underneath his skin and a little rubbing of his hand brings them out. They are firm and resemble gravel. Dr. Corlett was very much interested in the case. He said that he had known of similar cases, but had never seen any stones shed from the skin that anywhere approached those shown him in size. He thought that a thorough examination of the patient and the result embodied in a report to a medical journal would make mighty interesting reading.

"Dr. Hurty and some more local physicians are trying their best to have this human phenomenon brought to Indianapolis, and have offered to pay his car fare and expenses and some extra inducements if he will come. They hope to make a thorough scientific examination and are satisfied that their finding will astonish the scientific and medical world. The man who sheds stones is sixty-seven years old. He is reported by Dr. Spurrier to be as white as the driven snow in complexion and is emaciated. The doctors believe that he has tuberculosis. The stones are not accidental outcroppings now and then, but he sheds them continuously and in large quantities. Dr. Hurty had in his possession yesterday enough of the stones to load a double-barreled shotgun if they had been buckshot. The doctor has analyzed the stones and finds that they contain iron, lime, magnesium and several other mineral products."

### NEWSY PARAGRAPHS.

Albert Lindquist fell from a train Monday, six miles from Cheyenne, Wyo., and now lies at the Laramie county hospital suffering from injuries received. They may prove fatal.

Dora Lemery Streuber is missing from her home in Fruitvale, Cal., under circumstances which lead her mother, Mrs. Dora Lemery, to believe that harm has come to her. Mrs. Lemery has called on the police to assist her in finding the missing girl and Chief Lloyd has detailed two officers on the case.

Saturday morning the southbound mail and express stage from Los Olivos to Santa Barbara, Cal., after passing the Santa Ynez river, was held up by a lone highwayman about 9:30 o'clock. The hold-up, which occurred on a narrow and winding piece of road, was extremely well planned, but very poorly executed. The bandit secured about \$10.

The exhibit of Tuolumne county, Cal., at the mining fair has suffered at the hands of a thief, on who is a judge of the value of quartz, as he selected the prize pieces. The robbery was discovered Friday noon and the time of its occurrence is approximated between 9 and 12 o'clock. The watchman went over the cases at the first-named hour and three hours later found the top of one pried open and two specimens valued at \$300 gone.

United States Customs Inspector Henry Simpson died at San Francisco Friday night as a result of injuries received Wednesday through being knocked from the Pacific Mail dock by a falling door. He was standing at the end of the wharf watching a steamship, when the door against which a pile of merchandise had been propped, fell. Simpson was thrown into the water. He struck a fender and injured his head so that he did not regain consciousness.

Car 6 of the Grove street electric line, Berkeley, Cal., track at Shattuck Ave. and Ward streets late Friday afternoon, and crashed into the heavy beams on the sidewalk in front of Taylor's lumber yard Mrs. Frank Becker, an aged

woman, sustained what may prove serious injuries, and Miss Ella Collis, a young girl, was more or less hurt. The car was well filled with passengers, who were badly shaken up, and one or two were slightly cut by flying glass.

There will soon come up for trial at New Westminster, B. C., a murder trial with international aspects, involving the feature of a man standing in Canada and shooting another in the United States. On Saturday last Jack Atkinson, who runs a hotel on the Canadian line of the boundary at Blaine, quarreled with Billy Patterson, who runs a rival establishment on the American side. Atkinson shot Patterson in the leg, inflicting a wound from the effects of which Patterson died. Atkinson then went to New Westminster and surrendered to the authorities.

An arrest which promises a sensation was made at Butte, Mont., Monday, when J. W. Batcher was taken into custody charged with perjury. It is alleged that Bacher impersonated one Ed Laney and went to Seattle, where he made a deposition for Joseph Shafer who was tried several months ago for the murder of John Hawkins. The deposition was to the effect that Hawkins borrowed a gun from Laney with which to kill Shafer and that Laney warned Shafer of it, and the latter shot and killed Hawkins in self-defense. Bacher was in Kansas City at the time of the murder.

No one knows what caused Matthew Burns of Berkeley, Cal., to lose heart almost at the altar step, for the sickle-hearted lover has disappeared as completely as if the earth had opened and swallowed him up. Burns was to have married Miss Julia Walsh on February 23d, but at the eleventh hour he deserted his bride without vouchsafing a word of explanation. Burns and his prospective wife had selected and furnished the house they were to have made their home and everything was in readiness for the wedding ceremony, but it now stands tenantless and desolate through the fault of the truant groom.

Philip A. Maguire, a man about 30 years of age, killed himself with a pistol in his room at 863 B Howard street, San Francisco, Saturday. He left the following note in a memorandum book: "To the coroner of San Francisco, Cal.: I do not desire an autopsy. I am dead by my own hand from the effects of morphine and laudanum. Notify Joseph Whitehead, 306 Kearny street, or Dr. A. C. McKendry, 1071 Market, who will notify proper parties to take charge of my corpse. I do not sign my name, for I have brought enough disgrace on my kin already."

The citizens of Grand Junction, Colo., are greatly incensed over the proposed purchase of the water plant by the municipality and at a meeting held Monday the following resolutions were adopted: "Whereas, Five members of the city council propose to saddle a debt of \$55,000 upon the city of Grand Junction and to pay the same to the water company; and Whereas, At the last city election the people, by a very large majority, voted to pay said company for all its claims and property a sum not exceeding \$35,000; and Whereas, A matter of this importance should not be hastily entered into or entered into at all against the wishes of the people of this city; therefore, be it Resolved, That we, the citizens of Grand Junction in mass convention assembled, do urgently request, the honorable mayor and council to proceed in a legal and regular manner pursuant to the precedents heretofore established and submit the proposition to a vote and abide by the result of the poll."