

foundation the British claim of ownership rests is not made plain—and a considerable sum of money has been contributed to the expedition now en route. The explorers anticipate procuring much valuable information regarding the fauna and flora of the Valley of Eden and collections therefrom, and the Freeland colony proposes to institute a regular service of small steamboats from the mouth of the Tana to the limit of navigation, about 350 miles, and to carry on experiments in the domestication of the elephant and zebra. It is reported also that there are extensive gold deposits in the Mount Kenia district. The prospects for scientific information have enlisted the assistance of the Royal Geographical Society, the South Kensington Museum and other similar institutions in Britain; also the Royal Imperial Military and Geographical Institute and the Royal Museum of Natural History in Vienna, which have contributed liberally.

Of course, a great many persons will look upon the Freeland effort as one of the utopian schemes in which people frequently have embarked in the hope that they had found the key to contentment and success in life, only to have their hopes dashed to pieces. Yet to others the readiness to aid the scheme which has been shown by Britain would indicate that there is in it a plan for further territorial aggrandizement on the part of the empire. The founding of a powerful colony in the interior of East Africa would be of material aid in permitting an extension toward South Africa, and the bringing of the major part of the dark continent under British rule. This would be in perfect harmony with the policy of England for the past century, in which time the British possessions in South Africa have been increased from about 200,000 square miles to six times that amount. The new colony and the land adjacent thereto would add to Britain's territory in Africa an area larger than the German empire in Europe. It is safe to assume that the British lion will keep his eye on the main chance in the matter, and that British gold in aid of the expedition is not being expended without hope of rich returns.

#### THE GREAT NORTHERN STRIKE.

The Great Northern strike, whereby, on the orders of the officers of the American Railroad union, about 4,500 miles of railroad was tied up, is remarkable in the history of strikes, on account of the victory won by the employes at a time when the general depression has caused a condition of affairs in which, one would naturally suppose, labor might be had at about any price offered. That a corporation of so gigantic proportions had to yield so quickly to the demands of their men indicates that the day has already come when the voice of united labor has to be heard in the matter of wages.

It seems that the Great Northern last year, when the financial troubles burst like a cloud upon the country, reduced the wages with a promise that they would again be raised on March 1 of this year. The men accepted this as inevitable. March came and went, and still the reduced wages prevailed.

Then came the announcement that, instead of the restoration of the old scale, a further reduction of ten per cent would be made, and information was further received that the company had quietly provided for new men to take the places of the old employes, should the latter decide to quit work. This apparently treacherous breach of promise decided the men to strike and demand the restoration of the old scale, a demand to which the company has finally acceded.

The decided stand taken by the men is not surprising under the circumstances. A cut of 10 per cent is a serious matter to any workman whose wages are so small as to allow but a kind of a vegetating existence. It may mean the impossibility of meeting unavoidable expenses and the loss of home and other property, while he is expected to work as much and as hard as if his efforts were remunerative. No intelligent laborer will submit to such a fate without a struggle for a more satisfactory condition. And in this case it seems the strike was justifiable, for the easy victory leaves room for the supposition that the railroad officials themselves, on the matter being properly represented to them, acknowledged their mistake and the justness of the men's demands. The conclusion is almost inevitable that the proposed cut in wages was not absolutely necessary to the maintenance of the credit of the company, but rather was an attempt to take advantage of the financial depression of the country and shift too large a part of the burden on the shoulders of the men.

The lesson of it all is that united labor, when intelligently directed, is a mighty factor in modern society, in as much as railroad corporations are not in the habit of yielding on moral principles alone. The victory won will encourage to further efforts in a similar direction and the question will be whether the right to reduce wages can be properly exercised without consulting the wage earner. Modern notions seem to deny this in opposition to the entire record of the past.

#### EQUAL SUFFRAGE, PRO AND CON.

"A white horse of another color" is the movement lately organized among the women of New York state in opposition to female suffrage. Their purpose is to show the lawmaking powers and the country at large that the suffragists, whose organization is of many years' standing and whose perseverance has been proved in many a hard-fought campaign, do not represent the views and have no right to voice the demands and sentiments of many thousands of their sex who have until now been silent on the matter. In a word, they propose to meet club with club, petition with protest, organization with counter-organization, and at least assert that inalienable and undisputed woman's right of refusing to accept or perform anything she doesn't want to. The first pronouncement of these unwilling ladies bristles with sarcasm at the expense of their more clamorous sisters who it says are like the "three tailors of Tooley street" in assuming

to speak "for us, the women of the country;" and it insists that hereafter those who demand the ballot be honest enough to do so in their own name only, not in the name of the sex.

The movement is not half bad, so far as it affects either side of the case. Good will assuredly come of it, even to the cause which it sets out to assail. One of the chief arguments in the past against giving the ballot to women has been that the noise made by those who wanted it was altogether too great for their number; that the vast majority of the sex didn't care anything about it or were actually opposed to it; and that this indifference, being an evidence that the voting privilege was not sought and would not be valued or appreciated, supplied a most excellent reason why it should not be given. The present organization will tend at least to explode the notion that the sex are all apathetic and careless on the question, and since out of agitation come light and zeal and vigor, so should the campaign now announced prove valuable in quickening and strengthening the influences with which the cause is environed.

The only question among intelligent and fair-minded people with reference to woman suffrage is as to its wisdom, benefit and expediency. All admit that in justice the right cannot be denied them, and that so far as fitness goes, they are fully entitled to it. Year by year prejudices are melting away; and in view of the really marvelous progress the cause has made within the past two or three years, it is easy to believe the day is near when the last lingering doubt shall have vanished, and the last sullen objection have slunk away.

#### LATE ELECTIONS.

The Republican tidal wave that appears to be sweeping over the country has been during the week twice significantly stayed—in the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, and in the third congressional district of Ohio—in both of which places, as well as many others elections were held on Tuesday, the 1st inst.

The significance of the Democratic victory in these two places is that at the last election both went Republican. Two years ago the Democratic mayor and city administration of St. Paul were routed; and it was with much confidence that the Republicans expected this time a confirmation of that victory. But a factional fight is understood to have been stirred up, and the anti-Catholic agitation was worked for all it was worth, which happened to be a good deal. The result is that the verdict of two years ago is reversed, and it is to be Mayor Smith, not Mayor Dorau, for the ensuing term.

The result in Ohio is not quite so unexpected, but it is scarcely less interesting. The third district is recognized as strongly Democratic; and in 1892 it gave Mr. Houk a majority of more than 4,000 votes over his Republican opponent for Congress. Mr. Houk's death made a special election necessary, and this is the event that was decided last Tuesday. The Republican hope of carrying this stronghold of the enemy was based,