

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—[Copyright 1896 by the Associated Press.]—The Birmingham Post today confirms the repeated statements on the same subject cabled by the Associated Press during the past two months, in saying that it learns from a high quarter that an understanding has been arrived between Great Britain, Russia and France for a settlement of the so-called eastern question, which has for a generation been troubling the statesmen of Europe.

The Post adds that the Russian Black Sea fleet and the British and French Mediterranean fleets will shortly be mobilized in contiguity to the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, in order to enforce if necessary, the reforms which the embassies of the three powers are about to present to the sultan and to which the other signers of the Berlin treaty, Germany, Austria and Italy have consented. To this end it is asserted the allied fleets may force a passage of the straits of the Dardanelles.

PARIS, Dec. 9.—A dispatch to the Journal from Marseilles says that news has been received from Madagascar that an American colonist named Lund has been attacked and killed by the rebels. A detachment of troops had started in pursuit of the rebels to punish them.

OSWEGO, Kan., Dec. 9.—After a long preliminary examination Rudolph Brockman, a wealthy farmer living in Oswego township, has been held in the sum of \$10,000 to answer for the murder of his 17-year-old daughter, Mary.

Four weeks ago Brockman gave the girl a terrible beating because she did not work to suit him in his cornfield. He then tied a rope around one of her ankles, fastened the other end of the rope to the rear axle of his wagon and drove to his barn, a quarter of a mile off, dragging the girl behind.

Arriving there he locked her up in the barn without sufficient clothing and without food. The girl was found by her uncle and another neighbor who carried her away, but her injuries were so serious that she died on November 22.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The Herald this morning says:

Charles Butters, an American mining engineer and expert of the highest reputation, whose fame is as well known in Europe as in this country, has arrived here from Johannesburg, South Africa, where he has been for about six years in charge of some of the largest mining interests in the Transvaal.

Mr. Butters's visit to the United States is chiefly for the purpose of examining into the gold resources of the country, with a view of their further development by Americans and Europeans. He is one of the eleven Americans who with John Haye Hammond were arrested by the Boer government because of affiliation with the reform movement in Transvaal last year, at the time of Dr. Jameson's raid.

Mr. Butters was released on May 20th, fined \$10,000 and obliged to give bond not to interfere in the affairs of the Boer government for three years.

In an interview Mr. Butters said:

"The Transvaal government is now settling down to assist the mining interests in every possible way. The government feels that absolutely essential. A large amount of capital that has been made there is now going to Australia or to New Zealand or else is coming to this country. Many capitalists think that less attention has been paid to the gold resources of the United States by organized effort than should be the case. Foreign and American capitalists are now turning their attention to this country and are sending engineers directly into the field, so that the slump in values in the Transvaal is really a benefit to other gold producing countries.

"The United States holds first place as a gold producing country," said Mr. Butters, "and I don't think it will ever be overtaken. The business of gold producing has really become one of the most important in the world. The great financial houses of Europe are beginning to recognize that fact and many of them are organizing a mining department with their business." Mr. Butters said, that as far as his observations go, it was not considered proper here in the Eastern states for a first class financial house to be interested in gold mining. This feeling, he thought, would wear away, as the business men in the United States become more fully acquainted with those who are making the investments and carrying on the work. The confidence which has been placed in American mining engineers who have carried out the practical part of the work, by foreign investors and the money that has been made by the skill and ability of those who are developing the investments will tend to gradually give eastern investors confidence in such enterprises. One thing that prevents the enlistment of foreign capital in United States gold mining was that there is no international exchange for gold mining stocks here.

"No European investor would think of buying shares in an American gold mining company whose shares are quoted at a few cents each," he observed, "as in the case, for instance, with certain Cripple Creek stocks. Some of these days, when the best business elements in the United States begin to realize that Europeans are forging ahead of us in gold mining, these elements will combine and organize a first class mining exchange, which will have on its committees the ablest men who are known at home and abroad as whose names will be a guarantee of the standing of the exchange. Such an enterprise will have the support of many of the financiers in Europe and will give gold mining shares dealt in here a chance to be dealt in abroad.

Mr. Butters, accompanied by his family, will leave New York on Friday for the West. He will look at different gold sections of the country and will go as far west as the Pacific coast. He will then sail for Cape Town by way of England.

They expect to return to the United States in about one year to remain permanently.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 9.—The Iron Mountain fast express train, outgoing, was held up one mile from the Union station, within the city limits, tonight at 9:30 by masked men. The door of the express car was blown off with dynamite, but no plunder was secured. One of the men stood in the center of the track and waved a red lantern signifying that danger was ahead. The engineer stopped the train and two masked men jumped upon the engine cab, and presenting revolvers, told him to hold the engine still on pain of death. Two other robbers made for the express car, while the remaining two stood guard outside. In less than fifteen minutes the whole thing was over and the conductor hastened to the nearest telephone and notified the police.

As soon as the matter was reported at the central station, every detective on hand was called into service, and under instructions from Chief of Detectives Desmond, sent out on the case. The conductor telephoned in a description of the men as near as he could but owing to the fact that they were all masked, it is but meager.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 9.—One of the walls of the wrecked Kimball building on Cedar avenue, near Wilson, gutted by fire some time ago, collapsed this morning while a large force of men were clearing away the debris. It was at first believed a number of workmen had been caught beneath and crushed. Later it was found that only two had been seriously injured.

LICK OBSERVATORY, Cal., Dec. 9.—A new comet was discovered soon after midnight this morning in the constellation of Pisces, by C. D. Perrine. Its position is as follows: Right ascension 0 hours and 54 minutes; declination 6 degrees and 20 minutes north. It is moving rapidly to the east and more slowly to the south.

HAVANA, Dec. 10.—Dr. Maxim Zertuchaw, personal physician to Antonio Maceo, has surrendered to Col. Lora, the Spanish commander at San Felipe, this province. The doctor confirms the announcement that Maceo was killed on Dec. 9th, near Punta Brava in an engagement between the insurgents and Spanish column commanded by Major Cirujeda. Dr. Zertuchaw was shot in the chest, the bullet breaking the jaw and passing out near the neck and shoulders. The second bullet wounded him in the abdomen.

BOSTON, Dec. 10.—A special to the Journal from Key West: "It is learned positively that the report of the death of Maceo and young Gomez is false. Both are believed to be near Mariel, while Weyler is near San Christobal, searching for Maceo. It is thought the latter will co-operate with Gomez and then an advance on Havana is looked for."

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 10.—Advice from Blantyre, the chief town of British central Africa, dated October 25th, announced the dispatch of three British columns against 30,000 warriors under Chief Chikusell, who invaded the Nyasaland and burned the British missionary station, besides massacring the inhabitants of a number of villages. The Portuguese at Tete invited the co-operation of the British. The British troops only number about 500.