

entrance while this movement was going on in the house and consequently much of the beautiful music and the artistic singing of the art was lost. This did not do the singers any good and in the opening they had hardly full control of themselves. But the audience settled at last and the opera proceeded with the deepest interest.

Very few people, perhaps, know that the cast of "Romeo et Juliette" last night was in the matter of principals the greatest the opera has had in late times, if not taken as a whole, the greatest it has ever had. When Mr. Grau plays in New York or London he does not put Edouard de Reszke and Plancon together in the title, and as a fact, if anybody wants to hear a great opera, he must have them specially created, for they cannot be found anywhere.

**MELBA ONCE MORE.**

"We heard Mme. Melba here in Juliette. She was disturbed by the noise in the house when she opened, but the other acts heard her as clear and effective of voice as, and in acting more expressive than, the last time. What a charm lies in that sweet, pure tone! Sometimes it goes through one, giving keen pleasure unlike anything else, and it often did that last night. Mme. Melba is quite a remarkable example of hard, intelligent work at a great ambition. She is not a very passionate singer, but Gounod's Juliette is somewhat more spirituelle than Shakespeare's Juliet, and that silver voice is what it is written for. Mme. Melba is just at the height of her charm, and she promises to hold it for many years yet.

**SALEZA, THE TENOR.**

We have heard many tenors, but none with the combination of attraction that Saleza has. We have grown accustomed somewhat to the full, round, high-nosed Italian who excites more than anything else, and in other times some who have relied entirely on voice have even won wider applause. But Saleza's work is by far the most artistic we have had from a tenor in many years. He has a magnificent voice, which draws the listener to the singer, his personality is charming, and he is the most graceful actor who has been seen here on the opera stage. We have not had Jean de Reszke, but Saleza is an ideal Romeo; his passion is as romantic as his phrasing is expressive. It was a new sensation to almost forget this was an opera, and Gounod's music had a meaning which could not be resisted. When Romeo closes the balcony as a rule, there is a chance for some effect, but Saleza's singing of that little bit was really exquisite, and, indeed, that is a word that might be applied to many portions of the work of both Saleza and Melba last night. The duets were so perfectly harmonious and the voices blended so beautifully that it is hard to recall any two singers so delightfully effective together.

**TWO GREAT MEN.**

Everybody had heard of Plancon, and when old Capulet came on, leading Juliette, it looked as if Melba had grown shorter than before. But it was only Plancon's comical height, and his command of everything was perfectly evident. His voice took as much charge of the scene as his figure. It rolled out so easily, and filled the place with so full and rich a tone that he had no difficulty whatever in winning the audience. He was greeted at once, and as for being an artist, one could not for a moment doubt it. Something equally assured was Edouard de Reszke in the Friar. A big, warm voice that did not touch its limits, but was as amenable to the softest as to the most forcible music, suited another commanding figure, and a genial face, genial even under the austere make-up. One liked him to begin with, but who that we have heard has sung the marriage scene so impressively, or who can touch that little bit he has with Juliette over the pot? This is where we are repaid for the cost of opera. It is the difference between the man who is born with the artist's intuition and temperament and the man with the voice who forgets the music has ever had any particular meaning. They are a congenial pair those two large, powerful, dominating basses, and they could be nowhere on the stage without being specially noticed.

**A YOUNG AMERICAN.**

In the little part of Stephano came out a pretty American girl, Miss Carrie Briedewell. She has not Italianized her name, nor has she altogether the Italian opera method. She has a particularly charming quality of voice with a great deal of sympathy in it, a simple, straightforward American manner, and a certain chic that is not assumed. Quite delightfully she sang her little role, and even with the big ones she took her place so well that her future looks very bright.

There were many others, and not one weak spot, as a fact. Sizes as Mercutio, Balthazar, Tybalt, were excellent, and the smaller roles were given so well as to quite assure us of the completeness of Mr. Grau's equipment. His new basso, Gilbert, made quite an effect in the duke. With a voice of admirable quality, if a little thinner than the other heavy voices, and all the artistic method, he is decidedly to be counted in.

Mlle. Bauermeister appeared as the

Nurse, reliable and useful, as she has the reputation of being.

And let us speak of Macinelli. The handling of orchestra and chorus was masterly. We know that better than almost anything else, for we hear so much opera which has neither light nor shade, just a kind of fortissimo and pianissimo alternately. The man at the baton is a great man in this opera organization. It is long since we have listened to a chorus which never gave us a moment's doubt, which did not rasp us by shouting, or make us nervous by being uncanny in stage business.

**THE OTHER BILLS.**

And what we heard last night was but one division of three great departments of grand opera, each to have its turn in the coming three weeks. Really there should not be any falling off from the audience of the first night at any of the performances. Tonight Gadsd comes back to us; a young Adonis in the role of Romeo, and in the role of Romeo, Van Dyck, in "Tannhauser." They are worth a crowded house. Then Nardos, our own American prima donna, with Louise Homer, Scotti, Plancon and a new tenor will sing "Aida." The "Faust" on Thursday night will be the best ensemble we have had and with Melba and Saleza in the two pretty roles, Plancon and Campanari. It should be a performance never to be forgotten. "Lucia" will have Melba and another new tenor Cremonini at the matinee, and "Lohengrin" and Mme. Schumann-Heink will see hundreds turned away. It is a great season, the greatest San Francisco has ever seen, and Mr. Grau can have nothing more artistic at any time to offer us.

**THREE THOUSAND THERE.**

It was a \$10,000 house and an audience of 3,000 people. From the stage, the great main floor and the three galleries and the boxes presented a brilliant appearance. There was not a break anywhere, so thickly was the seating space occupied. A fringe of men stood along the walls within the numerous entrance doors on the first and second floors and added to the household.

The size of the audience was immediately reassuring to the opera people. It gave them the initial confidence to begin the performance. When some of the other and more generally popular operas are sung, then will San Francisco have its chance to applaud some of the singers to the echo. The artists have felt the pulse of the local public and they have pronounced it a healthy and discriminating appreciation that promises the right sort of approval for the happier and less pathetic things that are to come.

Saleza, the tenor, said to the audience: "I am enthusiastic over the reception accorded us. I watched the faces of the people closely, and I could see that they were much pleased at the performance. That is a great encouragement to all artists and it helped me. It spurred me on to give to the people of San Francisco the best I have. Naturally there was some feeling on my part on seeing before me an audience for the first time. I experienced some emotion, some little nervous tension during the first and second acts, but the appreciation of the audience reassured me. Now I feel much more confidence in having sung before this audience and in having seen the manner in which the people received me."

Plancon, the basso, giving his impressions of the audience, said: "Of course, I was singing here for the first time and in a particularly notable role, but I found the reception of the San Francisco audience magnificent. The people showed sympathy with the singing. I look forward with much pleasure to singing the part of Macinelli in having sung before this audience, which I sang 100 times in Paris and in London and other great cities." In manner and in facial expression, more than in words, Plancon showed his pleasure and satisfaction. He even danced and he laughed and his enormous chest shook.

Grau, the impresario of the opera company, came out of his box smiling and affable. "It was a magnificent audience, and the singing was worthy the audience," he said. "Romeo and Juliet" has not been sung better anywhere. I am satisfied."

**General Greeley's Report.**

Washington, Nov. 17.—Brigadier General A. W. Greeley, chief signal officer of the army, in his annual report, says that the signal corps exceeded in amount of work and variety of duties performed the record of any previous year.

A brief summary of what the signal corps accomplished in the Philippine Islands is as follows:

On June 30, 1899, there were in existence only 135 miles of telegraphic line, which connected division headquarters with the various garrisons and outposts, and not in a particularly notable manner. On June 30, 1899, there were in existence no less than 3,475 miles of signal corps land lines and cables, besides 302 miles of field lines constructed during the year, which are no longer in existence.

On June 30, 1899, there were in operation 3,995 miles of telegraphic lines and cables, with 406 telegraph and telephone offices of which no less than 301 connected directly with the headquarters of the commanding general at Manila, the total number of messages sent and received during the year aggregating 1,481,040.

Although the signal corps is called non-combatant, Gen. Greeley refers to the fact that in the Philippine Islands the signal corps has been the most active in the past year, the percentage of strictly war casualties exceeds that of the army as a whole. Of a force of 302 there have been killed, wounded and captured twelve men.

## GOING AFTER CHAMBERLAIN.

Said to Have Interests in Companies Getting Contracts.

FORBIDS SUBORDINATES TO.

Many Government Officials Hold Directorship in Private Enterprises—Punch on American Jockeys.

London, Nov. 17.—Minimum news and maximum rain were the distinguishing features of the week, such gloomy, wet days as have been experienced here recently are unusual, even for London. Joseph Chamberlain, that central figure in British politics, can congratulate himself, for more reasons than one, upon his absence from his murky native land. He is disporting himself on the sunny Mediterranean. Thus the colonial secretary is temporarily safe from the effects of the vigorous personal attacks which continue to be made on him by the liberals from Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman down.

**CHAMBERLAIN'S QUEER DOINGS.**

The latest and most important of these is a statement made by the Morning Leader, showing that Mr. Chamberlain holds £7,000 of shares in the Colombo Commercial company, which is receiving largest contracts for housing Boer prisoners in Ceylon. What makes the case still more damaging is the fact that Mr. Chamberlain is also, as colonial secretary, a regulation laid down by the governor of Ceylon, strictly prohibiting any officer of the local government from interfering himself or his family in private business. In other words, Mr. Chamberlain forbids his subordinates, under pain of several penalties, to do what he himself is doing on a large scale. It now seems impossible for Mr. Chamberlain to avoid explaining, for which he will undoubtedly be asked when parliament re-assembles.

**OFFICIALS COLLAR DIRECTORSHIPS.**

Another feature in the same connection, of which the liberals are making no little capital, is the extraordinary number of directorships in private companies held by government officials. Of the twenty cabinet ministers, thirteen are directors while between all the thirty-six ministers twenty-seven directorships are held. The list commences with Lord Salisbury, who assists in the management of an insurance company, and includes Lord Selbourn, who is both first lord of the admiralty and a director of the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship company; Gerald Balfour, who unites a directorship in an aluminum company with the presidency of the board of trade, and many other incongruous associations, several of the companies being financially discredited. With such flagrantly weak spots in the armor of the new cabinet it is no wonder the liberals are imploring Lord Rosebery to lead the party. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's appeal to the ex-premier only voiced the feeling of the majority of the party, but it was accompanied by such bitter denunciations of the so-called imperialists that it can scarcely be expected to produce much result.

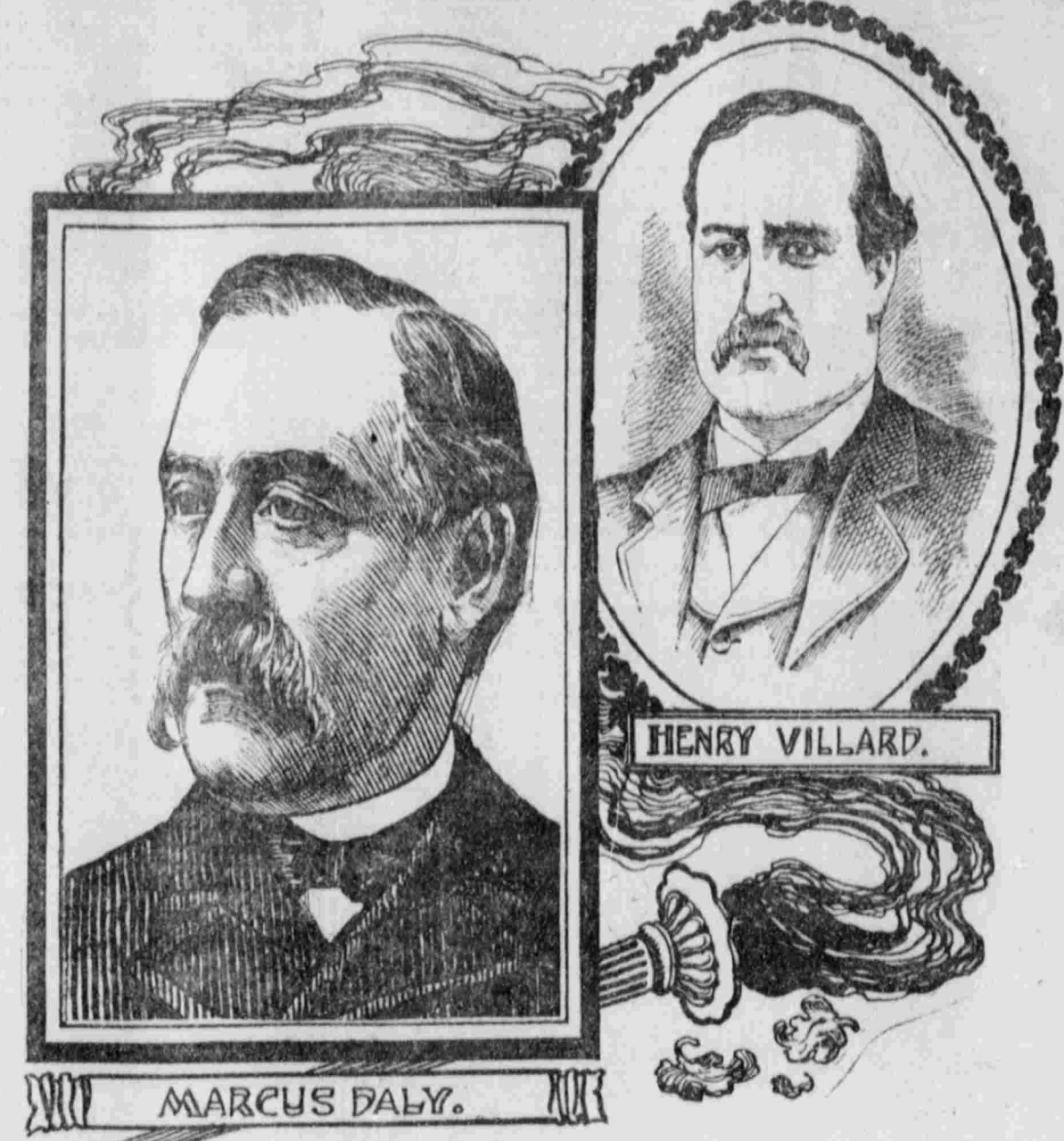
**REVOLUTIONIZING WAR OFFICE.**

American enterprise in Great Britain now promises to revolutionize the methods of the war office. The problem of transportation of stores, guns and men over country having no railroads has long exercised the new army experts. With such flagrantly weak spots in the armor of the new cabinet it is no wonder the liberals are imploring Lord Rosebery to lead the party. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's appeal to the ex-premier only voiced the feeling of the majority of the party, but it was accompanied by such bitter denunciations of the so-called imperialists that it can scarcely be expected to produce much result.

**PUNCH'S AMERICAN JOCKEY.**

The fact that so conservative a paper as Punch devotes a cartoon this week to the representation of an American jockey perched on a horse neck, while the trainer says:

"Now, this horse is as fit as chemicals can make him; you have got a galvanic saddle, an electric whip and hypodermic spurs and if you shin a bit further up his neck you ought to lick anything with hair on," fairly indicates the length to which British racers toward American jockeys have gone. As a leading American trainer said this week: "It is true Americans use linaments and lotions to take soreness out of horses. What a few of the English



## TWO MILLIONAIRES WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY.

Both of these men were very rich, and both died very suddenly. Henry Villard made his reputation as a great financier 25 years ago when he formed the "blind pool" and bought the Northern Pacific railroad. In 1884 he saw his fortune melt away, but he built it up again, and, although driven to the wall in the panic of 1890, he succeeded once more and died very wealthy. Marcus Daly was known as the Montana copper king. His efforts to become a United States senator are matters of recent history.

need is a lotion to take the soreness out of a few of their bad losers."

**CHARGES AGAINST REIFF.**

The failure of the stewards of the Jockey club to announce any decision after two days' investigation of Lord Durham's charges against Lester Reiff leads to the belief that if any action is taken it will appear when Reiff applies for a license for 1901. The tone of Lord Durham's letter to the stewards of the Jockey club and the personal inconvenience and financial loss Reiff has been put to by the Jockey club officials' failure to notify him in line of the place of their meeting have served to create a reaction of sentiment not only toward Reiff, but toward American jockeys in general. Americans who have watched the progress of the reformation against the jockeys and trainers point out the significant fact that since their importation began every important English race, has been run from four to thirty seconds faster than ever before.

There is a strong intimation in many quarters that Lord Durham is particularly anxious to curtail Richard Croker's English racing career, and that the fight against the latter's horse, The Scotchman II, was largely due to his being the owner of that racer.

**THE THEATRICAL SEASON.**

Prosperity continues to be the key note of the theatrical season. Broadly speaking, all the houses are doing well. The new capital in the extraordinary number of directorships in private companies held by government officials. Of the twenty cabinet ministers, thirteen are directors while between all the thirty-six ministers twenty-seven directorships are held. The list commences with Lord Salisbury, who assists in the management of an insurance company, and includes Lord Selbourn, who is both first lord of the admiralty and a director of the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship company; Gerald Balfour, who unites a directorship in an aluminum company with the presidency of the board of trade, and many other incongruous associations, several of the companies being financially discredited. With such flagrantly weak spots in the armor of the new cabinet it is no wonder the liberals are imploring Lord Rosebery to lead the party. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's appeal to the ex-premier only voiced the feeling of the majority of the party, but it was accompanied by such bitter denunciations of the so-called imperialists that it can scarcely be expected to produce much result.

**THE NEW GALLERY PICTURES.**

The private view of the new gallery, Wednesday, was attended by fewer celebrities than usual. The chief attraction was Whistler's portrait of his sister-in-law, entitled "The Lady of the Black Heart." The title causes much excitement and discussion. Whistler explains it has no personal allusion to the lady but to her clothes.

**OUR INTERNAL REVENUE.**

Amount Collected in 1900 Never But Once Has Been Exceeded.

Recommended that Bank Receipts be Taxed—Other Amendments Wanted.

Washington, Nov. 17.—The annual report of the commissioner of internal revenue for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1900, shows a collection exceeded but once in the history of the bureau. The receipts were \$295,316,167, being \$10,316,167 in excess of the estimated amount and \$21,331,534 more than during the previous year. The percentage of cost of collection was 1.58, as against 1.85 for last year, being the smallest in the history of the internal revenue service.

Commissioner Wilson estimates that the receipts from all sources of internal revenue for the current fiscal year will approximate \$295,000,000.

A number of amendments are recommended to be made to the war revenue act. The clause of the law which perhaps has given more trouble in its application than any other is that which requires a tax of ten cents on a "certificate of any description required by law not otherwise specified in the act."

It is recommended that this paragraph be abolished.

Receipts given for withdrawing deposits from banks other than savings banks, says the report, should be taxed. Receipts do not require a stamp under the act and it was found impossible to rule that when a depositor went to a bank personally and withdrew his deposit or a portion of it by tendering a receipt for the same that such receipt as any more taxable than any other receipt. As a result the use of receipts in lieu of bank checks in this manner is constantly increasing. "Of course," says the report, "this is an evasion of the tax, but to evade the tax in a lawful manner cannot be prevented."

It is recommended that where any one instrument combines the characteristics of two or more instruments it

shall be subject to but one stamp tax and that the highest imposed upon either of the instruments.

There have been found upon the market a large number of medical preparations which have been held by the United States courts to be exempt from taxation, under the clause exempting unperfected chemicals, which are nevertheless put up under a patent or trademark and for which proprietary rights are claimed. It is believed, says the report, that Congress intended to tax all patent, proprietary or trade mark medicinal preparations alike and it is recommended that the law be changed so as to effect this end.

It is recommended that the law be changed in regard to legacy taxes so as to reach the estates of alien proprietary holders who reside abroad. Agricultural lands should be exempted from taxation.

It is advised that either the tax on commercial brokers be repealed or else others in the same class of business be included in its provisions.

The receipts from the various sources during the year were: Spirits, \$109,853,817, an increase of \$10,555,283. Tobacco, \$59,355,084, an increase of \$1,906,196. Oleomargarine, \$2,543,785, an increase of \$87,305. Filled cheese, \$17,064, decrease, \$1,633. Mixed flour, \$7,439, decrease, \$401. Other special taxes including theaters \$1,155,640, decrease, \$405,952. Legacies and distributive shares of personal property, \$2,884,491, increase, \$1,549,056. Schedules A and B, \$40,964,465, an increase of \$2,875,453. Miscellaneous \$2,921, decrease, \$1,765.

**Nome's Worst Storm.**

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 17.—In velocity of wind and high surf, Nome had the worst storm of the season beginning October 31. Passengers on the Oregon report that it lasted with fury until Nov. 3, being still in progress, though milder, when that vessel sailed. After the wind had blown from the southeast for sixteen hours during which time all the vessels in port put to sea, it suddenly veered to the west, the thermometer dropping nearly thirty degrees. Rain, snow and hail fell. More or less damage was done to property along the front.

**SHAFTER MAKES REPLY.**

He Does Not Take Weyler's Statements Seriously.

San Francisco, Nov. 17.—Major General William R. Shafter, when asked to comment on Gen. Weyler's criticism of the Spanish conduct of the war in Cuba, was not inclined to take Weyler's assertions seriously. He said that evidently Weyler was talking for effect, as every military man knew that the Spaniards in Cuba, without the aid of a fleet to prevent the landing of invaders in any required number, could not have held the island against the Americans. Gen. Shafter added:

"I do not care to speak of Gen. Weyler's record in Cuba, or whether or not he has received unjust censure."

"It is very well known that the force of Spain in Cuba outnumbered by several times the force landed for the reduction of Santiago, but there were but few available to operate against the American troops."

"Had the 21,000 troops stationed at other points not far from Santiago promptly moved to the attack of the Fifth army corps, the difficulties of the Americans would have been greatly increased, but I do not think they could have been driven into the sea. It is possible, however, that if these troops had co-operated with the three thousand troops that did reinforce the troops of Santiago on the night of July 2 in making a vigorous attack, they might have placed the American army on the defensive for a few days, but the ultimate capture of Santiago could only have been delayed." Gen. Linnares' telegram to the United States, under the condition of affairs clearly indicates this.

"That the fleet was necessary for the preservation of Spanish possession in Cuba was clearly shown by the fact that immediately after its destruction the Third army corps, some weeks ago, by a French sentry whom he, with two companions, attempted to rush in order to cross the bridge after dark."

The camps of the Fifteenth infantry, the Third artillery and a section of the French forces are very close and there is evidently considerable bad blood between the two. It cropped out recently when a French soldier cut the lead team of an American army wagon across the head with a stick. The teamster jumped out of the wagon and, according to reports, gave the offender and several of his companions some pretty rough handling.

**Great Lack of an Editor.**

"For two years all efforts to cure Eczema in the palms of my hands failed," writes Editor H. N. Lester, of Syracuse, Kan. "Then I was wholly cured by Bucklen's Arnica Salve." It's the world's best for Eruptions, Sores and all skin diseases. Only 25c at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

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## SOME FRICTION AMONG ALLIES.

Ill Feeling Between American and French Soldiers.

BOTH ARE BLAMEABLE.

Much Trouble Over the Bridges—Bad Blood is Continually Growing Out.

Tien Tsin, China, Oct. 24.—[Correspondence of the Associated Press.]—The presence of a large number of troops here, in contiguous camps and with naturally existing national prejudices, is causing considerable friction and several unpleasant incidents have occurred. So far, however, none of them has progressed beyond the stage of incidents, easily adjusted, and on all sides there is a very evident disposition to treat these occurrences as the natural result of military conditions. One of the chief causes of friction has been the number of pontoon bridges thrown across the river. There are three of these within the space of a mile, and as the river is simply crowded with junk and towboats some conflict has been the result. Most of the trouble has occurred at the French bridge, and twice trouble has resulted between the French guards and the American sentries on the boats.

A few days ago a string of twenty junks coming down stream was held up at the French bridge for several hours in spite of the protests of the American guards on guard. Finally word reached the American headquarters of the condition of affairs and an officer was sent up to the bridge. He found a French sentry on the forward boat and promptly ordered him off. There was a sharp interchange between the American and French officers, but the sentry was removed. General Sumner then arrived and the result was that the bridge was opened and the boats allowed to pass. A day or two ago there was another bit of friction, in which both sides rather overstepped the limit and are fairly chargeable with some blame. The bridge regulations require that only one boat may go through at a time. A fleet of junks in charge of a non-commissioned American soldier came down and an attempt was made to take three of them through the draw abreast, in coming through the junks jammed in the draw and the American on the leading boat and the French bridge guards clashed. The French attempted to arrest the American and a flat fight ensued in which one Frenchman went overboard and several were badly used. The American was finally overpowered and put under guard. He was soon released but, according to his statement, he was struck while under arrest by a French officer. The man stated that two guards held their bayonets at his heart while an officer hit him in the face, cutting a gash over his eye. The matter is now under investigation.

The feeling between the French and American soldiers apparently dates from the killing of Corporal Hughes, of the Third artillery, some weeks ago, by a French sentry whom he, with two companions, attempted to rush in order to cross the bridge after dark.

The camps of the Fifteenth infantry, the Third artillery and a section of the French forces are very close and there is evidently considerable bad blood between the two. It cropped out recently when a French soldier cut the lead team of an American army wagon across the head with a stick. The teamster jumped out of the wagon and, according to reports, gave the offender and several of his companions some pretty rough handling.

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