

## ESCAPED CONVICTS PICKED UP AT SEA

Seven Frenchmen Leave the Penal Settlement at New Caledonia.

### CAME VERY NEAR PERISHING.

Were All Armed but Weak and Emaciated for Want of Food.

Victoria, B. C., Nov. 25.—The steamer Moana, which arrived this morning from Australia via Honolulu, met with an accident at William Head quarantine station last night, as the result of which she may have to go into dry-dock. The steamer was avoiding the steamer Umatilla on entering the station, and Capt. Carey says the flashing of the searchlight of that vessel dazzled the officers of the Moana who failed, as a result, to notice the proximity of the liner to the rocks, she having been caught up by the current. The Moana struck by the stern on the rocks, breaking her rudder. Capt. Carey after several hours of backing and filling the steamer, being without steering gear, managed to bring the vessel to Victoria.

The Moana brought news from Australia of the picking up at sea of seven escaped French convicts from the penal settlement at New Caledonia, who had been drifting at sea in an open boat for thirteen days. The prisoners, who had secured a fishing smack, converted a sailing into a mast and put to sea, intending to escape to the Australian coast. The boat had been supplied with cans, but only one remained, had no compass and none of the prisoners had the slightest idea of navigation. All would have perished had they not been rescued by the steamer Cronquist, 400 miles north of Sydney. The convicts, who were all armed, were weak and emaciated from the privation endured when rescued. They are being held by the Sydney police pending advice from the French authorities.

There was some excitement at Suva when the Moana called there over the reported hauling down of the British flag at Tonga. It being said that the Friendly Islands were to be handed over to Germany by Great Britain in exchange for some German islands in the Solomon group known as the German Solomon Islands.

An interesting dispute has arisen at Sydney as a result of a decision of the arbitration court there against the American ship Andromeda from Puget Sound with lumber. Capt. Ransellus was discharging his timber over the side on to scows with his own crew. Complaint was made by the longshoremen's union and the arbitration court cited Capt. Ransellus to appear. He re-

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refused. An injunction was granted restraining him from committing further breaches of an award made by the arbitration court giving preference to union labor.

### House Will Not Adjourn.

Washington, Nov. 25.—Until the senate either passes the Cuban bill or rejects the measure no proposition to adjourn the extra session of the Fifty-eighth Congress will be entertained by the house. This is the declared position of the leaders of the house today, and there is likely to be no effort to be made by that body toward bringing the extra session to an end until it lapses into the regular session Dec. 7.

Speaker Cannon's work on the making up of the house committees is progressing satisfactorily and may be announced next Monday.

### ITALY AND PANAMA.

Former Will Act With England In Matter of Recognition.

Rome, Nov. 25.—Until today Ambassador Meyer was unable to obtain an interview with Signor Tittoni, the min-

ister of foreign affairs, as the minister had left for England with the king and queen of Italy. The ambassador formally notified the foreign office that the republic of Panama had been officially recognized by the government of the United States. Minister Tittoni informed Ambassador Meyer that the Italian government had not the slightest objection to the recognition of the new republic. Indeed, he said, the government fully realized the great benefit which the commerce of the world would derive from the building of the Panama canal, but Italy had already arranged to act in conjunction with Great Britain and Germany.

### Empress Dowager is Worried.

Tokio, Nov. 4.—It is stated in Mandarin circles that the empress dowager is finding her days and nights harassed by the Manchurian question and the Kuangsi crisis. Womanlike, she resorts to the gods for help. In fact she has lately made a vow before the Buddha of Wanshoushan temple that if the affairs of the above named provinces be satisfactorily settled by next November she would expend the entire money contributions promised by the high officers of the crown of Peking and the provinces, estimated at eight millions in all, for the celebration of her seventieth birthday anniversary next year upon building extra temples, beautifying the present ones and in doing other good work that may be pleasing to the gods.

## CONDITIONS IN THE JOLO ISLAND.

That of Peace So Long as the Big Moro Chiefs Are Allowed To Do as They Please.

### SULTAN IS WITHOUT POWER.

Depends on Chiefs Who Are Surrounded by Gangs of Ruffians Who Do No Useful Work.

Washington, Nov. 25.—A strong picture of conditions in the Jolo group of the Philippine archipelago is contained in a letter from Col. H. L. Scott, governor of that group, to Col. Clarence Edwards, chief of the insular bureau of the war department. The letter, which is dated Sept. 23, is made public as an explanation of the campaign now waging in the Jolo group. In the writer says:

"I find that the condition is one of peace so long as the big Moro chiefs are allowed to have their own way unreservedly—to rob and steal and enslave. The sultan is a man of no power of his own, and must depend on the chiefs, who may or may not do what he wishes. They are all surrounded by gangs of ruffians who do no useful work, but who live through robbery and by fining both sides in a case, irrespective of who may be guilty, the full amount of their ability to pay. If the victim refuses to pay he is enslaved. No peace or order can be maintained in the Philippine Islands so long as these conditions exist. Movable property is always on the move without the desire of the owner; men say they will not work and accumulate property which they will not be permitted to enjoy, and there are constant murders, kidnappings and enslavements going on.

"No one is allowed to go beyond the outskirts here without an armed guard and it is even advisable to go about the streets here armed on account of the rampant lawlessness. One of whom got through the gate past a sentinel about four days ago with his arms, ran through the barrack yard, slashed a soldier across the back and fell dead on the main plaza and in front of the commissary office, shot five times by a fusillade from our soldiers, which killed also a trumpeter who was getting ready for guard. This makes the sixth or seventh Jaramatado who has appeared since last spring. One engineer soldier was chopped up last spring by one of them after he had seven Colt's .38 bullets in him. He chopped off a leg and an arm each at one stroke of his barong. "All during the spring the garrison has practically been in a state of siege. When Capt. Elting's troop went out

they surrounded it, brandishing the barongs and spears, and he had to come back because his orders were by no means to have a conflict. You will see by this the way peace has been kept heretofore, and at what sacrifice. Now the Moro province act contemplates changes, among others the abolishment of slavery, a very sore point with them. It contemplates trials of offenders by district courts and these things will surely bring on conflicts."

### THE KAISER'S VOICE.

He Has Changed It So as to Make Speaking Easier.

Berlin, Nov. 25.—Emperor William has changed his voice, modulating it so as to reduce the pressure on the vocal chords. He now speaks in a somewhat lower pitch, his utterances resonating against the cavities of the mouth. He has not yet trained himself fully and he may take the services of a teacher so that he can apply correctly the method of voice culture. The official announcement that the emperor had begun a course of voice culture was contained in the following bulletin:

Palace, Potsdam, Nov. 25.—The surgical wound on the left vocal chord has been scarred over since Nov. 19. His majesty, the emperor and king, will still require careful use of his voice for a considerable time, until the scar becomes sufficiently firm.

"His majesty is now undergoing massage treatment of the larynx along with voice exercises. His majesty probably will recover the entire use of his voice within a few weeks. (Signed.) "VON LOUTHOLD, "SCHMIDT, "ILBERG."

### THE ARTILLERY.

Gen. Randolph Thinks that the Force Should be Increased.

Washington, Nov. 25.—Brig.-Gen. Wallace Randolph, chief of artillery, in his annual report, made public tonight, calls attention to the fact that only about 34 per cent of the total number of artillery officers present for duty have had over five years' experience in the artillery. "The gravity of this situation," he says, "will be readily appreciated when it is recalled that at the present time the duties and responsibilities of an artillery officer are greater than ever before."

The report states that the regular establishment coast artillery consists of 126 companies, of an aggregate maximum strength of 15 officers and 13,724 men. Gen. Randolph believes it to be essential to efficiency in war that the regular coast artillery establishment be ultimately increased to 151 officers and about 22,000 enlisted men for existing armament. Gen. Randolph says it is a problem how to secure efficient support by the militia in the mobilization of the coast defenses.

"The chief of artillery," the report adds, "is fully alive to the necessity and desirability of fixing the relations of the organized militia to the coast artillery for the manning of the coast defenses, and anticipates the development of marked efficiency in the militia and corresponding sense of satisfaction and security in the artillery corps as soon as these relations are established. It is believed that the militia can find its greatest usefulness in undertaking to furnish the manning body of the lighter armament, particularly the rapid fire guns."

# RHEUMATISM

NOT A SKIN DISEASE.

It is natural to rub the spot that hurts, and when rheumatic pains are shooting through the joints and muscles and they are inflamed and sore, the sufferer is apt to turn to liniments and plasters for relief; and while such treatment may quiet the pain temporarily, no amount of rubbing or blistering can cure Rheumatism, because it is not a skin disease, but is in the blood and all through the system, and every time you are exposed to the same conditions that caused the first attack, you are going to have another, and Rheumatism will last just as long as the poison is in the blood, no matter what you apply externally. Too much acid in the blood is one cause of Rheumatism; stomach troubles, bad digestion, weak kidneys and torpid liver are other causes which bring on this painful disease, because the blood becomes tainted with the poisonous matter which these organs fail to carry out of the system. Certain secret diseases will produce Rheumatism, and of all forms this is the most stubborn and severe, for it seems to affect every bone and muscle in the body. The blood is the medium by which the poisons and acids are carried through the system, and it doesn't matter what kind of Rheumatism you have; it must be treated through the blood, or you can never get permanently rid of it. As a cure for rheumatic troubles S. S. S. has never been equalled. It doesn't inflame the stomach and ruin the digestion like Potash, Alkalies and other strong drugs but tones up the general health, gently stimulates the sluggish organs, and at the same time antitoxins and filters out of the blood all poisonous acids and effete matter of every kind; and when S. S. S. has restored the blood to its natural condition, the painful, feverish joints and the sore and tender muscles are immediately relieved.

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