

"This objection related to the second section of the bill, which undertook to constitute the board and to name its members, and the objection was based upon the opinion that the members of the board would have been officers within the meaning of the provisions of the quoted section of the organic act, and that therefore their appointment could not be made by an act of the Legislature. Your committee does not regard it as a material consideration that the governor was mistaken in his understanding of that section, but in support of the proposition that he was in error, attention is called to the same authority which seems to dispose of the opinion that the men named as commissioners, whose duty is confined to a specific temporary or transient purpose not political in its nature or arising from ordinary government affairs, are anything more than the mere agents of the authority which creates their functions."

### A PECULIAR DIVORCE CASE.

THE following item is taken from the Milwaukee correspondence of the Chicago News. It illustrates a phase of American life which is not devoid of interest to the average citizen:

"Pretty little Ida Keeler at the age of 14 years has had so much experience with matrimony that she today applied to Judge Johnson in the Circuit Court here for a divorce. The defendant, Ida's husband, was a soldier thirty years ago and is now nearly 70 years of age. He wooed and won Ida in the fall of 1891, and on Nov. 18 of that year they were married. They had not been married long when the veteran began to show signs of intense jealousy. He objected because Mrs. Keeler did not comport herself with the dignity of a mature married woman and occasionally showed a fondness for dolls and blind man's buff. Mr. Keeler resorted to spanking as a means of discipline, which he continued until Jan. 6, 1892, when he made a ferocious attack upon Mrs. Keeler and stabbed her. The girl escaped, however, and since that time has not lived with him.

"When Judge Johnson read the papers in the case today and ascertained the ages of the parties to the suit he paused and looked at the complainant. He thought the matter over for a few moments and then announced that Mrs. Keeler wasn't old enough to get a divorce in his court, even if she was a matron by law. As a minor she was incompetent to bring suit. He accordingly dismissed the complaint and ordered the infant matrimonial prodigy to engage a guardian, through whom she might secure a divorce.

### AMERICAN FLOUR IN RUSSIA.

AFTER a voyage of twenty-two days from New York the steamship "Missouri," with provisions for the famine-stricken Russians, arrived at Libau on the 3rd inst. Immediately on the steamer's arrival in port, steps were taken to unload her and forward the contents to the hungry. There is railroad communication between Libau, St. Petersburg, Moscow and the famine districts. The government placed trains at the disposal of the American relief committee, and the flour is now en route to the sufferers.

By the way, Libau, though not a port familiar to the general reading public, is one of great importance in Russia. Here is what an exchange says in relation to this place:

"In addition to their enormous warlike preparations on land, Russia and Germany have now entered upon a rivalry in preparations for naval warfare. Libau is a Russian port on the Baltic Sea near the German frontier, which Russia is now fitting up and fortifying as a naval arsenal, to serve as a basis for offensive operations against Germany. It is said that upward of 10,000 hands are engaged in the work. In 1891 from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 was spent upon it. And the German government has opened negotiations with the city of Hamburg for the cession of Cuxhaven, which is to be transformed into an immense naval station. Cuxhaven is located on the German Ocean at the mouth of the river Elbe. Napoleon I. had already intended to carry out the same idea. He had two immense forts commenced, but never finished them. Now the imperial government intends to make Cuxhaven as great a naval station as Kiel is on the Baltic Sea."

A glance at the map of Europe will show that in the event of trouble between Russia and Germany the Baltic Sea, and these two ports, Libau and Cuxhaven would become lively places. The latter already figures prominently in English and Dutch history.

### THE CHINESE EXCLUSION BILL.

THE question of Chinese immigration still continues a complicated one. It appears that by the aid of shrewd and unscrupulous lawyers John has been so far able to ride his coach and four through all the laws enacted for his exclusion from the United States. Only a short time ago a half dozen Celestials arrived in Montreal from Vancouver. They were bound for the United States, but knowing the restrictions and espionage at the border consulted a lawyer as to the best way of defeating Uncle Sam's provisions for their exclusion. The lawyer, was aware that under the present treaty between this country and Britain all British subjects of whatever creed, color, race or nation have the right of free entrance to and domicile in the United States. He advised the Chinamen to appear before the Superior Court and become naturalized British subjects. They did so, obtained their papers, and departed for the frontier. On their arrival on United States soil they presented their British subject papers, and could not be molested. This incident may have led to the speedy passage in the House of another Chinese exclusion bill, which took place on the 4th inst. by a vote of 179 to 43. Under it Chinese, except diplomatic and consular agents, are absolutely prohibited from entering this country. Even persons of Chinese descent are included in the provisions of the bill. Should this become a law it will be difficult for lawyers to nullify its purpose.

BOSTON, April 10.—The State convention of the Socialist labor party was held today at Roxbury, fifteen sections being represented. The platform adopted is practically the platform of the Chicago convention of 1899. The convention voted to make no nominations for a State ticket and voted to request the State central committee to call for a national convention to have full power to act on party measures.

### THE MEXICAN FLAGS.

FOR some time there has been considerable talk about returning the flags captured by Americans in Mexico during the Mexican war. In this country public opinion is disposed to favor the idea, hoping that it may lead to a better understanding between both countries. In Mexico public opinion is divided as to the propriety of accepting the flags, not to mention the idea of asking for them. *El Tempo*, an influential paper published in Mexico, is decidedly hostile to the proposition of acceptance. It has published an open letter, signed by its editors, to President Diaz, exhorting him to ignore completely the advances of the United States Senate in the matter of returning the flags.

*El Tempo* contends that by reason of that war Mexico lost one-third of her territory; therefore the return of the captured flags would only renew the opprobrium which their associations with a mutilated country would naturally awaken. Also that the proposition of the American Senate has no precedent in history. The flags are the title deeds to the acquired territory, and unless this is returned with the flags, it would be base, petty and degrading, on the part of Mexicans to accept them.

In this letter some very uncomplimentary remarks are made about Americans. They are charged with the extermination of the Indian race, while at the same time they have embodied into their country the degraded African. And then it says:

"No, no; it is better that those flags never come, that they continue floating in the capital of our conquerors, like bloody trophies of the most iniquitous war, the most infamous conquest, the greatest international crime that ever was written in the annals of nations which are honored by the term 'civilized.'"

This, of course, is a one-sided view of the subject. The flags are tendered in a far different spirit. The design is to heal up old wounds and cultivate a fraternal spirit between the two countries. And we think the wisest and best minds in Mexico will not imbibe the sentiments expressed in the paper called *El Tempo*.

### BRITISH INTERESTS DEPRESSED.

WHAT might with propriety be termed a British commercial parliament met during the current month, in London, to consider the situation commercially and industrially. It was a congress composed of representatives from the associated Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain. In his opening address Mr. Hill, the chairman of the gathering reviewed the condition of British trade. Though a decline in both imports and exports was shown for 1891 as compared with 1890, yet there were some gratifying features which afforded matter for solicitation. The most discouraging item, however, was to be found in the Board of Trade returns, where exports in general showed a falling off, while increased imports of food supplies marked the opposite side of the ledger.