

way of Kingston. About one year ago, another route was opened by way of Ogdensburg. In transporting by the latter route, the same rebate was given to shippers over the Welland Canal, as was given to the Kingston shippers. This enraged the Canadians, and they protested against it. Sir John McDonald's government, however, held that it must grant the rebate, as any other course would be discrimination against the American marine, distinctly guarded against by treaty with the United States.

Last winter, when Sir John was battling fiercely to maintain his political supremacy, he promised the Kingston people that he would revoke the decision of his government relating to the Welland canal tolls. True to his promise, he did so. And the council promulgated a decree that grain must be transhipped at Canadian ports to entitle it to rebate on the Welland canal.

A few days ago the vessel *Argonaut* with 35,000 bushels of corn, and the *Baltic* with 65,000 bushels of wheat, left Chicago bound for Ogdensburg, to be there transhipped in barges for Montreal. This grain will be denied the rebate of canal tolls, amounting to \$550. The owners, however will make a formal demand for it on the Canadian government. When payment is refused, they, as American citizens will appeal to the government at Washington for redress.

M. Linsted, one of the grain owners, says the course of the Canadian government is in direct violation of the treaty. It is a plain case of discrimination against Americans. It is just what Mr. Blaine wants, and he will show that the Canadians are wrong.

It is said, that for the present at least, this affair will displace the Behring Sea business and that the Court of St. James will be called on to negotiate in matters nearer home.

#### A COURT OF PAROLE.

THE convict question is one of great moment. What to do with the criminals of society puzzles the philanthropist and the philosopher as well as the statesman. Every thoughtful person concedes the point that reformation should be the primary object of punishment, but how to effect this and restore to society the former criminal without danger to the community is a serious problem.

The ticket-of-leave system has worked fairly well in England, but has objectionable features and only partially meets the purpose in view. Something like this, but with improvements, is just now

being tried in New Jersey. It combines the pardoning and the parole powers, and thus is designed to meet two public demands.

The pardoning power, usually vested in the Governor of a State or Territory, conveys great responsibility, too much, perhaps, to be centered in one individual. Boards of Pardon are, therefore, sometimes substituted for the one-man-power. In New Jersey the Governor, the Chancellor and the six Judges of the Court of Errors and Appeals form a Board of Pardons, and under a law recently passed will, with the Warden of the State prison, constitute a Court of Parole.

Prisoners who have behaved well while incarcerated and who can obtain a contract for employment if liberated, may be released by this court on parole. They must report once a month the manner in which they have spent their time and the money they have earned. This report must show that the paroled convict has lived an orderly life and has not used intoxicants. If it is demonstrated that he has been sober, decent and industrious up to the end of the term for which he was imprisoned, he will receive a certificate of discharge which will restore him to his rights of citizenship. If not, he is liable to be arrested and returned to prison to finish his term.

This appears to give promise of good results. It opens an opportunity to the fallen who are not essentially criminal to work their way back to honor and respectability. It bids them hope and work for restoration. It also guards against imposition and keeps a check on the really vicious. It is an experiment that seems to be worth the trying and we hope to hear that it has proved successful and had worked that reformation which it is designed to effect. The utterly depraved will not be helped, perhaps, but no doubt there is a fair proportion of convicted persons who can be reclaimed, and this system bids fair to be the means of making their salvation possible.

#### IN AFRICA.

A special to the *Denver News* relates the following horrible incidents from the "Dark Continent."

The Portuguese settlements on the west coast of Africa are in a state of horrible upheaval and riot.

The French flag floats over the butchered remains of the Portuguese officers.

The latest advices from this portion of the west coast known as Portuguese Guinea, tell tales of horrible atrocities on the part of the natives.

These do not stop short of cannibalism and the drinking of huge draughts of steaming human blood.

On the island of Bissao, but a few leagues distant from the main land, the rebel natives, in number 6,000, have swept the Portuguese forces before them into the sea.

A carnival of blood and riot is now in progress on this island, which it will take a large and well-drilled force to quell. The Portuguese administration here, as on the main land, has been growing more unpopular for months. The natives were restive and inflammable.

Secret agents from both France and England, of the slave-driving stamp, are charged with blowing the embers of disaffection into the flames of mutiny.

About two weeks ago, in the period of the full moon, the fetich men held a grand dance of the three tribes inhabiting the island.

#### MURDERED HIM.

In the frenzy induced by these weird ceremonies a Portuguese officer, who was present as a witness for amusement, was hurled into the sacred ring. Before the chant closed a dozen knives were sheathed in his heart.

The garrison was raised by a wild alarm at 3 o'clock in the morning by the hyena-like clamor of the crazy throngs.

Reinforcements from the friendly natives of the Assebai tribe were hastily summoned.

About 180 regular troops, comprising the sole European military on the island, were thrown out and came upon the mad devils dancing around the fire. A terrible fight followed and the Portuguese withdrew, badly beaten, dragging the mutilated remains of thirty killed. Having once tasted blood the dusky rebels howled like dogs around the closed stockade composing the exterior defense of the fort.

The bodies—some dead, others only dying—of the unfortunate Portuguese, including one officer, were impaled on huge stakes, and the scent of roasting human flesh was borne on the westerly wind to the dismay of men in the garrison. The frightful orgies continued day by day.

The beleaguered forces were afraid to stir beyond the breast works. All the isolated buildings of the Europeans on the island were burned to the ground and the fleeing occupants struck down and mutilated.

#### DRANK HUMAN BLOOD.

The leaders of the bloody uprising increased the madness of the frenzied murderers by drawing off the blood of their victims, and sending the steaming bowl around the circles, which kept up the war dances without intermission day and night. Frenchmen, of whom there are some fifty on the island, were treated with respect by the mutinous, and the French flag floats over their villages.

The garrison, having received the assistance of a body of 2000 friendly natives, assayed to quell the mutiny at a blow, and deployed all their forces.

A second and still more horrible inhuman battle than the first followed. The natives on both sides fought like starved tigers.

#### THE TERRIBLE FIGHT.

Every weapon known to African warfare opposed the rifles of the Portuguese. The opposing tribes, numbering nearly 7000 in their straggling