

the surrounding towns and several small vessels were wrecked. The floods were the most severe since 1862, and the course of the Yarra river presented a scene of desolation for miles. In South Richmond, another suburb of Melbourne, whole streets were submerged and two thousand people rendered homeless. Business was almost suspended in the city, and efforts were made to relieve the wants of the sufferers.

The loss of life, it is believed, did not exceed ten. A schooner, name unknown, disappeared off Sorronto and is believed to have been lost with all hands.

On the plateau of the Danedendong range an avalanche of earth fifty acres in extent swept down the mountain side, engulfing the residences there. The inmates escaped. Railroads were partly washed out for twenty miles. A great number of sheep were drowned. The estimated total loss will reach half a million pounds.

At last advices the Murray was rising, and floods in Albury district were feared.

Much sickness is prevalent at Melbourne, attributable to exposure and the deposits of slime left by the floods.

The Jews.

LONDON, August 7.—A Berlin dispatch says that a secret understanding has been arranged between the powers of the tripple alliance to stem as far as possible the tide of Jewish emigration from Russia, and to force the Jews back into Russia. The motive is supposed to be that the Jews are an element of weakness in Russia, and that it is not desirable to have them foisted on other nations, especially the members of the alliance. Italy, Prussia and Austria, as if by common understanding, are taking steps to drive the immigrant Jews back from their borders. In Galicia, both the government and the populace are strongly opposed to the exiles, and a hundred have been compelled to recross the Russian frontier on the German frontier of Russia. The authorities have been ordered to make a rigid examination into the condition of all Jewish emigrants, and if a Jew is not in possession of a passport, railway ticket and enough money to guarantee his passage to and acceptance in America, he is sent back to Russia by the German officials. Many have been turned back in this way, and one unfortunate stabbed himself rather than again submit to the Russian yoke. The Italian government has expelled a number of Russian Jews from Genoa, and forced them to return to Marseilles. The Russian government, on the other hand, is relaxing the difficulties that surround the Jews who desire to leave the country. The charge for passports is abolished, and the Jews are no longer required to go back to where they were originally enrolled before procuring a passport. This latter provision was a chief weapon of blackmail on the part of Russian officials, and rendered it necessary for the fugitive Jew to bribe every officer whom he encountered.

The Chilean Trouble.

WASHINGTON, August 8.—The *Post* this morning prints an interview with Aquilla J. Laughterty, United States consul at Callao, Peru, who has just

returned from that country, in which he says the recent war in Chile is the most ridiculous revolution he ever knew or heard of. The revolutionists are stationed at Iquique, several hundred miles from Santiago, where Balmaceda has his headquarters. Balmaceda has a force of 30,000 armed men at his command, and the insurgents have 7000. Between the two capitals of the opposing forces lies a mountain range that simply is impassable by any armed force. There is absolutely nothing upon the barren range of rugged mountains to sustain an army, and it is impossible to carry across it that which is necessary to support an army. The insurgents have no ships with which to carry their men by sea, and if they had they would soon be destroyed, for Balmaceda has the whole coast protected by torpedo boats. Balmaceda is well supported with the sinews of war and goes on with the government, ignoring to a great extent the efforts of the insurgents. The idea of a party of revolutionists being 700 miles away from the people against whom they revolted, and totally unable to come nearer to them, strikes an American as being very far removed from what we would call an insurrection or rebellion. In the meantime, while opposing the party in power, the insurgents are living well and seem to be prospering. They occupy the rich district of Tarapaca, with boundless quantities of nitrates, the territory which Chile a few years ago wrested from Peru. From the large revenues they draw from these nitrates they are enabled to feed themselves and live comfortably. Merchant vessels put in at Iquique and trade in the products as they did before the rebellion, and the moneys thus brought to them is the chief income of the insurgents.

Death of Sister Merrill.

The following is an extract from a letter to the First Presidency, dated Fagaili, Samoa, July 15th, 1891, written by Elder W. O. Lee, president of the Samoan Mission:

"We have very bad news to report this month, and our hearts are filled with sympathy for all those who will be affected by the same. In reporting Sister Merrill's condition last month we thought she was recovering, but she had a bilious attack and could not keep any food on her stomach. As a result she became very weak and a premature birth was the consequence. This happened on the 28th of June. The child died next day. An hour after the death of the child, the mother called Sister Lee to her bedside and after thanking her for waiting on her during her sickness, said that she was 'going to die;' that she 'could not stay' because 'they had come for her.' She then talked with her husband, kissed him goodbye, and all was over. The sad event has left a cloud of sorrow behind that nothing but time and the Spirit of God can dispel. The funeral was held the next day. The mother and baby boy were buried in one coffin. By permission from the manager of the German plantation, we buried them on the brow of a hill about 200 yards S. E. from the mission house. They were buried in a dry, elevated place, so that when Brother Merrill's mission is ended he can take

the bodies home with him. We received the sympathy of our white friends here and also many offers of assistance. We can say all that is good about our dear departed sister. She was good and pure, had a great desire to fulfil her mission and do all the good in her power."

Sister Katie Eliza Hale Merrill was born Dec. 10, 1871, at Grantsville, Tooele, Utah, and was the daughter of Alma H. and Sarah A. Clark Hale. She left home in company with her husband, Elder Joseph Harris Merrill, of Smithfield, last February, and had been an active worker in the Sunday school and Y. L. M. I. A. She is the first sister who has died while on a mission.

City School Property.

The clerk of the Board of Education of this city has prepared the following list of valuation of school property for the county superintendent as provided for in the school law:

FIRST PRECINCT.		
	Grounds.	Buildings.
First ward.....	\$ 1,500	\$ 500
Second ward.....	4,500	500
Third ward.....	4,500	750
Eighth ward.....	5,000	1,000
Ninth ward.....	10,000	4,000
Tenth ward.....	6,000	7,000
Totals.....	\$34,500	\$18,750

SECOND PRECINCT.		
	Grounds.	Buildings.
Fourth ward.....	\$ 1,200	\$ 800
Fifth ward.....	2,500	3,500
Sixth ward.....	None.	None.
Seventh ward.....	6,000	9,000
Fourteenth ward.....	15,000	40,000
Fifteenth ward.....	2,500	None.
Totals.....	\$27,200	\$52,800

THIRD PRECINCT.
Reported in gross at \$34,000 for grounds and \$18,000 for buildings. Last year the reports of the trustees in the Third precinct were as follows:

	Grounds.	Buildings.
Sixteenth ward.....	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,000
Seventeenth ward.....	2,500	8,000
Nineteenth ward.....	5,000	5,000
Totals.....	\$15,500	\$20,000

The large increase reported this year must be mainly in estimated increase of values, nothing has been added save in the way of paying indebtedness.

FOURTH PRECINCT.		
	Grounds.	Buildings.
Twentieth ward.....	\$20,000	\$ 2,000
Twenty-first ward.....	10,700	2,100
Totals.....	\$30,000	\$ 4,100

FIFTH PRECINCT.		
	Grounds.	Buildings.
Eleventh ward.....	\$ 8,000	\$11,000
Twelfth ward.....	20,000	6,000
Thirteenth ward.....	31,000	3,000
Totals.....	\$59,000	\$20,000

John M. Samuels of Kentucky has been appointed chief of the horticultural department of the World's Fair. He astonished the Windy City people by saying that he never drank a drop of whisky in his life. He is no relative of Mrs. Samuels, the mother of Jesse James.

In recent Russian trials to test the adaptability of snow breastworks against an enemy's fire, it was found that a thickness of six feet was a perfect protection against bullets fired at 300 paces. Packing the snow and pouring water over it to make a crust of ice was found to keep bullets out when the thickness was only three feet and one-half.