

THE PRESS.

MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 9.

We do not read an anonymous letter and communications. The name and address of the writer in all cases indispensable, not necessary for publication but as a guarantee of good faith. We cannot undertake to return or preserve communications that are not used.

The latest from the fishery commission is that the outlook for a speedy settlement is not quite so good as it was supposed to be. Mr. Chamberlain anticipates that it will be some time before an agreement is reached, if one is ever arrived at. He expects to remain in Washington a month longer at least.

Speaker Carlisle seems to be much the same sort of a civil service reformer that Mr. Cleveland is. This is what the Washington correspondent of the Democratic Boston Post says of the majority of his civil service committee: "Of the members of the committee, the chairman, reported in the last Congress in favor of abolishing the civil service commission and doing away with the whole competition system. Some of Missouri agrees with him, and those of Maryland are one of the representative natives of the Gorman ring. Of the other four Democrats, three are new members. Gen. Dyer of New York, probably comes nearest to being a reformer than any of the others."

The story goes that the President is better pleased with the report of the minority of the Pacific railroad commission than with that of the majority, and will recommend its suggestions to the favorable consideration of Congress. The minority report looks simply to the punishment of the men who are alleged to have defrauded the government in the construction of the roads, and makes no attempt at devising means to get the government's money back. Perhaps if there was a reasonable prospect that the right men could be punished this would be well enough, but there is no such prospect, and the sensible thing under the circumstances is to save as much as possible from the wreck by the adoption of the plan that the majority of the commission recommends.

Mr. Sypher, counsel for Mr. Thobe who is contesting Speaker Carlisle's seat, alleges that when the returns began to come in showing heavy losses for Carlisle the latter was sent for and after consultation with him the managers of his canvass sent telegrams to remote counties of the State directing the holding back of the returns. If he is so there can be but one conclusion, the only possible motive for holding back the returns was to be able to doctored if it doctored was necessary to pull the speaker through. Mr. Carlisle's seat would be held, and consequently it would be unfair at this stage of the case to accuse him of being party to such an infamous trick as this. But he can hardly afford to ignore the charge. It is too serious and too many such transactions have been proved against distinguished Democrats in the past, to make it safe for the speaker to dismiss it with contemptuous silence.

The dispute between the Reading company and their miners seems to be one eminently fit for arbitration. It relates entirely to wages. The miners contend that the reduction proposed will place their wages at so low a figure that they will not be able to support themselves and their families, and the company has made public no good reason for the reduction. Cost is higher than for some years, and there is no good reason why the company should reap the sole benefit of this enhancement of price. The laborer is worthy of his hire, and it ought to be big enough to furnish him the necessities of life. If the condition of the Reading company and its business is such that it cannot pay that which it ought to be able and willing to show to be an impartial board of arbitration. Indeed it ought to welcome the opportunity which arbitration will furnish to show either that the miners' representations are not true or that the company does not have the ability to meet its employees' reasonable demands. Refused to arbitrate under the circumstances would be construed by the public as an admission that the miners' demands are just and that the company can, but will not, because of its greediness, accede to them.

The Toronto Globe, which has heard the report that the British Commissioners have induced the Canadian government to admit American fishermen to the trading privileges renounced on their behalf by the Convention of 1832, pending the award of arbitrators charged to pronounce upon the conflicting claims of the interested governments, says that the most important question is as to the nature of the submission to arbitration. The Globe then goes on to declare that perpetual concession would be made were the Canadian government to consent to more than adjudication as to whether the Canadian case is good for arbitration. "We admit," says the American claimant that waters between headlands not more than ten miles apart are of the high seas, and to consent to arbitration as to whether the shore line should follow the sinuosities, would be a great surrender." To the Americans the matter of the greatest importance would be the selection of the arbitrator. With an impartial arbitrator, a Belgian under the thumb of Great Britain, American fishermen might get the rights of commerce which are part of the usages of civilized nations; and Canada would surrender nothing more valuable than her own preposterous claims. But the experience that our fishermen have had with arbitration has not been such as to commend that method of settlement to them.

The recent discouraging reports from Bishop Taylor's mission on the Congo and not sustained by a letter dated Vivi, Congo River, Nov. 2, which the Waterville Mail prints, from a young Waterville lady, the wife of Missionary Taylor, who is with Bishop Taylor. She says: "I am perfectly contented here and never for a moment have wished myself at home, so pray don't waste any more sympathy on self-servicing missionaries. We have plenty of rice, sugar, coffee, flour, dried apples, and can buy potatoes, bananas and native food." Yet the Congo country would not be a very tolerable country for weaker knotted missionaries, as the writer in another part of the letter says, "Have had the fever twice since coming here; the last time in July. Mr. Clifton has and it might times in the future, in the sequence. We take quinine every day as a safeguard." Bishop Taylor's band are the pioneers, and the first problem is to support themselves. The bishop selects a station, builds a house of grass or clay, digs a garden where almost everything necessary to eat can be raised, and other things, such as indigo, spices, etc., for export. It is a plenty of natives can be found who will work for their board and the instruction given; so it is expected that after two or three years the station can be made perfectly independent of the society, and the way can be opened for missionaries who will do nothing but teach and preach. A band working under such difficulties and in such a situation can not for a long time be safe students and paying disciples. But so long as the spirit of the missionaries is such as is revealed by the letter, the mission can hardly be said to be a failure.

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