

the treaty and all the proceedings of the commission to be made public.

House.

The day on the 5th was spent chiefly in consideration of the Alaska crimes bill.

On the 6th, 7th and 9th the legislative executive and judicial appropriation bill was considered. A motion to strike out the civil service appropriation was defeated on the 9th by 124 to 96, and the bill was then passed.

Consideration of the Alaska crimes bill was resumed on the 9th and continued on the 10th, and also on the 11th, when it was passed.

MISCELLANY

THE SPECTRAL GUEST.

For The Public.

The landlord lived in a house of stone;
With purple and gold, his livery shone;
To supply his wants taxed every zone;
And he lived a life of ease.
But the landless poor spent life in toil;
They delved in the mines, and tilled the soil;
And the fruits of their labor were the landlord's spoil,
Which he ever would greedily seize.

In the homes of the poor sat a specter gaunt;
That specter was "Want, and the Fear of Want."
Them awake or in dreams, like a fiend, he would haunt,
Till life was dreary and bare.
They summoned a priest, and bade him tell
A way of relief from the specter's spell.
The good priest said: "By candle and bell,
And exorcism and prayer."

As the rubric prescribes, to the specter he said:
"Cursed be thou, from the crown of the head,
To the sole of the foot;" but the specter dread
Never winced or fled away,
Though the lighted candle was dashed on the ground,
And the bell was tolled with a solemn sound.
Said the priest, when futile his efforts were found:
"God wills the specter's stay."

As drowning men will clutch at a straw,
So hungry men will clutch at the law.
Lo here, or lo there, as anyone saw,
They framed and enacted laws.
Astounding results, from their laws, ensue;
From vast to vaster the specter's form grew,
As if from their laws he sustenance drew;
But they could not fathom the cause.
An implous few, who could not understand,
While plenty and more was produced in the land,
Why they should go with an empty hand,
Eternal Justice blame.
And throughout the land was a vague unrest,
And even the landlord seemed unblest,
Forebodings dire his heart oppressed,
And fears he could not name.

But there came a man, a friend of the poor;

And he spake as man never spake before,
Since the days of Him on Galilee's shore,
"Whom the common people heard gladly."

"The specter," he said, "that vexes your lives,

Brings hunger and cold to your children and wives,

Is the child of Injustice—on monopoly thrives."

And he kindled a hope in each poor man's breast,

As he told him the way, with the keenest zest,

To oust the unwelcome spectral guest.

But the landlord heard him sadly.

BENJAMIN H. DAVIS.

Foxcroft, Me.

FREE TRADE AND PEACE.

What divides the Cobdenite from his opponent is not, strictly speaking, the cause of peace as against war, but the greater cause of humanity as against cynicism and materialism. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the cause of peace and humanity are the same. In the hundredth case where peace means acquiescence in a colossal crime the true exponent of imperial greatness becomes suddenly conscious of imperial weakness, the jingo roars at you as gently as any sucking dove, and it is left to those who most hate war in itself to press for the execution of justice upon a criminal. Apart from this exception the creed of Cobden is the creed of peace, and we do not know what modern statesmanship has to offer us that is better. Those who charge Cobden with a narrow commercialism forget that to him free trade meant not only the redemption of the masses from a state of abject poverty which is now almost forgotten, but a permanent basis for the peace of the world.—Manchester (England) Guardian.

HOW PROTECTION MAKES WORK.

For the Public.

Dave Wells is a liberal-minded fellow, but he cannot take in that point. Now, I am broad-minded, and willing to admit whatever good there is in any theory, so I said: "I'll make it clear to you for once—Pat had a pig worth a pound and potatoes worth a pound. The land owner takes the pig for rent and leaves the potatoes. See?"

"Yes," says Wells, "he would do that."

"Now," says I, "the land owner sends the pig to Jamaica for rum and drinks the rum."

"So he does," David put in.

"But," I continued, "Pat has now no pig, and no way of getting one. But, if the land owner trades back the pig to Pat for whisky made out of the potatoes in Ireland, Pat can eat the pig instead of the potatoes, and has the work (for

which he gets wages in his profit) of making the whisky. See?"

"Where does his profit come in?" says Wells.

"Why," I replied, "of course the potatoes are worth more after Pat has put his labor on them making whisky of them, than they were as plain potatoes, so Pat can keep some of them to eat and use the rest for the whisky, which the land owner employed him to make. Now you see how keeping the trade to ourselves gives work."

Wells said: "But, if rum is cheaper in Jamaica, so that the land owner sends there for it, why couldn't Pat have sent his spare potatoes to Jamaica in exchange for rum, and traded some of the rum to his land owner for the pig? Then he'd have had the profit without the work."

Wells isn't so liberal as I had supposed.

BOLTON HALL.

HARD QUESTIONS.

State Superintendent of Schools Stetson was visiting a school down in Pembroke, when he got into the pleasant mazes of nature studies, and asked some interesting questions about the little things of the world about us.

"How many seed compartments are there in an apple?" he queried. No one knew. "And yet," said the state superintendent, "all of you eat many apples in the course of a year, and see the fruit every day, probably."

"You must learn to notice the little things in nature. Now perhaps some little boy who has driven the cows to pasture every day this summer can tell me on which jaw the cow has her teeth?"

No answer. Rather was there blank astonishment, at last pierced by one little fellow volunteering the information, that "our cow has teeth on both jaws, 'cause she chaws hay all up fine."

"If that is so, my boy," replied the head of the state schools, "I'd advise you to sell that wonderful cow with teeth on both jaws to some museum. I'm afraid, children, that you haven't studied nature quite closely enough."

The talk of the state superintendent deeply impressed the children. They earnestly discussed the matter at recess time, and the teacher next day overheard this conversation in the playground:

A little girl got some of her companions around her and gravely said: "Now, children, make believe that I'm Mr. Stetson. You've got to know more about common things. If you don't you'll all grow up to be fools."

"Now tell me," she said, looking sternly at a playmate, "how many