

always accessible. The new Shah began immediately upon his accession to hear that because of his entourage he was difficult to approach. So, says the Teheran correspondent of the London Daily Mail, his majesty has ordered that telephonic communication be installed between the palace and a public square, and has invited his subjects to use this telephone in order to enter in direct communication with him.

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The National Congress in India.

Mail advices report the proceedings of the Indian National Congress (p. 944) held in Calcutta from Dec. 26 to Dec. 29. This was the largest of these congresses ever held. Over 1,500 delegates attended, including more than a hundred Mahomedans. Every day the pavilion was packed with an audience of over 15,000. All India was represented. The demand of the Congress was for a greater degree of home rule. One resolution advocated the introduction of self-government under the colonial system; another advocated greater freedom for municipalities. On the 27th the Congress passed a resolution recording its sense of indignation that Indians should be denied citizen rights in the Transvaal. To British Imperialists the chairman said: "Do not misread the signs of the times. Your choice is between a contented people and another Ireland in the East." The Congress will meet again at Nagpur next Christmas.

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A Japanese Test Case in San Francisco.

A test case to determine whether Japanese children can be legally excluded from the public schools of San Francisco has been arranged for. Keikichi Ooki, the ten-year-old son of a Japanese bookseller, formally applied for admission to the Redding primary school on the 17th, and met with prearranged refusal. The United States district attorney thereupon applied to the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus compelling the board of education to admit the boy, and commenced suit in the United States Circuit Court for the same purpose. The dispatches state that attached to the petition for the mandamus was a request by United States Attorney General Bonaparte to the effect that the United States be made a party to the record for the purpose of enforcing the treaty with Japan. State rights, the treaty of the United States with Japan, the validity of the order issued by the San Francisco board of education, and the constitutionality of a law of the State of California, as well as an interpretation of the word "Mongolian" are involved in the two suits. A contention which heretofore has not been mentioned in this controversy between the State and the Federal government is the claim that the Federal government, by land grants and appropriations of money, has helped to support the public schools of the State with the understanding and intent that said schools should be conducted in conformity with the legislation of the United States, and with all treaties made under the authority of the United States.

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A Day of Railroad Disasters.

On the 19th ten railroad accidents occurred in different parts of the United States, four of them in

Indiana. The Chicago Tribune thus enumerates them:

Terre Haute, Ind.—Car of powder on siding exploded as Big Four passenger train passed; both trains blown to pieces; at least twenty-five killed; many others injured.

Fowler, Ind.—Big Four passenger express from Chicago wrecked in collision with freight train; at least sixteen persons killed or burned to death.

Hammond, Ind.—Lake Shore suburban train in collision with empty freight; twelve passengers hurt.

Schnelder, Ind.—Two trainmen fatally injured in collision between freights on Indiana Harbor road.

Houston, Tex.—Passenger train on the International and Great Northern railway wrecked; many passengers are reported injured.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Winnipeg flyer of the Great Northern wrecked ten miles out of Minneapolis; three passengers injured.

Bureau, Ill.—Train 337 on the Rock Island road wrecked in washout near Bureau; engineer and fireman and four passengers hurt.

Meridian, Miss.—Collision between passenger and freight on the New Orleans and Northeastern railroad; engineer killed.

Desoto, Kan.—Locomotive exploded on Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway, killing the engineer and fireman and a brakeman and demolishing the bridge it was crossing.

Alma, Mich.—Pere Marquette passenger train wrecked by a broken rail; none of the passengers was seriously injured. Fireman Homer Johnson was buried under the engine and killed and several other members of the train crew were bruised.

The first of the above wrecks was the most dreadful. It occurred at Sanford, nine miles east of Terre Haute. Later reports give the number of bodies recovered as 27. As some bodies were completely dismembered, it will be difficult to be certain as to the exact number of the dead. There is doubt as to the contents of the car which exploded, and an investigation is on foot.

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The Jamaica Earthquake.

The destruction and the loss of life at Kingston (p. 995) were even greater than at first reported. Three days after the earthquake it was discovered that the shores of the harbor were sinking, at least in part, and that the bed of the harbor had wholly changed. The city was described on the 16th as being like a charnel pit, with hundreds of decomposing corpses beneath its ruins. Every business house, church, theatre, bank and hotel had been destroyed by earthquake or fire.

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There being no British warships in West Indian waters at the time of the disaster, American naval officers hastened to offer relief to the stricken city. A dispatch dated at Kingston on the 17th stated that

The streets of this city are now picketed with American guards. Admiral Evans at the request of the British authorities landed a force of marines from the battle ships Missouri and Indiana.

Admiral Davis reported to the Navy Department, through Admiral Evans on the 18th, very fully of the situation. Among other particulars, stating that:

The Governor, Sir Alexander Swettenham . . . assures me there is no need of police protection or relief; declined my offer to land wrecking party to assist in hos-