of the other Powers just enumerated. It has set France and Germany \$50,000,000 each to turnish their respective armies with this new nick-firing gun, and the wagons and ammuniion that constitute the necessary complement; and masmuch as the number of Russia's batbris is somewhat larger, about 650 all told the expense of arming them with quick-ring runs would be proportionately larger.

THE ORIGIN OF THE DREYFUS TROUBLE. Incidentally it may be stated here that it is bese quick-firing guns which are to a great exient responsible for the Dreyfus case. At the e when several years ago. France first resolved upon adopting the quick-firing cannon, Russia asked for the plans and drawings. To his request France demurred. She asked Rusis to wait until she herself had completed the soutpment of her own army with these guns (it has only just been completed), and then insisted that Russia should land herself to order in Prance all the quick-firing guns which she peeded for the rearming of her artiflery. Rusda replied that, having excellent gun factories d her own, she did not see her way to spend shroad \$60,000,000 or \$70,000,000 which would stimulate and enrich her own industries if expended at home, and thereupon set to work to btain by means of secret agents the plans and frawings of the gun. These attempts were successful, and it was the knowledge that the plans and drawings had been obtained by Russia brough underhand means that gave rise in Paris to the public charges of teachery against

Prench artillery six times stronger than that cannot spare the \$60,000,000 or \$70,000,000 The complete failure of the crops last year in into her war reserve, and not only obstructing, but actually arresting, her policy of expansion east of the Urals. It might still, perhaps, be managed were it not for the famine. But if, in addition to the extensive relief made neces-sary during the next few months, Russia is called upon to incur the expense of rearming her entire artillery at once, it will be impossible for her to carry on the construction of her railroads in Siberia, toward the Indian frontier and in China, besides subventioning the Emperor of Corea, Chinese statesmen and Central Asian rulers.

It would be unjust, however, to forbear to ascribe to humanitarian motives the peace conference upon which the Czar has set his heart. Possessed of a keen sense of the responsibilities of his tofty office, he is overwhelmed with horror by the description of the misery that even now prevails in the nineteen famine-stricken provinces. He naturally shrinks from spending millions upon the construction of engines destimed to destroy human life when by devoting that same money to the relief of his stricken subjects he can save hundreds of thousands from the horrors of death by starvation

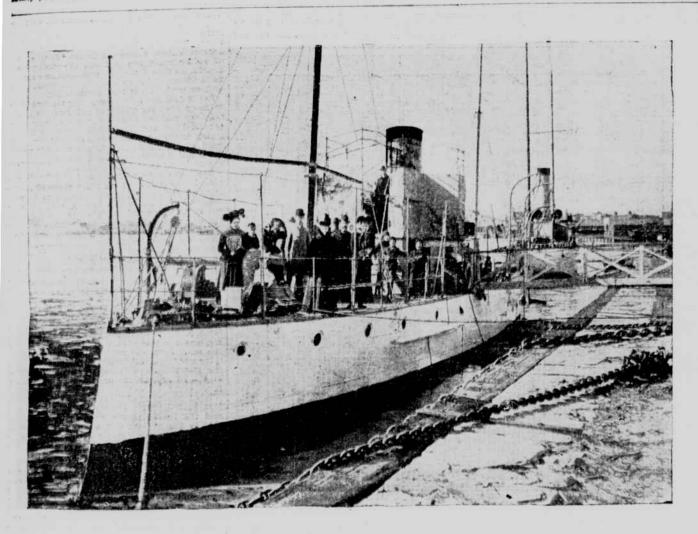
THE EXTENT OF THE FAMINE.

It is difficult for foreigners to conceive the terrible character of this famine now raging in Russia. The official reports admit that no less than nineteen provinces, with a population of 40,000,000, are affected by it, and it is worthy of note that the sufferers comprise not merely the French War Department. In order to the peasantry, but likewise the landed gentry satisfy public opinion it was necessary to find a and territorial nobility, who in many instances

according to the St. Petersburg "Novoe

these facts that he is anxious to reform the service of his Government and to relieve the

Russia, except Finland and the Baltic Provinces, was due mainly to the fact that the fields have not been tilled or sowed by the peasantry. The Government, in order to provide money for its standing army, had confiscated and sold for non-payment of taxes the agricultural implements, as well as the horses, the cattle, the sheep, the pigs and the poultry-in one village, Vremya," the tax-gatherers seized every chicken in the place, about six hundred in all. Formerly the peasants were able to raise the cash requisite for the purchase of seed and implements by pledging a portion of the crop to be grown, but since the Muscovite Government resorted to the policy of persecution and expulsion of Germans and Hebrews, who were the only persons in Russia possessing the means of loaning money to the agricultural population, the practice of mortgaging and discounting the harvest in advance has necessarily ceased. The Government has endeavored to take the place of the Jowish and German money-lenders by establishing agricultural credit banks for the landed gentry, as well as for the peasantry. But in this, as in all Russian Government en-terprises of the same kind, the dishonesty and corruption of the Russian officials, high and low, serve to deprive these praiseworthy projects of their usefulness, and render them not a blessing, but a curse. It is because the young Czar has by careful investigation made himself acquainted with all



THE CAPTURED SPANISH GUNBOAT SANDOVAL At the Washington Navy Yard.

Exapegoat, and, as the anti-Semitic craze was are seeking and obtaining Government and even sufferings of his famine-stricken country before then at its height, Dreyfus, as the only Hebrew member of the general staff, was selected for the purpose and the evidence against him fabricated. It is pretty generally known, however, that the person who furnished Russia with the trawings and plans of the quick-firing gun was no less a personage than General de Boisdeffre, then chief of the general staff, now dying in distrace from cancer of the throat, while the Rustian parties to this conspiracy were General Obrutcheff, chief of the Russian general staff, and Baron Mohrenheim, at that time Russian Ambassador on the banks of the Seine. It is a significant fact that although General Obruttheff, who is married to a French woman and b the most intimate friend of Boisdeffre, was stated for the portfolio of Minister of War, he was suddenly and sensationally dismissed from office at the same time as Baron Mohrenheim and General de Boisdeffre, and, like them, reletated to dishonorable retirement, without any reason being given at the time for this sudden disgrace,

It is because the French authorities know that the publication of the secret dossier containing nce of the underhand attempts on the part of ...ssia to obtain the drawings and working plans of the new gun would bring about the rupture of the Franco-Russian alliance that they are so anxious to prevent the nature of these documents from becoming known.

Although the Russian Government has had the drawings of the French and of the German quick-firing guns in its possession for some time it has not yet proceeded either to manufacture them or to take any steps to equip the army therewith. This delay is due to the enormous expense which it would involve. Russia private relief. The very thatch from the roofs has been consumed in food for the cattle, which have to such an extent succumbed to hunger that even in the agricultural districts least affected by the famine 80 per cent of the rural population are without horses or cattle, and, therefore, without means to plough their land. Hunger typhus has broken out among the peo ple, with its usual accompaniment of bovine typhus among the cattle, and Russia may therefore look for another visitation of the cholera, since this pestilence usually follows in the wake of famine.

THE FAMINE LOAF

In some districts the starving populations have attacked and severely injured the veterinary surgeons and Government officials sent to destroy the carcasses of the cattle which had sucumbed to bovine typhus, the meat, though black with disease and putrefaction, being ravenously devoured by the rioters. The loaves sold as "famine bread" are composed of the coose-foot plant, which is catalogued in the Russian pharmacoposia as an emetic, and animal dung. These ingredients are baked into a hard, black mass, like stone, and it is for the sake of obtaining one of these loaves that every form of murder and robbery is being committed. A sample of this bread, which, according to official reports, forms the sole sustenance of 30,000,000 men, women and children, is exhibited in the great cathedral at Kazan, with the object of stimulating private charity. But charity stands paralyzed and powerless in the presence of a famine of such magnitude.

The responsibility for this famine, as for that of 1892, lies at the doors of the Russian Government far more than at the gates of Providence. side him.

Major Gordon, R. E., the nephew of the great general. Owing to the shallow water the steamer could not come in close to the bank, and a small boat had to be used. The process of embarkation was slow, and gave one a good opportunity of studying the lines of this cele-brated old craft while waiting one's turn to be

taken on board.

Surely no boat that swims to-day can boast a history so full of vicissitudes and tragic incident as the Bordein. Had they tongues, each plate and plank of the old paddle-steamer could unfold a tale of unrivalled horrors and atrocities. It will be remembered that she was wrecked in the Shabluka Cataract on her return journey from Khartoum, with Sir Charles Wilson and Major Stuart-Wortley on board, after their fruitless effort to relieve General Gordon. Since that day site has been in the hands of the Dervishes, transporting them up and down the Nile on their raiding expeditions. Only last Fri-Since that day see has been in the hands of the Dervishes, transporting them up and down the Nile on their raiding expeditions. Only last Friday she was ministering to these monsters of bruts bloodthirstiness and rapine, and four days later she returned to her original vocation, that of a pleasure steamboat, once on the River Thames. She is riddled with bullets and shells—more than half of her port paddlebox is torn away; yet she can still steam at great speed against the heavy flood stream of the Nile. In her engine-room there is a brass plate bearing the name of the firm which built her, "John against the heavy flood stream of the Nile. In her engine-room there is a brass plate bearing the name of the firm which built her, "John Penn Brothers, Greenwich," and her present efficiency, after all these years of knocking about is an eloquent tribute to the solid work-manship of British shipbuilders and engineers.

The "reis" who piloted her in Gordon's time was still on board, and directed her course from the bridge, with Gordon's nephew standing beside him.

CAPTURED GUNBOATS.

THE ALVARADO AND THE SANDOVAL ATTRACTING ATTENTION AT THE WASHINGTON NAVY YARD.

Washington, Jan. 21.-The Spanish gunboats Alvarado and Sandoval, the only war vessels captured from Spain by the North Atlantic Fleet, and the only ones to reach this country, have attracted thousands of sightseers to the Washington Navy Yard this week. The Alvarado was surrendered in Santiago Harbor at the time of the capitulation of that place, and, although claimed by the Navy, was held by General Shafter for some time, causing great friction with Admiral Sampson until the President directed that the vessel be delivered to the Navy. Lleutenant Victor Blue was placed in command, and, after thoroughly overhauling the little vessel at Guantanamo Bay, he took her to Manzanillo, where she participated in the last naval battle of the war. The Sandoval was blockaded in the upper part of Guantanamo Harbor above the mine fields when the United States established the rendezvous there early in the Santiago blockade.

After the fall of Santiago, when Guantanamo was surrendered, the Spaniards, on deserting the Sandoval, sunk her, and she was not raised until September 1. Both vessels were constantly used during the wrecking operations on the vessels of Cervera's fleet, but they started North in November, ordered to the Portsmouth Navy Yard for extensive repairs. The rough weather encountered at this time of the year north of Cape Hatteras compelled them to enter the Chesapeake, and their further cruise Northward has been abandoned for the present, it being the intention of the naval authorities to rehabilitate them at Washington or at Norfolk.

While the Alvarado and Sandoval are not adapted for long ocean cruises, especially at this season, they are admirable to perform the duty for which they were designed and built; that is, for guarding the harbors and coasts of Cuba against filibustering expeditions and smugglers. They were constructed for the Spanish Government at Clydebank, England, three years ago, and although they have been on duty in West Indian waters scarcely two years, the Spaniards in charge of them, through stupidity or neglect, have almost ruined them. They are of only 100 tons' displacement, not half as large as many of the torpedo-boats owned by the Navy, and much smaller than any of the yachts used as auxiliaries during the Spanish war, but they have a speed of nineteen knots, draw only five feet of water, and they are miniature warships of the cruiser type in every particular. As soon as they are put in good condition they will be sent back to Cuba and continue on coast guard duty.

FAMOUS QUARRIES.

THOSE OF RED PIPESTONE SUNG OF IN HIA WATHA.

Pipestone (Minu.) correspondence in The Chicago

SANDOVAL

Sufferings of his famine-stricken country before wasting any more millions on the military incubus of nineteenth-century prosperity and progress.

AN HISTORIO NILE STEAMBOAT.

From The London Graphic.

AN HISTORIO NILE STEAMBOAT.

From The London Graphic.

At midday on September 6 some three hundred Englishmen embarked at Omdurman on board the Bordein, which was commanded by Major Gordon, R. E., the nephew of the great on the corner of the land. The school has general. Owing to the shallow water the s built on one corner of the land. The school has proved so successful that a second building, the size of the first, is being built to accommodate the ever-increasing number of pupils.

The poem of "Hiawatha" begins:

On the great Red Pipestone quarries, and any one unacquainted with the neighborhood would naturally suppose that it was hilly, to say the least. On the contrary, the country is quite level, there not being even what in Eastern parlance would be called a "small hill" in the neighborhood. The quarry lies in about the centre of the bed of what is apparently a prehistoric lake, and when first discovered the stone cropped out of the surface, but the contract of the party in the contract of the surface is extended the stone cropped out of the surface, but the con-tinual quarrying for ages has extended the quarry about sixty rods toward the south, and as the dip of the vein is toward the south it is now necessary to remove from six to eight shale and dirt before the pure stone is

No one but the Indians are allowed to quarry it, and every summer they come in squads from distant reservations to get supplies of the stone with which to make pipes, knicknacks and or-naments that they carve out of it, both for their naments that they carve out of it, both for their own use and for sale and trade to the white man. They also frequently sell the stone in the rough to the white men, who, with a turning lathe, can work it up much better than they can.

The atone is known to the scientific w The atone is known to the school of Catlin, the celebrated historian of the Indians, who was the first white man to set eyes on the quarry, while gathering material for his "History of the Indians of the Northwest," in 1836.