

additions in flat rates from threepence to six pence per ton. Indications already point to the consumers having to pay for the rise. In London household coal is expected to advance two shillings per ton and the Middlesbrough iron manufacturers announce that the prices of pig-iron and steel must be raised to the consumer to meet the increase.

Washington, Dec. 30th.—Rear Admiral John E. Peelsbury, retired, died at his home here today.

Paris Dec. 30th.—Kurt Von Lersner, head of the German delegation at Versailles, called on M. Dutasta, Secretary of the Peace Conference, yesterday, but the greatest reserve is being maintained relative to the subjects discussed and is only known that Herr Von Lersner did not bring the German reply to the last note to the German Govt. from the Allies. It is generally understood, however, that Germany is inclined to sign the protocol to the Peace Treaty, on condition of guarantees regarding possible reductions as to the quantity of harbour and dock material to be handed over in compensation for the German ships sunk at Scapa Flow.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27th 1919.
Flour, Blended Clear St. Lawrence Brand
pr. brl. \$11.90
Meal, Kilndried per 100 lbs \$3.92
New Season's Pork per brl. \$45.00
Heavy Mess Pork per bbl. \$47.00
Sugar---Crystals (Confirmed by Brckers)
per 100 lbs. \$7.28.
Molasses 89° test pr 100 lbs. no quotation
Cotton, Middling Upland, at Liverpool per
lb. 26 68-100c.
Exchange, New York and London, 60
days' sight \$3.75
Exchange New York and London, sight
\$3.78½

LONDON, Dec. 27th 1919.
Sugar-Demerara Crystals duty paid price.
fixed by the Royal Commission per cwt
66s. 0d. -97s. 0d.
Muscovado, 89° basis, floating terms in
bond, Ditto duty paid. 63s. 3d.—86s. 0d.
German Beet 88°/o f.o.b. no further sales
during the war
White Java sugar* cif U. Kingdom cif
without engagement. 8.50.
White Java Sugar, cif United King-
dom if arrives before 27th December 85/
Demerara Rum, per gal. nominal.
Trinidad Cocoa, Good Middling Red per
cwt 128s. 0d. 130s. 0d.
Cotto Medium Fine Sea Island, at Liv-
erpool nominal per lb.
Bank of England rate of Discount per
cent. 6.
Consols 50½
Three per cent rentes in Paris Fcs. 60.00
All prices subject to correction.

COST OF GUILLOTINING MORE.

Assistants of M. Deibler, the official who operates the guillotine, have demanded and obtained an increase of pay

on account of the high cost of living. In addition to a retainer of 3,000 francs per annum, they will now receive 15 francs, instead of 8, for each "working day." "Working day" in their official sense being infrequent, they have plenty of leisure to pursue additional trades. One assistant keeps a fruit store; another is a piano tuner, and a third is a checker for a transport company.

Deibler draws 6,000 francs per annum, with 8,000 francs extra for the upkeep of the guillotine.

In the fifteenth century "cases" were more frequent, and the French public executioner was paid by "results". Beheading in those days cost 20 francs; hanging the same; drawing and quartering, 30 francs, and boiling in oil, 50 francs, with many odd extras, such as 10 francs for exhibiting a man's head on a pike.

Putting a food profiteer in the pillory cost 2 francs, whipping him, 4 francs extra; branding him with a hot iron, 10 francs extra. — *Porto Rico Progress*.

SOMETHING DOING IN P. R.

(Buffalo Courier.)

The annexation of Porto Rico twenty years ago was a bit of bold "imperialistic" policy that has never been satisfactorily explained. Why did the American commissioners at Paris insist upon taking Porto Rico outright while giving Cuba a freedom with only a string tied to it? No matter now; results have apparently justified what was done, although Uncle Sam is told by pro-Germans and pro-Japanese that he is an "imperialist," and they point to Porto Rico to prove it.

Governor Arthur Yager of Porto Rico maintains that, all in all, the two decades of progress made by Porto Rico under the American flag constitute a record unequaled by any people anywhere in the world in the same length of time. And in support of his statement the governor has given to the Associated Press a massive and impressive statement of facts.

Porto Rico had an exhibit at the Pan-American exposition in Buffalo in 1901. Her commissioners celebrated here President McKinley's proclamation of free trade between the island and the United States. The foreign trade of the island for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1901, was only \$17,502,193 compared to \$141,896,490 for fiscal year June 30, 1919!

This growth is a good illustration of what has occurred in nearly all branches of Porto Rican activity, such as agriculture, public works, public utilities, health service, public schools and so on.

The number of children in the public schools has increased from 21,000 to 160,000; teachers from 525 to 2,984; school expenditures from \$288,000 to \$2,500,000.

Porto Ricans themselves are doing nearly all the work of whatever nature. In the government service there are 5,953 positions, all but 208 of which are held by natives, and of the 208 there are 148 teachers, chiefly of technical subjects. Governor Yager says that, as a general policy, just as fast as Porto Rico could be trained for self-government their government has been handed over to them. — *Ibid*.

Speaker: "Thank God, the country has gone dry. It will bring sunshine to many a home."

Skeptic: "Yes, and moonshine too, brother."

Self-Defense.—In a crowded omnibus a stout woman vainly endeavored to get her fare out of the pocket of her cloak, which was tightly buttoned as a precaution against pickpockets.

After she had been working in vain for some minutes, a gentleman seated on her right said, "Please allow me to pay your fare." The lady declined with some acerbity, and recommenced her attacks on the pocket.

After these had continued for some little time her fellow passenger said, "You really must let me pay your fare. You have already undone my braces three times, and I can not stand it any longer."

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