

list of contraband; they have throughout the war kept it on the free list; and on every occasion when questioned on the point, they have stated their intention of adhering to this practice.

#### Concealed Contraband.

"But information has reached us that, precisely because we have declared our intention of not interfering with cotton, ships carrying cotton will be specially selected to carry concealed contraband. We have been warned that copper will be concealed in bales of cotton. Whatever suspicions we have entertained, we have not so far made these a ground for detaining any ship carrying cotton; but, should we have information given us which gives us reason to believe in the case of any copper will be concealed in bales of cotton concealed copper or other contraband, the only way to prove our case would be to examine and weigh the bales, a process that could be carried out only by bringing the vessel into a port.

"In such a case, or if examination justified the action of His Majesty's government, the case shall be brought before a prize court and dealt with in the ordinary way.

"That the decisions of British courts hitherto have not been unfavorable to neutrals, is evidenced by the decision in the Miramachi case. This case, which was decided against the crown, laid down that the American shipper was to be paid even when he had sold a cargo c. i. f., and when the risk of loss after the cargo had been shipped did not apply to him at all.

#### Suspicious Rubber Trade.

"It has further been reported to His Majesty's government, though this subject is not dealt with in Your Excellency's note, that our embargo on the export of some articles, more especially rubber, have interfered with commercial interests in the United States. It is of course difficult for His Majesty's government to permit the export of rubber from British dominions to the United States at a time when rubber is essential to belligerent countries for carrying on the war, and when a new trade in exporting rubber from the United States in suspiciously large quantities to neutral countries has actually sprung up since the war. It would be impossible to permit the export of rubber from Great Britain unless the right of His Majesty's government were admitted to submit to a prize court cargo and of rubber exported from the United States which they believed to be destined for an enemy country, and reasonable latitude of action for this purpose were conceded. But His Majesty's government have not provisionally come to an arrangement with the rubber exporters in Great Britain which will permit of licenses being given under proper guarantees for the export of rubber to the United States.

"We are confronted with the growing danger that neutral countries contiguous to the enemy will become on a scale hitherto unprecedented a base of supplies for the armed forces of our enemies, and for materials for manufacturing armament. The trade figures of exports show how strong this tendency is, but we have no complaint to make of the attitude of the governments of those countries, which, so far as we are aware, have not departed from proper rules of neutrality. We endeavor, in the interest of our own national safety, to prevent this danger by intercepting goods really destined for the enemy without interfering with those which are bona fide neutral.

#### Publication of Manifests.

"Since the outbreak of the war, the government of the United States have changed their previous practice and have prohibited the publication of manifests till thirty days after the departure of vessels from the United States ports. We had no locus standi for complaining of this change, and did not complain. But the effect of

# MEWA SINGH GOES TO GALLOWES WITH CHANT ON LIPS

Chanting prayers in a quavering voice, Mewa Singh, who murdered Inspector W. C. Hopkinson in the corridor of the provincial court house on October 21, was this morning launched into eternity.

Save for a perceptible tremor, the condemned man showed no signs of nervousness at his approaching fate, his song continuing until the fatal bolt was shot.

At three minutes past eight Hangman Ellis went to the condemned cell and adjusted the arm pinions; two minutes later Mewa Singh had paid the dread penalty of his crime. Death was instantaneous.

Balwant Singh, the Sikh priest, arrived at the provincial jail early this morning, and after being subjected to a rigorous search, was admitted to the cell wherein the condemned man was confined, remaining with him until the end, and joining him in his chant to the last.

The execution of Mewa Singh is unique in the annals of the country as being the first execution of a Hindoo on this continent.

Outside the jail a number of his compatriots had gathered in the grey dawn, and at the Sikh meeting place some 150 had gathered for the purpose of offering up prayers for the soul of their brother.

Later they walked in procession to the B. C. E. R. depot, their number creating quite an excitement in the Royal City. The late Mewa Singh, besides being, as far as known, the first Hindoo ever hanged on the American continent, also had the doubtful distinction of having been tried and sentenced for murder in the shortest time ever known in the history of justice in the British empire. He was tried and sentenced last November in the record time of one hour and forty minutes, the evidence being so conclusive and convincing as to admit of practically no shadow of defence.

After being officially pronounced dead, the body of Mewa Singh was turned over to his comrades, who had assembled 370 strong in front of the provincial jail to accompany the deceased to the Fraser Mills, where it was burned on a pyre, according to the Hindoo rite. The East Indians marched five abreast and kept up a continual chant during the four mile journey to the Mills. The cremation was only allowed after permission had been given by the provincial authorities.

## FIVE-YEAR SENTENCE FOR COUNTERFEITER

Four years' imprisonment was on Friday meted out to G. A. Watson, charged with having in his possession and using appliances for the making of counterfeit coin.

His Honor Judge McInnes, in passing sentence, expressed the opinion that the prisoner was an adroit crook, he having a record of imprisonment in Walla Walla on a similar charge.

Prisoner conducted his own defence, but could not satisfactorily account for the incriminating articles found in his possession.

Jack Johnson and Jess Willard will meet on March 8, but why not on April 1?

#### Only Candidate With Platform.

Mr. Taylor explained that he was not in the field because he thought he knew more about running civic affairs than anyone else, as Mayor Baxter did, but came before them, with a definite platform, something unique in the present campaign, as none of the other candidates had such a thing.

Mr. Martin had one at the outset, but he kicked his own planks from under him as soon as the campaign opened.

Mayor Baxter's only idea was to kick at his predecessors, and tell the public what a hard time he and his confreres had had during the past two years, although admitting that they had done nothing in that period.

The mayor was keen in attacking the increase in the bonded indebtedness during certain years immediately prior to Mayor Baxter's election in 1912, but, invariably neglected to point out the growth of the city, both in population and improvements, and the fact that the indebtedness per capita was less at the present time than in 1909.

Mr. Taylor admitted that mistakes may have been made during his administration, "but," said he, "better to make a mistake than to die of stagnation and dry rot.

"The best of us make mistakes; let's profit by them." (Cheers.)

Mayor Baxter had belittled the finances of the city, but the speaker showed his hearers that the city's borrowing power at present was \$18,000,000.

#### Pertinent Query for Baxter.

Scoring Mayor Baxter in connection with the eleventh-hour reductions of salaries, Mr. Taylor asked why, if the mayor was so anxious to do some good he did not cut down the salaries in May last, instead of waiting until six weeks before the election to play politics.

#### Direct Denial to Baxter.

Mayor Baxter had said at the Trades and Labor Hall recently that there were no complaints from the fire and police departments as to reductions of salaries, as soon as they knew it was for charity, but the speaker assured the meeting that the complaints were general.

"You cannot reduce those departments and retain efficiency," said Mr. Taylor. "I stand for a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, and I do not hold with reducing salaries under the guise of charity. (Applause.) If men wish to give to a charitable cause, let them do so voluntarily, don't take it from their wages." (Applause.)

Mr. Taylor next touched on the relief work given out by the city at \$1 per day with a board bill of 75 cents per diem, and explained that with a wet day during the week men worked only for their board.

#### Unexpected Corroboration.

A Voice—"That's right, Taylor, I'm out there myself."

Mr. Taylor—"And what are the meals like?"

Voice—"Not quite as good as the Hotel Vancouver." (Laughter.)

#### Convincing Logic.

Continuing, ex-Mayor Taylor said the city had no right to take advantage of men because times were bad, but should pay them at a rate which would give them the chance to make enough to get away from the city if they wished. Moreover, said he, the city set the scale for wages, and if they cut things down under the guise of relief work, other employers of labor would also do so, and the circulating medium of the city would become less and less and times still harder. (Applause.)

Mr. Taylor outlined his scheme for issuing city scrip, and explained that this scrip would be precisely the same thing as the large bonds of the city, except that the denominations would be smaller.

At this juncture a voice said: "You'll

#### Works

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