

point on the West end of Java, not yet decided upon, to Réunion, which is already linked up to Madagascar by the Tamatave-Réunion section. In that case France would have an alternative route to Madagascar, independent of England, the only route, at present, being by English lines to Mozambique and then on by the French cable Majunga-Mozambique. The latest Franco-English agreement, moreover, with reference to a Réunion-Mauritius connection is in no way contradictory to the idea here set forth. Until the great Java-Réunion line is finished which cannot be for some time, however, great the skill and industry of the French cable manufactories, it is of the utmost importance to France to ensure for herself a junction with the great line of the United Companies, the Perth-Cocos Island-Durban line. At all events the French line, when it is finished, will give France an independent route, not only to Madagascar but also over the section Majunga-Mozambique to East Africa, with the result that there will be a still further shrinkage of the portion of the world served exclusively by English cables.

One word in conclusion: if the endeavours described above have a tendency to attack the monopoly hitherto existing of the English companies, they must not be regarded in any sense as directed against England. Nay, more, it is the English people who have, up to the present, derived the greatest advantage from them. For it is entirely due to the fact that there are rivals springing up on all sides, that the United Companies have found themselves obliged in the last few years, bit by bit, to reduce to a considerable extent (as much as 50% in places) their tariffs which were formerly incredibly high. The greater and more widely extended the British world-trade is, in comparison with that of other nations, the more intolerable is the burden of the heavy telegraph charges, and thus it is the British trader, particularly, who derives benefit from the waning of the English cable monopoly.

—Fins—

TELEGRAMS.

ALGECIRAS, March 15. In yesterday's sitting of the conference the French delegates made a fresh proposal on the Police question, of which the following are the chief features: The Police are to be under the sovereignty of the Sultan, are to be recruited from mussulman Maroccans commanded by Maroccan kaid, and divided among the eight harbours open to trade. French and Spanish officers are to be placed at the disposal of the Sultan for the organisation of the Police. They are to be entrusted with the broader features of organisation, instruction and management. Details of Police management are to be settled by the senior French and Spanish instructors in conjunction with the War Minister of Morocco or his representative. The number of policemen is to be fixed at from 2000 to 2500 men, to be divided in groups of from 100 to 500 according to the importance of the harbours. The French and Spanish officers are to number 15 to 20, with from 30 to 40 underofficers. The requisite money is to be advanced by the bank. The proposal contemplates the organisation of the police by French and Spanish officers, minor details being left to future arrangement between them and the Maroccan Minister. No mention is made of the post of "Inspector" which was recognised in principle by the French delegates yesterday.

PETERSBURG, March 15. The Ministerial Council has instructed the Minister of the Interior to pay particular attention to circumstances pointing to Anti-Semitic disturbances, that measures to meet them may be taken in time. The Minister is to require from the Governour Generals and the Governours the adoption of measures which will prevent excesses against the Jews on the part of the mob, and is to especially remind them that their duty bids them take precautions for the public order and safety and for the inviolability of life and property. Besides this the Minister of the Interior has been instructed to give orders that in the carrying out of any existing regulations touching the Jews, no new limitations directly deduced from the law are to be admitted.

PETERSBURG, March 15. In order to guarantee the freedom of the elections for the Imperial Duma and the Imperial council a series of special regulations are being drawn up at present by the Ministerial Council, according to which everyone, without exception, is to be punished, who attempts to interfere with the legitimate course of the

elections, by threats, employment of force, entertaining voters, gifts, promises of emolument, blackmail, bribery, or other illegal methods.

LENS, March 15. Precautionary measures of great importance have been taken to avoid further disasters. In the shafts are doctors to lend first aid to members of the rescue party who may be taken ill. The work continually becomes more difficult. The rescue parties cannot work longer than 6 hours. The party from Westphalia and the Paris firemen have rendered invaluable services. They are ever in the forefront of the search for bodies, which are then conveyed away by the workmen as soon as the air is pure enough to breathe. The rumour that two of the Paris firemen succumbed yesterday is without foundation. Neither of them, nor of the Westphalians have any as yet been unwell, though they are greatly exhausted.

PARIS, March 15. Chamber of Deputies. In today's morning sitting during the discussion on the naval estimates the Marine Minister M. Thomson stated that telescopic sights had already been supplied to a number of battleships. The Minister made further statements as to the progress made in gun manufacture and explained that the present guns, though much heavier than the former ones, possessed a greater initial velocity. Cast shell have been replaced by steel shell. "We shall," continued the Minister, "increase the rapidity of fire. The battle of Tschushima showed the necessity of this. We shall accustom our gunners to shoot at long ranges. Practice hitherto carried out at a range of from 2 to 3 miles will in future be carried out at a 5 or 6 miles range. Gunnery schools will be increased in number. The amount of mobilisation supplies of ammunition will be increased as well as the reserve supply." The Minister went on to point out that the naval manoeuvres in 1905 had shown the powers of endurance and energy of the French crews and the capability of resistance of the ships. "We demand of the country," concluded the Minister, "great sacrifices; but these sacrifices are inevitable in order to strengthen our national power of defence. We desire peace, and the best means of ensuring peace, lies today and always will lie, in preparation for war."

LONDON, March 15. To a question whether any English subjects settled in Madeira have been expropriated, and under what circumstances such expropriation has taken place, Sir E. Grey, Secretary for Foreign Affairs replied that no such expropriation had taken place.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated it was not intended to make a grant out of the public funds to Princess Ena of Battenberg on the occasion of her marriage with the King of Spain. The House then resumed the discussion of the army estimates.

ALGECIRAS, March 15. The situation is unchanged. It is not yet known, when the next full session of the Conference will take place.

LONDON, March 15. In the House of Commons, Major Seely, Liberal member for Abercromby moved that the strength of the Army be reduced by 10,000 men; and pressed the Secretary of State for War to promise that the reduction shall take place next year. Mr. Balfour said, the special need for keeping up the Army lies in India; where it might be said that we can ignore the difficulty because the only Power with whom we could think of war on account of India is at present involved in domestic complications and certainly does not wish to come into collision with Great Britain on any question whatever. But every country must take care that its defensive strength is maintained at such a point as to meet any eventuality, without hurting the feelings of its neighbours. "I do not say," remarked Mr. Balfour, "that a reduction of the Army is impossible; but every reduction should form part of a general scheme, under which the possibility of increasing our effective fighting forces in case of a lengthened war would be assured."

Mr. Haldane, the Secretary of State for War, declined to bind himself to any particular plan, until he has had time to consider it from all points of view. The problem of Army organisation must be examined with reference to the requirements of the Empire. The strategy and strength of the Army must be determined by Imperial policy. Mr. Haldane then showed that it is possible to bring about a diminution of the cost of the home Army by re-organisation; and declared his agreement with Major Seely's views, while again declining to bind himself at this moment to any particular measures of retrenchment.

MOSCOW, March 15. A proclamation by the Prefect of Moscow warns the citizens not to believe disquieting rumours, which are entirely without

foundation. The document declares that the peace and security of the city will be carefully guarded, and that any attempt to disturb them will be rigorously put down.

SIMFEROPOL, March 15. A violent hurricane, which has been raging for three days in the Black Sea, has done great damage in all the harbours. The communications by sea are interrupted.

BOSTON, March 15. The German tank-ship "Mannheim" has landed here the 11 persons, part of the crew of the English steamer "British King", rescued from the latter before she foundered. The third officer states that nine men deserted from the "British King" before she left New York, and that he believes the number who went down with the ship did not exceed 18.

LONDON, March 15. The captain of the steamer "Mabel" which arrived to day in Bo'ness reports, that he sighted the German sailing ship "Trenge" flying signals of distress. On approaching her, he found only one man on board. The captain and two seamen had been washed over board and drowned. The lifeboat of the "Mabel" had rescued the survivor: but as she was being hauled up again on board, she was struck by a sea which half-filled her and drowned the coxswain: The "Trenge" remained derelict in the North Sea.

According to a telegram from Boston (Lincoln) the "Trenge" was towed in there by the trawler "Bennington".

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, March 15. The Lloyd steamer "Königin Louise" has put in here with damage to her rudder and other parts of the ship.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 15. The Committee appointed to examine a plan proposed by an American syndicate to connect Kansk, and Alaska by railway and tunnel under Behrings straits, held their first sitting today. The syndicate will construct the railway at their own cost on condition of receiving a strip of territory 27 kilometers wide all along the line, to be utilized for industrial purposes.

LONDON, March 15. Major Seely's motion to reduce the strength of the Army by 10,000 men was rejected by 296 to 56 votes.

PARIS, March 15. The whole neighbourhood of Courrières is threatened with an epidemic in consequence of the stench of the corpses. Typhus is feared.

BRUSSELS, March 15. In South Holland, during the recent storms, more than 150 warehouses have been flooded and destroyed. The railway lines, are in many places washed away. On the railway embankments lie agricultural implements, bodies of animals, tree-trunks, &c. The damage throughout South Holland is estimated at fifty millions.

ESSEN, March 15. With the object of throwing the early passenger train from Oberhausen to Stirum off the rails, some person or persons hitherto undiscovered had built up an obstruction of heavy materials. The attempt was frustrated by some platelayers a few minutes before the train was due to pass the spot. A few days ago the train was fired at, on the same part of the line.

BERLIN, March 16. According to the *Vorwärts*, 105 Meetings are to be held on Sunday the 18th instant in Berlin and the suburbs, with the order of the day "The citizen revolution of 1848-9 and the Prussian three-class electoral system."

LILLE, March 16. The strike of the miners is extending. In the Dourges mines 2469 out of 2724 men have ceased work. The strikers have endeavoured to induce the men in the neighbouring mines to come out. Work is altogether at a standstill in the Courrières mines. The men belonging to the Shafts in which the disaster occurred will endeavour to compel the Company to pay them wages for the days during which work is stopped. There is no disorder.

LONDON, March 16. The *Daily Telegraph* hears from Tokio that the Czar has determined to send a Grand Duke to Japan with a Staff of Generals, Admirals, and high officials. Japan will in like manner send a Prince, with suite, to Russia.

LONDON, March 16. According to a *Daily Mail* telegram from Zangero, the rebels at Sokoto were attacked on the 12th instant by the English expedition, and nearly destroyed. The force then marched on Sativu which, after a bombardment, was carried at the point of the bayonet in spite of a brave defence. The rebels, who were pursued by mounted infantry, lost over 300 killed.

LENS, March 16. The number of the miners on strike is 10,000. The leaders of the miners syndicate will have an interview tomorrow with the representatives of the mining company, to discuss the demands of the men.

(Continued on page 4.)

ESTABLISHED 1872.

SCHLOESSMANN and SCHEFFLER

26, Rosenstrasse 26.

Clearing, storing, packing, forwarding, and commission Agents. Own teams and vans. *Dry and spacious Warehouses.* Correspondents in the principal cities and towns in Europe, America, and all parts of the world. Charges strictly to scale, and very moderate.

Agents for *Downing's American Despatch*, New York. For the Continental Daily Parcels Express Gracechurch-street, London; also for the pioneer firm of *Geo. Wheatley & Co. Henry Johnson & Sons*, Pitt and Scott, J. and R. Mc. Cracker, Sutton & Co. all of London. Saxon Agents for the *Russian Transport and Insurance Co.*, St. Petersburg which has 130 branches in Russia alone.

Messrs. *Schloessmann and Scheffler* have had great experience in packing, and forwarding works of Art purchased on the Continent — from the heaviest articles of furniture to the most fragile porcelain and glass

by rail and ocean routes always to the satisfaction of their employers.