

The Government has taken steps to secure communication with the islands and to see that letters are forwarded into the interior.

ELECTION RIOTS IN HUNGARY.

A serious collision has taken place in Königsberg, in Hungary, between the soldiers and some electors. The mob threw stones at the soldiers, many of whom were wounded. Thereupon the troops fired upon the mob; two persons were killed and several wounded.

THE SERBIAN PARLIAMENT.

At the commencement of the sitting of the Skupschtina the ukase touching the nomination of the Government was read. In reply to a question of the Young-Radical, M. Stanojewitsch, the Prime Minister, Paschitsch stated that the *modus vivendi* with Austro-Hungary would remain in force until further notice. In answer to a question as to Anglo-Serbian relations, the Prime Minister replied that the government would examine the question and solve it in the interests of the country. The Nationalist, Welikowitsch retorted that the interests of the country ought not to be allowed to suffer for the sake of retaining the services of the small number of officers in question. (Applause from the Left and the Galleries.) At the close of the sitting the ukase announced the day before, was read aloud.

During its reading the Nationalists and Social Democrats ostentatiously remained seated.

Latest Telegrams on page 4.

THE INTERNATIONAL ELEMENT IN MODERN SPORT.

Few things are more remarkable than the way sport and athletic games of all kinds have, in recent years, been influenced by the international element which has been imported into them. And nowhere has this been seen to a greater extent than in the magnificently managed series of athletic contests which have just come to an end in the Stadion at Athens. These contests were, indeed, a worthy revival of the Olympic games, which were, as is well known, of such repute among the ancients that each recurring festival gave a number and a name to the year in which it took place. That any event of the sort should be thought worthy of such a distinction, is unparalleled, though there are, we understand, gentlemen in England with such sporting proclivities that the Epsom Derby is to them of far more importance than any other event in the year, and the equine hero which achieves success in this race is allowed to give its name to the year, and the year 1867, for instance, is always referred to by them as "the year Hermit won the Derby."

The international character of the modern Olympic games would certainly have horrified the original participants not a little. When the great athletic festival was at its zenith only free-born Greeks were allowed to participate in the contests, and it was only in later times that the Hellenisation of the East opened the lists to Romans, Asiatics, Macedonians and Egyptians. In the old times the Greeks desired to keep the advantages bestowed by their manly exercises to themselves. Strong wrestlers, agile boxers, speedy runners were the stuff from which the best fighting men were made, the men upon whom the country could rely in time of need. Nowadays athletic contests have a nobler goal; for us too, athletics signify the rational development of a healthy youth, capable of self-defence and a more than fitting reply to the frequently alleged degeneracy of the age; but besides this the international element in modern sport tends to achieve a more ideal object, namely the fostering of friendly and even fraternal relations between countries which are more wont to look upon each other as trade rivals. Perhaps nothing has contributed more to the cementing of those ties which bind England and her colonies together, than the cricket tours so frequently undertaken by English players. On the occasion of an Anglo-Australian test match all other events pale in importance; kings may be dying, dynasties be changing, but to the vast crowd seated round Sydney's peerless ground, or intently watching at Old Trafford, the question whether Australia's champion batsman will reach his century or whether a ball from the wily Yorkshire bowlers will find the wicket, is of far more importance than anything else. With America too, England has her international contests. Sir Thomas Lipton has yet to "lift" that cup, and though the summer games of the two countries are different and though to an Englishman a baseball match is as uninteresting as a long day's cricket would be to an American, in other branches of sport the two countries have long been friendly rivals. Oxford and Cambridge have had to strike their flag to Harvard and Yale in athletic sports; only a year or so ago an American golfer by his marvellously accurate putting became the amateur golf champion of Great Britain; even the invincible Doherty brothers,

whose victories in the lawn tennis world grow almost monotonous, have had once or twice to acknowledge defeat in the States, and no crews receive a warmer welcome at Henley Regatta than those from America.

But this rivalry in sport is now by no means confined to English-speaking races. A French sportsman presented a magnificent trophy, representing Jason and the golden fleece, to be competed for yearly by the rowing clubs of Paris and Frankfurt, and German sportsmen are used to seeing, not without some slight compunction, the best prizes taken by French horses at the international race meeting of Baden-Baden. Only a week or two ago, the Corinthians, members of England's premier amateur football club, were playing against teams in Berlin and Hamburg, and though their victories were somewhat easily attained, their welcome was none the less hearty, the applause of the spectators none the less enthusiastic. How keenly another great winter-game of England has been taken up in Germany may be judged by the increase in the number of German hockey clubs, and here, too, the international element was recently *en evidence*, a team of Essex hockey players coming across the North Sea to try conclusions with their Hamburg rivals. No meeting, however, has ever had quite the international character of the Olympian games just concluded, which were daily crowded by spectators of all nations, and which have been graced by the presence of that essentially sport-loving monarch King Edward. Among the prize winners are Americans, Englishmen, Frenchmen, Germans, Italians and Norwegians, while a Canadian came in first in the final event, the exacting race from Marathon to Athens. And who of the various competitors can fail to derive benefit from rubbing shoulders and exchanging ideas with men of such widely differing races? It is certainly to be hoped that other places besides Athens may see fit before the next Olympian games are due, to initiate an athletic festival on an equally large scale and of an equally international character, since such festivals can make for nothing but good and international amity.

THE TABAH QUESTION.

EGYPT'S CLAIMS WELL FOUNDED.

The right of Egypt to Tabah is incontestable. In the time of the Pharaohs the Sinaitic peninsula belonged to Egypt, and though in later centuries it was a kind of no man's land, when Mohammed Ali, in 1841, gave up all claim to Syria, the Sultan's Firman, recognising him as ruler of Egypt, assigned the peninsula of Sinai to Egypt as lying "within its ancient limits." The Firman, which was dated February 13, 1841, purported to be accompanied by a map showing the frontiers of Egypt, but if this map was ever prepared (which is doubtful) no copy of it has ever been produced.

On March 22, 1892, the Sultan re-signed the Firman investing the present Khedive, Abbas Hilmi, with the Khedivate. In this document the boundaries of Egypt were mentioned, as those "indicated in the Imperial Firman of 1841, as also on the map annexed to the said Firman."

In the hope of removing any cause of dispute the Khedive, on the suggestion of Lord Cromer, asked for a definition of the frontier between Egypt and Syria, and the Porte explained in a telegram from the Grand Vizier, dated April 8, 1892, that the Sinai Peninsula—"that is to say, the territory bounded to the east by a line running in a south-easterly direction from a point to a short distance to the east of El Arish to the head of the Gulf of Akaba—was to continue to be administered by Egypt."

The point "a short distance to the east of El Arish," from which it starts, is the place where two marble pillars were set up to mark the frontier, after the settlement of 1841. The other end of the line is the north end of the Gulf of Akaba, and it has always been understood that the line lies just to the west of the Turkish fort of Akaba.

The Gulf of Akaba is little frequented. It is a deep mountain trough, with coasts formed of granite cliffs. Its waters are over a hundred fathoms deep, the few ports afford little shelter and navigation is endangered by north-east gales. In the days of King Solomon the gold of Ophir was brought by the Phoenician galleys to the port of Ezion Geber, on the Gulf of Akaba. In our own time the only trade of the gulf is the pilgrim traffic between Akaba and Jeddah, the port of Mecca.

The Hamidieh-Hedjaz railway, constructed by German engineers under a decree of the Sultan for the purpose of carrying the pilgrim traffic, is to connect Damascus with Medina and Mecca. In 1904 this line reached Maan, which is connected by a few miles of caravan track with Akaba. At Akaba there is a Turkish garrison, with grain stores for the pilgrimage and a quarantine station. The railway has now been pushed far south of Maan, but until it is much nearer completion the stream of pilgrims will leave it at Maan to go on by sea from Akaba.

Tabah, which was lately occupied by a detachment from Akaba, lies to the west of the Akaba-

El Arish frontier line. At Tabah there is only a ruined fort, a few huts, a good well, and a clump of neglected date-palms. The name is applied loosely to the whole of the low-lying land at the head of the gulf.

"CHRIST OF THE EARTHQUAKES."

San Francisco has, of course, eclipsed in magnitude all recorded cases of calamity by earthquake, but in South America they are infinitely more familiar with visitations of this kind—so familiar indeed, that buildings are specially constructed with a view to their being easily demolished and as easily reconstructed. And in the Peruvian town of Cuzco there has been for three centuries—in fact, ever since the Spanish occupation, a special festival, in Easter week, in honour of "Christ of the Earthquakes." The whole town is resplendent with decoration, waxen effigies of saints are carried shoulder high, and last of all, on a massive silver stand borne by eight miserably-clad beggars, a waxen representation of Christ, so ingeniously equipped with inner springs that the whole frame appears to be in a constant quiver. The sight of these tremors makes such an impression on the kneeling crowds that on the close of the procession at the cathedral doors, the people, and especially the women, almost forcibly resist the taking away of the image of Him whom they regard as their special protector.

THE BUDGET.

Whatever be the verdict upon Mr. Asquith's Budget, he is certainly in better case than one of his predecessors, Mr. Childers. The latter's 1885 Budget was only agreed to on the day it was presented, and that same day the Government fell. Lord Rosebery wrote its epitaph:—

Here lies a Cabinet; I'll tell thee why,
It spelt its funeral bier without an "I."

Robert Lowe got his Match Tax approved by the Cabinet, but had to withdraw it in Parliament, and when he laid down his office, sang:—

Twenty millions of taxes I struck off,
Left behind me six millions of gains;
Of Debt sixty millions of debt I shook off,
And got well abused for my pains.

His experience was less happy than when Lord Derby asked Lord Palmerston, "Is it to be tea and turn out?" "No, paper and stationary," was the reply, which declared Pam's intention to resist the repeal of tea duties and abolish those on paper.

AN IRISHMAN, OF COURSE.

A committee of *vigilantes* captured an Irishman and a Swede and proceeded to despatch them by tying a rope about their necks and shoving them off a railroad bridge. When the Swede was pushed off the rope came untied and the man struck the water and swam ashore. The Irishman, says "Harper's," was next, and when the men were preparing him he said, "Boys, be darn careful about fixin' that rope, I can't swim a stroke."

CHURCH SERVICES.

ALL SAINTS' (ENGLISH) CHURCH, Wiener Strasse.

Friday, May 4th. 10.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.
5.0 p.m. Choir Practice.
Sunday, May 6th. III. Sunday after Easter. 8.0 a.m. and 12.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany. 6.0 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.
Wednesday, May 9th. 10.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.
Friday, May 11th. 10.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.
Sunday, May 13th. IV. Sunday after Easter. 8.0 a.m. and 10.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Sermon. 6.0 p.m. Evensong and Litany.
Chaplain: The Rev. C. A. Moore, M. A., B. C. L.
Hon. assistant Chaplain: The Revd. M. S. Farmer, M. A.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, Reichsplatz 5, at the head of Reichsstrasse.

Friday, May 4th. Service 10.0 a.m.
Sunday, May 6th. 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.0 a.m. Holy Communion and Sermon. 5.30 p.m. Afternoon Service and Recital.
Friday, May 11th. 10.0 a.m. Service.
Rev. J. F. Butterworth, M. A., Rector.

The programme for the 12th Organ Recital at the American Church of St. John's next Sunday at 5.30 p.m. is as follows:

- 1) Prelude and Fugue Bach.
 - 2) Violin and organ. "Adagio, molto espressivo" Beethoven.
 - 3) "Prayer" Hiller.
 - 4) Violin and organ. "Adagio non troppo" Rubinstein.
 - 5) March on a theme from Händel Guitmant.
 - 6) Offertoire. Andante in E flat Heise.
- Soloists: Miss Cohen, contralto; Herr Josef Kratina, violin.
Organist: W. H. Williams.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH LIBRARY.

This Library is open and books may be borrowed: on Sundays from 9.45 to 10.45 a.m., and on Fridays from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m. Subscription 75 pf. per month, or 2 marks for three months, or 5 pf. per volume per week.

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