

come to an agreement whereby any orders for guns placed with either firm will be equally shared between them.

SWEDEN AND RUSSIA.

Stockholm, June 28.

The *Svenska Tel. Byran* is informed that the newspaper reports that Sweden has requested the English and French Governments to declare that the landing of troops by Russia on the Asland Islands is an infringement of existing treaties, are without foundation.

Latest Telegrams on page 4.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN WALES.

The earthquake shock experienced on Wednesday in England was the most severe that has been recorded in the British Isles for many years. Great alarm was caused by the disturbance, especially in South Wales, where its effects were most sharply and generally felt, and here some remarkable scenes and narrow escapes from disaster were witnessed.

In some districts two shocks were noted. They occurred between half-past nine and ten o'clock in the morning, and in most cases lasted from two to three seconds. The usual symptoms of an earth tremor, such as the rattling of windows and the swaying of chairs and tables, occurred everywhere, but in many instances a shock was experienced of a violence unexampled locally within living memory.

Although South Wales appeared to be the centre of the seismic disturbance, shocks were felt as far north as Holywell, in Flintshire, and as far south as Lundy Island and Ilfracombe. The eastern boundary of the area may be traced by a line drawn through Bristol, Birmingham, and Shrewsbury.

At Cardiff the Exchange and other large buildings were shaken. The shocks, which lasted about three seconds, appear to have been felt with greatest force at the docks, where for a few minutes there was quite a panic. The earthquake was preceded by a rumbling sound like distant thunder. Several considerable cracks were made in the walls of the Windsor rope works and the Brattice cloth works. The whole of the Exchange was distinctly affected, and a person who was on the premises described the occurrence as if the building appeared to move to one side and fall back into position. A gentleman on his way from Barry to Cardiff felt a severe shock, the whole train swaying backwards and forwards.

The shock was felt in a marked degree at Cardiff General Post Office. It was perceptible throughout the premises, but more especially in the instrument room. At one of the tables, where an operator was busily engaged, he was suddenly interrupted by violent knocking against his desk. He looked round expecting to see that a colleague had met with some mishap, but, to his astonishment, there was no one near the table. For a moment he was dumfounded. The other operators ceased their work, thinking that the slight disturbance at their desks was due to the passing of a heavy traction engine, but on looking out of the window no such engine was anywhere to be seen. The earthquake was felt in other parts of the building, especially by the superintendent of the telegraphs, who, after consultation with the other officials, came to the conclusion that there had undoubtedly been a tremor of the earth. Their opinion was quickly confirmed by the Swansea office communicating with them, telling them of the effects at that town.

The shock was felt all over Swansea. Many houses rocked, people rushed into the streets in alarm, and chimney stacks fell in all directions. Many narrow escapes are reported, including that of a postman from falling brickwork. The first indication of the shock was a roaring noise, as if some heavy weight had fallen suddenly on buildings. In all, hundreds of chimneys were destroyed. The children in the schools were sent home.

Two massive stone ornamental vases on the top of Swansea Post Office were precipitated to the ground by the earthquake, and several streets were littered with fallen chimney stacks.

A Merthyr Tydvil two shocks were experienced, the first being at a quarter to ten. There was much alarm at the public reading room. A heavy rattle accompanied the first vibration. The weather was overcast and rainy.

A telegram from Knighton states that the shock was distinctly felt there at 9.46, and tremors were also experienced at Llandrindod Wells and in South Shropshire.

At Bridgend, Glamorgan, people walking in the street were nearly thrown off their feet.

At Neath and Port Talbot house chimneys were hurled to the ground, and this also occurred at Llanelly, pictures being likewise shaken from the walls.

The shock was also felt at Carmarthen, where the people were considerably alarmed. At Abergavenny it was slight.

The shock was so severe at Aberdare that buildings rocked, and it is reported that a sergeant at the police-station was thrown off his chair.

The miners in the collieries in the Aberdulais Valley, near Neath, had terrible experiences. The earthquake shock pitched the men in all directions.

Workmen at the collieries in the Rhondda Valley were greatly alarmed, as many as a thousand men having to be brought to the surface at one colliery alone. The men were brought out of the pits at Treherbert, Pentre, and Ynysbir. Great consternation prevailed, fears being entertained that an explosion had occurred in a neighbouring colliery.

An earth tremor, lasting several seconds, was experienced at Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, causing houses to rock somewhat seriously, and the residents sought the streets, much frightened. Shocks are also reported from Llandilo and Porthcawl.

At Newport (Mon.) houses were shaken and crockery dislodged from shelves, while in several cases persons sitting at breakfast were thrown from their chairs. Women ran terrified into the streets, and great alarm was caused. As far as can be ascertained, damage to property was only very slight.

At Rhymney (Mon.) the doors of almost every room in some of the houses were burst open, pictures fell from the walls, and ornaments were thrown to the ground. In one house in the High-street, tables containing dishes were overturned, and the crockery was smashed to pieces.

A Lloyd's telegram from Lundy says that at about 9.50 in the morning a slight shock of earthquake was felt there, lasting nearly two minutes. A continuous dense wet fog prevails.

At Ilfracombe a distinct shock was felt at about 9.50 in the morning. At first there was a rumbling sound lasting a few seconds, and this was followed by a shock in the higher parts of the town. Plates, glasses, and crockery on shelves distinctly vibrated, and buildings trembled. In one instance a clock fell from a nail in the wall. The vibration lasted a couple of seconds.

In Bristol a shock of earthquake was felt about 10 o'clock in the morning in several parts of the city, notably in the vicinity of the City Docks. At many business places a loud rumbling noise was heard, and the buildings shook perceptibly. People ran into the streets in alarm, and the shock was the subject of general conversation.

The disturbance was distinctly felt at Weston-Super-Mare. The sensation to those who were seated at the time was as that of a triple wave.

The shock was felt slightly at Bath just before ten o'clock, buildings being noticed to tremble, and in some instances articles of furniture were shaken, but not sufficiently to cause alarm.

CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICA.

(By letter from our New York correspondent.)

THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR ON AMERICAN IDEALISM.

Extremely interesting and worthy of note was the speech delivered by the German Ambassador, Baron Speck von Sternburg, on the occasion of the festivities marking the end of term in the Illinois State University in Urbana. It was the second time that the German Ambassador had made a speech on an occasion of this kind before an American University. In the speech, which dealt with "The relations between good training and good government", occurred the following passage on German idealism. "It has often occurred to me", said the Ambassador after pointing out what an important factor intellectual relations between Germany and the United States had been, especially during the last 30 years, and what an influence the universities had had upon the life and prosperity of the people in America and Germany, "when I hear of the impressions which travellers from abroad have obtained in America of the country and the people, that these persons have often gone away with the impression that the American is at bottom a realist who strives for power and riches and visible comforts, and that the sole object of his life is the piling up of the almighty Dollar. People who judge in this way seem to me to be blind to all that is under the surface. They seem to have merely studied the great factories and industries at their central points, and not the character of the American man and woman. They seem to me to have been taken by the external symptoms which the opening up of a new country with national resources of necessity brings to light, without being capable of estimating the real importance and the object of those forces working in the American people. Since I came to this country for the first time I have gained the impression that in America the ruling spirit is an idealist one, and that the average American is actuated by idealist impulses. Those who contradict me in this matter, have never penetrated the depths of Ralph Waldo Emerson's philosophy, can never have really studied Abraham Lincoln's life and speeches, nor the far-reaching influence of these two on the people of America. Nothing is more striking in Lincoln's character

than the way he fused reality with the most lofty ideas, or than his gift of attaining the ideal by practical methods. This capability lent him a far-reaching, almost superhuman power which enabled him to pierce those clouds which veiled the horizon of the most courageous statesmen and thinkers of his age. Could it be otherwise than that a people that had produced such men as Lincoln and Emerson should be unselfish, charitable, and enthusiastic for the value of the ideal; that they follow the footsteps of their ancestors and are imbued with the conservative spirit? Such a people will always be more easily led by feelings than by calculations, by moving inspiration than by egoistic expectation. Ask any stranger who are the most real representatives of the actual American. If he knows the American people from his depths he will reply, Lincoln and Emerson. Emerson trained the heart of the new world to one harmonious beat, and his impulses have penetrated all the limbs of the body of your mighty Republic. Only look around you and you will recognise that idealism from the weal of the people has done more and is still doing more than cold logic could ever have been in a position to effect. Have not the American Universities always kept alive the flame of idealism, which Emerson first lit? Has not Harvard but recently honoured the great philosopher by a Memorial Hall?

In every one of you, if you are true Americans, are welling the idealist tendencies of these two great men. You have been created by the circumstances of your birth to follow the call of duty, and your inmost nature compels you to place duty above pleasure. These words may seem superfluous to you today, since you enjoy the privilege of developing yourselves beneath the ever watchful eye of this University. With the leading and guidance of distinguished men of science, amid these refined surroundings, you have peacefully sought the grains of wisdom. When you leave Urbana look to it that you preserve what you have gathered here. You are on the point of joining the company of millions of men whose only aspiration is happiness. You will see evil passions in every form, deceit, dishonour, avarice, lust. But you will only find these vices if you seek them, for it is a law of life that man finds what he seeks. By this I do not mean that you ought to step aside when these vices cross your path. That would be but a sorry exercise of the duty of a citizen and would be like grovelling before a man who has done you harm. Vice is spread abroad the whole world over, but when you meet it on your threshold, in your domain, it is the first duty of a man or a woman, who has any pretensions to the name of a good citizen, to come to grapple with it with the utmost energy. Life will appear to you as a tempter, and will aim at destroying the germinating seed implanted in your soul, by awakening self-seeking greed and a life of pleasure and lust. You will discover soon enough that the conscience of society is not so active as your own conscience, and that public life is often a distorted picture of private life. But you will do well to esteem the heavenly spark in every human being.

The Faust legend showed us long ago that only by ideal spirit and a sense of duty can real happiness be attained. The greatest philosopher of every age and every race would have agreed to this, in Europe and in Asia. When Frederick the Great wrote his "Anti-Machiavelli" the Emperor Kang-Hi ruled in China who, like the great Prussian king, had come to the conclusion that he was only the first servant of his people. Kang-Hi in his "Holy Edict" laid down a series of aphorisms which hold good in every age and amid every people."

The Ambassador went on to point out that a large number of the most famous sayings of President Roosevelt bore a surprising likeness to the proverbs of the Emperor Kang-Hi. The speaker concluded his speech with the words addressed by the Chinese Emperor Yaung-Chuing, son of Kang-Hi, to the graduating students on the occasion of the festivities marking the close of a term at a Chinese University: "The learned man stands at the head of four classes of the people. The respect which others show him should lead him to respect himself, and not to degrade his profession. If he remains in harmony with himself his neighbours will respect him as the pattern of a man. He ought therefore to prize highly the duty of brotherliness; he must consider general knowledge as the first, and literary polish as the last commandment. The companions that he chooses must be all tried characters. He must guard the truth strictly and let honesty prevail, otherwise he digs his own grave and brings shame on his college walls. He must not strive breathlessly for fame, nor devote himself to queer doctrines and give himself into the arms of scientific depravity. Think always that our Universities are not only there for the learned, but for the advancement of the people in general. Only he, who upholds these principles, is a true man of science."—"Friends", concluded the Ambassador, "these words were spoken 200 years ago to the students of an oriental college. Can we in our day of marvellous progress and advancement add anything to them. Let me say to you in parting: Remain always true men of science."

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