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THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

The *Press Association* reports that at the Colonial Conference on Saturday it was unanimously decided to set up in London, under the control of the Colonial Office, a separate organisation to deal with matters to be brought before the Imperial Conference, which will meet every four years. It was also practically agreed to establish a central staff to deal with questions of Imperial defence.

The *Press Association* further states that Lord Elgin's resolution in respect of the formation of an Imperial Conference was unanimously adopted by the delegates. The decision arrived at follows pretty much the lines of Mr. Chamberlain's resolution of 1902, and involves the establishment at the Colonial Office in London of a separate department with its own secretariat to deal with and arrange subjects for discussion at the Conferences. These, it is intended, will be held at intervals of four years, but there may be subsidiary conferences.

THE DISTURBANCES IN CAIRO.

The *Standard* learns from Cairo that much damage was done on Sunday by the mob, who attacked the tram cars with which the authorities were endeavouring to carry on the traffic of the city. In view of the attitude of the lower classes of the population English troops were held in readiness all day. Military pickets were patrolling the streets on Monday.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE CENTRAL REPUBLICS.

Reuter's Agency is informed that the Cortes Commercial and Banking Company (Limited) has received a telegram from its agent at Managua (Nicaragua) to the effect that there is no prospect of a renewal of hostilities between Nicaragua and Honduras.

THE SITUATION IN CHILL.

Reuter's Bureau learns that in consequence of the Cabinet crisis and of the serious financial situation in the country, the Government finds itself in a position of great embarrassment. Many failures have occurred in Santiago.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE ORLEANS FÊTES.

The Bishop has refused to take part in the Joan of Arc fêtes in consequence of the Prime Minister's refusal to allow ecclesiastical emblems to be carried in the procession, and because Freemasons are to be permitted to participate in the fêtes.

A later report states that M. Clémenceau has decided to allow the clergy to carry crosses in the procession at the Joan of Arc fêtes, but the Bishop is still greatly incensed at the probable presence in the procession of Freemasons.

THE GOVERNMENT AND STATE EMPLOYÉS.

The Under Secretary of State, M. Sarraut, speaking at Lyons on Sunday, justified the action of the Government toward recalcitrant officials and said that if anarchy was allowed to take its place in the Administration the carrying out of democratic reforms would be hindered. A strike of teachers would have fateful consequences and the *Confédération du Travail*, which apparently was attempting to kill patriotism, should be most severely censured.

ALARMING INCIDENT DURING ARTILLERY PRACTICES.

The inhabitants of the village of Altenrat near Cologne were thrown into a state of wild alarm on Saturday. Artillery practice was going on in the neighbourhood and suddenly a live shell fell in the middle of the village, fragments of iron being hurled against the houses. When a second shell fell, the inhabitants fled in panic. An officer has stated that the shells were only loaded with a practice charge; had they been filled with a high explosive, the result would have been terrible.

A CURE THAT FAILED.

A curious case occupied the attention of the courts in Vienna on Saturday. Professor Adamkiewicz of Cracow, in the year 1891, gave his cure for cancer, "Canceroin", to the firm of Merck in Darmstadt, and made an agreement that the firm should have the sole right of selling the same for 25 years. The firm was reserved the right of retiring from the agreement should there be no clear profit from the sale of "Canceroin" in five years. In the case of an illegal breach of the agreement the offending party was to pay a sum of £12,500. Professor Adamkiewicz now demanded the payment of this stipulated sum on the ground that the firm had frequently acted in a manner contrary to the terms of the agreement, from which they had illegally withdrawn in 1896. The action, which was commenced last year, was postponed for the purpose of the examination of experts as to the efficacy of the cure.

At the proceedings on Saturday the defendant Dr. Louis Merck, was present, as were two experts, Professors Eiselsberg and Neusser, both of whom expressed themselves in scathing terms as to the uselessness of "Canceroin" as a remedy. The defendant alleged that the firm had lost money over the specific. The court, finally, dismissed the case, and condemned the plaintiff in costs, on the ground that "Canceroin" had been proved by the evidence to be no efficacious remedy for cancer, and that the defendant could not be forced to place such a specific on the market.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

CONTINUED DISTURBANCES.

It is reported from Tambov that the Director of the Seminary, M. Simon, while on his way home from Church was fired at and severely wounded by a revolver bullet. His assailant escaped.

A professor of the Polish school in Lodz was killed in the 'open street' on Saturday. Several other persons were killed or wounded in the course of Friday and Saturday.

The *P. T. A.* announces that serious disturbances have taken place in Chanate Maku, on the border of the Government of Erivan in the Caucasus. The Chan, who refused to subordinate himself to the Persian parliamentary party Andshuman, escaped in peril of his life to Nachitshevan, from whence he repaired to Erivan; his palace and his treasures were looted.

THE CSAR AND HIS COSSACKS.

The Csar held a parade of Cossacks of the Guard on Saturday and made a speech in which he said that it would give him great pleasure to see his wish realised that representatives of all the Cossack troops should be enrolled in the Guards. He thanked all his Cossacks for their loyal services and especially those who took part in the war for their endeavours in glorious battles. The Csar then thanked the officers for that day's brilliant parade and drank to the fame of the regiment and the welfare of the Cossacks.

M. STOLYPIN AND THE DUMA PRESIDENT.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* on the 19th ult. published an article relating to the conflict between M. Stolypin and the President of the Duma, M. Golovin. Since the impression widely prevails that the *Journal de St. Petersburg* is closely connected with the Ministry of the Exterior, and since the article has been ascribed in error to the said Ministry, the *P. T. A.* once more gives the assurance that the Ministry of the Exterior has no relations of any kind with the *Journal de St. Petersburg*, as has also been frequently categorically stated in the columns of that journal.

DROWNED IN SIGHT OF LAND.

A terrible accident took place on the Neva on Saturday. The old steamship "Archangelsk" while conveying passengers from one bank of the river to the other, struck an ice floe and sank with the utmost rapidity. On board were 60 passengers, mostly labourers, of whom only 15 were saved, the masses of ice, the swift current and the darkness impeding the work of rescue.

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THE SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

The *London Standard* learns from Tangier that Mohammed el Torres has handed a note to the French Minister in which the Sultan promises to grant all the demands made by the French Government in the matter of the murder of Dr. Mauchamp at Marakesh.

PERSIAN AFFAIRS.

A communication has been made to the Parliament in Teheran that the National Bank has finally prepared its contribution to a Government loan, but that the Shah has not yet signed the agreement.

Emir es Sultaneh arrived at Enseli on Saturday, but the populace refused to allow him to land without the consent of Parliament. This was accorded by a large majority.

JAPAN AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

On nominating Mr. Tsusuki as the first delegate of Japan to the Hague Conference, His Majesty the Mikado made a speech in which he said: "Always advocate the peace of the world. We expect that you will carry out this desire at the Peace Conference to which you are sent."

MR. TREE IN BERLIN.

A remarkable scene was witnessed at the concluding performance of Mr. Tree's company, which was successfully given on Friday evening in the presence of a large audience, including the Crown Prince and Crown Princess.

The play given was "The Merry Wives of Windsor." After the principals had been called many times before the curtain amid uproarious applause and cries of "Speech!" Mr. Tree expressed his thanks in German for the favourable reception accorded to him and his company, which had surpassed their most daring expectations. It was a source of great pleasure and pride to him that the Berlin public understood the efforts of his company.

Mr. Tree, Miss Viola Tree, and Miss Constance Collier were then summoned to the royal box, where the Crown Prince took leave of them.

Meanwhile the audience still applauded, shouting for a speech in English. At the request of the Crown Prince, Mr. Tree thanked his hearers in English, speaking from the royal box, and afterwards spoke again from the footlights.

He announced his intention of visiting Germany next year.

ALPINE SNOWS.

Although it is a month since Spring—officially, as Sir Joseph Porter would have said—announced its presence among us, there is still in the Swiss valleys and uplands little visible trace of the said presence. In the deeply sheltered hollows things may be all very well, but on the rising slopes the weather is hard. At an altitude of 2,000 feet winter keeps a fast grip. Some of the hotels in the higher reaches should be opening their doors for the tourist season, but a thick layer of snow, from three to six feet deep, keeps them closed. About the Saint Bernard hospice the snow lies even fifteen feet deep, but as the depth has been anywhere up to thirty feet, the lesser figure may perhaps be regarded as giving a "ray of hope." The monks have had to shelter 1,200 persons during the winter, but there has been no loss of life.

HEROIC SELF-SACRIFICE.

There comes from Paris an authenticated instance of heroic self-sacrifice on the part of a young physician which will meet with all the grateful admiration which it deserves, though for the profession upon which he has shed such lustre the story seems to suggest at least one serious question. The doctor's name was Rabuel, and in attending a woman and child in the Menilmontant district, he deliberately gave up his own life to diphtheria that he might save theirs. As the disease was too far advanced for ordinary treatment to have a chance, he calmly resorted to suction. This was effectual in saving the patients, but it entailed his own death. A widow and young child are left the poorer in more ways than one for such a death, which, it will seem to some, should not have occurred unless the invention of some method of artificial suction is beyond medical science.