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THE BRITISH NAVY.

The first-class cruiser "Defence" was successfully launched at Pembroke on Saturday; she will develop a speed of 23 knots.

The 30-knot destroyer "Recruit," of the Dover active service flotilla, arrived at Sheerness Dockyard on Saturday with her stern damaged through a barge colliding with her while anchored in the Medway. It is expected that the necessary repairs will take a week.

INDIAN RAILWAYS AND POLITICAL AGITATION.

Threats of strikes, acts of insubordination, and other excesses have been fomented at various stations of the North-Western Railway by travelling professional political agitators. The manager of the railway has issued a notice recognising the possible existence of legitimate grievances, and assuring the employes of the readiness of the Government to consider sympathetically any respectful representations of the men, but warning the disaffected classes of the consequences of lawless methods.

In consequence of the recent unrest, permission has been given to Volunteers to withdraw their rifles and twenty rounds of ball ammunition individually from the armouries.

Most disquieting rumours are circulating in Calcutta (says the *Tribune* correspondent), to the effect that the Hindus and Mahomedans are secretly arming in Dacca, Narayanganj, and Mymensingh—that is, in the new province of Eastern Bengal, the formation of which caused such irritation among the professional Hindu agitators of Bengal last summer.

The *Indian Daily News* refers to reliable information in its possession, indicating that the trouble now threatened will be the most serious ever known in these provinces.

Mr. Surendranath Banerjee, who last September was crowned "King of Bengal" amid shouts of "Hail, Motherland!", has left Calcutta with a party of delegates to attend the Mymensingh District Conference.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

MR. ROOSEVELT AND THE CAPITALISTS.

From Mr. Roosevelt's speech at the opening of the Jamestown Exhibition, it will be seen that he is now, as he always has been, anxious to discriminate between corporate and individual capitalists, a distinction to which great practical importance is attached by business men in New York, his point being that as the State gives railroads, &c., monopolistic privileges, the State has the right in law and in equity to take care that those privileges are not abused. This attitude may not suit professional wreckers and unscrupulous financial operators, but it is one to which the average honest business man has no particular objection. It is clear that the Inter-State Commerce Commission is to continue to act with vigour against the big offenders, but that there is to be no special Session of Congress to consider legislative schemes for increasing the Federal power in this connection.

Senator Beveridge of Galena, Illinois, has announced his intention of bringing in a Bill during next session by which the overcapitalisation of railway companies and other corporations will be prevented.

COLLAPSE OF A RAILWAY PIER.

The news comes from Baltimore that by a collapse of a railway pier on Saturday eight navvies were killed and eighteen injured. Several ships were damaged by the wave six feet high that followed the collapse.

A TORNADO IN TEXAS.

A telegram from Fort Worth, Texas, announces that a violent tornado has destroyed the village of Hemming; eight of the inhabitants were killed. Lives have also been lost in neighbouring villages.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

Mexico threatens to break off diplomatic relations with Guatemala, unless the latter consents to hand over the Guatemalan General Fose Lima for examination by the Mexican Courts as to the murder on April 7th of the ex-President Barilla.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE PARIS LABOUR DISPUTES.

The Prime Minister, M. Clémenceau, on Saturday evening received a deputation of the strike-committee of the café and restaurant waiters, and promised to endeavour to persuade the employers to recognise the employes' syndicate and to accept arbitration.

On Sunday morning M. Clémenceau was visited by a deputation of café and restaurant proprietors but was unable to arrive at an agreement, since the employers declined to recognise the employes' syndicate. M. Clémenceau expressed his regret and surprise at this attitude, since they themselves formed a syndicate.

The President also received a deputation of bakers out on strike. He reproached them with the excesses committed by some of their comrades and said that he was ashamed to be forced to keep so many soldiers in the streets to preserve order. The bakers are to bring to the notice of the Prime Minister a short exposé of their demands.

Two thousand cooks and cooks' apprentices struck work on Saturday.

OPPOSING THE PRIME MINISTER.

M. Pelletan, speaking at the Nice Radical Socialist Congress, said that he regretted the policy of M. Clémenceau, because he had departed from the policy of M. Combes and was working for a cleavage of the *blocc*. M. Pelletan added "In order that the Republic may triumph, we will again unite the Republican forces".

THE ORLEANS FÊTES.

The Freemasons have protested to the State authorities at the action of the Mayor in excluding them from the Joan of Arc fêtes at Orleans.

ANTI-MILITARISM IN FRANCE.

General Picquart, interviewed by the *Matin*, stated explicitly that anti-militarism does not exist in the Army. Not a single case of breach of discipline, refusal of duty or rebellion can be pointed to, so far as the soldiers come in question. On the other hand, there have been unfortunately a few such cases among the officers, which, however, he hoped were only transitory.

STROMBOLI ACTIVE.

It is reported from Messina that on the island of Stromboli a fierce eruption accompanied by an earthquake took place on Saturday night; many window panes were smashed and other damage was done. Telegraphic communication between Stromboli and Lipari is interrupted; in the mean time during the night only flash-light telegraphy is possible between the islands.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

THE CZAR AND THE PEASANT DEPUTIES.

The Czar received a deputation of the peasant Deputies of the Duma on Saturday. The Deputies handed His Majesty an address in which was expressed the gratitude of the peasants for the confidence and kindness shown to the peasants and also for the admittance of their representatives to the Duma. The peasants maintain that their economic condition is lamentable owing to lack of land and want of credit, and express the conviction that one word from the Czar will suffice to ameliorate the lot of the peasantry. The address concluded with the words "We are determined to offer our lives to defend the Imperial autoeracy".

In his reply the Czar said "Convey to all who have sent you my own and the Czarina's hearty thanks for the words of loyalty and devotion uttered by you, on which the strength and solidity of orthodox Russia have always rested. You may rest assured that I shall do all that I can and that I may consider necessary to improve your lot. I hope that I shall succeed with your co-operation

and with that of all other members of the Duma loyal to the Fatherland and me, who now sit in it and who will sit in it in the future. I am delighted to see you and thank you for your wish to visit me and the Czarina. I am very glad to have had the opportunity of showing you the Heir Apparent. Convey to all who sent you my thanks for the sincere, Russian, sentiments to which you have given expression."

The Czarina shook hands with each of the 25 Deputies, who were then entertained to luncheon.

THE DUMA.

At Monday's secret sitting of the Duma the strength of the contingent of recruits was to be settled. Since it has transpired that the Right, the Octobrists, the Cadets, the Cossacks, and the Mussulmans support the Government proposals while the Social Revolutionaries, the Social Democrats, the Popular Socialists and a party of the Labour group will vote against them, the result of the division is doubtful, since a number of Cadets and Members of the Right have already left for the Easter holidays. It is generally believed that Monday will decide the fate of the Duma. Among the Labour group no united action has been decided upon, since the majority of the party support the proposals; the minority, consisting of "intellectuals", oppose them. The Polish Kolo has not yet indicated its attitude. But even if the Poles vote for the proposals and all absent members return for the division, should the Labour Members vote against them, the Right can only count on a small majority. The matter rests practically with the Labour Members. By paragraph 119 of the Law of the Constitution, the Czar may fix the strength of the contingent of recruits, but not at a figure greater than in the previous year, by Ukase, provided that the Imperial Council and the Duma have not agreed upon it by May 14th. The Cadets are endeavouring to persuade the Labour group to vote for the Government proposals.

At a meeting, held on Sunday in Prince Dolgoroukoff's residence, of all the Opposition parties, with reference to the fixing of the strength of the contingent of recruits, the Cadets declared that the Duma must accept the proposals of the Government or they would be discredited. The Socialist Revolutionaries, the Social Democrats, the Labour party, and the Popular Socialists will vote against the proposals. Many Mussulmans will absent themselves from the division. The Poles took no part in the discussion. The Government proposals demand 6,000 men fewer than last year. It is not known what consequences the rejection of the proposal will have for the Duma.

UNREST IN THE BALKANS.

At Morihovon in Macedonia fierce fighting has taken place between Turkish troops and a band. The latter's leader and seven men were killed, the rest escaped. The Turks lost 20 men killed.

The *Agence Bulgare* announces that the French Consul in Burgas has received a letter written in bad French, in which the signer, Petros Apandre, challenges him to impose a tax on French subjects there, for the benefit of the fund in support of the strike in Bulgaria and Macedonia. Should he refuse the Consulate will be blown into the air. The police, to whom the matter was referred, have arrested several persons on suspicion, but have been unable to ascertain anything definite up to the present. The enquiry is continuing. The general impression prevails, that the letter is a mystification proceeding from a Greek who wishes to involve the Government in international complications.

THE SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

The War Minister, El Gebbas, has instructed the Customs authorities in Tangier, Casablanca and Mogador to allow the material for wireless telegraphy to pass in.

It is announced from Udjda that on Saturday night three Moroccans attempted to force their way into the Zouave camp at Arisa. They were arrested by the sentries but managed to escape. Shots were exchanged but no one was injured. It is believed that it was merely a matter of thieves who wanted to steal from the camp, and no importance is attached to the incident.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

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