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## KING EDWARD'S RETURN.

King Edward left Naples by special train at 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning. He was to travel straight through to Paris. At the station to bid His Majesty farewell were the Duke of Aosta and Prince Victor Napoleon.

## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir Howard Vincent, Conservative, Member for the Central Division of Sheffield, asked whether the attention of the Government had been drawn to the two German steamship lines which were endeavouring to crowd out British shipping between New York and Australasia, and whether the Government would consult with the Colonial Ministers as to the best method of counteracting this undertaking. Mr. Lloyd George, President of the Board of Trade, replied that he had read announcements of that kind, but he could only say that the various questions affecting British shipping abroad would be discussed by the Conference now sitting.

## A FRONTIER QUESTION.

The Governor of German South West Africa, Herr von Lindequist, has arrived in London to negotiate as to the frontier between German South West Africa and Cape Colony.

## NEWS FROM AMERICA.

Considerable attention, says the New York correspondent of the *Globe*, has been directed to the extremely cordial references in the President's Jamestown speech to Japan and the Japanese. There is a disposition to infer from Mr. Roosevelt's remarks that further trouble is expected by the Administration from the anti-Asiatic agitation in the Pacific States by the organised labour societies and their leaders.

The idea that the so-called settlement of the schools difficulty means the disappearance of the bitter antagonism of American white labour to imported Asiatic labour, whether it be Japanese, Korean, or Chinese, is a very mistaken one. That antagonism is as strong as ever, and it is being demonstrated as vehemently as ever. Popular passion in connection with this subject has recently been further inflamed by the discovery that a good many Japanese have succeeded in getting into the country, despite the new regulations designed to keep them out, and that the corporations in Japan, which have long made money out of the illicit traffic, are as busy as they were a year ago, with, it is stoutly maintained, the knowledge of the Japanese Government.

There is no foundation, as far as the State Department is aware, for the latter accusation. On the contrary the Washington Government has quite recently received assurances on the subject from Tokio, which are regarded as eminently satisfactory, and consequently Mr. Root and the President are resolved that everything that can be done to placate the Japanese shall be done in California. Unfortunately, a complication is threatened which may cause some friction with the Canadian Government unless the matter is handled with discretion and tact. Proof is said to have been recently discovered that large numbers of Japanese and Koreans have entered United States territory from British Columbia.

## MUNICIPAL CORRUPTION IN 'FRISCO.

A sensational incident occurred during the notorious bribery trial in San Francisco. Mr. Smith, the Mayor, offered to resign his position, and to admit bribery and blackmailing of higher officials, provided he were allowed to go unpunished.

## THE ATTACK ON PRESIDENT CABRERA.

The attack on the President of Guatemala, Sen. Cabrera, was carried out by the conspirators digging a tunnel from a house in 7th Avenue. In this tunnel explosives were placed and exploded by a battery. Numerous persons have been arrested on suspicion.

## GERMANY AND THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

Prince Bülow, the Imperial Chancellor, made a very remarkable speech in the *Reichstag* on Tuesday. In alluding to the programme of the second Hague Conference he pointed out that it was to deal with the improvement or amplification of the three subjects discussed at the first Conference, viz. arbitration, land battles, and the application of the Geneva Convention to naval warfare. Since the publication of the Russian programme the Powers have been busying themselves with the idea of introducing for discussion at the Conference the question of disarmament. The champions of this idea believe that its realisation will provide a better guarantee for peace, but while no one will hesitate to approve of such an object the German Government is not of opinion that a suitable formula has been drafted which would be satisfactory to the various conflicting interests of all the Powers, and there was the danger that the discussion of this question at the Conference might defeat its own aim. In 1873 the English Government declined to take part in a Conference on international military law except on the understanding that no reference should be made to the law of contraband; and while Germany has not seen fit to make her participation in the next Conference dependent on all avoidance of discussion on disarmament, she was content to allow those who believe that success would be the consequence of such a discussion to carry on the discussion alone. Was it to be believed that Germany by her attitude in this matter was actuated by a secret lust for war or military ambition? There were many friends of peace in other countries who did not suffer from illusions, nor in pursuit of ideal objects lose sight of realities. Germany could not suffer herself to be placed under pressure, even a moral one. Since the establishment of the German Empire Germany had never been attacked nor had she attacked nor misused her military strength, which both morally and technically had been a good guarantee for peace; and, since they did not believe that anything but empty words would be the outcome of the discussion of the disarmament question at the Conference, it seemed better to avoid participation in it. They had, however, no wish to force others to adopt their view, and should anything definite arise from the discussion, Germany would be willing to examine it, to see if it was in accordance with the maintenance of peace and in correspondence with her own interests and peculiar position.

Prince Bülow then alluded to the fact that there had been a view prevailing in the Press during the last few weeks that Italy could be regarded as only an uncertain member of the Triple Alliance. This view cropped up especially with reference to the meeting at Gaeta and was to be deprecated, inasmuch as it bore the stamp of nervousness and lacked all token of self-conscious strength. Prince Bülow continued: "Whenever our Emperor has been in the Mediterranean he has met and been greeted by the King of Italy. It was quite natural that the King of England, when he touched the Italian coast, should be welcomed by the ruler of a friendly country. Friendly relations between England and Italy have existed since the days when Italy obtained her national unity. Such relations have been present since the Triple Alliance existed, and it has often been pointed out from this bench that such friendly relations between England and Italy are not only compatible with the position of the Triple Alliance but are *per se* useful and desirable." Prince Bülow, after alluding to the unselfish and purely economic policy of Germany in Morocco and Persia, pointed out that, while recognising existing dangers and difficulties, and without desiring to paint in too bright colours, they could preserve the respect and confidence induced by their power and their love of peace, and

remain true to their alliances and by so doing be free from all anxiety.

Prince Bülow concluded his speech by a powerful appeal for unity.

The *Morning Post* in commenting on Prince Bülow's speech says, "The common sense utterances of Prince Bülow will still the agitation in the German Press as to King Edward's Italian cruise. His remarks on the question of disarmament are convincing for their commendable sincerity. England's answer should be a reconsideration of the army and navy reduction."

The *Daily Chronicle* justifies the position taken up by Germany in the disarmament question. Every nation is the sole guardian of its own interests. Prince Bülow's words on the international situation are conciliatory and free from prejudice.

The *Daily Telegraph* says that by his conciliatory speech Prince Bülow will succeed in removing the unpleasant impression caused by the exaggerations of the Press, for which England and German Chauvinists must be held guilty. We raise the same objections to Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman's proposals as Prince Bülow. The discussion of the subject would not conduce to peace but estrangement; watchfulness and readiness are compatible with courtesy and mutual respect.

The *Daily Mail* considers the speech of the Chancellor was admirable, sensible and to the point. There spoke a statesman, who is in touch with the serious realities of international life.

## NEWS FROM FRANCE.

### THE PRESIDENT AND KING LEOPOLD.

At a dejeuner given in honour of King Leopold, President Fallières in proposing his health said that it seemed as if the peoples on both sides of the frontier had a deep sympathy for the numerous ties which united them in their strivings for economic and social progress; it also appeared as if their community of interest found a precious and secure pledge for the cordiality of the relations of the two countries. M. Fallières also alluded to the general popularity of King Leopold, which was recognised by none more than by the Government of the Republic. He concluded by wishing every prosperity to Belgium.

King Leopold, in reply, said that he was deeply touched by the charming reception, always accorded to him throughout France. He expressed his thanks for the attentions shown him, and drank to the prosperity of France.

### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The Prime Minister received a deputation of Post office employés on Tuesday and said that the Government had taken such stern action, because they were faced by a revolt of officials which they could not tolerate. He declined at the moment to discuss the question of the reinstatement of the dismissed officials. The deputation insisted on their demands and said that the Premier's refusal was annoying to the personnel who had no idea of desiring to belong to the Confederation du Travail, and claimed no right of striking for officials. M. Clémenceau finally remarked that the measures adopted would be carried out without flinching.

### ATTACK ON A TRAIN.

Near Devant les Ponts the express train to Metz was fired upon on Tuesday evening. The bullets broke the window of a crowded compartment, grazing the head of a passenger.

## NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

### THE DUMA.

In the course of Tuesday night an extraordinary meeting of the Ministerial Council took place in which serious differences of opinion arose between MM. Stolypin and Schwanebach with reference to the eventual dissolution of the Duma. The War Minister is said to have stated that the Czar would dissolve the Duma, unless it accepted the recruiting proposals and unless the Armenian Deputy Suraboff was ejected or withdrew his scurrilous insults, since His Majesty would never allow the army to be vilified in that way.

The Poles allowed themselves to vote for the recruiting proposals from the point of view that the autonomy of Poland within the embrace of the great Russian Empire was desirable. Consequently the Russian army must be kept at full strength. They certainly disapproved of much that the army administration had ordered.

The public sitting of the Duma was opened at 3.30 p. m. The House approved of a grant of 6 million roubles for relief in the famine stricken districts, and agreed to an interpellation as to



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