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KING EDWARD'S RETURN.

H. M. King Edward arrived in Paris incognito on Wednesday evening.

THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

For the past two days the Colonial Conference has been discussing the resolutions of the various colonies recommending that preferential tariffs should be adopted between the various constituent parts of the Empire.

In the course of his speech the Australian Premier Mr. Deakin said that the purchasing power of the Empire should be uniformly employed; then the Powers who treated the Empire differentially would come to wish for a treaty. A raising of the existing Australian import duties, and giving advantages to British goods, would put Australia in a position to replace foreign by British manufactures and to bring about a great increase of the commerce between England and Australia. The growth of the feeling of the corporate unity of the Empire must be recognised. The Prime Minister of New Zealand expressed himself in favour of supporting the shipping connecting lines of the Empire by subvention. Dr. Jameson, Prime Minister of the Cape Colony, spoke in favour of trying preferential treatment experimentally, in particular of giving advantages to South African wines and tobacco, and appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Asquith, to make some small concessions to the Cape Colony. The Cape Colony, he said, was unanimous with regard to giving preferential treatment to Great Britain in return for ever so slight a proof of reciprocity. All the Colonies were already united in the wish that the Imperial Government should join them, and so ensure for the whole Empire the most favourable conditions from abroad.

GENERAL BOTHA ON THE TRANSVAAL.

At a dinner given in honour of the Colonial Premiers by representatives of all the great mining firms of the country and of the leading banking and commercial houses, General Botha made a speech in which he said: The Transvaal Government was earnestly endeavouring to do justice to the mining industry and to make it successful. As its fruits would depend on its development, his efforts were directed to a lasting union of the races, as well as to the object of removing all difficulties by means of a federation of labour. The solution of that question would be taken in hand after thorough enquiry.

GENERAL KUROKI ON BRITISH SOIL.

The Japanese General Kuroki arrived at Victoria, British Columbia, on Wednesday. A cordial reception was given to him by the Dominion, Provincial, and local authorities.

MAY DAY IN LONDON.

A procession of some 1,000 workmen paraded through the main streets of the metropolis on Wednesday. No breaches of the peace took place.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

GERMAN TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS.

Telegrams from Berlin to New York indicate that the commercial difficulties between America and Germany have been settled more or less satisfactorily, in respect, at any rate, to the chief points in dispute. The arbitrary barriers set up against the importation of American food products into Germany, under the pretence of protecting the German flocks and herds against disease, are to be removed, and, in return, concessions are to be made in regard to the incidence of the American Customs duties and regulations. The Germans appear to be fairly satisfied, while the State Department is relieved at being able to avert an open war of tariffs. Officially it is stated at Washington that America

has got the better of the deal, a fact which is claimed as additional proof of the superiority of the amateur, or, as it has been described, the un-bureaucratic methods of American diplomacy.

A MINING DISASTER.

The news comes from Charlestown, West Virginia, that a violent explosion took place in the Whipple mine, Scarborough, on Wednesday afternoon, many miners being killed or wounded. At the moment of the explosion 300 men were in the mine.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS.

More or less lively scenes took place in the neighbourhood of the Paris Labour Exchange on Wednesday. By midday about 180 persons had been arrested for refusing to obey the order to keep moving, for carrying concealed weapons and for circulating anarchist pamphlets. In the course of the afternoon a man fired at the troops from the top of an omnibus in the Place de la Republique. A soldier had his cloak shot through and a cuirassier's cuirass was dented. The firer of the shot and his companion were arrested, the police having some difficulty in protecting them from the crowd who wanted to lynch them. The man is a certain Jacob Law from Zelba in Russia and alleges that he is a naturalised American. He succumbed in the neighbouring barrack of Chateau d'Eau to the terrible injuries inflicted on him by the very excited mob. His companion was also maltreated by the crowd before the police could effect his arrest. At 6 p. m. a policeman on the Quai de Jenappes was slightly wounded by a revolver bullet. It is believed that the shot was fired by a woman, but the police were unable to fasten the guilt on any of the numerous persons they arrested. The Ministry of Marine has received reports from the State Arsenals and other naval institutions that the number of workmen celebrating May day was about 1,000 less than last year. No breaches of the peace took place.

A meeting was held in the Labour Exchange, at which a dismissed State official violently attacked all the members of the Cabinet, especially reproaching the Minister of Education, M. Briand, with denying his part, and with keeping the bourgeois of the Government informed of the Socialist movement. Further he supported the anti-militarist propaganda. During the meeting troops maintained order and regulated the traffic on the Place de la Republique. At the close of the meeting excited scenes took place in the streets. The Prefect of Police, M. Lepine, was mixed up in the crowd for a moment. The *Gardes Republiques* were forced to charge the mob. Up to 7 p. m. some 700 arrests had been made.

THE PARIS AND VIENNA PRESS ON PRINCE BÜLOW'S SPEECH.

The *Temps*, in commenting on Prince Bülow's speech, says "The Chancellor only wished to allay anxiety. He has confidence in the strength of Germany. With regard to the Hague Conference the Imperial Chancellor does not think that any success can be obtained in the direction of the limitation of armaments. He said little with regard to Franco-German relations. He believes that by loyal application of the decrees of the Algeciras Conference mistrust will vanish by degrees. For the moment there is nothing better to hope for. The conclusion of his speech in which unity at home is described as the best guarantee of peace, is true for France as well as for Germany.

The *Journal des Debats* thinks that Germany in defence of her economic equilibrium has employed such violent means that the scope of her policy in Morocco considerably oversteps her interests in that country.

The Vienna *Neue Freie Presse* writes: "The speech was filled with a seriousness which had no taint of pessimism. The proposal for the limitation of armaments has been supported by no part of the political world worth mentioning, save in its English home. The Governments of Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia have decided, even if they will not demand the exclusion of the discussion of the armaments question from the Hague Conference, at

least themselves to take no part in such discussion, and Prince Bülow has, in the name of Germany, elucidated this standpoint, which at least has the merit of frankness and the courage of its own convictions. For the rest, the German Chancellor withheld all unfriendly comment on the English proposal, and while he commented on the much discussed Anglo-German relations certainly with no exaggerated, premeditated friendliness, he did so in no way to cause any anxiety. Especially noticeable was his statement that Anglo-Russian hostility could no longer be looked upon as certain." The article concludes. "That is the attitude adopted by Germany at the present epoch. She remains, where she is, but she is determined to defend what she has to the last. This resolution does not belong to the Government alone but to the whole nation."

The *Neue Wiener Tageblatt* says that the speech made a strong, lasting impression. It was a speech full of firmness, confidence and consciousness of strength, a speech without a threat, a speech of sobriety, so to speak, but behind this sobriety stood a strength that could be felt; no further commentary on it is necessary; it can stand and speak for itself.

The *Deutsche Volksblatt* says that perhaps a more detailed exposition of international policy had been expected. In any case the reception of the speech showed that, apart from the Social Democrat party, the whole German nation was at one in a quiet consciousness of its rights.

FEARED LOSS OF AN EMIGRANT SHIP.

The greatest anxiety prevails in Genoa as to the emigrant ship "Cetta di Milano" which left that port on April 8, and was due in New York on April 20, but of which no news has come to hand. It is seriously feared that the ship with her 1,000 passengers has foundered.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

SIBERIAN EMIGRATION.

The Agricultural Minister, Prince Vassiltshikoff, has sent a circular telegram to the Governors with reference to the excessive development of emigration to Siberia. A mass of emigrants suffer all kinds of privations on the way, and from time to time owing to the lack of free land in the neighbourhood of the railway must return to Russia. The Minister orders that people who possess no proof of a grant of land, must not be given passes, and that those who desire to emigrate to the far East be advised to postpone their departure until the summer or autumn, since all the plots of land available for settlement last year are occupied. The circular, according to the *P. T. A.*, attains great importance with reference to the resolution adopted on the subject on Tuesday by the Duma.

WOMAN-TOILERS IN BAVARIA.

German social economists are now seriously considering the wretched condition of women-workers in Bavaria. The matter has been brought to legislative and Imperial attention, and it is likely that in a very few years the women labourers of Munich will be extinct.

As it is, the Munich work-woman of the streets exists, and to-day wherever building is going on there one may see a gang of old young women doing the hard work of the masons' assistants—mixing the mortar, carrying the hod and staggering under piles of bricks.

Only young women are employed in these heart-breaking, back-breaking jobs. Old women cannot carry the heavy burdens to the upper stories, and even the young ones soon break down. Then they are relegated to the stone piles.

Street cleaning is another occupation in which the Munich women manage to earn a few coppers daily. Not only do they sweep the thoroughfares and rake out the gutters, but they load up the dump carts and shovel up all the filth and refuse.

On the street railways also women are employed, especially in the positions of track tender and "switchmen". They work nine hours a day and are paid sixty cents per diem.

Men's toil done by women is not confined to Munich, for the Prussian Railroad management has for some time past been employing women in the construction of the railway beds. Squads of women are to be seen working on construction, sometimes alone and sometimes hand in hand with men, levelling the ground and shovelling dirt to lay out new streets.

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