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ARSENAL WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION.

Again demonstrating their disapproval of the recent action of the Government, Woolwich Arsenal workmen on Saturday afternoon marched in procession to Trafalgar-square.

The procession was organised on lines similar to those of the demonstration three weeks ago, but it was noticeable that only about 2,000 men, and not 10,000, as was anticipated, undertook the march.

Various local temperance and labour organisations figured in the procession, which was led by the Woolwich Silver Band, whilst a banner bearing the words "Woolwich Arsenal demands a fair share of the nation's work," was carried in the front.

MR. CHURCHILL AND THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

The Under Secretary for the Colonies, Mr. Winston Churchill, speaking at Edinburgh on Saturday night, referred to the question of preferential treatment of the Colonies, which came up at the Conference and which was advocated by the Tory party and their press-organs day after day, and said that the Liberal party had slammed and bolted the door leading to taxation on the necessities of life, and would never open it again so long as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was Prime Minister. The Liberals stood like a rock between the hard-working masses of the population and all those who wished to knock out a miserable profit out of the scanty weekly wages of the poorer classes, and would never give a penn'orth of preferential treatment on a single pepper corn. At the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Churchill appealed to Lord Rosebery to join the Liberals in their struggle with the Lords on the land question.

A NOTED ENGINEER DEAD.

The death is announced of Sir Benjamin Baker, the builder of the Forth Bridge and the great Assuan barrage on the Nile.

LABOUR TROUBLES ON THE RAND.

The Johannesburg *Rand Mail* announces that a meeting of Labour delegates from 27 gold mines has decided to call out on strike all miners employed in mines the property of companies or syndicates belonging to the Chamber of Mines. The last shift was to work on Tuesday. In the resolution in question the Robinson group of mines is excluded from the strike.

THE UNREST IN INDIA.

The *Evening Standard* learns from Lahore that the Sikh community has issued an official manifesto, dated from the Golden Temple at Amritsar, expressing contempt for the political agitators, and proclaiming the loyalty of the Sikhs. The manifesto declares that British rule, as compared with all previous rules, has brought peace, wealth, knowledge, and religious liberty, and advises all Sikhs to abstain from participating in or countenancing any political movement embarrassing to the Government.

The loyalty of this, the finest race of warriors in India, would be an invaluable support to the Government, and the genuineness of their declaration cannot be questioned, issued as it was from the great temple of the Sikh faith.

At the same time the Sikhs, at any rate those in the neighbourhood of Lahore, have not had an entirely clean record the last week or so.

That notorious agitator, who is still in hiding, Ajit Singh, imported 500 Jat Sikhs, brawny agriculturists, to Lahore, harangued them on their grievances, and told them that their only chance of redress was to make a demonstration in force. He then sent them back to recruit others, and considerable reinforcements were thus secured. Ajit Singh addressed them once more, saying: "Why come you unarmed? Cannot lathis (bludgeons) be bought for two annas apiece?" The rusties departed, and returned a third time in increased

numbers, each one carrying a lathi. It was on their account, and not on account of the mob of students, that the police called in the aid of the military.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE WAR AGAINST THE TRUSTS.

The Commissioner for Unions has handed President Roosevelt a report as to the position of the Standard Oil Company in the Petroleum market. The report criticises severely the conduct and aims of the Company, pointing out that the production lies in the hands of only a dozen people.

The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company has been found guilty of granting freight rebates on coffee consignments, and condemned to pay a fine of 10,000 dollars.

SERIOUS FIRE AT THE NEW YORK WHARVES.

The pier of the Morgan Line with all the goods lying upon it has been completely destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at 50,000 dollars. The fire took place last Saturday.

THE U. S. AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

The Minister of the United States to the Dominican Republic, Mr. Dawson, has reached New York with a copy of the Treaty arrived at between the two States. Since the Treaty was accepted without alteration by the Dominican Congress, it will not be necessary for President Roosevelt to lay it again before the Senate. The Treaty may now be regarded as settled and it will shortly be published.

SERIOUS RAILWAY DISASTER NEAR SCHLANGENBAD.

A train on the light railway between Schlangenbad and Eltville was derailed on Sunday and 32 persons received injuries. The foremost coach of the train left the rails and fell on its side. The coach contained about 50 passengers. A terrible panic ensued; many persons were injured by the broken glass of the windows and oil lamps. Medical aid from Schlangenbad and Eltville was quickly at hand.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes an article from its St. Petersburg correspondent headed: "More light on the Hague Conference". In the article occurs the passage: "The idea had its origin in a proposal of General Kuropatkin's in 1898 that Russia and Austria should agree not to re-arm the Artillery on account of the expense. M. de Witte rejected this proposal and suggested instead that the Czar should invite the Powers to a Conference on the question of the limitation of armaments." The journal comments on this: "We agree with that part of the German Press which represents the views of Prince Bülów that it would, under the circumstances, be foolish to bring the question up at the coming Conference. The debate would be academic and would bring with it provoking charges. Members would call out *tu quoque* to each other and thereby bitterness would be caused and no satisfactory result ensue. Prince Bülów stated clearly that he saw no advantage in discussing the proposal. It is dawning on us that he is perfectly right."

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

HOIST WITH HIS OWN PETARD.

On Sunday evening a young Russian, severely wounded, was brought to the Cochin hospital in the students' quarter in Paris; his companion, also a Russian, informed the surgeon on duty that his countryman, Petroff by name, from Markoff, had dangerously wounded himself when meddling with a revolver. The companion then made off as quickly as he could. Medical examination showed that the alleged Petroff had been severely wounded in the face and hands, obviously by an explosion. The police were informed of the matter, and after a searching cross-examination Petroff admitted that he had been wounded by an explosion when making cartridges in the room of a comrade, one Slepner. Strong evidence of the explosion was found in Slepner's room. A table was smashed and the paper on the walls was torn and burnt.

The wounded man took a room in the Rue Collegiale about 2 months ago. Slepner, who vanished from his room a couple of days ago, is being searched for. The police believe that both Petroff, or Smirnoff, and Slepner are members of the Russian Terrorist party and were trying to make bombs.

A CRUISER AGROUND.

The Ministry of Marine confirms the report that the cruiser "Chansy" has gone aground on the island of Balar. The crew were saved. The cruiser "Alger" has gone to her assistance. The "Chansy" is an armoured cruiser of 4,700 tons, built in 1904; she carries a crew of 375 men.

THE SPANISH ROYAL CHRISTENING.

The Prince of Asturias was baptised with great ceremony at midday on Saturday.

Spanish cardinals attired in their most sumptuous vestments, Prince Arthur of Connaught, and Princess Henry of Battenberg took part in the procession. The galleries leading to the chapel were crowded with distinguished guests, whose brilliant uniforms and decorations added to the splendour of the scene, while a national touch was imparted to the picture by the white and black mantillas worn by the ladies present.

The scene in the chapel was one of the greatest magnificence, the uniforms and decorations appearing all the more dazzling in the dim and subdued light.

At the express desire of Queen Victoria, the chapel was lavishly decorated with white flowers.

The font was placed on a platform covered with a gold-edged canopy.

After the ceremony the Primate of Spain, who officiated, intoned a *Te Deum*.

King Alfonso placed on the Prince of the Asturias the collar of the Golden Fleece, the collar of Carlos III., and the grand cross of Isabella the Catholic.

While the Cardinal was removing his vestments the procession re-formed and returned to the Palace in the same order in which it had arrived.

The procession from the Royal apartments to the chapel was one of medieval splendour; the programme was as follows:—

Its start was heralded by the thunder of artillery. At its head walked noblemen of the household, followed by macebearers, who are grandees of Spain, in rich red and gold garments, and two heralds in their strange medieval "dalmatics."

Quaintest, and at the same time most magnificent of all, was the next part of the procession, seven Spanish nobles, splendidly attired, carrying seven salvers, on which were the insignia of baptism, the salt cellar, and the robe, the cap, basin, ewer, damask cloth, veil, and marchpane.

They were followed by the centre-piece of the whole ceremony, the Royal baby in the arms of the chief lady-in-waiting, who wore a red sash with gold fringes across her breast. On her right hand was the child's godfather, Don Carlos of Bourbon, on her left the godmother, Queen Cristina, and King Alfonso, and behind walked a nurse and the great officials of the Palace.

This gorgeous procession moved slowly along a stone floor covered with rich carpets, down a gangway formed by two lines of the Royal bodyguard, the Alabarderos, in dark blue swallow-tail tunics, the successors of the men who once defeated an attack on the Palace and saved Queen Isabella from the fury of the populace.

The Alabarderos kept at a respectful distance the few spectators fortunate enough to be admitted to see the ceremony; behind the spectators, on the walls of the gallery, were long lines of beautiful tapestries.

On arriving at the chapel door Queen Cristina took the baby, the salvers with their contents were placed on a table by the altar, and the procession approached the font in the middle of the chapel, a marble font plated in silver, picked out with gold. In it was water from the Jordan, which was sprinkled on the child's brow.

In the evening a state banquet took place. The King of Spain thanked the Princely persons in the name of the Spanish people for their attendance; he valued most highly the proof thus given by the Sovereigns of their interest in the christening of the heir of the Spanish throne. People and King saw in the fact that the Sovereigns were thus represented at the christening a new omen for the realisation of the hopes awakened in the hearts of the Spanish people and in his, the King's, heart by the birth of an heir. He drank to the prosperity of the Sovereigns represented and to the welfare of their countries.

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