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THE STATE OF THE FUNDS.

Lord Rothschild has stated to a representative of the *Pall Mall Gazette* that so long as the socialist movement remains in the foreground in England, so long as in the United States President Roosevelt is fighting the railway Companies, and so long as the income tax problem and other important questions exist in France, there can be no hope of any rise in the price of consols, nor can the future be regarded with tranquillity.

SWANSEA AND THE "DAILY MAIL".

The management of the Swansea Free Library and popular reading rooms has forbidden the further purchase of the *Daily Mail* for perusal by the frequenters of their main Institution and two branch Institutions, on the ground that it is an unpatriotic journal, that it endeavours to exercise a pernicious influence, and encourages race animosity.

THE UNREST IN INDIA.

The situation in India, as may be gathered from official reports, has, by reason of the energetic measures recently taken by the Government, considerably improved and the country is completely quiet. The calling of agitation meetings in East Bengal has ceased. There are still cases of plundering, but they are of no great importance. The provincial authorities are sending strong detachments of police into the disturbed districts. The political situation throughout the whole of India is more satisfactory, but the extreme newspapers are everywhere very hostile and continue to preach resistance to the British supremacy.

LABOUR TROUBLES AT THE CAPE.

The Prime Minister of the Transvaal, General Botha, has declared his willingness to receive a deputation of strikers who wish to present a petition to him, as soon as he arrives at Pretoria.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE JAPANESE IN CALIFORNIA.

According to the report of the District State Attorney of San Francisco, the accounts of attacks on Japanese in San Francisco have been exaggerated. The disturbances were caused by the lack of sufficient police precautions on the occasion of the tramway employé strike. The matter has been handed to Mr. Secretary Root for settlement.

TARIFF REFORM.

The *Globe* learns from its New York correspondent that the discussion upon the tariff question among politicians and in the newspapers which, until quite recently, was more or less academic, has within the past week or two become much more practical. To all appearances it suits the plans just now of certain astute leaders of the Republican party to make the question a prominent one in several of the State Committees, and it looks as though the same artful wire-pullers have decided that it also suits their purpose to throw doubt upon the immaculate Protectionist virtue of some of their most respected chiefs.

Last week it was Mr. Speaker Cannon who was supposed to have cast part, at least, of his high tariff principles, and today it is Mr. Taft who is called upon to make a fresh profession of faith. Mr. Taft, as the favoured Presidential candidate of the Administration, or, at any rate, of the White House, ought to be above suspicion in such a vital matter as the tariff, but some recent remarks of his appeared to warrant the belief that he was somewhat shaky in respect to the all-important question. A direct accusation to that effect was, indeed, made on Friday last, and everybody wondered what would happen. Now there appears an inspired announcement to the effect that Mr. Taft is at present, as he always has been, a most devoted adherent of the policy of Protection but still

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he would not object to some modifications of the schedules in the existing Dingley Tariff Law. The incidence of the tariff at home undeniably calls aloud for reform, while the State Department finds it increasingly difficult to make commercial arrangements with foreign Governments while the Dingley schedules remain in full force.

France in particular is at the moment making inquiries, polite enough in form, but serious in substance and decidedly insistent, as to her position in face of the deal just concluded with Germany. Mr. Shaw, Secretary of State, is understood to be of the opinion that a satisfactory deal with France is both advisable, desirable, and practicable; and certainly it would suit a good many powerful interests in the U.S. to enjoy the benefit of the French minimum tariff. But other countries are also making inquiries, and in the present condition of the schedules everybody cannot be satisfied.

THE ENGLISH JOURNALISTS IN GERMANY.

The English journalists who are visiting this country, at the conclusion of their visit to Bremen proceeded to Hamburg. Arrived there they made a tour of the town and then embarking on tugs were taken for a trip round the harbour. They then boarded the "König Friedrich August" where a luncheon was given them in the saloon. At the luncheon Herr Ballin, the Director of the Hamburg America Line, presided. Mr. Brimelow of the *Bolton Evening News*, said that although speeches were forbidden it would be discourteous not to make some acknowledgment of the magnificent, they might say imperial hospitality they had received. They were especially gratified at being received by Herr Ballin, who had played so prominent a rôle in the freight war, now happily concluded. He toasted the Hamburg America Line and Herr Ballin.

At the conclusion of the luncheon the ship's band played the English National Anthem and the guests repaired on shore again.

In the evening a reception in their honour was given in the magnificent rooms of the new Rathaus. The Mayor of Hamburg addressed those present and in the course of his speech said that the cordial reception last year of German journalists in England had made a deep impression in this country. Hamburg was only too delighted to take a share in returning this hospitality, since England and the greatest commercial harbour-city of the Continent were closely united by many ties of an economic and personal nature. English ships were always welcome on the Elbe and Germany's flag of commerce received an equally warm welcome in English harbours. Their friendly relations stretched back to the middle ages. Hamburg's especial commercial position was founded in the 16th century at the same time that England's cloth weaving industry made its greatest advance. English merchants had always had friendly relations with the free city of Hamburg, and Hamburgers gladly recognised that this fact had contributed much to make possible a development which re-

dounded to the advantage of their native town as well as their native country. To this result the English press had largely contributed and English newspapers were to be found in every business house in Hamburg. But above all practical advantages they recognised the Press of England, the home of free speech, as the patterns they in Germany had copied and to some extent were still copying. They were confident that their present visitors would by their pens give their countrymen a faithful picture of the institutions and sentiments of Germans. In their tour through Germany their visitors would hear many eloquent words championing the furtherance of good Anglo-German relations; they must not forget that today as of old Hamburgers were most anxious to encourage good relations between England and the free city of Hamburg. Mr. Mackray of the *Liverpool Courier* expressed the thanks of the visitors.

The square in front of the Rathaus was illuminated by a searchlight on the tower of the building. At about 11 p.m. all those present at the reception appeared on the balcony, a band played the English, German and Hamburg national anthems and cheers were given for King Edward and the Emperor William.

THE FRENCH ARMY.

M. Jules Roche, writing in his paper, the *Republique Française*, with reference to the Army debate in the Chamber, says that the War Minister's speech proved incontestably that the two years service law disorganises the military service and renders the formation of a real Army impossible.

UNRULY STUDENTS IN ROME.

A large number of students made their way into the lecture-halls of the University on Tuesday and prevented the professors lecturing. Other students attacked them, with the result that a regular battle took place in the University quadrangle. In the end to damp the spirits of the students the Rector had water poured upon them from the upper stories, a measure that had the desired effect.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

THE CZAR AND THE DUMA.

On Tuesday the Czar granted an audience to 19 Conservative and Moderate Deputies. The Czar made a long speech, lasting an hour and a half, the import of which is kept secret for the present. The youthful Cesarevitch was present at the audience.

CHINESE OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT.

Reuter's Bureau reports that an Imperial edict has been issued appointing Tsen Chun-Hsuan, hitherto Governor General of Yünknei, Governor General of Liangkiang, which includes both the provinces Kwangtung and Kwangsi, in succession to Chou-Ju. This appointment appears noteworthy inasmuch as Tsen Chun-Hsuan is a native of Kwangsi, and according to Chinese custom an official is not allowed to hold office in his native province.

LATER TELEGRAMS.

London, May 29. A *Reuter* report from Tokio states that the Japanese Government maintains silence as to the questions which it intends to lay before the Hague Conference. A general view prevails that the Conference will have little practical result. The Press shows no enthusiasm in its favour.

Frankfort o. M., May 29. The New York correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* telegraphs that New York City has instituted proceedings for the annulment of the charter of the Gas Trust.

Berlin, May 29. The English journalists arrived at the Lehrter Bahnhof here today at 1 o'clock and were received by Prince Hatzfeldt and the members of the Central Committee. The company proceeded to the Palace Hotel, where Prince Hatzfeldt welcomed the guests. Mr. Wilson, in returning thanks, said that the days spent in Bremen and Hamburg would be unforgettable for him and his companions, and that they were filled with sincere attachment to their German friends. He concluded by expressing the wish that the branch of the Teuton race to which the English belong and the German mother race would find in nearer acquaintance the bond that should unite both in friendship. The journalists then betook themselves to the Kaiser Keller for luncheon. There they were welcomed by Herr Friedrich Dernburg. The luncheon was followed by an automobile drive through the city.