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## THE ENGLISH PRIME MINISTER ON DISARMAMENT.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman on Wednesday received a deputation of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, who submitted to him the resolution recently adopted by them and sent to the Hague Conference.

In his reply the Premier said that it was a matter of regret that the question of the limitation of armaments would not be given a prominent place in the Conference discussions. Difficulties, which lay more in the circumstances than in the matter itself, stood in the way and it was possible that the most that could be done at the present juncture was to confirm former resolutions. It was obviously impossible for one Delegation alone to bring its views before the Conference. The Delegates in order to achieve practical results would have to come to an understanding with each other, in order to moderate the views of the Conference.

Sir E. Grey, who was also present, said that it was the view of the Government that everything possible should be done to make public opinion ripe for discussing the question of disarmament and lessening the danger of war, and to pave the way for a favourable acceptance of the same at future Conferences. Should the Conference become a permanent institution it was important that their deliberations should be harmonious. For the rest, he believed that in the further course of the Conference the proceedings would be more rapid than heretofore.

## THE "DAILY MAIL" AND THE SOAP TRUST.

In the libel action brought by Lever Bros., proprietors of Sunlight soap, against the *Daily Mail* and other Harmsworth journals which attacked the honesty of the firm's business methods and accused them of selling soap under weight, the jury awarded the firm £50,000 damages.

The *Daily Mail* had previously withdrawn its charges and apologised.

## THE LAND WAR IN IRELAND.

### A TRUCULENT M. P.

At a meeting of the United Irish League, held recently at Killelagh, County Westmeath, Mr. L. Ginnell, M. P., delivered an address in which he referred to cattle-driving. He asked who were the people who were best promoting their own and the national interests at the present moment. Let him tell them that they were the people in the West of Ireland who were scattering the cattle like chaff before the wind. He had been sent by the Nationalist party and by the Standing Committee of the League to encourage the people wherever they were doing something to help themselves and had courage. The people of Roscommon and Galway did not want any one to tell them what to do, and he was bringing them the assurance that whatever troubles might come upon them they would have the whole war-chest at their back. If they had courage there in Westmeath to act like the men in the West, they, too, would have the whole war-chest at their back. If he (Mr. Ginnell) could not get his fellow-countrymen to fight for the land, they would have to do without it. They in Ireland were not engaged in open war.

"Straight shooting might be the policy." But they did not want any crime. They had the authority of Lord Denman that scattering cattle is no crime, provided "you do not hough them." They in Westmeath, when they saw a ranch on which at one time their ancestors lived, were they so stricken with the cowardly disease of excessive respectability that they would not drive the flock off the land?

## TERRIBLE ACCIDENT IN CANADA.

In London, Ontario, a large house in the business quarter of the town collapsed on Tuesday during business hours. All those present in the



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various storeys of the building were buried in the ruins. The exact number of victims is not yet known, but it is believed that between 50 and 100 persons have lost their lives. The remains of many victims, terribly mutilated, have already been extricated.

## NEWS FROM AMERICA.

### THE EXPLOSION ON THE "GEORGIA".

Further details to hand confirm the terrible nature of the accident on the U. S. battleship "Georgia".

When the 200 lb. charge of powder was being lifted from the hoist, preparatory to its being inserted in the gun, two of the seamen noticed that the cover was smouldering. They immediately shouted a warning, and threw themselves on the floor, their example being followed by the loader holding the charge, but before the others in the turret realised the meaning of the shouts, there was a terrific flare, and the interior of the compartment became filled with flame, smoke, and noxious gases.

The screams of the sufferers were heart-rending. A number of men mounted a ladder, and endeavoured to escape through the hatchway, while others crawled about the floor.

Lieut. Goodrich and one seaman gained the deck, and jumped into the sea, preferring death by drowning to being burned alive. Both were, however, picked up by a launch. The chaplain was the first to enter the turret. He found Lieut. Cruise, who brusquely refused his ministrations, and told him to attend to the others first. There were numerous other cases of self-sacrifice.

The "Georgia" immediately sent a wireless message to the other ships, and surgeons were sent with all haste to assist in alleviating the sufferings of the injured.

The accident has cast a gloom over the entire country. No further theory as to the cause of the explosion is put forward other than that the powder was accidentally ignited by a spark from the funnel.

One of the sailors in the turret, when he saw sparks issuing from the powder, sprang to the ammunition chamber and shut the door, thereby saving the ship from being blown into the air. Of 22 men in the turret midshipman Kinball escaped without serious injury. When he heard the fearful

hissing of the burning powder he instinctively drew his cap over his face, threw himself face downwards on the floor and held his breath. He relates that the flames seemed to flicker round him for an eternity, but it could only have been for a few seconds. He heard the others screaming. When he got up he saw them lying in heaps, many without eyes and quite unrecognisable.

## ANOTHER LYNCHING AFFAIR.

Twenty robbers in El Paso, Mexico, have been lynched. The band had long terrorised the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, committing all sorts of acts of violence. On Tuesday the band attacked the house of two rich Americans of Austrian origin, killed them and looted their property. The male inhabitants of the district collected to avenge the death of their neighbours. They followed the robbers and caught 20 of them, who, without further ado, were shot on the spot.

## THE NEW "DREADNOUGHTS".

The *Globe* learns from New York that Washington correspondents state that orders have been issued from the Navy Department that the two big battleships of the "Dreadnought" type, contracts for which were recently placed are to be built in record time. What should be regarded as record time is not stated, nor is it explained how the contractors are to meet the desire of the Navy Department, seeing that all the private shipbuilding firms of any importance are already working at the highest pressure, with one exception, which it is not necessary to particularise.

Naval experts declare there is not a private yard in America that can turn out a "Dreadnought" in less than double the time that a Clyde firm or a British Government dockyard would take to do the job. Admiral Dewey regards this inferiority of shipbuilding resources as one of the most serious features of the Naval situation, to which one may very justifiably retort that the American Government and private yards are quite capable of turning out as much new tonnage as Congress will vote the money for.

One effect of the recent war scare, however, has undoubtedly been to increase largely the numerical strength and political influence of the "big ship school," of which Admiral Dewey is the most distinguished professor. It is hoped that Congress will be disposed to be more liberal in the future than it has been in the past and it is an open secret that the Navy Department is at present engaged in elaborating a shipbuilding programme based upon that hope and which will be commended to Congress in a special Presidential Message early in the Session in November next.

## TARIFF REFORM.

Senator Hopkins of Illinois, who was invited to luncheon by the President at his house at Oyster Bay on Wednesday, has stated that the leaders of the Republican party have come to an understanding that tariff revision will not be undertaken until after the next Presidential election.

## THE KAISER'S HOLIDAY.

H. M. the German Emperor continued his trip to Narvik on Wednesday, arriving there at midday. The weather remains rainy and cold. The English cruiser squadron under the command of Admiral Inglefield has arrived at Bergen.

## THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

At Wednesday's sitting of the fourth Committee, the proposal of the American Delegates relating to the abolition of privateering was discussed and the proposal was carried by 21 votes to 11. After the division the Delegates of Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Italy and Brazil expressed a hope that a basis might be found in order to obtain not a majority which was insufficient, but unanimity, without which no resolution on the matter could be arrived at. The Spanish Delegates said they based their attitude to the question on the resolutions of the Paris Convention of 1856.

## NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

### A RELIGIOUS RIOT.

In Ivenez in the Province of Minsk, Poland, some Poles erected a cross on a public square in the vicinity of the Russian church. The head of the local administration ordered the removal of the cross, but the mob resisted this and stoned the police who were obliged to fire, one man being wounded. The police commissioner and several constables were injured. The cross was demolished.