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## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Prime Minister laid before the House a message from H. M. the King, stating that His Majesty, in recognition of Lord Cromer's distinguished services in Egypt, desires to give him tangible proof of his good will; he recommends the House to grant Lord Cromer the sum of £50,000. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman announced that he would on the 30th of the month move that this sum be granted.

It is expected that some Nationalists and Radicals will oppose the motion.

## THE LORD MAYOR'S RECENT VISIT TO BERLIN.

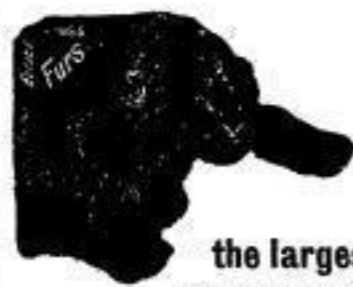
Those members of the City Corporation who accompanied the Lord Mayor on his recent visit to Berlin, gave a luncheon in the Lord Mayor's honour on Wednesday; the German Ambassador was among the guests.

After the toasts of T. M. King Edward and the Emperor William, which were received with enthusiastic cheering, Mr. Benjamin Turner who presided, spoke of the deep and lasting impression which the Lord Mayor's visit had made in Berlin.

In his reply, the Lord Mayor recalled how pleasant his stay in Berlin had been and spoke of the magnificence of the reception accorded them there and of the kindness shown them. With gratitude, too, he recalled their reception of the Emperor's gracious telegram and mentioned the honour paid them that day by the presence of the German Ambassador.

Mr. Turner then proposed the health of the German Ambassador and alluded to the marvellous changes in Berlin since his last visit to that beautiful city. He laid especially stress on the cleanliness of the streets and on the total absence of rowdies, beggars and drunkards. In this respect they in London could learn a lesson from Berlin. He concluded, "We found the Germans an extremely hospitable and practical people, we enjoyed the hospitality of H. M. the Emperor and distinguished municipal bodies, and now today we are honoured by the presence of the German Ambassador." The speech was received with loud applause.

Count Wolff Metternich in his reply said, "If I judge aright the flattering remarks of the Lord Mayor and other speakers as to their reception in Berlin, it was, I believe the original, sincere, natural and cordial welcome extended to them in that city, that pleased them most. Wonderful sights no matter how many in number, and displays no matter how magnificent, could not to the same extent kindle a spark of human sympathy and friendly feeling. Some time ago it was almost forgotten that any friendly feeling at all existed, and it was not until quite recently, when various visits were exchanged, that the two nations, who owing to their daily, monthly and yearly literature were accustomed to regard each other with mistrust, found to their great surprise that in reality nothing but feelings of friendship prevailed on either side. Your visit to Germany has, I am convinced, had the happy result of strengthening those friendly feelings which exist at present between our kindred nations. I hope that the rapprochement brought about by the various pilgrimages of peace and of friendly sentiments, will bring forth continually beneficial results and that the exchange of visits will become a habit among us. More personal acquaintance with one another is all that is required. So long as we know each other, it does not matter much what is written about us. People may succeed from time to time in misleading those who are ignorant of the real facts, but when these facts are known, it will be far more difficult. Personal intercourse will contribute far more than any diplomacy to make us understand that we have no evil designs and that we desire to live on good terms and at peace on either side of the North Sea. It will show that our national aspirations are by no means antagonistic, as has been suggested but never proved; it will increase that respect for each other



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which is the pledge and natural condition for the comprehension of our mutual aims and national characteristic features."

After the speaker had pointed out that the Emperor had desired to welcome the Lord Mayor and his companions as his guests in Kiel, but that the invitation had, to the Emperor's regret, come too late, he continued "His Majesty took the greatest interest in your visit and is rejoiced to hear that it pleased you. It gives me great pleasure to announce that His Majesty in commemoration of your visit has bestowed upon the Lord Mayor the Order of the Red Eagle, 2nd class, and upon the Sheriffs Sir Thomas Crosby and Sir William Dunn the Order of the Crown, 2nd class."

Count Metternich's speech was loudly applauded.

## ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

The British Ambassador to St. Petersburg has arrived in London for a few days. *Reuter's Bureau* announces that his visit is in connection with the Anglo-Russian negotiations which are making good progress, but some questions are still under discussion. The conclusion of any final Anglo-Russian agreement is not expected at earliest for some weeks.

## NEWS FROM AMERICA.

### AMERICAN OPINION ON EVENTS IN COREA.

Events in Corea are being followed closely in America. The newspapers are carrying very full dispatches and public interest in them is very marked. An impression prevails pretty generally that Japan is about to swallow the Korean oyster whole, and the operation is thought to be of bad omen for American and European trade interests in the Far East.

A Washington correspondent states that the Japanese Government confidentially informed the Powers interested, including, of course the United States, some weeks ago, that the action of the Korean Emperor in accrediting envoys to the Hague Conference contrary to his treaty obligations to Japan, would in all probability precipitate a crisis, which had for some time past been regarded as inevitable in consequence of his persistent hostility to the Protecting Power, but that the commercial *status quo* would be in no way

affected. The practical value of these assurances, if given as reported, remains to be seen. Americans generally do not regard them as of much importance, and believe that Corea is destined to become a purely Japanese preserve.

The prospect of being entirely shut out of a market provided by a population of twelve millions is decidedly displeasing to American business men, and it is not likely that the State Department will acquiesce without protest. The situation is difficult, and will require careful handling, as it is evident that Japan will, as long as possible, maintain the fiction of an independent Emperor, installed at Seoul, to whose puppet Government complainants will doubtless be referred as occasion arises.

It is expected that the action of the Japanese in Corea is not likely to improve the relations between the Courts and Governments of Tokio and Peking.

## THE MINERS STRIKE.

The strike of the miners and ore-laders in Minnesota appears to be attaining large dimensions. The whole industry of the State is at a complete standstill.

## EARTHQUAKE IN CALABRIA.

Violent shocks of earthquake were felt at Cosenza on Tuesday night. The inhabitants were thrown into a great panic, but no damage is reported.

## THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

In the Fourth Committee, which met on Wednesday under the Presidency of M. v. Martens, M. Fromageot of France presented a Report on the labours of the sub-Committee which had discussed the English proposals bearing on the definition of auxiliary ships. From this Report it appears that England never had the intention to indirectly reinstate privateering, but only cherished the wish to give to transport ships, which accompany the belligerent fleets or stand temporarily at their disposition, a character corresponding to warships. The Committee then proceeded to discuss the question whether time should be given to the merchant vessels of belligerent Powers to leave hostile harbours. No division, however, took place, since several Delegates, among them the German, suggested that two new proposals of France and Holland should first be discussed. Of these, the first contemplates that the right of laying hands on the merchant vessels of belligerent Powers should be retained, but that a right to ransom should be substituted for confiscation.

In the end the Committee proceeded to discuss the English proposal for the abolition of contraband of war, defended in a long speech by Lord Reay. The German Delegate Herr Kriege opposed the proposal, pointing out that the right to seize contraband was absolutely justified and made necessary in the interests of defence. He further expressed the view that ships must be granted the time necessary for them to learn the news of the opening of hostilities, and that their responsibility should not begin until a week after the commencement of the war. Mails must be inviolable.

The discussion was adjourned until Friday.

A German amendment to the English proposal touching the laying of torpedoes, suggests that the laying of anchored, automatic mines within the radius of action of the belligerents should be permitted on the condition that precautionary measures for the protection of neutrals be taken.

The first sub-committee of the Second Committee, proceeded in the afternoon with the discussion of the treatment of prisoners of war and of the inhabitants of a country into which an enemy's forces have penetrated. Japan caused to be added to the agenda of the sitting a proposal concerning the deportation and detention of foreigners. The sub-committee then passed on to the consideration of the pay to be allowed to prisoners of war, and a vote was taken on the text of the Committee, according to which the ordinary rates of pay of the army which took the prisoners is to be the basis of the pay to prisoners. The text was adopted unanimously with the exception of Japan, who was in favour, not of a fixed rate of pay, but of a moderate allowance. Finally a long debate took place with regard to prohibiting the compulsion of the population of a district of which possession has been taken to fight against their country; and with regard to the German proposal to extend the prohibition even to those who have voluntarily taken service in the hostile army. The German Delegate, General v. Gündell, explained the point of view from which that proposal arose. The French Delegates agreed with Germany. A vote was not taken, as the Belgian