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THE LAUNCH OF H. M. S. "BELLEROPHON".

H. M. S. "Bellerophon" was launched on Saturday, H. R. H. Princess Henry of Battenberg naming the vessel.

The "Bellerophon" is an improved "Dreadnought". She is, however, 700 tons heavier, her displacement being 18,600 tons, to the "Dreadnought's" 17,900. Her length is 490 feet, maximum breadth 82 feet, load draught 27 feet. The machinery is to be of 23,000 indicated horse-power, and the speed 21 knots, steam being supplied from water-tube boilers. The machinery is to be on the turbine principle, as the Admiralty are thoroughly satisfied with the results obtained by the "Dreadnought's" machinery during her long series of trials.

So far as the main armament is concerned, the "Bellerophon" will be similarly armed to the "Dreadnought". She will carry ten 12-inch guns, which will be mounted in pairs in barbets, three forward and two aft. The ship will have a right-ahead fire of six guns, but as the after of the two barbets astern is to be raised to a higher level than the other, her astern fire will be eight guns, and the broadside fire eight guns. For resisting torpedo-boat attack the "Bellerophon" will have 4-inch guns instead of 12-pounders, as in the case of the "Dreadnought". Internally, she is similar to the "Dreadnought". She is divided into several watertight compartments, and below the waterline there is no opening in the bulkheads of any kind. The officers will live forward and amidships and the crew aft.

The "Bellerophon's" launching weight was seven thousand tons. She was commenced on December 3 last, and is to be completed for sea within two years from that date.

There are two other English battleships of the same class building; one the "Temeraire" at Devonport, and the other the "Superb" at the works of Sir Wm. Armstrong and Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THE BELFAST POLICE.

Nearly 1,500 men of the Royal Irish Constabulary, who had found their duties in connection with the dock strike considerably increased, held an excited meeting on Saturday to demand an increase of a shilling a day in their pay, an increase in their pensions and further, the right to unrestricted discussion of their grievances. The officer in command advised them to lay their grievances before him, promising to forward them to the proper quarter. Since the majority at the meeting refused to follow his advice, he and the other officers withdrew and a mob of people made their way into the barracks. The leader of the mob was then carried in triumph to the customs house where, amid the loud applause of the populace and the strikers, he made a speech to his comrades.

Further disturbances took place on Saturday afternoon. The police were obliged to charge the crowd. Many persons were wounded and two arrests were made. Order was restored by evening.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE IDAHO MURDER TRIAL.

The protracted trial at Boise, Idaho, has resulted in the acquittal of William D. Haywood, Secretary of the Western Miners' Union, who was indicted for the murder of ex-Governor Steunenberg.

FEDERAL COURTS VERSUS STATE COURTS.

A constitutional dispute which has arisen owing to the refusal of the Governor of North Carolina to accept the decision of the Federal Courts, whereby the law retaining to railway freights passed by the North Carolina State Legislature is declared unconstitutional, reached a climax on Saturday, when President Finley of the Southern Railway was arrested by order of the State Courts and set at liberty again by order of the Federal Court. The matter is creating the liveliest interest through-

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out the country, since the final settlement of the constitutional dispute will decide whether the State legislatures have the right to control freight rates and other matters effecting the working of the railway companies.

FIRE ON A STEAMER.

The S. S. "Frontenac" on Cayuga Lake, New York State, was destroyed by fire on Saturday. Of 50 passengers, nine were drowned and many were injured.

FIRE ON CONEY ISLAND.

The Steeple Chase Park, one of the chief palaces of amusement on Coney Island and 20 small hotels were burnt to the ground on Sunday.

THE U. S. AND VENEZUELA.

The American demands from Venezuela the decision of which by arbitration the latter has refused, rest mainly on asphalt concessions granted to Americans in Venezuela. The matter has already during the last few years been several times the object of negotiations.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

The *Globe* learns from New York that some of the Democratic newspapers are making a good deal out of a statement made upon the authority of several Washington correspondents to the effect that Mr. Roosevelt is losing popularity in the Western, and more particularly in what are known as the Prairie States. There has been talk before of Mr. Roosevelt's waning popularity, but no evidence worthy of consideration by practical politicians has ever been produced in support of it.

On the other hand there is abundant proof that Mr. Roosevelt has given the gravest offence to powerful "interests" from which heretofore the Republican party treasury has been indebted to the tune of millions of dollars. There is reason to believe that some time ago the party managers were given very plainly to understand that financial support for the Presidential campaign would not be forthcoming should Mr. Roosevelt be the party's candidate. Whether assurances were given in return for this intimation is not known, but it is a fact that since then little has been heard in responsible Republican quarters of the talk of Mr. Roosevelt being willing to remain at the White House for another term.

Something of the same kind has evidently taken place in the Democratic camp, with the result, according to current report, Mr. Bryan has modified his extreme views upon subjects other than the Federal or State ownership of the railroads of the country. It is becoming increasingly evident that a section at least of the Democratic party managers are looking around for a Presidential candidate who, in addition to other necessary qualities, must be "a safe man" from the point of view of the business community.



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REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN ARGENTINA.

News has reached New York from Rio de Janeiro that a revolutionary movement has broken out in one of the Argentine Provinces on the Brazilian frontier. Troops have been sent to the frontier by the Brazilian Government in order to prevent a breach of neutrality.

AN EXCITING BALLOON ADVENTURE.

Captain Kindelan who ascended in the balloon "Maria Teresa" from Valencia and was driven out to sea has communicated to the Madrid Aero Club the following account of his rescue.

In the night after his ascent the balloon sailed over the Mediterranean. At 6.30 a. m. he sighted the ship "Goya", which, in response to his calls for help, attempted to reach the balloon. All her efforts, however, were in vain, and the balloon was driven towards the Balearic Isles and the Gulf of Lyons, and about midday Southwards again. Owing to the loss of gas the balloon gradually sank until it touched the surface of the sea. In this dangerous position Captain Kindelan remained until 7.30 p. m. when, as the balloon became flatter and flatter, he determined to leave the car. He put on a life-belt and jumped into the water. After swimming about for 3 hours he was sighted by the English S. S. "Westpoint", which had been sent to rescue him; he was picked up completely exhausted. The "Westpoint" also picked up the balloon. The judges of the balloon race have awarded the first prize to Captain Kindelan.

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

The first sub-committee of the Fourth Committee met on Saturday and finished the general discussion of the arbitration question. All proposals relating to compulsory arbitration were referred with acclamations to an examining committee.

A proposal of the United States relating to the collection of debts in accordance with treaties was divided upon. This proposal was also referred to the examining committee by 37 votes to 7; there were many abstentions; the examining committee was nominated.

THE SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

News from native sources, not yet confirmed has reached Tangier that the Mahalla under the command of Buchta Ben Bagdadi has been attacked by Raisuli's adherents near Elkmes. The result of the battle has not transpired.

Later news confirms this. The Mahalla captured several prisoners and the enemy suffered serious loss. There is, however, no news of Raisuli or Maclean.

COREAN AFFAIRS.

Guards have been placed on the railway throughout Corea and troops are patrolling all the streets of Seoul.

Disturbances have occurred among the Korean soldiers. Police officials were attacked on Saturday and seven Japanese houses burnt. Six Japanese were wounded and a number of others were obliged to take refuge in boats.

The Minister of the Imperial Household and the Keeper of the Seals, who have just been appointed by Marquis Ito and charged with reforming the Court, have been warned that their nominations will be rescinded if the reforms are not carried out within 3 months.

In commenting on the fact that the Foreign Press has approved of Japan's action in Corea Marquis Ito's organ says: "Although no voice has been raised against Japan's perfect right to free action in Corea, foreign criticism would not have deterred us from doing what our interests and our dignity demanded. It is pleasant to know that we are working with the approval and sympathy of our neighbours."