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THE UNREST IN IRELAND.

The *Dublin Gazette* announces that the Counties of Clare, Galway, King's County, Leitrim, Longford and Roscommon are declared in a state of disturbance and require an additional establishment of police.

Mr. McKenna, Parliamentary Candidate for South Longford, and 17 other persons have been arrested.

COLONIAL PREFERENCE.

Reuter's Bureau reported from Melbourne yesterday that several members of the Lower House have urged the Government to drop the preference rates of the Customs tariff in favour of England.

DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.

Graf Wolff-Metternich, who had a long conversation with the Kaiser at Wilhelmshöhe on Friday last, will, the *Information* learns, leave his post as Ambassador to the Court of St. James' within a short time; Freiherr Marschall v. Bieberstein, the Delegate of Germany to the Hague Conference, will be transferred from Constantinople to London.

GREAT BRITAIN AND VENEZUELA.

The Governor of British Guyana has informed the Legislative Assembly at Georgetown that at the recent confiscation of Guttapercha an infringement of the Venezuelan frontier had actually taken place. The Guttapercha seized by the British frontier guard has been returned to its owners.

ACCIDENT TO THE KAISER.

His Majesty the Emperor is reported to have fallen with his horse on the Hanover parade ground on Tuesday; he was uninjured. As the Emperor, who was riding a white horse, after receiving the greetings of the *Kriegervereine*, was about to gallop off, his horse slipped on the soft ground and fell. The Emperor at once jumped from the saddle and alighted with both feet on the ground.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

MR. HEARST AS A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

At the forthcoming "Labour day" which is to be held in the grounds of the Jamestown Exhibition, the newspaper proprietor Mr. Hearst, who was defeated last year in his candidature for the Governorship of the State of New York, will make a speech.

It is rumoured that in it he will fiercely attack President Roosevelt whom he reproaches with having, for certain reasons, exercised personal revenge not dictated by any general political reason, instead of having pursued a general sound policy directed against the Trusts. Mr. Hearst can command a strong body of personal adherents, and from them comes the rumour that he will be the eventual Presidential Candidate of the Democrat party, though for the time he will be kept in the background; for the enthusiasm for Bryan which was to be attributed to artificial machinations, is already beginning to wane.

CUTTING STEAMSHIP RATES.

With reference to the dispute about passenger fares and conflicting reports as to a rate war among the Trans-atlantic Shipping Companies the *Frankfurter Zeitung* says: Mr. Ballin has denied that there is any question of a tariff war with the Cunard Company with reference to the reduced passenger fares decided upon. The disputes between the North Atlantic Steamship Line Federation and the Cunard Line have long been known to exist, and in the last annual Report of the Hamburg-America Line they are admitted. The existence of a rate war is also admitted in another interested quarter. As to events already past history we may inform our readers that the Hamburg-America Line and the N. G. Lloyd invited the Cunard Line to raise their fares by £3 10s.



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This the Cunard Line absolutely refused to do. Thereupon the Hamburg-America Line announced a reduction of fares from 520 marks to 430; the North German Lloyd followed with a reduction from 520 marks to 470. As a reply to this the Cunard Line has made a considerable reduction of its passenger fares. It is true that for the new huge steamship "Lusitania" the first cabin fares remain at 510 marks, which was all the easier, as the first class cabins on the steamer were, for the most part, already taken. On the other hand for all their other ships, as is announced by the firm of B. Karlsberg in Hamburg, their German agents, the through fare from Hamburg including expenses of stopping at Liverpool have been reduced to 370 marks, which in common with the fares of the Hamburg and Bremen Lines already alluded to represents the minimum rate. By this action they under-cut the minimum rates of the Hamburg-America Line by 60 marks and those of the North German Lloyd by 100 marks. The Cunard Line has also lowered its rates for other cabins. On August 8th they still demanded for second class cabins on the "Lusitania" 230 marks and for third class cabins 140, while now they have reduced these fares by 10 marks, second class cabin tickets on all their ships being 220 marks and third class 130. Whether this reduction has been made in agreement with the German Lines must remain undecided, but the measures taken on either side as to fares look remarkably like a rate war." As we have already announced, in reliable Hamburg circles the existence of a tariff war was again denied on Monday, and it was stated that neither the Cunard nor any other line was adopting an aggressive attitude.

In Tuesday's edition of the *Neue Hamburger Zeitung* it is stated that negotiations are in progress between individual lines. This seems to point to differences existing.

THE U. S. AND MEXICO.

The second Assistant Secretary of the State Department, Mr. Adie, is empowered to state that President Roosevelt and President Diaz of Mexico are in complete accord as to the future of Central America and as to the settlement of disputes between the five Central American Republics.

THE ANTWERP DOCK STRIKE.

The strike in Antwerp may be considered as finally settled, since the dockers resumed work on Wednesday morning.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE LOSS OF THE "JENA".

The Report of the Committee of the Senate appointed to enquire into the "Jena" catastrophe was

issued on Wednesday. The first volume contains 200 pages and several pictures. Special attention is paid in the Report to the peculiar qualities and defects of powder B, and allusion is made to the value of the stabilisator recommended by the artillery. The Report comes to the conclusion that the "Jena" catastrophe was caused by an unexpected combustion of powder B, but there was also another cause which, to all outward appearances, was far enough away but in reality was the actual cause of the catastrophe, namely the want of harmony, the quarrels and antagonism prevailing in different branches of the service. The Report states that the powder magazines were close to rooms in which the temperature was very high, and it seemed as if the constructors had no knowledge of the composition of the powder to be stored in these magazines. Besides this, the powder manufacturers knew nothing of the experiments and experiences of the artillery.

The Report goes on to assert that the Committee has found in the navy nothing but antagonism and quarrels, the ships' artillery, the ships' constructors, the sailors and the marines having no relations with each other, but being filled with mutual distrust and jealousy. No higher authority has taken pains or found means to unite, for regular and advantageous action, these forces striving against each other and inimically inclined towards each other.

The continual decline of the French navy is due to the lamentable weakness of the central authority and to the general want of responsibility and indifference.

The Report concludes: "Let us swear to make authority, order and discipline, watchfulness and responsibility once more effective in our navy; let us give our sailors material and weapons worthy of their mettle, their intelligence and their bravery. All Frenchmen are invited to join in this work."

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

THE ATTEMPT ON THE CZAR'S LIFE.

The seven counsels for the defence in the conspiracy trial who spoke on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning urged that the charges brought against the accused were unfounded and were not confirmed by the result of the legal enquiry. The verdict was expected to be given yesterday.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CHOLERA.

The Governor of Plotzk, in order to ward off cholera has ordered the district authorities to subject all passengers at railway stations, landing stages and on rafts on the Vistula to inspection.

AUSTRIAN SOLDIERS ON THE MARCH FOR 9 HOURS.

The 21st Austrian Infantry Regiment had a practice march in Kärnten on Wednesday which lasted from 4 a. m. until 1 p. m. In consequence of the strain 300 are ill, 50 of them seriously; one man has died.

THE BULGARIAN SOVEREIGN'S JUBILEE.

The 20th anniversary of the accession of Prince Ferdinand was celebrated in Bulgaria on Wednesday as a national festival. In the morning a review of the troops took place on the Sophia parade ground in the presence of the Prince. The War-minister handed the Prince a medal in the name of the army to commemorate his 20 years service as Commander-in-Chief.

Later the Prince received the congratulations of the *corps diplomatique*, the Ministers, the Synod, the Sobranje and the surviving Members of the Tirnovo Constituent Assembly that elected him. The Prime Minister handed the Prince a printed Report of the events of the last 20 years. Many sovereigns and Heads of States sent congratulatory telegrams.

The Prince has given donations of 100,000 francs for a consumptive hospital and 10,000 francs for schools for the poor.

A MANIFESTO.

The Prince has published a manifesto which has been cordially received by the people. In it he draws a comparison between the past and the present and states that the successes achieved are mainly due to the admirable qualities of the people. He urges the younger generation to continue the excellent work begun by allowing themselves to be imbued with the patriotism of the last two generations who knew how to value liberty, and to appreciate the sacrifices made by Russia for freeing the country.