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## NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

### DEATH OF LORD KELVIN.

Lord Kelvin, the eminent scientist, died on Tuesday.

(Baron Kelvin, who has passed away in his 84th year, was the greatest of modern practical scientists, his nautical scientific inventions having almost revolutionised navigation; besides which his researches in thermodynamics and telegraphy resulted in numerous improvements being effected. For 53 years he held the Mathematical chair at Glasgow University, and a great international ovation signalled the jubilee of his occupancy in 1896. His life was one of unwearying industry, which, coupled with an extremely sympathetic, lovable nature, earned him the admiration and affection of all with whom he came in contact.)

## NEWS FROM AMERICA.

### MR. CORTELYOU SERIOUSLY ILL.

The *Kölnische Zeitung* reports from Washington that the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Cortelyou, is seriously ill with an attack of influenza.

### NEW YORK CABMEN STRIKE.

About one thousand cab-drivers have struck in New York for higher wages and shorter working hours.

## NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

### WHOLESALE JOURNALISTIC ARRESTS.

Acting upon information received of a widespread revolutionary organisation, the St. Petersburg police made a domiciliary search of the editorial premises of the journal *Sevodnja*, and also of the large printing establishment where the journals *Tovarischtsch*, *Svobodnja*, *Myssl* and *Soveremenoje Slovo* are printed. The editor of the last-named paper, and nearly the entire editorial staff of the *Sevodnja* were arrested, so that the *Sevodnja* was unable to be published on Monday. Further, about 200 persons, mostly journalists, were taken into custody and several pamphlets were seized. A large number of the arrested men were subsequently released.

### THE TRIAL OF GENERAL STÖSSEL.

During Tuesday's proceedings in the investigation of the circumstances attending the surrender of Port Arthur, the defence of the Kinchau position was further discussed. In examining Admiral Essen, counsel for defendants asked why the fleet did not leave its anchorage and support the troops. The president, however, interfered, declaring that such questions could not be allowed, since the court was not in a position to pass judgment upon them. The examination of other witnesses elicited the fact that the Russian field guns were in good condition but that they were limited to a range of five versts, whereas the enemy's positions were often established at a greater distance.

### THE REVOLUTIONARIES IN ST. PETERSBURG.

On Tuesday night, as a party of police under command of the Assistant Superintendent of police in the Wassiliostoff quarter of St. Petersburg were proceeding to make domiciliary visits in that quarter, they were fired upon from a house by two young men. The police officer, Lieut. Colonel Koltshat, was killed and two of his men were wounded. The perpetrators then rushed out into the street, and were pursued by a mounted police patrol and another policeman; but, turning on their pursuers, they wounded two officers and several men, finally escaping unhurt.

### THE MOROCCAN SITUATION.

General Lyautey has telegraphed to Paris as follows: The Beni Menguseh have despatched emissaries with instructions to treat as to conditions of surrender. The column Branlière has established its head camp at the watering-place of Sidi Mohamed bu Berkan, some six miles distant from Schera.

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### FRENCH AND SPANISH MOROCCAN INTERESTS.

The French Minister at Tangier, M. Regnault, arrived at Madrid yesterday morning, presumably to confer with the Spanish Ministry on Moroccan affairs.

### THE EXPLOITS OF A CROWN PRINCE.

A Belgrade report states that during Monday's sitting of the Skupschtina, the Socialists made an interpellation concerning an episode wherein the Crown Prince of Serbia is said to have abused and maltreated some workmen in a carpenter's establishment where his motor-boat was under repair. It is said that the Crown Prince was dissatisfied with some information given to him, and vented his exasperation upon the men. In the absence of the Minister President the interpellation remained unanswered.

On this occasion it also became known that the Prince had lately belaboured two of his lackeys with a hammer.

### PERSIAN AFFAIRS.

#### A POPULAR APPEAL TO THE POWERS.

Reuter reports from Teheran that in accordance with a parliamentary resolution adopted on Monday last, a proclamation by the Persian people is to be issued and presented to the Powers. This proclamation will assert that the Shah has been influenced by individuals who are used to the old régime of despotic government, and who are violating the constitution. The nations of the world are to be appealed to for the support of the Persian populace in their efforts to maintain their rights.

It is further reported from London that according to information received at the Foreign office, the position in Teheran is very grave. The British and Russian governments are working hand in hand, and doing all that is possible to restore pacific relations between the contending factions. The latest advices received at the Foreign office are slightly more favourable.



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## CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICA.

(By letter dated November 30th, from our New York correspondent.)

### THANKSGIVING DAY.

The day before yesterday America celebrated once more her annual Thanksgiving day, which, bearing in its significance some resemblance to the German harvest thanksgiving, was introduced by the old Puritan settlers of Massachusetts and later became a national festival. On Thanksgiving day the Americans, so occupied on other days, are supposed to cease their activity to devote themselves to introspection, and to thank heaven for the benefits conferred on the country. That is the serious significance of the day. This year the day came round at a highly critical juncture. The great harvests left much to be desired, the wheat and cotton crops fall about a fifth below the record, in spite of the fact that the areas devoted to agriculture have considerably increased. Further, the country is still in the throes of the after-effects of the financial disturbances, and pessimists already see in spirit the spectre of a permanent general economic crisis. The customary articles devoted to the newspapers to Thanksgiving day were, for this reason, not tinged this year with absolute rejoicing and optimism; they dealt in minute detail with the present economic situation in the country—which finds its expression in the temporary lamming of industrial enterprises, in the dismissal of workmen and in the comparatively large re-emigration to Europe of foreign labourers. But their remarks on the financial confusion, the discovery of illegal actions on the part of certain bank officials and their consequent prosecution by law, in no way display pessimism. It is true that the discovery of financial irregularities and various tragic occurrences—the suicide of several higher officials who have been found out—form a tragic epilogue to the financial panic. But it is hoped that the present situation will be followed by a permanent cleansing of financial circumstances. The press utterances all agree that there is less ground than in former years to be thankful, but they express the utmost confidence in the economic future of the country, and advise their readers not to lose self-confidence and hope.

Even if Thanksgiving day did offer a special opportunity for reflection on the present economic situation, the day lost none of its joyous character. The majority of families celebrated it by dining off turkey. The decline in the price of meat made the purchase of a turkey possible for many families this year who, in other years, have been unable to afford it. The day was one of joy, too, to the large number of persons who rely on public charity. In various public homes and other institutions turkey, with the necessary cranberry sauce, was served at the expense of the public and private individuals. In this way thousands were fed in New York alone. Young America celebrated the day with the customary masquerade, parading masked through the streets with tin horns and all kinds of noisy instruments.

### A LACK OF RECRUITS.

Despised as the word Militarism is throughout America, the average American is enthusiastic for his own soldiers and loves to speak of their efficiency at every opportunity. But much as the American delights in seeing glittering military spectacles, rich in colour, the army attracts him but little. Desertions and the lack of recruits form an old complaint of American army administration. One of the main causes of both phenomena lies in the fact that a soldier's life offers little from a financial point of view. As far as the Federal army comes in question, soldiering is a professional occupation but the wages paid by America are not enticing. A further cause of the above-mentioned phenomena is that in the American, by