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THE FUNERAL OF KING OSCAR.

The funeral of the late King Oscar which took place at Stockholm yesterday afternoon was a very impressive ceremony. The coffin was borne by the late monarch's adjutants, it being carried later by sailors to the hearse, which was drawn by six horses. The procession set out for the Riddagholmen Church, amid the tolling of bells from all parts of the city. The route along which the procession passed was lined with troops, all the buildings being draped with emblems of mourning. Behind the hearse walked the Kings of Sweden and Denmark, the Swedish Crown Prince, Prince Henry of Prussia, Archduke Frederick of Austria, Prince Ferdinand of Spain, the French Ambassador to Sweden, Prince Arthur of Connaught, Grand Duke Constantine, the Crown Prince of Roumania, the Turkish Ambassador, Prince Max of Baden, the Prince zu Wied, and the entire international diplomatic corps. The Queen Dowager was too indisposed to attend the ceremony. The Archbishop conducted the burial service, at the conclusion of which an artillery salvo of 42 guns was fired. The procession afterwards returned in the same order. The entire ceremony took place amid heavily falling snow, and typical wintry weather.

ENGLISH NEWS.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR ON THE NEW ARMY ORGANISATION.

Mr. Haldane, the Secretary of State for War, speaking at Hull on Wednesday on the new Army scheme, said he was of opinion that no one more unambiguously wished for peace than the German Emperor; but that His Majesty was increasing his land and sea forces with the view that peace is only for the strong. The Minister, in the further course of his speech, said that it was conceivable that an enemy, by avoiding the British fleets, might suddenly land an army of 100,000 men on the shores of the United Kingdom. How would it be with England in such a case, if its regular force of 14 divisions and 3 brigades, was away in other parts of the world? There should be the equivalent of seven Army Corps at home, that would be 300,000 men, or three times the number of foreign troops landed.

ADMIRAL SCOTT ON NAVAL POLICY.

Rear Admiral Scott, speaking on Wednesday evening in the City of London, touched upon the recent changes in the distribution of the fleet, and expressed the opinion that the bases of the various squadrons would no longer be fixed, but would alter in accordance with the political kaleidoscope.

AMERICAN NEWS.

ANOTHER FINANCIER'S SUICIDE.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* reports from New York that Mr. Sargeant, Vice-President of the Jewellers' National Bank in North Attleboro, Mass., has committed suicide. Between this bank and the Chase National Bank of New York there exists some slight connection. Mr. Sargeant was one of the best-known New England financiers.

A later telegram states that the Jewellers' Bank, following upon the Vice-President's suicide, closed its doors on Wednesday. The deposits amount to over one million dollars.

ACTION AGAINST THE TREASURY.

The Washington correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* cables that an action has been brought against the Treasury by disappointed applicants for Panama bonds.

THE ATLANTIC FLEET.

A report published by the newspapers that the fleet now on its way to the Pacific will return via the Suez Canal, is officially contradicted. No de-



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cision has been come to as yet with regard to the return of the fleet.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE NAVAL ESPIONAGE CASE.

The naval officer Ulmo, who is accused of espionage, has been removed to Toulon, where he will be arraigned before the naval court-martial.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

An Imperial rescript addressed to the Minister of War informs him that one of the Czar's chief cares is to strengthen the armament of the Empire, and that His Majesty has already ordered a series of measures to be taken for the improvement of the existing conditions of the private soldier. The Czar also recognizes that the material condition of the Corps of Officers requires improvement. It was absolutely necessary that the pay of officers should be raised, from the 14th of January 1909.

THE TRIAL OF GENERAL STÖSSEL.

The Court Martial assembled at St. Petersburg for the trial of General Stössel and others in connection with the surrender of Port Arthur was occupied on Wednesday in investigating the charge against General Stössel that he unlawfully assumed the position of Commandant of the fortress. On that point General Kuropatkin gave evidence that created marked interest and threw a characteristic light on the whole situation. General Stössel, he said, received orders, after the battle of Kinchau, to join the army in Manchuria, but he remained, notwithstanding, in Port Arthur. That was formally incorrect but morally justifiable. General Kuropatkin then testified to the brilliant character of General Stössel, whom he had known since he was a boy at school, and recounted his military services. He, the witness, had left General Stössel at Port Arthur because he had an excellent knowledge of the whole Kwantung district. General Kuropatkin gave equally favourable testimony as to General Fock, upon whose strength of will he laid stress.

NEWS FROM SPAIN.

M. REGNAULT AT MADRID.

On Wednesday, says a Madrid despatch, King Alfonso received the French Ambassador in Tangier, M. Regnault. The Ambassador expressed to the King his great satisfaction at the excellent co-operation between France and Spain in the Moroccan question.

THE NAVAL BUDGET.

The Chamber has definitely passed the marine budget, and the Cabinet has declared itself in accordance with the proposal to entrust the Cadiz harbour works to an Italian engineer.

PORTUGUESE ARMY OFFICER INDICTED.

It is reported from Lisbon that a lieutenant of artillery, named Djalme, together with two accomplices, has been accused of forging Portuguese money-orders. They are believed to have sold 2,500 false orders. The legal proceedings, to which about 500 witnesses have been summoned, are expected to last some ten days.

EARTHQUAKES IN ITALY.

Severe earthquake shocks were experienced in Avellino and Salerno on Tuesday evening. Up to midnight, however, no reports of damage had come to hand.

DARING BURGLARY ATTEMPT AT DÜSSELDORF.

On Tuesday night some thieves blew open the safe of a local metal-workers' sick-fund with explosives. The shock displaced a heavy iron beam, which fell through the cash-office window into the yard, demolishing the electric light apparatus. The resulting noise scared the burglars, who left 10,000 marks in the safe.

GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

There is some talk in Berlin of the immediate formation of a South West African commercial transport company. The object of the undertaking would be to open up the Protectorate by establishing automobile traffic for goods in inter-connection with existing railway routes. It is said that the Colonial Department will grant the Company a concession until 1915. The capital of the Company is fixed for the present at 1,200,000 marks. The establishment of factories is to go on hand in hand with the opening of the traffic routes. The local business details will be entrusted to men well acquainted with South West African conditions. The head offices will be in Berlin and Swakopmund. Herr Schueckmann, the Governor, is said to have promised to support the Company.

MOROCCAN AFFAIRS.

A correspondent of the Paris *Matin* reports that the indemnity inflicted upon the Beni Snassen tribe reaches a total of 850,000 francs. A quarter of this amount is to be paid on the 5th January next.

THE DISTURBANCES IN PERSIA.

A telegram from Teheran, dated Wednesday, states that the Shah has expressed his approval of the intention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to avoid further bloodshed as far as possible. Some sensation was caused by the fact of an Austrian official of the Shah having, apparently with the consent of the Embassies, handed over a considerable quantity of rifles and ammunition from the stores in his charge to persons authorized by the Shah to receive them. It is supposed that this could not have been done without the assent of the Embassies.

LORD LONSDALE AND THE KAISER.

There can be little doubt that one of the most cherished of the presents which the burglars have carried away from the Earl of Lonsdale's hunting box is the gold cigarette case inscribed "Wilhelm I. R." For some years now he has been honoured with the close friendship of the German Emperor, and it was Lord Lonsdale who in the days of strained feelings, after the Kruger telegram, was specially invited to stay with the Kaiser. His Majesty has several times been the guest of his Lordship at Lowther Castle.

A FAMOUS AMERICAN ADMIRAL.

"Fighting Bob" is the popular name for the Commander of the American Fleet, which has just sailed for the Pacific. Sixty-one years of age, his experience of war goes back to the great Civil War of 1861-5; and in the war with Spain, in 1898, he commanded the battleship "Iowa," at Santiago. His reminiscences, published under the title of *A Sailor's Log*, appeared six years ago.

STRICTLY TRUE.

"Reginald," said his father, working the gimlet-eye business, "have you eaten any of the peaches I put in the cupboard?" "Father," he replied, "I cannot tell a lie. I have not touched one." "And yet, Reginald, I find five peach-stones in your bedroom, and only one peach left in the cupboard." "That, father, is the one I did not touch."