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## ENGLISH NEWS.

### IMPORTANT SPEECH BY SIR EDWARD GREY.

In a speech delivered at Berwick on Thursday, Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, after having touched upon the Irish question, said: "I should now like to pass on to several phases of our foreign policy. The first item is, in any case, a very pleasant one, as I desire to give expression to the pleasure which, I believe, has been felt throughout the country on the occasion of the German Emperor's visit. All public utterances bearing upon His Majesty's visit were couched in most cordial terms, and I am convinced that the friendly welcome and hospitality extended on the part of the British public, together with the hearty manner in which the Emperor acknowledged these sentiments, will tend to exercise a favourable effect in both countries. Half the difficulties, nay, more than half the difficulties with which diplomacy has to contend will disappear now that both nations have arrived at the conviction that neither wishes evil towards the other. A monarch who remains in England as long as the German Emperor, and who takes leave of the people with such cordiality, must of necessity add his part towards a good understanding and friendly relations between the two countries."

With regard to general questions of foreign policy, Sir Edward particularly mentioned that England maintained her alliances and friendships. The agreement arrived at between Japan and France guaranteed the integrity of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, and, in reference to the Anglo-French *entente*, every opportunity that had been taken of testing this friendship only demonstrated how lasting and powerful it was. The *entente* with France had, under the present Government, been supplemented by the agreement with Spain, a similar agreement having been concluded between the latter country and France. These agreements, however, were not intended as a menace against any other Power, and England was ready to participate in other agreements with countries concerning matters in which there was mutual interest. She had already shown her readiness to do so by the arrangement recently concluded with Russia, which was also a proof that both parties wished to vary their former policy towards each other. For something like fifty years Anglo-Russian relations had frequently been characterised by a feeling the reverse of amicable, but there now existed a common determination to stimulate friendship and mutual trust. Through this agreement with Russia, the Indian frontiers were guaranteed without any commercial interests in Persia having been abandoned or jeopardised. Apropos of the Macedonian question, Sir Edward pointed out that as England had welcomed the initiative made by Russia and Austro-Hungary, so she was ready to submit her wishes and proposals to other Powers. Under no circumstance should any one of the Powers risk a disturbance of the European Concert, for behind the question of Macedonia lay the Turkish problem, and without international unanimity the latter question might easily become a danger to the peace of Europe, as formerly. The Minister then expressed his warm approbation of the British delegates' deportment at the Hague Conference. With regard to the expansion of the German navy, he said that the German government had formulated a very extensive programme, but he did not complain of this. He mentioned the fact, not in a spirit of criticism, but because it was of importance. If other nations increased their sea forces England would certainly have to augment her own, but at the present moment there was no danger of Great Britain having to incur additional expense in this matter. The British navy was absolutely prepared for all possible emergencies during the next year or two, and England need not for the present view foreign naval expansion with uneasiness.

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### MR. W. T. STEAD CRITICISED.

The Committee of International Arbitration held a meeting in London on Thursday last, adopting a resolution wherein Mr. Stead's demand, that for every warship built by Germany two should be laid down in England, was noted, and stress laid upon the fact that nothing in Germany's naval programme was paradoxical to the recent cordial expressions of the German Emperor as to the friendly relations existing between the two countries.

### AMERICAN NEWS.

#### MINE DISASTER STATISTICS.

Appointed by Secretary of the Interior Garfield, a commission has compiled statistics with regard to the loss of life in American mines. During the last seventeen years, 22,840 miners have met their death by disasters, half of this number having fallen victims during the last six years. In the year 1906, 6,861 men were involved in mine disasters, out of which number 2,061 perished.

#### SUDDEN DEATH OF AN AMBASSADOR.

Mr. Christian Hauge, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Norway at Washington, was found dead on Thursday morning some distance from the Woxencollen Sanatorium, near Christiania, where he had been spending his holiday, and had started alone on a *ski* tour. The doctors pronounced that his death was due to paralysis of the heart.

#### EXPLOSION IN A COAL MINE.

A violent explosion occurred on Thursday morning in the Dare mine, belonging to the Pittsburg Coal Company, which was heard for miles around. Immediately after the explosion thick clouds of smoke rose from the shaft of the mine. Four hundred miners are entombed, and it is feared that none of them survive. The mine is on fire.

A later telegram says that the number of miners entombed is five hundred.

A still later telegram is to the effect that the Vice President of the Pittsburg Coal Company had expressed his belief that no more than 160 persons were in the Dare mine at the time of the explosion.

#### NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

A private telegram from St. Petersburg, of Thursday's date, states that a whole Army Corps from the military district of St. Petersburg is to be sent



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to Finland, ostensibly for the purpose of winter manoeuvres. This may perhaps be taken, says the telegram, as a further indication of an approaching change in Russo-Finnish policy, and be considered in connection with the recent much discussed appointment of Major General Seyn, formerly the confidential friend of Bobrikoff, to be Assistant Governor of Finland.

### STATE OFFICIAL'S TRAGIC DEATH.

M. Philossoff, Minister for Commerce, went to Tsarkoe Selo on Thursday, says a St. Petersburg telegram, and returned in the best of spirits. With his sons he later attended a gala performance at the Marine Theatre, but at the opening of the performance he became indisposed, and fell unconscious. He was carried out of the theatre and visited by a physician, who pronounced the Minister to be dead, the cause of death being an apoplectic stroke.

### RACIAL ANIMOSITY IN POLAND.

In consequence of the recent occurrence at the local German Sport Club, says a Warsaw telegram, when armed intruders smashed the busts of the German Emperors Friedrich III and Wilhelm II, the Governor-General has instructed his subordinates to take measures for the protection of German inhabitants. The German Consulate is guarded by the military.

### DISASTROUS EXPLOSION IN SICILY.

A Palermo telegram reports that an explosion occurred in a weapon store, where a supply of dynamite and gun-powder was kept. The building was wrecked, 25 people being killed and about 100 injured. Every window-pane within a great radius of the scene was broken. Soldiers and firemen are engaged in the work of rescuing the injured.

A later message says that the explosion occurred at 5.30 o'clock on Thursday evening, the store being closed at the time. Up to yesterday morning, ten dead and some sixty wounded had been found. It is feared that there are still many victims beneath the ruins, as the story above the shop was an hotel, patronised by foreigners.

According to a telegram received just before going to press, 43 dead and 100 injured had been extricated from the ruins up to noon yesterday.

### THE UNREST IN PERSIA.

A *Reuter* despatch from Teheran states, with reference to the negotiations which have been carried on between the Shah and the Parliament, that it had been agreed that they should not be continued further unless the people encamped on the Maidan (a public square) struck their tents and dispersed, and the Constitutionalists quitted the Parliament buildings. That had been done. On Thursday morning the shops were re-opened, and the situation seemed to have improved; but early in the afternoon, when Parliament was sitting, a few shots were fired, tents were again pitched on the Maidan, and the people assembled in armed crowds. The Parliament received telegrams from the principal towns throughout the country, promising assistance.

### NEWS FROM MOROCCO.

#### OFFERS OF SUBMISSION.

A telegram from General Lyautey, published in Paris on Thursday, reports that emissaries of the Bestara, who belong to the Beni Mengusch tribe, have come in and declared the willingness of the Bestara people to accept the conditions imposed upon them. A number of natives thereupon began to pay the fine in natural products.

Mulai Raschid, whose much diminished fighting force is encamped near Kasbah of the Mediunas, has—according to a telegram from Casablanca—again forbidden the natives to attend the Casablanca market. This prohibition has caused great dissatisfaction among the tribes.