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ENGLISH NEWS.

THE LONDON OMNIBUS STRIKE.

The strike of the conductors employed by the Motor Omnibus Company is ended, the men resuming work on Monday last.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN YORKSHIRE.

On Monday a Manchester express ran into another train near Huddersfield. The casualties reported are twelve passengers injured, some dangerously.

AMERICAN NEWS.

THE CRUISE OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET.

The sixteen battleships of the United States Atlantic Fleet which arrived in Rio de Janeiro bay on Monday have covered the distance from Hampton Road in 27 days. The distance between their starting point and Rio is 5,600 miles, which works out at an average of 210 miles per day or a speed of 8½ knots an hour. It must be remembered, however, that the fleet has engaged in exercises and evolutions en route, so that although the average speed attained appears insignificant at first sight, no correct data can be ascertained until authentic details, concerning the nature and extent of the manoeuvres carried out, are to hand.

CHICAGO ISOLATED BY HAILSTORM.

It is reported from New York that all lines of communication in and around Chicago have been interrupted in consequence of a severe hailstorm. Telegrams are being forwarded by train.

FATAL FIRE IN AN OPERA HOUSE.

A telegram from Boyertown, Pennsylvania, dated yesterday, states that fifty persons, mostly women and children, have met their deaths in a fire at the opera house there. Many who had escaped from the flames were thrown to the ground and trodden to death in the rush for the doors, or died soon afterwards from the effects of the injuries they had received. The fire was caused by the explosion of a boiler, and derived fresh fuel from the contents of oil-lamps thrown down in the panic. The building was completely gutted in a very short time.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

AEROPLANE TRIUMPH AT PARIS.

The experiments of Mr. Henry Farman with his aeroplane, reported in our edition of yesterday, appear, from later information, to have been extraordinarily successful. The machine first rose to a height of three metres above the ground, and flew straight in the direction of the flag that marked the turning-point of the specified course, attaining during its flight an altitude of eight metres. Mr. Farman then made the curve around the flag with ease and returned to the starting place, gradually sinking until the former height of three metres above the ground was reached. The successful aeronaut was enthusiastically cheered upon landing. A second trip met with even greater success than the first, and Mr. Farman covered 1,300 metres; that is to say, 300 metres more than was necessary to win the German Archdeacon Prize.

Already there are rumours of a new prize being offered, the value of which is mentioned as 100,000 francs.

THE NORTHERN QUESTION.

It is reported from Stockholm that the preparatory conferences, which have for their object an entente between the interested Powers as to the



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maintenance of the status quo in the Baltic, tended in no wise to eliminate the standing principle that the Baltic is an open sea.

From Copenhagen we hear that the local press goes out of its way to state that such conferences could only be held if Denmark was represented. The interests of Sweden and Denmark are identical on all important points. The latter country, of course, would not enter into any agreement with isolated Powers. An equal regard for all the nations interested was the leading motive in an entente of this nature.

DEATH OF A FAMOUS DANISH POET.

A telegram from Copenhagen reports the death yesterday morning of Holger Drachmann, the well-known poet and dramatist, at Kornbäck, where he had for some time been an inmate of a sanatorium on account of nerve trouble.

(Holger Drachmann was born in Copenhagen on the 9th of October 1846, and was of German extraction. He travelled very extensively in Great Britain, France, Spain and Italy, and his literary career began by his sending letters about his journeys to the Danish newspapers. His talent was as versatile as it was extraordinary; he combined seascape painting with the publication of lyrics, dramas, translations and political literature. In 1882 Drachmann published his fine paraphrase of Byron's *Don Juan*, and three years later wrote *Once upon a Time*, a play that had a record run at the Royal Theatre, Copenhagen. In the winter of 1900 he visited England, and was entertained by fifty British authors. A man of lofty stature and commanding appearance, he looked like a poet and a Viking. He was unquestionably the greatest writer that Denmark produced in the last quarter of the 19th century.)

MOROCCAN AFFAIRS.

In diplomatic circles at Tangier the opinion prevails that Mulai Hafid's proclamation in no wise increases his resources in money or troops. In order to derive any practical result from his moral success he would have to institute a proper form of government and levy taxes; in that case, however, his most enthusiastic adherents would turn against him. On the other hand, the position of Abdul Aziz does not appear to be very much worse than before, so long as he is in a position to pay his troops stationed in the harbour towns. It is generally taken for granted that a good understanding with Mulai Hafid is impossible, since his proclamation declares the Acts of Algeiras to be void and practically preaches the Holy War. The acting French Minister in Tangier, Count de Saint-Aulaire, cables to Paris that the events at Fez have had no reaction on the coast towns, but that it is advisable to take precautionary measures in any case.

As heretofore, the French Government intends to remain strictly within the limits dictated by the Acts of Algeiras. Their intervention in Morocco will be confined to attempts to maintain order and the protection of the Europeans in those coast towns in which France has been allotted the task of organising the police force.

The Paris press is rather disgusted at the turn events have taken in Morocco, and from every side voices are beginning to be heard condemning the entire "adventure." *Le Gaulois* and the *Humanité*, two organs whose opinions are generally widely divergent, are unanimous in demanding the cessation of the Moroccan operations. The *Débats* goes further, and designates as foolish the adventurous policy.

The London papers are taking very little notice of the situation. The *Daily Graphic* says that Mulai Hafid's proclamation was a declaration of war against all the signatory Powers to the Acts of Algeiras. France and Spain are bound in honour to march on Fez and reinstate Abdul Aziz, and not alone to reinstate him but also to support him on his throne; this would be tantamount to permanent occupation. Prior, however, to action on these lines, a second European Conference would have to be held and the new arrangement promulgated. In practically the same strain the *Standard* criticises the situation, while the *Daily News* also holds that it is incumbent upon France, as Morocco's guardian, to take immediate action.

THE SITUATION IN PERSIA.

According to a Teheran message, the Governor General of Aserbeidschan, Prince Ferma, telegraphed to the Persian Parliament that he was surrounded by Turks near Sandshbulak, and that a number of rifles and 80,000 tomanen in money had been carried off by them.

The Premier, the Minister for War, and other high officials immediately repaired to the palace in order to confer with the Shah on the situation. The Shah, who was deeply moved, renewed his oath on the Koran that he would faithfully collaborate with the Parliament.

A later Tabriz despatch reports an attack by Kurds on a body of 300 cavalry escorting a caravan destined

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