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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

GERMAN EMPEROR'S GRACIOUS ACT.

London, March 5. The German Emperor has made a donation of £1,000 to the Cape Mounted Police, as a recognition of their services in the operations which resulted in the overthrow and death of the rebel Morenga. According to a *Central News* report from Cape Town, the gift comes from the Emperor's private purse.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, March 6. Mr. Joseph Pease, Junior Lord of the Treasury, announced in the name of the Board of Agriculture that the regulations with reference to the importation of foreign hay and straw, and drawn up in consideration of the introduction of the foot-and-mouth disease from Holland, will come into force on March 9th.

INFLUENZA IN THE HOUSE.

London, March 6. Sir P. Magnus had given notice yesterday to ask the Prime Minister whether, having regard to the prevalence of influenza among members of the House of Commons, he will reconsider the advisability of a daily adjournment of the House for a half-hour between the hours of seven and nine in the evening, with a view to the better ventilation of the House by the admission of fresh air through opened windows. The hon. gentleman said, owing to the absence of the Prime Minister and of the First Commissioner of Works, who might have answered, he would postpone his question until Monday (loud cries of "Oh!").

THE HORSE KNEW ITS FRIEND.

How a horse knows a friend, says a London correspondent, was exemplified at the Guildhall the other day, when an amusing and curious scene was witnessed in the yard outside the police-court. Constable Perry, known as the "Horse's Friend," on account of the number of cases of cruelty he has reported, led a poor, lame, worn-out horse into the centre of the yard. Leaving it for the time being unattended, he was about to pass through the door of the court when the horse turned and followed him, and it was not until it had got its fore feet on the second step of the entrance that Perry noticed it, and led his charge into the yard again. The owner of the horse was subsequently fined by the magistrate for cruelly working it.

QUEBEC'S HISTORIC PAGEANT.

London, March 5. *Reuter's Agency* learns that the actual details of the festivities to be held in Canada on the occasion of the Prince of Wales's visit have not been settled, but they will include an historic pageant starting from the landing of Champlain to shortly after the fall of Quebec. The pageant will be arranged by Mr. Lascelles.

There will also be a military review, at which it is expected that 25,000 troops, consisting of local Militia and other bodies, will take part, and finally there will be a ceremony of consecration of the battlefields, at which the Prince of Wales will preside.

It was hoped to hold the celebration at a time which would have enabled Imperial Ministers and members of Parliament to attend, but as the festivities are definitely fixed for July 22-29, and Parliament will presumably still be sitting, it is doubtful if any Cabinet Minister will be able to be present.

In naval circles at Portsmouth it is stated that the Prince of Wales will use the "Renown" for his trip to Canada, and will be accompanied by the battleship "Dominion," with other vessels, representing the newest and best types of British warships. The "Renown" has remained yacht fitted ever since she took the Prince and Princess of Wales to India. At the present moment she is in special reserve awaiting the Canadian trip.

IN HONOUR OF SHAKESPEARE.

London, March 5. A Committee appointed to do honour to Shakespeare's memory appeals to the public for a sum of £200,000; one half of which it is proposed by the Committee to devote to erecting a Shakespeare monument in London, the other



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STOP PRESS NEWS.

KING EDWARD IN PARIS.

Paris, March 6. The King of England took breakfast today with the Premier, M. Clémenceau, and M. Pichon, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Later visits were exchanged between His Majesty and President Fallières.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH AND THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

London, March 6. Lord Tweedmouth, First Lord of the Admiralty, has authorised *Reuter's Agency* to announce that the letter received by him from the German Emperor was a purely personal communication, and was not addressed to him in his official standing as First Lord, neither had it anything to do with the British Navy Estimates. Lord Tweedmouth's secretary said that on Monday next a communication on the matter will be made to the House of Lords. Until then there is no intention of publishing the correspondence.

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half to some means yet to be devised of promoting international interest in Shakespeare's work. The Committee hopes that its proposal will find support abroad as well as from Shakespeare's countrymen throughout the world.

DUBLIN CROWN JEWELS.

London, March 6. Sir Arthur Vicars (late Ulster King of Arms), in a letter to the Press, bitterly complains that, owing to the technicalities of the law, there is no process by which he can initiate proceedings for the investigation of his case.

Sir Arthur adds:—"It is intolerable that in the twentieth century a public servant can be summarily dismissed without trial under circumstances which suggest the gravest possible reflection on his character, and that in the full blaze of the present century His Majesty's Irish Government can put the Magna Charta in the waste-paper basket without the voice of the public being raised in protest. I appeal to the public to make their voice heard,

and insist that I may receive the privilege which the meanest criminal is entitled to—a public judicial inquiry. Desperate diseases require desperate remedies, and should the voice of the public be unheard, I feel I cannot be blamed for forcing to come out into the open, even by desperate devices, those who are sheltering themselves behind the entrenchments of title, dignity, privilege, and brief authority."

THE UNIONIST VICTORY AT HASTINGS.

London, March 5. After the declaration of the result of the by-election at Hastings there was a scene of great excitement and enthusiasm. Mr. du Cros was carried shoulder high up and down the corridor connected with the counting-room. Later he proposed a vote of thanks to the returning officer, and congratulated Mr. Harcourt on the strenuous and straightforward fight he had made. Mr. Harcourt, who was accompanied by Lady Harcourt, reciprocated the kindly expressions, and said that before many years he hoped to meet Mr. du Cros on the floor of the House.

The two candidates were in evidence throughout the day. Mr. Arthur du Cros drove his own motor car, and his three little children, two girls and a boy, rode through the streets on a bedecked car, bearing the appeal, "Please vote for our daddy."

Mr. du Cros, asked by a Press representative how he had won, attributed his victory first and foremost to Tariff Reform, and particularly to the Colonial Preference side of the question. He considered that the election was won before the Licensing Bill was introduced.

Mr. Harcourt, on the other hand, said he had fought against heavy odds, having had to oppose a local candidate while the organisation of local Liberals was unprepared. He believed that the Licensing Bill had had a damaging effect upon his prospects.

VIOLENT SNOW-STORM IN ENGLAND.

March in England has come in like the proverbial lion, with violent snow-storms which have blocked roads and railways in all parts of the country, worst of all in the West of Scotland. On the West Highland Railway a passenger train which left Glasgow for Fort William was snowed-up near Rannoch, and the passengers had to spend the night and the whole of Sunday in the train. The line had by that time been cleared sufficiently to allow the train to proceed. A snow-plough sent to the assistance of this train shared the latter's fate as the engine of the plough got off the track. On Rannoch Moor a number of deer, pressed by hunger, came down to the railway and sought shelter under the embankments. In Leicestershire and Yorkshire the sheep had to be dug out of the snow-drifts, and many lambs were lost.

AMERICAN NEWS.

THE CLEVELAND CATASTROPHE.

Cleveland, March 6. From particulars which have been published concerning the school fire it appears that the doors of the Lake View School opened inwards, and that a door at the back was locked. These two facts seem to have been the chief causes of the great loss of life. The locked doors could have been easily burst open if the necessary assistance had been at hand. The number of bodies already recovered is 180; of these more than 100 have been identified at the mortuary. The fire is now said to have been caused by children carelessly playing with the stove. The scene at the entrance of the burning school is thus described: parents saw their children piled in a heap eight feet high and burnt before their eyes; they could touch them but not drag them out. One mother kept her hand on her daughter's head till the child was dead and the hand burnt. In the whole of Collingwood there is hardly a family which has not been thrown into mourning. More than 20 children were killed in jumping from the windows, but many were caught and saved in blankets and on mattresses. The youngest children were on the top floor, so the majority of the victims were between 7 and 9 years old.

NEW YORK MAGNATE'S PALATIAL YACHT.

The world's second largest privately-owned yacht, "Iolanda," was launched this week at Leith, Scot.

(Continued on page 2.)