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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In reply to a question put to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs at Thursday's sitting by Mr. Alden (*Lib.* Middlesex), as to whether the Government had taken any steps to ascertain the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government on the appointment of a Turkish Governor of Macedonia, Sir Edward Grey said that a communication had been addressed to the Powers for their consideration, in which the views of the Government such as had lately been explained to the House, as also their view of the matter referred to by Mr. Alden, were represented.

Reuter's Bureau is informed that the British Government has despatched identical replies to the Russian and Italian Notes with regard to the Macedonian railway project. Great Britain's answer is in principle that her attitude is one of benevolent neutrality towards all Macedonian railway projects. England, however, is not prepared actively to support any one of the projects until the Porte agrees to some real plan of reform. The formal proposal made by Sir Edward Grey for the appointment of a Governor General of Macedonia had been sent, with instructions that it should be communicated to the Governments, on Monday last. The proposal in its details had been brought into agreement with the ideas sketched in Sir Edward's speech, viz. that a Turkish Governor of character and ability, Mohammedan or Christian, should be appointed, with the approval and sanction of the Powers; that he should not be liable to removal without their consent, and that his office should be secured to him for a certain number of years.

INTERESTING SPEECH BY LORD ROSEBERY.

In a speech delivered to the Liberal League on Thursday, Lord Rosebery said he was in favour of maintaining friendly relations, not only with one of the great Powers of Europe but with all of them. That ought to be the fundamental principle of the foreign policy of England; but it did not put an end to the necessity of keeping up a considerable superiority of British power on the sea and of being always on the watch with regard to land armaments. If the British people allowed their forces to fall below a certain level, they would be liable to panics which would be unworthy of a great nation and a danger to the heart of the Empire. Another reason for holding to this Imperialism was the necessity of keeping the flag aloft and pure, free from that Imperialism which was based on a protective tariff. Tariffs were a hindrance to union, and he would only vote for them under the pressure of overwhelming necessity. England might be driven to choose between a protective system and Socialism, and—however disagreeable it might be to him—he would not hesitate in that case to give the preference to a protective system. Socialism would be the end of the Empire and of religion. If Socialism should get the upper hand, the Liberal party must be swept away. He thoroughly disapproved of the proceedings of the Government in respect of the House of Lords. In conclusion, Lord Rosebery appealed to the Liberal party to rally round the following five points: a sound Imperialism; free trade; refusal of an Irish parliament; hostility to Socialism; a reformed and efficient Chamber.

"LUSITANIA'S" NEW RECORD.

The Liverpool newspapers learn that the "Lusitania" from Monday noon to Tuesday noon maintained an average speed of 25.14 knots, the distance covered in the period mentioned being 627 knots. This establishes another Transatlantic record.

THE PAN-ANGLICAN CONGRESS.

The Imperial Church Congress, which meets at Westminster Abbey, on June 15 next, will be the most important conference on episcopal matters that has ever been held in London.

It is intended that, so far as is possible, a representative from every country with which the Church of England is associated shall speak upon every topic, so that, for instance, the drink traffic,



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gambling, the unemployed, the marriage laws, and the threats of Socialism, may be treated from the points of view of every such country.

The proceedings will extend over ten days, more than 200 dioceses will be represented, and some 7,000 members of the English Church will be present. The proceedings will commence with the celebration of Holy Communion at Westminster Abbey by the Archbishop of Canterbury, after which a great thanksgiving service will be held at the Abbey Church. Following these solemn ceremonies, a great conference will be held at the Albert Hall, overflow meetings taking place simultaneously at Holborn Town Hall, Caxton Hall, Kensington Town Hall, Zion College, the Holborn Restaurant, and the Church House.

As a conference, the congress in June must not be confused with either the decennial meeting of Bishops, which is to be held at Lambeth Palace in July, nor with the annual Church Congress, which will take place at Manchester at the end of September. When the deliberations of the conference—mainly consisting of an Imperial debate, intended to bind the Episcopal Church in the Colonies more closely to the Mother Church at home—are concluded, a great service of solemn thanksgiving will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral, when it is expected that every Bishop will present a thankoffering from his diocese, either in the form of money, or in men and women willing to go forth and serve the Church in every portion of the world.

THE "WALTZ DREAM" IN LONDON.

We hear from a London correspondent that the English adaption of this famous Viennese operetta bids fair to attain widespread popularity. Upon the first production of "A Waltz Dream" at Hicks Theatre the critics were more than usually kind. They emphasise the fact that this latest importation, in contrast to its forerunners, possesses a very fair plot, and that the music, besides being very good music of its kind, is not dropped in here and there to relieve the tedium of a senseless *motif*; some of it is actually a part of the plot, and all of it is an essential part of the expression of the story. The cast of the Hicks

Theatre production is extremely talented. It includes such light-operative stars as Miss Gertie Millar, Miss Mary Grey, Miss Luna Lore, and Messrs. Robert Evett, George Grossmith, Jr., and Vernon Davidson.

AMERICAN NEWS.

EVELYN THAW SEEKS FREEDOM.

The report we recently published to the effect that proceedings were about to be instituted for the annulment of the Thaw marriage is now confirmed by despatches from New York. When the matter was first mentioned it was understood that the action would emanate ostensibly from Thaw himself, but actually from the influence of his relatives. It now appears, however, that Mrs. Evelyn Thaw is the plaintiff, and not the persecuted heroine of popular imagination. She commenced the nullity suit at New York on Wednesday, and hopes that the proceedings, which are based on the ground of her husband's insanity, will leave her a free woman. The *ci-devant* Floradora girl has evidently grown weary of her heavy melodramatic rôle, which entailed a certain amount of sacrifice, and yearns for a new lease of the feverish existence which she lead before her marriage, and which, once tasted, is said to draw its devotees back like an irresistible magnet.

THE SUBMARINE BOAT SCANDAL.

A New York telegram dated Thursday states that an enquiry is being held at Washington by Congress into a charge which has been publicly made against the Electric Boat Company of having bribed members of Congress to endeavour to induce the Government to purchase submarine boats from that Company, and to influence legislation in that sense. A member of Congress who was heard as a witness made the following statement on the subject: "I charge the Company with having made unheard-of profits to the amount of a million dollars through the Legislature of the United States having preferred the inferior submarine boats of the Electric Boat Company to better boats of other Companies."

WARSHIPS TO VISIT BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The municipal authorities of Victoria (British Columbia) have been advised that the British North Atlantic Cruiser Squadron will pay a visit to those waters.

NEBRASKAN REPUBLICANS FAVOUR MR. TAFT.

The Omaha (Neb.) Republican Committee has declared itself in favour of the nomination of Mr. Taft as Presidential candidate.

INTERESTING TRADE STATISTICS.

The exports from the United States during February reached the total of \$94,332,000, of which cotton represented a value of \$44,159,000. During the eight months ending with February, the exports amounted to \$723,939,000, cotton being \$361,011,000. During the eight months in question the total exports increased by \$43,000,000.

FRENCH SETTLERS FOR CANADA.

With a view to the promotion of immigration from France the Canadian Government has decided to select a number of successful French settlers from various parts of Canada and send them on a tour through rural France to explain the advantages of the Dominion to the people.

VOYAGE OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET.

It is reported from San Diego that Admiral Evans' battleship squadron arrived at Magdalena Bay on Wednesday evening, four days ahead of the original itinerary. The fleet as a whole is in excellent condition.

The United States Navy Department publishes a despatch from Admiral Evans, in which he says that the condition of the squadron is better than when it left Hampton Roads last December, and that within a day the ships would be ready for every emergency. Target practice will commence immediately. The fleet will arrive in San Francisco on May 5.

(Continued on page 2.)