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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH EXPLAINS.

Lord Tweedmouth, First Lord of the Admiralty, in connexion with Wednesday's debate in the House of Lords on the naval situation, has written a letter to Lord Cawdor, in which he states that his remarks on Wednesday were in favour of the extension, not of the reduction, of the two-Power standard.

NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA.

Earl Dudley, K.P., P.C., G.C.V.O., has been appointed to succeed Lord Northcote as Governor-General of the Australian Commonwealth.

RIFLES FOR TRANSVAAL CITIZENS.

Mr. Fisher, Premier of the Transvaal, has announced the impending publication of a decree which gives to every citizen the right to own a rifle; and he expresses the hope that the day will come when the possession of a rifle will be obligatory to every man.

DEATH OF A BRITISH AMBASSADOR.

Sir Nicholas O'Connor, British Ambassador in Constantinople, died there on Thursday after an illness extending over several weeks. The late Ambassador was born in 1844, and entered the diplomatic service at the age of 22. He was appointed to Constantinople in 1898, and had thus represented Great Britain in Turkey for a space of ten years.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

FLOODS AT PITTSBURG AND WHEELING.

A New York telegram says that devastating floods are reported from Pittsburg and from Wheeling (W. Va.) in consequence of the thaw, which has been accompanied by cloudbursts. The rivers are still rising rapidly.

THE DISTURBANCES IN HAYTI.

The dearth of despatches from Hayti points to the conclusion that the upheaval is at an end, and it is probable that the international naval squadron now off Port au Prince has proved an effective deterrent to an outrage on the foreign consulates. The last telegram reports the arrival of the British armoured cruiser "Cressy," and the United States cruisers "Des Moines" and "Paducah," so that there are now British, American, German and French warships on the scene.

Possibly, the only lasting effect of this brief tumult will be to increase the despair of those who believe in the social regeneration of the negro. For more than a century now a black Government has played havoc with the most fertile of all the West Indian islands, and the natural enquiry is, how long will this parody of civilised institutions be permitted to continue?

The correspondent of the Paris *Matin* in New York says he has every authority for stating that Mr. Root, Secretary of State, entertains no apprehension whatever with regard to the attitude adopted by the European Powers, especially France, towards Hayti. The correspondent adds that if forces have to be landed Mr. Root will not raise any objections on behalf of the United States.

A TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT.

A Massachusetts society has presented Governor Guild, of Boston, with a protest against keeping in further solitary confinement a murderer named Pomeroy, who has suffered that punishment for thirty-four years.

FLOWERS AND BRIDGE.

Mrs. Jordan, a Canadian lady, has been astonishing the people of San Francisco with a bridge party which she has recently given. When the guests arrived they entered the wide lower hall, which was lined with flowering acacia trees. The yellow blossoms also decked the way, the staircase and the upper hall were filled with jars of violets, jonquils, and begonias. Thousands of carnations were used in the room where the game was played, and the dining-room had been transformed into a bit of Italy. The floor was covered with grass,



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and trees were massed in the corners. Some of these were forced lilac trees in full blossom. The guests entered by rustic gates, and while they enjoyed a delicious tea, Hawaiian singing behind a screen of palms added to the charm of the event.

THE CANADIAN BUDGET.

Mr. Fielding made his annual Budget statement this week in the Dominion House of Commons. He took, on the whole, a hopeful view of trade prospects in the early future. He anticipated a surplus of £3,800,000 in the fiscal year ending March 31. The net debt per head of the population was now £8 16s.—a reduction of 7s. 3d.

THE GERMAN REVERSE IN S. W. AFRICA.

The following details of the recent German reverse in South West Africa are given in a telegram received at headquarters in Berlin from Lieut. Colonel v. Estorff, commanding the German troops. The expeditionary force under Hauptmann v. Erekert attacked the position of Simon Copper in the middle of the Kalahari, 60 miles NE. of Geinab, on Monday last. The enemy lost 58 men killed, 7 men and a few women were taken prisoners. Simon Copper escaped into the thick bush, the rest of his men dispersed towards the South and South-West. Hauptmann v. Erekert, Lieutenant Ebinger and 12 men were killed, 9 men were severely wounded, 3 officers and 5 men slightly wounded.

The expeditionary force, of a total strength of 430 whites, with 4 machine guns and 700 camels, marched in two columns from Gochas on the 6th and from Arahob on the 8th instant. The two columns united on the 11th instant at Geinab, and for the first time in four days the rations were cooked. The daily allowance of water per man, in hot dry weather, was at first 2 liters and afterwards 1 liter. The last surface water was found at Geinab, but there was not enough of it to water the camels.

Hauptmann v. Erekert, following the track of Simon Copper, found his position on the evening of the 15th instant, and attacked at daybreak on the following morning in two detachments, commanded respectively by Hauptmann Grüner and Hauptmann Willeke. Hauptmann v. Erekert him-

self, while directing the attack, was killed at the beginning of the fight. Hauptmann Grüner then took his place, and ordered a continual advance of the detachments, which formed in a half-circle enveloping the enemy's position. After a desperate resistance for two hours, during which they were driven from one position to another, Simon Copper and his men broke and fled. The troops captured 29 rifles, a quantity of ammunition, a small herd of cattle, and a few horses.

MADAME WAGNER SERIOUSLY ILL.

There is bad news concerning the health of Mdme. Cosima Wagner, the widow of the great composer. She is lying seriously ill at Santa-Margherita (Riviera di Levante), where she went about six weeks ago for rest. Last Christmas Day Mdme. Wagner, who has not been in good health for some time, celebrated her seventieth birthday.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

In the French Chamber of Deputies a discussion took place regarding the proposed grant of 35,000 francs for the purpose of transferring the ashes of Emile Zola to the Panthéon. The Nationalist deputy M. Barrès submitted that Zola's literary work was obscene and a calumny on French morality, whereupon the speaker was interrupted by loud cries of dissent from the Left. The Reporter, M. Buyat, declared that the pamphlet "J'accuse" was sufficient to warrant the proposed transference; for the rest, Zola's work was consistently moral, emphasising as it did the dangers consequent upon vice. M. Buyat was followed by M. Jaurès, who warmly praised Zola's life and courage. After a speech by M. Doumergue, Minister of Education, who eulogised Zola as one who had incurred and defied the animosity caused by his labours for truth and right, the proposal was carried by 356 votes against 164, the result being greeted with applause from the Left.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

ILLNESS OF COUNT TOLSTOI.

According to a Tula telegram, Count Leo Tolstoi has been suffering for several days from gastric influenza, and in the course of his illness he had a fainting fit. We are glad to learn, however, that the condition of the venerable sage has so far improved as to obviate all fears.

COMPLIMENT TO AMERICA.

The technical committee of the War Ministry, says a St. Petersburg despatch, has decided to arrange the new equipment for Russian infantry on the model of that adopted by the United States.

MURDER OF A DUMA DEPUTY.

The Ekaterinoslav newspapers report that M. Karavajef, leader of the Labour party in the second Imperial Duma, was fired on by two unknown men and so severely wounded that he died the same night. Previous to his assassination the murdered man had received a large number of threatening letters, all purporting to be signed by members of the League of Russian People.

ROYAL FINANCIAL DISPUTE.

The jewellery which Princess Louise, King Leopold's daughter, inherited from her mother, and which barely escaped compulsory sale a few months ago, have again been attached at the instance of the Austrian Count Festetics, who holds promissory notes of the Princess to the amount of 100,000 francs, whereas the Princess maintains that she only received 45,000 francs.

ARISTOCRATIC TRADER.

A member of one of the oldest noble families in Sweden has secured the Swedish rights of a certain fire alarm. Count Eric, who is 22 years of age, is the first of his line to enter business since its foundation, over 1,000 years ago, by Jarl Sijmon, chief of the old Scandinavian province of Halland. Count Eric is a direct descendant of Count Axel Fersen, who was the Swedish Ambassador at the Court of Louis XVI, and friend of the beautiful and ill-fated Marie Antoinette.