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## GENERAL NEWS.

### NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

#### ROYAL VISIT TO GERMANY.

According to latest advices, the Prince and Princess of Wales will leave London for the visit to Germany on Wednesday next, departing by special train at 9.30 a. m., for Calais via Dover.

#### SOUTHAMPTON BANK ROBBERY.

Details of a daring and cleverly planned bank robbery which took place on Thursday at Southampton are just to hand. During a lull in business a cab containing two men drove up to the docks branch of Lloyds Bank, and one of the men alighted and entered the building. He presented a card to the clerk who was in sole charge of the branch, and told him it belonged to the man remaining in the cab.

"My friend wishes to cash a draft," he explained, "but he is suffering from gout and cannot leave the cab. Will you go out and speak to him?" The clerk went to the cab, and in his absence the stranger helped himself to £1,000 in notes and gold.

Although the clerk was only absent for a couple of minutes, the thief had disappeared before he returned. He at once discovered his loss and rushed to the door, but the cab and the man with the draft had also vanished.

The police and the head office were informed by telephone of the robbery, and an eager search for the thieves was begun, but no trace of them has yet been found. The men are said to have called at the local head office of the bank on the previous day.

#### WARRIORS FROM MOROCCO.

The liner "Gertrude Woermann" arrived at Dover on Friday and landed 13 of Raisuli's warriors, who have come over to appear at the London Hippodrome. The Moors said they hated the ship, all of them had been sick for six days and had only eaten soup, as they would not touch European meat. They were dressed in native costume, their legs being bare, and they felt the cold terribly, especially as it was snowing hard when they arrived. Tomorrow the band will leave for London. They were met today by Mr. Fred Trussell, who said that when he went over to try and persuade Raisuli himself to come to England and failed, he had a rare job to get his followers. Three times they returned to their camp.

#### A NAVAL CAPTAIN MISSING.

A correspondent of *The Times* reports from St. Thomas (W.I.) as follows: The British cruiser "Seylla," at present lying off Granada, one of the Antilles, is without a commander. On Wednesday evening last, the captain and one sailor were returning in a boat to their ship but apparently lost their way, as nothing has since been seen of them. A coasting steamer went in search of the boat while daylight lasted, but without result. The "Seylla" is now actively engaged in the search for its missing captain, but grave doubts are entertained for the safety of the boat's occupants.

#### BRITISH DISPUTE WITH URUGUAY.

*Reuter* reports from Buenos Ayres that the British Government has formally protested against the demand of Uruguay, who claims jurisdiction over the waters of the La Plata stream, beyond the three-mile limit.

#### RESURRECTION OF THE INVASION BOGEY.

Speaking before some volunteers at Carlisle on Friday evening, Mr. Haldane, Minister of War, said that had the Territorial Army scheme been in force at the time of the Boer War, Great Britain would have had a sufficiency of men, with a military training of six months, to prevent invasion by an army of 100,000 soldiers.

### NEWS FROM AMERICA.

#### ADMIRAL EVANS' POSITION.

Advices from Magdalena Bay state that the battleships are in the pink of condition after their long voyage from Hampton Roads. Invaluable data have,



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it is announced from Washington, been obtained by the experience of the cruise, and officers and men alike have derived the greatest benefit professionally and personally from it. Everybody is, therefore, more than satisfied, including Mr. Root, the Secretary of State, who has expressed the opinion that the political results alone will prove to be worth ten times the amount of money actually spent.

It is confirmed that Rear-Admiral Evans will hand over the command of the squadron to Rear-Admiral Sperry when the ships reach San Francisco, which, according to present intentions, will be on or about May 7. The New York correspondent of the *Globe* says it is denied from Washington that Rear-Admiral Evans will be made a Vice-Admiral on retirement from the command as a special mark of recognition of his services in taking the battleships from Hampton Roads to San Francisco. His abilities are freely recognised, but it is pointed out that he has done no more than his duty. As a matter of fact this question of special promotion has been raised not by the Rear-Admiral himself, but by indiscreet friends, and without adequate cause. If it comes to a question of special credit the friends of Rear-Admiral Thomas will have something to say. That officer, it is claimed, has done quite as much as his immediate commander towards the triumphant success of the great cruise, and has also borne on his shoulders three-fourths of the actual hard work, which Admiral Evans was unable to undertake owing to prolonged ill-health.

Target practice in Magdalena Bay will be completed by April 4. Thereafter the squadron will call at San Diego, California, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The start will be made for the Far East under the command of Rear-Admiral Sperry on May 10.

#### A CALIFORNIAN PRODIGY.

In California a wonderful boy designer has been discovered. He is 14 years of age, and has come into prominence by an allegorical picture. It represents the U.S. Armada steaming through the Golden Gate with a figure of Uncle Sam drawing aside curtains which appear in the design. California, represented by a woman's figure, stands across the channel, stretching out welcoming arms. A bear and an eagle are near by, the eagle by Uncle Sam, the bear crouching low at California's feet. A cluster of poppies branch over the water. The *San Francisco Call* says it is probable that copies and postcards of the poster will be printed and distributed in place of the one officially chosen.

#### SPANIEL AND LOCKET.

The pawnshops of New York were ransacked recently by detectives in search of a diamond-studded locket of antique workmanship which disappeared in a mysterious way from a reception in the upper West side of the city. When the visitors had gone the locket, which had been shown as a curiosity, could not be found, and the police seemed baffled. A few days ago a pet Blenheim spaniel belonging to the house showed signs of discomfort, and on examination a hard lump was discovered in his coat, and firmly embedded in this, with the hair caught by the tiny prongs, was the locket. Its owner now blames a veterinary surgeon who had advised her not to have her pet washed in cold weather.

#### WELL-KNOWN BANKER DEAD.

The death occurred on Wednesday of Mr. George Griswold Haven, one of the best-known bankers of New York. Deceased was president and director of the Metropolitan Opera Company, and a former trustee of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, as well as director of numerous other corporations.

#### FREE HAND FOR THE SHIPPING COMBINE.

The London papers publish a telegram from Washington, according to which the Interstate Commerce Commission has decided that the freight tariff of the combine, to which preference had been given by the Cosmopolitan Shipping Company, as against the Hamburg-American, North German Lloyd, Wilson, and Scandinavian-American Companies, is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission—even if preference had been proven—as such jurisdiction did not extend beyond the coast.

(Continued on page 3.)