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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH CABINET. The official intimation of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's resignation appears in the Court Circular as follows:

His Majesty the King has received a letter from the Right Hon. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, M. P., in which, on the urgent recommendation of his medical advisers, he tenders to His Majesty his resignation as Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury. The King has received Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's communication with much regret, and has graciously accepted his resignation.

Mr. Asquith's departure for Biarritz on Monday evening was unexpected, as it was not anticipated that the messenger who was on his way to London with despatches from the King would arrive so soon, and until he had arrived and delivered his despatches the Premier-designate did not precisely know the King's wishes in regard to his attendance upon His Majesty. However, immediately after the royal courier's arrival it became known that Mr. Asquith would leave the same evening, his journey being facilitated by the special arrangements of the South Eastern Railway's continental depart-

Owing to the long illness which proceeded it, the announcement of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's resignation has not caused much surprise abroad. Few of the Paris papers comment at any length on the change in the Premiership.

The Petit Parisien says that France owes a tribute of respect to Sir Henry, whose policy has been marked by both generosity and prudence, and who has always been an energetic defender of international peace. Speaking of Mr. Asquith, the Petit Parisien adds: "It is permissible to hope that the foreign policy of Great Britain will remain unchanged under the new régime." The Journal, commenting on Sir Henry's resignation, declares: "Such a sacrifice does not surprise us on the part of this loyal Scotchman, this convinced Liberal, this ardent patriot." The Echo de Paris says Mr. Asquith will follow the rôle of his predecessors. His sincerity for the maintenance of peace is evident, and his views are not so exaggerated as those of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. The Journal doubts if Mr. Asquith is the man to direct his Radical majority, which contains many peronancies, such as Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Haldane, Mr. Lloyd George, and Mr. Morley. This resignation of Sir Henry may mean the commencement of a very difficult time for the British Liberal Government. The Matin says there is no doubt that Mr. Asquith will follow the lines of his predecessors, Mr. Balfour and Lord Rosebery, as regards England's foreign policy.

The Daily Chronicle yesterday published a forecast of Ministerial changes, according on which Mr. Lloyd George will be Chancellor of the Exchequer; the Earl of Crewe, Colonial Secretary; Mr. Winston Churchill, President of the Board of Trade; Lord Tweedmouth, Lord President of the Privy Council; and Mr. McKenna, First Lord of the Admiralty.

H. M. King Edward leaves Biarritz on the 15th instant in order to attend a meeting of the Privy Council on the following day.

THE COLLAPSED HOUSES.

Some remarkable features of the disaster in Castle Street, Oxford Street, London, W., on Mon-

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STOP PRESS NEWS.

DEATH OF SIR HOWARD VINCENT.

A telegram from Mentone reports that Sir Howard Vincent, the well-known Member of Parliament, died there on Tuesday.

Sir Charles Edward Howard Vincent, K.C.M.G., C.B., was Member of Parliament (Conservative) for Sheffield, Central. He was born in Sussex in the year 1849 and eventually passed into the Army, from which he resigned with the rank of lieutenant in 1875. He successfully filled many public offices and participated in numerous Government commissions; he was regarded as an authority on military affairs and was Aide-de-Camp to the King.

AUGMENTATION OF THE U. S. ARMY.

The Senate passed the Army Budget yesterday. The Budget provides for an increase of 20 million dollars over last year's Budget. Senator Maine, president of the Committee for Naval Affairs, objected very strongly to the increase in military expenditure, and declared that a de-ficit would be the result. His motion to reconsider the matter was allowed to be discussed. The House subsequently approved the proposed expenditure for fortifications, amounting to over 12 million dollars.

day, when two houses collapsed, have since come to light. One of the survivors, Peter Chinazzo, tells a thrilling story of the marvellous escape which he experienced. He was sleeping on the first floor, and his bicycle was in the same room. As he fell, remaining in bed, the bicycle by some means was thrown over him, and the front wheel came over his face. This wheel protected the man's face from all the débris which fell, and he escaped serious injury in a manner which seems little short of miraculous.

Another remarkable story in connection with the occurrence is told. The head housekeeper on the premises a few days ago went to Mrs. Clarke, the landlady, and, telling her that she had had a dream the previous night that the premises had fallen down, declined to sleep there again. After the accident she went to see her mistress, and said: "Madam, I am alive"-evidently referring to the fact that this was owing to her not having slept on the premises.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

The Duke of Connaught, accompanied by his suite, has arrived at Gibraltar on board H.M.S. "Aboukir," from Malta, in connection with the annual mobilisation of the garrison. The ships of the British Fleet and also the French cruisers saluted as the "Aboukir" arrived in the harbour. All the ships were gaily dressed with bunting.

THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION.

In a reply to the proposals of the Russian Government which was handed to the Ambassadors of the five Powers on the 4th instant, Sir Edward Grey, the Secretary of the State for Foreign Affairs, writes that England welcomed Russia's concession with regard to the increase of the Gendarmerie and agreed to the extension of the authority of the General entrusted with its re-organisation, as well as to the formation of a national guard; but maintained, with regard to the financial difficulty, that the best solution would be the diminution of the Turkish military force and the establishment of a European guarantee. The British proposal for the appointment of a Governor General of Macedonia had been met with the suggestion that the official in question should be called Inspector General and promoted to the rank and office of Vizier, and should hold office for a specified term and be removable only with the consent of the Powers.

SCOTTISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Reuter's Agency is informed that Dr. William S. Bruce, of the Scottish Oceanographical Laboratory, who returned from a journey to the Arctic last autumn, is now planning a new Scottish ex-pedition to the Antarctic. Dr. Bruce suggests following and extending the deep sea investigations made by the "Scotia" in the South Atlantic and Weddell and Biscoe Seas. The work, mainly oceanographical, is divided into three parts: firstly, a thorough investigation of the South Atlantic Ocean and islands south of 40deg. S.; secondly, similar investigations in the Weddell and Biscoe Seas, including the mapping out of the limitations of these seas by the coastline of Antarctica; and thirdly, to investigate the lands adjacent to the Weddell and Biscoe Seas, and to make an attempt to cross the Antarctic continent.

Dr. Bruce estimates that an expedition fitted out with one ship of about 250 tons register, and thirty-six men, including six scientists, would cost some £40,000. Additional funds, including the cost of a second ship, would be required to carry out efficiently the project for the exploration of the land. It is estimated that the expedition would last over two years.

AMERICAN NEWS.

ADMIRAL EVANS' VIEWS.

A correspondent of the New York Herald, who has had an interview with Rear-Admiral Evans regarding the cruise of the battleship squadron, quotes him as stating that the next war in the Pacific will be a commercial war. It will probably be restricted to this, but, none the less, "our ships must be ready."

The Admiral stated that he never entertained the slightest expectation of a war with Japan.

(Continued on page 4.)

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