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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At question time on Tuesday Mr. Trevelyan (*Lib.*, Yorks) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether steps were being taken for an early visit of the Czar of Russia to England, and whether the House would have an opportunity of expressing its views as to such a visit before a final decision was reached.

Sir Edward Grey replied that steps had not been taken for an early visit of the Czar Nicholas, and thus the second part of the question required no further answer. In answer to another question, Sir Edward Grey said that, according to a report of the British Chargé d'Affaires at Teheran, considerable excitement and unrest prevailed there; but the Chargé d'Affaires made no mention of danger to the lives, the property, or the interests of foreigners.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The House of Commons passed the second reading of the Old Age Pensions Bill on Tuesday. Mr. Cox' (*Lib.*, Preston) amendment providing for a system of contribution was rejected by 417 to 29 votes.

SUDDEN DEATH OF THE EARL OF DERBY.

We much regret to announce the death of the Earl of Derby, which took place suddenly last Sunday evening at Holwood, near Hayes, Kent, where his Lordship and the Countess of Derby were spending the week-end. According to the *Globe*, Lord Derby, with the Countess, attended Keston Church, near Bromley, in the morning, and was then in his usual health; but in the evening he fell on the floor at his residence, apparently in a fainting fit, which ended fatally. A medical man who was summoned could only state that death was due to heart failure.

The news created a great shock in London society, where his lordship was held in the highest estimation, the feeling of sorrow and regret being made keener by its total unexpectedness. Lord Derby was in his 67th year.

Frederick Arthur Stanley, sixteenth Earl of Derby, was the second son of Edward Geoffrey, the fourteenth Earl, the distinguished statesman, who was thrice Prime Minister. He succeeded his brother, Edward Henry, so well-known as Foreign Minister, in April, 1893. The late peer was born on January 15, 1841. He was sent at an early age to Eton, and remained there to his seventeenth year. He then entered the Grenadier Guards, where he remained up to his 24th year. In 1865 he had been elected a member for Preston, and in 1866 he left the Army.

He was made an A.D.C. to the Queen and Lord of the Admiralty in 1868, and in Mr. Disraeli's Administration, formed in 1874, he became Financial Secretary to the War Office, and three years later Financial Secretary to the Treasury. For two years, 1878-80, he was Secretary for War. Having found himself obliged in 1879 to recast the military law, it was principally Col. Stanley, as he then was, who was instrumental in passing the Army Discipline Act. From 1880 to 1885 he remained a member of the House of Commons; in the latter year the Earl of Derby made him Secretary for the Colonies, and in the year following he became President of the Board of Trade.

His most important official position was that of Governor-General of Canada. In 1886 he had accepted a peerage and he went out to the Dominion

as Lord Stanley of Preston. He remained in Canada till 1893.

Lord Derby married in May, 1864, Lady Constance Villiers, eldest daughter of the fourth Earl of Clarendon, K.G. He had seven sons, six of whom have served in the Army, and all took part in the late Boer War, the other son being in the Navy.

He is succeeded in the peerage by his son, Lord Stanley, who acted during the South African war as the chief Censor. Born in 1865, he served as a Lord of the Treasury from 1895 to 1900, and as Financial Secretary to the War Office from 1900 to 1903; he then became Postmaster-General. He was member for the South-East Division of Lancashire from 1892 to 1906. His Lordship married Lady Alice Montagu, daughter of the seventh Duke of Manchester.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

MILITARY CAMP WRECKED BY GALE.

New York, June 15.

A telegram from Buffalo, New York, says a gale of extraordinary violence raged yesterday at the large military state camp, doing great damage to the buildings and stores. The officers' quarters were wrecked, leaving all the occupants shelterless during the night.

Among the prominent military commanders who had to spend the night unprotected from the heavy rain and wind was the Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Frederick Grant. Quantities of stores were scattered far and wide, but the most serious mishap was the demolition of the paymaster's quarters. About 25,000 dollars (£5,000) of paper currency were blown over the camp, and a large proportion has not been recovered.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The Republican National Convention assembled in the Colosseum at Chicago at noon on Tuesday. There was a very numerous attendance.

The platform doubtless advocates Mr. Roosevelt's policy and energetically demands tariff-reform, accepting the principal of a protective tariff. It further recommends: an alteration of the Sherman anti-Trust Law to the effect that railway companies shall be justified in making reasonable contracts; continued development of the Fleet; and the maintenance of the Army at its present standard.

Senator Burrows in his speech gave a retrospect on the Republican achievements of the last four years. When he mentioned Mr. Roosevelt's name shouts of applause interrupted the speaker. Senator Burrows said that the Republican Party favoured Tariff-Revision as required by the changed conditions of industry in America and abroad, always provided, however, that proper protection was afforded American industry. The Senator further touched upon the U. S. position as a Power in the world and said that her influence was always brought to bear in the interests of peace and the ennoblement of mankind.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE COTTON EXCHANGE.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* reports from New York that proceedings have been instituted by the Federal authorities against the Cotton Exchange for infringement of the anti-Trust law.

OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK FOR CANADA.

President Shaughnessy of the C. P. R. spoke at a dinner given by the Toronto Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of the opening of the Toronto-Sudbury line. He expressed himself in

the most optimistic terms as to the future and gave it as his opinion that the West would produce 100 million bushels of wheat if the good weather prevailed.

FATAL AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT IN N. Y.

An unusual accident happened in New York on Tuesday. A large excursion-automobile was being driven along 56th street when it became unmanageable and ran down the street into Hudson river. The chauffeur and 3 others were drowned, while 2 people were saved. The man had taken the people out on his own account, without permission.

TRANSVAAL PARLIAMENT.

LORD SELBORNE'S OPENING SPEECH.

Pretoria, June 15.

Lord Selborne opened the Transvaal Parliament this afternoon.

In the course of his speech His Excellency referred in sympathetic terms to the late King Carlos, and Prince Luiz of Portugal, and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. He forecasted a large programme of public works, and the establishment of a land settlement board. The Government had decided to defer the issue of the £5,000,000 loan, and to raise the necessary moneys by means of short-dated Treasury bills.

Lord Selborne said that 31,157 Chinese had already been repatriated. The supply of native labour continued to be more than sufficient, and the mining industry was now on a sounder basis than it had ever been before. Practically the whole of the Asiatic community, numbering 9,072 persons, had now voluntarily registered themselves, as the result of the compromise arrived at with the Government.

GREAT VOLCANIC ERUPTION.

Auckland, June 15.

A remarkable volcanic outburst began in the island of Savaii, in the Samoan group, on May 10.

The flow of lava, which was the greatest in the history of the island, amounted to between two and three thousand tons a minute, and streamed in a great river from six inches to six feet deep, and stretching in an almost continuous sheet over a width of eight miles. On reaching the coast it flowed over the cliffs into the sea, causing steam to rise in immense quantities.

The lava destroyed many native houses, and for a time threatened the town of Matatua, but at the time of the dispatch of the news that place was considered safe.

THE INDIAN MONSOON.

Bombay, June 15.

The monsoon has burst.

THE KAISER'S REPORTED WARLIKE SPEECH.

We took no heed of a report which was made the subject of comments in the German Press, to the effect that the Emperor had made a speech to the officers at Döberitz, and in the hearing of the Foreign Military Attachés, in which he said: "Let them all come. We are ready to fight." The report implied that His Majesty shared the fears of the Press anent King Edward's visit at Reval, and it was therefore on the face of it not worth being given further publicity to by the Press. But we now refer to the matter because of the cool and common-sense attitude taken by the Press abroad

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