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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Lonsdale (*Cons.*, Armagh) asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he was aware that German commercial men had petitioned their Government to obtain, if possible, by diplomatic means a prolongation of the term fixed for the expiration of Article 27 of the Patent law, and if the Board of Trade would favour such a prolongation.

Mr. Winston Churchill replied that he had read in the newspapers the report referred to but had received no official confirmation of it. The term fixed by the Article could not be altered without a new Act of Parliament.

In the course of the debate on the Old Age Pensions Bill, the Government accepted several amendments which extend the scope of the measure and involve a larger expenditure than was provided for in the Budget.

DRESS WORN AT COURT.—OFFICIAL GUIDE.

Regulations with regard to dress that should be worn at His Majesty's Courts, Levées, and evening State parties are about to be published, under the authority of the Lord Chamberlain, by Messrs. Harrison and Sons, His Majesty's booksellers and Printers, in a work entitled "Dress Worn at Court."

This work, having been officially compiled in the Lord Chamberlain's Department, will provide a complete and reliable reference-book both as regards the ample descriptive matter and the numerous coloured plates, which have been specially prepared for it. The work will, therefore, form an authoritative guide not only for those gentlemen attending His Majesty's Court, but also for all those who are responsible for the details of the costumes which must be worn.

Not only the wearers of Court dress and orders and decorations, but some of the best Court tailors are in doubt as to the minute detail involved, and the result is a want of uniformity. Such dress as that worn by the Scottish Archers, for example, is the subject of much difficulty. Some sort of approved reference-book and guide had become absolutely necessary.—The *Globe*.

THE NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

The first stage of the "fleet exercises," as they are officially described, opened on Tuesday morning, when the ships belonging to the sea-going divisions of the Home Fleet and some of the cruisers designated "special service vessels," which have on board reduced nucleus crews, had their complements increased to full strength. The mobilisation was carried out with well-ordered activity, which demonstrated the thoughtful manner in which the smallest details had been arranged by the drafting authorities at the Admiralty, acting in co-operation with the officials at the various ports.

THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.

In its issue of Tuesday the *Globe* said with reference to the above: Today, when the period of special recruiting for the Territorial Force comes to an end, the number of men secured towards the establishment is barely three-fifths of what is wanted. This can hardly be said to look promising for the success of the scheme on which so much has been staked. Since the beginning of the volunteer year the gain by new recruits has been unequal to the loss of the old hands who have retired when faced with the new conditions, and the paper scheme of the Territorial Army remains paper for nearly half of its extent. Moreover, since about 70 per cent. of the volunteers who have enlisted have done so under the one-year provision, it is at least possible that as soon as their year begins to expire—that is in April next—there may be a further great falling off. Mr. Haldane has played a very risky game with the National Army; and though it is greatly to be hoped that he may yet be able to substantiate his paper scheme with the necessary men, it is obvious that if the scheme breaks down we shall be left even worse off than we were before, owing to the destruction of the old machinery, and the failure to make the new work. It is probable that a sufficient number of

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good men might still be found to enlist, if there was no fear of losing their posts through doing so. It thus rests, to a very great extent, with employers to say whether the scheme shall be a success. Many of them have given a public-spirited lead; and it would be wise for the others to reflect whether the best policy of insurance which they could take out is not a few pounds spent a year in contributing to the National Army. The need for promptly securing an efficient army is all the more acute, since from the traditional policy of the Liberal party towards our national defences, it can hardly be hoped that a Liberal Ministry will be long in power without crippling the Navy.

THE SUFFRAGETTES.

London, July 1.
The women arrested yesterday were charged at the Police Court today for obstructing the police in the execution of their duty during the demonstration in Parliament Square. Two were acquitted; others were sentenced to pay fines varying from £10 to £25, or in default to imprisonment for from one to three months. Two women who were convicted of breaking the windows of the Prime Minister's official residence were awarded two months imprisonment.

FASHIONABLE WEDDING.

At St. Mark's North Audley-street, on Tuesday afternoon, in the presence of a large and fashionable congregation, Capt. Lord Frederick Blackwood, D.S.O., of the 9th Lancers, son of the late Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, and brother of the present peer, was married to Miss Brenda Woodhouse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woodhouse, of Orford House, Bishops Stortford, and 3, John-street, Mayfair. The Bishop of Peterborough and the Rev. H. Hadden officiated.

A London contemporary gives the following description of the event: The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a gown of white chiffon, veiling an underskirt of spangled net, the bodice being trimmed with silver lace, and a waistbelt of silver and pearl embroideries. The long white satin train was held on the shoulders by silver cords. A wreath of myrtle leaves was worn under a white tulle veil, and a white vellum-covered prayer-book was carried. There were eight bridesmaids; Lady Rosemary Cairns, the Hon. Hermione Fellowes, Miss Sylvia Grenfell, the Hon. Alexandra Bertie, Miss Ruby Brassey, and Miss Millicent James, together with two little girls—Lady Patricia Blackwood and the Hon. Diana Duncombe. Their dresses were of pink silk voile, with pale mauve sashes; wreaths of banksia roses, and long pink tulle veils. They also wore old paste waist buckles, the gift of the bridegroom. Major Allhusen, of the 9th Lancers, was best man.

A reception was subsequently held at 6, Hereford-gardens, the residence of Mr. Graham Menzies, uncle of the bride. Among the large number of guests present were the Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava and Lady Hermione Blackwood, the Marquess and Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, the Duchess of Montrose, the Duchess of St. Albans and Lady Alexandra Beauclerk, the Duchess of Rutland and the Ladies Manners, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, the American Ambassador and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, Mr. and Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, Col. and Mrs. Rowan Hamilton, Sir Arthur and Lady Nicolson, the Countess of Verulam and the Ladies Grimston, the Marquess and Marchioness of Tweeddale, the Earl and Countess of March, Viscount and Viscountess Helmsley, and Lord and Lady De Ramsey. The honeymoon will be spent at Coldash, Newbury, the residence of Lady St. Helier.

A CRUISER-BATTLESHIP.

London, July 2.
The *Standard* states on good authority that the new cruiser-battleship "Inflexible," which lately made machinery and speed trials in the Clyde, attained a speed of nearly 27 knots, the contract being for 25 knots. This high speed is said to be due to a reduction in the weight of the armour plates.

THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION.

London, July 1.
Reuter's Bureau learns that the rumour current on the Continent that two projects on the Macedonian question, one Russian and the other English, are to be expected, is incorrect. The plan of reform which has been approved in common by Russia and England will be published in its entirety by the Powers interested. So far as the plan itself is concerned, only a few details remain to be formulated; with those exceptions, it is completed.

THE UNREST IN INDIA.

Calcutta, July 2.
Seven more arrests have been made here in connection with the bomb-throwing. Among the persons arrested are three who occupy a respected position in Indian society.

ROYAL VISIT TO CANADA.

PRINCE OF WALES'S TOUR.

The Prince of Wales, who leaves Portsmouth for Canada in the new battleship "Indomitable" on July 15, will be accompanied by Lord Annaly, Sir Arthur Bigge, Private Secretary, Sir Francis Hopwood, Permanent Under-Secretary for the Colonies, Commander Sir Charles Cust, and Capt. Godfrey Faussett. Lord Dudley, the new Governor-General of Australia, who represents the Commonwealth at the Quebec celebrations, will also travel in the "Indomitable."

The programme (says *Reuter*) has now been settled:—
Wednesday, July 22.—Arrival at Quebec. Sir W. Laurier presents an address of welcome in French and English, and the Prince replies in both languages.
Thursday.—Naval visits from squadrons in the St. Lawrence. "Champlain" arrives in his ship, Le Don de Dieu. At Champlain Monument speeches by the representatives of France and the United States. Pageant, procession, State banquet, and fireworks and illuminations.
Friday.—Review on the Plains of Abraham. Prince hands the Governor-General the title-deeds of the Plains. Ball in the evening.
Saturday.—The Prince passes down the line of assembled ships of Britain, France, and the United States. Pageant on Plains of Abraham. Banquet to Colonial representatives.
Sunday.—Service at the cathedral. Cruise down the St. Lawrence.
Monday.—Visit to old French-Canadian village, St. Joachim. Regatta, and a naval display in the evening.
Tuesday.—Victoria Park visit. Garden party, children's fête, and farewell dinner on board the Prince's ship.
Wednesday.—"Indomitable" sails for England, due at Portsmouth August 5.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE NEW SECRETARY OF WAR.

Washington, July 1.
Mr. Wright, formerly United States Minister at Tokio, took the oath as Secretary of War today.

MEXICAN TROUBLES.

It is impossible yet to estimate the true position in Mexico, says the New York correspondent of the *Globe*. The Mexican Government in a statement given out for the benefit of the Press states that the trouble is already over, having been confined to one particular State, and having been there promptly dealt with. This does not fit in with the newspaper reports, which represent that a real revolution of the true South American type has broken out, and that its suppression will not be easy.

(Continued on page 2)