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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, July 2.

Replying to several questions concerning the situation in Persia, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said that Persian affairs had been but little touched upon during the King's visit to Reval; so far as they had been mentioned, they had only related to frontier disputes and questions of a commercial nature. The internal affairs of Persia had, however, several times been the subject of negotiations between the British and Russian Governments, as well before as during that visit. In the opinion of the British Chargé d'Affaires at Teheran, the Europeans were not in any danger. He, Sir Edward Grey, was therefore of opinion that the Embassy guard should not be increased until the Chargé d'Affaires should consider an increase advisable; he had received no information that the guard of the Russian Embassy had been strengthened. The Persian troops which had been posted round the British Embassy had been withdrawn. As a condition of the surrender of refugees, the British Government had demanded a written guarantee of the safety of the lives and property of the individuals concerned; and, in addition, an assurance that those of them who were accused of other than political offences should be tried by an impartial Court at which a member of the Embassy should be present. (Hear, Hear.)

In answer to a further question as to what steps the British Government had taken for the restoration of constitutional government in Persia, Sir Edward Grey said His Majesty's Government did not consider the time opportune for interfering in the internal administrative affairs of Persia.

Mr. Lynch (Lab., Ripon) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he would publish the documents relating to the agreement with Russia respecting Macedonia, before the Vote for the Foreign Office came on for discussion.

Sir Edward Grey replied that he could not give a definite promise; the publication would depend on the progress of the negotiations with the other Powers.

Later in the sitting, the Prime Minister said that representations had been made by the United States and German Governments with regard to Article 27 of the Patent law, but the Government did not purpose bringing in a Bill to alter the term fixed by that Article. (Hear, Hear.)

FUNERAL OF SIR E. MALET.

London, July 2.

The funeral of the late Sir Edward Malet, formerly British Ambassador at Berlin, took place today at Chénies. The German Ambassador, Graf Wolff-Meternich, represented the Emperor Wilhelm at the ceremony, and deposited a beautiful wreath on the coffin. King Edward and Sir Edward Grey were also officially represented.

A FREE-TRADE CONGRESS.

London, July 2.

Preparations are being made for a Free-Trade Congress to be held in London in August. Germany, France, and the United States will send delegates.

INDIAN SEDITION.

Bombay, July 2.

The publisher of the *Hind Swarajya* newspaper has been convicted of publishing two seditious articles and sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

London, July 3.

A morning newspaper publishes the following report, dated St. Louis, July 2: News comes from Sodalía, Missouri, of a collision between two express trains twenty miles from Knobnoster in consequence of a thick fog which prevented the signals being seen. Both engines were wrecked and the carriages caught fire. Eight people were killed and twenty-one injured.

DISCOVERY OF A BOMB FACTORY.

Santiago de Chili, July 2.

A bomb factory was discovered here today which was managed by anarchists, chiefly Italians.

REVOLUTION IN PARAGUAY.

Buenos Ayres, July 3.

A rumour is current here that a revolution has broken out in Paraguay.

HERR DERNBURG IN AFRICA.

Bulwayo, July 2.

Secretary of State Dernburg gave a dinner yesterday to the principal local officials and other members of society. Today he visited the grave of Cecil Rhodes. The Mayor gives a banquet this evening in honour of Herr Dernburg, who will continue his journey tomorrow to the Victoria Falls.

THE AUSTRIAN STUDENTS' MOVEMENT.

Innsbruck, July 2.

A lively agitation is going on among the extreme-liberal students in favour of a breach with Rome. In almost all the high schools in Austria the students have gone over to Protestantism *en masse*. The students here have sent invitations to their co-militants elsewhere to come next term to Innsbruck, to help them to ward off clerical attacks. Hitherto 200 promises to come have been received, including many from Germany.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE SENATE AND THE NAVY.

Paris, July 2.

In the Senate, M. Destournelles de Constant, in an interpellation on the mistaken employment of the funds voted for the Navy, animadverted upon the continual increase in the number of cruisers disproportionately to the needs and resources of the country, and concluded by condemning the increase of naval armaments by all the Powers. (Isolated murmurs of applause.)

Admiral Cuverville, in reply on behalf of the Government and in justification of their naval policy, quoted the argument of President Roosevelt, that the increase of the fleet was necessary for defence against invasion, and remarked that in all countries responsible Ministers had used similar language. France was under the necessity of maintaining her fleet on the same level with other States.

Later.

The Minister of Marine, M. Thomson, also replied to the interpellation of M. Destournelles Constant. The French navy, said the Minister, was of all the great navies the one on which, in the last ten years, the smallest expenditure had been made; it was natural that more should be spent upon the army. As to the building of cruisers he showed that France had done, not too much but too little for her Navy. Until 1911 France will be passing through an intermediate stage, but after that the disparity between

her and her rivals will be great, and for that reason France required good seamen.

The Senate then adopted an order of the day, expressing confidence in the Government in the carrying out of their reforms and proposing that a maximum limit be fixed for the expenditure to be borne by the country, and that a Navy be assured to France of such strength as her safety requires.

JUDGMENT IN THE HUMBERT SUIT.

Paris, July 2.

Judgment was pronounced today in the case of Humbert v. *Le Matin*. The editor of the newspaper was condemned to pay a fine of 3,000 francs and 50,000 francs compensation, and to publish the judgment in 201 newspapers of which *Le Matin* must be one.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT ARTILLERY PRACTICE.

Paris, July 3.

After firing practice at the Artillery exercising ground at Fontainebleau, two soldiers picked up several shells, one of which exploded, killing one of the men and mortally wounding the other.

ALLEGED INSUBORDINATION.

Paris, July 3.

It is reported from Brest that 70 Marines belonging to the ironclad "Léon Gambetta," which is under orders to sail tomorrow for Quebec to take part in the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations there, were landed this morning by order of Admiral Jauréguibery, and charged with insubordination.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

THE CZAR'S HOLIDAY PROLONGED.

St. Petersburg, July 2.

The Czar and Czarina with their children started this morning in the yacht "Alexandra" for Cronstadt, where their Majesties went on board the "Standart." In the afternoon the "Standart" sailed for the Gulf of Finland with the Imperial family on board.

A later telegram states that the "Standart," with their Majesties on board, anchored in the Pitkopas Roads yesterday evening.

MORE UNFOUNDED STATEMENTS.

St. Petersburg, July 3.

The *St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency* says: Certain Russian and foreign newspapers publish a report that the German Emperor intends shortly to pay the Czar a visit. According to positive information derived both from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the German Embassy, this report is entirely without foundation. Other newspaper reports that the Emperor's visit will take place on land and that His Majesty's luggage has already arrived at St. Petersburg, are equally unfounded.

THE DUMA AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

St. Petersburg, July 3.

A Bill was brought in to the Duma today by 103 delegates for the abolition of capital punishment; it was signed by all the members of the Left and by several Octobrists.

THE DUMA. A LONG SITTING.

St. Petersburg, July 2.

At today's sitting, which lasted till midnight, the Duma examined and approved the Revenue budget, amounting to 2½ milliards of roubles. Finance Minister Kokovsoff agreed in general to the wishes

(Continued on page 2.)