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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Keir Hardie having asked the Home Secretary whether relatives of the women suffragettes now in Holloway were being refused permission to see the prisoners; and, if so, whether he would see that this restriction was relaxed, Mr. Gladstone replied: "These prisoners are necessarily treated under the prison rules. If any exceptional reasons for departing from the rules in individual cases are brought to my notice I shall be ready to consider them."

MR. BRYCE'S HOME VISIT.

Mr. James Bryce, Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain to the United States, and Mrs. Bryce were passengers by the White Star liner "Celtic," that arrived at Queenstown on Friday from New York. The right hon. gentleman was in good health and greatly enjoyed the ocean trip. Mr. and Mrs. Bryce proceeded to Liverpool in the liner. Owing to the south-westerly hurricane, with huge seas, the "Celtic" was obliged to enter the inner harbour to transfer to the tender. The passengers and mails landed at Queenstown, where the storm was considered the worst experienced for many years.

THE TENSION IN THE CHANNEL FLEET.

London, July 13. Mr. Carlyon Bellairs, M. P., has given notice to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty in the House of Commons today: "In view of the grave disapprobation expressed by the Board of Admiralty to the Rear-Admiral commanding the First Cruiser Squadron (Sir Percy Scott) for his signal reflecting on an order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Channel Fleet (Lord Charles Beresford), whether the Rear-Admiral complied with their Lordships' censure by making a written apology to the Commander-in-Chief for his action in the matter, and, if so, on what date." A local paper, speaking of the Beresford-Scott controversy, says that it is to be sincerely hoped that the dignified warning conveyed by the Prime Minister, on Wednesday, will have its due effect upon the chief participants in the present dispute in the Navy; otherwise there can be no doubt that very strong action will have to be taken in the matter. The service as a whole is sick to death of the wrangling, cliques, and huffiness which has been so prevalent for some time past, a condition of things which is entirely foreign to the spirit and traditions of the Navy, and which is inflicting enormous injury on its discipline. It is difficult, by the way, to understand the motives which prompted the Times to give such prominence to the tactical incident concerning the "Argyll" and the "Good Hope"; it is a piece of sensation-mongering which is unworthy of the leading journal, and its publication was tactless and quite unnecessary. It is a pity the Admiralty do not know the name of the officer who conveyed the information, for he deserves to be dismissed the Service for doing so.

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, who is, unfortunately, receiving so much of the public's attention at the present moment, has had a long and remarkably brilliant career. He entered the "Britannia" as a cadet in 1859; was promoted to the rank of Sub-Lieutenant in 1866; Lieutenant, 1868; Commander, 1875; Captain, 1882; Rear-Admiral, 1897. He was created Naval Aide-de-Camp to the Queen in 1896; and Naval A. D. C. to the Prince of Wales on his visit to India in 1875-76. He has represented three constituencies in the Unionist interest in Parliament, viz. Waterford (1874-80), East Marylebone (1885-89), and York (1897-1900). At the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882 he commanded the small cruiser "Condor," and was specially mentioned in despatches for gallantry. During the Nile Expedition of 1884-85 he served on Lord Wolseley's staff; and subsequently commanded the naval brigade at the battles of Abu Klea, Abu Kru, and Metemeh, again being mentioned in despatches for conspicuous gallantry. He was in command of the expedition which res-

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cued Sir Charles Wilson's party in the gunboat "Safia," the boiler of which was repaired under a heavy fire. The despatches on this occasion again contained his name, as also did the speeches in both Houses on the occasion of the vote of thanks for the operations in the Soudan. He was created a Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty in 1886, but resigned two years later on a question of the fleet's strength. Until his present appointment he commanded the Mediterranean Fleet, among the crews and officers of which he was highly popular. Lord Charles is 62 years of age, and is an Irishman by birth.

THE BRITISH NAVAL VISIT TO AUSTRIA.

Ischl, July 11. The Emperor Francis Joseph and Prince Louis of Battenberg returned early yesterday evening from their drive, which had taken them as far as Goisern. Later Admiral Sir Charles Drury, with Prince Louis and Flag-Lieuts. Nicolson and Sowerby, attended a performance at the theatre. Shortly before the curtain rose the Emperor appeared in the Royal box, in which the two British Admirals also took their places. Just before the close of the performance His Majesty took cordial leave of Sir Charles and Prince Louis, who afterwards attended a supper given by the Emperor, at which, however, His Majesty was not present. The British officers left Ischl at eleven o'clock last night.

L'ENTENTE CORDIALE.

With the object of strengthening "l'entente cordiale," a party of English tourists visited Paris during Whit Week, where they were welcomed on all sides. In commemoration of the entente, they had three handsome gold medals struck. A committee, composed of Lieut.-Gen. Howard, M. Billot (French Consul at Sheffield), and Prof. Hertig waited upon the French President, to whom they presented one of the souvenirs. The committee handed the second of the medals to M. Loubet, who gratefully accepted it. On Saturday the third part of the programme was carried out, when the same committee were received at Buckingham Palace by Lord Knollys, to whom, acting for His Majesty the King, they presented the third and last medal.

THE "LUSITANIA'S" NEW RECORD.

The "Lusitania" arrived at Sandy Hook at 2.11 on Saturday morning, breaking the record. Her average speed was 25.01 knots. The Cunard Company announce that the "Lusitania's" time was 4d. 19hr. 36min., beating her own previous best by 32min., and the "Mauretania's" record by 39min. The "Lusitania" also established a new record for a single day's run, namely, 643 knots.

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS CONTEST.

DEFEAT OF THE GERMAN CHAMPION. The final stage of the Lawn Tennis section of the Olympic games was begun on Saturday afternoon with the match between O. Frotzheim, the survivor of the German contingent, and M. J. G. Ritchie, the last hope of the British Isles. Although the match, by reason of its international character, was invested with considerable interest, says the *Globe*, the attendance was moderate when the two men entered the court. After the dreary experiences of the last two days, the lowering aspect of the skies was particularly uninviting. The ground was slow after the rain, and this, of course, was all against Frotzheim, who has played nearly all his lawn tennis on the fast Continental courts. Ritchie began steadily, while the German's length was bad, and most of his returns

fell out of court, and the Englishman won the first two games. The third went to Frotzheim, Ritchie, by serving a double fault, giving him vantage after deuce thrice, while a splendid stroke down the side finished the game. The German made the score "Two all" with another vantage game, and then a keen struggle for the lead ensued in the next game, the rests for men players being unusually long. Ritchie won after "deuce," and again Frotzheim equalised, his winning stroke including several well placed shots down the side. He was now showing excellent form, and with Ritchie never losing his steadiness, the pair appeared very evenly matched. Frotzheim led at 4-3, and after Ritchie had taken two games, the German caused the scores to be called "5 all." Afterwards Ritchie went up to the net, and the adoption of an aggressive policy met with success, the next two games and the set at 7-5 going in his favour.

Frotzheim began the second set by winning the first game, but the Englishman's steadiness prevailed in the second. Frotzheim won the third, Ritchie's only ace being gained by a lucky net cord stroke. With both men playing persistently from the base line, the rests were very protracted, more than 20 strokes not being unusual. This style of play suited the Englishman's steady driving and good length, and he led at 3-2. He lost the next after "deuce," but at 4-3 was again in front. Frotzheim met with no further success in the set, Ritchie winning at 6-3.

Ritchie continued his victorious progress by winning the first game in the third set, and he led at 40-love in the second. A double fault then gave his opponent an ace, and "deuce" was eventually called four times. Although he served another double fault, Ritchie won the game, Frotzheim failing to show the variety of strokes and facility to kill the ball which had characterised his play on the former days of the week. Ritchie, with the match apparently in hand, now volleyed with more persistency, and 4-love was registered in his favour.

Frotzheim, driving well down the sides, won the fifth game, but Ritchie took the next, and in the seventh, which Frotzheim won, was within a stroke of the match. He was within a stroke of the match twice in the eighth game, which again saw Frotzheim successful. Ritchie's steady play eventually beat down his opponent, who lost the game by 3 sets to love. Ritchie thus wins the gold medal for England, and Frotzheim takes the silver medal to Germany. Details:—

GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES.

Final Round.
M. Ritchie (British Isles) beat O. Frotzheim (Germany) by 3 sets to love (7-5, 6-3, 6-4).

LADIES' SINGLES.

Final Round.
Mrs. Lambert Chambers (British Isles) beat Miss Boothby (British Isles) by 2 sets to love (6-1, 7-5).

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

COAL DEPOSITS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Great interest, says a New York report, has been aroused in official circles there by the announcement of the discovery of extensive coal deposits at Batan, in the Philippines. The problem of providing good coal for the Navy when out of reach of home supplies has always given rise to some anxiety among naval men; but it is believed that the newly-found deposits will prove of immense utility, provided they can be easily worked. It is stated that the Batan coal is of very fair quality, though it contains rather too much sulphur.

VIOLENT EXPLOSION IN MEXICO.

New York, July 12. A telegram from Mexico City states that a terrific explosion occurred on Friday in an underground oil reservoir, in which a fire had just previously been reported. The reservoir was a very large one, and the results of the explosion were terrific. The crust of the earth for a mile square was affected and great masses were hurled about in all directions. Flames shot up 1,500 feet into the air, and were visible at a distance of 200 miles. No deaths are yet reported, but as there were many persons in the vicinity at the time of the explosion, it is feared several lives have been lost. The damage is estimated at several million dollars. (Continued on page 2.)