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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, July 15.

As soon as the House had assembled two or three of the attendants brought in on a trolley a huge cylinder which was wheeled to the table amid cheers. Mr. Henderson explained that it was a petition signed by 610,000 members and adherents of the Wesleyan Methodist Church welcoming the introduction of the Licensing Bill, and praying for its passage into law with all possible speed.

The Speaker: Will the hon. member bring the petition, or a portion of it, to the table (laughter). The hon. member then gave it a slight push, running the trolley nearer the table, and handed to the Clerk a copy of it.

Mr. Lehmann asked the Home Secretary, with reference to the case of the women now undergoing imprisonment for having taken part in the recent disturbances in Parliament-square, whether he could now see his way to consult with the magistrate who sentenced them with a view to the mitigation of their punishment.

Mr. Gladstone: The answer is in the negative (cheers).

Mr. Byles: Is the right hon. gentleman satisfied that these punishments have not gone far beyond anything which has the sanction of the public? (Oh!)

Mr. Gladstone: I hardly think that is a question which should be put to me (hear, hear).

Mr. MacNeill: Does the right hon. gentleman know that this punishment is abhorrent to the feelings of this House, whose servant he is?

Mr. C. Hay: Will the right hon. gentleman state why he has refused to make representations to the magistrate in these cases when he did so in former cases?

Mr. Gladstone: I have already answered that several times (cheers). It may be originally I was rash in making the suggestion I did. But I made it as a special circumstance, having regard to the fact that it was the occasion of the first of these disturbances, and because I thought there had been an accidental omission on the part of the magistrate to specify the division under which imprisonment was to be given (hear, hear).

Captain Faber asked the Prime Minister if he would state whether people living in Great Britain were, by going abroad to sell State secrets or plans to a foreign Power, exempted from prosecution except in the case of those wearing His Majesty's uniform.

Mr. Asquith said he did not understand the question. The law was fully set out in the Official Secrets Act, 1889.

Captain Faber: It is not clear that people cannot be prosecuted who sell State secrets outside the country?

Mr. Asquith: No, it is not at all clear. If they are British subjects, and are found here, they will certainly be prosecuted.

THE MISHAP TO A SUBMARINE.

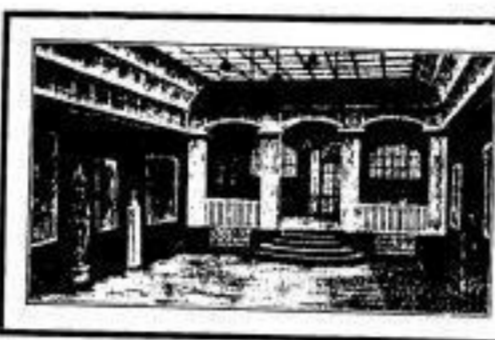
Dover, July 16.

The investigation held here to discover the cause of the accident on board the British submarine (reported in yesterday's edition of the Daily Record) has elicited the fact that the petrol fumes escaped into the body of the vessel through a leak in one of the pipes. The leak was evidently caused by the pitching of the submarine in the heavy sea. Fortunately all the men who were rendered unconscious by the fumes have now recovered, and do not appear to have sustained any permanent effects as a result of their unpleasant experience.

ROSYTH PLANS TO BE ABANDONED?

London, July 16.

According to a special despatch in the Daily Chronicle, the British Government have decided to abandon the idea of creating a naval station at Rosyth. This decision, it is said, has not been influenced by politics, but is based upon the dictates of naval policy.



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NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENT AND SOCIALISM.

New York, July 15.

President Roosevelt is coming in for a good deal of adverse criticism in consequence of some remarks anent Socialism which he made while recently unveiling a monument at Washington. In the equality of opportunity he expressed his emphatic belief, but not in equality of reward. He characterized the latter as a gross example of privilege, dishonest, harmful, unjust, in a theory crude, vicious, and foolish. He concluded his speech by saying: "Let opportunity be equal, and if the service is equal let the reward be equal, but let the reward depend on the service. However, in securing the equality of opportunity, we must no more be led astray by the doctrinaire advocates of a lawless and destructive individualism than by the doctrinaire advocates of a deadening Socialism."

THE FIGHT FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

The New York correspondent of a contemporary says that some of the Washington papers report that President Roosevelt is at present engaged upon an Open Letter addressed to Mr. Taft, congratulating him upon his nomination by the Republican National Convention. The letter would, of course, be of the character of a manifesto addressed to the nation, and, if the present report be correct, it disposes of the statements made from time to time during the past few months that Mr. Roosevelt might go on the stump in support of his favoured Presidential candidate.

The terrific heat prevailing nearly all over the country just now has had the effect of enforcing an informal truce upon the politicians, and as likely as not this may last until the end of this month, especially as it will afford an excuse for inaction to the numerous astute professionals who are anxious not to commit themselves irrevocably until after the National Convention of the Independence League has been held.

This will commence at Chicago on the 25th inst., and it is pretty well known in the best informed quarters that Mr. Hearst will have something to say about Mr. William Jennings Bryan, which will not be altogether pleasing to the Nebraskan and his friends. Thereafter the Presidential fight will commence in grim earnest.

For the moment there is an amusing controversy in progress on the vexed question of the publication of campaign funds. The Republican leaders have undertaken to make public the names of the contributors to their fund, with the sums subscribed by individuals, but not until after the elections. The Democratic platform, as adopted at the Denver Convention, provides for full publication before the day of polling, on the ground that the Sovereign people are entitled to know "where the money comes from," whether from the wicked trusts or solely from virtuous, public-spirited citizens.

The Republicans say that to make public statements of receipts and expenditure before the balance-sheet can properly be closed is absurdly unbusinesslike, to which the Democrats retort that, at all events, it is honest. There is really not much in the point, but Mr. Bryan and his henchmen will endeavour to make a good deal of it.

MONEY WANTED FOR FORTS AND AIRSHIPS.

New York, July 16.

It is currently reported here that during the announcement of his yearly report the Secretary of State for War will demand the authorisation by Congress of the sum of one million dollars for the construction of military airships and purposes of

coast defence. Boston, New York, Norfolk, Charlestown, Mobile, and San Diego have been mentioned as constituting excellent points for the erection of airship stations.

It is believed that Congress, which refused to authorise a sum of 250,000 dollars for similar purposes in 1906, will, in view of the results of Count Zeppelin's experiments, accede to the demand this year without opposition.

NEW PANAMA PRESIDENT.

Panama, July 15.

The Presidential elections have passed off without the slightest disturbance. Señor Obaldia, the Conservative candidate, was unopposed, owing to the prearranged agreement. A big vote was cast for Señor Obaldia, showing the overwhelming majority of his adherents over those of Señor Arias, the Liberal candidate, who decided not to oppose Señor Obaldia.

TROUBLE BREWING IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

The Central American Republics, not to mention Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama, again show symptoms of disquiet, which is fixing the attention of the State Department on those latitudes and giving ground for provoking the belief that the United States and Mexico in arranging the peace pact entered upon with such ceremony last winter have been ploughing the sands.

According to the Times, there is no understanding the conditions which have caused a revival of the disturbances now reported without an intimate knowledge of the inner workings of the political groups who are fanning the flame of disorder. From the surface indications which the despatches give it would appear that Nicaragua and Guatemala—both of which have ambitious Presidents, suspected of being not content with ruling their own territories but of seeking the unification of the five Republics only in order to gain the leadership—are the danger zones, whilst ex-President Bonilla is again breeding strife in Honduras, with the alleged connivance of Guatemala and Salvador. As in the past, the turmoil may assume serious proportions or may die in a day. In any event, the recurrence of hostilities, which were supposed to have come to an end with the peace conference, is a source of natural exasperation to the United States and Mexico.

PENNSYLVANIA MINING DISASTER.

Pottsville, Pa., July 16.

A gas explosion occurred yesterday in one of the coal mines owned by the Susquehanna Coal Company at Williamstown. Details are not yet obtainable, but so far it is known that twelve miners lost their lives, while eight of those rescued are burned so badly that their recovery is extremely doubtful.

THE ACCIDENT TO THE ZEPPELIN AIRSHIP.

Friedrichshafen, July 16.

Details of the accident to Count Zeppelin's airship yesterday are as follows: As the airship was being towed out of its shed by the steam-tug "Königin Charlotte," the hawser snapped. The motors of the balloon were not in motion at the time, and it was thus driven against the iron building by the wind, the propeller in connection with the steering apparatus on the left side sustaining a fracture. The body of the vessel escaped injury, with the exception of a slight tear in one of the seventeen gas compartments and the covering material caused by contact with a splintered plank. The stuff used for covering the compartments thereby proved its power of resistance.

The repairs will take about a fortnight, while another week will be required to replace the damaged gas compartment.

A WATER CLOCK.

Recently we described a clock which worked with one wheel, and now comes a story of another strange time recorder from a town in the backwoods of the United States. The machinery is connected with a geyser, which emits a column of hot water every 40 seconds. At each emission the water strikes a lever, with the result that the hands move forward 40 seconds.