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THE BRITISH MONARCHICAL SYSTEM.

The occasion of King Edward's birthday on Monday last was characterised by a spontaneous outburst of loyalty in all parts of the British Empire, and many of our London contemporaries published articles culogising the monarchical system as it is understood and carried into effect in the United Kingdom. The ventilation of this highly interesting subject resulted in a revelation of the fact that Republicanism is practically dead throughout the Empire, though many people not yet past middle age can remember a time when Republicanism was an eminently potential factor in English politics, and when it appeared by no means impossible that the Monarchy, as it is now known, would pass away. This condition certainly does not prevail today. There is no lack of visionaries in England who have at their finger-tips all manner of Utopian schemes for the political and social regeneration of the country; yet amidst all the clamour of Socialists and other reformers it is the rarest thing to hear a single voice raised in sincere denunciation of the Monarchy, Two or three decades back there was a strong party in favour of Republicanism, chiefly composed of leading intellectual lights and men deeply versed in the argumentative art, who were prepared to give chapter and verse for their advocation of the Republican system as opposed to the monarchical. This party is no longer represented by even a single man of intellect; its cloak has, it is true, descended upon the unworthy shoulders of agitators of the Grayson stamp, but such irresponsible demagogues are not to be taken in the least degree seriously. Thoughtful English folk are, almost without exception, fervid supporters of the monarchical system, their conviction being based upon grounds of the most substantial nature. The upright life and mature wisdom of the late Queen Victoria did much to lix the Throne upon a firm foundation. That Her Majesty played an infinitely important part in the internal and foreign policy of her country than was hitherto supposed is clearly revealed by that very remarkable work, "The Letters of Queen Victoria," whose publication recently aroused widespread interest. These letters exhibit numerous instances of the Royal lady's deep interest in the nation's welfare, and have done more to open the eyes of English people to the true character of their late revered Sovereign than all the encomiums penned since her death. Until quite recently it was the custom in England to think of the late Queen as a gentle lady who held herself rigidly aloof from political questions, content to leave the nation's affairs in the hands of her advisors. This belief is effectually shattered by the "Letters" to which we have referred, and their publication has had the effect of rendering the late Queen's memory even more sacred in the hearts of her people.

Regarded in the light of these revelations, King Edward's activity in the foreign policy of England becomes less surprising. He is, as a matter of fact, treading closely in the footsteps of his exalted mother, though circumstances have naturally given him greater scope for the exercise of those statesmanlike qualities that are his by heredity. One of our contemporaries recalls the saying in the days when superior persons talked of the Monarchy as an interesting anachronism, that if a Republic was ever established in England, the present King would infallibly be elected as the first President. The British people have since learned to appreciate the immense advantages conferred on them by having His Majesty at the head of affairs, and no person with any claim to sanity would advocate a change that offered the slightest prospect of losing these advantages. The heated strife of parties in the United Kingdom rages very furiously at times, and most institutions have at one time or other suffered from trenchant criticism. To this rule the Monarchy is the sole exception, and it has attained this remarkable position solely through its remarkable success. Opinions may be divided as to the benefits enjoyed by the nation in consequence of King Edward's activity in connection with the foreign policy of Great Britain, but it cannot be denied that the position of that country in its relation to the European Powers has developed most favourably since the present monarch's accession. Formerly in a precarious position of "splendid isolation," England has now numerous friends on the Continent, and for Englishmen



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merely to compare the position held by their country in the regard of the other Powers with that of eight years ago is to be filled with a sense of profound gratitude. We venture to express the universal hope that King Edward the Seventh will be spared for many years to stand at the helm of the British State, which he has so ably helped to guide through dificult shoals during his brief but highly successful reign.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

ANOTHER LIGHTNING CRUISER.

London, November 10. The new battleship-cruiser "Invincible" returned to Plymouth last night on completion of an eighthours' full-power trial. She steamed for eight hours at an average speed of 28 knots, and at one point a speed even exceeding this was obtained. The designed speed of the "Invincible" is 25 knots. Her sister ship, the "Indomitable" was reported to have exceeded 28 knots on her voyage across the Atlantic on the return of the Prince of Wales from Canada.

THE ATTEMPTED INDIAN ASSASSINATION. HEROISM OF AN AMERICAN. London, November 10.

Reuter's correspondent in a detailed message states that the attempt to murder the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was made on Saturday evening by a Bengali on the occasion of a lecture by Professor Burton, of Chicago University, at Overtoun Hall, Northern Calcutta. Sir Andrew Fraser, accompanied by the Maharajah of Burdwan and Mr. Barber, the Y.M.C.A. secretary, was stepping on to the daïs, when a young man, who afterwards gave the name of Roy Chowdhury, rushed up, thrust a revolver within six inches of Sir Andrew Fraser's body, and pulled the trigger twice. Luckily the cartridges missed fire. Mr. Barber, who is an American, flung himself on the assassin, who savagely struck him on the head with his revolver, inflicting a severe wound.

Meanwhile the Maharajah of Burdwar, a man of great stature and strength, interposed his body between Sir Andrew Fraser and the assassin, and then bodily seized the Lieutenant-Governor and swung him through the door out of harm's way. While Mr. Barber was struggling with the assassin, a group of Bengalis occupying front chairs rushed violently out of the hall and escaped. It is believed that they were present in order to assist Chowdhury in his nefarious design. After Chowdhury had been finally secured the lecture proceeded. Sir Andrew Fraser was loudly cheered at his conclusion.

The correspondent adds that this is the fourth attempt that has been made on Sir Andrew Fraser's

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

MARRIAGE OF MR. NAT GOODWIN.

Boston, November 10. The marriage is announced of Mr. Nathaniel Goodwin, the actor, and Miss Ena Goodrich, also wellknown on the American stage. Mr. Goodwin obtained a divorce only a few weeks ago from his wife, the actress, Maxine Elliott.

AMERICA'S FIRST "DREADNOUGHT" LAUNCHED.

Quincy (Massachusetts) November 10. The battleship "North Dakota," the first American ship of the Dreadnought class, was launched here today. She is 518 feet long and displaces 20,000

THE RELIGION OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT. In reply to numerous correspondents who wrote criticising Mr. Taft on the ground that he is a Unitarian, President Roosevelt has issued a letter denouncing religious intolerance in American politics.

"Mr. Taft's religious faith," says the President, "is purely his own private concern. Moreover, the first principles of American Government guarantee

to all complete religious liberty."
"You are entitled," the President says, writing to one correspondent, "to know whether the man seeking your suffrage is a man of clean and pure life, honourable in all his dealings with his fellows, and fit by qualification to do well in the great office for which he is a candidate, but you are not entitled to know matters which lie purely between himself and his Maker."

President Roosevelt mentioned that Roman Catholic and Jew sit side by side in his Cabinet, and he adds his belief that as the Republic will endure for many centuries, there will doubtless be among its Presidents Roman Catholics, and very probably at some time Jews.

SPEECH BY PROFESSOR HADLEY.

New York, November 10. Professor Hadley, in a speech delivered yesterday at Brooklyn, compared German education with American; saying that higher education is no longer ideal but thoroughly practical, and that in his opinion the German conception is superior to the American. Professor Hadley was one of the "Austausch" Professors in Berlin.

ANOTHER STANDARD OIL VICTORY.

Chicago, November 10. The appeal of the Government made with the object of carrying on proceedings against the Standard Oil Company has been dismissed by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the United States. The Federal Court in July last overruled the decision of Judge Landis, who in August 1907 imposed a fine of twenty-nine million dollars on the Standard Oil Company for violation of the law prohibiting rebates by railroad companies. It is stated on good authority that the Government will again endeavour to bring the whole matter before the Supreme Court.

FAITH MEETINGS IN CHICAGO.

(From our New York correspondent.) Faith meetings, at which any one who is suffering from any of the ills of life, whether bodily or mental, may find relief, have been inaugurated by the Immanuel Baptist Church of Chicago. These meetings are held every morning and are very numerously attended; they are conducted by the Reverend Johnson Myers, and have the character of religious services, being opened with prayer and singing. The simple service affords consolation to many who are "weary and heavy laden," and they go away strengthened and refreshed. Each individual tells the minister what it is that causes him to be sorrowful. If the encouraging words of the reverend gentleman are not sufficient of themselves to solace the complainant, the services of a lawyer are called in, who assists either in finding a situation or with practical advice. For those who are in low spirits on account of illness, medical advice is provided gratis. For the material inner man, consolation is provided at these faith meetings in the form of a breakfast or lunch.

(Continued on page 2.)