COLONIAL AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

RUSSIA.

REFORMERS AND THE CABINET.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 12.

The letters of Count Heyden, M. Shipoff, and M. Lvoff published in yesterday's *Novoe Vremya* constitute the most damaging indictment of M. Stolypin that has yet appeared. The Premier has committed a curious error of judgment. In his anxiety to allay the suspicion aroused by the failure of the negotiations with the Octobrists he issued an official account of the episode in which the facts were distorted and the blame for all that had happened was generously placed to the account of the fates. Now three of the chief parties to the negotiations come forward and declare publicly that the breakdown was due simply and solely to the refusal of the Government to accept the Octobrists' conditions.

The tone of these letters is remarkable if one compares it with that of the Manifesto issued by Count Heyden, M. Lvoff, and M. Stakhovitch immediately after the dissolution urging that the dissolution should be accepted calmly with a loyal recognition of the Emperor's sovereign right to take such a step if he so willed. Now M. Shipoff and M. Lvoff declare their conviction that the speedy convocation of a representative Assembly is imperatively necessary in order to make good the radical error committed in the dissolution of the *Duma* and neither of the letters shows a sign of the eagerness to aid the Government in maintaining order so distinctly expressed in the Manifesto which was issued when the negotiations had hardly begun. The one effect of the negotiations has obviously been to drive home to the minds of the Octobrists the political significance of the dissolution and the Opposition is the stronger for M. Stolypin's failure. This result is entirely satisfactory. The air is cleared, and even the most moderate elements of public opinion will now be convinced that nothing is to be gained by compromise with the Government.

The Party of Peaceful Regeneration, of which Count Heyden, M. Lvoff, and M. Stakhovitch are the leading members, is preparing to organize actively in view of the elections. During the week a programme has been drafted in Moscow and includes responsibility of Ministers to Parliament, the equality of all citizens before the law, and the compulsory expropriation of privately owned land. Only two months ago M. Stakhovitch opposed in the *Duma* the principle of responsibility to Parliament, so that events are forcing other parties besides the Constitutional Democrats to the Left. It is extremely probable that the new party, which will naturally absorb the October League, may attract into its ranks a number of Constitutional Democrats who have lately become alarmed by the radical tendencies of their party and by the difficult position created by the Viborg Manifesto. A conference of representatives of the October League is to be held in St. Petersburg this week.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 11.*

The *Novoe Vremya* to-day publishes a letter by Count Heyden with reference to the recent official statement regarding the refusal of several prominent politicians to enter M. Stolypin's Cabinet. Count Heyden says:—

The President of the Council of Ministers had several meetings with M. Lvoff, M. Guchkoff, and myself, and discussed with us the question of the entry of "politicians"—*i.e.*, non-bureaucratic politicians—into the Cabinet. We at once declared that if "politicians" were to enter the Cabinet two portfolios would not suffice for them. There would have to be at least five "politicians" perfectly agreed as to their political views, and a condition of their joining the Ministry would be the acceptance of their programme, which would be published in the name of the Ministry and which would formulate principles on which the new Ministers would be able to form a party of union at the next elections to the *Duma*. The Prime Minister raised no objection to these terms. We devised measures in order to secure the inclusion in the Cabinet of personages whose names would have been a guarantee for the realization of our programme. One of these personages declined his co-operation on account of ill-health.

Before we could enter into negotiations with the others, we were informed that only two Ministerial posts could be allotted to "politicians" at present, but later on other "politicians" could be gradually taken into the Ministry. With regard to the programme, it was intimated that this question could not be settled now, but the Government was determined to advance with resolution on the path of reform. In these circumstances I held it to be neither possible nor desirable to take part in further negotiations. The combination was thus wrecked upon obstacles which were independent of our wishes. What happened was that the Prime Minister did not accept our conditions. If we met with no success it was because we were not able to convince the Government that the plan of making bureaucratic Ministers of us was purposeless.

M. Lvoff and M. Shipoff also write to the Press explaining why the negotiations between themselves and M. Stolypin were broken off. They say that the portfolio of the Interior was one of those required by non-bureaucratic politicians, and declare that the adoption of their programme involved a radical change in the policy of the Government. They insisted on the immediate convocation of a new *Duma*, for the purpose of repairing the error of the Dissolution.

THE NEW MANIFESTO.

MOSCOW, Aug. 11.*

Count Heyden, M. Lvoff, and M. Stakhovitch, of the Moderate Constitutional party, have issued a manifesto on behalf of the "Party of Peaceful Regeneration." They say:—

The members of the Imperial *Duma* who did not identify themselves with the aims of the Constitutional-Democratic, or People's Freedom, Party have awakened to the necessity of uniting on the basis of a general programme in order jointly to carry out their views in the *Duma*, their principal object being to create a Constitutional Monarchical State. A strong Monarchical Power, popular representation, liberty based on rights, and the equality of all before the law are the conditions of Russia's regeneration. All nationalities must enjoy identical political and civil rights. The highest power must create a strong law-abiding Government, which must, without arbitrariness, but unswervingly breaking the ruinous old order of things, secure the realization of the liberties proclaimed on October 30, 1905. Responsible Ministers form a guarantee of uniform legislation and executive power. With regard to the agrarian question, the party considers it necessary not to hesitate at the forcible expropriation of an amount of private property sufficient to create permanent peasant holdings. This *Duma* group is the enemy of violence and arbitrariness, from whomsoever they may proceed. Only through the law and in the law can the needs of the people receive just satisfaction.

THE SVEABORG MUTINY.

HELSINGFORS, Aug. 12.*

The Court-martial to try the cases arising out of the recent mutiny at Sveaborg began its sittings yesterday. The first case to be tried was that of the eight alleged ringleaders of the mutineers. The civilians arrested at Sveaborg and Skatudden during the outbreak have been handed over to the civil authorities. The Court-martial is under the presidency of M. Allen. Most of the prisoners arrested at Sveaborg declare that they did not know why they were invited to join the movement.

The men who were taken prisoners in the fight at Hagness Fort state that many fugitive sailors took part in the encounter armed with rifles. The evidence shows that the outbreak at Skatudden was planned long beforehand.

LATER.*

The Court-martial on the Sveaborg mutineers yesterday condemned to death Lieutenants Emeljanoff and Kochanovsky and five soldiers for participation in the revolt. The sentences have already been carried out.

REIGN OF TERROR IN POLAND.

LODZ, Aug. 11.*

An incredible state of affairs reigns in Warsaw and Lodz, where the inhabitants are at the mercy of bandits, anarchists, and terrorists. Every day there are several unpunished murders and robberies, and the authorities are powerless.

At 11 o'clock this morning six anarchists attacked two German factory owners named Michel and Crerk, who were driving in a cab from the bank. Both were shot and killed, and 1,400 roubles (£140) were stolen. The assailants escaped.

REVOLUTIONARY OUTBREAKS.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 11.*

Advices from all parts of the provinces continue to report armed attacks on Government institutions, State spirit shops, and mails. At Libau robbers armed with revolvers killed a postman who was taking 28,000 roubles (£2,800) to the Treasury, and decamped with the money.

A telegram from Kostroma announces the despatch of troops to Vetluga, where agrarian disorders and revolutionary outbreaks are prevalent.

The inquiries instituted by the Moscow police, following on the recent arrests, show that the head of the principal revolutionary committee is a woman named Elizabeth Effront, the niece of a member of the Council of the Empire.

Some 2,000 soldiers and sailors will be tried at Kronstadt for participation in the recent mutinies by a Court-martial over which Major-General Tomashevitch will preside.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE JEWS.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 11.*

The University professors of St. Petersburg and other higher educational establishments have passed resolutions in favour of the unrestricted admission of Jews.

FRENCH OPINION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Aug. 12.

The most mature French opinion as expressed in the more authoritative organs of the Press betrays in its comments on the formation at last of the Stolypin Ministry a real embarrassment and no slight evidence of regret. There are among the Paris papers a small number of Russophil organs which are striving to arrest the growing fears of the public. But the majority of the French newspapers maintain their complete independence and tell the public the home truths about a crisis which the *Siècle* calls *le gâchis Russe*. The perusal of the journals of all shades shows clearly that Frenchmen regret above all the reactionary spirit that has made such short work of the *Duma*. They desire a stable Government in St. Petersburg for the very practical reason that the only important thing for them is that Russia should remain a useful ally. That end can be attained, as they are aware, only if Russia is peaceful and prosperous. The organ of M. Méline, the *République Française*, draws the natural conclusion that there must be a reform worthy of the name in the Russian Government, and that this implies the co-operation of the representatives of the nation with the Government. The policy of repression *coûte que coûte* is regarded here as incredibly rash. A dozen passages might be cited illustrating the impatience of French opinion with a Government which is wilfully blinding its eyes to the real state of things, or, as the *Siècle* says, "obstinately exploiting a people of 130 millions for the benefit of from one hundred to two hundred thousand privileged persons."

The *Temps* summarizes sarcastically the Liberal measures of M. Stolypin since he has held office—"the suppression of all the Liberal papers, the imprisonment in five days of 268 persons, the expulsion or deportation of one hundred more, the despatch to provincial Governors of clear instructions to secure the election to the *Duma* of Deputies whose independence will not thwart his plans, &c." The *Débats* avoids any irony of this kind and gives the new Government the benefit of the doubt, refusing to follow the German Press in its claim that the provisional solution given to the crisis is a guarantee offered to the reactionaries. But it is sufficiently evident that those Frenchmen who know Russia best find it difficult to cherish any illusions. It is significant that an authority like M. Raymond Recouly, the well-known war correspondent, who is now the political editor of the *Revue Politique et Parlementaire*, should so unhesitatingly tell his compatriots the facts as he has done this month in the new number of that review. He predicts that in the "insensate and criminal struggle which it is carrying on against the Russian people autocracy will be vanquished." Frenchmen, he says, must make up their mind to this *dénouement*. "The Russians," he continues, "have decided that they have had enough of this *régime*, and that in spite of everything they will substitute for it another, even if they have to bring about a fall in their stocks and fill the souls of French capitalists with anguish." M. Recouly watched the *Duma* on the spot for two months and knows its leading members. His conviction is that it was better than its reputation in France, and the responsibility for the entire crisis must, he says, be thrown upon the Government.

THE KING AND THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, Aug. 12.

King Edward, who will leave London for Marienbad on Tuesday, will travel by way of Flushing and Cologne and is expected to arrive at Friedrichshof Castle, near Cronberg, on Wednesday morning, where his Majesty will be the guest of Prince and Princess Frederick Charles of Hesse until the following day. It is understood that the Emperor William, who will this week also be on a visit at the Castle, will meet the King at Cronberg Station. The British Ambassador in Berlin, Sir Frank Lascelles, who is now staying at Homburg, will probably join King Edward at Frankfurt, and will accompany his Majesty to Friedrichshof. In addition to her brother the Emperor William, Princess Frederick Charles's house-party will include her sisters, the Duchess of Sparta and the Hereditary Princess of Saxe-Meiningen. An excursion to the Saalburg has been arranged for Wednesday afternoon, and a family dinner will take place in the evening. The King will resume his journey to Marienbad early on Thursday morning.

THE POWERS AND CRETE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, Aug. 12.

The procrastination of the Powers in announcing their final decision with regard to the Cretan question, particularly with reference to the appointment of a new High Commissioner in view of the expected resignation of Prince George, and the spreading of various optimist and pessimist rumours concerning their intentions are causing intense excitement here. In competent circles in Athens it is considered unlikely that the Powers will leave with the Cretans the election of the new High Commissioner, as is stated in some quarters in Crete. Here, on the contrary, it is hoped that the Powers concerned will see the advisability of complying with the Greek suggestion by consenting to the appointment of a Greek from this kingdom. What their decision will be, however, it is impossible at present to predict. All that can be said for certain is that the Powers are exchanging views with regard to the measures to be taken for securing order in the island.

THE NETHERLANDS RAILWAY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Aug. 12.

The *Dépêche Coloniale* gives some particulars of the understanding which has, it says, been arrived at between the British Government and the committee of the French shareholders of the Netherlands (South African) Railway. The members of the committee held a meeting on July 2 to consider the offer made by the British Government to purchase all the shares represented by the committee for the sum of £165,000. A resolution was passed accepting the proposal, but adding that the committee, while highly appreciating the sentiments of international courtesy with which the British Government accompanied its offer, regretted that England did not agree to submit the claims of the French shareholders to arbitration, which the latter believed would have led to a solution more favourable to their interests. Since the adoption of this resolution the details of the understanding have been arranged between the British Foreign and Colonial Offices and M. Grosclaude, the French delegate. The *Dépêche Coloniale* adds that the British Government, after having acquired the shares of the German, Dutch, and French shareholders, has entered into negotiations with the directors of the company at Amsterdam, whom they have informed of their readiness to come to a friendly understanding.

THE CRISIS IN PERSIA.

REFORMS GRANTED.

TEHERAN, Aug. 11.*

The Shah has finally granted the demands of the people.

The refugees who sought protection at the British Legation, with the exception of 200 who have personal claims, have left the Legation, and the priests who fled from Teheran are returning.

[The above appeared in our Second Edition of Saturday.]

The following telegram has been communicated to Reuter's Agency by the Persian Legation:—

"The Shah, since his accession to the throne, has always had the intention to introduce real and efficient reforms in all the departments of the State so as to further the well-being of his people. For this purpose his Majesty has now decided that a National Council shall be formed at Teheran, composed of representatives of the princes, clergy, 'Kadjars' (the Royal tribe), nobles, and merchants and tradesmen. These representatives will be elected by their peers. The National Council shall deliberate on all important affairs of State, and shall have the power and right to express its views with freedom and full confidence with regard to all reforms which may be necessary to the welfare of the country. The result of the deliberations of the Council shall be submitted through the intermediary of the First Minister of State to the Shah for his Majesty's signature and shall then be carried into effect. The rules of procedure of the National Council shall be drawn up with the approval of the members and shall receive the Shah's signature. The Council, after determining its rules of procedure, shall then begin to give effect to the sacred laws of Islam and to introduce the necessary reforms."

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The popular discontent in Persia which has been steadily growing throughout the reign of the present Shah has assumed during the last two months a very acute and threatening character in Teheran. Under the strong hand of the Atabeg-Azam, Amin-es-Sultan, the former Grand Vizier, and so long as Russian loans supplied the needs of the Persian treasury, some semblance of orderly government was maintained, but his fall in September, 1903, coincided with events which were calculated to destroy the last shreds of Muzaffer-ed-Din's prestige. The country had deeply resented his humiliating subserviency to Russia, whose subsidies merely bolstered up an incompetent and oppressive Government and enabled his Majesty to mortgage the future of Persia for the gratification of his disorderly Court. The collapse of Russian power intensified this feeling, and at the same time stopped the flow of Russian largesse which had kept the Court going. A kinsman of the Shah, Ain-ed-Dowleh, who succeeded to the Atabeg-Azam, had all the worst faults of his predecessor without any of his redeeming qualities. Ignorance and obstinacy were his chief characteristics. The administration throughout the country fell into a more and more chaotic condition, public security vanished, cases of robbery and pillage became more and more frequent, the exchequer ran dry, and popular discontent broke out in some cases into open riot.

Above all, there was growing dissatisfaction amongst the clergy, who in Persia form a much more influential caste than in most Mussulman countries, as the Persians are of the Shiah persuasion, which has preserved an ecclesiastical hierarchy unknown in Turkey, where the Sultan is the recognized head of the Church. The growth of foreign ascendency in the Shah's councils, and his frequent journeys to Europe, where he was held merely to waste the country's substance in riotous living, had already put a severe strain on their loyalty, and, whilst they had lost their old authority at Court, they saw themselves threatened with the loss of their popularity with the masses, who have always been accustomed to look to them for support whenever oppression assumes altogether intolerable proportions. The clergy had practically no option but to place themselves at the head of the popular movement. As a protest the leading Mujtehids, who, besides their religious functions are also charged with the administration of justice according to the *Shari*, or sacred law, took sanctuary last December in the popular shrine of Shah Abdul Azim, just outside Teheran, and by maintaining for a whole month this time-honoured form of passive resistance, they wrung from the Shah a rescript promising compliance with some of their demands for administrative reforms, especially with regard to justice. But fulfilment of the promise was delayed month after month and was ultimately confined to the publication of futile modifications in legal procedure.

Popular irritation increased apace, and to some extent, no doubt under the influence of what was happening simultaneously in Russia, insistent demands were put forth for some form of national representation to curb the arbitrary power of the Shah. The clergy endorsed these demands and threatened again to "go on strike" if they were not conceded. The reactionary party, however, remained obdurate, and some serious affrays took place in the streets of the capital between the Court partisans and the people. Matters were brought to a head on July 11 by an attempt to arrest one of the Mollahs. He was rescued by his followers, but in the course of the struggle a Seyyid was shot by the soldiers. A Seyyid is a descendant of the Prophet, or is reputed to be such, and popular indignation naturally ran high. The chief priests of Teheran again took sanctuary, this time in one of the chief mosques of Teheran, and their adherents organized threatening demonstrations against the Government. The authorities used force to disperse them, and in another violent conflict between the soldiers and the people several of the clerical party were killed. The Mujtehids finally decided to depart from Teheran in a body and to proceed to the Tomb of Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet, who is buried at Nejef, in Mesopotamia. The Government did not venture to lay hands upon them and they actually left Teheran, and had proceeded, according to the latest accounts, as far as Hussanabad, on the road to Kum. At the same time, their adherents in the capital, fearing the vengeance of the Government, took refuge within the precincts of the British Legation, and its spacious grounds were in the course of a few days crowded with panic-stricken people, to the number, according to recent telegrams, of over 13,000. As these were presumably for the most part adult males, it may be estimated that the refugees who took shelter under the British flag represent nearly a quarter of the population of Teheran.

Such a state of things was absolutely unprecedented, and constituted so grave a national scandal that the Shah, who had doubtless been kept largely in ignorance of what was going on, found himself compelled to surrender. The Ain-ed-Dowleh was dismissed a few days ago from the Grand Vizierate, and the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, who has been for many years Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed to his post. But, as the chief quality with which he has hitherto shown himself to be endowed is a remarkable flexibility which has enabled him to retain his portfolio under successive Grand Viziers of different opinions and temperaments, he would hardly seem to be fitted to deal with so serious a crisis as Persia is now passing through.

It remains to be seen whether the new "Constitution" which Muzaffer-ed-Din has now granted will be accompanied by any of the real reforms which the situation imperatively requires, especially as the most pressing reform of all is drastic retrenchment at Court. The Shah's health is also in a very precarious state. Though he is not an old man, his habits of self-indulgence have undermined his constitution, and less than three months ago he had a serious illness of an epileptic character which for a time caused very grave anxiety. The rally has not, moreover, been altogether maintained. In the present condition of the country it is doubtful whether the throne would pass peacefully to the Veli Ahd, unless he received very strong support from outside. His younger brother, the Shua-es-Sultaneh, is ambitious and has a considerable following. The plague which has broken out in Eastern Persia and the frontier dispute with Turkey on the Western frontier are only minor troubles compared with the general state of disorder and misery of the whole country.

THE ILLNESS OF THE SULTAN.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Aug. 10.*

It is believed that the inability of the Sultan to attend the Selamlik is due to the extreme painfulness of the trouble from which he is suffering, and not to the fact that his condition is grave. Professor Bergmann, the celebrated German surgeon, has been summoned by telegraph. The Sultan is known to have been indisposed for the last three weeks, but great reserve has been maintained owing to his Majesty's known dislike to any reference to the condition of his health.

August 11.*

In response to inquiries from various callers, the officials at the Palace explained that the Sultan caught a chill, from which he was already suffering on the 3rd inst., when the last Selamlik was held, and that, although his Majesty is now completely recovered, the doctors advised him not to risk exposure to the open air; hence the abandonment of the Selamlik yesterday. To-day, it was added, his Majesty's condition has sufficiently improved to enable him to attend to various affairs and to deliver Iradés.

Meanwhile, although the above official version is supplied to inquirers, the local Press is not allowed to mention a word in regard to the Sultan's health or the abandonment of the Selamlik. The best-informed circles confirm the statement that there is a slight improvement in the condition of the Sultan, and declare that there is no immediate danger.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, Aug. 12.

The news of the Sultan's illness has aroused considerable interest in this country, and the question of the succession in the event of the Sultan's demise is being debated with animation. In well-informed quarters, however, the Sultan's life is not regarded as being in immediate danger. It was well-known that his Majesty suffered from chronic Bright's disease and that although various remedies were applied more or less serious relapses were always to be feared in view of his repugnance to local treatment. Earlier in the year, Professor von Bergmann, the distinguished Berlin surgeon, was summoned to Yildiz, ostensibly in order to perform an operation upon one of the Sultan's daughters. Upon that occasion he was the recipient of a number of high orders and honorary distinctions, but it was denied that he had been consulted with regard to the health of the Sultan. Now, however, it is understood that he has again been summoned to Constantinople and this time in connexion with the Sultan's illness.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, Aug. 12.

The illness of the Sultan is followed here with close attention and interest because of the political complications which might follow in case of his death.

THE ANTI-GREEK MOVEMENT IN THE BALKANS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, Aug. 12.

The anti-Greek movement continues. Popular demonstrations are announced to-day from several points. The most important demonstrations were held at Rushchuk and Anchialos. In Anchialos, a town on the Black Sea shore, some regrettable incidents took place and loss of life is reported, but it is believed that the rumours which are current are exaggerated.

THE HEJAZ RAILWAY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Aug. 12.

The following information respecting the progress of the Hejaz railway from Damascus to Medina and Mecca is derived from a trustworthy source. This time last year 514 kilomètres of the line had been constructed, carrying it as far as Maan. Since then the progress of the line has been somewhat retarded by the simultaneous construction of the connecting line from the coast at Haifa. The main line, has, however, been continued to the station of Tebuk, making up to the present 692 kilomètres. The earthworks have been advanced some 30 kilomètres further, but it is estimated that it will take three years more before the line can be completed as far as Medina. Meanwhile, the line from Haifa inland, of which only 104 kilomètres were constructed this time last year, was completed up to Dera for the Sultan's name day. Indeed, some trains have already begun to run on this section. Furthermore, a large railway station is being built at Haifa and is now almost finished.

THE TURCO-PERSIAN BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Aug. 10.*

The report of the Turkish Commissioners appointed to inquire into the dispute on the subject of the Turco-Persian frontier has been received here. As was expected, it approves and justifies the Turkish claims. Instructions have been sent to the Commissioners to discuss the report with the Persian delegates.

FRANCE AND MOROCCO.

PARIS, Aug. 12.*

According to an Algiers despatch to the *Temps*, considerable excitement prevails in the Ujda district owing to the decision of the Algerian Government, on the advice of the French authorities, to suspend all commercial traffic between Algeria and Morocco. The tribes declare that they will oblige the Maghzen to give satisfaction to the French demands, otherwise they will entrust their interests to the protection of the French authorities.

CHINESE LABOUR FOR THE PANAMA CANAL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.

Chinese coolies will in all probability dig the Panama Canal. Within a few weeks advertisements will be published calling for 2,500 Chinese, and if the experiment of employing them is successful, as it is confidently expected that it will be, large numbers will immediately be engaged. Every care will be taken in drawing up the contracts to prevent any suggestion of servitude. Mr. Shonts, the chairman of the Panama Canal Commission, states that West Indian negroes have not been found satisfactory, and from other sources it is learned that not nearly enough Spaniards can be obtained. The employment of Chinese is therefore the last resource.

In spite of this the Labour leaders are up in arms against the proposal, and Mr. Samuel Gompers, the president of the American Federation of Labour, has issued a statement declaring that those in charge of the canal have regard neither for law nor principle. He says that the existing law excludes Chinese labourers from the United States and all its possessions, and the canal zone is an American possession. This strikes most observers as a dog-in-the-manger attitude. American labourers can certainly not be obtained in anything like sufficient numbers to dig the canal, even if the rate of wages prevailing in the canal zone were doubled or trebled.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

VICTORIA (B.C.), Aug. 10.*

It is reported that a considerable number of East Indians will be imported into the province to relieve the labour situation. Mr. Whyte, Vice-President of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, who is now here, believes that Chinese coolies should be admitted under restrictions as to their sphere of labour.

[The above appeared in our Second Edition of Saturday.]

MR. ROOT'S TOUR.

MONTEVIDEO, Aug. 12.*

There was a series of splendid entertainments yesterday in honour of Mr. Root. In the morning he went for a motor-car drive to inspect a famous local breeding stud. Afterwards Mr. Root attended a reception held by the municipality, and in the evening was entertained at a banquet given by the President, followed by a gala performance at the theatre and a display of fireworks.

At the banquet the Minister for Foreign Affairs, proposing the health of Mr. Root, said that he believed the visit of the American Secretary of State would improve the relations between the two countries to the benefit of both.

Mr. Root, replying, said the Monroe doctrine was the assertion of the principle that the Latin-Americans were competent to govern themselves, an assertion which the United States believed to be demonstrated. There was nothing in the growing friendship between the United States and Latin-America which could imperil the interests of the Old World, whose countries profited more from the independence of the American Republics than they would have done had their unwise system of colonial government continued. Mr. Root concluded:—"In the establishment of these free nations they have obtained a profitable outlet for their trade, employment for their commerce, food for their people, a refuge for their poor and surplus population, and more than that, we have tried experiments in government for them. The reflex action of American experiments has been felt in every country in Europe, without exception, and has been far more effective than any good quality of the old colonial system could have been. Now our prosperity adds to their prosperity, and we are beginning to return in rich measure, and with interest, what we got from them."

THE ARGENTINE BUDGET.

BUENOS AYRES, Aug. 10.*

The Minister of Finance to-day laid before Congress the Budget for 1907, in which the expenditure is estimated at 223,999,444 pesos paper (£19,599,951), this being a reduction of 7,567,051 pesos paper (£662,117) on the Budget for 1906. The revenue is set down at 53,250,105 pesos gold (£10,650,021) and 103,204,318 pesos paper (£9,030,378), making a total revenue of 224,225,832 pesos paper (£19,619,761).

In a message accompanying the Budget the Minister explains the reasons for an increase of expenditure in connexion with police and public instruction and a decrease of 1,792,954 pesos paper (£156,884) in the army estimates. The latter was, he declared, due to better administration. The outlay for public works amounts to 34,687,817 pesos paper (£3,035,184). The present amount of funds set apart for the conversion of the debt is 15,008,742 pesos gold (£3,001,748), and a further sum of 5,000,000 pesos gold (£1,000,000) is provided in the Budget for 1907.

The report submitted with the Budget recommends the establishment of a reserve fund to be formed by means of comparatively small payments, which are to be continued until the fund has reached a substantial sum, which will then be converted into railway shares.

CHINESE ON THE RAND.

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 11.*

Up to the present, 570 Chinese have applied to be repatriated, 200 under the first notice and 370 under the second.

THE JAPANESE IN MANCHURIA.

TOKIO, Aug. 11.*

It is generally believed that Dr. Goto, who first came into prominence by his administration of Formosa, will accept the presidency of the South Manchurian railway. The liberal principles displayed by Dr. Goto in his administration of Formosa will, when applied to his new sphere of action, go far to dispel any fear felt abroad of discrimination between Japanese and foreigners.

ATTACK ON A BRITISH LAUNCH.

HONG-KONG, Aug. 11.*

A piratical attack was made last night on the British launch Wing-fat, close to Wu-chau. One man was killed and three were wounded, while the pirates made off with booty consisting of 500 taels (about £75) and a chest of opium.

THE BRAZILIAN POLICE REVOLT.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 11.*

The revolt of the police in the State of Sergipe is now completely at an end.

PLAGUE AT PORT SAID.

PORT SAID, Aug. 11.*

Two cases of plague have been declared here.

*Through Reuter's Agency.

ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND RUSSIA—TWO MEMORIALS TO THE DUMA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—A most interesting development has occurred in connexion with the British memorial to the *Duma*. A number of prominent French public men have adopted the text of the British memorial, with a verbal amendment to meet the fact that a Franco-Russian alliance exists, and many important signatures have already been received. There is thus created the beginnings of a three-cornered *entente*, non-official in character, and based upon the idea that liberty and representative government are necessary for the advancement of civilization and peace.

Your readers will also be interested to learn that the British message of sympathy has been cordially welcomed in Russia, and that after two meetings addressed by one of the undersigned an Anglo-Russian Friendship Committee has been founded in St. Petersburg, with Professor Milyukoff as president, and with strong support in the Press and the popular parties and the labour organizations.

The arrangements for a deputation to carry the British memorial to Russia and present it are now under consideration, but further signatures of representative persons will be gladly received.

Yours faithfully,

G. H. PERRIS.

A. MAC CALLUM SCOTT.

10, Adelphi-terrace, W.C., Aug. 11.

NEW RAILWAYS FOR BOLIVIA.—On the authority of the Bolivian Consulate in Berlin, the *Frankfurt Gazette* gives details of the contract, announced some months ago in *The Times*, which has been entered into by the Bolivian Government with the National City Bank and Messrs. Speyer and Co., of New York, for the construction of a number of railway lines in Bolivia. The lines in question will run from Oruro to Cochambamba, from Oruro to the left bank of the Desaguadero, from Oruro to Viacha, from Oruro to Potosi, from Uyuni to Potosi, from Potosi to Tupiza, and from La Paz to Puerto Pando. The capital required is fixed at 5½ millions sterling, but may, if necessary, be increased to 7½ millions. The Bolivian Government guarantees 5 per cent on 3¾ millions and advances 2¼ millions, which are to be repaid after 25 years. The work of construction, stipulated to begin in the month of July, 1906, must be completed within ten years. It is expected that this new railway system will powerfully promote the development of the mineral resources and trade of Bolivia.

SUPPOSED CASE OF BUBONIC PLAGUE.—On the arrival at Plymouth on Saturday morning of the P. and O. Company's mail steamer Arabia, it was reported that one of the Lascar crew was suffering from illness, which was supposed to be bubonic plague. The man had been on the sick list since August 5. He was removed to the hospital ship Pique, in Plymouth Sound. The passengers and the other members of the crew were medically examined, but no one was found to be ill. The passengers were allowed to land and proceed to their destinations, and the ship continued her voyage to London.

THE KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN.

The King and Queen of Spain, with Princess Henry and Prince Maurice of Battenberg, and attended by a small suite, including Captain Lord Granard, Scots Guards, proceeded from Cowes on Saturday to Bulford Camp, on Salisbury Plain. Here the 16th Lancers, of which regiment his Majesty is Colonel-in-Chief, are at present under canvas. Arriving by motor-car from Southampton shortly after noon, the Royal party were met by Field-Marshal the Duke of Connaught, Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Hamilton, Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Command, and Brigadier-General E. H. Allenby, commanding the 4th Cavalry Brigade, with their respective staffs. The 16th Lancers were drawn up dismounted with the exception of one squadron, and, King Alfonso having walked down the lines, the regiment marched past, finally advancing in review order. A hollow square having then been formed, his Majesty addressed the regiment, expressing his pride and gratification at being the colonel of such a fine body of men. The Royal party afterwards lunched with Colonel Wyndham and the officers, the other guests being Sir Ian and Lady Hamilton, Brigadier-General Bethune, and Mrs. Bethune, Lady Fincastle, Mrs. Wyndham, and Brigadier-General Allenby. His Majesty inspected the stables before leaving the camp about 3 o'clock. On their return journey to Southampton their Majesties called at Wilton-house, the seat of Lord Pembroke, who, with Lady Pembroke and the Hon. George Herbert and Lady Muriel Herbert, entertained them at tea. Afterwards Lord Pembroke conducted the party round the mansion, and about 5 o'clock the journey was resumed through Salisbury. The cars slowed up in passing through the Close, where their Majesties had a good view of the Cathedral, but did not alight. Many recognized the King and Queen, and greeted them as they continued their journey to Southampton. Having returned to Cowes the King and Queen of Spain in the evening took leave of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, and dined with them on board the Victoria and Albert.

Yesterday morning the King and Queen of Spain, with their suites, attended mass on board the Spanish cruiser Princesa de Asturias. Later they lunched with the Empress Eugénie on board the Thistle, and afterwards proceeded to Osborne Cottage, whence they returned with Princess Henry of Battenberg, her two sons, and Prince Arthur of Connaught to the Royal yacht Giralda. The usual salutes were fired on the departure of the Giralda, which was watched by a large crowd of people on the sea front. The Royal party dined during the passage to Southampton, where a special train was waiting to convey them to Scotland. At Southampton Princess Henry and her sons took leave of their Majesties, returning to Osborne Cottage on board the Sheila. Prince Arthur of Connaught accompanied the King and Queen to Scotland. Their Majesties were attended by the Marquis of Viana, the Duchess of San Carlos, the Duke of Santo Mauro, the Marquis of Villalobar, and Count Aybar. Lord Granard was also in attendance during the journey to the north.

After their stay at Fyvie Castle their Majesties will proceed to Drummond Castle on a visit to Lord Ancaster, returning later to the Isle of Wight in order to bid farewell to Princess Henry before their departure for Spain. The King and Queen will return to San Sebastian on board the Giralda.

ECCLESIASTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

The vacant honorary canonries in Wakefield Cathedral have been filled by the appointment of the Rev. W. Fowler, vicar of Liversedge, and the Rev. C. D. McMillan, vicar of St. John's, Wakefield.

The Rev. W. F. James, curate of Emmanuel, West Dulwich, has been appointed to the vicarage of St. Matthias, Burley, Leeds—patrons, the trustees.

The Rev. T. H. Fitzpatrick, curate of St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, has been appointed to the rectory of Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire—patrons, the Peache trustees.

The Rev. O. W. Tancock, rector of Little Waltham, Essex, was instituted on Saturday to the honorary canonry of St. Osyth in St. Albans Cathedral.

The 17th annual cyclists' church parade will take place at St. Michael's, Folkestone, next Sunday at 3.30.

The London Church Lads' camp at Veness Gap, Bexhill, was struck on Saturday. For a fortnight about 800 boys from London have undergone training under the auspices of the London Diocesan Church Lads' Brigade. Discipline and health have been the main objects in view. The cost is defrayed by voluntary subscriptions, and it may be said that the average outlay per week per head ranges from 5s. to 8s. The training includes musketry drill, and in the fortnight the boys have fired about 20,000 rounds on the ranges. The camp has had several distinguished visitors, who have been received by the commandant, Colonel Everard Ford, including the Chaplain-General to the Forces, Bishop Taylor-Smith, and Major-General Sir Ronald Lane, Lieutenant-Governor of Chelsea Hospital. The last-named was the inspecting officer, and he praised the lads unstintingly, remarking upon the fact that the officers desired to strengthen their characters as well as their physical powers. It was the first camp of the kind he had seen, he added, and it had been a revelation to him.

OXFORD CONSISTORY COURT.

The CHANCELLOR of the diocese of Oxford (Sir W. Anson, M.P.) held a Court in Adam de Brome's Chapel of St. Mary's Church, Oxford, on Saturday afternoon to hear two petitions which had been presented to him relating to the parish church of Headington, near Oxford.

The first petition by the parish churchwarden and parishioners asked for the removal of certain articles from the church, including a picture of the Virgin or Virgin and Child, wooden altar steps as they were used by seven acolytes at the Communion service, curtains obscuring or partially obscuring the east window and the east window in the south aisle, and a scroll with the words "Adoremus in æternum sanctissimum Sacramentum" on the super-altar. The second petition, by the vicar (the Rev. R. W. Townson), asked for permission to make certain additions and alterations, including the placing of the old Communion table in the side chapel of the chancel, a new Communion table in the chancel of the church, a rood beam with Calvary group across the chancel arch, and gates in the chancel.

Mr. T. W. Mallam, of Oxford, appeared for the parish warden (Mr. Dockray) and parishioners; and the vicar conducted his own case.

The CHANCELLOR, in giving judgment, said he could not discard from his mind the fact that this picture had been the subject of devotion. The vicar said it was no longer so; he was prepared to accept the assurance on his behalf, but he should do wrong if he were to allow the continued existence in the church of either a picture or an image which had been the subject of devotion. He must make an order that this picture be removed. As regarded the wooden steps to the altar, the vicar assured him that they were there in order to assist the minister in making himself heard by the congregation. He accepted that, and should make no order with regard to the steps. With reference to the curtains, the vicar said they had no purpose connected with worship, and he would be prepared to lower them so that the wishes of the parishioners could be carried out and the figures and inscriptions on the window should be seen. Subject to that the curtains might remain. As regarded the scroll on the super-altar, he gave an order two years ago that it should be removed, and that order must stand. As to the vicar's petition, he should permit such alterations as were necessary for a side chapel on the understanding that no seats would be interfered with. As regarded the altar, which had been already placed in a side chapel, he made an order two years ago that the altar at the east end should be replaced. It had been removed, he hoped through a misunderstanding on the part of the vicar. The parishioners felt strongly that the altar which had been at the east end should remain there, and he should make an order that their wishes should be carried out, and a new altar provided for the side chapel. As regarded the rood beam and crucifix, unless a crucifix was placed in any part of the church where it was an object of worship, or unless there was any suggestion that it might become an object of worship, it was permissible if part of any architectural scheme in the church. Having regard to the past history of the church and to the matters of complaint which were made to him in 1904, he could not allow the introduction of the rood beam for the purpose of hanging the crucifix upon it. As regarded chancel gates, he would be prepared to sanction them if they were unlocked. There was one thing more he would like to say. The petitions presented to him conveyed imputations on either side which he hoped would be discarded, if not forgotten. He hoped his decision would be cordially accepted on both sides, and might lead possibly to a better feeling in a parish in which all manner of troubles had prevailed for some time past.

THE THEATRES.—At the Lyric Theatre this evening Mr. Joseph O'Mara will sing *Pagliacci* for the first time this season; on Wednesday Mme. de Vere will sing *Il Trovatore* instead of Mme. Marchese; and on Thursday *The Marriage of Figaro* will be presented for the first time this season. The cast will include Mme. Fanny Moody, Miss Rosina Beynon, Mr. Lewys James, and Mr. Charles Magrath. On Friday evening Miss Enriqueta Crichton will sing "Santuzza" in *Cavalleria Rusticana*.—In *The Winter's Tale*, which, as already announced, will be produced at His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday, September 1, Miss Ellen Terry will play Hermione, Mrs. Tree Paulina, and Miss Viola Tree Perdita.