

had been compelled to postpone her journey and obtained from him the largest of the four parcels, containing twenty thousand pounds' worth of securities and jewellery.

The owners discovered the loss at Warrington, and reported the fact to the police.

A woman was soon afterwards arrested at Liverpool in possession of the package.

King Edward Visits the Czar.

The Foreign Office announces that His Majesty King Edward is paying a State visit to the Czar, and reaches Reval (in the Gulf of Finland) in the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert, escorted by two cruisers, on June 9.

This is the first official visit His Majesty has been able to pay since the accession to the throne of the Czar, to whom King Edward is closely allied by ties of friendship and near relationship.

Sir Chas. Hardinge, Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office, accompanies His Majesty.

King Edward will not land in Russia. The exchange of courtesies will occur on board the Royal yacht.

It is now officially announced that Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria will accompany King Edward to Reval, in the Gulf of Finland.

The Russian Press warmly welcomes King Edward's visit, (which they consider will lead to the strengthening of the Anglo-Russian Convention of September last.

Aeronautics.

Messrs F. Kellow and A. J. Staughton, two Melbourne residents, ascended to a height of 4800 feet in the Hon. C. H. Roll's balloon, travelling at the rate of forty miles per hour from Battersea to the shore of the North Sea.

Mr Kellow also made a successful flight in Paris on Mr. Henri Farman's aeroplane.

The Morell airship, a huge airship, 452ft. long, and propelled by five forty-horse power engines, during a trial trip at Berkeley, a suburb of San Francisco, California, fell a distance of 300 feet in the presence of over a thousand spectators.

The sixteen occupants of the car were all seriously injured, most of them sustaining fractured limbs.

The victims were local residents who were contemplating making investments in a company which proposed to build airships of this type.

M. Henri Farman, the noted Parisian aeronautist, has challenged the Wright Brothers, of Dayton, Ohio, to speed and distance trials with aeroplanes at Paris for £1000 a-side.

The Education Bill.

In the House of Commons, the Education Bill was read a second time by 270 votes to 205.

The minority included 64 Nationalists and Messrs. S. M. Samuel, C. J. O'Donnell, and D. A. Thomas (Liberal members), and F. M. Jowett, J. T. MacPherson, J. O'Grady, and V. Grayson (Labour members).

Although Mr. Asquith was more conciliatory than other Ministers, Mr. Balfour was unable to elicit from him more than a willingness on the part of the Government to consider suggestions that were compatible with the fundamentals of the bill.

EUROPE.

Owing to Germany's pressure the Porte has sanctioned a five hundred miles extension of the Baghdad railway, including the Taurus section to Mardin.

The Douma's Budget Committee has reported against the proposed vote of £1,100,000 for the construction of battle-ships.

The Porte, under a threat of other proceedings, accepted the terms of M. Constant, French Ambassador, for the settlement of the coal mines' dispute, at Heraclea, Asia Minor.

The committee of the Russian Upper House has approved the immediate construction of the Amur railway, despite Count de Witte's warning that the cost would be thirty-two and a-half millions sterling.

German publicists warn the Government that General Sir Ian Hamilton, General Officer commanding the Southern Districts, has visited St. Petersburg in order to arrange a military convention between England, France, and Russia, aimed at Germany.

A Terrible Visitation.

An epidemic of typhoid is visiting Moscow.

Already there are some two thousand patients in the hospitals.

The mortality among the unfortunate prisoners confined in the gaols, which are all terribly overcrowded, is awful.

Antarctic Exploration.

The Pourquoi, a three-masted ship, with auxiliary steam power, has been launched at St. Malo, in France, and starts in a few months' time with Dr. Jean Charcot's Antarctic expedition.

The expedition will proceed to Graham Land, and Dr. Charcot hopes to reach Alexander Land, journeying thence southwards, using motor sledges.

Germany and Tariff Reform.

The Berlin correspondent of "The Times" says that in view of tariff reform prospects, in the light of the British by-elections, Germany's commercial relations with Great Britain are being anxiously discussed, and many consider that the anticipating of arrangements with Great Britain and the colonies might help to ward off the final force of any possible impending blow.

"The South African Conference," the correspondent adds, "is being closely watched, as well as the tariff discussion in Australia, and Germany is at the same time also straining every nerve to strengthen her footing in the South Seas." "Canada has hitherto proved obdurate, but Germany would eagerly welcome the chance of renewing her relations with the Dominion."

From 1905 till 1907 Germany's exports to countries having treaties of commerce on the basis of the German tariff increased by £28,650,000, or 28 per cent, and those to most favoured nations and States, including Great Britain, France, the United States, Holland, Denmark, India, Japan, and Argentina, by £24,400,000, or 14 per cent. Those to countries not regulated by any agreement increased by £2,900,000, or 22 per cent.

German experts estimate that the reduction of the British sugar duty by 50 per cent, as foretold in Mr. Asquith's Budget, will benefit the German sugar export trade to the extent of 2/71 per sack.

Belgian Railway Disaster.

A railway collision, attended by consequences nearly as fearful as that at Braybrook, Victoria, last month, has occurred near Antwerp.

Two passenger trains, when going at a fast rate of speed, collided and several carriages were terribly smashed, many passengers being killed.

So far twenty-six bodies have been extricated, and others are pinned within the wreckage.

Details of the Antwerp collision show that the victims were mutilated and crushed in a ghastly manner, several bodies being decapitated.

A severed hand was found, the clenched fingers of which held tight an ear, which had been torn off in a frantic struggle for life.

So far 40 bodies have been extricated from the wreckage, but the remains are in most cases scarcely recognisable. Over 80 were injured, many seriously.

The signalman who fled was later arrested, but subsequent to his arrest he became suddenly demented.

Russia and Finland.

M. Stolypin, Premier, has affirmed that one of Russia's principal grievances against Finland was that the Finnish Diet adopted laws affecting Imperial interests without consulting the Imperial Government.

The indications are that M. Stolypin will consult the Finns on a bill regarding Finland about to be introduced into the Douma.

M. Stolypin, Premier and Minister of

the Interior, in an ominous speech at the Douma, commenting on the fact that Finland was harbouring revolutionaries, foreshadowed legislation placing Finland's relations with Russia on a more national basis, while respecting her autonomous rights.

The Finnish Senate has resigned owing to the unfavourable effect produced by M. Stolypin's speech in the Douma.

Franco-German Amicities.

The "Daily Mail's" Berlin correspondent says that the Foreign Office is investigating a complaint from the Legation at Fez that one of the German Consuls sent a messenger with a letter to the commander of a neighbouring French force.

When the messenger reached the camp, it is reported, the French soldiers beat him, and one of the soldiers spat on the letter.

The incident will lead to immediate representations to France.

Francis Joseph's Jubilee.

Eighty-two thousand Vienna school children marched in procession to the Emperor Francis Joseph's castle at Schoenbrunn, in connection with His Majesty's diamond jubilee celebrations.

The Emperor was enthusiastically cheered by the children when he appeared to address them.

ASIA.

The "Morning Post" announces that Russia has sold Kwang-Nangtse-Harbin railway to Japan.

A newspaper called "Chinese Public Opinion," printed in English but managed by Chinese, and intended for Chinese readers, has appeared in Peking.

The "Standard's" Hongkong correspondent reports that the rebels at Yunnan have captured the railway, defeating the Government troops.

Outlaws at Mahsud ambushed a party of military police, and captured some of their rifles. Punitive measures in the Mahsud country continue.

Indian Frontier War.

The Mohmands attacked the picket at Darwagsal during a midnight storm.

The attackers fought stubbornly, and lost heavily.

Two native officers and seven men belonging to the British force were killed, and a native officer and 23 men wounded.

Captain Rich, of the Royal Engineers, was slightly wounded on the arm in blowing up the enemy's towers near Khappak.

Twenty-seven deaths from cholera have occurred amongst the Munster Fusiliers stationed on the north-west frontier of India.

The second brigade of the British force which is operating in the Mohmand country under General Barratt, came into collision with a body of the enemy at Bahaing.

The brigade encountered severe opposition to its forward march, and during the engagement twenty-nine casualties were sustained by the British.

Three officers in General Barratt's command were wounded.

It is reported at Simla that the Mohmands and Khuda Khels have forwarded to the Ameer a petition to the effect that they attacked the British at the instance of frontier officials who have now deserted, and unless helped quickly they intend to transfer the country to Britain.

The Afridis have written to a leading Mullah stating that they do not need any more Mullahs to stir up trouble and then disavow and desert them, as in the case of the Mohmands.

Major-General Willecocks, who is in charge of the operations against the Mohmands, with General Anderson's Brigade, is marching northwards to punish the most recalcitrant Mohmands inhabiting the least accessible country.

The heat, difficulty of obtaining water, and loss of sleep caused by the rebels keeping up a constant sniping at the tents by night, constitute the chief difficulties.

Details of General Barrett's engagement at Bohaidag show that 2000 of the enemy strongly held both sides of a valley, and the 57th Wilde's Rifles, Fron-

tier Force, and 28th Punjab, by dashing charges, cleared them out. Lieutenant Ivens was dangerously wounded.

The 34th Pioneers, while demolishing towers of the enemy, were charged by a party of fanatical swordsmen. All the latter were bayoneted.

The Ameer's letters to Lord Minto (the Viceroy) are couched in the most friendly terms.

Three hundred Mohmands seized the water supply at Umrakille.

Heavy fighting followed, the enemy suffering severely.

The British casualties numbered 25, including Lieutenant H. Toole, of the 21st Cavalry, and Lieutenant G. F. Archibald, of the 82nd Punjab, both of whom were killed.

During the fighting in the Umrakille Valley, the Mohmands lost two hundred, who were killed.

In their charges they exhibited desperate bravery, charging right up to the British lines, while several were bayoneted on the British breastworks.

A heavy duststorm and the presence of standing corn, in which they hid, greatly aided the Mohmands in their sword rushes.

The British advance has been checked, and this is encouraging the enemy, who have made many fruitless night attacks.

Sedition in India.

Handbills have been extensively circulated in Bombay announcing a speedy revolution.

The handbills appeal to Indians to realise Government securities immediately and buy arms with which to expel the hated domineering foreigner.

A Bengali placed a big bomb on the steps of St. Andrew's Church at Calcutta.

Abdel Kader, who threw the bomb which wrecked Mrs. Kennedy's carriage and caused the death of that lady and her daughter, and was sentenced to death on a charge of murder, has been executed and his property confiscated.

Japanese Affairs in Korea.

The Marquis Ito, Resident General for Japan in Korea, in a speech at Seoul, capital of Korea, said that Japan's peaceful development of Korea was designed to secure their independence to the Koreans.

The Koreans would then, he added, become allies of Japan.

The speech aroused much enthusiasm in Korea.

Fighting in the Dutch East Indies.

News from the East states that natives ambushed a Dutch patrol near the town of Klung Kung, on the Island of Bali, near Java, in the Dutch East Indies, and in the attack killed an officer and four men and wounded twelve others.

A Dutch warship subsequently bombarded Klung Kung, doing great damage to the native quarter.

The attack is attributed to the measures taken by the Dutch for the repression of the opium traffic.

Britain's Problem in India.

Lord Curzon, ex-Viceroy of India, speaking at the Central Asian Society's dinner, said that the recent arrangements, however successful, had not determined Britain's and Russia's future in Asia. Vigilance was required to hold and defend what Britain had gained.

"There is," he continued, "a dark and almost impenetrable pall over India. We must do nothing to retard the success of the great aim with which Britain has been charged there."

AMERICA.

Rear-Admiral Kingsmill has accepted command of the Canadian Marine service.

Canada is stationing cruisers on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts for the protection of her fisheries.

Mr. George Storry, a multi-millionaire, of New York, has been murdered by his son, because he proposed to marry a young wife.

The United States Congress has appropriated a million and a-half dollars for participation in the Tokio Exhibition of 1912.