

The "Daily Mail's" Berlin correspondent reports that Germany will shortly possess six dirigible airships, including the two Zeppelin airships which have already made many successful flights.

Old Age Pensions.

On the third reading Mr. G. F. Bowles (Conservative) moved the rejection of the Old Age Pensions Bill. Mr. C. F. Masterman (Liberal member for West Ham North) ably defended the bill, admitting, however, that it was "a great experiment."

Disobedience Averts Disaster.

A correspondent has furnished the "Times" with an account of a strange occurrence in connection with the operations of the Channel Fleet during the North Sea manoeuvres last week. Admiral Beresford signalled the cruisers Good Hope (14,100 tons) and Argyll (10,850 tons) to perform an evolution which, if obeyed, would have brought the vessels into collision.

Rejected with Jeers.

The House of Commons listened for ten minutes to Mr. Kincaid Smith's bill providing for 48 days' compulsory military training for all males. The bill was greeted with laughter and cheers, and was promptly rejected by 250 votes to 34.

Corporal Punishment.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Darling, Judge of the King's Bench Division, in sentencing a prisoner, remarked that the "cat" had been a great deterrent to crime at Cardiff since his visit a few months ago. He then sentenced the prisoner, Riley, a collier, to 18 strokes of the cat and six months' imprisonment on a charge of robbery with violence.

Alleged Meat "Ring."

Replying to Lord R. Cecil's suggestion that the Government should appoint a select committee to inquire into the allegations that the British beef supply is controlled by foreign capitalists, Mr. Asquith doubted whether the inquiry would be productive of useful results. These possessing information had better, in the first instance, communicate with the Boards of Agriculture and Trade.

A Congregational Council.

The Congregational Congress has resolved on the constitution of a Congregational Council, to consist of 400 members, the United States and Britain having 150 each, Canada 20, Australasia 32, South Africa 10, and the rest of the world 38. An interim committee dealing with all subjects referred to it by the Council consists of the following, viz., United States and Britain five members each, Australia and Canada two each, and South Africa one.

England and America.

Independence Day was celebrated in America and Great Britain with the customary cordiality and enthusiasm. Mr. Whitelaw Reid (United States Ambassador to England), speaking at the American Society banquet at the Hotel Cecil, referred to the far-reaching and beneficent effects of the latest postal reform—penny postage between Great Britain and America—and complimented Mr. Henniker Heaton and Lord Blyth, who, he said, were worthy followers of Rowland Hill, upon their success in this matter. It would give an enormous stimulus to the growing intercourse and intimacy between the two countries. No greater service could have been rendered civilisation.

Mr. Henniker Heaton thanked Mr. Whitelaw Reid for his high eulogium, and described a dramatic scene which had occurred a few weeks since at Dorchester House (Mr. Whitelaw Reid's residence in Park Lane), when he and Lord Blyth had appealed to Mr. Reid to come to their aid to obtain Anglo-American penny postage. Mr. Reid complied, and within 24 hours the two great English-speaking nations had secured the boon. Continuing, Mr. Heaton said that he was about to submit to the nations a proposal for penny-a-word telegrams throughout the civilised world. Then the divine gift of electricity would no longer be for millionaires, but for the millions.

The Territorial Army.

Sir G. Taubman Goldie, P.C., addressing the National Defence Association, made a strong protest against the recent reductions in the regular army, and the national danger arising therefrom. He recommended the nation to do its utmost to secure the success of the Territorial Scheme. Official reports show that 183,000 have joined the Territorial Army. The "Times" considers this encouraging, but emphasises that 120,000 more are needed, but adds that the best feature of the situation is that 10,000 new recruits have been enrolled during June.

Lambeth Conference.

The Lambeth Conference has opened with an impressive service in the Canterbury Cathedral, at which 4000 were present. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Davidson, in welcoming the 252 delegates to the Conference, said that never in the thirteen centuries' history of the English Church was there a gathering fraught with mightier issues. A special Communion Service was celebrated in Westminster Abbey on Sunday for the Episcopal delegates. The Very Rev. J. A. Robinson, Dean of Westminster, preached the sermon.

The Nursing Profession.

Her Majesty the Queen, who is President of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, opened the new buildings of the Fund on the Victoria Embankment. King Edward also assisted in the ceremony. Their Majesties were welcomed by two thousand nurses. In the course of his speech, the King paid a high tribute to the unselfish devotion of the nursing profession.

Transformation of China.

The China Association banqueted Sir Robert Hart, ex-Director of Chinese Customs, on his return from the East to London. Sir Robert remarked that China's transition might be prolonged, but the transformation was certain. China was, he said, destined to reach the front rank of the nations. He hoped that Britain's sympathy and moral support to China would continue.

British Naval Manoeuvres.

In connection with the naval manoeuvres a flotilla of 17 submarines steamed from Dover to the Fifth of Forth under water, except their conning-towers, at a speed of 10 knots, without a hitch. The Kaiser, aboard the Imperial yacht, paid a surprise visit to Admiral Sir Charles Beresford's fleet, which was cruising off the Norwegian coast during the North Sea manoeuvres now in progress. After passing through the lines the Kaiser's yacht sailed away.

EUROPE.

Lightning ignited six oil wells at Bergslav, Galicia, the flames rising 600 feet. Official returns show that by the explosion at the Kathleen mine, at Jusooka, which occurred last week, 223 persons were killed. The referendum taken throughout Switzerland overwhelmingly favoured the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of absinthe in Switzerland. Prince Otto of Salm-Horstmar has declined the presidency of the Navy League owing to the Kaiser supporting Bavaria in insisting that the league must be non-political.

It is reported in Lisbon that the Government, at the request of Portuguese planters in the province of Mozambique, intend to restrict native emigration to the Rand. Imhof, an ex-postal employee, has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment at Munich for blackmailing a Bavarian millionaire under a threat to murder his children successively until his demands were granted. The wool sales at Antwerp have opened, there being many buyers and animated competition. Prices advanced on May quotations from 7 1/2 to 10 per cent in merinos and 10 per cent in crossbreds. Out of 2971 bales of Laplats offered 1615 were sold.

Fatality at a Motor Gathering.

Seventy-five thousand people assembled at Dieppe and watched the international automobile race. Hall Watt, a prominent English motorist, was accidentally killed while motoring near Dieppe on Friday. In connection with the international motor races, a Grand Prix was run at Dieppe. The race chiefly interested Continental competitors, and the winner, M. Guyot, covered 288 miles in a De Lage Voir turette, averaging nearly 50 miles an hour.

The competition for the Grand Prix de France came off to-day, the winner being Lunter Schlagen, in a Mercedes car. The ground was uneven. Mr. Harrison, an English competitor, in a Weigel car, was overturned in a ditch. He was taken to the hospital. Eight out of nine German cars competing in the Grand Prix de France at Dieppe gained front place. A hundred thousand spectators watched the race. The course for the Grand Prix de France was 478 miles, and the time of Lunter Schlagen, the driver of the win-

ning car, was 6h 45m 43s. Closs, driving a Panhard-Levassor car, and his mechanic, were killed. The tire burst when going at a speed of 80 miles an hour, and the car ran into some trees.

An "Agair of Honour."

Count Manteuffel, a member of the Russian Horse Guards, who resides in St. Petersburg, killed Count Nicholas Sumarkoff, father of Prince Yusupoff. The latter is reputed to have been the wealthiest man in Russia. The encounter arose from the Countess Manteuffel's relations with Sumarkoff. The same two fought at Berlin in May.

A Papal Decree.

The Vatican has issued a decree reorganising the different Congregations. Britain, Canada, Holland, and the United States are removed from the jurisdiction of the Congregation of the Propaganda, and are thus no longer considered as missionary lands. Considerable modifications are made in other Congregations, and a new Congregation is created for regulating disciplines relating to the Sacraments, including marriage.

Another Successful Air-Ship.

Just outside Paris, on July 7, M. Farman's aeroplane flew a distance of 11 miles in 20 min 20 sec, winning the Arzengaud prize of 10,000 francs (£400) offered to the first aviator who succeeded in remaining 15 minutes in the air.

A General Assassinated.

A soldier assassinated General Shemsi at Monastir, in Trans-Caucasia. General Shemsi had been frequently engaged in punitive operations against the Albanians. The assassin escaped.

Canada and the "All-Red" Route.

In the Dominion House of Commons last evening the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved: "That it is desirable with all convenient speed to take steps to carry into effect the Imperial Conference's decision regarding the 'All-Red' route; and that this House affirms Canada's willingness to assume a fair share of the burden, and hopes that Australia and New Zealand will co-operate

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