

referred to the prosperous condition of the State and to the visit of the American fleet, and expressed the hope that the capital site question would be settled during the present session. The bills promised included measures for closer settlement, pure foods, minimum wage, and workmen's compensation.

Mr. McGowan, Leader of the Opposition, moved: "That the conduct of the Government in their relations to the Commonwealth had brought ridicule upon the State, that such conduct, and also their action in making unwarranted and unnecessary appointments to the Legislative Council, merited the condemnation of the House."

Mr. Wade, in a fighting speech in reply, claimed that the Government had only done its duty in resisting Commonwealth encroachment upon State rights. He intended acting in conjunction with other States to issue a writ against the Federal Government, restraining them from withholding the State's three-fourths of the revenue for June, and claimed that the Council appointments were necessary to make the Chamber reasonably effective.

Effect of Shipping "Rings."

At the request of the Royal Commission sitting in London inquiring into shipping rings, the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce has prepared a statement relative to the effects of the shipping combines on Australian trade.

The statement sets out that the London Shipping Conference, which, it is understood, controls practically all freight dispatched from the United Kingdom, allows shippers a rebate of 10 per cent. It also alleges that a similar rebate agreement is enforced between Australian shippers and steamship companies to the East, while an agreement, but unwritten, prevails in the Australian inter-State trade in favour of certain associated companies. It is claimed that owing to the system of rebates, trade is lost to the Commonwealth States. No rebate system exists in the Australian-New Zealand trade.

An Australian Airship.

Sergeant Matthews, of the local Defence Force, has completed a military airship, and shortly gives a public demonstration of a working model.

The main features of the invention are that it can be manipulated without loss of gas, and is easily steerable. Experts have pronounced favourably on the airship.

Australia's Finance.

A dinner was given in London, under the auspices of the Australasian Chambers of Commerce, Sir John Cockburn (ex-Agent-General for South Australia) presiding.

Sir J. Hector Carruthers (ex-Premier of New South Wales) dwelt upon the position and resources of New South Wales. He made a spirited defence of Australian finance, and claimed that the whole of the interest on the public debt was being paid by the net earnings of public works.

Australia, he continued, was rapidly becoming independent of the London money market. He was confident that the Australian people would not tolerate the Commonwealth's disposition to encroach upon the States' proportion of the Customs revenue. He urged Britishers to use Australian wines, which were capable of immense development. He declined to regard Australia's increasing trade with the East as a danger or evil to the United States.

Sydney Tram Strike.

Replying on July 21st to a deputation from the Tramway Union protesting against the espionage system, the Chief Commissioner (Mr. Johnston) said that careful consideration would be given to suggestions made to enable an accused man to secure evidence in his defence.

If, Mr. Johnston continued, the Commissioners could see their way to modify the existing system, while preserving a check on dishonesty, they would be as glad as the men themselves to do so, but when the deputation came with demands, as representatives of the men, unable to depart from the position they had taken up, he had to tell them that the Commissioners must be allowed to manage the affairs of their department in their own way.

After an interview on July 23 between the Railway Commissioners and the representatives of the Tramway Employees'

Union, a mass meeting of the day-shift men was held.

The president, Mr. Lawton, announced the decision of the Commissioners. The Chief Commissioner, Mr. Richardson, had promised to consider the re-organisation of the espionage system, but firmly refused to reconsider the demand for the reinstatement of Conductor Croucher, dismissed as a result of the espionage system.

The president of the union, addressing a meeting from which the Press were excluded, while not advising a strike, said there was only one course open. If they decided to come out it must not be on the espionage system only, but on every question of importance affecting tramway-men.

It was announced that the steam-tram drivers, the power-house men, and the electrical staff, would be with them in the event of a strike.

A ballot taken at a late hour resulted in 1420 voting for and 92 against a strike at noon on July 24.

The strike commenced according to resolution.

Finding that some men were being relieved from duty as the cars reached the power-houses, the others immediately came out, leaving the trams standing in the streets.

One or two spasmodic attempts were made to run cars on July 24, but hostile demonstrations made it almost impossible for the most loyal employee to stick to his post.

Five arrests for assault were made during the afternoon, one or two victims being treated at the hospitals.

At the power house 250 men came out in sympathy with the conductors. The authorities state that in some instances the cars have been tampered with, and parts removed.

A deputation from the Labour Council asked the Premier for an independent board of inquiry into the tramway men's grievances, and also for the reinstatement of Conductor Croucher, over whose dismissal the trouble originated. The Premier refused both requests. He said the men had broken the law, and would have to return to work before the Government's intentions became known, or before any promises were made.

The tramway men at Broken Hill and Newcastle have also struck work.

The pinch of the strike was felt on July 25. Though a limited number of trams, each with its police guard, were running to and from all the suburbs, the service was insufficient to meet the big early morning rush.

Workers from further suburbs are finding a difficulty in reaching the city. 'Buses and all kinds of vehicles have been pressed into service, and additional railway and ferry facilities have been arranged to cope with the block.

A large body of suburban police were drafted into the city in readiness for the resumption of the modified service.

Altogether twenty arrests have been made in connection with the hostile demonstration on July 24th.

The strikers acted with complete unanimity, not a single regular conductor remaining at work.

The situation in connection with the tramway strike has become grave. There is now an indication of a great industrial upheaval. At the Trades' Hall on July 25th, the atmosphere was electrical. The Labour Council discussed the situation, but great secrecy was maintained. It is stated that a resolution was passed calling upon all unions to strike at noon on the 18th, unless the tramway trouble was ended by then.

Another attempt was made to persuade the Premier to take action on behalf of the men, but he remains inflexible, and adheres to his determination that the men must first return to duty.

THE OLD COUNTRY.

The Duke of Argyll inspected and was much impressed by Mr. Louis Brennan's mono-rail system.

Yielding to a strong public agitation, the London County Council is reducing the speed limit of motor omnibuses in the thoroughfares.

The personality of the late William Lithgow, shipbuilder, of the firm of Russell and Company, has been sworn at a million sterling.

The Labour party intend to introduce during the autumn session a bill providing for the compulsory feeding of necessitous school children.

The Women's National Anti-Suffrage League has issued a stirring manifesto, appealing to the patriotism and common

sense of the women of England to defeat the suffragist movement.

Replying to a deputation of Welsh Nonconformists Mr. Asquith promised to bring in a bill in 1899 to disentail and disendow the Church of England in Wales.

Mr. Justice Kenny, in opening the assizes Court at Connamara, said that the condition of Galway, except Connamara, was deplorable. Boycotting and the necessity for police protection had greatly increased.

Mr. Balfour, in a fiery speech in the House of Commons, impugned the Government's sincerity as temperance reformers, and said that they dare not attack "off" licenses for fear of quarrelling with their political friends.

The Tariff Commission has issued a report tracing the development of colonial preference and contending that it was the historic policy of England until the oil preference was withdrawn in deference to the free trade ideal and in opposition to the wishes of the colonies.

The Admiralty Division Court of Inquiry held the owners of the ss. Kangaroo, the Shaw, Savill Company, responsible for the collision between that vessel and the Sphere in the Thames during October, on the ground that the officers did not render the pilot the assistance whereto he was entitled.

Ladies as Life-Savers.

Mrs. Post, wife of a millionaire, and a party of other ladies, were motoring past Monbuck Point when they saw a vessel driven ashore on the Point.

There was a life-saving rocket apparatus on the point, and this the ladies successfully used, firing a line, which fell across the shipwrecked vessel.

By means of this line the whole of the twenty-four members of the crew were got ashore in safety.

British Unemployed.

The trades union returns, presented by Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board, show that 8.2 per cent. of the members are unemployed, against 3.6 in 1907.

It is impossible, he adds, to estimate the number of unskilled unemployed.

The British Army.

In the House of Lords, Earl Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies, stated that no further reductions in the army were contemplated.

The Government were making an inquiry into general expenditure on the army, but this was not confined to any one department.

Trades Unions and Socialism.

In a test case brought by the secretary of the Walthamstow branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railwaymen against that society, Mr. Justice Neville held that trade union funds could be employed to influence legislation by securing representation in the House of Commons, and that the union had as much right to support Socialists as Unionists or Liberals.

The "Daily Mail" says that Mr. Justice Neville's decision is of the first importance, since a trade unionist can now be compelled to assist Socialism by his involuntary contributions.

The "Daily News" considers that the decision is sound sense, and also a vindication of liberty.

The "Daily Chronicle" remarks that trades unions have now a free hand to be as political as they choose, and to subsidise Socialism if they like.

Rescue of Coal Miners.

Fire in the framework of the two shafts at the Highhouse colliery, Auchinleck, in the County of Ayr, Scotland, imprisoned sixty miners.

After tremendous exertions, a rescue party extinguished the flames, and rescued all the men.

Britain's Meat Supply.

Mr. Winston Churchill (President of the Board of Trade) is appointing a Departmental committee to inquire how far, and in what manner the general supply, distribution, and price of meat in the United Kingdom is controlled or affected by a combination of foreign companies.

Lord Robert Cecil is to be chairman of

the committee, which includes four members of the House of Commons, representatives of the Boards of Trade and Agriculture, and also an expert in the meat trade.

A Clergyman Cautioised.

The Dean of Arches has admonished the Rev. Henry Thompson, Canon of Norwich Cathedral, for his unlawful action in refusing to admit Mr. Bannister, manager of the Norwich Electric Tramways, and his wife, to Communion, on the ground that the latter was his deceased wife's sister.

Bannister's second marriage occurred in Canada, before such marriages were legalised in England.

EUROPE.

In the New York to Paris motor race the German "Protos" car has passed Eydtkuhnen (Prussia). The American "Thomas" car has reached Moscow, and the Italian "Zust" car has reached Tomsk.

Nilsen, a revolutionary Socialist has confessed that he threw a bomb aboard a hulk at Malmoe, Sweden, where eighty English dockers, replacing strikers, were accommodated, killing one and wounding eleven.

On the ground that the bank levies toll the game of bridge is prohibited at the Casinos of Aix-les-Bains and Contrexeville (France), the only games permitted by the licenses being baccarat and ecarte.

French Naval Manoeuvres.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports that Admiral Germinet suddenly terminated the manoeuvres of the Mediterranean fleet because Admiral Lepord, by disobeying the programme of operations, evaded an attack intended to be a surprise one, thus escaping defeat.

Admiral Germinet condemned the sentimental considerations prompting Admiral Lepord's action.

A Paris Tragedy.

The mystery surrounding the murder of Mr. Auguste Remy, a retired financier, in Paris last month has been cleared up. The murdered man's valet, Coulers, has confessed that he helped the butler Renard, to kill and rob their master.

Turkish Unrest.

The troops at Adrianople are disaffected owing to arrears in their pay and other grievances.

The garrison at Tikvesh has joined the Young Turkey party.

Four young officers of the garrison at Sere killed their colonel.

It has transpired that General Osman Heydet, who was attacked at Monastir by an officer connected with the Young Turkey party, was severely, but not fatally, wounded.

The Sultan has promoted 570 officers at Stambul in the hope of preventing disaffection among the troops.

The army and officials in Macedonia had already proclaimed a constitution when the Sultan accepted it. This move has created a deep impression in Sofia, where it is considered an application will be revived for a constitution. If sincere, it may effect a very real improvement throughout Turkey.

It is officially announced that the Sultan of Turkey has issued a decree granting a new Constitution, and has summoned a Chamber of Deputies.

The firman granting the Constitution was read at Salonika and was received with great enthusiasm.

Dinzi Pasha, with a thousand men, entered Monastir and abducted the Chief Marshal, Osman Feizi Pasha, the new commander of the villayet of Monastir, without bloodshed.

The entire garrison of Ushuh has mutinied.

Izzet Pasha, the Sultan's favourite, and several officers have been arrested on a charge of being implicated in a conspiracy aiming at the abdication of the Sultan.

The conspirators proposed that Said Pasha, formerly Grand Vizier and now President of the Council of State, should be appointed, with Dictatorial powers, to succeed Ferid Pasha, the present Grand Vizier.

Two battalions of Anatolians from Smyrna refused to entrain for the troubled district of Monastir.

A manifesto issued by Riza Pasha,