

Minister for War, opposes interference with Macedonia by the Powers or Balkan States, and promises freedom to every race and creed, if they co-operate for the country's good.

**South Polar Expedition.**

The three-masted sailing vessel Pourquoi Pas, which is fitted with auxiliary steam power, was christened on July 20 at Saint Nalo, France, where she was launched a few weeks ago. The vessel will start shortly with Dr. Charcot's expedition to the South Polar regions.

**Alleged Anarchist Plot.**

Several suspected anarchists have been arrested in Brussels. It is rumored that their intention was to attempt the life of King Leopold of Belgium.

**Disaster in a Tunnel.**

After blasting operations at Loetschberg tunnel, Switzerland, an influx of water and sand from the river Hander drowned 25 workmen.

**ASIA.**

The Shah has ordered three brigand tribes to reinforce Rakhim Khan, who is in charge of the operations for the suppression of the revolt at Tahriz, where fierce fighting took place on Monday, two hundred casualties being reported.

**Strike Riots at Bombay.**

The mill hands at Bombay struck in order to hasten the granting of autonomy, and pelted Europeans with stones and brickbats.

The Riot Act was read, and the police fired, dispersing the crowd. No lives were lost.

The strike riots continued throughout the day.

Four thousand riotous millhands of Bombay stoned the police, who were attempting to disperse them.

The police then drew their revolvers and, firing on the mob, quickly dispersed them, but not before several casualties had resulted from the shooting.

**Disastrous Floods in China.**

Eastern news states that the heaviest floods for thirty years inundated the valleys of South China.

Thousands were drowned, and many more thousands are homeless and starving.

Hundreds are pillaging the country, and it is feared that many will join the regular brigands.

The Government and the public are contributing large sums for relief. Commerce in South China has received a severe check, and the harvest is totally destroyed.

**Suppressing Sedition in India.**

The jury, by a majority of seven to two, found Tilak, the Bengali editor, charged with publishing seditious matter, guilty.

He was sentenced to six years' transportation and fined a thousand rupees. The trial lasted eight days, Tilak's address occupying six.

Judge Devan stated that the articles scented with sedition, preached violence, approved murders, and approved the employment of bombs.

The printer of the paper, Jugantar, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment at Calcutta in addition to a previous sentence of two and a-half years for inciting to rebellion and murder.

Mr. T. R. Buchanan (Under-Secretary for India), in submitting to the House of Commons the Indian Budget, admitted a general spread in certain districts of unrest, suspicion, distrust, and in some cases of violent outrages.

The Government was convinced that such methods were utterly repugnant to Indians and Europeans alike, and assurances were constantly being received of the support of all sections in stamping out this hateful form of political disease.

The cloth and copper bazaars, the markets, and the majority of Hindoo shops in Bombay have closed, out of sympathy with Tilak, the seditiousist who was on July 23rd sentenced to transportation for publishing inflammatory ar-

ticles after an eight days' trial.

In addition, twenty thousand hands employed at the cotton and jute mills, and further riots occurred.

The military were called out, and they suppressed the riots, killing one and wounding several.

A mob at Bombay attempted to wreck Curry-road station. They held up a train, stoned a magistrate, and the police, whereupon the volunteers fired a volley, killing five and wounding 53.

Ram Chandra, a Brahmin, has been arrested at Poona on suspicion of conducting a school in Portuguese territory, where pupils are trained in the manufacture of bombs.

**AFRICA.**

The Natal Assembly and Legislative Council have passed the Indemnity Bill. The Cape Assembly, by 62 votes to 27, reduced all Civil servants' salaries by 5 per cent.

The Moorish bandits who captured Mr. Clark Kennedy, a Britisher, whom the British Government refused to ransom, have released their captive.

A self-constituted but important mission, practically representing the Egyptian Liberal party, is going to London to promote more intimate relations between Egyptian and English politicians.

With a view to further retrenchment, the De Beers mine at Kimberley will be closed down on 31st inst, throwing 200 whites and 1200 natives out of employment.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Lieutenant-Colonel Seely) states that the Imperial Government has decided to pay the salary of Dinizulu, the paramount Zulu chief.

**Gold from the Congo.**

Sixty thousand pounds worth of gold from King Leopold's Kilo mines, in the Ituri province of the Congo, passed through Uganda last week.

It is reported that enormously rich goldfields have been discovered in the King's private domain.

**Damage to a Steamer.**

Advices from Durban state that the steamer Invertry, bound from New York to Auckland, struck some wreckage off Cape Agulhas, and was badly damaged, part of her cargo having to be discharged.

**AMERICA.**

The widow of Robert Louis Stevenson was seriously injured in a motor accident in San Francisco.

Reuters' Washington correspondent states that America and Britain have agreed to extend the Newfoundland modus vivendi, pending the settlement by The Hague Conference of the fisheries dispute.

In reply to the "Daily Express" statement that the British Government was to purchase the three Brazilian battle-ships of the Dreadnought type now under construction in England, the authorities at Rio deny that Brazil is willing to sell her battle-ships to anyone.

President Castro has expelled the Dutch Charge d'Affaires from Venezuela.

It is supposed that his action was due to Holland's unsatisfactory reply to the President's demand for more effectual vigilance over Dutch vessels which assisted the revolutionaries to escape from La Guaira, the port of Caracas.

**The Canadian Celebrations.**

After deluging rains, the weather in Quebec was suddenly brilliantly fine for the celebrations, which were inaugurated most successfully amid immense enthusiasm.

All the ships in the St. Lawrence were dressed with flags and bunting, and the city was gaily decorated, presenting a scene of entrancing beauty.

H.M.S. Indomitable, conveying the Prince of Wales and his entourage, rounded Point Levis shortly before three o'clock p.m. on July 23, amid a deafening salute from the international fleet, and the tumultuous demonstrations of the populace, and anchored between a long double line of battle-ships, all dressed and manned. The Admirals and captains of the Atlantic fleet, Earl Grey (Governor-General of Canada), Lord Roberts, Sir Wilfrid Laurier (Prime Minister of Can-

ada), Mr. Fairbanks (Vice-President of the United States), and other international representatives were present aboard one of the battleships.

On landing, Sir Wilfrid Laurier presented the Prince with an address from the Canadian Parliament and people, warmly welcoming him, and briefly tracing the history of Quebec and of Canada since Champlain's landing in 1608 until the present.

His Royal Highness, replying first in English and then in French, said that the King was mindful of the unswerving loyalty of Canadians, and followed with affectionate interest everything concerning the welfare and development of the Dominion. He dwelt on the proved fidelity of the French Canadians, as one of the greatest tributes to the political genius of England's rule.

It was a source of deep satisfaction to the King, and all who were proud of British institutions, continued the Prince, to know that British and French Canadians were working hand in hand in the upbuilding of the Dominion. He anticipated with the keenest interest the coming impressive ceremonies, when the past and present history would be presented upon a stage of unsurpassed natural beauty. He cordially approved of the setting apart of the battle-ground of the Plains of Abraham, which was followed by associations of the past.

The Earl of Dudley (representing Australia), the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Roberts, and the Earl of Ranfurly (representing New Zealand) were allotted prominent places on the Royal dais.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, waving his hat, called for cheers for the Prince. There was a most enthusiastic response, and His Royal Highness then drove through the tortuous, precipitous streets to the Citadel.

Earl Grey (Governor-General of Canada), in prosecuting the Dominion Parliament, expressed gratification at the Empire's enthusiasm in connection with the Quebec tercentenary, and at the presence at the forthcoming celebrations of the Prince of Wales and representatives of France and the United States.

The chief feature of Thursday's festivities was the glorification of Champlain, the founder of Quebec.

Replying to an address presented to him by the Mayor of Quebec, the Prince of Wales paid a graceful tribute to Champlain, whose name had spread throughout the Empire. His Royal Highness said he was glad to welcome the representatives from the furthest limits of the Empire, warmly thanking the United States and France for sending representatives, whose presence was an outward and visible sign of their friendship for Great Britain.

Earl Grey (Governor-General of Canada) read congratulatory telegrams from the Governor-General of Australia and the Governor of New Zealand.

Mr. Fairbanks (Vice-President of the United States) in an eloquent oration expressed the fervent hope and belief that the relations between the United States and Canada and Great Britain would never again be disturbed.

A great historical procession, vividly representing the periods of Canada's history from Champlain downward, took place during the day, and was highly successful.

The Earl of Dudley (representing Australia) and Lord Ranfurly (representing New Zealand) attended a State banquet at the Citadel last evening.

Mr. Deakin has cabled Australia's congratulations to the Dominion of Canada on the Quebec tercentenary celebrations.

The Prince of Wales reviewed 13,000 troops, 2000 French, American, and British sailors leading in this order in the march past.

The Prince of Wales handed Earl Grey (Governor-General of Canada) the title deeds of the battlefields around Quebec, that have been acquired by subscriptions from every part of the Empire.

**Wreck of a Steamer.**

The German liner Anubis, with 77 passengers and crew, is ashore on San Miguel Island, in the Pacific, and is pounding to pieces.

One boat reached Point Conception, on the Californian coast.

**Robbery Under Arms.**

Three armed strangers, reported to be Italians, entered a drinking saloon at Jamaica Plain, near Boston, shot a man dead, wounded two others, and rifled the cash register.

The arrest of one was effected, but the other two decamped.

Near evening the two bandits re-entered the town, intending to rescue their comrade. A crowd tried to capture the bandits, who shot indiscriminately, killing another man, and wounding several, including three police officers and a woman with a baby in her arms.

They then hid in a cemetery, which was afterwards surrounded by a force of 500 police, who were instructed to shoot them at sight.

The bandits fought desperately to the last, one being killed and the other dangerously wounded and captured.

**A Great Relay Race.**

Boy runners belonging to the Young Men's Christian Association carried a tube containing a message from New York to the Mayor of Chicago, 1130 miles, in 115 hours 47 seconds.

The distance was subdivided into 2000 sections, with a boy for each.

There was intense popular enthusiasm over the feat.

**Standard Oil Company.**

The Circuit Court, on appeal, has quashed the fine of 29,000,000 dollars (nearly £6,000,000) against the Standard Oil Company for breaches of the Anti-Trust Law, and ordered a retrial of the case.

The Court held that Judge Landis committed irregularities, and was wrong in basing the fine imposed on the wealth of the parent company, instead of on the capital of the Standard Oil Company, Indiana.

President Roosevelt has ordered the immediate retrial of the case against the Standard Oil Trust.

**PERSONAL NOTES.**

The death is announced of Bishop Potter, of New York, in his 73rd year.

The death of Sir W. R. Cremer, M.P., occurred on July 21st.

The Rev. Copeland, a pioneer missionary of the Presbyterian Church, died on July 22nd.

Mr. William Percival, formerly secretary of the Auckland Racing Club, died at his residence, "Stibington," Epsom, on July 26, at the age of 66 years.

Mr. Walter Empson, for 21 years headmaster of the Wanganui Collegiate School, has resigned the position. The Rev. J. L. Dove, M.A., has been chosen as Mr. Empson's successor, and will take over his duties next Easter.

Mr. Donald McDonald, the well-known war correspondent, arrived in Auckland from the Wimmera on July 26, as special correspondent for the Melbourne "Argus" during Fleet Week in Auckland.

Chief Judge Palmer and Judge Reeve, of the Native Land Court, have left Wellington for Christchurch to preside at a sitting of the Appellate Court in that city. On the conclusion of the sitting the Court will proceed to Auckland.

Mr Thornton, of the Tauranga staff of the Bank of New Zealand, has been transferred to Kaiapoi. Mr C. J. Chry, late of the Bank of New Zealand's Whangarei staff, has been transferred to Tauranga.

The Hon. R. McNab has consented to attend the opening of the extension of the Waikata branch railway to Riverdale (Southland) on August 12. This will mean his inability to attend the American fleet celebrations in Auckland.

The Rev. G. Barclay, the pioneer Presbyterian clergyman of Southland and Canterbury, died at Waiwatu last week, after a short illness. Mr A. R. Barclay, M.P., and Dr. Barclay are sons of deceased.

At the Ohiro Home, Wellington, the death took place of an old Maori war veteran, Mr William Hayda Flood, who was at one time a resident of New Plymouth. He was an able musician, and was organist at St. Mary's Church for a while. He was a First Life Guardsman, and witnessed the funeral of the Duke of Wellington.

Mrs Annie Besant, accompanied by three lady members of the Theosophical Society, arrived from Sydney on July 26, to commence a very short lecturing tour in New Zealand. Mrs Besant has spent some two months in the Australian capitals, where she has addressed very large and appreciative audiences. At the solicitation of New Zealand members of