

has made a vigorous reply to the accusations made by Mr Trotter, a Canadian delegate at the Labour Conference.

He appeals to a large section of the Labour interests in Canada regarding the suitability of the Army's immigrants. He contends that they are placed on the land and not among the unemployed of the cities.

Mr Trotter, in a speech at the Labour Conference, violently attacked the Salvation Army's immigration programme, which he declared would win a prize for the best way of prevaricating without lying. The Army, he said, had become the procurator-general of cheap labour for international capital.

A Successful Brewer.

The death occurred last Wednesday, after an internal operation, of Lord Burton, in his 72nd year.

Lord Burton was the head of the great brewing firm of Bass and Co. He entered Parliament before he was 30 as Liberal member for Stafford. Thereafter he sat successively for East Staffordshire and the Burton Division until he was raised to the peerage in 1886. He had become a baronet in 1852. Lord Burton was created a peer over again in 1897, with special remainder to his daughter, Nellie Lisa, who married Colonel Baillie of Dochford, formerly M.P. for Inverness-shire. The heir to the baronetcy is his nephew, Mr. William Arthur Hamar Bass.

The Price of Wool.

The wool sales closed strongly, prices for most sorts reaching the highest level of the series.

Choice 70's merino were equal to the London prices of January same year, sixty-four, suitable for America, were a penny below the November rates. There was strong and steady competition for average combings for the Home trade and the Continent at full December rates. Topmakers and crossbreds were firm at December rates, and parcels suitable for America showed a 10 per cent. advance on December rates.

During the series 93,000 bales were sold for the Home market, 88,000 for the Continent, and 12,000 for America, 8000 bales being held over.

Railway Trouble Ended.

Sir Edward Fry, as Board of Trade arbitrator between the North-Western railway and 30,000 servants of various grades, and whose appointment was made after the Conciliation Board had failed to agree, has presented his report.

Many concessions on the part of the company are required, but the arbitrator also reduces some of the wages, and disallows various claims of the men as set forth in their national programme.

Mr Richard Bell, M.P., secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, expresses satisfaction with the award.

To Study the Colonies.

The Earl of Crewe (Secretary of State for the Colonies) has instructed Sir Charles Lucas, head of the Dominions' Department, to make a prolonged visit to Australia and New Zealand. Mr A. Pearson (formerly principal clerk in the Colonial Office) will accompany him. They will sail on February 26.

The "Times" says the visit is doubtless in response to Mr Deakin's suggestion on the last day of the Imperial Conference. The quiet judgment and kindly tact of Sir Charles Lucas, it adds, will assure him a ready welcome.

The paper recalls Lord Northcott's advice recently given at the Whitehall banquet.

EUROPE.

The Penalty of Disloyalty.

Lieutenant von Stuckrad recently eloped with the wife of his comrade, Captain von Vertzen.

The captain followed the runaways to Fraekfurt, where a duel was fought, in which Lieutenant Stuckrad was fatally shot.

Playing Up.

Ruter's Salonica correspondent asserts that Macedonia is threatening a relapse into the old pre-constitutional condition. The villagers have been training and are in arms, ready to take the field. Out-

rages are frequent, and illegal taxes have been extorted.

Eighteen death sentences were announced at St. Petersburg on Saturday, including 15 at Irkutsk, arising out of the recent escape of prisoners from the Alexandrovsky prison.

A man has been rescued alive at Messina after having been buried for 37 days in the ruins of a confectioner's shop. He sustained life with sweetmeats and liqueurs.

In Memoriam.

On the anniversary of the assassination of King Carlos and the Crown Prince, King Manuel and the Dowager-Queen Amelia drove to a requiem mass in the Cathedral.

The populace maintained an attitude of indifference, but there was no disturbance, despite the absence of police precautions.

Lemoine's Pretensions.

Lemoine, the "diamond manufacturer," has been sentenced, on default, to ten years' imprisonment for fraud on Sir Julius Wernher, who was awarded £400 damages.

The case of Sir Julius Wernher, of De Beers, and the diamond-maker, M. Lemoine, created great interest during the hearing. Lemoine was charged with having obtained £84,000 from Sir Julius by the offer of a method of making diamonds, which Sir Julius alleged was not genuine.

A Crisis Ended.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Times" states that the crisis that had arisen in the relations between Bulgaria and Turkey has been ended by Russia proposing to make good the difference between the indemnity offered and demanded.

Russia has agreed to cancel sufficient of the remaining 70 instalments of the Turkish war indemnity, amounting to £22,000,000, to enable Turkey to borrow £5,000,000; Bulgaria undertaking to pay Russia £3,280,000 for interest and sinking fund, and instead of receiving 8,000,000 francs annually from Turkey, Russia is to draw 5,000,000 francs from Bulgaria.

By this scheme, which was due to M. Isvolsky (the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs), the borrowing by Bulgaria at extortionate terms is avoided, and it does not cost Russia a kopeck (cent), but only extends the time for the collection of the debt.

The Porte has resolved to accept Russia's proposal but has submitted counter-proposals at the Balkans Conference, which are very unfavourably viewed by Russia.

Spanish Enterprise.

Spanish engineering and banking firms have formed a company with a capital of 18,000,000, of which 60 per cent. will be reserved for Spanish investors to build warships at Ferrol and Cartagena. The Government contracts connected with the work will go to the British firms of Vickers, Son and Maxim, John Brown, Armstrong's and Thornycroft's.

The Great White Fleet.

The United States Atlantic battleship squadron, which visited Auckland and Australian ports, is on its homeward voyage, and arrived at Gibraltar last week.

The scene in the harbour is described as a brilliant one, 43 men-o'-war of various nationalities having assembled.

Hard Up.

Owing to quarrels with the Ottoman and Deutsche Bank, the Turkish Government is in urgent need of money, and has already commenced discounting part of the compensation money promised from Austria.

Remarkable Floods.

Extraordinary floods have occurred in Saxony, Thuringia, Bavaria, and Tyrol, owing to the sudden melting of the snows.

Whole towns are under water, and railway traffic in many parts of Saxony is interrupted. Many bridges have been wrecked. The Lahn Valley, Prussia, is a vast lake.

The Rhine is expected to reach danger point daily.

At Nauremberg, the River Regnitz rose 12 feet during the night, and ran through the streets like a mill stream.

The population of Frankfurt and Bamberg fled to high ground, owing to the Oder and Regnitz overflowing their banks.

The old town of Kissingen, the Bavarian watering place, is under water, and the three famous saline springs have been flooded, and the Casino is inundated.

The Danube, at the historic town of Regensburg, rose 10 feet in the night. The stream is full of household utensils, bathing boxes, and agricultural machinery.

The rivers Rhine, Elbe, Main, Danube, and Oder are rising steadily, and already many lives have been lost.

The situation in Dresden is most precarious. The ice in the Elbe has broken into huge floes, 30 centimetres thick.

Enormous crowds from the countryside have assembled in the city to watch the ice crashing into the bridges which span the river.

Already the floes have destroyed the scaffolding of the nearly completed Augustus bridge.

Royal Visit to Germany.

The people of Berlin are showing absorbing interest in King Edward's approaching visit.

The police are overwhelmed with applications for tickets in order to enable them to witness His Majesty's entry into the city.

ASIA.

Japan's Intentions.

Count Komura, Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking to the Diet, insisted that Japan's good relations with all the Powers and the alliance with Great Britain stood as an enduring foundation.

Japan was relying on the sense of justice of the Americans regarding the anti-Japanese legislation. The Japanese should concentrate in the Far East. The Government was enforcing the restrictions on emigration to the United States.

Count Komura announced that Japan intended to notify the powers in 1910 of the termination of all existing commercial treaties, and would give a year's notice, with a view to negotiating new treaties on a reciprocal base.

AFRICA.

Dinizulu's Trial.

The paramount Zulu chief, Dinizulu, who is being tried before a special Court at Greytown on a charge of high treason in connection with the revolt under Bambata in 1907, completed his evidence last week.

Accused was in the box for eleven successive days.

A Horrible Sentence.

A French officer, by smartly seizing a would-be assassin's dagger, saved the life of Mulai Hafid, Sultan of Morocco.

The Sultan ordered the offender to be flogged to death.

United South Africa.

The Federated South African Convention reached a complete agreement on Wednesday last, and rose on Thursday.

Though no official communication has yet been made, the news is confirmed that Capetown is to be the seat of legislature and Pretoria of administration.

The draft constitution was completed three weeks ago, except the preamble and the site of the capital.

After a discussion extending over a week, the Natal and Orange delegates, being persuaded that they had no claim, left the decision in the hands of their colleagues from the Transvaal and Cape Colony, all compromises, including the suggestion of a neutral site, being rejected.

The delegates were physically and mentally wearied by the interminable and apparently futile discussion.

Delegates now propose to address meetings in their respective centres, and expound the constitution, which will be submitted simultaneously to special sessions of Parliaments at the end of March.

Afterwards the Convention assembles again to consider amendments, and, assuming that there are no insurmountable obstacles, the Imperial Parliament will

pass an Act upon the petitions of the South African Parliaments, and it is possible that union may be accomplished next year.

The compromise has been received without enthusiasm in Capetown, and is regarded as unwelcome.

The Right Hon. Louis Botha is hopeful of the acceptance of the new proposals.

AMERICA.

The American visible wheat supply is estimated at 75,781,000 quarters.

The Iowa Legislature is grappling with the question of race suicide, and has decided to offer a dollar to the mother of each child born in future.

President Roosevelt has vetoed the Census Bill, and insists on the competitive examination of census clerks, numbering 50,000, in order to prevent the abuses of the last two censuses, when the appointments were treated as political perquisites.

Canal Ready in 1915.

Mr Goethels, the chief engineer of the Panama Canal, has informed Mr W. H. Taft that ships will be able to pass from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean through the Panama Canal in January, 1915.

Mr. Geo. A. Walker, of Chicago, a commercial man, and a traveller of wide experience, who is at present in New Zealand, visited Panama a year ago on business, and has some interesting things to say regarding the big work which may mean much to this country.

"The excavating work is proceeding in fine shape," he says, "but what strikes one is the big things that have been done to make the place sanitary. The Sanitary Board have cleaned up the place from end to end. The old towns and ruins of towns have been swept away, and new towns have been built here, and there along the 46 miles of canal line on the most improved and sanitary system. Each house is surrounded by a broad verandah, and round the whole structure is a wire screen (made of some composition that won't rust) to keep out the mosquitoes.

"The houses are raised several feet above the ground to allow the air to circulate, and the ground under each house is concreted. Special attention is given to the disposal of the sewage, and the drinking-water for everyone employed on the works is distilled, aerated, and delivered to the houses, hotels, and men's quarters in ten-gallon glass bottles. As the result of all these precautions there is now no yellow fever at Panama, and it is only in the rainy season that cases of malaria occur, and then but rarely.

"So stringent are the rules that every steamer arriving at Panama is met, and pamphlets are distributed to those on board, telling them exactly what they should and must do. So effective were the arrangements, that I never saw a mosquito when I was there last February. The biggest obstacle is the Culebra cut, from which 23 trains of steel trucks pull out daily—long trains pulled by 100-ton locomotives. The pick and shovel men are mostly negroes—natives of Barbadoes and Jamaica, who can best stand the climate. They have splendid quarters, and are well-fed, all the food being brought from the States in steamers fitted with refrigerators.

"The work is being carried out under the War Department, and all the engineers are army engineers, who are ordered to Panama, as they would be ordered anywhere in war time. It is a fine practical training for them, and rewards are to be had for any specially good bit of work. The engineers did not make the railway—that was constructed across the isthmus as far back as 1848, during the rush to the Californian goldfields, to transport the miners from coast to coast."

Rejected.

The Californian House of Representatives, by 48 votes to 28, has rejected the Drew Bill, which forbade all aliens to own land.

The vote is considered as foreshadowing the defeat of all measures tending to embarrass the Federal Government.

No Money for Kites.

The House of Representatives at Washington reversed the Army aeronautical grant of half a million dollars, and deleted the clause.