

Deaf Gift.

The Duke of Norfolk has presented Norfolk Park, valued at £60,000, to the city of Sheffield.

Effective.

The "Times" states that tests of Admiral Sir Percy Scott's invention for electrically directing gun-fire, showed 50 per cent. of hits in excess of ordinary battle practice.

Imperial Defence.

Routier's Agency has been informed that the conference on Empire defence, which it was proposed to hold early in July, has been postponed till the end of the month, in the hope that Sir Joseph Ward will be enabled to attend.

Lieutenant-Colonel Seely (Under-Secretary for the Colonies), replying in the House of Commons to Mr. Cecil Harmsworth (Liberal member for the Droitwich division of Worcestershire), declined to include Asiatic immigration to self-governing colonies as a subject for discussion at the conference.

Colonial Meat.

The Foreign and Colonial Meat Bill, introduced by Mr Rowland Hunt (Liberal Unionist member for the Ludlow division of Shropshire), has been read a first time in the House of Commons.

It provides that all selling foreign and colonial meat must affix a notice in shops and vehicles used for the supply of the goods stating plainly the country of origin.

"British" Beef.

The shortage last year in the supply of beef, and the consequent enhanced prices, together with the assertions that the British supply was controlled by foreign capitalists, resulted in the appointment in August last of a Departmental Committee, which was commissioned "to inquire how far and in what manner the general supply, distribution, and price of meat in the United Kingdom are controlled or affected by a combination of firms or companies."

The chairman (Lord Robert Cecil) has now presented the report of the committee, which states that the combination of the Armour, Swift, and Morris Companies, of Chicago, is not a serious danger at present, but that they appear to be endeavouring to acquire controlling interests in Argentina, and there are also inquiries on the part of the United States firms in Australia and New Zealand.

Estancieros (graziers) in Argentina were, the report continues, opposing the United States invasion, fearing that the price of their cattle would be affected by the absence of competitive buying.

Though it was unlikely to arise in the near future, the extension of the Beef Trust's operations to England, if it did succeed, might exercise a determining influence on prices at the Smithfield market, and largely affect the prices in the whole of Great Britain.

The evidence that United States firms controlled the Canadian live cattle trade was too vague to allow of a definite opinion being formed.

The Budget.

Mr. Herbert Samuel (Under-Secretary for the Home Office) estimates that as a result of the new taxation the liquor trade is fastening on the public an increased price of £20,000,000, to meet taxation which amounts to no more than £4,000,000.

The Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Davison) states that if the Budget becomes law, £50,000 annually will be lost to the ecclesiastical commissioners' funds for the benefit of the poorer clergy.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd-George, is daily receiving deputations against the Budget proposals.

Oligarchists complain that the reduction in the size of English cigars, rendered necessary by the increased duties, will necessitate new moulds being used. These are obtainable only in Germany, and it will take three months to obtain them.

Mr. Lloyd-George estimates that the total annual produce of the additional spirit tax will be £9,824,245, of which £4,539,083 will come from Scotland.

A Collector Duped.

The executors of the estate of the late Mr Charles Dickens, of Dickens, Jones, and Drawers, have been awarded £10,248

damages against Arthur Ellis, of Bowditch, dealer, owing to fraudulent misrepresentations in connection with the sales of chinaware.

Dickens, who was an octogenarian, spent £130,000 upon Sevres and Dresden ware, and after his death it was discovered that the articles were largely forgeries. In one case he paid Ellis £1200 for a piece worth only £10.

Mr Justice Grantham hinted that a criminal prosecution against Ellis would follow.

A civil action against another dealer is pending.

Watching the Navy.

The Navy League is being reorganised. Lieutenant C. W. Bellairs, M.P., recommended as its simplest formula that the League demand that Britain lay down two keels to every one laid down by Germany.

Wrong Colour.

The Nationalist party in the House of Commons has refused to enrol Mr Maurice Healy, the recently elected member for Cork City.

Mr. Healy stood as an Independent Nationalist at the by-election, and roundly defeated the party's selected candidate. He is more a Devolutionist than a Nationalist, hence, perhaps, his exclusion from the fold.

Another Injustice to Ireland.

Mr. C. E. Hobbouse (Financial Secretary to the Treasury), speaking in the House of Commons, stated that since January 1300 old age pensions had been withdrawn in Great Britain, and 1200 in Ireland. The inquiry was unfinished, but so far any suggestion of fraud on the part of the people of Ireland was without foundation.

Mr. Birrell (Chief Secretary for Ireland) stated that out of 12,776 appeals 10,891 had been rejected, and 1885 pensions granted.

The Nationalists hotly attacked the Government for ordering the investigation.

Mind Unhinged.

George Brown, a collier of Conisburgh, Yorkshire, who had been out of work for 11 months, attempted to murder his eight sleeping children by turning on the gas in their rooms, after closing the windows and doors.

He then committed suicide. The children, when discovered, were almost asphyxiated, and are still in a serious condition, but will probably recover.

Strong Argument for Peace.

The battleship *Temeraire*, one of the improved Dreadnoughts, has been placed in commission with the Home Fleet.

She has searchlights of four million candle-power, while her wireless telegraph plant has an effective radius of 1100 miles.

Unionism.

There are now 1173 trades unions in Britain, with an aggregate membership of 2,406,748, including 201,000 women.

Daring Name.

"D. S. Windell" and Francis King, a clerk employed by the London and South-Western Bank, have been charged at Bow-street with committing frauds upon the bank.

The prosecution alleges that King forged the advice notes relating to the paying in of a sum, on which his fellow swindler drew.

Windell, whose real name is Bernard Isaac, in a confession, admitted obtaining £190 from each of eight branches of the bank.

EUROPE.**Automobilisation.**

Germany is following Britain's example and is experimenting with the mobilisation of troops by means of motor-cars at Frankfurt, Strasburg and other places.

Cross Purposes.

The Czar has vetoed a bill creating a naval general staff, after it had passed the Douma and the Council of the Empire.

The Government introduced the mea-

sure with the Czar's consent, but the reactionaries, led by Count Witte and M. Durnovo, persuaded the Czar that the bill was an attempt to undermine the autocracy.

Count Witte's real object is said to have been to secure M. Skolypin's resignation, but the Czar refused to accept this.

German Docks.

There are now built or building 12 docks in Germany capable of floating in Dreadnoughts on their heaviest draught. Nine of these are on the North Sea.

Written Through the Air.

Hevland, a Norwegian, and Chalin and Chantelot, French inventors, have announced simultaneous inventions respectively recording ethergrams in print and transmitting the handwriting of the sender.

Coming into Line.

Austria is preparing an aerial fleet of the Paravel type.

Major von Paraeval, a German officer, constructed a dirigible airship on the non-rigid principle some time ago, and two of the type have been built for the Germany army balloon corps. He met with many accidents and small success with his airship until last year, when the machine made several successful trips with and against the wind, manoeuvring successfully over Berlin.

French Postal Employees' Strike.

The strike of French postal employees has turned out a fiasco, there being only 405 absentees on Thursday from the post and telegraph offices.

The strike leaders bluffed the previous day's meeting by an imaginary conversation on a dummy telephone, whereby it was suggested that the postal officials in the provinces supported the strike.

A majority of the employees object to the revolutionary character imparted to the strike.

"Shelling Out."

The "Daily Mail's" Salonika correspondent reports that Talaat Bey, vice-president of the Chamber of Deputies, has secured Abdul Hamid's signature to the withdrawal of the funds deposited by Abdul Hamid in foreign banks.

Some reports state that the amount transferred amounts to two millions.

Talaat Bey failed to obtain the keys of two of the strong rooms at Yildiz Kiosk, but the officers guarding the ex-Sultan's residence at Salonika compelled the fallen ruler to surrender the keys.

Teetotal Tommies.

Tea will henceforth be the staple drink of the German Army, supplanting beer and coffee.

To Build Aeroplanes.

A private company has been formed in Germany for the manufacture of Wright aeroplanes.

Portuguese Politics.

Wenceslau de Lima (Minister for Foreign Affairs in the late Government) has formed a non-party Cabinet in Portugal. He is the most independent and safest statesman available, and this is considered to be the last chance of obtaining a stable Government with the present Chamber.

Dreadnoughts Popular.

It is stated that four Italian Dreadnoughts, instead of two, will be completed in three years' time.

The Naval Estimates have been increased by £6,000,000, at the rate of a million annually.

Medical Deputies.

Extraordinary scenes occurred during the postal debate in the Chamber of Deputies.

The Socialists started singing the revolutionary air "Internationale commene, debout les damnés de la terre" (Literally: The international age commences, stand up, ye condemned of this earth).

A great uproar ensued, and the Republicans raised the "Marseillaise," and the Royalists "La Vendée" (a song of

the Royalist stronghold at the time of the Revolution), drowning the song of the Socialists.

The President adjourned the House at four o'clock.

M. Barthou (Minister for Public Works) stated that 2357 out of 24,115 postal employees were now striking.

The Premier (M. Clemenceau) called on the Chamber to support the Government, and a vote of confidence was carried by 385 votes to 139.

Germany Has Caught It Now.

Admiral Galster, a distinguished German naval officer, has published an alarming treatise to show to what danger German ports are subject from British raids.

The treatise has caused great interest all over Germany, and has stimulated the policy of increasing the fleet.

ASIA.**Carelessly Sold.**

The newspaper "Englishman" states that the arms smuggled across the Patah frontier bear the Australian and New Zealand Government marks.

It is believed that they were old rifles sold when the new pattern was adopted.

The cables last week announced that 28 rifles bearing the New Zealand stamp had been recovered from the rebel hill tribesmen on the north-west frontier of India. Arms disposed of by the Defence Department in July, 1907, consisted of the following:—Snider rifles, 7000; Snider carbines, 3000; Martini-Henri rifles, 4500; Martini-Henri carbines, 500; Lee-Remington rifles, 340. In addition to these a very large quantity of ammunition was sold at the same time. This was disposed of by tender as follows:—Martini-Henri (ball), 200,000 rounds; Martini-Henri (blank), 200,000; Gardner gaiting, 100,000.

AFRICA.**Ambushed.**

Lieutenant Van Renen and 11 police were ambushed and killed in Northern Nigeria, while installing a chief.

Major Williams, with a large force, has started to avenge the rising, which is of a local character.

United South Africa.

The South African Convention has come to a unanimous agreement, and the Constitution has been signed.

Proportional representation has been dropped except for the election of the Senate and the executive committees of provincial councils. The change means a heavy loss of seats in Parliament to the Cape Progressives and Orange Constitutionals.

The salaries of members of Parliament have been raised to £100.

The Natal delegates secured the reservation for Royal assent of bills affecting provincial councils.

AMERICA.**Waking Up.**

The "Times" New York correspondent, discussing forthcoming legislation and the suggested increase in the head tax, remarks that Congress plainly favours controlling immigration from South Europe, owing to the admixture of criminals and other inferior types.

If possible, the legislature would prefer to restrict immigration to British and other peoples of Northern Europe.

Fortiter in Re.

President Taft has sent a message to Congress respecting the grave situation in Porto Rico, owing to the failure of the Porto Rican Assembly to pass the Appropriation Bill.

The Porto Ricans are, he says, evidently incapable of self-government, and political power was extended to them too soon. He recommends the compulsory appropriation of the necessary funds.

A Sordid Crime.

Captain Peter Hains, who, on August 17, shot and killed William Annis, a publisher, at Long Island, in the presence of