

Mr HUDSON E. KEARLEY, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade since 1905.

Mr JAMES STUART, M.P., founder of the system of University extension teaching.

Mr JOHN XAVIER MERRIMAN, Premier of Cape Colony since 1908.

NEW KNIGHTS.

Thirty-five gentlemen are gazetted as Knights Bachelor, including—

Mr HENRY W. LUCY, "Toby, M.P." of "Punch."

Mr FRANCIS GALTON, F.R.S., scientist.

Mr ARTHUR W. PINERO, dramatist.

Mr H. BEERBOHM TREE, actor.

Mr F. J. CAMPBELL, Principal of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind.

Mr ALEXANDER SMITH, founder of the Boys' Brigade.

Mr EDWIN PEARNS, "Daily News" correspondent at Constantinople.

Mr C. H. RASON, Agent-General in London for West Australia.

Mr JUSTICE A. H. SIMPSON, Acting-Chief Justice of New South Wales.

Mr WALTER KENAWAY, C.M.G., late secretary to the Department of the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London.

Mr JUSTICE T. A'BECKETT, Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

K.C.M.G.

The following are to be Knights Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George:—

MAJOR-GENERAL HARRY BARRON, late commander of the Royal Artillery at Malta, who has been appointed Governor of Tasmania.

Mr JOHN GEORGE DAVIES, Speaker of the Tasmanian House of Assembly.

I.S.O.

To be Companions of the Imperial Service Order:—

COLONEL R. J. COLLINS, late secretary to the New Zealand Treasury and Paymaster-General.

Mr WILLIAM C. KENSINGTON, Under-Secretary for Lands and Immigration in New Zealand.

Mr JAMES K. LOGAN, late Superintendent of Electric Lines in New Zealand.

Mr EDWARD MARCH, Fiji.

Mr KENNETH SKELTON ANDERSON, chairman of the Orient Steamship Company.

Victoria and Albert Museum.

King Edward yesterday opened the Victoria and Albert Museum, the ceremony being a brilliant one.

His Majesty knighted Mr. Cecil Smith, director, and created Mr. Austin Webb, architect, a Companion of the Bath.

The King in opening the Museum, emphasised the interest taken by both Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort in applied and decorative art.

Empire Defence.

The Press Conference, which returned to London from its tour of the Provinces and Scotland on June 26, concluded its adjourned discussion on the defence problem, and some very important speeches were made.

Lord Esher, a permanent member of the Committee of Defence, presided.

Lord Charles Beresford, dealing with the problem of how help should be given, said, "Don't let us be in too great a hurry, and don't let us be too long." Defence should be of a kind that it was instantly able to be turned into attack. Standardisation was all-important, whereby temporary exchanges of officers and men and ships was possible throughout the Empire.

The weakest part of the present system was the defence of the trade routes. The colonies might undertake the overseas stations, which, owing to some mad infatuation, had been abandoned after large sums had been spent.

The colonies must act in war time under a great strategical bureau, which should be at the Admiralty, but which was not there now.

The Empire had much leeway to make up, owing to deferred liabilities, but it was possible to make up the leeway if the question were regarded from an Imperial and national standpoint, and made free from the taint of party.

The people of the nations loathed and detested war, and if the Empire were properly prepared there would be no war.

Lord Beresford added that the domin-

ant note of all the statesmen addressing the Conference had been a note of grave anxiety, and this had not been expressed without reason.

"In my opinion," continued Lord Beresford, "the reason is that they know we are not prepared. The colonial offers to build Dreadnoughts are the severest condemnation possible of Great Britain's Imperial defence policy. The overseas nations have recognised what Great Britain ought to have recognised earlier, that Great Britain had arrived at a time when it was impossible to maintain the two-Power standard without the help of the overseas dominions."

Lord Esher said that, thanks to Mr Chamberlain, Col. Seely (Secretary for the Colonies), Lord Rosbery, and the late Mr Cecil Rhodes, the conception of Empire to-day was wholly different to that of the seventies. The difficulties began when they passed from belief to action.

The first step necessary, proceeded Lord Esher, was to move slowly and prudently towards an Imperial Navy. This meant that British officers and sailors all over the world must not only be willing to fight, but be trained to fight side by side in the same fleet. The delegates would be wise if they limited consideration to what was practicable within ten years, and thus clear the ground to enable statesmen to achieve practical measures. The dominions must gain experience themselves. Their true guides must not be the Admiralty, but their own officers, who had learned lessons in their own fleet.

The military problem could be summed up in three words, "a general staff," whereby the personnel and material for war would be standardised throughout the Empire.

Defence meant not only a navy and army, but the organisation in time of peace of all our resources, financial and other, for the protection of the people. He hopefully looked forward to the time when the Committee on Imperial Defence would be strengthened by the addition of overseas representatives.

General French supported Mr. Haldane's idea of a uniformity in military methods by means of a general staff. He dwelt on the importance of secrecy in war time, and appealed to the Press to help in this direction.

Mr. T. Temperley proposed a resolution that national defence for the Empire was the most urgent question of the day.

Mr. W. T. Stead (editor of the "Review of Reviews") made an impassioned plea for peace. He declared that the Press of the Empire should above all keep a civil tongue towards the rest of the world. It was all very well for an Australian delegate to come and say national defence is most urgent. The most urgent question for him is to fill Australia with white people.

Mr. Macdonald (Toronto) described the resolution as feckless, thewless, and pitiless.

Mr. Cunningham ("Melbourne Argus") declared it a superfluity.

Mr. T. Fink ("Melbourne Herald") expressed hearty appreciation of British statesmanship.

The meeting finally decided to put no resolution on record.

The Conference has now closed.

EUROPE.

Battleship Building.

The Kaiser inspected the Vulcan Shipbuilding Co.'s new yard at Hamburg. The latest labour-saving appliances have all been adopted in the yard, and they represent a gain of half a year in the construction of a battleship as compared with the methods in use in other German yards.

The Deposed Sultan.

A warrant has been issued for Abdul Hamid's appearance before the court at Salonica as defendant in an action for damages.

The plaintiffs in the claim are four court jewellers, who were exiled because they had business relations with Reshad Pasha, now Sultan Mahomed V.

French Naval Sensation.

The report of the Navy Commission, which has just been issued, has caused a great sensation in France.

The report declares that France has spent £120,000,000 on naval armaments in the past decade, and Germany rather less, yet France was the second naval Power a decade ago, and now is the fourth, and Germany, who was the fourth, now is the second.

This was due, in the opinion of the Commission, to the absence of organisation. Ships had been ordered before even the plans were completed. The six battleships of the Danton type were to cost 50 per cent above the estimates.

There was not a single graving dock on the French coast to accommodate the Dantons. These would be finished in 1911, but the guns and ammunition would not be ready until 1914 or 1915.

Some guns had been ordered without the models being tested. The defects in the existing guns had caused so many accidents that the Mediterranean squadron had abandoned firing practice. It had been demonstrated that some of the big guns would be worn out after 100 rounds.

Charges of wanton waste, of conspiracy between venal officials and unscrupulous contractors, and of the creation of monopolies in favour of certain firms go to make the special report of the Committee of the French Chamber on the Expenditure of the Ministry of Marine between the years 1902 and 1907, issued on Thursday, one of the most sensational and disquieting documents the Republic has ever had to consider (says "Lloyd's Weekly" of March 21). The report asserts that the French navy has been the much-coveted of a body of unscrupulous contractors, united and working together, with a view of making the State pay exorbitant prices for every bit of work done and for every article supplied. Notable differences have been found in prices paid for different lots of exactly similar supplies from the same firm, and delivered on the same day. Sometimes these prices were simply doubled, but in one or two instances were trebled. Within a few weeks the price of tinned meat rose by 17/ per 225lb on orders given for 450,000lb. The price of shells of exactly similar type varied from 4/ to 16/ per projectile. The method of ordering supplies, it is declared, lends itself to every abuse.

A veritable monopoly has been created for the benefit of a select few firms as regards the purchase of boilers, armour-plates, and metal fittings. The price of boilers, for instance, rose by about two-thirds between 1897 and 1904. A long additional detailed report, made by M. Emmanuel Brousse for the Accounts Committee of the Chamber, says: "Of course, the important firms who obtain the orders have seen their dividends and the value of their shares rise simultaneously with the prices charged to the State. Dividends have doubled for the most part, and the value of shares more than trebled." Battleships of 18,000 tons, which cost England about £1,520,000, and Germany £1,820,000, cost France £2,080,000. In addition, the estimated cost has always been exceeded by from £80,000 to £320,000.

The Cause of Peace.

The Kaiser, in a speech at Cuxhaven after his return from his visit to the Czar, declared: "The Czar and I agreed that our meeting must be regarded as vigorously strengthening the cause of peace."

A Wonderful Invention.

Experts speak well of the invention of the Brothers Andersen, of Copenhagen, for the transmission of light and colour over a telephone wire.

By the use of the system a telephonist is visible to the person with whom he is speaking at the other end of the wire, and is able to show anything he likes across the wires.

A Deadly Torpedo.

A torpedo of tremendous power, invented by M. Gabel, has been tested in the River Seine.

The torpedo, which costs £3000 sterling, is charged with 1980lb of dynamite, is directed from the parent ship or from shore by wireless waves, which, acting upon a contrivance which moves the rudder, enables the steersman to control the course of the missile from the time it is fired until its energy is expended.

According to the "Daily Chronicle" the tests proved wonderfully successful.

Great German Airship.

The new Siemens-Schuckert airship, constructed for the German Army, is of the non-rigid type, and is driven by engines developing 500 horse-power.

She will carry a crew of 64 men, in addition to supplies of petrol and explosives.

The same company has patented a 180-million candle-power searchlight for de-

tecting torpedo boats by night at a distance of from seven to nine miles.

The "National Zeitung" reports that Herr Tschermis, an engineer, has invented a bullet-proof airship armour.

ASIA.

A Terrible Story.

Eastern files contain a horrifying story in connection with the war against Chinese rebels in the Dutch island of Sumatra.

The Government troops located a band in a large cave. These refused to surrender at the order of the military commander, and a fire was lighted at the mouth of the cave, into which the smoke poured in suffocating volumes. The fire was kept going awhile and extinguished.

The rebels were still obdurate, and the fire was rekindled. When the cave was subsequently examined five men, 12 women, and 11 children were found asphyxiated.

Governor Acheen was so shocked that he issued an order to prevent further similar horrors.

The Physiology of Crime.

During the voyage of the Dutch steamer Van Spijbergen from Singapore a lady passenger, Miss Winfield, had her throat cut and was robbed of her belongings by two men entering the cabin. The wound is not of a serious nature.

The captain immediately found the culprits by marshalling the crew and picking out a man whose heart was beating abnormally. The man confessed that he and another committed the crime.

AFRICA.

Cape to Cairo Railway.

The construction of the Cape to Cairo railway is advancing at the rate of 10 miles each week.

The head works have now reached 47 miles south of Khartoum.

The distance between Capetown and Cairo as the crow flies is 3700 miles, and the work is proceeding rapidly from both ends, and considerably over half the line is in working order. In the south the Zambesi has been crossed, and the work pushed well on towards the Rhodesian border. The British-South African Co. is doing the work to the border, and three other companies carry it on in the Congo State. The line will run to the westward of Lakes Tanganyika and Victoria Nyanza, and between the White and Blue Niles to Khartoum.

AMERICA.

Canada and Imperial Defence.

Mr L. P. Brodeur (Canadian Minister for Marine), replying to a deputation at Montreal, said there had been three proposals in regard to the part Canada should take in the scheme of Imperial defence.

One was that Canada might offer two Dreadnoughts, another that she might contribute an annual round sum towards the upkeep of the Navy, and the third that there should be established a Canadian naval militia.

The last-named was the one most favoured by the Canadian Government, and the Opposition supported it. He added that if only one dry dock was built, Quebec would be the best location.

The Chinatown Crime.

Chong Sing, a cousin of Lee Ong, the Chinese who is alleged to have murdered Miss Elsie Sigel, the missionary to Chinatown, has been arrested.

He has confessed that he witnessed the strangling of Miss Sigel, and that he helped to rope the trunk in which her body was subsequently placed.

American Police Methods.

The police, who are investigating the murder of Miss Elsie Sigel, the missionary to Chinatown, who was murdered and placed in a trunk for removal, kept the suspect Chong Sing awake for thirty hours, during the whole of which time he was subjected to a sharp cross-examination as to his knowledge of the crime.

At the end of this cross-examination Chong Sing confessed that he saw See