

Sir A. Leyland (of the Leyland Steamship Line), in giving evidence before the Shipping Subsidies Committee, recommended the granting of bounties to sailing ships, to train sailors, who would ultimately be available for the navy. He pointed out that French sailing vessels, owing to the bounties system, made a profit on freight in cases in which British owners made a loss.

M. Delcasse, in the Chamber of Deputies, referring to the renewal of the Triple Alliance, said Italy's assurances had convinced France that the Italian policy under the Alliance was in no case a threat against France. Italy could not become the instrument or auxiliary of aggression against France. Hence nothing impeded the development of the friendship already fertile in consequences. The speech was warmly applauded.

The Duke of Connaught has issued an army order stating that he is gratified to think that his first appearance on parade as a field marshal was in command of troops belonging to Britain beyond the seas and India for inspection by the Prince of Wales.

The "Daily Express" Singapore correspondent states that cholera has attacked 10,000 native soldiers sent in pursuit of the head-hunters of Sarawak (Borneo), at Batang, Supar River. Two thousand died in three days.

President Roosevelt has issued a proclamation relating to the Filipinos. It provides for a full pardon and amnesty to all the insurgents, except those convicted of crimes since the 1st of May, or those guilty of murder, arson, rape, or robbery. All seekers for pardon must swear allegiance.

The "Standard" states that it is reported in Tientsin that Prince Tuan is in frequent communication with the Government at Peking, and that his son has secretly been appointed deputy lieutenant-general of the forces at Peking.

The Hon. Schomberg K. McDonnell, C.B., has succeeded Viscount Esher as Secretary to the Commissioners of Works and Public Buildings. The "Times" states that as Mr McDonnell has for 14 years been Lord Salisbury's confidential secretary, his promotion cannot fail to revive the rumours of the Premier's resignation after the Coronation.

The President, in a speech at Pittsburg, urged foresight and common sense in legislation in order to prevent evils from the accumulation of great individual, and especially corporate, fortunes. Both, if rightly used, would be, he said, of immense benefit to the nation, and rash or invidious legislation would shake the country to its foundation.

Niven and Sons, Americans, have obtained a contract for the construction of an electric railway between Manchester and Liverpool, and branches, covering in all 147 miles. The cost will be four million sterling. All the material will be American, but the labour will be British.

The Hon. J. W. Hackett, M.L.C., of West Australia, who was the first prominent Australian public man to arrive in England for the Coronation, has been offered by his old University—Trinity College, Dublin—the honorary degree of LL.D. He is an enthusiastic Mason, and holds the highest position in the Order in Westralia. By profession Mr Hackett is a journalist, being editor and next proprietor of the leading daily paper in the capital of the State.

The "Naval and Military News" agency understands, on high authority, that Lord Kitchener will be appointed Adjutant-General at the War Office, and will not proceed to India to take up the position of Commander-in-Chief there as was generally understood. The present Adjutant-General, Lieutenant-General T. Kelly-Kenny, is, it is understood, likely to be appointed to the command of the army in India in succession to Sir Power Palmer. Lord Kitchener has assented to this change of plans.

It is officially stated that at the moment when peace was declared there

were 202,000 men, excluding the local forces, under arms in South Africa. Seventy thousand will embark before the regulars. Thirty-nine Government transports, with a carrying capacity of 49,000 men, are engaged, and in addition 2500 are embarking weekly in the steamers. All the Yeomanry of 1901 and 18,000 of the reserves will embark before August. The Australasians are going in six ships. The overseas colonials were among the first to embark. The Yeomanry, overseas colonials, and the Volunteer Service companies receive a month's leave on landing.

The "Courrier Australien," the organ of French opinion in the Commonwealth, with the dual object of finding homes for the sufferers by the Martinique disaster, and counterbalancing Australian immigration to the group, advocates their settlement in the New Hebrides. It suggests the reconstruction of the French New Hebrides Company, and the development of its land by hundreds of ruined Martinique families, who are specially suited for the familiar conditions of colonisation in the New Hebrides.

The very large shipments of oats to South Africa recently show the enormous field there is for enterprise, and it is believed in well-informed circles that a trade might be developed which would permanently employ three steamers a month, instead of four, as is proposed in the contract with the Blue Star Company. It is said that the Union Steamship Company made counter offers, which, however, were counter-balanced by the Blue Star Company's guarantee to maintain an average speed of thirteen and a-half knots an hour. I understand that the draft of the agreement between the Company and the Government is under consideration by the latter, and the result will shortly be laid before the public.

King Edward telegraphed his deep regret at the Elbe collision (between a German torpedo-boat and a British steamer), and expressed his warm appreciation of Lieutenant Rosenstock Von Rhonenc's last command before he was drowned.

"The Kaiser replied, stating that he was deeply touched, and every officer and man was profoundly sensible of the fact that the first act of the new admiral was to send a message so kindly worded. The Kaiser added: "We join your fleet in their prayers for the complete restoration of your health."

At a Melbourne meeting of Home Rulers a resolution was passed strongly condemning the policy of coercion, and urging the compulsory sale of land by landlords. A member of the State Parliament made a violent attack on the British Government, referring to Mr Chamberlain as an apostate, and appealed to the people to rise up and "smite the cur lip and thigh."

Great Britain has informed the Government of the Netherlands that the Boers swearing allegiance will be released first, the other Boers next. The foreigners who are prisoners will be transported to their various destinations at Great Britain's expense. Those paying their own passages may leave immediately. Foreigners will not be allowed to return to South Africa.

The natives in the Vryheid and Marico districts, in the Transvaal, are troublesome. The Boers ask permission to accompany the British against them. The blockhouses are now all evacuated. A movement is on foot in Johannesburg to form political associations, also a volunteer force of irregular regiments.

At the annual meeting of the New South Wales pastoralists, the president said the pastoral industry accounted for about two-thirds of the exports of New South Wales, and a still larger proportion of Queensland's. These were facts the meaning of which would be forced on the attention of the average citizen within the next year or two in a way that would make a lasting, if not agreeable impression. So far, he said, the ruinous expenditure forced on the pastoralists in the effort to keep the remnant of their stock alive had veiled the disas-

ter, but it could not last much longer. The disaster, commencing with the pastoral industry, would affect every industry in Australia. The annual wealth production of New South Wales would probably be reduced 30 per cent. for the next few years.

The Mayor of Glen Innes has furnished the Sydney Health authorities with a report in regard to the slaughter and subsequent use of starving stock. He alleges that some large meat-canning works in Sydney have been purchasing thousands of starved sheep, cattle, stags, old bulls and old rams for canning purposes.

He states that many sheep so purchased dropped dead in the yards.

Most of those purchased were emaciated, and in a great number of instances are in a dropsical condition. Many of the animals did not weigh ten to twenty pounds.

The N.S. Wales revenue this year totalled £11,173,000, being an increase on last year of £393,000. The return from the Commonwealth to the State for the year is £2,385,000. It is anticipated that the expenditure will be pretty heavy. It is not yet available. But for the drought the Treasurer would probably have been able to show a surplus. As it is, a deficit is anticipated.

The Treasurer estimates the deficit of the financial year just closed at £236,000, including a deficit of £152,000 brought forward from last year, on account of the war and the plague.

The Senate reduced the duty on agricultural implements to 10 per cent.

The Federal revenue for the year was £11,304,000, and expenditure £3,587,000.

After deducting the new expenditure there is left for distribution £7,373,000. Queensland receives £905,000; Tasmania, £315,000; and Western Australia, £1,220,000.

The Treasurer is enabled to give back half a million more than was estimated. Customs yielded £8,908,000 and post and telegraphs £2,378,000.

English and Moscow capitalists have contracted to build a railway from Tomsk (in Western Siberia) to Tashkend (the capital of Russian Turkestan). Russians guarantee 65 per cent. of the capital. Half the board of contractors are English.

[This railway will be about 1400 miles in length, and will traverse Western Siberia in a south-westerly direction from Tomsk, which is on the line of the great trans-Siberian railway, running eastwards from Moscow.]

Incendiary fires have occurred at Sandhurst, where the military school for army officers is situated.

The cadets are suspected, and the War Office has announced its intention of rousting the whole of one company unless the names of the culprits are divulged within 48 hours.

Twenty-nine cadets at Sandhurst have been roustated, as the names of the incendiaries were not divulged. The culprits remain undiscovered.

Captain A. T. Mahan, the American writer on naval strategy, and the author of "The Influence of Sea Power Upon History," has an article in the "National Review" relating to the British colonies and the fleet. He says the prime consideration for the self-governing colonies is that the Channel squadron should adequately protect Great Britain's commerce and her shores, and that the Mediterranean squadron should ensure uninterrupted transit of commerce. What Australia needs is not a petty fraction of the Imperial navy, but a naval organisation of sufficient force to repel danger. Captain Mahan recommends the development of local dockyard facilities and other resources. In this respect it is essential that the other colonies of Australasia should co-operate with New Zealand. An essential principle is that local security in the colonies of Australasia usually depends upon the general disposition of the fleets which attend to the control of the Pacific, and on China's future, particularly. The distribution of the nation's navies indicates this principle.

GENERAL CABLES.

The King's Convalescence.

A meeting of Transvaalers and their families at Balmoral telegraphed a message of sympathy and loyalty to King Edward and Queen Alexandra.

Some more of the Royal guests have departed. King Edward dictated a letter of regret thanking his guests for the honour they had tendered him by their visit.

Monsignor Raphael Merry Del Val, Titular Archbishop of Nicuer, who is the Papal envoy to the Coronation, conducted a notable service of special prayer for the recovery of the King at Brompton Oratory in the presence of leading Roman Catholics of the Empire.

The Grand Duke of Hesse, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, Lord Lansdowne, the officers of the colonial contingents and their wives, several of the Premiers, the Indian princes, Lewanika (paramount chief of Barotseland), and the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attended the service at St. Paul's.

The preacher declared that the lesson of the King's illness was the Divine warning to think less of the outward symbols of Imperial splendour and more of the inner life, and above all that the Lord was the Giver of all true national strength. When the Coronation came it ought to become an act of profound national reverence. The prayer, in the City Council, in countless churches and chapels, and on the lips of the man in the street, was an instructive sign of the recognition of God. Addressing Britain's sons from over the seas the preacher urged them to carry into the unknown future the best heritage of England's past.

After the intercessory service at Gray's Inn Chapel, Mr Herbert P. Reed, King's Council, entertained the guests at luncheon in the hall, including Mr Choate (American Ambassador), Mr Chamberlain, Mr Barton, and a number of colonial visitors.

Queen Alexandra, in saying farewell, reunited a deputation of the Danish Hussar Regiment to come at the end of September for the Coronation.

It is estimated that the railway companies will lose a million sterling by the postponement of the Coronation.

The newspapers confirm the statement that the King exercised his personal influence to secure peace. They predict that the King will be remembered in history as "Edward the Peacemaker."

London was not illuminated on the 31st. A rocket, sent up from a wheel at Earl's Court, rose 1000 feet. This was the signal and 200 bonfires were soon ablaze throughout England, in celebration of the King's recovery.

A cablegram from London, dated July 2nd, says:—

King Edward slept nicely for hours and partook of a good breakfast. He enjoyed a cigar and was able to appreciate the stirring music of the bands leading the colonials and South African veterans past the palace to the review. He was extremely anxious to learn the details of the ceremony.

The Queen, on returning at half-past twelve p.m., found the patient progressing. He was again on the couch in the afternoon, the change of position affording relief.

It is announced that the Coronation will now be much quieter than was originally intended, but its religious character will be more strongly emphasised. Mr Seddon has instructed the New Zealand Contingent to remain until the end of August.

At the Benchers' dinner at the Temple Sir E. Barton said he hoped to retain the colonial troops if there was a prospect of the Coronation being sufficiently early to enable the arrangement to be made.

Few of the foreign representatives, except the nearer connections of Royalty, now remain.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have greatly relieved the Sovereign of social functions.

The Indian troops desire to remain in England without pay, if only to see their Emperor's face.

The "British Medical Journal" of the 5th stated the King has refreshing