

The Canadian Pacific railroad shareholders have authorized the establishment of a steamship line for the Atlantic trade by purchase or lease, and, whether this is carried out or not, they recommend that a fast service be subsidised, the directors meanwhile to select ports suited to the requirements of the traffic.

Dr. Scheffer, of New York, has joined President Roosevelt's physicians. On Monday the President's temperature was higher, and a fresh laceration made in the wound showed that the bone was slightly affected, though the drainage of the wound established was satisfactory.

President Roosevelt's condition is reassuring.

The "Times" says that the unofficial visit of Mr Wyatt, the Navy League's envoy, to Canada and Australia is ill-timed, coming as it does immediately after the Colonial Conference. In view of the fact that the colonial demands need to be handled with rare tact and discretion, it would be wiser not to attempt to force the pace.

A typhoon, accompanied by a tidal wave, at Odawara, in Japan, overwhelmed many houses. It is reported that 500 lives have been lost.

The recent typhoon drove the Japanese warship Shikishima ashore at the entrance to Yokohama Harbour.

The total deaths at Odawara, Japan, by the typhoon and tidal wave amount to 200.

An American international paper combine is attempting to establish an enormous trust, embracing all the American and the bulk of the Canadian output. It is intended to operate in England and the colonies. The Edward Lloyd Company, the well-known London firm, and other big paper-makers will oppose the scheme with the object of preventing the British paper trade falling under American control.

The additional Federal Estimates necessitated by the non-authorising of the loan total £257,000. The greater portion will be expended on Postal Department works. To make up the amount the sums proposed to be returned to the various States will be reduced as follows:—New South Wales by £109,000, Victoria £41,000, Queensland £5500, other States to a lesser extent.

Mr Harris (a district councillor and honorary secretary of the East Limerick Executive of the Irish League) has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour on charges of intimidation and conspiracy; and also required to find sureties for good behaviour or an additional sentence of three months without hard labour.

The "Pall Mall Gazette" says that New Zealand's meagre and grudging concessions to debenture-holders and shareholders in connection with the Midland Railway in New Zealand may slightly impair the colony's credit, which is badly undermined by the attitude adopted towards the debenture-holders.

Mr Deskin supplied the Federal House with information contained in an official letter he had received as to the condition of the labour market in South Africa. The gist of it was that from 12,000 to 15,000 people, including hundreds of Australians, were waiting in the coastal towns for permits to proceed inland. His opinion was that there were no opportunities for Australians in South Africa.

General Velutini, the national delegate, arrested an employee of the French Cable Company, at Carupanon, Venezuela. The French consular agent intervened, and was also arrested. The cable has been cut, it is believed by the Venezuelan gunboat Restaurador. The French cruiser Tage is expected at Porto.

The French Consular agent at Carupanon, Venezuela, recently arrested, has been released.

The principals of the American Beef Trust have succeeded in cornering the breadstuff market, and also in partly cornering the provision supplies, in Chicago. They assert that they are able to force prices as high as they desire.

Lord Kitchener, speaking at the Officers' Feast at Sheffield, paid a tribute to the extremely valuable services of the gallant colonial troops, and to the deep love of Empire uniting us all. He hoped Britain was taking advantage of the lessons of the war, and would render the army thoroughly efficient and wholly adequate to meet any similar dangers and so place the security of the Empire on an impregnable basis.

The autumn lambing returns for New South Wales estimate the number of lambs marked during the present year at 1,562,000, from 8,115,000 ewes put to the rams, as against 9,115,000 ewes and 6,329,000 lambs for the same period last year. The percentage of lambs marked was 20, against 69 last year. The estimated number of sheep, including the autumn lambs, in August, was 33,716,000, a decrease of 8,141,000 on the number returned at the end of December last. The cause of the decrease is almost solely the unprecedented drought.

An individual suddenly handed the Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, near Shipka, where he went in connection with the opening of a memorial church, a petition representing the Macedonian Committee, praying the Tsar to intervene and secure the amelioration of the condition of the Bulgarians under Turkish rule. The "Times" states that as the result of pressure which M. Zissovitch, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, brought to bear on the Sultan, the latter has increased the Turkish forces in Macedonia to three hundred battalions, in order to overawe the Bulgarian population.

Another case of the application of Lynch law to negro criminals comes from the Southern States of America. A negro, who outraged and murdered a white woman at Corinth, Mississippi, was seized by an infuriated gathering of residents and was burned to death at the stake.

The recent burning alive of the negro is described as a horrible spectacle. Front seats were reserved for the newspaper reporters and for women. The railways ran special trains to the scene where the negro was burned at the stake.

The position of the N.S.W. Government is likely to be challenged over the action of the Attorney-General in recommending the release of Friedman, a well-known merchant and money-lender, who was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment on a charge of receiving a large quantity of stolen property. The Judge, in passing sentence, said if it had been within his province to decide the case, he would not have found the accused guilty, but he must abide by the decision of the jury. Within 24 hours after the passing of the sentence Friedman was released.

The press and public have raised a great outcry against what they claim is a deliberate ignoring of the jury system.

Mr Tom Mann, the labour leader, who arrived in Melbourne last week from New Zealand, was welcomed at the Trades Hall. Interviewed, he said: "I would not care to express myself very fully with regard to some phases of life in New Zealand, but, speaking industrially, I would be exceedingly glad to find the same condition of things at home. If any man at home were to ask me about the place, I should say: You receive fifteen shillings more weekly for an hour a day less work. Of that fifteen you spend half, because of the higher cost of living. That leaves you a margin of 7/6, for an hour a day less work." Mr Mann spoke in high commendation of the New Zealand Arbitration Act.

Trouble is feared in Nigeria, West Africa. It is reported that the Emir of Kano is making extensive preparations for war against the British.

Kano is the capital of the negro States of Sokoto, which is one of the districts under the authority of the British Royal Niger Company. The Company's sphere of influence is south of the French territory. Included in the country under the company are the large districts of Gando, Borna, and Bornu; its headquarters are at Asaba, and there is a military station at Lokoja, on the Niger. The company possess the coast line from the Forcados to the Bura river. The rest of the coast and a large inland region, including Benue, on the west, and the Cross river country to the east, are at the frontier of the German sphere, forms

the Oil Rivers Protectorate, or Niger Coast Protectorate, since 1891 under a British Commissioner. The ruling race in Sokoto, with the Emir referred to in the cablegram at their head, are the Mohammedan Fulaha. In 1845 the Sultan of Sokoto granted to the British Royal Niger Company a monopoly of the trade. The area of Sokoto is about 200,000 square miles, and the population is estimated at some 15,000,000, who are Hausa and various negro tribes.]

GENERAL CABLES.

MELBA.

Madame Melba's second concert was a splendid success. The Town Hall was crammed, and much enthusiasm was shown.

The booking for Madame Melba's series of concerts commenced on the 1st inst., when sales represented £1652.

THE PREMIER.

The s.s. Tongariro arrived at Cape-town on the 9th ult. Mr Seddon, who was a passenger by the steamer, met with a cordial reception, and was entertained at a public luncheon. In the course of a speech at the luncheon Mr Seddon declared that every moral support should be given to the loyal Dutch by the British colonists and friendship shown towards those from whom they differed. They must make a prosperous country of South Africa, British rule ensuring a peaceful and prosperous settlement.

BULGARIA.

Fifty-two of the insurgent Bulgarians who broke through the Turkish cordon at Monastir were killed and 120 wounded. The others are being hotly pursued.

The Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, and General Ignatieff participated in the celebrations in connection with the completion of the memorial church at Shipka Pass (the scene of the memorable fighting of 1877 with the Turks). The Metropolitan of Staravogora took a leading part in the consecration ceremony on an equality with the Russian clergy, the independence of the Bulgarian Church being thus recognised contrary to the Greek Patriarchs' decision of 1872.

The Macedonian Committee declares that ex-Colonel Jankoff, a Bulgarian, with 3000 combatants, subdivided into bands, leads the Bulgarian insurrection in Monastir, Turkey. The telegraph lines in that district are interrupted. Fourteen battalions of Turkish reserves at Salonica, twelve at Monastir, and twelve at Uskub have been summoned in connection with the revolt of Bulgarians.

AUSTRALIA.

The Federal House has passed the Estimates, including an additional amount of £257,000, necessitated by the refusal of a loan. This involves a total reduction of £220,000 in the amounts returned to the States. The balance will be taken from the ordinary Estimates.

On the motion of Sir W. Lyne, the House agreed with all the Senate's amendments in the Electoral Bill, Mr Reid protesting that it was humiliating to back down after compelling members to hold out so long.

The House adjourned till Thursday, with a view of proroguing on Friday.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE.

Lord Brassey, formerly Governor of Victoria, advocated that some of the present Australian squadron be retained as sea-going gunnery ships for short cruises instead of continuous service, which, he declares, is not acceptable to Australians.

He also says a force of ten thousand bushmen, under engagement for general military service, might be raised if the cost were borne by the Imperial Government.

Sir W. Lyne, in submitting the Federal Defence Estimates, totalling £372,000, less £106,000, for the auxiliary squadron, stated that he had reduced the naval vote by £26,000, and the military vote by £147,000, compared with the previous year. The reductions were largely effected by disbanding and reorganising some of the naval, and reducing and reorganising the military partially paid force. The vote for small arms ammuni-

tion was reduced by £53,000, and for new rifles by £15,000. The plan adopted had been to get back to the expenditure before the war, during which it had been largely increased. The peace establishment of the Federal forces was 29,000 officers and men, and the war footing 44,000. They must not allow things to drift till a time of trouble come. He would have no objection to the establishment of a navy when the proper time came. The present naval force was a toy force, but it was premature altogether to talk of an Australian navy. He gave an assurance that he had taken precaution against raising any semblance of authority for sending men outside the Commonwealth.

The debate on the Defence Estimates disclosed that the majority favoured a further reduction. The leaders of the Labour Party and the Opposition supported the reduction of the vote to £780,000. Sir W. Lyne thereupon announced that he was prepared to reduce the expenditure from about December in the proportion of £62,000 yearly. Next year he would bring down Estimates with a similar reduction. On this understanding the vote was passed.

THE SHIPPING COMBINE.

The Morgan Shipping Combine has been incorporated at Trenton, New Jersey, under the designation of the International Mercantile Marine Company.

The capital is a hundred and twenty million dollars.

Mr Pierpont Morgan is not a director.

Mr Clinton Edward Dawkins, who was a partner in the firm of J. S. Morgan and Co., is chairman of the British committee. Mr W. J. Pirrie (of Harland and Wolff's firm), and Mr Ismay, of the White Star line, are members.

It is believed that they are working under an arrangement with the Cunard line.

Canadian business men are satisfied that the Cunard line arrangements will safeguard Canadian interests by preventing the supremacy of the Morgan combine on the Atlantic.

The New York "Post" says the predominant feeling in Wall-street is that the British subsidy to the Cunard line is a severe blow at the Morgan combine.

The cost of the two new Cunard steamers will be a million each.

The International Mercantile Marine Company's stock is entirely subscribed by those directly interested. The "Daily Express" states that shareholders do not carry voting power, for which purpose the continuity of policy is vested in Mr Morgan and four other voting trustees, namely, Messrs. Ismay and Pirrie and two Americans. Half the capital of the company will be preference stock, carrying 6 per cent. cumulative interest. The company has authorised the issue of fifteen millions sterling 4 per cent. bonds. The "Times," commenting on the figures, says they imply an anticipation of nearly two millions annual profit, but inward freights are very low, and economies in management are limited by the retention of separated Boards under the agreement given to Britain. It adds that our control of the Atlantic trade will be measured in the long run by the capital we invest.

SHIPPING SUBSIDIES.

The official details of the Government's arrangements for subsidising the Cunard line of steamers show that the Cunard Company entered into a twenty years' agreement to remain all British, and hold its entire fleet at the Government's disposal for charter or purchase. The Government lends money at 2½ per cent. interest, repayable in twenty annual instalments, for the construction of two large steamers, with a speed of between 24 and 25 knots, for the Atlantic service. The Cunard Company undertakes not to unduly raise freights or give preferential rates to foreigners, in consideration for a subsidy of £150,000, dating from the time the new vessels sail.

Mr Gerald Balfour, President of the Board of Trade, speaking at the Officers' Feast at Sheffield, detailed the Cunard agreement, and added that the Imperial Government had