



A blizzard has destroyed great numbers of cattle in Texas and Arizona.

The Motor Race Bill was read a third time in the House of Lords.

The Columbian tariff of import duties has been doubled.

Mr Hofmeyer's pacific appeals to the Bond party have been gazetted.

Mr Carnegie has given £200,000 sterling to Princeton University, U.S.A.

It is expected that King Edward will meet President Loubet in Paris, when proceeding to the Riviera in April.

The ratifications of the Alaska Boundary Treaty have been exchanged at Washington.

Prince Luise's parents received her at Lindau. She returns Giron's letters and telegrams unopened. The breach is final.

The M.C.C. Committee has decided to submit the proposal of widening the wickets to a general meeting in May.

Reuter's Agency states that the Governor of Fez reports that the Moorish pretender has been captured.

As a result of the recent gale, underground telegraphy is being extended to the Midland counties, Scotland, and the East Coast.

The Rev Reginald John Campbell, pastor of the Union Church at Brighton, has succeeded Dr Parker in the pastorate of the City Temple.

The London Chamber of Commerce has convened a conference with the object of calling Lord Lansdowne's attention to the dissatisfaction created by the new German tariff.

The "Novoe Vremya" states that the British Consul at Muscat has offered the Sultan of Oman a British naval detachment if he found himself unable to maintain order in the town of Matrah.

The Lambeth Magistrate sentenced nine collectors walking with an unemployed procession to one day's imprisonment on charges of street-begging, and threatened them with a month's imprisonment if again convicted.

Many chambers of agriculture and farmers' clubs in Great Britain have adopted resolutions in favour of appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into the question of food supplies in war time.

A bill introduced in the House of Commons by Mr Sloan, member for Belfast South, for closing public-houses in Ireland at nine o'clock on Saturday nights, has been read a second time by 101 to 76.

The Government of the Dominion of Canada is inviting tenders—stating the subsidy required—for a British-owned Atlantic service of vessels of 18 and 21 knots, the vessels not to call at any foreign ports.

The "Standard's" Constantinople correspondent has elicited in an interview with the Grand Vizier that the Porte's intention is to execute the reforms in Macedonia to the letter, time alone being needed. The best and most energetic functionaries will be selected for the whole of Macedonia.

According to the "New York Herald" President Roosevelt's Commission of Arbitration on the late anthracite coal strike awards 10 per cent. increase of wages and other advantages. It indirectly recognises the Miners' Union and condemns the boycotting of non-Unionists. The duration of the verdict is three years.

Germany is much perturbed by American capitalists offering to construct a land-grant railway from Desferro and Santa Catherina in Brazil to the Argentine frontier, blighting the hopes of a great German settlement in Brazil.

Two thousand workmen at the Kayslope and other collieries at Blaenau, in Monmouthshire, have struck because of not being allowed to finish work

earlier in the day. They allege that in consequence of the refusal they get wet through.

President Roosevelt's prompt renomination of Dr. Krum, Negro Collector of Customs, at Charleston, is understood to be intended as an incentive to the Senate to decide the principle whether colour shall bar selection for Federal office.

The Bank of Australasia has declared a dividend of 11 per cent. and has added £35,000 to the reserve fund, £14,000 to the premises account, and set aside £15,000. One hundred and forty-two pounds will be distributed as a bonus to the staff. Carried forward, £14,648.

Dr Scharlieb, presiding at a meeting of the Hansatic Colonial Society, declared that Pan-German bombast had imperilled German interests and excited suspicion, especially in regard to Brazil, where the Government was refusing assistance formerly promised to German trade.

General Booth proposes the starting of international social science university establishments at London and New York, with branches at Melbourne, Toronto, Berlin and Paris, with the object of training thousands of Salvationists as skilled rescuers of human beings from destitution and crime.

In the House of Commons Mr Balfour, in reply to a question, said that the Admiralty had carefully considered both the Chilean and the Argentine battle-ships offered for sale, but found them unsuitable for our purposes, and it was not, therefore, considered advisable to complete the purchase.

News has been received that the robber bands, known as ladrones, had surprised and captured the town of Oms, in the province of Albay, on Luzon, in the Philippine Islands, and killed two and captured 15 of the constabulary. Several companies of American scouts have been sent to restore order.

Count Von Bulow has drawn the Curia's attention to Bishop Treves's manifesto refusing absolution to parents for sending their daughter to the Prussian Government's High School, though fourteen of the teachers were Catholic, and eight Protestant. The Chancellor claimed that the States acting impartially deserved reciprocity.

The House of Commons agreed to a resolution submitted by Mr. R. J. Price, member for Norfolk East, affirming the desirability of borough and district councils regulating the closing of shops, and the limiting of hours of shop labour. The Government sympathised with the proposal, though it was stated that it would be impossible to legislate thereon this session.

In the House of Commons Mr Finlay, Attorney-General, promised to introduce a bill at the earliest opportunity relating to public companies' fraudulent balance-sheets. Under the Act of 1861 the prosecution must prove that these were intended to defraud shareholders or creditors, but the law is silent as regards attempts to induce the outside public to invest.

The French Court of Appeal has ordered the Good Shepherd Convent at Nancy to pay Made-moiselle Lecoanet, an orphan inmate, £400 compensation for detention during many years, and overwork, resulting in partial blindness. The Bishop of Nancy stated that under the pretext of charity the sisterhood treated the inmates worse than any outside sweater.

M. Koloman Szell, the Hungarian Premier, referring to the Balkan crisis, assured the Diet that the reforms demanded harmonised with the Austro-Russian agreement of 1897, respecting the Balkan status quo, and added that if the revolutionists persisted in their efforts, Turkey's measures to repress them would not be impeded.

A preliminary mobilisation of the Norwegian forces is now proceeding. It is declared not to be due to a move-

ment for secession from the compact between Norway and Sweden, but that it is connected with a common defensive movement, they fearing a Russian attack after the secret note wherein last year Russia demanded the alliance or cession of part of Norway.

In the House of Commons Mr Brodrick explained that the attention of Lord Roberts had been privately called to the "ragging" of a public school team of subalterns of the Grenadier Guards by order of an unofficial courtmartial. Lord Roberts directed an inquiry to be held, at which Lieut.-Colonel Kinloch, Commandant of the First Battalion of the regiment, attended. Colonel Kinloch was compulsorily retired because he was unaware of the irregularities in the regiment.

GENERAL CABLES.

PURSUIT OF THE MULLAH.

In the House of Commons Mr St John Brodrick stated that the operations of the Somaliland expedition would be restricted to checking the Mullah's encroachments and to safe-guarding the tribes under our protection.

REPRESENTATION IN FIJI.

A deputation waited on the Governor of Fiji on March 3 and urged that the Legislative Council be elective, instead of being nominated as at present. The Governor promised to support the request.

RATHER SUDDEN.

A speech extremely friendly towards England, delivered by M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, at the Associated Chambers of Commerce dinner, has been reproduced in the Paris papers, evoking a striking display of cordiality towards Britain, with, in some cases, even a suggestion of an early entente cordiale between the two countries.

AMERICA AND ENGLAND.

Mr Choate, the American Ambassador, entertained by the Pilgrims' Club, London, in the course of a speech attributed the improved relation between Britain and America to the popular will of each country. Moreover, Lord Salisbury's and Lord Lansdowne's uniform candour, fairness and friendliness had on every question helped to maintain these cordial relations. And he could not ignore King Edward's influence as heartily cementing the union.

THE POPE.

The 25th anniversary of the Pope's enthronement was celebrated on March 4. Ecclesiastics were present from all parts of the world. Seventy thousand people took part in a service at the Basilica. The Pope was in good health, but looked pale, and his voice had a marked hoarseness. He intoned the Te Deum. Peals of bells were rung in 493 churches in Rome. Cardinal Gibbons, on behalf of the American hierarchy, clergy and laity, sent a Marconi message from Cape Cod to Peldhu, in Cornwall, for transmission to Rome, conveying congratulations to the Pope.

THE SAMOAN RISING.

Referring to the petition to the Governor-General asking for an inquiry into the charges made by him against British officers, Cardinal Moran denies that he ever accused British officers of murdering Samoans, for the good reason that the Samoans got out of the way. He was willing to have a German Imperial Commission appointed to enquire into the doings of the missionaries at Samoa during sixty years past.

CHINESE UNEASY.

The "Standard" says that special inquiries made at Shensi confirm the report that Tung-Fuh-Siang, the leader of the anti-foreign movement, is assembling a very large force, designed to extirpate the foreigners. Four thousand disbanded Imperial troops have joined him.

Many secret meetings are being held in Peking, and some officials are attending in order to discuss whether they will support the movement.

UNCLE SAM'S NAVY.

Congress has finally adopted the naval appropriation of sixteen millions sterling. Provision is made for three battleships ranging from 16,000 to 13,000 tons.

Congress has added 3000 men to the navy, and voted a million and a-half dollars for target practice, 120,000 being devoted to prizes for marksmanship.

America's huge naval programme is interpreted as a reply to the German and Austrian attempts to revive the Central European Customs' boycott against the United States.

The movement is regarded as impracticable, and as being merely an adroit weapon to advance Germany's economic policies with regard to her colonies.

J. BULL AND CO.

The House of Commons is discussing the supplementary vote of the Colonial Department. Mr Austen Chamberlain, replying to allegations of the negative results of the Premiers' Conference in London, said that any increase contribution to Imperial defence must be free and spontaneous. The resolution adopted by the Conference with regard to preferential trade within the Empire was receiving the Imperial Government's most careful attention.

The "Standard" declares that the self-governing colonies cannot be expected to merge their own preparations in a general scheme of defence until they are convinced that the Imperial army and navy are administered on a thoroughly scientific and comprehensive plan.

NORTH SEA SQUADRON.

In the House of Commons Mr Balfour announced that a new naval port and base would be established at St. Mary's Hope, on the north side of the Firth of Forth, in accordance with the committee's recommendation in January last. The announcement was received with cheers.

Though the Berlin newspapers declared that the creation of a British North Sea squadron would be a menace to Germany, they profess to regard the new naval base as only a step towards the completion of English coast defences in no way affecting Germany's naval position.

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