

The "New Weiner Tagblatt" states that Lord Lansdowne promised to consider a suggestion that the signatories to the Berlin Treaty should be invited to sign a declaration that they will not seek territorial aggrandisement in the Balkans. Germany has urged the Sultan to proceed with reforms, suppress Macedonian excesses, and punish the authors of the attack on Stcherbina.

Austria supported Russia's representations to the Porte as to the necessity of suppressing the Albanian revolt. Austrian newspapers declare Turkey must mercilessly punish the Albanians and Macedonians, and says that the Austro-Russian understanding prevents outside intervention.

The Sultan is sending a mission entrusted to the Mollah general and three Albanian officials to try and bring the Albanians to a reasonable frame of mind.

Diplomatic circles are convinced that the policy of cajolery is foredoomed to failure.

The Russian Ambassador emphasises the fact that Turkey is facing a Musulman rebellion, and the situation is therefore more difficult to the Porte than in dealing with a Christian insurrection alone.

Diplomatists are doubtful whether the Sultan's envoys will be received.

Eighteen thousand Albanians are already assembled at Dichtova and Ipek, to arrange the check received at Mitrovitza.

The Government petroleum depot at Mustapasha has been dynamited.

A Bulgarian band has cut the telegraph lines and dynamited a bridge spanning the Augusta and a neighbouring tunnel 200yds long.

The Redifs, a section of the Turkish army system at Smyrna, numbering 12,000, have been summoned to Salonica.

VENEZUELA.

The Venezuelan Congress refused to consider the British, German, and Italian protocols, because they had been signed by the Venezuelan representative under compulsion from the Powers. Congress, however, empowered President Castro to comply with the conditions specified in the protocols.

President Roosevelt, speaking at Chicago, said he refrained from objecting to Anglo-German action in South America, inasmuch as no acquisition of territory was contemplated. He said the Monroe Doctrine was not an international law, although it might become so, but this course was unnecessary if the Doctrine remained a cardinal feature of American policy and there was sufficient strength to make it effective.

No foreign Power would quarrel over the Monroe Doctrine if America continued building up a navy.

BRITISH REVENUE.

The British revenue for the quarter ended March 31st was £59,476,000, Customs contributing £8,495,000, Excise £8,921,000, and stamps £2,130,000.

The property and income tax for the year ended March yielded £38,800,000.

The British revenue returns show a deficit for the year of £683,000, giving an excess of revenue over the previous year of 93 millions.

AN ALLEGED JOB.

The Canadian House of Commons, by 66 votes to 25, refused to order a return of the prices the Minister for Agriculture paid on behalf of the Imperial Government for horses and fodder sent to South Africa.

The Opposition members declared that friends of the Government bought the horses cheaply and charged exorbitant prices.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.

The agitation as to the need for in some degree democratising the "services" has not been without its fruit.

It is now announced in the "London Gazette" that no less than 60 warrant officers in the Navy have been promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

VARSITY BOAT RACE.

The University boat race was rowed on April 1st over the usual four-mile course from Putney to Mortlake.

There was a great concourse of people on both sides of the river and on barges, boats and bridges.

The race itself was a tame affair, Cambridge having a lead almost from the start, and winning easily.

The latest crews were:—Oxford: C. ... Willis (Magdalen) (bow), D. Milburn (Lia-

coln) (St. A. de L. Long (New) (St. R. E. Kelly (Balliol) (st. H. W. Adams (Humber) (st. G. W. W. Fleid (Exeter) (St. A. K. Graham (Balliol) (G. C. C. Drinkwater (Wadham) (stroke), P. T. H. Kyse (Keeble) (cox.) Cambridge: Ronger (Rowe), Wainford (St. Thomas) (St. Fortescue) (st. Carter) (St. Gritz) (St. Edwards-Moore) (st. and Nelson (stroke). Last year's race was won by Cambridge. Oxford has 33 wins to its credit, and Cambridge 25, while one dead heat has been rowed.]

PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS.

The "Times" in a leading article, taunts Germany with exciting herself over the Bloemfontein Customs Conference and recalls the disregard shown by Germany to other nations' opinions in regard to the new German tariff.

The "Times" also says that German newspapers are already manipulating public opinion and fulminating threats of reprisals. The Bloemfontein proposals are merely the natural, though perhaps objectionable, working of the fiscal independence of the British colonies under the influence of the prevailing sentiment of Imperial solidarity.

The "Times" unhesitatingly declares that the British nation welcomes most cordially the spirit of the Bloemfontein preferential treatment proposals and would be sorry to relinquish the hope that they constitute an important step towards Imperial co-operation and unity.

IRISH BUTTER.

In the House of Commons the adulterated Butter Bill was read a second time, despite the objections of Mr Kearley, member for Devonport, to the exemption of Irish salt fishings.

Mr Hanbury, president of the Board of Agriculture, declared that he was determined to end the sale of adulterated butter and was prepared to consider stopping the sale of adulterated butter altogether.

INTERESTING FIND.

A dispatch to the "Sun" from London says: Investigation of the tomb of King Thothmes IV., near Thebes, in which a splendid chariot was found by Mr Davis, the American, revealed many interesting features. Around the large chamber, in which is a magnificent granite sarcophagus covered with texts from the "Book of the Dead," are small chambers. The floor of one of these was strewn with unmanifed loins of beef, legs of mutton, and trussed ducks and geese, offerings made to the dead King nearly four thousand years ago. Clay seals bearing the King's name were attached to the doors of the chambers. These indicate that the Egyptians of the eighteenth dynasty to some extent anticipated the invention of printing, the raised portions of the seals having been smeared with blue ink before the clay was impressed. The walls of one chamber are adorned with paintings.

There is also an inscription stating that the tomb was plundered by robbers in the eighth year of Horosheby, but was restored as far as possible by the reigning Pharaoh. The floor of this chamber was covered with vases, dishes and other objects, nearly all of which were wantonly broken, apparently by robbers. Some had been repaired. There was also a piece of textile fabric, in which hieroglyphics of various colours are woven with such wonderful skill as to present the appearance of painting on linen.

The great find, however, is the chariot. The body alone remains, but this is in perfect condition. The wooden frame was first covered with papier mache, and this with stucco, which is carved into scenes from battles Pharaoh fought in Syria. With the chariot was found a leather gauntlet, which protected the King's hand and wrist when he used the bow or reins.

Reform without revolution.—The great and particular merit of Huxley's Motion is that it requires without discomfort, in other words it effects reform without revolution. This is because it is the best and safest natural object.

SURGICAL MANUFACTURING CO., (Dept. N.Z.) Rubber Works, Broadbent, NEAR MANCHESTER, ENGLAND.

Surgical, Medical, Hospital Goods, Rubber Manufacture of every description. Any special Article in Rubber Goods made to order. Goods not approved of exchanged. Illustrated Catalogue FREE on receipt of two stamps.

AUSTRALIA.

The Federal Government is taking steps to secure for itself the coinage of silver for Australia.

At the Adelaide wheel meeting Chalmers, of New Zealand, won the five mile race from scratch in 13min. 12.5secs.

An Admiralty cable message received in Sydney states that the cruiser Niobe leaves England in June with a crew of 700 officers and men; to replace the Royal Arthur as the flagship on the Australian station. The Royal Arthur had crew have been ordered Home.

[The Niobe is a first-class cruiser of 11,000 tons burden, and was launched in 1897. Her speed is 20½ knots, maintained by engines of 16,500 horse-power. Her burden is 11,000 tons, and she carries 10 guns.]

M. Krukoff, the Russian agricultural expert, is making strong charges of want of cleanliness in some of the butter and other factories which he visited in the Southern States. He said that Australian butter inclined to be good naturally, but the people were inclined to be lazy and neglect much of the work. He declares that some of the jam factories were so dirty that they would be closed on the Continent. Speaking for himself, he would not eat the jam.

A deputation representing the Federated Employers' Association interviewed Sir E. Barton with reference to the proposed Federal Conciliation and Arbitration Bill.

The deputation generally opposed inclusion of the principle of compulsion. One speaker quoted authorities to show that compulsion in New Zealand had produced strife instead of conciliation.

Sir E. Barton replied that the bill would provide for compulsory arbitration. The logic of facts had taught him that voluntary arbitration could not be a success. He spoke favourably of the results of the New Zealand Act.

THE PERTH MURDER.

The Full Court at Perth has quashed the conviction of five out of the six prisoners for the murder of Laffler. The conviction of Maillet alone was confirmed.

It will be remembered that Laffler was a sinner, and that the prisoners, nearly all of whom were foreigners, visited his vine yard, on refusing to supply the party with wine, Maillet shot him dead.]

THE VANCOUVER SERVICE.

Sir E. Barton had a conversation on April 1 with Mr. James Mills in respect to the Vancouver mail service. A proposition had been submitted by the company, and a counter proposal by the Government. The probabilities, as far as can be judged, are that the existing contract, with possibly some minor alteration, will be continued for a time. Negotiations for an improved and accelerated service are in the meantime proceeding.

TWO MURDEROUS ASSAULTS.

At Miller's Point, Sydney, on April 2nd, a man named Henry Dillon, in a fit of jealousy, attacked his lover, Mary Jones, with a razor, and inflicted nasty wounds upon her head and breast.

He then shot her sister, who was coming to her assistance. The latter's condition is serious.

Dillon kept the police at bay for some time by throwing pottery and other articles.

A miner named Heber inflicted terrible wounds on his wife's head, then with a tomahawk cut her throat, and finally with a razor hid own. The condition of the woman is hopeless.

TURNED OUT.

The Tasmanian elections took place on April 2nd, and resulted in the complete overthrow of the Government, the Opposition sweeping the polls. For the first time in the history of the State

the whole of the Ministers have been defeated. Eighteen new members will take their seats in the Assembly out of a total of 36. The Oppositionists and Reformists returned number 21, Ministerialists 4, Independents 4, and Labour 4. The defeat of the Government is attributed to the income tax proposals carried last session, and the non-compliance with the public demand for political reform. The result is a unique position, and the developments of which are uncertain.

The Government will resign after the Easter holidays. In the new Assembly there will not be a single member, excepting the Speaker, who has previously held a ministerial portfolio.

The new Parliament will contain an overwhelming majority in favour of the reduction of members and the repeal of the personal exemption in the Income Tax Act, passed last session. Sir N. E. Lewis, at the request of Mr Propping, who will be asked to form a Ministry, delays his resignation for a few days.

VANCOUVER SERVICE.

The "Sydney Morning Herald," dealing with Sir Joseph Ward's statement that the New Zealand Government was anxious to have the Vancouver service extended there, but that it could not be done if Brisbane as well as Sydney remained a port of call, says that there could, of course, be no objection to the extension of the service to New Zealand, provided that its benefits were not thereby diverted from the British territories which had established and subsidised it before the advent of federation. The co-operation of New Zealand in the service would doubtless have its advantages, but these would be too dearly bought, if they meant the omission of any of the present ports of call, especially in regard to the maintenance of the All-Red route.

Clarke's World-Famed Blood Mixture.—The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light. Sufferers from Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Itch, Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Bottles 2s 6d each, sold everywhere. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

FITS CURED

From the first dose of CERINE the cure. It has cured thousands of the very worst cases of Epilepsy which ever other remedies had failed. Each bottle 4s 6d and 11s. Thousands of Testimonials. OF ALL CHEMISTS STORES, ETC. SHARLAND & Co., Ltd., WELLINGTON, N.Z. Prepared by I. W. NICHOLL, Pharmacist, General Chemist, 25 HIGH STREET, BELFAST, IRELAND.

\*\*\*\*\* Here's a Sign \*\*\*\*\* of good cheer in the Pure Amber Beer that gives vigour, and pleasure, and joy. A perfect brew. Unexcelled for table use, and highly recommended for the weak and convalescent. Palatable, wholesome and nutritious. HANCOCK'S LAGER BEER is the standard of quality. \*\*\*\*\* HANCOCK & CO. BREWERS, AUCKLAND. Telephone 71. \*\*\*\*\*

C. BRANDAUER & Co's, Ltd. Circular Pointed Pens. Seven Prize Medals. Worked Birmingham, England. These series of Pens neither scratch nor spurt. They glide over the roughest paper with the ease of a soft lead pencil. Ask your Storekeeper for an assorted Sample Box.