

nal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh, to convey his condolences to the Sacred College.

The hostile Nationalist newspapers admit that the King's first speech in Ireland would go far to enhance the kindly personal regard the vast majority of Irishmen felt for His Majesty.

The King and Queen visited the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Kilmainham, where the Duke resides, as Commander-in-Chief of the Troops in Ireland.

The King has refused to allow Scotland Yard detectives to attend him during his visit to Ireland.

The King has received scores of addresses from religious, philanthropic, artistic, scientific, industrial, commercial, and local government bodies.

In the course of a general reply he expressed profound happiness that his reign has been coincident with a new era of social peace and industrial and commercial progress throughout Ireland. Fifteen hundred gentlemen attended a levee at Dublin Castle.

By way of equally satisfying Protestants and Roman Catholics, the King and Queen visited Trinity College and Queen Alexandra the buildings of the Royal University of Ireland.

The King inspected the Iveagh trust building and St. Patrick's Cathedral, and the Queen visited the hospitals.

Both the King and Queen visited the depot of the Royal Irish Constabulary in Phoenix Park, as well as the Roman Catholic College at Maynooth.

At the latter institution the King was presented with an address from the Roman Catholic bishops and archbishops. The presentation was productive of a remarkable scene.

The address stated that they rejoiced at and expressed their grateful sense of Their Majesties' sympathy with their Irish subjects, which had awakened a warm response in the hearts of the people.

The King, in replying, said the Irish had contributed much to the strength and honour of the Empire, and had enriched the national life. He added that he had listened with saddened feelings to the reference in the address to the venerable Pontiff, whose memory would be long cherished beyond the bounds of the Church of which the Pope was the exalted head.

The King and Queen afterwards partook of tea with the hierarchy, and received a respectful send-off.

The King visited the Corporation's artisans' dwellings, and afterwards in his own impulse went through several alleys in the same slums which he visited in 1885, when he attended the Royal Commission on working-men's dwellings. Touched by what he had seen, His Majesty gave £1000 for distribution to the poor of Dublin.

PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

The Duke of Devonshire, Lord President of the Council, speaking at the annual meeting of the British Empire League, held at the Mansion House, said that it was advisable, on the question of trade within the Empire, that the colonies and the Mother Country should each speak in the plainest possible terms. Starting as a colonial question, it had now reached the stage of becoming far more a matter of internal British politics.

They could no longer question it as a matter of sentiment, but as one of practical business. If the Mother Country was being induced to assent to any considerable changes in the fiscal arrangements, she must do it in her own interest, not simply as a means of conciliating the colonies. Since the colonial Premiers had initiated the new policy, presumably the colonies would cheerfully and, perhaps, enthusiastically accept it.

Hitherto the question has been very adequately discussed. Even from the colonial standpoint it was very easy to pass resolutions in favour of trade preference, but not so easy to prepare a scheme of preference admittedly fair and just to the Motherland and to each of the colonies. These advantages were only securable by means of something in the nature of a bargain to which each party was bound to adhere. It could hardly be doubted that the colonies would be called upon to surrender some independence, something of their perfect freedom of action in fiscal, commercial, and industrial legislation, to which hitherto they had attached great importance. Free trade within the Empire was a great, a magnificent, and a splen-

did ideal, but the Mother Country and the colonies approached it from different standpoints.

Sir Frederick Young, vice-president of the Royal Colonial Institute, in a letter published in the "Times," has expressed disappointment with the Duke of Devonshire's speech, and says that the Motherland and the colonies should follow a mutually patriotic policy, and not exhibit a bargaining and huckstering spirit.

Some leading Unionists are promoting a fiscal compromise on the basis of conditional retaliation in the event of outside Powers threatening the colonies for giving preference to the Mother Country. They suggest a corn duty of 2/.

A special conference of the cotton employers of Lancashire and textile operatives resolved to oppose the taxation of raw material.

Sir Horace Tozer, Agent-General for Queensland, on being interviewed by the "Daily Graphic," said that Australia would prefer to defer the consideration of Mr Chamberlain's proposals, of which no practical outcome was at present possible.

It was felt that hasty action might hinder the closer bond which time alone would bring about. Wool and meat, he added, needed no preferential treatment.

As a first instalment of the fiscal inquiry, the Board of Trade has issued a return showing that between 1881 and 1902 the imports into Britain increased from 390½ millions to 628 1-3 millions. The exports in the same period increased from 295 1-3 millions to 349 1-3 millions. Of the 129 millions increase imports, 116 millions came from foreign countries. The imports from the autonomous colonies increased from 42½ millions to nearly 60 millions, while from the other colonies the increase amounted to two and a-half millions. The imports from India decreased from 35½ millions to 28½ millions. The British exports rose in 21 years by 54 millions, or, deducting foreign and colonial produce and ships, by 46 millions. India and the colonies account for 26 millions of this increase, and foreign countries 20 millions. Between 1881 and 1885 the colonies and India annually bought 91 millions of British produce, foreigners taking 151 millions. Now foreigners take 174 millions, the autonomous colonies 60 1-3 millions, India nearly 32½ millions, and the other colonies 16 millions.

Mr Chamberlain, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, said neither the Government, nor himself, nor any of the Unionist Party, had suggested any taxation on raw material, whether wool or hides.

Mr Chamberlain, in accepting the suggestion of Sir J. C. Dimsdale, M.P., late Lord Mayor of London, that he should deliver a speech in London dealing fully with fiscal subjects, said: "I gladly agree to do so in January. After the provincial campaign has concluded I will summarise in the metropolis, the centre of the world's commerce, the conclusions I have arrived at, and submit them for the consideration of my countrymen."

The newspaper "Vossische Zeitung" states that during last year British exports to Germany were valued at £30,530,000, and those of Germany to Britain at £48,275,000. British exports to Germany in the past decade had increased by £20,000, while German exports to Britain had increased by £18,275,900.

Mr Balfour, speaking at the Primrose League banquet at the Hotel Cecil, said since Mr Chamberlain had the best opportunity of knowing what the colonies were thinking it was unreasonable to subject him to recrimination for giving powerful and eloquent expression to their opinions. The Government approached the fiscal inquiry with an open mind. It would be folly to ask them to formulate a great scheme at a moment's notice. The Government adhered to the pledge that the country would not be asked to make a change until after a general election.

A special committee of the Sydney Presbyterian and Methodist churches has adopted a series of resolutions in favour of organic union, and has appointed a sub-committee to draw up a list of agreements and differences in matters of doctrine and polity in forms of worship.

G. W. ALLSOP, A.R.I.B.A.
(Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects),
ARCHITECT
313, VICTORIA ARCADE

GENERAL NEWS.

The burglar is still "a-burgling" in Auckland, and in spite of the vigilance of the police he escaped detection. Several places were entered during the past week, and in most cases valuables were removed. During the early hours of Saturday morning last the premises of M. G. Hannah, jeweller, Queen-street, were entered. Gold rings and precious stones to the value of more than £50 were removed. A most impudent robbery in broad daylight occurred the previous day in Ponsonby, at the residence of Mr Gregory, photographer. There were only two people in the house on Friday morning at about 11 o'clock—the maid and Miss Gregory—and while they were cleaning out one of the rooms one of the light-fingered class was cleaning out the rest of the house. He did it rather effectively, as Mr Gregory's family missed something like £20 worth of jewellery and cash. There were several smaller robberies in different parts of the city.

The scheme for the establishment of the model village school for the natives has advanced several stages. The site given by the Maoris has been surveyed and formally handed over to the Department, and the Government has undertaken to find the timber and other material for the cottages. One important feature of the scheme is that industrial training is to be given to the pupils.

The cable forming the connecting link in the new telephone line from Suva to Levuka at Fiji was successfully laid on June 15. It arrived per H.M. cable steamer Irish, and was transhipped to the packet Kia Ora. At Bureta, Ovalau, the shore end of the cable was duly christened with champagne. The Kia Ora then steamed across the 12 miles between Ovalau and Vitilevu, and landed the other end of the cable safely. The work of putting the overhead wires on land is now being pushed on with all possible speed.

The spirit that animated the "Eatanswill Gazette" is not yet dead, as witness the following extract from the organ of a country district in this colony: "The recent Blankton Drainage Board election has been declared void on account of a printer's error. We may state that the advertisement in which the error occurred appeared in our esteemed local contemporary's columns, and the mistake necessitates another election, the expenses of which will no doubt be defrayed by the journal whose blundering did the mischief."

Indignation succeeded surprise when it became known at Lyttelton (says a Press Association telegram) that Dr. Upham had been dismissed in connection with the Gracchus visit. His extreme conscientiousness in the discharge of his duties is widely recognised. Dr. Upham would divulge nothing. It is understood, however, that he first visited the Gracchus in his private capacity as a medical practitioner, and diagnosed a case on board as smallpox. He at once communicated with Dr. Finch, chief health officer for Canterbury, who agreed with the diagnosis, and took the directions deemed necessary to deal with the situation.

There was a rather sensational occurrence at Government House, Wellington, on July 23 during the progress of a dance given in honour of the coming of age of Lord Northland. Early in the evening, when the lancers were about to be danced, one of the Governor's household was seen to rush along the main hall and smash the fire alarm glass to call up the brigade. It appears that the electric wires in an upstairs passage had fused and set alight the paper and woodwork, which began to blaze up. The fire was noticed by one of the maids, and was promptly extinguished before the brigade arrived. The building, which is an old wooden one, had a narrow escape from destruction.

Statistics compiled by Mr George Dunnett, the local representative of the Oceanic Steamship Company, show that the expenditure of the San Francisco mail steamers in New Zealand for the 15 months from January 1, 1902, to March 13, 1903, was £44,621; whilst for the last twelve months the expenditure was £35,697. As 17 trips are made per year, this gives an average expenditure in the colony of £2028 4/6 per trip, as against the subsidy paid of less than £1000 per voyage. This gives a monetary gain to the colony of more than £18,000 a year over the subsidy paid. The items of expenditure in New Zealand during the past 15 months are—Coal, £10,180; labour, £3830; stores, dues, transhipments, charges, and sundries, £24,561; total, £44,621.

The Government valuation of £100,967 on the Te Akau estate, Raglan, was objected to at the recent sitting of the Government Assessment Court at Raglan. It was stated the estate consists of 90,000 acres, the unimproved value of which is assessed at £82,690. There are 59 miles of fencing, valued at £3480; 1240 chains of permanent draining, valued at £800; the clearing of 6443 acres is estimated to be worth £6381; and the grassing of 12,443 acres, £8221. Other improvements consist of five dwellings, valued at £545, and outbuildings £310; while a wharf, yards, etc., are set down at £534, giving a total value of improvements amounting to £18,277. The valuation based on these figures was sustained. There is a probability of the Te Akau estate being acquired by the Government under the Lands for Settlement Act, when the existing lease to the New Zealand Land Association expires in August, 1905.

Boring operations at the Grand Junction are still proceeding very satisfactorily. The latest information from the mine shows that the bore has penetrated about 165ft through the lode, which most reliable authorities claim to be the Welcome, otherwise known as the Magazine, lode, which is a continuation from the W. & C. Company's workings. Opinion is divided as to whether the lode is the Martha or the Welcome, but it is considered most improbable that it is the Empl. lode, which would scarcely be found at the present intersection. The 165ft already traversed through the lode has been done at an angle, and some of the assays are said to reach £2 per ton. The total depth from the collar of the shaft to where the bore is now running is about 1125 feet, the present boring operations taking place from the 500ft level. After boring 488ft quartz was first struck, and since then no break has occurred, the bore now being in 165ft in the lode, writes our Waikato correspondent.

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