

Festival of Empire.

NEXT YEAR'S OVERSEAS VISITORS.

LONDON, September 30.

A great influx of visitors from the dominions overseas is expected in London next year on account of the Coronation, and the Council of the Festival of Empire at the Crystal Palace is taking full advantage of the situation. Elaborate arrangements will be made for the hospitable reception and entertainment of Colonial visitors to the Festival, and a committee presided over by the Duke of Norfolk is now drawing up a comprehensive programme.

The ambition of the Committee is to organise a congress of the business men of the Empire, and in connection with it a series of official and semi-official functions has been decided upon. There will be banquets and receptions, and opportunities for the discussion and elucidation of Imperial and commercial problems. It is also the intention of the Committee to extend its hospitality to provincial centres. A scheme is under consideration for great "county days" at which provincial men of mark will be specially invited to meet celebrities from overseas. The Council hopes to add to the popularity of these "county days" by inducing the railway companies to provide special facilities in the shape of cheap fares.

The Music Committee, of which the Earl of Shaftesbury is chairman, has also an ambitious programme in hand. Already arrangements have been concluded for eight Empire concerts—representing England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa. At these concerts only artists representing the individual countries will appear, and the British public will thus be introduced to entirely new talent.

Under the presidency of Princess Louise, the postponed "Pageant of London" will be produced by Mr. Frank Lascelles on the pageant grounds, for which 15,000 citizens of London and delegates from all the colonies have been enlisted to take part. There will be an Imperial Exhibition, in which the Governments of the overseas dominions will co-operate, and arrangements have also been made for holding an Imperial sports meeting. The proceeds of the undertaking will be devoted to the King Edward VII. Hospital Fund. Whether New Zealand will send a Government exhibit to the Crystal Palace Exhibition is, I am informed, not yet decided, and the High Commissioner has not yet been advised by his Government with regard to their plans.

One of the features of the Exhibition will be an "All Red" tour of mono-rail observation cars, each seating 60 people, and running at two-minute intervals over 24 miles of railway. The passengers will be carried round a miniature representation of the British Empire, visiting in turn Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and India. Another part of the Exhibition will depict a model city as it may be 200 years hence, with moving footways, wireless telephones, aerial services, and so forth. It will be an interesting scientific forecast of what may be expected in the twenty-second century.

It is announced to-day that the King has seen and approved the plans and details of the Festival of Empire, and has accorded his patronage to the entire undertaking. Among the vice presidents are the Prime Minister, the Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and the Colonies, the present and future Viceroy of India, and the Governors-General of all the overseas dominions.

New Zealand is a country that has a great deal of goodness and religion in it. You have treated the native race with more humanity than England has shown in other quarters, and many of your laws, not all, have been framed in harmony with the precepts of the gentle and humane Jesus.—Canon Innes.

The average Englishman hopelessly misunderstood Australian finance. He was unable to comprehend the national debt. He did not realise that the various Governments were landlords expending money in developing the country. If they sold the railways alone they could wipe out the debts to-morrow.—Sir George Reid.

Berlin Riots.

100 POLICEMEN INJURED.

LONDON, October 2.

During this week Berlin has been the scene of strike riots of an unusually violent character. The trouble centres around the depots of Messrs. Kupfer and Company, the largest coal firm in Berlin, in the Moabit district in the north-west quarter of the city.

The strike of Messrs. Kupfer's employees has been going on for a considerable time, and there have been frequent scuffles between strikers and strike-breakers, in consequence of which for several days the company's wagons have been escorted by police. On Saturday there was a serious conflict between riotous strikers, aided by the mob, and the police guarding the wagons. This seems to have been a preliminary trial of strength for a pitched battle.

On Monday the ferocity of the crowd was remarkable, and isolated policemen were very roughly handled. Two policemen standing at a street corner were attacked. One emptied his revolver into his assailants, and then made his escape through an adjoining saloon, the keeper of which was ill-treated and his place wrecked by the rioters in revenge. The other policeman was knocked senseless, and picked up covered with blood by the owner of a neighbouring house, who dragged him into safety just as the hooligans were returning to finish him. The house was besieged for half-an-hour before the police arrived and drove off the mob.

Women among the crowd were conspicuous for their daring and ferocity. The police complain that the strikers charged with an advance guard of women, and even children, in front, so that the police were unable to use their weapons. Water, sand, and all sorts of missiles were poured from windows upon the heads of the police, whose difficulties were intensified through the strikers being able when hard pressed to escape into houses and drinking saloons, whence they got clear away, or where they renewed the combat from the windows.

Preferring to operate in the darkness, the rioters smashed the street lamps.

For an unexplained reason, the rioters appear to be animated by peculiar animosity against the local Lutheran Church of the Reformation. The pastor was seen in a passing tramcar on his way to his parsonage. "Drag him out," "Out with the parson," was the yell which went up, and hooligans stopped the car and boarded it. The clergyman tried to escape in the crowd, but he was quickly recognised and followed. He reached the parsonage door, which, fortunately, was open, just in time to escape violence. The attack on the church followed.

A favourite missile of the strikers is supplied by the so-called mosaic paving, consisting of small stone centres, which are easily torn up.

The Chief of Police has issued an order that in case of further attacks the police are to make full use of their revolvers and sabres, and if the police are attacked from windows they are to use their firearms without hesitation. The police commander on the spot has also issued a warning that in case of a recurrence of rioting it will be impossible to spare women and children who come between the combatants and the police. The district is now held by three hundred police, mounted and on foot. The streets where the worst rioting occurred are closed by strong cordons, and all access to Messrs. Kupfer's yards is barred. The conflict between police and rioters continued at intervals on Tuesday. At seven o'clock on that evening there was a fresh collision with a body of 3000 rioters, who were dispersed by a sabre charge in which 15 mounted men took part. Later in the evening another encounter with a mob of about 500 persons took place.

As the rioters began to throw bottles, coal, bricks and broken glass at the policemen out of the windows of the houses, the latter retaliated by firing with their Browning pistols at the windows.

One of the rioters, at about one o'clock on Tuesday morning, after the police had withdrawn, collected a heap of wood, over which he poured a quantity of paraffin, and then set light to the pile. Fire engines were summoned, and the firemen succeeded in extinguishing the blaze, although they had to be protected by police. While doing their work they were the objects of a continual shower of missiles from the windows of some of the houses.

The "Lokal Anzeiger" states that one hundred policemen were wounded in the rioting, but it is impossible yet to esti-

At the French 'Manoeuvres.

Being colonials ourselves, we are naturally interested to hear by means of Robert Blatchford—incomparably the finest newspaper descriptive writer of the day—that at the French military manoeuvres, the Colonial Brigade of Infantry was the one thing that "struck him," so to phrase it, "between the eyes":—"The colonials are men of good physique and of good stature. They appear to be first-class fighting material. Strong, swarthy men they were, who had evidently come far, for they were hot and very dusty, though they marched stoutly with a resolute swing. And as they marched, and when the bugles were not blowing, they sang. This was not like the marching song we heard in the square. It was scornful, with a sting of mockery in it. It may have been a harmless song in itself, but as it was rendered and as it was accentuated by those warlike French colonials, it seemed as full of diabolic and bitter humour as Berlioz's Mephistophelean serenade. Undoubtedly the men of the Colonial Brigade are the fiercest soldiers I have seen. The effect of their eyes as they turned them upon us in marching was remarkable. Most of the eyes were dark, though a

good many were grey and some blue; but they all had the same look of unaltered ferocity, and the swarthy faces were lit with an expression of satirical defiance. It must have been men like these who stormed the Bastille and poured like a resistless sea across the French frontier to rout the enemies of France. No wonder the enemy ran like hens. If the men look as warlike and dangerous on the march, what must they look in the red hour of battle? As the colonial regiments strode past they had all the appearance of men marching to battle. If they ever do march to battle somebody will get hurt. Later in the day we met a mule battery of the Red artillery, and I had a good laugh. The mules were the largest mules I have ever seen. They were as big as horses. They were also by a very long way the most mulish animals I have seen. They were simply sizzling with sin. I do not believe there was an animal in the battery which would not have kicked the tricolour or the commander-in-chief and gloried in the deed. But they fetched their guns along. With their hands full of business I thought I detected a similar expression on the faces of the colonial officers."

Does not this visualise things for us 13,000 miles off?

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mate the number among the mob, which is undoubtedly very large. Revolvers were more freely used by both police and rioters, many of the latter firing down on the police from windows.

A statement inspired by the police makes it clear that the authorities are convinced that the roughs and rowdies who form the rank and file of the rioters are organised and directed by persons well versed in the tactics of street revolutions. The sudden appearance and disappearance of the mobs, combined with rushes in response to a signal, generally in the form of a yell, and the deliberate attempts to entice the police into streets where pitfalls were prepared for them, point unmistakably to this conclusion. Thus in the Rostockerstrasse lights were first extinguished and the roadway sown with broken flower-pots and earthenware, so that mounted police could not enter the street. Then the attention of the police was attracted by yelling or by lighting a bonfire, and men were told off with house keys in their hands, to lock the doors after the rioters had escaped into the houses.

The strike originated in Messrs. Kupfer's yard, the men demanding an increase of six pfennigs an hour for coal heavers, and three marks a week for drivers. The firm of Kupfer, which is controlled by Herr Stennes, one of the greatest coal magnates, refused on the ground that existing contracts did not allow an increase of expenditure. Troubles began when strike-breakers from Alsace drove out of the yard, under protection of the police. Crowds of the strikers, who number 255, with their sympathisers, gathered on the pavements and jeered, whereupon one of the strike-breakers, who was driving, drew a revolver and fired twice amongst the crowd. His arrest was demanded of a police lieutenant, who in reply ordered the mounted police to charge, and bloodshed ensued.

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