

Imperial and Foreign Intelligence.

THE REICHSTAG AND THE CHANCELLOR.

CRITICAL DEBATE TO-DAY.

BERLIN, Dec. 8. The Reichstag did not sit to-day, and there is a lull in political discussion before the appearance of the Imperial Chancellor to-morrow afternoon to deliver his introductory speech on the Estimates. According to all precedent, the speech ought to be devoted mainly or entirely to foreign affairs, but it is assumed that the Chancellor will be bound to revert to the Zaber incident and the events of last week. The attitude of the Reichstag parties would seem to depend largely upon the stage management to-morrow. The Socialists held mass meetings here yesterday and passed resolutions to the effect that all further cooperation with the present Imperial Chancellor and Prussian Minister of War was impossible, but it is said that the approach of the Socialists have made to the other parties that shared in the vote of censure last week have drawn no definite reply. The Imperial Chancellor's position has been the subject of very lively discussion in all quarters here during the past two or three days. The general impression seems to be that his release from office is improbable at present, chiefly because the Emperor William has no suitable candidate in his hand and there is no sufficient reason to desire a change. Nobody, however, can be perfectly certain about the course of events during the next few days. It all goes well, or moderately well, in the debate on the Estimates, the Reichstag will be adjourned as soon as possible and the veil will drop. It is hardly necessary to reproduce all the speculations about possible candidates for the Chancellorship that have been rife while the veil was lifted, and the German Press may be left to discuss such interesting problems as the steadfast absence of Grand Admiral von Tirpitz from the debates next few days. In conversation with a journalist the Secretary of State at Strassburg, Herr Zorn von Bulach, has given a very optimistic account of the probable results of the Zaber case. He says that it has produced a greater community of feeling between the native and the immigrant population of Alsace-Lorraine, that the authorities will in future work hand in hand, and that the "legend" of a military dictatorship in the Reichstag will disappear.

FRENCH NAVAL EXPENDITURE.

RECRUITING BY POSTERS AND LECTURES.

PARIS, Dec. 8. The Budget of naval expenditure foreseen for the year 1914 amounts to 225,337,306, which represents an increase of between three and four millions on that of last year. This provides for the execution of the programme accepted in 1912 with the addition of a battleship and three scouts. Provision is also made for an increase of 4,351 men in personnel. The reconstruction of the French Navy and, in particular, the entry into commission of four large battleships of the Jean Bart type have demanded more men for the crews than the ordinary means of recruiting have been able to supply. The number of men obtainable in coastal districts by the *Inscription Maritime* is strictly limited, and measures have in consequence been taken to extend the scope of the organization for recruiting volunteers in inland Departments and, particularly, in the big industrial towns, with a view to enlisting men with the necessary mechanical knowledge. Forty-three new recruiting offices have been opened and the naval career has been advertised by means of posters and lectures, with the result that 6,500 volunteers have already been received for the Navy since the beginning of the year, against 4,220 in 1912. Towards the total expenses foreseen for 1914 provision is only made in the Budget for 219,564,902. The balance of 5,872,314 will be placed in a special Treasury account and met by bills at short notice in accordance with the terms of the Law of July 30.

PARIS SISTERS OF MERCY.

SCENE AT THE HOTEL DE VILLE.

PARIS, Dec. 8. The banishment of the Sisters of Mercy from the hospitals of Paris, one of the many results of the separation of Church and State, gave rise to-day to scenes of extraordinary violence at the sitting of the Municipal Council of Paris, when the re-admission of the Sisters of Mercy was discussed. Speeches of the most violent partisan flavour were delivered, and several of the members of the Council came to blows, with the result that more than one volunteer was exchanged. Finally the re-admission of the Sisters was refused, but it was decided to subsidize various philanthropic works in which they are interested.

OPENING OF THE MUSÉE ANDRÉ.

PARIS, Dec. 8. The Jacquemart-André Museum, the art collection bequeathed to the Institut de France by Madame Edouard André, and of which a description was given in *The Times* of December 2, was opened this morning by President Poincaré, who was accompanied by the Under-Secretary of Fine Arts, M. Bérard, and a number of members of the Institute, including M. Ribot, Gabriel Hanotaux, and Jules Claretie, the former Director of the Théâtre Français. The President inspected the whole collection under the guidance of the curator, M. Emile Béraux, and before leaving signed his name in the visitors' book, adding "De l'Académie Française."

NAPOLEON'S HOUSE.

PARIS, Dec. 8. Attention has recently been drawn to the state of dilapidation into which Longwood, Napoleon's house at St. Helena, has fallen. The French Government contributes a small sum for the maintenance of the building, but this is almost entirely absorbed by the salary of the custodian. A Bill authorizing further expenditure has been introduced in the Chamber. It has the support of Deputies of every political complexion.

MISHAP TO A ZEPPELIN AIRSHIP.

WRECKAGE OF THE L.I. RECOVERED.

BERLIN, Dec. 8. The Zeppelin airship Sachsen, which is temporarily in the service of the German Navy, arrived at Hamburg this morning after a long

and rather hazardous journey. She left Dresden on Saturday night, but lost her way in a mist before she reached Hamburg and had to make an emergency landing in an open field at Quickborn, in Schleswig-Holstein. Here she remained from 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon until half-past 11 this morning. Just before she landed she damaged some telephone wires, but was not injured herself. With the aid of passers-by the crew succeeded in making the ship fast for the night, and they were subsequently reinforced by an airship company from Hamburg. This morning the airship reached Hamburg in 20 minutes. Two large benzine tanks and parts of the framework of the naval airship L.I. which was wrecked in the North Sea in September, were recovered yesterday by the German steamboat Leunburg, which was fishing near Helligoland.

SICKNESS INSURANCE IN GERMANY.

DOCTORS AND SERVANTS.

BERLIN, Dec. 7. The Imperial Secretary of State for the Interior, Herr Delbrück, replied yesterday in the Reichstag to a Conservative interpellation upon Imperial sickness insurance. The interpellation called attention to the dispute between doctors and sick fund societies, and to the difficulties of domestic servant insurance, which were explained in *The Times* of November 13, and it suggested that the operation of the new regulations, which under the present arrangements are to come into force on January 1 next, should be postponed. Herr Delbrück answered that there was no occasion for postponement. None of the Federal States had made representations which suggested that it was necessary. It was now two and a half years since the Law was promulgated, and there had been ample time to study the regulations. The Law itself had been discussed as far back as 1892, so that there could be no question of hasty legislation. Even that it had been agreed that universal servant insurance was ultimately inevitable. It had long existed in some form in many parts of Germany. There was insurance of agricultural hands in Baden and Saxony and some smaller States, a "general insurance" of servants in Bavaria since 1880, and a legislative framework for it in Württemberg. In Prussia a large number of servants were already insured. The servant class itself desired it, and many employers found it a burden privately to bear the cost even of the slight ailments of their servants. Conservatism mistrusted the urban sick fund societies as expensive and likely to breed agitation and division, and preferred rural societies, specially adapted for servants. Their views had been considered. It had been made a rule that rural societies, if they were to be established, should be subject to the same regulations as those which were in force in the urban societies. There were no others, and that where servants were insured through urban societies they should have special treatment and special rates. Herr Delbrück admitted that the regulations for the administration of the Law had not altogether taken the shape he had desired, but he hoped that omissions would ultimately be made good. A postponement would not, as Conservatism supposed, hasten a settlement between the doctors and the sick fund societies. He would not enter into the merits of the dispute, because it had been decided to leave the two parties to agree among themselves, and discussion in the Reichstag would only aggravate the controversy. He hoped, however, that an agreement would be reached in time, upon the basis of arbitration—adopted privately and by consent of both parties, without Government control. The Conservative spokesman, Count Westarp, said that the system of private insurance should be allowed to remain in the country where it should be released from compulsion who could not afford to have insured privately with a properly-qualified society. He described the difficulties which would attend the engagement of doctors in the country under the new regulations, and contrasted the present position in most of the East Prussian estates, where he said the employer had arranged with his own doctor to attend the sick in the estates at the cost of the estate. The position would be much worse for them when they had to depend upon the sick fund societies.

ACTION BY THE DOCTORS.

DECEMBER 8. The "Leipzig League," the main organization of doctors concerned in sick insurance work, held a meeting at Leipzig yesterday and resolved to break off all the local negotiations with the *Krankenkassen* throughout Germany wherever recognition is refused to the doctors' organization. It is maintained that this action is necessary in view of the attitude adopted by the Prussian Government in particular, and the Leipzig League is making elaborate arrangements to bring about the developments of the situation throughout Germany.

DUCH CENTENARY PAGEANT.

QUEEN WILHELMINA AT SCHEVENINGEN.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 8. To-day at Scheveningen, on the identical spot where on November 30, 1813, the Prince of Orange landed after Holland had regained its independence, this historical event was commemorated amid general rejoicings. The Queen, the Princess Royal, the Queen-Dowager, and the Prince Consort were present. In a historical pageant, exact in every detail as far as local surroundings and quaint picturesque costumes could make it, the events of 100 years ago were recalled. The Trimmervater, Count Hogenland, Count Limburg Stirum, and Baron van der Duyn van Maasdijk, who assumed control of the Government after the French had withdrawn, were represented by lineal descendants. Mr. Pronk, whose great-grandfather carried the Prince of Orange ashore on November 30, 1813, represented his ancestor to-day. The weather was fine, and the proceedings passed off without a hitch. The village was gaily decorated, and the enthusiastic reception given to the Royal Family on their leaving for The Hague clearly indicated that the Dutch people and the Orange Nassau dynasty are as closely united as ever. To-night the village is brilliantly illuminated, and, though the weather had become unfavourable, the Queen went back to Scheveningen to express her gratitude to the loyal fishermen.

SUFFRAGISTS AT WHITE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. The President received this morning the delegation from the recent suffragist convention, and told them that as the leader of the Democratic Party he could not officially oppose their cause owing to the absence of a plank about it in the Baltimore platform. This leaves the Progressives as the only party favouring equal suffrage.

NEW YORK DEATH-RATE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. The death-rate of New York City now closely approximates that of London. The report of the Health Department shows that in 1909 the rate per 1,000 was 18; in 1910 it was 16.98, in 1911 it fell to 15.13, and in 1912 to 14.11, while for the 48 weeks of 1913 it is 13.77. In 1912 the rate for Chicago was 14.68, for Paris 16.38, for Berlin 14.39, and for London 13.52. A noteworthy feature of the New York statistics is the reduction of infant mortality from 137 per 1,000 in 1909 to 110 in 1912; it is expected that the rate this year will be about 100.

A Reuter telegram from Sigmaringen states that, owing to the illness of Princess Leopold of Hohenzollern, the grand-daughter of Doña Augustina de Braganza, Dom Manoel and his consort have returned there from Munich.

NEWFOUNDLAND PROGRESS.

REASONS AGAINST UNION WITH CANADA.

TORONTO, Dec. 8. Speaking to-day at the Canadian Club, Mr. P. T. McGrath, a member of the Newfoundland Legislative Council, gave the reasons why Newfoundland had declined to enter the Canadian Confederation. He said that the Islanders were practically untaught, and emphasized the fact that Newfoundland now controls the bait supply, and Canada could only secure a share of the bait by consent of the island authorities. Confederation, on the other hand, would transfer the control of the fisheries to Ottawa and to a more remote and probably less sympathetic Government. Merchants were apprehensive of competition from the stronger commercial organizations of Canada. The railway mileage of the island was now equal to that of the Dominion in proportion to its population, and the development of the island's resources was proceeding satisfactorily. He suggested that the Eastern Canadian provinces had not benefited by the Confederation, and showed how difficult it was for Prince Edward Island to obtain the facilities of communication promised at the moment of confederation, and emphasized the friction between Canada and British Columbia over the terms of union. If Newfoundland came into the Confederation she would be obliged to support two sets of legislators instead of one, and any approximation of the commercial system of the island to that of Canada would involve direct taxation. A portion of the speech which greatly interested the audience was a description of the Earningsworth pulp and paper works in the island, and the impetus which the whole life of the country had received from this important industrial development. The address greatly impressed the meeting, and it was received with the utmost good will, although probably few of those who listened were not anxious that Newfoundland should show a disposition to come into the Confederation.

MAILS FOR THE FAR NORTH.

TWO THOUSAND MILES BY DOG TEAM.

TORONTO, Dec. 8. Four employees of the Hudson's Bay Company have just left Edmonton with two dog teams, each drawing 300 lb. weight of mails and provisions for Fort McPherson. The journey of 2,100 miles is the longest overland mail trip in the world. The party is expected to reach the fringe of the Arctic Circle at the end of February. After covering the first 100 miles, from Edmonton to Athabasca, by train, the party started on the lonely trail which follows the windings of the Athabasca, Slave, and Mackenzie rivers. Included in the mail is a package for Mr. Stefansson, the Arctic explorer, to be delivered at Henshell Island.

CENTRAL AMERICAN CONTROL.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION UMPIRES IN SANTO DOMINGO.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. The President's informal declaration of his intention to try to extend to other Central American countries the terms of Mr. Bryan's draft treaty with Nicaragua has caused a good deal of agitation in the Republics concerned. While accepting the "manifest destiny" of the United States in its relations with Southern neighbours, various American newspapers hasten to assure Central America that the President does not contemplate the employment of force. *The World* and the still more regular school of anti-imperial sentiment express grief at the backsliding of a statesman whose orthodoxy was considered years ago to be beyond reproach. The American umpires in the pending Parliamentary elections in Santo Domingo sailed yesterday. Their task is complicated by the fact that neither side wants their government, and that both sides have repudiated the Government's official intimation that it would appreciate their presence. It is feared that a revolution may greet the Administration's latest attempt to help the disturbed Latin American Republics into paths of constitutionalism.

"NAVAL HOLIDAY" RESOLUTION.

AMERICAN DEMOCRATS AND PACIFICISM.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. Mr. Hensley's "naval holiday" resolution passed the House of Representatives this afternoon by a vote of 317 to 11. The resolution instructs the President to use his influence, with due regard to the interests of the United States, to consummate Mr. Churchill's suggestion that the Powers agree to suspend for a year their programmes of naval construction. Whether or not the resolution is destined to have any profound influence on international affairs, there can be no doubt of its interest as an object lesson of certain characteristics of Democratic thought. The debates which preceded the vote make curious reading. Member after member preached pacificism in impassioned phrases and dilated upon the mission of the United States as the maker of lasting peace. Only a few lone Republicans thought it worth while to point out that "peace societies were not until recently much in vogue." Unless some crisis in Mexico, Panama, or the Andron this suggests badly for the Navy Department's two battleships programme.

UNITED STATES CURRENCY LAW.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.

It is now expected that the new Currency and Banking Law will be enacted early next year, and that the law will resemble substantially the Pass Bill passed by the House of Representatives. The expectation is based upon the smoothness with which the debate is going in the Senate. The passage of the Currency Bill will clear the way for Trust legislation. The President is expected to dominate whatever may be done just as he dominated the Tariff and Currency situations. Scant interest, consequently, is felt in the hearings that the House Judiciary Committee begin to-morrow. There is a strong conviction that the Administration will not be found alarmingly radical. The business community, nevertheless, is anxious. At present everything waits upon the Currency Bill. A resumption of activity is hoped for after it has passed, and there is a certain discontent that Washington should immediately raise another delicate subject for legislation.

SAFETY OF FOREIGNERS IN MEXICO.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 7.

The general Army Orders issued to-day direct that foreigners shall not be interfered with in any way. If fighting occurs, the Federal officers must understand that the lives and property of all foreigners must be respected. No moneys or supplies must be exacted, and foreigners must be permitted to leave the scene of fighting at any time they wish.

THE SECOND BALKAN WAR.

IV.—RESULTS, AND PROSPECTS OF THE FUTURE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA.)

The second Balkan War, scandalous in its origin and glorious in its conclusion—for the issue was decided not alone by the prowess of the combatants, but by the intervention of a *tertius gaudens*—was fought out with a savagery to which it would be difficult to find a parallel even in the wars of the Middle Ages. The venser of civilization in South-Eastern Europe is but slight, the growth of a few decades of freedom. With the outbreak of war the pent-up passions of centuries were let loose. In the first war a great number of atrocities were undoubtedly committed by the Macedo-Bulgars; it was a *jacquerie*, a revolt of oppressed peasants who had a long score to settle with the tyrants of yesterday. During the second war and the period immediately preceding it the systematic extermination of the Bulgarian element was carried out by the Greeks *par ordre supérieur*; a peculiar feature in the process was the transportation of thousands of peasants across the sea to unknown destinations. The fate of these unhappy people remains obscure. It is impossible to admit that any of the combatants have had a clean record in regard to atrocities; as Sir Edward Grey observed in the House of Commons, we cannot say that all the charges against any of them are wholly unfounded, and pharisaical claims to innocence on any side must be rejected. An unscrupulous Press campaign conducted against Bulgaria at a time when, owing to her isolation, she was unable to defend herself, considerably prejudiced her case in the eyes of the world. It is not for their own sake that we are unwilling to support her plausible excuses for her attitude. While we deplore the terrible savagery which marked this fratricidal conflict, we must avoid the injustice of judging the Balkan nations too harshly. All wars, even those waged between highly civilized nations, are replete with horrors. The Christian races of South-Eastern Europe are only such as 500 years of Asiatic tyranny have made them. The conflict of races and creeds in Macedonia, deliberately encouraged by Abdul Hamid, and subsequently by the Young Turks, perpetuated and heightened ancient animosities. The horrors which have taken place were to be expected, and were foretold at the beginning of the struggle. In the first war the Turkish example of barbarity; this was followed by all the Allies without exception in both the first and second wars. As recent investigation has shown, perhaps the worst offenders were those who declared to the world *ex cathedra*, and indeed *ex throno*, that their enemies were "monsters" and that they themselves possessed "clean hands."

OBJECTS OF THE ALLIES.

There would be much consolation in the belief that the struggle of last summer was the final act in the long-drawn drama of bloodshed and misery in the Balkans. Unhappily there is little in the "settlement" to justify such a conclusion. The war of the Allies against Turkey was in its inception a war of liberation—for Greece in regard to the Aegean, and for Serbia and Montenegro, in a lesser degree, in regard to the Sanjak of Novi-bazar. The real object of Serbia, as stated to the writer by an eminent Serbian statesman, the possession of Northern Albania with an outlet on the Adriatic; that of Montenegro, as admitted by King Nicholas himself, was the capture of Skutari. But these ambitions were not avowed at the outset; Bulgaria and Greece at least entered the conflict with noble aims. As Sofia, where I have harboured overweening ambitions, has the object which the whole nation has steadily pursued in the past and will continue to pursue in the future is simply the realization of race unity. The attainment of this natural and legitimate desire, which seemed impending at the close of the first war, has been postponed, perhaps for decades, by the artificial partition of Macedonia carried out at Bukarest. Herein lies the danger, if not the certainty, of another struggle in the future.

THE NEW BOUNDARIES.

Serbia has absorbed the whole of Central and Western Macedonia, thus doubling her area. In these regions, except in the extreme west, where the Albanian element is strong, the Bulgarian element predominates, numbering, for example, some 80 per cent. of the population in the kazas of Prilep and Kratovo, some 70 per cent. in those of Ochrida and Veles, and about 60 per cent. in that of Monastir. The remaining population is almost entirely Turkish or Albanian; in Monastir about 15 per cent. is Vlach; in Dibra about 48 per cent. is Bulgarian, about 46 per cent. Albanian. It remains to be seen whether Serbia will be able to assimilate this large Slav population; her troops have recently accounted for many thousands of revolted Albanian and Bulgarian peasants. In the southern portion of Macedonia acquired by the Greeks it is difficult to say what proportion of the Bulgarian population remains. It has to a large extent disappeared owing to the drastic measures taken by the army, enforced emigration, and systematic extermination; about 150,000 refugees from the districts traversed by the troops in the second war are now in Bulgaria. The districts of Yenidje, Zafar, Vodana, Doiran, and Kukuk were entirely inhabited by Bulgarian and Turkish; in the Vodana kazas the Bulgarian element was about 80 per cent. of the whole population; Florina was mainly Bulgarian and Turkish, with a small sprinkling of Albanians and Vlachs; in Kastoria the bulk of the rural population was Bulgarian, with a small intermixture of Turks, Albanians, and Vlachs; the urban population is mainly Greek. Kavala has been described as a Greek town, but of its 9,500 inhabitants some 5,000 are Turks, some 3,500 Greeks. The villages of the kazas, with a population of 11,000, are all Turkish or Bulgarian or Greek, and in Kavala cannot, therefore, be defended on ethnic grounds. In the town and kazas of Sorres the Turkish and Greek populations have hitherto been almost equal, numbering each about 28,000; the Bulgarian population, which was almost entirely rural, numbered 40,000. It is true that in these Southern Macedonian regions a constantly decreasing minority among the Bulgarians, the so-called "Bulgrophone Greeks," have remained attached to the Greek Patriarchate; their existence turns the only palliative of the Greek claim to ethnic principle perpetrated by the Treaty of Bukarest. It is difficult to believe that such an arrangement can be permanent. No doubt the Serbizing and Hellenizing processes already applied with unsparring rigour will be attended with a certain measure of success, but they will hardly prove more efficacious than the Magyarization of Transylvania and Croatia or than the short-lived Ottomanization attempted by the Young Turks. For more than a century every conceivable method has been adopted by these Empires to extinguish Polish national sentiment, but in vain. The advocates of the new tripartite division of the Bulgarian race are fain to fall back on the Serbian thesis, advanced by Professor Cvijic and others, that Macedonia is inhabited by a Slav-speaking race without any pronounced national consciousness. Such a doctrine may harmonize with Serbian political aims—in his famous speech M. Pashitch declared that the Macedonian question could not be settled on the basis of nationalities—but it is

not according to knowledge. Unhappily the number of impartial persons who are entitled to pronounce an opinion on the ethnic question in Macedonia based on first-hand knowledge and intimate acquaintance with the population, is small indeed. For this it is necessary to speak the languages of the country and to have spent a considerable time in contact with the people. Those who are thus qualified are practically unanimous that the great bulk of the population is Bulgarian and that it has always been Bulgarian. Such, for instance, was the opinion of the American missionaries who have lived and laboured for years among the people, and who have addressed a memorandum on the subject to the Powers.

THE BULGARIAN REVIVAL.

During the earlier centuries of Turkish rule the Bulgarian masses lost to a great extent the consciousness of their nationality; literary culture and religious instruction were alike a monopoly of the Greeks, and the better-educated Bulgarians, the natural leaders of the people, became Hellenized. But with the gradual spread of education the national spirit, as was inevitable, revived; it had never been wholly extinct, and the bulk of the rural population, though reckoned as Greek by the Turks and the outer world, never ceased to call itself Bulgarian. Too much importance is often ascribed to external influences in regard to the Bulgarian revival. The national movement originated from within; it was favoured indeed by Russia and immensely advanced by the establishment of the Exarchate, which would hardly have taken place without Russian aid. But the Exarchate, which furnished the organization for education, was the outcome of a spontaneous movement, especially among the Macedonian Bulgars, and the success of its educational propaganda was due to the fact that the seed which was sown fell upon congenial ground. The exploits of the armed bands, which subsequently invaded Macedonia from all sides, are easily overstated. The invaders were, as a rule, out of sympathy with the local populations, and the "conversions" which they effected, were taken place without Russian aid. It has been well said that if Macedonia were placed under an oligarchy of Turkish archangels there would nevertheless be no peace so long as the legitimate and natural aspirations of its inhabitants were set aside. The new dispensation may prove angelic, but it will not bring peace. The Treaty of Bukarest is open to criticism on other grounds, apart from its violation of the ethnic principle. In the name of "equilibrium" it enhances the disparity between Rumania and Bulgaria by increasing the territory of the former State at the expense of the latter. The wages of peace have already been diminished by a third. It establishes a Greek Dalmatia along the coast with a frontier drawn expressly with the purpose of excluding Bulgarian access to the sea by the Mesta valley. It has been drawn up on vindictive principles, and, though heralded to the world in unctuous speeches announcing the birth of amity and harmony in the Balkans, can at best be regarded as a truce.

BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT MAJORITY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA.)

SOFIA, Dec. 8. The results of the elections have not yet been announced, but it has been ascertained that the Government obtains a small, but working, majority. The Socialist Party stands next on the polls and the Agrarians follow. The overthrow of the Russophil Party is complete.

ARMENIAN REFORM.

PARLIAMENTARY AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 8. The negotiations conducted principally by the Russian and German Ambassadors with the Porte with regard to the proposed reforms in the Administration of the six Eastern vilayets seem to have made some slight progress. It is, however, still impossible to say whether the moderate wing of the party which stands behind the present Ottoman Government will succeed in persuading the extremists to abandon opposition to anything that savours of foreign control.

RAILWAYS IN ASIA MINOR.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, Dec. 8. The Franco-German negotiations regarding railway interests in Asia Minor, which were interrupted the week before last, were resumed here to-day. There is no reason to suppose that an agreement has been concluded. A short semi-official communication to the *Cologne Gazette* on Saturday, however, said:—"It is reported to be believed that—with reservation of the settlement of details—a basis for an agreement has been found."

NEW VICTORIAN CABINET.

MELBOURNE, Dec. 8.

The Victorian Cabinet has now been formed as follows:—  
Mr. G. A. Emslie .. Premier and Treasurer  
Mr. G. M. Fyndergast .. Chief Secretary  
Mr. W. J. Evans .. Attorney-General and Public Health  
Mr. John Lemmon .. Education and Labour  
Mr. W. Plain .. Lands, Water Supply, and Agriculture  
Mr. A. R. Outtrim .. Mines and Forests  
Mr. J. W. Wilson .. Railways  
Mr. A. McLellan .. Public Works  
Mr. D. Smith and Mr. Hannat are honorary members of the Ministry in the House of Assembly and Mr. J. P. Jones and Mr. Fielding in the Legislative Council.

NEW SOUTH WALES ELECTIONS.

SYDNEY, Dec. 8.

At present the Labour Party has won 40 seats in the New South Wales elections, and the Liberals 37. Second ballot will be necessary in 13 constituencies, and the Liberals are confident of winning the majority of these. There is a possibility of absent votes altering the position slightly.

PRIMITIVE RACES OF EAST AFRICA.

PROPOSED OFFICIAL SURVEY.

A memorial for presentation to the Colonial Secretary has been drawn up and is in course of signature by the leading anthropologists of Great Britain in favour of the appointment of a Government anthropologist in Central and East Africa. It urges upon the Government the necessity of undertaking without delay an anthropological survey of the Uganda Protectorate and British East Africa.

Alike in the interests of good government and of science, the memorialists point out that within these regions there are a number of large tribes in various stages of barbarism which have as yet come little under British influence and about which we know very little. It is important that a full and accurate record of the institutions, laws, customs, and beliefs of these tribes should be obtained, both for scientific reasons and in order to facilitate Government dealings with the natives. The comparatively trifling expense of obtaining such a record would soon be covered by the economy effected through the avoidance of punitive expeditions and petty wars that often arise from official ignorance of tribal beliefs and usages. Such wars leave lasting bitterness in the minds of the natives and cost many English lives and much money. At the present moment a competent Government anthropologist would be able to obtain an exact record of many interesting and scientifically important institutions and usages that will be modified or corrupted as soon as the tribes come into regular contact with Europeans. The loss to anthropological science and to human history would be irreparable.

The memorialists therefore suggest that the Government should follow the precedent created some years ago by the appointment of a Government anthropologist in Southern Nigeria. They recognize that the value of the work to be done must depend largely upon the qualifications of the man selected to do it. In the case of Uganda and British East Africa they recommend an expert who has already spent 25 years in those regions and has made invaluable contributions to knowledge of the tribes that inhabit them. It is proposed that the work previously done by him with inadequate means and on his private initiative should now be resumed on an official basis with Government countenance and support.

THE OLD WOODEN SHIP AT WOOLWICH.

CONFLICT OF EXPERT OPINION.

Experts are divided in opinion regarding the parts of the large wooden ship discovered at Woolwich. It is not yet established whether they are the remains of a 16th century man-of-war such as the Great Harry or Drake's Pelican, renamed the Golden Hind, and therefore, to be esteemed and venerated, or of an 18th century merchantman, unknown and unhonoured.

The first announcement of the finding of the ship appeared in *The Times* so long ago as November 18, 1912, when it was stated that a section, about 30 ft. wide and in a good state of preservation, was excavated during excavations on the site of the new electricity station, Borough Council on the south bank of the Thames. The place was immediately visited by the late Sir William White, Director of Naval Construction, who examined the remains and expressed the opinion that the vessel had been there about 160 years. In January last the notice of the Committee of the London County Council who are in charge of the excavations, and made the reply of the Woolwich Borough Council that they thought it necessary to make an expert report to the Council, but they suggested to the Woolwich Borough Council that they might preserve a section of the ship, the reply of the Woolwich Borough Council was that they had no power to incur the expense of taking out and reconstructing the remains. Both bodies, it appears, were influenced by the testimony of Sir William White.

The matter has now been revived by Mr. Seymour Lucas, R.A., who painted "The Armada in Sight." He has inspected the timbers, and is convinced that they are the remains of an early 17th century ship of war, probably the Great Harry, some 150 years old to the water's edge and taken to the dock built at Woolwich in 1621, where the hull sank. He says:—"These ships of little is known of the construction of the hull, but it is probably correct to suppose that the ribs, the side of the keelson seen in the photograph, are absolutely irrefutable evidence of the date of the hull. It was shown two wheels, evidently those of a gun-carriage of the reign of Henry VIII, or of the early years of Elizabeth, some 150 years old, and some pieces of Elizabethan pottery, all of which had been taken out of the hull. Of course, an antiquary would be very anxious to obtain much additional evidence if he could have been present during the excavations. When I arrived the timbers of the wreck were being carried away to Castles' timber-yard. The timbers have been bought by Messrs. Hindley, architectural decorators, Whitebeck-street, who are disposed to believe, on the testimony of an expert in naval history, that they are rather the remains of the Pelican, which was preserved at Deptford, as a monument of Drake's voyage, and is supposed to have been removed to Woolwich some time in the 18th century. Therefore the difficult question of the date of the ship remains to be solved. Messrs. Hindley are having further work made; and should it be established that the remains are those of the Great Harry or the Pelican they are prepared to have the hull reconstructed on some suitable public site, for reconstruction of the hull is probably the best way of preserving it. It is further stated that an offer of the necessary funds for the reconstruction has been received by Mr. Seymour Lucas."

FIRE IN AN AMERICAN STEAMER.

PASSENGERS TRANSFERRED AND RE-EMBARKED.

NORFOLK (Va.), Dec. 8.\*

In answer to a distress call from the coasting steamer Rio Grande stating that she was on fire 200 miles off the Diamond shoals early this morning the British freight steamer Swanmore removed 197 passengers, who subsequently returned to the Rio Grande after the fire had been subdued. The Rio Grande is now proceeding under her own steam.

PHILADELPHIA ART MUSEUM.

Philadelphia is to have a new Art Museum at an estimated cost of \$3,000,000 (\$300,000), of which \$200,000 has already been appropriated for the beginning of the work.

The new museum will occupy the elevation known as Fairmount Reservoir, some little way out of the city but within easy access by train. The plan for the building has been approved by the Fairmount Park Commission. The first floor of the new museum will consist of 23 galleries, with over 20,000 square feet of floor surface, and some 1,800 linear feet of wall surface for pictures. The second floor will contain 35 galleries and over 2,400 linear feet of wall space for pictures. When finished the Philadelphia Art Museum will be one of the finest and most spacious in the world, not only in size, but also in the quality and variety of its contents. Several great private collections of pictures have been promised so soon as the building is finished. Mr. John G. Johnson, the art collector, numbering some 1,500 pictures by Old Masters, foreign and English, and comprising a number of fine examples of the Early Italian and Dutch schools—he has, for instance, one of the 64 recorded examples of Johannes Vermeer, of Delft—will form a feature of the new museum. Mr. P. A. B. Widener's much smaller collection of splendid masterpieces—it comprises a dozen Rembrandts, among them the famous "Mill" bought from Lord Lansdowne—has also been promised to the museum, and so also has the Elkins collection. Other wealthy Philadelphians have promised their collections, following in this the example of which the latest, and so far the most remarkable, was the bequest of the late Mr. Benjamin Altman, of New York, to whose pictures and objects of art reference was made in *The Times* of October 9 last.