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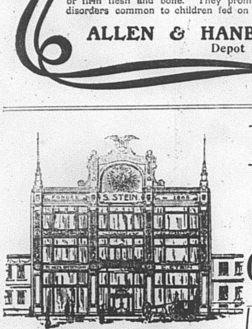


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## ARMY AND NAVY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

London, May 25.

The colonelcy of the 2nd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps is vacant by the appointment of Lord Grenfell to that of the 2nd Life Guards.

Some details of Engineers, Artillery, and Infantry will be sent to Egypt next month, to fill vacancies in the usual course.

It is expected that the 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and the 2nd Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment in Egypt will leave that country next trooping season for Malta and India respectively.

Lieutenant B. G. Bromhead, Royal Berkshire Regiment, on completion of three years' service with the South African Constabulary, has been posted for duty to the 1st Battalion at Dublin, and joins this week.

The 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade, which left England in 1887 for Egypt, will leave Aden about September for home. On arrival home it will be stationed at Devonport.

Rear-Admiral Edmund S. Poe, C.V.O., a well-known Queen's County officer, has been selected to succeed Rear-Admiral G.L. Atkinson-Willes as Commander-in-chief of the East Indies Squadron. Rear-Admiral Poe has commanded the First Cruiser Squadron for some time and prior to that he was second in command of the Home Fleet.

Yesterday—Empire Day—the King witnessed some manœuvres at Aldershot and subsequently unveiled a memorial to the memory of the officers and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps who laid down their lives in the late South African War. In doing so his Majesty said that it gave him a melancholy pleasure to accede to the request to unveil the memorial in remembrance of the gallant officers and men who fell in South Africa. He was aware of the valuable services they rendered to their country and to the sick and wounded, and he was sure that the Corps would now and in the future, if possible, excel in those duties. A number of officers of the R.A.M.C. were afterwards presented to the King.

Empire Day was marked at St. Paul's Cathedral by the unveiling by the Prince of Wales of the memorial to the Colonial soldiers who fell in South Africa. The impressive ceremony was carried out in the presence of a very large and fashionable congregation, including the Prime Minister, the Secretary for War, the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Mr. and Mrs Chamberlain, Sir Redvers Buller, the Princes Francis and Alexander of Teck, the Colonial Agents-General, &c. The monument, which is of bronze, bears the inscription: "To the undying honor of the 4,300 sons of Britain across the sea, who gave their lives for the mother country in South Africa, 1899-1902."

Temperance principles are making such steady progress in the Army that even the most fanatical zealot might be expected to wait and watch for the final outcome. It appears, however, that some of these well-meaning but utterly wrong-headed persons are striving to confine membership of the Royal Army Temperance Association exclusively to teetotallers. At present this excellent institution is happily free from that restriction on its usefulness, and the result is that thousands of the rank and file join who would hold aloof were total abstinence made a governing condition of membership. It is not disputed that this professional combination against over-indulgence in strong drink operates most beneficially both individually and collectively. All military authorities are agreed on that point, and they are also practically unanimous in opposing the mischievous proposals of the fanatical faddists. As matters stand, the way is smoothed for the moderate drinker to become a total abstainer gradually if so disposed, a process which constantly produces the effect desired by the teetotal crusaders. They would do well to reflect, therefore, whether the cause they have at heart—a right good cause, in itself—would be likely to benefit by barring out from membership of the association every soldier who could not see his way to subscribe to their particular shibboleth.

We have it now, on the authority of the Army Council, that a number of men serving in the Army Reserve have applied to be taken back to the colours because of their inability to find work. It is impossible to over-estimate the seriousness of the announcement, in view of the fact that the whole recruiting problem turns on this question of the employment of soldiers on their return to civil life. Things have been tending this way for some time past, and it is having its due effect on the recruiting market. With the prospect of their sons having to join the ranks of the unemployed in return for serving their King and country, it is unreasonable to expect respectable parents to allow them to enlist if they have the power to prevent them. The behaviour of some of the railway companies and other large employers of labour in finding work for ex-soldiers is most patriotic, and it is to be regretted that the Government departments do not follow their example. It is rather the duty of the authorities to set the example, but they do not do so. At the recent meeting of the Society for the Employment of Reserve and Discharged Soldiers, it was prominently remarked upon that the civil departments of the Government, outside the War Office, have done nothing; they are most apathetic in the matter. Among the class from which the Army used to draw its best recruits it is now common report that enlistment in the Army is the very worst look-out for a decent lad. The Government is, to a very great extent, responsible for this—not the War Office, because I think every effort has been made there to find employment for the men; and I hope that the War Secretary will now hasten to urge on the other departments their duty in the matter.

Confidence is still shaken in Mr. Balfour's assurances that, provided we maintain a predominant Navy, we need never fear foreign invasion. The discussion verges, however, on the academic, the premisses remain problematical, the security we are promised is still conditional. Not so the threat to India, which looms much nearer, with no more guarantee against it than safeguarding Afghanistan. We are told that any attempt on its integrity will be taken as a *casus belli*, and that we shall fight forthwith. It is but common prudence to consider what this means. What array of force could we marshal for the defence of India against attack from the North-West Frontier? Lord Kitchener has fixed the numbers he would require in immediate reinforcement at eight infantry divisions, with the necessary artillery and cavalry, the whole totalling to upwards of 100,000 men. Now, we have in all, exclusive of the permanent Indian garrison, barely 300,000 men available for external war, and this total includes every regular soldier at home and abroad, in these islands and at the Colonies, with the first class Army Reserve of, say, 75,000 men thrown in. The balance of less than 200,000, after deducting the first immediate addition to the Indian garrison as above, will be the sum total of our armed strength left to meet the wastage on the first year's campaigning. Here is matter for very grave and solemn consideration. We may hug ourselves in the knowledge that invasion of these islands has been pronounced impossible by experts, but the invasion of India is certainly on the cards, and Mr. Balfour has gone the length of stating exactly what would bring us into the field. No alarmist is needed to point out how ludicrously unequal we should be to the crisis, and, properly used, the champions of conscription should find they have in this a powerful weapon in their hands.

## OUR LONDON LETTER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

London, May 27.

It is, perhaps, just as well to recall the fact that the Anglo-Japanese Treaty, which was signed on January 30, 1902, is to remain in force for five years from that date, and that it contained a stipulation to the effect that if neither party to it notified, twelve months before the expiration of that period, an intention to terminate it, it should continue in force until the expiration of one year from any date on which either of them should denounce it. The Treaty, therefore, primarily holds good until January 30, 1907, but his Majesty's Government must, naturally enough, already be seriously considering what steps, in the not very distant future, will have to be taken in regard to it. The considerations that necessarily arise are whether it should be renewed in its present form, or whether a new Treaty should be entered into, giving a much wider and more comprehensive scope to the alliance between the two countries. The subject is one of the most vital importance, and we may rest assured that it has Lord Lansdowne's very earnest and anxious attention. So long as the war between Russia and Japan lasts the existing Treaty, of course, endures; but as we all devoutly hope that it may be over before 1907, it is eminently desirable that negotiations between Japan and ourselves should proceed so that when the adjustment of things in the Far East has to be faced our position and theirs may be perfectly clear.

Colonel Lonsdale Hale sounds a note of serious warning in the "Times" against the light-hearted optimism of his Majesty's Government on the subject of possible "raids" upon our coast lines by the enemy in the event of war. Mr. Arnold-Forster has stated, in the House, that raids "are not a source of serious anxiety to his Majesty's Government." To which Colonel Lonsdale Hale replies, in effect, that, if they are not, they ought to be. Mr. Arnold Forster has issued certain Army Orders giving the reorganisation of military commands, which specify the duties of the "commanders of coast defences." But where are those "200,000 Volunteers, thoroughly trained and thoroughly equipped," who, he told the House of Commons, "will suffice to meet a raid"? And echo answers—"Where?" Colonel Hale points out that raids are not only possible but extremely probable, and, furthermore, that it will be impossible to improvise adequate coast defence at the last moment. All which suggests that, *pace* Mr. Balfour, we have yet something to do before we ought to feel quite happy and comfortable as to the safety of our enormous coast line.

Monday's "scene in the House" was, of course, in colloquial language, "such a scene as never was." It had shocked the members and the public, and amazed the oldest inhabitant of Westminster, who can find no parallel for it, in his experience. The damage done reacts in several directions. This crazy "scene" makes us contemptible in the eyes of foreign observers, once envious of our calm and order, and encourages the further ravages of that disorder that makes modern government a difficult matter. It may also have far-reaching consequences at home. Already pessimism was prevalent enough. Experienced observers have deplored in hopeless despair the 'decay of Parliament," without being able to suggest a plausible remedy for the disease, and the public has shown a marked impatience with the way in which the nation's business is conducted by those who are sent to Westminster for that high purpose. But this last extravagance crowns all. Nothing more is needed to prove how low we have sunk, and a point may now have been reached at which comes the conviction that "something must be done." It is a thousand pities that there is no law enforcing severe penalties against those who organise degrading and dangerous exhibitions, for under its operations many honorable members would assuredly have come. Failing that some other plan must be tried. For it is plain that a continuance of present conditions endangers the stability of the Constitution, and does incalculable harm to the welfare of the State.

If anything could make the Opposition thoroughly ashamed of themselves for Monday night's scene it should be the criticisms in the German papers. All deplore it, and most treat it as a proof of the decadence of the parliamentary principle and as indicating the approaching end of our Parliamentary system. The Berlin "Post" pertinently asks what impression the scene will make in Russia, where the people are just beginning to reach forward to the Parliamentary idea. It must be a proud thought for the Opposition that they have not only degraded the Mother of Parliaments in the eyes of the world, but have done what they could to stifle aspirations towards freedom in other lands.

Once again the Channel Tunnel scheme, which has been in abeyance for over twenty years, is likely to be dragged into the light and seriously considered as a practical project. The matter has been under discussion at a meeting of English and French railway managers, and the opinion was expressed that the time was near when the national approval might be sought with reasonable prospects of success. The support of France and its investors is reckoned as assured. It is from this side of the Channel that opposition will come, if at all. Twenty years ago the argument that killed the Bill was that of the increased risk of invasion. The cordial relations now existing between France and England, of course, discount this objection to some extent. It is a pity that Mr. Balfour, in his recent estimate of the chances of invasion, could not have taken this possible factor into account. As to the commercial advantage to both countries of such a tunnel, if once constructed, there could be but little question.

I am glad to see that the Motor Union have determined to take stringent measures against reckless driving, but they will not need to lose time if they have hopes of doing anything to ward off fresh and drastic legislation. There are some edifying items of motoring intelligence in this morning's newspapers. A lady cyclist near Windsor was knocked off her machine by a large motor-car and left insensible upon the road. In South Wales a labourer has been discovered bleeding and senseless on the spot where he had been run down by a motor several hours before. It appears to be the settled policy of certain drivers to make a run for it if they think the victim is too seriously hurt to be able to take a note of their number. It only requires a few more incidents of this kind, and we shall have something approaching a state of civil war.

Slowly but surely the motor omnibus is displacing its older rival, the horse-drawn vehicle. Two new motor omnibuses were put to-day on the Cricklewood to Marble Arch route by the London General Omnibus Company, bringing its total up to four. This number would be considerably greater had there not been so many disappointments in the delivery of some of the sixty odd similar vehicles on order. These are being supplied by seven different makers, as the desire of the company is to decide by trial which is the best make. The London Road Car Company has at present twelve motor omnibuses on the streets, and about fifty more on order from three different firms.

In the opinion of Mr. Kingham, the Secretary of the London General Omnibus Company, as well as Mr. Duff, the manager of the London Road Car Co., the new vehicle has come to stay. As regards the financial side of the question, neither is willing to express an opinion. Both, however, state that on any route a saving of time would be effected, which is the principal factor towards success. A motor-omnibus is capable of a daily mileage half as great again as that of a horse-drawn omnibus on an average route. The carrying capacity also is greater.

"Whether they will be more profitable depends entirely upon the life of the chassis," said Mr. Kingham. "I do not think anybody will be able to tell until these have been worked for a couple of years." Tyres are an expensive item.

Of all the methods of treating disease (not even excluding the casting out of devils by the saltations of medicine men of which Sir Frederick Treves has told us entertaining stories) none is less easy to comprehend than "Christian Science." This thinking away of illness, and self-persuasion of the non-existence of hurtful matter, which is part mysticism of a sort and part pure crankiness, may have its uses. For the "malade imaginaire," for the tooth-ache, and for the nervous troubles of the age, it may serve, and can do no harm. But when it comes to bronchial pneumonia, and when it comes to letting your child die of this because you deliberately prefer the prayers of the "faith-healer" to the poultices of the qualified doctor, then it is time to put a stopper on absurdity that has a criminal touch in it. Such was a case that the Twickenham Deputy Coroner has had before him. At the request of the jury he censured the father, "telling him that if another such case happened he would be committed for trial for manslaughter."

Some of the Colonial ecclesiastical dignitaries seem to have a poor opinion of the mother-country. Dr. Julius, the Bishop of Christchurch, according to a "Times" telegram, has just been uttering "a scathing condemnation of English fashionable life." His lordship recently visited London, and this is what he found:

England had broken loose from the religious, the parental, and the social code, and the tendency was to break away from the moral code. There was a strange licence in a great deal of modern English life.

Well, perhaps we are no better than we should be, but are we quite as bad as the Bishop would have his flock believe? It is at all events something new to be lectured in this fashion from the Colonies.

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APPLY for French, Italian, Arabic, German, to the Berlitz Schools, Alexandria (26, Rue de l'Eglise Copte); Cairo Sharia Kamel), Most rapid method Trial lesson free. Evening classes at Alexandria, P.T. 60 per month. 23069-30-9A-905

BILLIARD TABLE (English) for sale, with all accessories, in perfect condition. Apply No. 26,064, "Egyptian Gazette" offices. 26064-6-2

ENGLISH LADY seeks situation as Daily Governess—Lessons and conversation. Address, No. 26,041 "Egyptian Gazette". 26041-6-4

ENGLISHMAN, long experience in Egypt, desires position of trust; speaks French, Italian, and Arabic; thoroughly acquainted with commercial routine; highest references; guarantee if required. Address, No. 26,044 "Egyptian Gazette." 26044-6-5

ENGLISHMAN seeks position as Accountant in Cairo; has good testimonials. No. 26,066, "Egyptian Gazette." 26066-3-2

FURNISHED HOUSE to let, Ibrahimieh, near sea; immediate entry; moderate rent. Apply, No. 26,068, "Egyptian Gazette." 26068 6-1

FURNISHED HOUSE, in healthy, open, situation at Zeitoun, to let from mid-June for the summer. Apply to A. H. Williams, Zeitoun, Cairo. 26046-6-5

LANCASTER HOUSE, Sharia Wabour-el, Moyah, Cairo. Comfortable apartments with or without board. Terms very reasonable. 25599-15-6-905A

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