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THE NEXT DREADNOUGHTS.

IMPORTANT CHANGE.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT ON EXISTING TYPE.

THE WORK ALREADY IN HAND.

A very important statement with regard to the future of the Navy is made on the authority of Mr. H. W. Lucy.

Discussing the four "contingent" Dreadnoughts which may be added to the programme for the year, he writes to THE OBSERVER that the work in connection with the great guns and heavy mountings for the ships is already in hand, and adds:—

"When the time comes for laying down the ships, the Admiralty will be in a position proudly to justify a delay of some months by pointing to improvements that will make the four new ships in degree as great an advance upon the present Dreadnoughts as fighting forces as was the famed progenitor upon its predecessors in the Navy."

That announcement bears out Mr. Asquith's statement in his speech at Glasgow six weeks ago, in which he remarked that "If you were to order your ships now in advance in a hurry, you necessarily commit yourselves to your existing design. Does not all experience tell us that nothing develops so quickly as a new naval type?"

CANADIAN DEFENCE.

PROPOSAL TO SPEND £5,000,000 ON HER NAVY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, Saturday.

The "New York Times" publishes a despatch from Montreal, which states that the Dominion Government has decided to show an Imperial spirit by an offer to build a navy of her own, which could be used, if occasion arose, as an auxiliary to that of Great Britain. Canada's contribution to the forces of the Empire consist of

Eight first-class cruisers,
Ten torpedo boat destroyers and
Ten torpedo boats.

The Government is prepared to provide immediately one-fifth of the cost of laying down the whole fleet, and to guarantee to pay the remainder within five years.

All the contracts for the building of the warships are to be placed with British firms, and arrangements have already been made for the construction of destroyers and torpedo boats with Messrs. Hawthorn, Leslie and Coote, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Mr. Arthur Coote, of that firm, has been in Canada for several weeks going over the specifications with Mr. Brodewi, Minister of Marine.

The amount that the Government is prepared to spend is not specifically stated, but it is thought that it will be between £600,000 and £1,000,000 annually for five years.

When Mr. Brodewi goes to London, in July, to represent Canada at the Conference on Imperial Defence, he and Rear-Admiral Kingsmill will present arguments why Canada should not build a single Dreadnought, but should construct a navy of her own.

From another source we learn that the total cost of this construction is to be $25,000,000, and that Canada does not intend to build her cruisers on Invincible lines, but rather to rely on the ordinary first-class protected cruiser pattern; and, indeed, as the object of the authorities is avowedly to obtain an adequate navy for coast defence purposes, rather than to create a fleet to swell the naval power of Great Britain, it is unlikely that any attempt would be made, for some years to come at any rate, to construct warships of so powerful and formidable a type as the latest British cruisers.

Lord Strathcona, who was apprised of the purport of the above cablegram last evening, said that the statement was premature. The Canadian Minister of Militia and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries were coming over to England very shortly to confer with the British naval and military authorities on the subject, and pending such conference anything approaching a definite statement was, he said, quite premature.

Lord Strathcona, of course, cannot reveal the whole extent of his knowledge while important points of naval defence have yet to be settled. We may take it, however, as substantially true that Canada is considering expenditure of unusual magnitude on her defences, and is awaiting the result of the Imperial Defence Conference before commencing action. Whether that will take the form outlined by the "New York Times" remains to be seen. Accuracy cannot be expected in all details, and we have to record the circumstance that the Chairman of Messrs. Hawthorn, Leslie and Coote, the firm mentioned as having been in negotiation with the Canadian Government, says that the report, as far as it relates to them, is incorrect and that no order has been given.

AMERICAN CRITICISM.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, Saturday.

Commenting on the report that Canada intends to build a navy of her own, the "Evening Post" says it would regret very much if the report were confirmed. "Even if only a coastguard fleet were propelled, it would be sure to be utilised by our navy maniacs as a reason for heavier American armaments, and it would be a cause of friction and suspicion, and its inevitable accompaniments would be the appearance of new war vessels.

"Our relations with Canada and the absence of forts and warships on our northern frontier have been an object-lesson of peace and commonsense to the whole world. Anything which changed those relations and caused doubt and distrust would be a world misfortune. Yet we admit freely that Canada has as much right to squander money on warships as ourselves. Probably our pernicious example has helped to lead her thoughts to her own fleet."

THE HOLBEIN DONOR.

A Manchester newspaper gave currency yesterday to a report that the anonymous donor of £40,000 whose generosity saved the famous Holbein Duchess for the nation was Lady Wantage. Her Ladyship, however, states that the report is quite unfounded.

Heavy floods have occurred in British Columbia, causing serious loss to the fruit ranchers.

TSAR'S VISIT.

TO MEET KING EDWARD AT COWES.

DATE FIXED.

PARIS, Saturday.

At to-day's Cabinet Council at the Elysée M. Fallières, the President, informed the Ministers that the Tsar in returning the visit paid him by the President last year at Reval would arrive at Cherbourg on July 31 and make a stay of two days.

The Tsar would leave Cherbourg on August 2 for Cowes, where he would meet King Edward.—Reuter.

This will be the first visit paid by the Tsar to Great Britain since the accession of King Edward, who visited his Imperial Majesty at Reval last summer. In 1896, shortly after the coronation festivities at Moscow the Tsar and Tsarina made a tour of foreign European Courts, visiting Queen Victoria at Balmoral. On September 22 their Majesties landed at Leith, where they were received by the Prince of Wales, now King Edward. After the visit to Balmoral the Tsar and his Consort journeyed by way of Portsmouth to France, where the Franco-Russian alliance was celebrated with tumultuous rejoicings. In 1901 a second visit was paid to France by the Tsar. Since then, although heads of States have visited His Majesty, he has not left Russia except for a cruise or two in Finnish waters. It is improbable that the Tsar will come to London on this occasion.

MONUMENT TO ALEXANDER III.

ST. PETERSBURG, Saturday.

The formal inauguration of the monument to the Tsar Alexander III. at the end of the Nevsky Prospect, opposite the Nicolai Railway Station, took place this afternoon in the presence of the Emperor and Empress, the Empress Dowager, and members of the Imperial Family. A number of deputations laid wreaths, some of which were of silver, at the foot of the monument. Altogether 500 wreaths were placed in position.—Reuter.

FEARS FOR TRIPLE ENTENTE.

ST. PETERSBURG, Saturday.

The "Retch," referring to the approaching meeting of the Tsar and the German Emperor, dwells on the test to which the Triple Entente will be subjected and the fears entertained in Russia concerning the fate of the policy which accords best with the interests of the country.

ROYAL BAPTISM.

CHRISTENING OF THE DUTCH BABY PRINCESS.

MISHAP TO THE QUEEN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

THE HAGUE, Saturday.

The baptism of the infant Princess Juliana took place in the Willemskerk this afternoon. At 1.30 p.m. the Royal and princely guests who were invited to the ceremony left the Palace and assembled in the church, where they awaited the arrival of Queen Wilhelmina, the Prince Consort and the Royal infant. The church was already filled with a brilliant gathering when the Queen and Prince entered to the strains of a canticle sung by the Royal Excelsior Choral Society. The infant's cortége arrived 20 minutes later.

The Royal parents sat in a half-circle facing the font and the pulpit. The church was simply but tastefully decorated with green foliage. At the conclusion of the sermon, which was preached by the Court Chaplain on the text Luke vii., 15, "And He delivered him to his mother," the Princess was handed to the Queen by a lady-in-waiting and the ceremony of baptism was performed. The service was concluded by the whole congregation singing the 134th Psalm.

After the ceremony the Queen and Prince kissed the Royal infant, which was returned to the Grand Mistress, and the cortége returned to the Palace. All along the route grand stands were erected, from which crowds cheered the Royal procession, while from every window and balcony flags and handkerchiefs were waved.

Outside the church the carriage of Queen Wilhelmina collided with that of the Queen Mother. The accident caused some confusion. Police and public rushed forward and seized the horses. The Queen, however, had already descended, and calm was soon restored when it was known that Her Majesty was uninjured. During the progress of the Royal procession the Princess was frequently held up for the public to see it, and after the return to the Palace the Queen and Prince appeared at the window arm-in-arm, and finally the two Queens, with the Princess, appeared and waved the baby's hand to the delighted crowd.

Queen Wilhelmina has appointed Dr. Kouwer and Dr. Roessingh, who attended her during her confinement, to be Knights Commanders of the Order of Orange-Nassau.—Reuter.

JAPANESE VISITORS.

PRINCE AND PRINCESS NASHIMOTO IN LONDON.

Prince and Princess Nashimoto, of Japan, cousins of the Emperor and Empress, arrived in London yesterday evening on a private visit of a week's duration. They were received and welcomed by representatives of the King and Queen, and will be received by Their Majesties in person on Monday. They are staying at Claridge's Hotel.

The Prince is a smart, handsome-looking man of somewhat small stature; while the Princess is a very beautiful woman, with Eastern cast of features, but decidedly Western manners and bearing. Plainly, though fashionably, dressed, she attracted much attention and admiration from the crowd of Japanese and Europeans assembled at Victoria to witness the arrival of the party.

THE HORSE SHOW.

ITALIAN OFFICER THROWN.

The Horse Show was opened yesterday at Olympia. The scene, thanks to the lavish decorations, was more charming than ever, and a brilliant and cosmopolitan company was present.

The jumping provided the most interesting feature of the day's proceedings, the beautiful flower-bordered arena being filled with obstacles, from a wattle fence to a level crossing.

An Italian officer, Lieutenant Barracco, was thrown at one of the jumps. He remounted and completed the round, but was obliged to leave the arena without finishing the course.

A full account of the opening proceedings will be found on page 4.

STEAMERS DISABLED BY STRIKERS.

MARSEILLES, Saturday.

Fifty strikers of the Naval Reservists last night went on board the steamers Emire and Isly, which were getting up steam preparatory to leaving the harbour, shovelled all the coal out of the furnaces and extinguished the fires. Fifteen arrests were made.—Reuter.

NEW COLOURS.

KING AND THE NORFOLK REGIMENT.

PRESENTATION AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

HIS MAJESTY'S SPEECH.

The King, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Norfolk Regiment, presented new colours yesterday to the 1st Battalion, the ceremony taking place, owing to the ground outside being wet, in the State ball-room within the Palace.

The men were paraded at the Tower of London, the force, of some 480, exclusive of the band, being made up of half a battalion stationed at the Tower, half a battalion from Gravesend and a company from Warley. They marched to Wellington Barracks, where they left their arms, and proceeded to the Palace.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Marriott, D.S.O., was in command, and with him were all the officers of the battalion, including Major Head and Captain Luard, D.S.O., to whom was entrusted the duty of handing the new colours to the King, and two subalterns, Lieut. Bagwell and Lieut. Longfield, who were appointed to receive them from His Majesty.

Spacious though the magnificent ball-room is, it could not accommodate the troops in the line formation which is usual on the occasion of presenting of colours. The men were posted on three sides of the room, their band occupied the gallery, and the end near the throne was left open for Their Majesties and the members of their party.

Two throne chairs were placed beneath the triple arch apse which contains the throne, and were separated from the throne space by crimson hangings fringed with gold and ornamented with the Royal Arms. A drum altar was placed in the centre of the ball-room, and behind it Bishop Taylor Smith, Chaplain-General of the Forces, and his two assistants took up their position. The new colours, unfurled, were placed crossways upon the pile of drums.

Punctually at noon the King entered the apartment and took up his position in front of the throne chairs. He wore the uniform of a Field Marshal, the riband of the Garter and several Orders. With His Majesty was the Queen, in brown, the Prince of Wales wearing the uniform of a General, Princess Victoria, in grey, and the Duke of Connaught in the uniform of a Field Marshal. The battalion was called to attention and gave a Royal salute, the band playing the National Anthem. The old colours were borne into the ball-room by two subalterns, with escort, and as they were carried along what corresponded to the front of the line to their position in the rear of the battalion, the band played "Auld Lang Syne" in token of regimental farewell. These colours will ultimately find a resting place in Norwich Cathedral.

Bishop Taylor Smith read the Dedication Service prescribed by the Army regulations for such occasions, and after the recital of the Lord's Prayer, and a special prayer for the colours, pronounced the Benediction.

Major Head and Captain Luard now stepped forward and, accompanied by Lieutenants Bagwell and Longfield, took up the new colours, advanced to a position in front of the King and Queen, and handed the emblems to His Majesty, who stepped forward a pace or two to receive them. The two Lieutenants knelt to receive the colours, Lieutenant Bagwell taking the King's and Lieutenant Longfield the regimental colour.

THE KING'S ADDRESS.

His Majesty addressed the troops as follows:—

Colonel Marriott, officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the 1st Battalion Norfolk Regiment, I have not forgotten that, twenty-two years ago, at Aldershot, I presented to you fresh colours. I did so on that occasion in order to identify myself with your regiment.

Having been now for not far off half a century a resident in the county of Norfolk, I am deeply interested in everything that concerns the county. I was glad on that occasion to associate myself with the regiment which bears its name, and I am pleased to be able to renew the association on this second occasion to-day.

I am sorry that the elements out of doors prevented me from giving you your colours in the open, but the fact of my receiving you within the palace will show you what deep interest I take in the regiment.

Your regiment has seen long and honourable service. It was first brought into existence two hundred and twenty-four years ago, and since that time has seen active service in nearly every part of the globe. You have greatly distinguished yourselves, and I feel sure, in confiding these colours to your care, that you will always continue to uphold the dignity of your Sovereign and the welfare of your country.

I have very little doubt that the high reputation which the regiment enjoys will continue as long as it exists.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Marriott made the following reply:—

"May it please Your Majesty,—On behalf of all ranks of the 1st Battalion Norfolk Regiment, I desire to return our heartfelt thanks for the great honour Your Majesty has conferred on the Regiment in again presenting to this Battalion its new colours, and for the gracious reference, Sir, you have made to its past history and traditions.

"It is a source of great pride and glory to us that Your Majesty is our Colonel-in-Chief, and whilst we guard these Colours, to-day entrusted to our care, we assure Your Majesty of our constant loyalty and devotion."

The cheers usually called for on such occasions were dispensed with, as this was an indoor ceremony, and the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.

OFFICERS DECORATED.

Before leaving with the Queen, the King directed that the Colonel of the regiment, the two subalterns who formed the colour party, and the sergeant-major should be presented to him. His Majesty decorated them, giving the fourth class of the Royal Victorian Order to Colonel Marriott, the fifth class of the same Order to Lieutenants Bagwell and Longfield, and the medal of the Order to the sergeant-major.

The King was attended at the presentation ceremony by Colonel Ponsonby and the Hon. John Ward, Equerries-in-Waiting, Colonel Sir Charles Frederick, Master of the Household, and other members of his suite. In attendance upon the Queen were the Countess of Gosford, the Hon. Charlotte Knollys, and two Maids of Honour, the Hon. Sylvia Edwardes and the Hon. Blanche Lascelles. The Prince of Wales was attended by Captain Godfrey Faussett, R.N., and the Duke of Connaught by Captain T. Rivers Bulkeley.

Throughout the Royal Household the keenest interest was taken in the ceremony, largely, doubtless, on account of the association with Norfolk, and practically every available member of the household staff was in attendance, although most of them were there in an unofficial capacity. Sir Dighton Probyn, Lord Colebrook, Captain Walter Campbell and Mr. Verney, Deputy Master of the Household, were among the number, and there were also present a few specially invited guests, including the wives of the non-commissioned officers of the battalion and a few ex-officers. Major Bellamy, who commands the depôt at Norwich, came up specially for the occasion.

After Their Majesties had withdrawn from the ball-room the battalion was marched out by way of the State Apartments to the Royal Riding School in Buckingham Palace-road, where, by direction of their Colonel-in-Chief, they were entertained at luncheon before returning to quarters.

HIS MAJESTY'S WEEK ENDS.

VISITS TO DORKING AND HATFIELD.

The King, with the Hon. John Ward in attendance, left Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon at about four o'clock to motor down to the Hon. Mrs. Ronald Greville's country place, near Dorking, where His Majesty is spending the week-end, returning to London to-morrow.

Formerly His Majesty occasionally honoured Captain and Mrs. Greville with a visit at Reigate Priory, but this is his first week-end visit to the new place, which Mrs. Greville has acquired since her late husband's death.

According to present arrangements the King and Queen will honour the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury next Saturday with a week-end visit to their fine old Elizabethan mansion at Hatfield. Their Majesties will remain from Saturday till Monday, and will then leave by motor direct for Windsor, where they entertain a large party during Ascot week.

His Majesty has expressed his intention of being present on the opening night of Monsieur Guitry's season at the Adelphi Theatre, which has been fixed for Monday, June 21. The play which will be presented on that occasion will be "L'Assommoir," with M. Guitry as Coupeau, the part which he originally created, supported by the following cast:—Mmes. Cora Laparcerie-Richepin, Emilienne Dux, Jeanne Desclos, Fabre and Chavannes, and Messieurs Mosnier, Clasiu, Lamothe, Duval and Dechamp.

The Prince and Princess of Wales witnessed the performance of "The Woman in the Case" at the Garrick Theatre last night.

THE "HENRY VII." CHAIR.

ITS AUTHENTICITY DISPUTED.

It was recently announced that the King had consented to use, at the next Levée, an ancient chair belonging to Mr. Dudley Baxter, of Atherstone. Tradition had it that it was a Henry VII. chair, and that that monarch sat in it on the eve of the battle of Bosworth, it having been used at a Council of War held at Atherstone. It appears, however, that reports made to the King by experts throw doubt on the story, and Mr. Baxter has received the following communication from Lord Knollys:—

Sir,—As the authenticity of the chair is disputed, and as His Majesty consented to sit in it mainly on the ground that it was used by Henry the Seventh, which, apparently, is not the case, I am commanded to inform you that though His Majesty is much interested in the chair, as it is evidently a very old one, he is unable to make use of it at the next Levée.—Your obedient servant,

KNOLLYS.

Mr. Baxter was to have been presented at the Levée by the Duke of Norfolk, whose ancestor was slain at Bosworth.

THE ROYAL YACHT.

SAFE ARRIVAL AFTER TWELVE HOURS' DELAY.

The Royal yacht Victoria and Albert, which the King and Queen left in the Mediterranean on concluding their recent tour, entered Portsmouth Harbour yesterday morning. Her arrival allayed a good deal of anxiety which had been felt for her safety. She was twelve hours overdue at Spithead and the friends of the crew were making eager inquiries at the dockyard on Friday. The Royal yacht met with no mishap, but encountered heavy weather on the voyage home, and was delayed by a heavy head wind in crossing the Bay of Biscay.

PRINCESS LOUISE.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO TERRITORIALS.

Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) presented colours yesterday afternoon to the Dumbartonshire Territorials at Ardencaple Park, Helensburgh, in the presence of a large gathering of guests, invited by Lord Inverclyde, Lord-Lieutenant of the County, and thousands of the general public. The Princess was accompanied by Sir Edward Leach, V.C., commanding the Forces in Scotland; Brigadier-General F. MacLean, commanding the Highland Division; Brigadier-General Friand, commanding the Coast Defence, and Colonel A. G. Duff, commanding the Argyll and Sutherland Brigade. The colours were the gift of Lady Inverclyde.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia motored down yesterday afternoon from London to Bagshot and took tea there. Their Royal Highnesses returned in the evening to Clarence House, St. James's Palace, and will remain in London until after the arrival of the Crown Prince and Princess of Sweden next week. The entire party will then go to Bagshot for the Ascot week.

Weather Forecast.

The following special forecast of the weather for to-day and this week has been made by THE OBSERVER expert:—

LONDON and ENGLAND, S. and E. (including all that district on the east side of a line drawn from the Humber to the Isle of Wight).—Very variable light breezes, finally north-westerly; cloudy and close, with thunder in places, then fine for a few hours.

Reasons for Forecast:—The rise of the barometer last night was very slight and rather irregular. Thunder disturbances are situated over France and North Wales, and storms may be expected to develop in any part of the United Kingdom, the prospect of thunder being strongest in the west midlands of England. The conditions generally are very doubtful.

Prospects for the Next Three or Four Days:—The anti-cyclone in the far south-west shows a slight disposition to extend north, and may bring a spell of fine and warm weather by early in the week. For the moment the conditions are wholly favourable to the development of local thunderstorms.

PROBABLE CONDITIONS OF CHANNEL PASSAGES ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY:—

Dover to Ostend, Queenborough to Flushing, and Harwich to Hook of Holland or Antwerp:—Smooth on Sunday and Monday. Wind north and south-east, light.

Newhaven to Dieppe and Southampton or Weymouth to Havre or Channel Islands:—Smooth on Sunday and moderate on Monday. Wind variable to west, freshening.

OFFICIAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following official observations were published last evening by the Meteorological Office:—

There are at present no indications of any material change in the general conditions. Small shallow depressions will continue to move southwards across the United Kingdom and varying northerly (north-westerly to north-easterly) winds are therefore probable, with changeable, showery weather and a temperature below the normal.

PRESS BANQUET.

GREAT SPEECH BY LORD ROSEBERY.

GROWTH OF NAVIES.

EUROPE "RATTLING INTO BARBARISM."

"WE CAN AND WILL BUILD DREADNOUGHTS."

MESSAGE TO OVERSEAS DOMINIONS.

The Press of Great Britain gave an enthusiastic welcome to the editors and representatives of the Press of Greater Britain who are taking part in the Imperial Press Conference, entertaining them at a banquet held at the White City, Shepherd's Bush, on Saturday evening.

All the leading journalists, with a few exceptions, in the British Isles were present at the banquet. The guests were received by Lord Burnham, proprietor of the "Daily Telegraph," in the Congress Hall, over the Lagoon. The banquet was served in the Hall of Music, where over 500 diners were seated at some seventy tables.

Lord Rosebery sat on the left hand of Lord Burnham, and Sir Hugh Graham on the right. The interior of the hall was hung with flags of the various countries sending representatives.

(By Our Special Correspondent.)

Under the wizard's charm of an extraordinary speech, which enchanted and moved every hearer between shouts of laughter and storms of applause, it was impossible to escape a personal reminiscence. It is a decade or more now since the writer of these lines in an article in the "Fortnightly Review" first described Lord Rosebery as "the public orator of the Empire." The phrase has had some currency since then. To the master of eloquence, of humour, of subtle satire and impassioned invocation, it has clung through all political vicissitudes. It never seemed so exactly justified as last night when "the public orator of the Empire" in the address of welcome to the Imperial Press Conference made what many who heard some of the best of his efforts in old days were tempted to think the most brilliant speech of his career. In its humanity, its statesmanship, its tact and its satire, the closing passages of patriotic appeal that now rang like a trumpet, now touched quietly the deepest chords in men who knew what patriotism signifies and mean it—in all this the thing was not merely a triumph. It was a resurrection. It was the voice of half a generation ago heard in all the range of its powers, but more persuasive, more searching, more various than then.

We listened to it in a mood of admiration, shot through with touches of regret. He spoke of Empire as no man left to us in active politics can speak. And there was a time when with this Empire he might have done almost anything he pleased. What prevented him? Was it temperament? Was it circumstance? It is a problem that historians will never quite cease to discuss—for he who was Prime Minister had, as he himself once said, his "purple hour"—and there will never, perhaps, be a final answer. Enough that last night the old magic had returned upon an occasion that might well evoke it, and that Lord Rosebery delivered a speech which could have been made by no other living man. He played upon every chord. He touched thought and emotion as he pleased. When it turned suddenly from picturesqueness and banter to the problem of Imperial defence, the speech in its contrast of sombre and luminous passages was a searchlight upon the serious truth of our Imperial situation. There was at one time grave doubt whether Lord Rosebery would speak at all. If he had not spoken, the Imperial gathering, second to none in its possible importance, would have lost what has already given it memorable distinction. If nothing more concrete came out of the Conference, the inaugural oration would have justified it.

The able editors were in battalions and the writers in regiments. The delegates from the outer Empire had come from the furthest shores. They had travelled from the cities of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes—from the heart of the Canadian wheat lands and from the edge of the Pacific. They came from extremes of Australia thousands of miles apart; from New Zealand out in the open ocean separated by whole days of steaming from the nearest place that counts. South Africa from the Rand to Table Bay was represented. And out of India and beyond they came from places "somewhere east of Suez"—even from Singapore, which is further even from Suez than that is from London. Amid many hundreds of their home-keeping colleagues there were the delegates from the circumference drawn to the centre; and we might well have asked them in Lord Rosebery's own phrase—a catchword of the moment in the crisis of nearly ten years ago—"What did they think of it all."

For what to the mind of all the Britains is a more responsible process than that of public dining? It would be difficult to imagine a great ceremony held in a more fantastic environment. The banquet of welcome took place in the heart of the White City. The diners passed through that unreal and pleasing vista of domes, fretted balconies and balustrades, and lake-side terraces, through improvised canvas corridors striped like Neapolitan ices, which are all so much more Oriental than the Orient. But the Hall of Music was a hall of harmony and thinking of the power possessed by those present to influence opinion to the ends of the earth, one was reminded of the passage in which the poet listens to the murmur of the universe itself as to the sound of a sea shell. The Hall of Music, banquetting chamber for the occasion, is a great pink rectangle, vast and gay, something like a cross between a railway station and a variety theatre. From the roof swung all the flags of the Empire—red rank upon rank, starred and emblazoned. The tables were vivid with flowers. And the diners stretched away like a public meeting.

When silence was bidden, there was read, amid cheers, a message of welcome from the King. Lord Burnham, rising from the chair, spoke with a characteristic breadth and dignity, which gave life to the loyal toasts and eloquence to the first words of greeting to the guests. Then Lord Rosebery was upon his feet and his reception was remarkable, probably the most significant, taken for all in all, that even he, sated with ovations, has received for years. The waves of acclamation subsided, and allowed him to begin. He was, as usual, impassive and deliberate in opening, but he had not uttered half a dozen sentences before he had shown that his form was his best, and, if anything, better than ever. With his traditions what occasion could have been more fitted to inspire him? He rose to it, and his audience hung upon his syllables "in fear, lest he should make an end."

To attempt to summarise that utterance would be hopeless. Charles Lamb said of Jeremy Taylor that his prose style was so rich you could not quote from him—to draw out his gold threads would mean unpicking the whole texture. For this speech had all the qualities. The orator confessed that the importance of the occasion made him feel like "a minor prophet." Journalists were permanent institutions by comparison with statesmen. Even Prime Ministers were transient, while good newspapers were, or should be, eternal. He compared the journalism of the Empire with the cave of Æolus, wherein the passions were bound or wherefrom they were loosed. With perfect touches he described what the delegates would see on their tour through Great Britain—for instance, "little villages clustered round heaven-directed spires as they have clustered for centuries." They would see the House of Commons—"I cannot promise you a greater pleasure in the House of Lords."

With these deft changes he alternated imagination and humour, and swayed our mood as he liked. Not after not came, and we no sooner thought the last phrase was the best than it was capped by another. He spoke inimitably of the Naval Review: "You will see the prodigious Armada—the prodigious, but always inadequate, Armada." But in a flash he added the serious touch. That Armada is "yours as much as ours."

Then he took us with him on the magic carpet for a fanciful tour. In a dream he imagined legislators of both branches voting Supplies for several years, and then packing themselves up to see something of the Empire. The Peers would, of course, pay their own expenses. "The House of Commons votes the taxes—the House of Lords pays them." That daring sally convulsed us, but he added that the members of both Houses would be equally improved by "the wholesome discipline of the ocean." At the Antipodes they would "take part in the permanent sport of Australia—hunting for a national capital." They would avoid Ugandas so as "not to disturb the privacy of the late President of the United States."

At last, using the full power of contrast, he altered his mood with extraordinary impressiveness and laid upon all his hearers a hush absolute. He described the state of Europe, its surface calm, its overpowering preparation for war. The Old Country would look to her children in the last resort. In the meantime, let them not doubt her, will to rely upon herself. "We can and we will build Dreadnoughts or whatever the new type of ship may be while we have a shilling to spend on ships or men." Take that message back to your people. Tell them they can believe it." A peroration may be a poor thing, but in these hands "the thing became a trumpet."

Responding for the guests, Sir Hugh Graham, of Montreal, took up the strong note upon which the oration of the night had closed; and, dispersing late through the lighted courts, we felt that the Imperial Press Conference—focus as it is for the time being of the opinion-making power of the King's dominions—will go far to turn words to deeds.

"WELCOME HOME."

LORD ROSEBERY'S ELOQUENT TOAST.

Lord Rosebery, in proposing the health of the guests, said:

"My Lord Burnham, my Lords and Gentlemen,—I have had the great honour entrusted to me of proposing the health of our guests, coupled with the name of Sir Hugh Graham of Montreal. (Applause.) I confess that I feel overwhelmed by the importance of this occasion. It is not only that in this hall—speaking to so many remote tables—I feel something like the prophet in the desert—a minor prophet—speaking to a number of the leaders in scattered oases. (Laughter.) I fear I shall not be able to make myself heard—I confidently expect that I shall not—but at any rate, gentlemen, coming from so far, I am sure you will be merciful to one who has to address you under such trying circumstances.

"There is another reason that fills me with a sense of awe. It is the enormous importance of the gathering that I am speaking to. (Applause.) We have had conferences before, many of them conferences of great importance, at which the Prime Ministers and Ministers of the Empire have met together to consult on the great matters of policy concerning the Empire. It is no disparagement to those gatherings to say that this is more important still. (Hear, hear.) I have the greatest respect for Prime Ministers and Ministers, but whatever their stars may be when they are in the ascendant, they are essentially transient bodies—(laughter)—and the power of a great newspaper with a double function of guiding and embodying the public opinion of the province over which it exercises its influence is immeasurably greater than that of the statesman.

THE MOTTO OF THE OCCASION.

"I say this, this is a meeting of vast importance. If I carried out my own sense of the occasion, if I carried out what I believe is required of this occasion, I should confine myself to two words and then sit down. They are the only two essential words; they are the simplest and perhaps the sweetest that can be heard by mortal ears, yet they are the only two words in which I would sum up what I have to say to our guests from beyond the seas to-night—welcome home. (Loud and prolonged cheers.) This is the motto of this occasion—welcome to your home. (Further cheers.)

"Some of you, many of you, have never seen your home, and you will see something in the course of the next fortnight which I will not boast of, but which, in its way, is unmatched in the world. You will see an ancient and a settled civilisation; you will see that embodied in our old abbeys and cathedrals built in the age of Faith, surviving to testify that that Faith is not dead. You will see it in the ancient colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, St. Andrew's, and Aberdeen. You will see as you pass about the country the little villages clustering about the Heaven directed spires as they have clustered for centuries.

"You will see the ancient mother of all Parments, the most venerable progenitor of free institutions, the House of Commons. I cannot promise you the even greater pleasure of seeing the House of Lords, because that will not be sitting during the period of your visit. (Laughter.) And throughout you will see those old manor-houses where the squirearchy of Great Britain have lived for centuries—almost all of them inhabited long before the discovery of Australia, and some even before the discovery of America, where the civilisation of country life, which I advise you all to see on your present visit, because when you next come it may not be here for you to see, exists. (Laughter.)

A PRODIGIOUS ARMADA.

"Proceeding onwards from these more rural scenes, from all this which is embodied history and which represents the antiquity and tradition of a thousand years, you will go on to the teeming communities which represent the manufactures, the energy, the alertness of the commercial life of Great Britain. (Hear, hear.) Then, last of all, surrounding all and guarding all, you will see a prodigious Armada, a prodigious but always inadequate Armada. (Laughter and applause.) And all these, gentlemen, are yours as much as ours, your possession, your pride and your home. (Cheers.)

"What do you bring to us, because that is quite as important, it is, indeed, more important to us than what you can take from us. Whas is it you bring? You bring, I trust, the youth of your vigorous communities; you bring the candour, the acute criticism, the frankness of speech which belongs to our young dominions beyond the seas. You bring to us, I hope, the freshest news, the most recent information, as to all the aspirations and policy of the communities among which you live.

"You bring, I suspect, that same message which you, sir, quoted just now, which the Prince of Wales brought back and condensed into those admirable words, after a tour round the Empire—'Wake up, old country.' Well, gentlemen, I hope you come to tell us all this most recent news about the dominions beyond the seas. I am quite aware that there is an ample representation here from the third of the Empires which are condensed in the British Empire, for there are three—the Western in Canada, the Southern in Australia and New Zealand and the Cape, and the Eastern in India. I am quite aware that there is an ample representation from the Press of India on this occasion, but they will forgive me, I hope, if I do not address myself to them, because what I have to say, spoken to that secular community, to that ancient civilisation, would have to be in a different scope from that in which I can address the newer Empire. (Hear, hear.) But I do hope, and I will say this word to the Indian delegation, I do hope that they will not go away without having given some guidance to our democracy as to the right method of governing and guiding that ancient civilisation of India, comprising numberless races and numberless religions, an inscrutable and individual population who seem to understand us so much better than we seem to know them. Gentlemen, after all, the best you can bring us is a knowledge about yourselves and your communities, because we can never know enough about them.

DREAM OF AN EMPIRE TRIP.

"The other night I ventured to dream a dream, which is a great favourite practice of retired politicians. (Laughter.) Thinking of that vast armada, the surplus of which is so constantly scrapped at what seemed wholly inadequate prices to the taxpayer, I could not help imagining how admirably some of those large ships might be used, not for the purposes of war, but for the purposes of peace. I thought to myself that if I were the lay dispoer of events in this country I should like Parliament to vote supplies for two years and then pack itself up in three or four of these obsolete warships and go for a trip in order to find out something about the Empire. (Prolonged applause.)

"You may object at once and say: 'How would the country be governed while all the Ministers were absent?' I reply with confidence that the people would be governed much as they are now by the heads of the permanent Departments. (Laughter.) And I am not sure that some of us would not feel an even greater confidence in the welfare of the country if it were under that permanent and well-ordered control. (Laughter and applause.)

"Should I include the House of Lords in this expedition? Well, I think the House of Lords might accompany them on condition of paying their own expenses. (Laughter.) That, I may explain to Colonial visitors, is the great distinction between the House of Lords and the House of Commons—the House of Commons votes the taxes, and the House of Lords pays them. (Laughter and applause.) Therefore, I think my proposal would place them on an equitable basis. (Renewed laughter.) Whatever their present relations may be, I should not be afraid of putting them in the same vessel, because I am confident that the wholesome discipline of the ocean would soon shake them down to a condition of parity, if not of amity. (Laughter.)

MARVELLOUS COUNTRIES.

"Now, let us imagine how our scheme would shape up. I would take them first to Newfoundland on a visit of homage to our most ancient and historic colony, where even our legislators would be able to find some constitutional problems which have been solved nowhere else.

"I would take them on to Canada, and I would give them many months in Canada—(hear, hear)—partly for the sake of Canada and partly for the feeling that this holiday should be a leisurely one. I would give them a long time in Canada. They have an immense dominion to rove over there. They might see many things that were new to them. They would see that even under the most advanced democracy a Prime Minister may hold his own against the successive buffets of innumerable general elections. They might see that in Canada wealth is not a crime. (Laughter.) Some of the most glowing specimens of that obnoxious creature the multi-millionaire have been produced on that soil. But I will not pause to point out the varieties of political and physical sport in which our legislators might indulge in Canada.

"I would take them on to New Zealand, and there in New Zealand they would see most of the policies at which they aim, and which they are endeavouring to construct for this country, carried out under the advantages of a virgin soil and a total absence of tradition and complexity.

"Then, on to Australia, that most marvellous continent—where everything is abnormal—the marsupials, the duck-billed platypus, even to the fact that a population of about two-thirds of the population of the capital of this country is able to maintain seven Legislatures, seven capitals and seven Ministries without any serious inconvenience. In our country we have always found one of each of these as much as

is convenient, and it shows the vigour of the new continent to be able to support such a multiplicity of each. And my expedition, which is supposed to take its leisure, might indulge in the permanent sport of Australia, the hunt for the Federal capital. (Laughter.)

"Then they should return through South Africa, where they would see the greatest success of the Imperial Government of Great Britain—(cheers)—the greatest and most recent success, where a bold and magnanimous policy has healed the seams of war, where the blood gallantly shed on both sides, which might have been a stream of unending division, has extracted the cement which has united a new Empire.

"If my excursionists are not tired and are not too ardently summoned home—which I don't think would be the case—they might proceed northwards through Africa—avoiding Uganda, so as not to disturb the privacy of the late President of the United States. (Laughter.) They might take their way home by Egypt, where they would see what British Government wisely directed can do to rescue order from chaos."

He knew that dream was impracticable, Lord Rosebery added, and he would pass from it to the solid and practical topics with which the Conference would deal. They were not in this country on a coffee-house tour, but to do practical work.

Looking through the list of topics for discussion, he saw with relief that Tariff Reform was not among them. No doubt that interesting topic would have been exhaustively dealt with, but he understood that it was desired that the Conference should be a peaceful one. They came first to the topic of closer communication between the Empire, and that was one of the most vital. It was perfectly certain that if they were to build up an Empire it could only be by the freest knowledge of each other's wants and ideas. The thought of the Empire should circulate like blood through the body politic, and, like blood, should chiefly circulate through the heart. If they wanted to build an Empire the first means must be by the cheapest method of communication. (Cheers.)

IMPERIAL DEFENCE—"A MENACING SIGN."

"Now, gentlemen," Lord Rosebery proceeded, "you will forgive me if I come to what is by far the most vital topic you have to discuss at this conference—that of Imperial defence. (Cheers.) I don't know that I have ever seen a condition of things in Europe so remarkable, so peaceful and in some respects so menacing as the condition that exists at this moment. There is such a hush in Europe—a hush in which you might almost hear a leaf fall to the ground. There is an absolute absence of any of the questions which ordinarily lead to war. One of the great Empires which sometimes was supposed to menace peace is entirely engrossed with its own domestic affairs; another great Eastern Empire, which furnished a perpetual problem for European statesmen, has taken a new lease of life and of youth in the search for liberty and constitutional reform. All this forbodes peace.

"Yet, at the same time, combined with this total absence of all questions of friction, there never was in the history of the world so threatening and so overpowering a preparation for war. That is the sight which I confess I regard as most menacing.

"For forty years it has been true that all the nations have faced each other armed to the teeth, and that has been in some respects a guarantee of peace. But now what do we see? Without any tangible reason, we see the nations preparing new armaments.

"I think there are features of this general preparation for war which must cause special anxiety to the friends of Great Britain and of the British Empire. But I will not dwell on this to-night. I will only say this—that I will ask you when you are in this country to compare carefully the armaments of Europe with our preparations to meet them, and give your impression to the Empire in return. (Cheers.)

EUROPE RATTLING INTO BARBARISM.

"I myself feel confident in the reservation and the power of this country to meet any reasonable conjunction of affairs, but when I see this bursting out of navies everywhere, when I see one country alone asking for 25 millions of extra taxation for warlike preparation, when I see the absolutely unprecedented sacrifices which are asked from us on the same ground, I do begin to feel uneasy as to the outcome of it all, to wonder where it is ever going to stop—if it is merely going to bring Europe back into a state of barbarism, or whether it will cause a catastrophe in which the working man of the world, at any rate, will say: "We will have no more of this madness and this foolery, which is grinding us to powder." (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

"Gentlemen, we can, and we will, build Dreadnoughts, or whatever newest type of ship may be—(cheers)—as long as we have a shilling to spend on them or a man to put into them. (Cheers.) All that we can and will do, but I am not sure that even that will be enough, and I think it may be your duty to take back to your Dominions across the seas this message and this impression, that some personal duty and responsibility for national defence rests upon every man and citizen of the Empire. (Loud cheers.) Tell your peoples, if they can believe it, the deplorable condition in which Europe is rattling into barbarism, and the pressure that is put upon this little England to defend itself, its liberties and yours. (Loud cheers.)

"Take this message also back with you—that the Old Country is right at heart, that there is no failing or weakness in her, and that she rejoices in renewing her youth in her giant dominions beyond the seas. (Cheers.) For her own salvation she must look to herself, and that, failing her, she must look to you.

They would return to their homes, concluded his Lordship, missioners of Empire, missionaries of the most extensive and the most unselfish Empire that had been known to history. (Cheers.) As he began, he summed up what he had to say in the two simple words, "Welcome home." With all brotherhood and affection they welcomed them home. (Cheers.)

SIR HUGH GRAHAM AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

At the close Lord Rosebery was cheered again and again, and the audience, rising, sang "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Sir Hugh Graham, in responding, thanked the gathering for the warmth of their welcome, and spoke of the necessity of journalists joining forces for the good of their country in times of great national crisis. It required only a very short residence in this country to learn that the loyal people were broadly tolerant on nearly every question that could be discussed, but they deeply deplored dissnion on the great question of national defence. He believed that if the newspapers of Great and Greater Britain were to unite on a policy looking to the absolute security of the Empire, there could be raised very little opposition in the country and little in Parliament, and the Press would for ever make it impossible to degrade that sacred question to party politics. (Hear, hear.)

Largely due to the awakening caused by the Colonial Press a wave of sentiment had recently spread over the outlying portions of the British Empire that would mark an important era in the attitude of the people towards Imperial interests. Canada for long years under both political parties had sponged for protection on the Mother Country, both parties in Britain had been too indulgent to ask them to pay their share, and they had been too mean to offer it. ("No, no.") But a change was impending. Inspired by the pluck of New Zealand and Australia—(loud cheers)—the colonies for ever in the van—Canada was sending delegates to discuss the question of defence with the British Government, and it must be apparent to the whole British world that the Commonwealth dominions and dependencies were offering hearty co-operation. That movement originated with the Press, was supported by the people and was now supported by both political parties.

If a wise statesmanship governed the delegates in their discussion, it meant a new and important step safeguarding Imperial interests; it meant that the Colonies were rising to a sense of their responsibility—(hear, hear)—it meant that Canada and her sisters had come to be regarded as a responsible partner, having interests to protect, and having responsibilities co-equal with those privileges; it meant that the people were anxious to have a voice—a rightful voice—in determining what the strength of the British Navy should be, and tell them more effectively than could even be told by a nominal partner merely, that they regarded the British Navy as a form of Imperial insurance, a policy covering everything that we possessed, and that the provisions of that policy should be ample.

THE LOYAL TOASTS.

In proposing the toast of the King, Lord Burnham, who, on rising, was received with loud cheers, said:

"My lords, my friends and colleagues, and you who honour us by being our guests and visitors on this memorable occasion, I beg you to drink with all the enthusiasm at your command to the health of one who, I feel assured, would be heart and soul with us in our desire through closer knowledge of one another and a more perfect comprehension of our duties and our ambitions to make a reality of that which to some of us, at least, through many a long year, has been but an ideal and an inspiration—the coming of a time when all the English-speaking races might stand shoulder to shoulder in days alike of trouble and prosperity. In this Empire of ours, where self-government is ordered liberty, King Edward is the dignified and illustrious head of the greatest sovereignity the world has ever seen. You know full well how ardently he works for the advancement of the highest interests of the realm, for the promotion of the happiness and welfare of his subjects. Of him it may be truly said, in the words of our greatest poet, 'In his right hand he carries gentle peace; he is just and fears not. The ends he aims at are his country's.' My toast is 'The King.'" (Loud cheers.)

MESSAGE FROM THE KING.

Mr. Harry Brittain read the following telegram to the King and His Majesty's reply:—

The overseas delegates to the Imperial Press Conference desire to express their fervent loyalty to your Majesty and trust that you may long be spared to the people and the Empire.

His Majesty's reply, which had just been received, was:—

The King thanks most warmly the overseas delegates to the Imperial Press Conference for their kind telegram and hopes that they will enjoy their stay in England. (Cheers.)

Lord Burnham then proposed the toast of the Queen and the Royal Family, after which he delivered the following speech of welcome to the delegates:—

"My duty is very simple. Before I finally discharge it let me say that, proud as I am, and have always been, of the profession to which I have the honour to belong, I have never been so proud of it as at this moment, when I find myself face to face with an assemblage such as never before has been gathered together. (Cheers.) Never in the past has any man stood before a compact body of all the most prominent journalists of the entire British Empire. To those, then, who are here to-night, not only on my own part, but on the part of the noble treasurer, Lord Northcliffe, on the part of the Chairman of the committee, Mr. Arthur Pearson—who is, I deeply regret to say, prevented by indisposition from being with us, and who has asked me to express his infinite regret—on the part of the committee, consisting of our most distinguished journalists, and last, but very far from least, on the part of our indefatigable secretary, Mr. Harry Brittain, to whom, in justice be it said, the origin and development in a considerable measure of this great and important undertaking are due, and who has worked night and day so that a fortunate result might ensue—on the part of all those I have named, I desire to say that they contemplate with the highest satisfaction the already assured success of our invitation to the most powerful representatives of the Press of the Dominions of the Indian Empire and of the Colonies.

"The response to our invitation has indeed excelled our most sanguine expectations. We have framed a programme of entertainments, not solely for the amusement of our guests, but with the desire that out of the discussions that must arise there may ultimately be arrived at understandings that before the hour has come to say good-bye may enable us all to comprehend what are the prospects and what the opportunities of closer union and increased sympathy. But there is one thing that it would be well for us all in this country ever to remember, and that is, that in speaking to you we do not speak to you alone—we speak through you to countless thousands of our kinsmen—to men of our own flesh and blood, who may never have seen the land in which their forefathers were born, but who are keen and eager to prove, as they have often proved in the past, but never more forcibly than by their recent actions and offers, that they are animated by a spirit of splendid patriotism, and are absolutely convinced that in closer union lies the secret of irresistible power. (Loud cheers.) These, it seems to me, are the men who from the Greater Britain beyond the seas, stretch forth their hands to us in the fervent expectations—which I hope to God may never be disappointed—that we shall grasp them with all the strength and grip of a loyal and lasting friendship. (Loud cheers.)

"In one regard I am, indeed, truly fortunate. I am enabled to call upon one who has made the closer union, of which I have spoken, of all parts of the Empire one of the leading ideals of his life. Might I—do you think—venture to congratulate him on the realisation, in some slight measure at least, of that patriotic ambition? I have the honour to crave your silence for my noble friend, the Earl of Rosebery." (Continued cheers.)

GUESTS AND HOSTS.

The following is the list of those present at the banquet:—

DELEGATES.

Canada.

Sir Hugh Graham, "Star," Montreal; G. Langlois, "Le Canada," Montreal; J. S. Brierley, "Herald," Montreal; J. A. Macdonald, "Globe," Toronto; J. E. Atkinson, "Daily Star," Toronto; D. Watson, "Chronicle," Quebec; H. d'Hellencourt, "Le Soleil," Quebec; P. D. Ross, "Evening Journal," Ottawa; J. W. Dafoe, "Manitoba Free Press," Winnipeg; M. E. Nichols, "Telegram," Winnipeg; A. F. Macdonald, "Morning Chronicle," Halifax; W. J. Herder, "Evening Telegram," St. Johns, N.F.; E. W. McCready, "Daily Telegraph," St. John's, N.B.; L. D. Taylor, "World," Vancouver; John Nelson, "Times," Victoria.

India.

E. Digby, "Indian Daily News," Calcutta; Hon. Surendranath Banerjee, "Bengalee," Calcutta; Stanley Reed, "Times of India," Bombay; G. M. Chesney, "Pioneer," Allahabad; F. Crosbie Roles, "Times of Ceylon," Colombo; A. E. Lawson, "Mail," Madras; J. Stuart, "Rangoon Gazette," Burmah; Major W. G. St. Clair, "Singapore Free Press," Straits Settlements.

West Indies.

Lewis Ashenheim, "Gleaner," Jamaica.

Australia.

J. O. Fairfax, "Morning Herald," Sydney; F. W. Ward, "Daily Telegraph," Sydney, and "Courier," Brisbane; C. Bennett, "Evening News," Sydney; E. S. Cunningham, "Argus," Melbourne; Hon. Theodore Fink, "Herald," Melbourne; Dr. G. A. Syme, "Age," Melbourne; R. Kyffin-Thomas, "Register," Adelaide; Hon. J. W. Hackett, LL.D., "Western Australian," Perth; Hon. C. E. Davies, "Mercury," Hobart; Hudson Berkeley, "Herald," Newcastle; N. Clerk, "Courier," Ballarat; A. Mackay, "Advertiser," Bendigo; Thomas Temperley, "Richmond River Times," Bathurst; Hon. J. W. Kirwan, "Miner," Kalgoorlie.

New Zealand.

Gresley Lukin, "Evening Post," Wellington; H. Brett, "Star," Auckland; W. S. Douglas, "Herald," Auckland; George Fenwick, "Otago Daily Times," Dunedin; Mark Cohen, "Evening Star," Dunedin; R. M. Macdonald, "Press," Christchurch.

South Africa.

R. F. Philipson Stow, "S.A. News," Capetown; Maitland Park, "Cape Times," Capetown; G. H. Kingswell, "Rand Daily Mail," Johannesburg; Geoffrey Robinson, "Star," Johannesburg; A. E. Reno, "News," Pretoria; Dr. F. V. Engelenburg, "Volkstem," Pretoria; C. Woodhead, "Natal Mercury," Durban; E. B. Walton, "Eastern Provincial Herald," Port Elizabeth; P. Davis, "Natal Witness," Pietermaritzburg; F. Blake, "Post," Bloemfontein; Charles Fichardt, "Friend," Bloemfontein.

HOSTS.

A. St. John Adcock, Edwin L. Arnold, W. A. Ackland, G. F. R. Anderson, Sir John Arnott, J. Murray Allison, Hartley Aspden, William Archer, Algernon E. Aspinall.

Harold Begbie, Ernest A. Bryant, Robert H. H. Baird, T. C. Bond, L. C. Bond, W. Brimelow, J. J. Booty, J. H. Barnes, Charles Benham, F. Ashworth Briggs, Bennet Burleigh, F. Whelan Boyle, George Bateman, Pomeroy Burton, C. E. Burton, L. Bashford, Herbert H. Bassett, W. R. Bassett, S. Bishop, W. R. Bradbrook, Herbert T. Bailey, J. M. Bathgate, Richard E. Bridge, T. Beecham, F. W. Bowater, Moberly Bell, Ernest Brain, George Bull, W. F. Bullock, R. D. Blumenfeld, Robert Bell, J. P. Blake, Sydney Brooks, Alfred Butes, Frank G. Bailey, G. E. Buckle, E. A. Bendall, J. M. Blanch, Captain W. Baird, F. C. Beveridge, Wilhelm F. Brand, T. H. Bird, Walter Bell, E. C. Bentley, Gerald Biss, H. E. Beesley, Comyns Beaumont, John Bune, A. H. Baee, W. H. Back, C. J. Bentzie, F. D. Bone, B. Bennison, L. Bingham, S. A. Bartlett.

Lawrence Clark, S. S. Campion, Wade Chance, W. L. Courtney, J. Cowley, Herbert Cox, E. T. Cooke, H. T. Cadbury, H. A. H. Canon, D. O. Croal, F.S.S., Vivian Carter, Herbert Cornish, Bertram Christian, Philip Carr, M.A.F. Cotton; Charles Clifford, H. W. Cave, A. Curran, B. F. Crosfield, F. M. Crisp, G. Heath Cassie, Theodore A. Cook, F. L. Courtenay, E. H. Clutsam, R. de Chateleux, A. Courlander, L. Cope Cornford, Ernest Coffin, Andrew Caird, Robert Clemenza, G. H. Carr, J. de Cordova, N. M. Cooper, Thomas Catling, N. B. Colcock, G. F. Cornford.

J. T. Dunsford, Charles Duguid, F. J. Dottridge, F. Dilnot, J. Nicol Dunn, J. Stormont Dunn, James Douglas, M. H. Dubbs, P. Dvorkovitz, H. G. Daniels, J. W. Dunn, F. W. Dickinson, F. E. B. Duff, M. Dennis, Sidney Dark, S. J. Dunn, Robert Donald, O. F. Davies, A. J. Dawson, H. C. Derwent, George Denny, Sir Henry Dalziel, M.P.

John Ellerthorpe, Sir John Ellerman, Charles Eves, W. J. Evans, J. P. Eddy, Hamilton Edwards.

W. P. Forbes, Sir George Frampton, R.A., Hamilton Fyfe, H. Frisby, A. W. Faulkner, W. G. Fish, W. G. Faulkner, Lord Faber, Colonel J. F. Free, Gerard Fiennes, A. J. Finberg, Malcolm Fraser, W. A. Fox, Ivor Fraser, J. Foster Fraser, F. H. Farthing, E. F. Flynn, C. B. Fry.

John Gennings, Harold Garrish, William Gilliland, C. L. Goodman, Philip Gibbs, Kingscote Greenland, H. J. Gough, J. P. Giddings, F.I.J., Hamar Greenwood, M.P., Lionel Gowing, Frank Glover, W. Griffith, Lord Ronald Sutherland Gower, J. R. Geard, R. H. Gretton, E. M. M. Grigg, J. Douglas Graham, Norval B. Graham, Colonel Frank Griffith, V.D., J. L. Garvin, A. G. Gardiner, W. C. Grey, Herbert Grover, Fred Grundy, H. A. Gwynne, Sir F. C. Gould, C. Geake, A. W. Gamage, P. Anderson Graham, Ernest Goddard.

Charles F. Hart, E. C. Heath Hosken, W. K. Haselden, George Hussey, C. Lewis Hind, Frank Hare, W. Haley, Walter Haddon, William Hill, Charles S. Henry, M.P., Austin Harrison, Fritz Henrickson, Harold Harmsworth, Cecil Harmsworth, Rudolph Hagen, A. E. Hance, Frank Hird, Stuart J. Hodgson, H. Harper, F. J. Higginbottom, W. E. Hobbs, G. B. Hodgson, James Heilbut, Dennis Herbert, A. Haddon, G. Haward, Edward Hudson, P. A. Hislam, A. S. Hurd, C. Hands, B. M. Hansard, Hildebrand Harmsworth, Thomas H. Hardman, Sir Ian Hamilton, C. Harris.

Arthur D. Innes, M.A., Charles Iggleston, Bruce Ingram.

W. Jeans, Harry Jones, A. E. Jenkins, H. J. Jennings, A. G. Jeans, Roderick Jones, Wm. Jeffrey, R. F. Johnson, Kennedy Jones, S. H. Jeyes, W. A. Jones, E. H. Johnstone, L. O. Johnson.

F. W. Kohler, Ernest Kessell, Alec Kenealy, James A. Kilpatrick, Henry King, Alfred Kalisch, E. S. Klemford, Peter Keary, G. King, C. T. King, Sir John Kirk, F. R. Knollys, F. H. Kitchin.

W. Lefroy, W. C. Lang, Hon. W. A. W. Lawson, Hon. Harry A. W. Lawson, Frank Lloyd, Ralph Lane, John Lile, W. P. Livingstone, Robert L. Lowy, Sir Walter Lawrence, Bart., G.C.I.E., J. Lumsden, Esq., W. Algernon Locker, Percival Landon, Henry W. Lucy, C. D. Leng, Sidney Low, C. P. Little, S. R. Littlewood, J. L. Levy, H. Leatherdale, T. Lloyd, Isaac Lyons, J. Lyons, A. Laker, H. F. Lipscombe, F. J. Lamburn, Boyle Lawrence, F. Lambert, A. Levy.

Arthur Mee, H. T. McAuliffe, Arthur Moreland, F. Miller, John Martin, Donald McDonald, William Maas, Adye McCarthy, Walter Mansfield, J. McBain, Harry H. Marks, M.P., Harry C. Marks, Louis Meyer, Thomas Marlowe, F. Macpherson, Desmond McCarthy, H. M. Mackintosh, Andrew Meikle, F. C. Macaskie, R. S. Masson, F. Meiggs, William Maxwell, F. A. Mackenzie, R. J. McHugh, T. T. Mackenna, James Milne, W. Maxwell, S. Mattingley, G. W. Mascord, F. W. Moneypenny, G. W. MacAvoy, W. Maxwell-Lyte, A. Mond, F. W. J. Moore.

Richard A. Northcott, H. W. Nevinson, G. H. Nicholls, Lord Northcliffe, Frank Newbolt, Thomas Naylor, Reginald Nicholson, Sir George Newnes.

G. J. Orange, Herbert Owen, A. Ostler, H. S. Oakley.

Percy L. Parker, Leonard Pomeroy, O. I. Pulvermacher, E. T. Powell, Max Pemberton, Ernest Parke, Mostyn Pigott, Sir J. Roger Parkington, Ernest Platt, Major J. E. Hartford Platt, John H. Platt, Hon. Robert Porter, J. S. R. Phillips, D.L., Pressley, F. S. Pountney, S. J. Pryor, H. Peacocke, H. Pemberton, J. Wilson Pace, Andrew Piggott, E. A. Perris, G. H. Perris, Percival Phillips, Mr. Pollock, Sir Walter Plummer, George R. Parkin, Wadham Peacock, Melton Prior.

Alfred E. Robbins, Gordon Robbins, J. Hall Richardson, C. A. Reeve, J. Robertson, J. Horton Ryley, Clarence Rook, A. R. Roland, W. M. Rudge, Arthur Richardson, George A. Riddell, Ellis Robins, E. Robbins, E. T. Reed, C. R. Robertson, Howard Ruff, Nelson Richards, W. W. Rattle, H. Powell Rees, J. B. Robertson, E. W. Roper, Sir Hugh Gilzean-Reid, A. Rosenbaum, Bruce L. Richmond, R. C. Reed, Joseph Rippon, W. G. Rawlinson.

Arthur Spurgeon, G. W. Sharman, W. N. Shansfield, J. M. Le Sage, Hannan Swaffer, Alan Sanders, Harry E. Saffery, H. R. Simpson, G. A. Sutton, A. S. Storey, Evan Smith, Sir Bezey Strong, Lincoln Springfield, D. M. Sutherland, C. P. Scott, J. R. Scott, R. C. Spencer, H. Sidebotham, Owen Seaman, W. T. Stead, Henry Stead, Edwin H. Stout, J. St. Loe Strachey, Francis Stopford, Edward Salmon, A. F. Stephenson, Alfred Sell, Alfred Sell's guest, H. Hugh Spottiswoode, Sir Douglas Straight, Gordon Selfridge, George Spicer, G. A. Sutton, W. S. Scott, Linley Sambourne, J. M. Saunders, W. Lints Smith, C. Spencer Sarle, Bernard Short, D. P. Saunders, H. W. Smith, C. Sutcliffe, Valentine Smith, A. E. Snodgrass, H. Seymour, Charles Sisky, Clement Shorter, J. A. Spender, George Sparkes.

L. Goodenough Taylor, F. L. Tillotson, Langton Townley, Neil Turner, Carmichael Thomas, Major Tripod, George Toulmin, M.P., T. S. Townend, P. Tomkineon, E. R. Thompson, H. Trevor, Claude Taylor, H. B. Tourtel, Hugh Tuite, H. M. Temple, T. Martin Tilby, A. T. Tomlin.

P. A. Vaile.

Leo Weinthal, S. H. Wright, W. J. Whyte, Leslie Wilson, James Waters, S. Whorlow, H. C. P. Wood, J. S. Wood, L. Woodhouse, H. Whorlow, Evelyn Wrench, Lord Winterton, E. Wallington, Beckles Wilson, Arnold White, H. W. Wilson, David Wilson, J. F. Watson, W. Holt White, W. A. Woodward, William Will, Captain Clarence Weiner, F. W. Wile, J. B. Wilson, H. F. Winterbotham, F. Walker, C. Watney, Bernard Weller, Arthur Walter, Lucien Wolf, A. Watson, J. R. Wade.

W. B. Young.

Louis Zettersden.

LAST NIGHT'S BANQUET AT THE WHITE CITY.

IMPERIAL PRESS CONGRESS DELEGATES.

The Hon. THEODORE FINK.

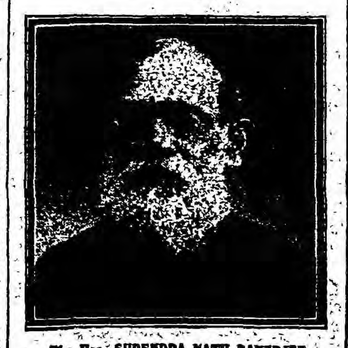
Mr. J. A. MACDONALD. [Kennedy.

Mr. G. G. ROBINSON. [Berresford.

Mr. E. S. CUNNINGHAM.

Mr. J. O. FAIRFAX. [Talma Studios.

Mr. G. E. LANGLOIS. [Dupras and Colas.



The Hon. SURENDRA NATH BANERJEE. [Hop Sing and Co.

Sir HUGH GRAHAM.

Mr. F. W. WARD.

FATAL GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION.

VIENNA, Saturday.

A large supply of gunpowder in Cracow exploded, breaking thousands of windows. Several persons are reported to have lost their lives.—Reuter.

GERMANY AND THE CONFERENCE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

BERLIN, Saturday.

Germany is keenly interested in the Imperial Press Conference opening in London to-day. The "Berliner Neueste Nachrichten," the organ of the militant army and navy element, reflects a general opinion when it says that the meeting of Empire editors "very much deserves our attention." Anything calculated to strengthen or loosen the ties binding the colonies to the Mother Country is sure of the earnest attention of German statesmen and publicists, for the collapsibility of the British "Weltreich" is one of their most prized political assets. The "Berliner Neueste Nachrichten" says it has positive knowledge that Anglo-German rivalries are what really called the conference into being, and believes the journalists have been summoned to London primarily to learn how Germany's army and navy menace the existence of the British Empire.

GALLIC COCK'S COSTUME.

ACTION OF MR. CLARKSON AGAINST PARIS THEATRE.

PARIS, Saturday.

Mr. Clarkson, the well-known London theatrical costumier, is bringing an action against Messrs. Hertz and Coquelin, the managers of the Porte Saint Martin Theatre, claiming £2,000 damages for alleged breach of contract in connection with the postponement of the production of Rostand's "Chantecler."

If the case comes to trial the evidence is likely to prove extremely amusing. According to statements published here, Mr. Clarkson, in order to array the late Coquelin Ainé in a realistic costume for the title rôle, purchased the largest rooster he could find and installed himself with the bird in a specially engaged studio, where he spent much time in minutely studying all its movements and postures. When the costume was completed, Mr. Clarkson journeyed to Cambo, where M. Rostand resides. The costume was immediately tried on by one of the author's sons, who strutted about the house and garden in it, the creation being, the plaintiff declares, enthusiastically admired and approved.

An alleged verbal agreement having been repudiated, Mr. Clarkson claims compensation for this and other expensive costumes now left on his hands. The defendants assert that plaintiff was only one of several costumiers who prepared preliminary designs, that when the costume principally in question was submitted it was immediately declared unsuitable, and that the designs accepted are now being satisfactorily carried out in Paris.

"Chantecler," said one of the defendants in an interview this afternoon, "will not be dressed in London. He is a Gallic cock."—Reuter.

ACTRESS ON A THRONE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

BERLIN, Saturday.

England boasts many titled ladies who once knew the glories of the footlights, but Germany claims the only actress who ever became the wife of a ruling prince. She is the Baroness von Heldburg, morganatic wife of the reigning Duke George II. of Saxe-Meiningen, and the people of the Duchy have this week been showering her with affectionate congratulations on her seventieth birthday.

Baroness von Heldburg was a member of the celebrated Saxe-Meiningen Court theatre company when Duke George II., after losing his second wife, Princess Feodora of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, fell in love with her and married her. She was a famous beauty, and was celebrated at the time for her Juliet. Her maiden name was Ellen Franz. She received the title of Baroness von Heldburg on her marriage-day.

PAQUIN

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1904 Vintage.

BY APPOINTMENT TO H.M. THE KING.

'We are as old as our arteries.' —VIRCHOW.

The cause of Old Age is the accumulation of waste matters in the body. Under the influence of these poisons nutrition is impaired, the ordinary functions of life are disturbed, and the arteries, as well as other tissues, take on degenerative changes and result in a calcareous condition. The smaller branches of the arteries shrivel up, thus interfering with the circulation of the blood through the organs of digestion and the heart itself, and the mental and physical feebleness of old age supervenes. It is the disturbance of the nutritive processes that results from the over accumulations of tissue poisons.—KELLOGG.

*"Thy thoughts, thy feelings, shall not die
Nor leave thee when grey hairs come nigh
A melancholy slave:
But an old age, serene and bright,
And lovely as a Lapland night
Shall lead thee to thy grave."*—WORDSWORTH.

There is no simpler, safer, or more agreeable remedy which will, by natural means, get rid of dangerous waste matter without depressing the spirits or lowering the vitality than

Eno's Fruit Salt

Where it has been taken in the earliest stages of a disease, it has, in innumerable instances, prevented a Serious Illness. Its effect upon any Disordered, Sleepless, or Feverish Condition is simply Marvellous. It is, in fact, Nature's Own Remedy, and an Unsurpassed One.

CAUTION.

Examine the capsule, and see that it is marked ENO'S "FRUIT SALT." Without it you have the sincerest form of flattery—IMITATION.

INDIAN FRONTIER TROUBLES.

PESHAWAR, Saturday.

In connection with the trouble in Waziristan, Sir George Roos-Keppel, Chief Commissioner for the North-West Frontier Province, left Abbottabad for Kuram yesterday.

The Kohat, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan Brigades are under orders for mobilisation, but this is believed to be only a precautionary measure.—Reuter.

BATH HOTEL

NOTED CUISINE.

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Bracing Sea Breezes. Invigorating Air

Croquet, Tennis, Cricket, Golf, Bathing, Boating, &c.

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THE FELIX HOTEL FACES SOUTH AND SEA. LOVELY GARDENS. 250 ROOMS. GARAGE. Moderate Inclusive Terms. Telephone 99. Illust. Booklet Apply Manager.

f, 1009. PRESS BANQUET [FIRST IMPERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE, 1909, organized by the British Pilgrims Society]. GREAT SPEECH BY LORD ROSEBERY. GROWTH OF NAVIES. EUE0PE "BATTLING INTO BARBARISM." "WE CAN AND WILL BUILD DREADNOUGHTS." MESSAGE TO OVERSEAS DOMINIONS. The Press of Great Britain gave an enthusiastic welcome to the editors and representatives of , She Press of Greater Britain who are talcing part in the Imperial Press Conference, entertaining them at a banquet held. the White City, Shepherd's Bush, on Saturday evening. All the leading journalists, with a few exceptions, in the British Isles' were present at the banquet. The guests were received by Lord Burnham, proprietor of the " Daily Telegraph," in the Congress Hall, over the Lagoon. The banquet was served in the Hall of Music, where over 600 diners were seated at some seventy tables. Lord Rosebery sat on the left, hand of Lord Burnham, and Sir Hugh. Graham on the right. The interior of the hall wbb hung with flags of the various countries sending representatives. (By Our Special Correspondent.) Under the wizard's charm of an extraordinary speech, which enchanted and moved every hearer between shouts of laughter and storms of applause, it was impossible to escape a personal reminiscence. It is a decade or more now since the writer of these lines in an article ' in the " Fortnightly Review" first described Lord Rosebery , as "the public orator of the Empire." The phrase has had some currency since then. To the master of eloquence, of humour, of subtle satire and impassioned invocation, it has clung through all political vicissi tudeg. It never seemed so exactly justified as last night when " the public orator of the Empire " in the address of welcome to the Imperial Press Conference made what many who . 1 i. -t , r T I i u neara some or me oest oi ms euorts in oiu days were tempted to think the most brilliant speech of his career. In its humanity, its statesmanship, its tact and its satire, the closing passages of patriotic appeal that now rang like a trumpet, now touched quietly the deepest chords in men who knew what patriotism signifies and mean it in all this the thing was not merely a triumph. It was a resurrection. It was the voice of half a generation ago heard irt all the -range of its . powers, Hut more persuasive, more searching, mprX" various than then. . : We listened to it in a mood of- admiration, shot through with touches of regret. Ho spoke of Empire as no man left to us in active politics can. speak. And there was. a time when with this Empire he might have done almost anything he pleased. What prevented him ? Was it temperament? Was it circumstance 7 It is a problem that historians will never quite cease to discuss for he who was Prime Minister had, as he himself- once said, his " purple hour "-and there will never., perhaps, be a hnal answer. Jtsnougr. that last night the old magic had returned upon an occasion that might well evoke it, and that Lord Rosebery delivered a speech which could have been made by no other living man. He played upon every chord. , He touched thought and emotion as he pleased. When it - turned suddenly from picturesqueness and banter to the problem of Imperial defence, the speech in its contrast of sombre and luminous pas sages was a searchlight upon the serious truth of our Imperial situation. There was at one time grave doubt whether Lord Rosebery would' speak at all. If he had not spoken, the Imperial gathering, second to none in its possible importance, would have lost what has already given it memorable distinction. If nothing more concrete came out of the Conference, the inaugural. oration would have iustified it. The able editors were in battalions and the writers in regiments. The delegates from the outer Empire had come from ' the- furthest shores.' They had travelled from the cities of the St. Lawrence and the Great -Lakes from the heart of the - Canadian wheat lands and from -the edge of the Pacific. They came from : extremes of Australia thousands of miles apart; from New Zealand out in the open ocean separated by whole - days of steaming from the nearest place that counts. South Africa from the Rand to Table Bay was represented. And out of India and beyond they came. from places " somewhere east of Sues "even from' Singapore, which is farther even from Suez than- that is from London. Amid many hundreds of their home-keeping ooUeagues there were the delegates from the circumference drawn to the centre ; and we might well have asked them in Lord Rosebery's own phrase a catchword of the- moment in the crisis of nearly ten years ago " What did they think of it aU." For what to t&e mind of all the Britains is a more responsible process than that of public dining? It would be difficult to imaexoe - a crest ceremony held in a more fantastic environment. The banquet of welcome took place in' the heart of the White City. The diners passed through that unreal- and -pleasing vista of , domes, fretted balconies, and balustrades, and lakeside terraces, through improvised canvas corridors striped like Neapolitan ices, ' which are all so much more, Oriental' than the Orient. -But the Hall.of.Musio was a hall of harmony- and thinking of the power possessed by those, present to inauej opinion

-iu ;whicK' jthe);post listens to the rhuranur f the universe itself as . to. the sound 61 a sea, sheU. 1 The Hall of Music, ' Danqoetting - chamber for ;; the occasion; is a great pink rectangle j vast and gay, somethings like cross between alrsil-way station and a variety tteetrev-jFrom.the roof srtrngsVtte'fiagi "of .;the;EnAire red:;- 'znk sEjmsk,' oiiarwiao&'em Masoned. The tab were vivid witJi ftowers. Andif'the"' diners- stretched ; away like ' public meeting. -,. . - ; - When silencer was bidden," thewrwss read,' amid oheers, a ra ess age of welcome from' the King. Lord Burnham, rising from the chair," spoke, .-.with a characteristic, breadth and dignity, '-which gave life to the' loyal toasts and eloquence to the first words of greeting to , the guesti; : Then Lord Rosebery was upon his "feet and his reception was' remarkable, probably the most significant, taken for all in all, ithat even he, sated with ovations, has received for years. The waves of acclamation " subsided, and allowed him to begin'. He was, as usual, impassive and deliberate in opening,' but he had not Tittered half a dozen sentences before he had shown that his form was. his best, and, if anything, better than ever. With his' traditions what occasion could have been more fitted' to inspire him? He rose to it, and his audience hung upon' his syllables . " in fear, lest he should make an end." ' To attempt- to summarise that utterance would bo hopeless. Charles Lamb said of Jeremy Taylor that his prose style was so rich you could not quote from him to draw out his gold threads would mean unpicking the whole texture. For this speech had all the qualities. The orator confessed that the importance of the occasion made him feel .like:, "a minor prophet." Journalists were' permanent institutions by comparison with -tatesmen.-Even Prime Ministers were transient, while good newspapers were, or should be, eternal. He compared the journalism of the Empire' with the cave of JSoluz, wherein tne passions were bound or wherefrom they were loosed. With perfect touches he described what the delegates ' would see on their tour through Great Britain for instance, "little villages clustered round heaven-directed spires as they have clustered for centuries." They would see the House of Commons" I cannot promise you a greater pleasure in the House ox.Xiords. With these deft changes -he' alternated imagination and humour and swayed our mood as he' liked. Mot: after mot came, and we no sooner thought the last phrase was the best than it was capped by another. He spoke inimitably of the Naval Review.: " You -will see the prodigious Armada the prodigious,. but always inadequate, Armada." But in a flash he added the serious touch. That Armada is "yours as much as ours." Then he took us with him on the magic carpet . for a fanciful tour. In a dream he imagined legislators of both branches voting Supplies for. several years, and then packing themselves -up to see something of the Empire. The Peers would, of course, pay their own expenses.v. "The House of Commons voted the taxes the House of Lords pays them." . That daring sally convulsed us, but he added that the mem-ibers of both Houses would-be equally improved by " the wholesome discipline of the ocean." At the Antipodes they would " take part, in the permanent sport of Australia hunting for a national capital." They would avoid Uganda so as " not to: disturb the privacy of the late President of the United States." At last, using the full power of contrast, he altered his mood ' with extraordinary impressiveness and laid upon all" his - hearers ' a hush - absolute. He described the state of Europe., its surface calm, its overpowering preparation for war. The Old Country would look to her children in the last resort. In .the meantime, let them . not . doubt her will to rely upon herself. ' We can and we vwil3 baild - Dreadnought sort whatever "the new type, of ship may be while we have 'a shilling to spend on ships or" men." Take that message back to' jour' people. Tell them they can believe it." " A' peroration may be a poor thing, but in these, hands "the thing became, a trumpet." -. Responding- for the " guests, Sir Hugh Graham, of Montreal, took up the strong note upon which the oration of the night had closed ; and, dispersing late through the. lighted courts, we felt that the .Imperial, Press Conference focus as it is for the time being of the opinion-making power of the Kings dominions will go far to turn words to deeds. " WELCOME HOME." - LORD ROSEBERY'S TOAST. ELOQUENT Lord Rosebery, in proposing the health of the guests, said : " My Lord Bmrnham, my Lord and Gentlemen, I have had - the great honour entrusted to me of proposing thevhealta. of onr guests, coupled with the name of ' Sir Hugh Graham of Montreal. (Applause.) I confess that I feel' overwhelmed by the im portance of this occasion. It is not only that in this hall speaking to so many remote tables I feel something like the prophet in the desert a minor prophet speaking to a number oi the leaders 'in scattered oases. (Laughter.) I fear I shall not be able to make myself heard I confidently expect : that I shall not but at any rate, gentlemen, coming from so far, I am sure you will be merciful to one who has to address you under such trying circumstances. "There is another reason that fills me with a sense of awe. It is the enormous, importance of the gathering that I am speaking to. (Ap plause.) . , We have - had

conferences before, many of them conferences of great importance,)Bt which the Prime Ministers and Ministers of the Empire have met together to consult on .the great matters of policy , concerning ths Empire. It is no - disparagement to those gatherings to say that this. is more' important still. (Hear,' hear.) I have t greatest respect for Prime Ministers and Ministers,- but whatever their stars may be when they an in the ascendant, . they "are essentially transient bodies (laughter)- and the power of a great newspaper with a doable function of guiding and embodying' the public opinion of - the province over which it exercises its influence is immeasurably greater "than ' that of tha statesman. " 5 THE MOTTO OF THE OCCASION. "I say this; this. is a meeting of vast-im portance. If I carried out my own sense of the occasion,' if Lcarried out what I believe is reH ,qmrea oi wis .occasion, l aoowa oonano my self to two words and then ..art, down. - They are the only two", essential - words ; they are the simplest and perhaps the wetK"tfiat,ca: be heard by mortal .ears,'-'; yet tneyare-ithe only .two words in whioh I wmld,STrm up .what, I have to-say to- orir smjm rrom Deyond, tta; seas- to-night weluaue , hmU.: ; '(Loud ; and prolonged ..cheers.) . This U the . motto; of this occasiori welcome to.ljaar 'hotna. : (Snirther eheers-K '.;--'J.' ;,V --: ;'.-:' ' "Some of yon, many of yoti, have never seen year home, "J . "" 'ma '."Tni Vwg-fn the course of toe next-fortrught wikhIi Will not boast of,' but which, in iU wayisrmrruittsMid in the world. Too' wiU seefsn ancientlaod a settled civilisation ; you will sm that smhnrlierl m onr old abbeys and r.cathedxau" built ia thsQ age of : Faith.surrivmgto ;tssUy ;that: that Faith' U?&-'4itYmiffi$&mili!m. ucieiil colleges of Oxford and CuwdiC: Si.' Andrew's, and Aberdeen. r'jXon wiU as jon I found -. one.- ',' eas,.ot.tja .imjmatar-r pass about the country the little villages clustering about the Heaven, directed spires' as - they. have, clustered for centuries7-.'?.:. -.jv ., "Ybu.will see the , andent moUierj3f,all Jfar-menta. the "most venerable' progenitor' of "free institutionsjthe . House of ' CozamonaT,';! can.-"., not prornro yon , even .greater '-rJure. of seeing the House of ' Lords, because Unit'; will not be sitting during the period of jour. visit".- . (Laughter.) And throughoutvyou i.wiiltsee those old' manor-houses where - the' squirearchy ' O' Great Britain have lived Vfor.i.oentnries almost all of them inhabited " taagioe&re Tthe discovery of Australia, and MmA-Mn-'hiifAM ' ike discovery of 'America. wheiV-ti'efcivilijiL- . tion of country life, which I adviseyon"aU"to see on your present visit, because when'-ybu ' next come it may not be here for you to see, exists. (Laughter.) . A PRODIGIOUS ARMADA. " Proceeding onwards from these -more jural -scenes, from all this' which "'is -embodied his- ' tory and which represen ts' the - antiquity .and -tradition of a thousand years,' you .will go. "or to the teeming communities, which .reieji.' the manjrfartnies,-tW energy, tralertnesi'ol ' the commercial life of Great Britian (Hear, hear.) Then, last of all, surrounding all: and . guarding all, yon will see a prodigious Armada, '. prodigious but always', inadequate Armada (Laughter and applause.) And all these, gen-" Uemen,' are yours 'as much as otm, your po- session, your .pride and your home. ; (Chrs.) " What do' you bring to us; because that i quite as important, it is, mdeed, more- un-po riant to us than what yon 'can taks from- as. What is it yon bring f Ton bring;' I trust.fthe youth of your vigorous communities ; you bring -the candour,- the acute criticism,; thVfrsrilnisaa of speech which belongs to our' young dominions - beyond the seas, yon brrng to u I hope.'the . freshest news,', the most --recent tarormations -to aU the aspirations and policy ot the comma--' nities among whiife;-you'live. ; i'-;, "-"-' " Ycn'bring, ?L mspectj '.that, same message which -you, sir'q-jiist ribw.-.wHcb-'the ftzince of Wales. . brought ba'VaiidTO into those admirable ,worde,--after a tour round : the Empire ' WakeVupii'" old oountry.;-, 'Well" gentlemen, I hope -you come'to teJl'us'all this most recent news about, dominions beyond theseaiI ism quito aware &at there is an ample representation : here from' the third of the Em-pires which are condensed , in the. British Empire, for -there, are ;three-beVWestern"in Canada, the Southern in .Australia' and.jNew Zealand and the Cape, and ;ithe ;i Eastern in,T India. I am quite: aware, that -there, is an ample representation '; from'v the ;':Press '-' of '.' India on -. this : - occasion, .but .7 they.'.-, will forgive me, I hope, if, -J; do not; address; myself ' to them, ,' because ..-what": I Vhavs," to say, ' spoken' to that ' secular community to that ancient civil isarion, - would have 4b be in a ' different scop from; that in wh'i can 'a'd-f dress the" newer Empire.' t (Hear'-h)saV.)'iTBut'S I do' hops, "and iljjwfll ' say tthis 'word toUbiV Indian delegation,"! do hope.that they will pot " go away without having pvin soh' guidan'je to our democracy as to; the' htjthod ,'of; governing and guiding that.annavflisiUon-. of India, oornprismgnamberiesi nam-'. berless . religions,' 'id' inscrutable'siad individual; - population who, seem to understand us' so much -better than we seem jto'know.. them. -Gentle -men, after aU, Ue;.bev;?i' bring" us is a:;. knowledge about youteelve and your '.oomimnii-'. ties, because we can" never know enough about them. " . " "-'" . .-V'-"" .'" DREAM . OF AN "

EMPIRE.' TBJP.r " "'Theotber mght.I;.,vetord;'-to.drsajn. a. dream," which; is' a- great favourito; practice "of retired politicians. ', (Laughtor.)'v'Thinking'-of 7-that. vast armada, the surplus .ofi, which; is K; constantly , scrapped at-. .what'seimedi wholly " inadequate prices to the 'taxpayer I.'couloinot,! help imagining hw admirably some, of jthoiel-large ships might be-' used, not fofj'tKe purposes-; of. war; :; but':; for the purpose pi: tpeaV'J. I thought' to myself that if ;Iwev.tbelaydis-5; poser of events in hU corm",I;sfculd' like "Parliament to vote supplies for two: years :andy then pack iteelf up in three or fonrjof", these ODSOiete waraups um iw -mprju..oruvr-w find out something about the-' Empire.;"' (Pro-,;, longed applause.) '-";'." -".-1 ; " ' "You may object si once and say-.Hovj' would ths country be governed-while.all tht -Ministers were absent I ' - I '.reply-woonfi.',' dsnos that the people would be governed much ; aa they ore now by the heads of the' permanent f Departments. (Laughtor.):;jAndi J' aml not sura, that some of us would not-. feJtsn' even greater cicmhence m the. welfare of the'eorxntry: if it were under .that , permanent", and -.Veil:': ordered . control. (Laughter ," and applause.) ' " Should I indude the; House of-Ixnsin'this'.. expedition?..- Well, I think'tbe" House of -.Lords" -mht accompany them ontraditiopof -paying .their own expenses. (Laughter.) ",.--.Tat,;- I-, may explain to Colonial, visitors, is the great distinction between' the House of LoriU.-and. the House of Coriunons-the" House "of JCmn-' moos votes the taxes, arid the .House of Lords -pays them. (Laughter "aridiplau)r',-iThere-fore, I think my. proposal, would place -them on an equitable basis-..: (Renewed laughter.). Whatever their present relations my be, I should not be afraid of. patting them in the same vessel, because I am "confident, that ths wholesome discipline of the ocean would soon shake tbexn down "to a condition"", oi parity, if . not oi amity. (Laughter.) ; " MARVELLOUS COUNTRIES. " Now, let u(imagine how pOT-ohemft would , -shape up. I1 would ieh't'fijrrttoNew- foundland on a visit, oi -'homage; to our' most";-! ancient J and historJo Jcokmy, where . even j our legislators would ,be aW;to:ffa same1 fpuStixa-' tkmal problems ' which ' ;hsvs! bean 'ived -aophet els.f , ... :ri;-.-:-0jc:-i " I"' would 1 take them'oo to Csda , aod I .would givethsmmMymont&smQa hear) partly for the sake':of t-.Gttodaand partly for the feeling that thjrbolidayhoiid be a leisurely one.'-. I would give them long time in - Canada." ,They' bave ,:sn.immente . ;dom inioo . to " ro ve . over ' there -; Theymight see many;: things that - were, "new , totbrnlJCbey. would : see" that even ,nnder;tthe most 'advanced democracy a Prime Minister, may .fhold'-bis" -own against the "successive bnfleta" of innu-: , merable general elections. .Theyj might see " that ' in Canada;-, wealth. jnotacraieVi: fLauzhter.) Some of the rnortrKfcwn'ipeci-V." ;men of thai obnoxxuV;reaiu ;But I wU n'epsnse'poirrt'ort of 'political f srndf pfiysesifimnjchTour and there in New Zealand tJSey. would sPirjost of the pcJiciei st 'wnieii'iieyraittM tt a:"endaonrmg vircin sou ma viaai aossstos of traditKu v "Tien, 00 to;AjpaJisA,toost Jmarvl.i3C hroa oonfaiMsil jsis rrerything is abnormal WOrirds of tiM'eHi":tscitaJof ai ,aiiMpr

10 THE OBSERVER, -SUNDAY. -TTNT 6, . lOOD, is corrveniont.-aiHi it shows the vigour of the new : continent to ba able to support each a multiplicity of each. And my expedition, which la supposed, to. take its leisure, might indulge in the permanent. sport of-Australia, the hunt for lie" Federal capital. " (Laughter.) "-Then they should return through South Africa, where they would see the greatest success of the Imperial Government of Great 'Britain (cheers) the greatest" and most recent success, where a bold and magnanimous policy has healed the Beams of war, where the blood gallantly shed on both sides, which might hare been a stream of unending division,, has extracted the cement which has united a new Empire. "jlf my excursionists are notlired and are iiot-itoo ardently summoned home which I don't think would be the casi ttiey might proceed northwards through Africa avoiding Uganda, so as not to disturb the privacy of the late President of the UnitcdStates. (Laughter.) They-might take their way home by Egypt, where they would see what British Government wisely directed can do to rescue order from chaoS." He; knew ifchat dream was impracticable, Jjord-Rosebery added, and he would pass from lit to.&ho solid and practical topics with which the .Conference would dead- They were not (in this country on -a-offee-dxyuso tour, but to '-do practical work. Looking through &e fist of topics, for -dis-I ensskm, he saw with relief that Tariff Reform taras not among them. No doubt that interesting topic, would have been exhaustively dealt with, but he understood that it .was desired that the Conference should be a peaceful one. They came first 'to the topic of closer communication between the Empire, and that was one of the most vital. It was perfectly certain that if they were-to build up an Empire it could only be by. the freest knowledge of each other's wants and ideas. : The thought, of . the. Empire, should circulate like blood through the body politic, and, like blood, should chiefly circulate through the heart. If they wanted to build an Empire the'yfirst means must be by the cheapest method of "communication. .(Cheers.) IMPERIAL DEFENCE " A MENACING "Now, gentlemen." "Lord Rosebery proceeded, " you will forgive mo if I come to what is by far the most vital-topic you havo to discuss at t his ' conference that of Imperial defence. (Cheers.) I don't know- that' I- havo aver seen avcondition of things in Europe so remarkable; so peaceful and in (some respects so incmaciag as tho condition that exists at this moment. There is such a hush in Europe a hush in which you 'might almost hear a leaf fall to the ground. Thero is an absolute ab sence of any of the questions which ordinarily. lead to war: ;: . Une of the groat rjnpires which sometimes . was supposed to menace peace is entirely engrossed with its .- own domestic affairs; another great Eastern Empire, which ; furnished a . perpetual problem for European statesmen, has taken a, new lease of life and of youth in the.-.eearch, . for liberty and constitu-, tional reform. All this .forbodea peace.. "Yet, at the same time, combined with this total absence.'of all questions of friction, there. never was - in me History qi tna worm so threatening, and so overpowering a preparation for war. That is the. sight which I confess I regard as most menacing. " For forty-years it has been true that all the nations have ; faced, each s other, armed to the. teeth, and that has been in. some respects a guarantee of peace. But now what do wo see? Without any tangible reason, we see the nations preparing new armaments. " I think there are features of this general preparation for war which must cause special anxiety to the friends of Great Britain and of the British Empire. But I will not dwell on this to-night. . I will only , say this that I will ask you when ybu are in this country to compare carefully the armaments of Europe with our preparations to meet them, and give your impression to the Empire in return. (Cheers.) "EUROPE RATTLING INTO BARBARISM. I myself feel riidTi. is the reservation and the power of this country to meet any reasonable conjunction of affairs, but when I see this bursting out of navies everywhere, whan I see one country alone asking for 25 millions of extra taxation for warlike preparation, when I see the absolutely unprecedented sacrifices which are asked from us on the same 'ground,' -I do begin to feel uneasy as 'to 'the 'outcome of." it all, to wonder where 'it; is' ever going to'stop if it is merely going .to bring Europe' back into a state of barbarism ;1 or -whether it will cause a catastrophe in which the working man of the world, at any rate, will' say : " We will have no more of ' this madness and 'this foolery, which is grinding us to powder." (Loud and prolonged 'cheers.) "Gentlemen, we can, and we' will,' build Dreadnoughts, or whatever newest type of ship may be (cheers) as long as' we hive' a shilling to depend on theW or 'a'man'-to put" into 'them. (Cheers.) All that we cau'Sund 'wiirdo;;but' I am not) sure that -even, that: will' be 'enough,' and I think it may be your dulyto'take back'to your Dominions across the seas' this message '.arid this impression, that some personal duty and responsibility for national defence rests, upon' every man and citizen" of -the' Empire.' (Loud,

cheers.) .Tell ypurpeoples, .if. they can believe it,: the deplorable condition in which Europe is ratUing -into 'barbarism, and .the pressure that ispuupb'n 'tbis'litilo England to defend itself, its. 'liberties and yours. (Loud cheers.) " Take this message also back with ybu; that the Old Country is right at heart,' that there is no failing or weakness in her, and that she-rejoices in renewing her youth in her giant' dominions' beyond the seas. (Cheers.) ' For her own-rsalvation she most look to herself,' surd iihaijifailiiig 'her, -eho most look to you. They.ouldTrettrrn to their homes, concluded' his Eoitishipj'?niS5idn6rs. o .'Empire, mission aries. oITehe mostexEensive and the most un-ahrpirt.'that';.had -been' known " to' his-t.r'CEeeraVAs!J& began; he summed up what he had to-say in the-two simple words, Welcome' home.'- With all brotherhbod'-arid affection'' they welcomed them homo. (Cheers.) SIR HUGH GRAHAM; AND IMPERIAL 'At the close ;Lord Rosebery was cheered' gain and agauC' and the . audience, rising, sang VFor .hetsVjolly gobdifeUow." . Sir Hugh Graham " .in responding, thanked, the gathering for the warmth of their. welcome, and spoke of the, necessity of journalists Joining forcesjfor the good. of ; their country . in times of great national "crisis. ' It required only a very short residence, in this country, to learn that the loyaJ peoplewere broadly, tolerant cn nearly every question that .could be, discussed, ; but they deeply oVplored'. disunion on. the .great question of national defence. He. believed that if the newspapers of Great and Greater Britain were . to" 'unite" on a policy, looking to the absolute security of the Empire, there. could, be raised very little opposition in the oojntry 'and little in Parliament, and the Press would tor ever make it impossible to degrade" that sacred question to' party' poli-ticiS(Berf ; hear.) Colonial Press a wave of sentiment had recently spread over the outlying portions of the British, Empire that would mark an important era in the attitude-of, the people towards Imperial interests. Canada for long years "under both political parties had sponged for protection on the Mother Country, both parties in Britain had been too indulgent to ask them to pay their share, and tbey had been too mean to offer it. ("No, no.") But. a' change was impending. Inspired by -the pluck of New Zealand and Australia (loud cheers) the colonies for ever ra the van Canada was sending delegates to discuss the question of defence with the British Government, and it must be apparent to the whole British world that the Commonwealth dominions and dependencies were offering hearty co-operation. That movement originated. with the Press',' was supported by the people and was now supported by both political parties. If a wise statesmanship governed tho delegates in their discussion, it meant a new and important stop safeguarding Imperial interests; it meant that the Colonies were rising to a sense of their responsibility (hear, hear) it meant that Canada and her sisters had come to be regarded as a responsible partner, having interests to protect, and having responsibilities co-equal with those privileges; it meant that the people were anxious to have a. voice -rightful voice in determining what the strength of the British. Navy should be, and tell them more effectively than could even be told by a nominal partner merely, that they regarded the British Navy as a form of Imperial insurance, a policy covering everything that we possessed, and that the provisions of that policy should be ample. THE LOYAL TOASTS. In proposing the toast of the . King, Lord Buraham, who, on rising, was received with loud cheers, said: : "My lords,-, my.. friends and colleagues, and you who honour us .by being our guests and visitors on this memorable occasion, I beg you to drink with all the enthusiasm at your command to tho health of one who, I feel assured, would be heart and foul with us in our desire through closer knowledge of one another and a more- perfect comprehension of our duties and our ambitions to make, a reality of that which, to some of. us, at least, through many a Jong year, has been bat an ideal and an inspiration the coming of a time when all tho . English-speaking races . might stand shoulder' ' to shoulder ' in days alike of trouble and prosperity. In this Empire of ours, where self-government is ordered liberty. King Edward is the dignified and. illustrious head of the greatest sovereignity the world has ever seen. You know full well how ardently he works for the advancement of the highest interests of the realm, for the promotion of the happiness and welfare of his subjects. Of him it may be truly said, in the words of our greatest poet, ' In his right hand he carries gentle peace ; he is just and fears not. The ends he aims at are his country's.' My toast is 'The King.' " (Loud cheers.) MESSAGE FROM THE KING. Mr. Harry Brittain read' the .Tollowinc tele gram to the King and His Majesty's reply : - - The' overseas delegates to : the Imperial Press Conference desire to express their fervent loyalty to your Majesty and trust that you may long be spared to the people and tho Empire. His Majesty's reply, which bad just been received, was: The . King thanks most warmly the over-. seas 'delegates to the Imperial Press Conference for their kind telegram and hopes that . they will enjoy their - stay in England. (Cheers.) Lord Burnham then proposed the toast of the Queen and the Royal

Family, -after which he delivered the following speech "of welcome to tho delegates : " My duty is. very .simple. Before I finally discharge it let me say "that, proud as I am, and have always been, of the profession to which I have the honour to belong, I have never been go proud of it as at this moment, when I find myself face to face with an assemblage such as never before has been gathered together. (Cheers-) Never in the past has any man stood before a compact body of all the most prominent journalists of the entire British Empire. To those, then, who are here to-night, not only on my own part, but on the part of the noble treasurer, Lord Northcliffe, on the part of the Chairman of the committee, Mr. Arthur Pearson -who is, I deeply regret to say, prevented by indisposition from being with .us, and who has asked me to express" his infinite regret on the part of the committee, consisting of our most distinguished journalists, and last, but very far from least, on the part of our indefatigable secretary, Mr. Harry Brittain, to whom, in justice be it said, tho origin and development in a considerable measure of this great and important undertaking are due, and who has worked night and dav so that a fortunate result might ensue an the part of all those I have named, I desire satisfaction the already assured success of our invitation to. tne most powerlut representatives of the .Cross, ot in .Dominions ot the im Empire and of .the Colonies. "The .response to our invitation has in' deed excelled our most sanguine expecta tions. ' We have framed a programme of entertainments, not solely for tho amusement of our guests, hut with the desire that out of the discussions that must arise there may ulti mately be arrived at understandings that before the hour has come to say good-bye may enable ;us all to oompxenend wnat are tne prospects and . what .the. opportunities of closer union and iincreased sympathy.. But there is one thing -that it would be well for us all in this country ever to remember, and that is, that in speaking to you wo do not speak'toyou alone wo speak 'through you io countless thousands of ! our .-. kinsmen to men of our own flesh "and blood,' who may never have seen the. land in which their forefathers were bom, .but who' are keen and eager to 'prove, as they, have often proved in the past, ;but never -more- forcibly than by their recent actions and offers,-that they aro animated by a snirit of SDlendid patriotism, and are ahso- .luteJy .convinced that in closer union lies tho secret ot irresistible power. (lxud cheers.) These, it seems to me, aro the men who from the Greater Britain beyond' the seas, stretch 'forth- their hands to us in the fervent expec- uuoos wmcu, L uupe uj vjruu may raver do disaorjointed that we shall crasD ahem with iall the strength and grip of a loyal and lasting " friendship. (Loud cheers.) " xn one regard j. am, indeed, truly laminate. I am enabled -to call upon one who has made the' closer union.. of which I have spoken, of all parts, of the Empire, one of the leading ideals pi ms me. - tuicu t do you uunK venture 'to congratulate 'aim on the realisation, in some -slight measure at least, of that patriotic-ambHion? 'I. have-the honour to crave your silence for" triy noble friend, the Earl of Rosebery." (Continued-cheers.) GUESTS AND HOSTS. The following is the list of those present at the banquet: DELEGATES. Canada.' ' Sir 'Hugh Graham, "Star," Montreal-; G. tanglois, "Le Canada," Montreal; J. S. Brier-ley ,":Herald,' Montreal ; J. A. Maodonald, "Globe," Toronto: J. ,E. . Atkinson, "Daily StarV'.Torontb : "D. Watson1, " Chronicle," Quebec: B... d'Hellenoouri, "Le Soleil,":. Quebec; P.- DJ -Boss, " Evening J ournal,',' Ottawa ; J: W. Dafoe', "'Manitib" Free Press,"- 'Winnipeg; M. E.' Nichols," "Telegram," Winnipeg; A. -F. Mscdons Id. '.'Morning Chronicle, Halifax; W. J. Herder, " Evening Telegi am," St. Johns, K.F.; E. W. McCrcady. "Daily Telegraph," St. 'John's, N.B. ; 3L D. Taylor, World," Vancouver; John Nelson, "Times," Victoria. India. E. Digby. "Indian Dsilv News,! Calcutta; Hon. Surendronsth Banerjee, "Bengalee," CalcatU; Stanley Reed. '? Timet of India," Bombay; G. "M. Chesncy, "' Pioneer," ESS LAST Allahabad; F. Crosbie Roles, "Times of Ceylon," Colombo ; A. E. Lawsou, " Mail," Madras: J. Stuart, "Rangoon Gazette," Burnish ; Major W. G. St. Clair, " Singapore Free Press," StraiU Settlements. ' West Indies. Lewis Ashcnhciru, "Gleaner," Jamaica. Australia. J 0- FairfM, "'Morning Herald," Sydney; F. W. Ward, "Daily Telegraph," Sydney, and Courier," Brisharie ; C. Bennett, "Evening News,'.' Sydney; E. S. Cunningham, " Aigus,' Melbourne ; ' Hon. Theodore Fink, " Herald," Melbourne : Dr. G. A. Svme. " Ace." Melbourne ; R. Kyflin-Tnomas, " Register,". Adelaide; Hon. J. W. Hackett, LL.D., " Western Australian," Perth; Hon. C. E. Davies, "Mercury,"- Hobait. Hudson Berkeley, "Herald," Newcastle ; N. Clerk, "Courier," Ballarat: A. Macksy,, "Advertiser," Bondigo; Themes Tcmparloy, " Richmond River Times," Bathurst; Hon. J. W. Kirwan. "Miner," Ksl-goorlie. New Zealand. Gresloy Lukin, . " Evening Post," Wellington ; H. Brott, "Star," Auckland; W. S. Douglas, Daily Times," Dunedin ; Mark Cohen, " Evening Star," Dunedin ; R. M. Macdor.ald, " Press," Christchurch. Sou:h Africa. R. F. Philipson .Stow, " S.A News," Capetown; Maitl&nd Park, "Cape Times,? Capetown ; ' G. II. Kingswell, " Rand Daily Mail," Johannesburg; Geoffrey

Robinson, "Star;" Johannesburg; A. E. Reno, "News," Pretoria; Dr. F. V. Engelenburg, " Volkstem," Pretoria ; C. Woodhead, "Natal Mercury," Durban; E. B. Walton, "Eastern Provincial Herald," Port Elizabeth; P. Davis, "Natal Witness," ' Pietor-maritrburg; F. Blake, "Post," Bloemfontein ; Charles Fichardt,. ".Friend," Bloen.fontein. HOSTS. A. St. John Adbocik, Edwin L. Arnold, W. A. Aoklnad. G. F. R- Anderson, Sir John Amott, J. Murray Allison, Hartley Aspden, WiJIiam. A-raher, Algernon E. Aspinall. Harold Bog-bio. Ernest A. Bryan. Robert H. H. Baird, T. C. Bond, L. C. Bond, W. BrimeJow, J. J. Booty, J. H. Barnes.- Charles Benboni, F. AshworUi Briggs, Bennet Burleigh, F. Whelaa Boyle, George Batman, Pomeroy Buxton, C. E. Burton, L. Bashiord, Herbert H. Bassett, W. R. Bossett, S. Bishop. W. R. Brad-brook, Herbert T. Bailey, J.' M. Bathgate, Richard E. Bridge. T. Beeoham, F. W. Bowoter. Moberly BeH.'Ernest Brain, George Bull,.W. F. BuUook. R- D. BluroonFeld; Robert BaU, J. P. Blake. Sydney Brooks, ' Alfred Butce, Frank G. Bsiley, G. E. Buoklc. E. A. BendaJl. J. M. Blanch, Captain W. Baird, - F. C. Boveridge. IMPERIAL The Hon. THEODOBE FINK, Mr. E. S. CDrlNIHGHAM. I aasaaassBBBfassSBBaBfaBBimtmfmfmfafmf .1; . The Hen. SDBEKDBA MATH BABEBJEE. IffcpSingandCa. IMPERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE. NIGHT'S BANQUET AT THE WHITE Wilhelm F. Brand, T. H. Bird, Walter Befl, E. C. Batlcy, Gerald Biss,. H.-E- Beeeley, Comyns Beaumont, John Bune, A. H. Bate, W. H. Ba.ok, C. J. Beottie, F. D. Bone, B. .Benni-son. D. Binahain, S. A. Ba.rtlett. Lawrence Cm rk, S. S. Campion, Wade Chance, W. L. Courtney, J. Cowlev, Herbert Cox, E. T. Cooke,. H. T.- Os'dbury, H. A. H.- Canon, D. O. Croal, F.S.S..-Vivian . Carter, Herbert Cornish, Bertram Christian, Philip Carr, M A. F. Cotton, Charles Cl.ifforW, H. W. Care, A. Ourrau, B. F. Croefiold, F.- M. Crisp, G. Heath Canle, Thco-doro A. Cook,..F..L.-Courteney, E. H-' Clutsain, R. de Ohateleu'x',.'A. Oourlandor, L. Copo Corn-ford, Erncet ' Coffin,' Andrew Caird. Robert Olemonts. G.-H. Cs.tt. 3: d. Onntnva. N M. Cooper, Thomas. Oatling,'N..B.-Colcock-, G. F. Cornford. J. T. Dtinsfofd, " Charles Duguid, F. J.' Dottridge,' F.' Dilriot, J. Nicol Dunn, J. Stor-mont Dunn, , James Douglas, M. H. Dubbs, P. Dvorkoviti,. H. G. Daniols, J. W. Dunn, F. W. Dickinson, F. ' E. ..'B. ' Duff , M. Dennis, . Sidney Dark, S. J. Diinn, Robert Donald, 0. F. Davies, A. J. Dawson; -H: C. ' Derwent, George Denny, Sir Henry Dalziel, M:P. John Ellerthorpe, Sir John EUermsn," Charles Eves, W. J. . Evans, J. :P.. Eddy, .'Hamilton Edwards. W. P. Forbes, Sir. George Frsmpton, R.A., Hamilton Fyfe, . H. Frisby, A. W. Faulkner, W. G. Fish, W. G. Faulkner, Lord . Faher, Colonel J. F. Free, Gerard Fiennes, A.. J.; Fin-berg, Malcolm Fraser,.W. A. Fox, Ivor Frnser, J. Foster Fraaer, F.: H. Farthing,- E F. Flynn, C. B. Fry. John Gonriings, Harold Garrish. .William Gilliland, C. L. Goodman, Philip Gibbs, Kings-cote Greenland, H. J. Gough, J. P. Giddings, F.I.J., .Hairiar. Greenwood, '. :M.P-, -Lionel Gowmg", Frank Glover, W. Griffith, Lord Ronald Sutherland. Go"wor,"J. R. Geard, R. H. Gretton, E. -M. -M. Grigg, J. Douglas Graham, Norval B. Graham, Colonel Frank Griffith, V.D., J. L. Garvin, A. G." Gardiner, W. C. Grey, Herbert Grover, ' Fred Grundy, H. A. Gwynne,. Sir F.- C; Gould, 'C. Geako, 'A.'-W. Gainage, P." Anderson Graham. Ernest Goddsrd.' Charles F. Hart, ,E. C. Heath Hosk'en, W. K. Haselden, George Hussey, C.' Lewis Hind, Frank Hare, W. '.Haley, .Walter" Haddon, William Hill,; Charles .8. Henrv, M.P-, Austin Harrison, Frits Henrickson, Harold Harms-worth. Cecil H&rmsworth. .Rudolnh' Hatren. A. E. Hance, Frank Hird, Stuart J. Hodgson, H. lTnM U - T . T.T : - 1 -- t . m . V3 -1.1 Si " B Hodgson, - James" Heilbut, Dennis 'Herbert, A. Haddon, G. Haward, Edward Hudson, P. A. Hislam, A. .S. Hurd, C. Hands, B.' M. Hansard, ; Hildebrand. . Harms-worth, Thomas H. Hardman, Sir"Ian Hamilton, C. Harris.' . Arthur D. . Innes, M. A, Charles Iggleston, Bruce Ingram W. Jeans, Harry- Jones, A. E.' Jenkins, H. J. Jennings, A. G.. Jeans, Roderick-Jones, Win. Jeffrey, R. -F. Johnson. .Kennedy Jones, S. H. PRESS CONGRESS DELEGATES. I Mr. t. A. MACDOHAID. A"nnf(fv. Mr. J. 0. FAIBFAX. Talma Studiot. :v -,'y;,-a?"";'"v;.;., ; Sir WKB 6MHAII. dwsy. ,-y- CITY. Jeycs, W. A. Jones, 'E H-' Johnstone, L. O. Johnson. - . F. W. Kohlar' - Ernest Kessell. Aco Kenealy James A., Kilpatriok. Henry . King, Alfred o-anscn, rx a. -fcaemroro. reier jveary, ami, C. T. King, Sir John Kirk, F. 'R. 'Knollys; F. H. Kitchin. ' W.-Lefroy. .W..C. Leng. Honi.W. A.W. Law-son, , Hon. Harry A. W.. La wspn,. Frank Lloyd, Ralph" Laiie, John ' Lile, " W." P. Livingstone, Robert L. 'Lowy, ' Sir- Walter Lawrence, -Bart., G.C.LE:. - J: '.Lumsden,. Esq..-W. .'Algernon Locker,' Percival.Landon, Henry W. Iiuoy.-O. D. Leng, Sidney Low, "C." P. LittIe,.'S.':R. Littlo-wood,' J. -It Tievy, H. Iiesthewlale, T. IJoyd, Ieaao LvAn. J. Lvorj ' A. - Lakerl ' H! F.-Lins-cpmbe.'F. J. Lamburn, Boyle Lawrence. F. Lambert, A. Levy.. . . ' Arthur MeeH. T'MoAuliffe,' Arthur IMore- Unrf. F. Miller. 'John Martin. Donald McDonald. William Mass, Ad ye. McCarthy . Walter - Mansfield. J. McBain. Harry, H. Marks,;M:P., Harry u. Alans, .iktuis .Meyor,, laomm mariowe, x. Maopberson, Desmond McCarthy .' H. M: Mackintosh, Andrew ; Meiklo; J". -CL Maoaskie. R, 8. Masson,. F.'-Meiggs William

Maxwell, F. A. Mackenzie. R. - J. MoHugh, - T. T. Msckenns, James Milne, W. Maxwell." S. Mattingley, G. W Masoord,'-F.- W.-MoneypennyV G. -W. MsoAvoy," W. Maxwell-Lyte,. Alfred Mond, F. W. J. Moore. - Richard A.- -Northcott,V.H.' -W. . Nevinson. G. H. 'Nicholls-Xo'rd'.NorUicUn'e, Frank Newbolt, Thomas Naylor,- 'Nicholson,' Sir George Newnes." .-":;'.- . ' ' G.': J. Orange. Herbert Owen, A. Ostler, H. 8. Oaklov. . (Percy L. Parker,' Leonard Pomeroy';' O.' ! THvormaccer, js. -r. jfoweij,.- Nsi' femoerton, Ernest..' Parke, Mostyn T. Pigott, Sir J; Boger. Parkington, Ernest Piatt, Mjor J. E.. Hartford Plafct-John H.-.' Piatt, Hon. Robert' Pditer, J. S; R-r Phillips. D."-L.' Prefsley, E. S.-Pountney, S. J. . Pryor, . H. -I'eaeocke. H. Pemberton, J. Wilson Pace; .: Andrew Piggott, E. A. Perris, G. H. Perris. Peroral Phillips, Mr. Pollock, Sir .Walter- Plummer,' George R- ' Parkin, Wadham Peacock, Melton -.'Prior. , 1. Alfred- E. Robbinsi Goidon Robbins, J. Halt Richardson,: C. A.; Reeve,- J- Robertson, J. Hor-ton Ryloy, Clarence Rook, A. R. -Roland. W. M. Rudge.vATrhur- Richardson, George A. "Ridded, Ellis; Robins, E.,'. Robbins, ,-E. ; T.v Roed, C.v-R., Robertson, 'Howard Ruff, i -Nelson Richards,' W.'W. Ruttle, H. Powell Rees. J. B. Robertson, E. W. -Roper, Sir Hugh Gilzean-Reid, A. Rosen-" baumi, Bruce :L.. Richmond, i :R. C Reed,. Joseph Bippon, W.', G. . Rawlinson. Arthur Spurgebn,- G. W. Sharman, W. N. Bhansffeld, J. M. JLe Sage, Hennan - SwaSer, Alan Sanders, Harry E. Saffery, H. R. Simpson. G., A. Sutton. -A. -S. Storey',' Evan Smith,. Sir Besev -Stronc "'Linooln "-.Snrinrfeld. n. M. Sutherland. , C. P. Scott, ; J.-:R.' Scott, . R. C. Spencer." H. Sidebotham, Owen Seaman, W.T. Stead, Henry,' Stead, Edwin;H. Stout, J. St. Loe Mr. G. G. BOBinSOH. Berresfori. j Mr. G. E. LAHGUHS. ' llhiprai anJ Colat. '..V.ssr.'r.-ir.twAsW;-- iffht.-. fJnrifoo Selfridse.' - Georee - Snicer A;' Sutton, W.-' S. .8cott.i.Linley"Sambourne, J. M. cUonders,-- W. Lints Smith, C Speaeer 'SirlevBernardVShort, D. , I,:. Saunders, H. W.' Smith," ."C- Sutcliffe, " Valentine. Smith, " A. ;E. SocdMTaas,'H. Seymour, Charles Bisky. Clement 't&orteryJ., A. " Spender,' Gorge8prkej. , ..;:.'-v-:IGooienush Taylor. F-. L. -'.TiUotson Lang-: ton TowolervNeil Turner, .Grnjiahad ThooiiV Major -Trippol'George , ToulminT. M.P., T.' S: Towneod, ' JP. Tomluveon, E. "R." Tbom'peon;' H. Trevor, Clitde--Ta!or. H.r B. Tourtel, Hugh Tuite, H.. M. Temple. T. Martin Tilby, A. T--TbrnluL '.'1"" ' . - -- -ip- AT 'Virile . -'. T-Weiathkl. S. H. Wrirht. W J. Whvte. Leslie IWillson; Jamej Waters. S. Whorlow, H- C. I. :Wood,4J.. o. nooa. i-. wooacouee. . - 'Fatal gunpowder . EXPLOSIOIsT. ; VIENNA,. Saturday. . - A -large supply of gun-" -powder in ' Cracow- ex-ployed," breaking;' fchou-ands of windows. Seve- - ral-personsre reported . to bavo lost their lives. Beater. ' Whorlow,. Evelm Wrenoh, Lord Wrnierton, E, Wallington, Beckles WiHeon, Arnold White. H. W:yrOaanJ'- David Wilson.- J.' f Watoon. W. Holt White, W. A. Woodward, WilliainVWil), Oabtaia Clarence Wednar.'-.F. W. AVile,';J. ,B. H F. Wioterbobham. sF. ."Walker. C Watney," Bernard Woller, Arthur Walter, Lucien Wolf, A. Woteon, J. R- Wade. w.-u. yoocg. . Louie Zettersden. . GERMANY , AND THE -' , . OQNFEBENCE.; ;-' " ' (From Our Own Correspoodeat-V - - ' BEBLINi "Saturday. . ' Grmanv ' ia :keenlv. interested in the Im perial . Press - Conference opeoingHn London to-:dav, -The -'" Ber3inNeneiNachrichten,' the; organ ; i'tmOjtmtmemnd navy that ' the. meeUoK .of 'Emrjare' editors- "very" much deserves onr attention. " Anything cal-culated'to Etjengtben or loosen the' ties binding' the colonies! to;the: Mother : Country 3 is : snre oi uie earnesi aiHieuiatm oi ueraaa miosmEu and Jjobliciste.' for" the; collspeibility . of the Rrijti'7"WUMieh"- ia . nna of .tbelr . most prized, polilical assets.. Tb' Berliner Neueste NacHriohten "ssys 'it' hMposiUTO": knowledge that -Anato-German ' rivalries ' are what resJly called ithe Vcojifereoce ' into beingj i and ' believes the . journaliste ' have ; been ; summoned ; to 7Lon-; J don - primarily - to' learn.' how ; Germany's army - x-i. . : 4 -iv-1 vu:-u GALLIC COCK'S COSTUME. . ACTION OF MB. CLARKSON AGAINST PABIS THEATRE. . . PARIS, Saturday, Mr. Clarkson,' the - well-known" - London" theatrical - costumier, is i bringing' an action against Messrs. Hertz and Coqaelrn, . the managers of-rthe forteitiaint. Martin Tneatre,-clsimine 21000. damages ior alleced'breach of contract ; in . cohnVction with the poatome'ment ot tne:Droauction ot Bostana s " unantecier. If the case comes to trial the evidence is likely. to prove. extremely.; amusing. Accord' ine to statements published here. Mr. . Clark son, in order to array the late . Coquelin Aine in realistic costume for the title role, Dur-j chased -the-largest rooster- he could find and' inctalled; himself . with the bird in a specially: engaged:.. studio; where he . spent - much time in minutely, studying all' its -movements! L "J J . L TTT1 Til.-- J - .VI sua postures. - nseo uiecosbume was . com-; wnorajni. jtvosxaira.;..riiQiaes.' .- ia cos fume -: was" immediately tried -onn"by.obe of the author's sonsi-who strutted about the house and irarden in it, the creation being, the plaintiff dechare enLuusiasbicauy eomirea ana, appro vea.. An alleged " verbal: agreement having' been- for. this 'and other expensive costumes now-left on his hsnds. The defendants

aosert"?that plamtiHi.was only one of .severaloostunuers-who prepared preliminary designsi;that when the oostnmD -principally jn question 'was' sub-; mitted it' waa irninediatoly declareduiisuitable,-ndr'that;Atlie; designa sveptd. are now. being" satisfactorily1, carried out in Paris."?; .i. -w -" Chantecler." said one of the'defnndanta in an interview this afternoon, "will, not -.be' dressed in london. He is a Gallic"cock." ' Reuter. " - - - f--' ' ' ' ACTRESS ON. A - THRONE (Prow Our-Own Corritspoadent.) 1 ' '. """- BERLTN,' Saturday, c", w.:jCB WUV U1ICB knew the glories of -the footlights, but Germany claims nnl.. -.-,.'" ml. '. 1... ' n wlf- nf a t ri 1 i Tirmr-a (21- .x, von.Beldburg, morganatic wife of the, reigning people ;-of;thei;l)uchy have'-this week been showerm'glher. with .affertkmat. congratulations on'herJsevehtieth'birtbday. '- '. -"S.-Barohess von Heldburg wss a member of the" , i iin.uA, x ouuora- oi xtonemone-Langenbarg, Ml,in lovo: with' her and; married ber.. .v8he was; famous beauty, aod'was'cele-brated at the time for her Juliet;; Her maiden name 'was'iaien'Frsns. -She received. the-title of Baronets van .Heldburg' on' heT' iuarriage '. ., ' y NOTMj;cUI8itfV";i;';" ."'-','-. Theldeial -Piek-me-np" Hesort . r b 1 -1 J'-S-t-v-'" :