

Special Cables

Friction Between Germany and Great Britain--War Talk Resumed--Russia's Significant Attitude.

Chamberlain's Clever Speech--Royal Christening--A New Air-Ship--The Big Strike in Germany--Russia's Apparent Designs on Corea--Persistent Incendiaries in Berlin.

London, Feb. 16.—The past week has been a busy one in politics, both at home and abroad, for the manipulation of British diplomacy. In the Parliamentary debates the Transvaal question took the first place, though the chief events in foreign politics was the baptism of Prince Boris, eldest son of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria into the Orthodox Greek Church, the significance of which is that it is generally admitted to be a prelude to Russia's recognition of Prince Ferdinand. It also shows that Russia and Turkey are now hand in hand, and this is proved by the fact that the latter country has already asked the powers to recognize Prince Ferdinand. The powers will not oppose this request as it settles a delicate question, and it is doubted whether Russia will obtain the influence in the long run which she hopes to obtain through her influence over Bulgaria.

Though the Transvaal question led in the parliamentary debates, the Venezuelan dispute came in a good second, and some interesting remarks were heard for and against the Boers and boundary arbitration.

Then again, the speech which Mr. T. M. Healey delivered on home rule, which question he bobbed up as second, is generally conceded to be the cleverest heard this session. It was in marked contrast to the feeble watery character of Mr. John Dillon's remarks. Mr. Healey's speech was a fine fighting effort, and he repeatedly scored off the Conservative leader, Mr. A. J. Balfour, to the huge delight of the occupants of the Irish benches.

HARCOURT'S POLITICAL SPEECH. The remarks of Sir William Harcourt, the Liberal leader, proved very satisfactory to the members of his party, and his attitude toward the Venezuelan dispute has been strongly commended by the Conservative as well as the Liberal organs. In fact, his urging arbitration reflects the general feeling of the House of Commons, and, for the matter of that, of all the thinking portion of the population.

Mr. Chamberlain's speech on the Transvaal question produced an excellent effect, but the credit he has gained by the masterly handling of the subject from first to last has been marred by what appears to be an error of judgment in publishing his message to President Kruger before it was delivered to the chief executive of the South African republic, who only got a short cable summary from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, before in fact the message was delivered to the Cape by the news agencies. President Kruger was greatly offended at this slight, and replied curtly, resenting interference in the international affairs of the Transvaal. Under these circumstances the Transvaal question is that the imbroglio is in no way settled, and that the international side of the question is still susceptible of some serious trouble.

FRICITION.

The publication of the blue book here and the white book in Berlin show that there has been friction between Germany and Great Britain for the past eleven months, and the shrewd attitude of Portugal in delaying making a reply to the request to allow German marines to land at Delagoa Bay until the crisis was over, has given a great deal of satisfaction. The English newspapers interpret the correspondence as disclosing that Germany is aiming to establish a veto not merely over the political but over the commercial union of South Africa, and there is a general feeling here that Great Britain must resist this pretension to the utmost.

The speech of the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, has been interpreted as the bitterness and it is thought to have been intended as an advance towards Great Britain, especially in the case of his denial of any knowledge of President Kruger having appealed for German intervention. This denial is puzzling in view of the British official advice to the contrary.

RUSSIA'S POLICY.

The blue book just issued on the Armenian negotiations is exceedingly interesting. It shows that Russia, throughout, has been steadily opposed to coercive measures, and intimated that any such steps on the part of Great Britain would be distasteful to her. She objected to the scheme of reforms being regarded as an ultimatum, and did not want to see another Bulgaria established in Armenia. The dispatches of Prince Lohenoff-Rostovsky, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, indicate that Russia was convinced that the feeling in England against the so-called misrule of the Sultan was really due to the work of the Armenian agitators.

SIR PHILIP CURRIE BLAMED.

A striking feature brought out by the blue book is the fact that, in spite of Russia's attitude, Great Britain insisted in a pretense of coercion. The newspapers are inclined to throw the blame on Sir Philip Currie, ambassador at Constantinople, and it is already announced that the latter is to take a leave of absence, which may prove to be perpetual, and it is reported that Baron Cromer, the British Consul-General in Egypt, will replace him. Baron Cromer has been very successful in his treatment of Egyptian affairs. Another rumor is that Sir Philip Currie will succeed the Marquis of Dufferin, the British ambassador at Paris, who will shortly resign.

It is stated that the blue book on Venezuela, shortly to be issued, is arranged in two divisions. The first is reported to be a narrative and summary of the British case, and the second is described as being the full evidence upon which the British claims rest.

WILL WALES COME TO CANADA?

There has been considerable comment in scientific circles over the announcement published in various Canadian papers that the Prince of Wales would visit Canada in 1897, in order to preside at the meeting of the British Association, which is to be held in Toronto at that time. A representative of the Associated Press has seen one of the leading officers of the association, who made the following statement in regard to the matter: "It is yet too early to determine just what arrangements will be made for the Toronto meeting. The association is exerting itself to make the occasion a success. It is probable, that if the Prince of Wales is unable to accept the presidency of this meeting it will be offered to the Duke of York. Failing him, either Mr. A. J. Balfour or Mr. Joseph Chamberlain will be asked. Mr. Griffiths, secretary of the association, will start for Canada in May, and upon his return he will be able to announce something more definite. We are extremely gratified at the success the association has enjoyed in the past year. The attendance at the meetings has been largest. The president, Capt. Sir Douglas Galton, has taken an immense interest in the work."

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A ROYAL CHRISTENING.

The christening of the second son of the Duke of York at Sandringham will take place in the church there, and Canon Harper, chaplain to the Prince of Wales, will officiate. It is probable that the child will be named Henry of Battenburg, it is understood the Queen particularly favors this name. The gold christening bowl that will be used on the occasion, was made in Edinburgh. Both the bowl and the font will be surrounded by white heather. This is an ancient custom at like ceremonies, and it is supposed to bring good luck. The heather used at Sandringham will be brought from there, but as none is in bloom at this season of the year, the greenhouses instead of the moors will have to be depended upon. The infant will be sprinkled with water brought from the River Jordan.

GERMANY AND THE TRANSVAAL.

Berlin, Feb. 16.—The Transvaal imbroglio has been the absorbing topic of interest here during the past week, and the Government declaration of its attitude in the Reichstag on Thursday, evoked, as was intended, an inspiring patriotic demonstration on all sides of the House. The policy of the Foreign Office, though distinctly displeasing to England, has been unanimously indorsed by leaders of all factions of the Conservative party. The representative of the Associated Press in this city has had interviews with several well-known party leaders, who have assured him that the Reichstag will stand by the Government, in the steps which it may take to maintain the status quo in South Africa.

SUSPICIOUS OF ENGLAND.

A high official of the Foreign Office said: "The official relations between Germany and Great Britain are good; but it cannot be denied that there is a strong suspicion that the British Cabinet, or at least some of the members have been, and are still, playing a double game. The sudden departure of Mr. Cecil Rhodes for South Africa and the attendant circumstances lend new color to this impression. Recent advices from South Africa indicate a resumption of British intrigues, and affairs in that part of the world are gradually shaping themselves so as to place before Germany the alternative of abandoning valuable interests for the sake of good relations with Great Britain, or of maintaining those interests at the risk of a rupture with Great Britain. The temper of the Government and people of Germany is to maintain the status quo at any cost." There is no doubt that the foregoing utterances outline the attitude of the German Government, which has been considerably influenced by the representative of Dr. W. J. Leyds, the Secretary of State for the Transvaal, who has been striving to enlist German support for the South African republic and to complete the latter's divorce from Great Britain, whose commercial interests would thereby be hampered to the advantage of Germany.

Prince Bismarck, upon whom Dr. Leyds called during the week, expressed full sympathy with the latter's mission, and warmly lauded Emperor William's action in sending a message to President Kruger congratulating him upon having suppressed Dr. Jameson's invasion of Transvaal territory.

The Frankfurter Zeitung says that the conduct of the British Government, especially since Mr. Rhodes' return, towards the Transvaal, has increased the feeling of suspicion and anxiety among the Transvaal Government, and that consequently the Transvaal Government has resolved to prepare for every emergency. In addition to Krupp cannon of different calibers, the Transvaal Government has ordered in Germany the construction of forts, material for the construction of forts.

THE GREAT STRIKE.

The great strike in the German clothing and furnishing trades, which will affect some 50,000 men and women, is now spreading into towns like Halle, Stettin and Mannheim. In Hamburg, Berlin, and other centers, 1,200,000 circulars have been distributed explaining the needs and demands of the strikers. The chief demand is the suppression of the sweaters. Over 120 bureaus have been opened in Berlin alone to receive money for the assistance of the strikers, and some of the newspapers are asking for popular subscriptions. The strikers make out a good case. They have shown that the middlemen make enormous profits, and the general feeling is that the strike will end in some compromise arrangement. The carpenters' strike has ended in a victory for the strikers, and 2,000 men have returned to work, the master carpenters having yielded the demands of their employees.

PERSISTENT INCENDIARIES.

A band of incendiaries have been at work in the Moabitte part of Berlin. During the past week the fiends were especially active. They started five fires on Wednesday and placards threatening to burn the town were found nailed to doors and trees. Large rewards are offered for the detection of the incendiaries, and six have been arrested. Two were caught—one while carrying a case of petroleum and the

other in the act of setting fire to a garret.

A NEW AIR SHIP.

Count Zeppelin has delivered a lecture at Stuttgart, in the presence of the King of Wurtemberg and the military authorities on a steering air-ship which, it is said, will cost about \$75,000 and travel eleven miles an hour. It is claimed that an air-ship can remain in the air for seven and a half days. The officials of the Prussian war office believe such a scheme feasible, but they claim the speed will not exceed five miles an hour.

THE TRANSVAAL TROUBLE.

London, Feb. 16.—The Transvaal troubles do not appear likely to be settled by a mere exchange of diplomatic correspondence, or a visit of President Kruger to London. Though all seemed smooth sailing there is commotion beneath the surface. It is learned from an official source, that the War Office, acting under orders from the Government, has made every preparation to send an army composed of 20,000 men to South Africa. Despite the silence of the English papers, and in the face of possible denials, the absolute accuracy of this statement can be relied upon. The War Office was consulted by the Government after Emperor William sent his dispatch to President Kruger, as to how long it would take to land a fully-equipped army in Natal. Plans were prepared between the War Office and the Admiralty, with the result that it was reported that an expedition could be ready within three months. The details of the scheme are known only to the heads of the War Office and the members of the Inner Cabinet, but the information received points to a large contingent being drawn from India, cavalry, artillery, and infantry, including Sikhs and other native troops. The promise of a peaceful settlement of the Transvaal difficulty does not appear to have been sufficient to induce the British Government to abandon its project. Final orders for the dispatch of the troops have not yet been given, but if the present designs are carried out a full army corps will be in Natal some time in May. What real use is to be made of this force can only be surmised. The Conservative organ, the Globe declares that England will only get what she wants by a display of force, not by actual collision, but a demonstration. Therefore the Government must increase its forces in South Africa at present to do what at any moment it may imperatively be necessary to do. The English, after the defeat at Mafeking in 1881, had 20,000 troops opposed to the Boers, who were not at all perfect then. If to the projected expedition is to be added the existing forces in South Africa there would be of all forces combined, 40,000 to 50,000 men, who could be used in a demonstration against the Transvaal. The republic might and probably would find an ally in the Orange Free State, and would receive assistance from the Dutch colonists in that Colony, and would probably secure the active intervention of Europe.

KRUGER'S PROPOSED VISIT.

Although the First Lord of the Treasury, Mr. A. J. Balfour, referred hopefully in the House of Commons to the coming of President Kruger to England to discuss the questions at issue, nobody within or without the official circles believe that he is coming. On Thursday night Mr. Chamberlain announced his readiness to accept his proposal that Home Rule should be granted to the residents of the Rand, and to ask President Kruger to suggest an alternative. The sturdy Boer President stated that alternative explicitly in his last dispatch, in which he declared that the Transvaal would allow of no interference in its internal affairs. With this dispatch before him, Mr. Balfour affirmed the decision of the British Government to interfere somehow to secure to the foreigners in the Transvaal equal rights with the Boers. The question now is what form will these interferences take?

SALISBURY'S REPUTATION SUFFERS.

The Ministerial explanations in Parliament regarding Armenia have been unsatisfactory, even to the Government's supporters, and have distinctly weakened Prime Minister Salisbury's reputation. The old description of "a lath painted to look like iron" has plentifully quoted. The Liberals have postulated their general attack on the Government's Armenian policy, until the newly issued blue book can be studied.

THE G. O. M.

The denial of the report that it is the intention of Mr. Gladstone never to return to Parliament is correct. His intimate friends state that he is greatly perturbed by the collapse of the Government's Armenian policy. If Lord Salisbury breaks the pact with the Transvaal, it is concluded that Mr. Gladstone, at the risk of his reputation, and at the risk of tarnishing the British name, will be likely to be impelled by his wrath to come out of his retirement. His friends are convinced that he could not endure the double blow in silence.

A QUEER "CONCERT."

There are blue books without number, fresh from the press, and white books in Berlin, and the flood-gates of Parliamentary eloquence have been opened; but the world is not much wiser for the release of all this point-up information. Russia is shown to have declined from the outset to co-operate with England in what Lord Salisbury and Lord Kimberley could have meant in ringing the changes on the European "concert," when it has been out of tune from the beginning. Sir Philip Currie seems to have been either foolish or the victim of some extraordinary plot to a secret alliance between Russia and Turkey.

DROPPED.

The Venezuelan affair is dropping out of discussion. When Venezuela sends a minister to London the boundary dispute will be settled. The precise method of adjustment is not yet known, but the belief is universal that the question will be amicably arranged without a protracted controversy. It is no longer possible to interest the public in the Shomberg line or any other technicality of the subject. Everybody takes it for granted that some compromise will be effected without unnecessary delay. Not even the publication of the British case will revive public interest in the diplomatic argument, since the tone of discussion in Parliament has revealed the profoundly pacific tendencies of English opinion.

A GREAT SPEECH.

Among all the speeches of the opening sessions of Parliament only one will be remembered. Mr. Chamberlain's is the one that will be remembered. Whatever else Mr. Chamberlain may be, he is not a mystery-man, like Lord Beaconsfield. He takes Parliament into his confidence with amazing candor; he substitutes publicity for secrecy, and violates diplomatic usage by showing his cards while he plays his hand. From the moment when the first tidings of the Jameson raid were received he was frank with the public and converted the Colonial Office into a news center. Dispatches on the Transvaal affair were published 24 hours before the debate came on, and in his speech he explained everything in detail, with the air of a man who had nothing to conceal. This was a new method of managing public affairs, and it offered a favorable contrast to the diplomatic game of blind-man's bluff which had been going on in Constantinople. What rendered this bolder more remarkable was the fact that Mr. Chamberlain was compelled to admit that he had irritated President Kruger by his impetuous action in printing the home rule dispatch prematurely, and possibly had prevented his proposed visit to England. He had made a mistake in printing his scheme for the future government of the Rand without previously submitting it to President Kruger, and had drawn out an angry protest; but he carried it off well, and closed his speech with the withdrawal of his scheme as a mere tentative suggestion and a firm declaration respecting the obligation of the British Government to stand by its citizens wherever they are. The Secretary of State has been seen to better advantage than in discussing the complex details of his South African policy. The way in which he made an intricate matter intelligible was marvellous; the sound judgment which he had displayed in contracting Jameson's folly by depriving the Chartered Company of its police, military and magisterial functions, ordering an impartial and thorough investigation, and meeting the requirements of a momentous situation with inflexible firmness, disarmed criticism. He seemed to have no secrets to hide, though doubtless he did not turn his pockets inside out. He even talked freely about his interview with Cecil Rhodes, and said pleasant things about the great leader whom he had sent back to Africa post-haste after an hour's conversation.

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GERMANY AND THE DUTCH REPUBLIC.

From Berlin comes word that the speech delivered by Freiherr Marschall von Bieberstein in the Reichstag, has been revised and published in the Reichsanzeiger, the official Gazette, disclosing the case in one sentence, thus: "The German Government will uphold the status quo of Delagoa Bay and also the rights involved in the ownership of the German railways and the maintenance of the independence of the South African Republic, as guaranteed by the treaty of 1884."

The Cologne Gazette, while warning England not to venture to interfere in the international reforms of the Transvaal, advises the Boers to remove any possible pretext for such interference by granting some concessions to the Uitlanders. The Vossische Zeitung says that England, if she is bent on living upon good terms with Germany, must become accustomed to see Germany maintaining a hold upon a part of the mainland of the south coast of Africa, besides having weighty interests in South Africa. Germany, the Zeitung says, has subjects there and must also protect her right to save a nation connected with her by race from brutality, and to compel respect for treaties.

The sum of the matter, according to the Berlin dispatch, is that if Great Britain should menace an attack upon the South African Republic upon the pretext of defending her subjects in that territory Germany would be unanimous in approving the intervention of the Imperial Government in the most active form in defense of the Boers.

WAR PAINT.

The London Spectator says that the possibility of a terrible war underlies the declaration of Baron von Bieberstein, the German Foreign Minister, that Germany will not abandon her resolve to interfere in the affairs of the Transvaal. The paper declares it thinks that if Great Britain was fairly routed there would be no danger of Parliament refusing the demands of the Government for munitions of war, but adds that it is doubtful if the country even now is aware of the dreadful suddenness with which an extreme emergency may arise. The Spectator protests against the Government devoting part of the budget surplus to relieve agricultural distress, and declares that this money ought to be expended in putting the country in a state of full preparedness for war. Germany, it adds, has entered upon a struggle with Great Britain to obtain the complete influence in the Transvaal. An entente on this subject is impossible. The need of full naval and military preparations without a moment's delay is plain as ever. The latest dispatches from Cape Colony confirm the view generally entertained here that the Volksraad of the Transvaal will decide that it would not be wise or expedient for President Kruger to make a visit to England. The newspapers of Natal say they expect that the view generally entertained here that the Volksraad of the Transvaal will decide that it would not be wise or expedient for President Kruger to make a visit to England. The newspapers of Natal say they expect that the view generally entertained here that the Volksraad of the Transvaal will decide that it would not be wise or expedient for President Kruger to make a visit to England.

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The tone of the Conservative and (Continued on page 5.)

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