

# THE ANGLO-SAXON

Vol. XIII., No. 10.

OTTAWA, JULY, 1899.

\$1.00 per year.

## WITHIN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The Venezuela Arbitration committee is now meeting in Paris, in the rooms formerly occupied by the Spanish American Peace Commission.

A disastrous explosion has occurred at one of the Kimberley mines, Cape Colony. It is believed that the dynamite Magazine blew up. Seventeen natives were killed and three Europeans, and 27 natives seriously injured.

The Brussels Conference for the regulation of the liquor traffic in West Africa has concluded its labours and signed a convention embodying the results arrived at. All difficulties have been overcome, and the agreement concluded provides considerable increase in the minimum import duty fixed by the Brussels Act of 1890.

London is to have a statue of King Alfred the Great. Thorncroft is to be the sculptor and his model represents the king as standing clad in his robes, one hand resting on his shield, while with the other hand he grasps his sword. The main feature of the base of the statue will be an enormous block of granite, weighing some 30 tons.

In a lengthy letter in the 'London Times' of June 16th, Mr. Henry Kimber, M.P., writes, criticizing the anomalies of the electoral system. He claims in his letter a disparity of 15 to 1 between the highest and lowest electorate, and goes on to show that one electorate, elects but one member for over 26,000 electors, while on the other hand another sends a member, with equal vote and voice from a constituency of less than 1800 electors. The five largest electorates, consisting of 110,900 voters are represented by but 5 members and these five members represent more electors than the 34 members who represent the 34 lowest electorates of the United Kingdom.

An introduction of a Redistribution Bill, might not be out of place, even in the British House. However, at present they are undoubtedly kept busy with other things.

A Blue-book was issued by the British Government on June 14th containing, among other things, an important telegram from Sir Alfred Milner, dated May 5, in which he emphatically asserts the necessity of securing for the Uitlanders, political rights and equality. On May 10th Mr. Chamberlain sent the High Commissioner a despatch giving the Government's view of the wrongs of which the Uitlanders have to complain. Mr. Chamberlain declares that the government cannot permanently ignore the exceptional and arbitrary treatment to which their fellow-countrymen and others are exposed.—Another Blue-book contains correspondence with reference to the claim for an indemnity on account of the Jamieson raid.—The Transvaal Government announces that it will continue to make concessions, even as regards the franchise, independently of

the acceptance by Great Britain of Arbitration. President Kruger says that he does not want war, but he will not give away any more.—Sir A. Milner, in his reply to the deputation who waited on him at Cape Town to thank him for his attitude at Bloemfontien, said it would have been worse than useless to accept a franchise scheme framed so as to leave an enormous majority of Uitlanders outside the State. The policy of the British Government was not one of aggression but of singular patience.

Lord Salisbury in moving in the House of Lords that the thanks of the House should be given to Lord Kitchener, to the other officers, and to the forces engaged in the recent operations in the Soudan, said: "Fourteen years ago he had to move a similar vote of thanks to General Viscount Wolseley, and to the officers and men who had served under him in the Egyptian campaign. Then the circumstances were very different, for, although great devotion had been shown by the British officers and men in discharging the duties assigned to them, the result was not successful, owing to a combination of circumstances to which it is not now necessary to refer. Now he had a different task to perform. He had to bring before their lordships equal merit, equal valour and tenacity, but these qualities had been crowned with a splendid success. They had all listened to, or taken a part in repeating, the praises which were due to the Sirdar, and as those praises had been echoed and accepted by his countrymen there was little more to be said. Lord Kitchener would remain a striking figure, adorned not only by the valour and patriotism which all successful generals could show, but also by the most extraordinary combination of calculation, of strategy, and of statesmanship that had fallen to the lot of any general in similar circumstances to display."

**THE PROPOSED TUNNEL TO IRELAND.**—A conference of the members of the British Parliament who advocate the construction of a tunnel between Great Britain and Ireland was held on Monday, June 12th, in one of the Grand Committee rooms at the House of Commons. The Marquis of Londonderry presided. Among those present were Earl Spencer, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord De Vesci, the Earl of Erne, Lord Morris, Lord Montagu, Viscount Cranborne, Sir Wilfred Lawson, Sir O. Cayzer, Sir J. Brumner, Sir A. Scobble, Viscount Chelsea, Lord E. Fitzmaurice, the Earl of Arran, Sir Powlett Milbank and Sir C. M. Palmer. Only two Irish Nationalist members attended—namely, Mr. S. Young and Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.

The chairman said he did not think there could be two opinions as to the extreme desirableness of the proposed tunnel, which must be of material advantage to Ireland and to this country in regard to tourist facilities, commercial intercourse, and national interests. His lordship argued that the scheme was practicable, stating that the length of the submarine tunnel by the most favourable route was 25 miles, and the extreme depth of water was 85 fathoms.

It was stated that the cost of the proposed tunnel was estimated at £10,000,000, and £2,000,000 for interest during construction. The suggestion was that when the tunnel had been completed and started as a running concern, the dividend on the subscribed capital from that date should be guaranteed at the rate of 3 per cent.