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LONDON LETTER.

A Review of the Situation in South Africa.

The British Naval Estimates for the Coming Year Are Greater Than Has Been.

Five Submarine Boats Will Shortly Be Completed - The Coronation Oath - News and Gossip - An Engagement that Does Not Please the King.

LONDON, March 30.—Last week was unproductive of any important change in the South African situation.

After three weeks' parley, the Kitchener-Boer negotiations fell through. Only this week we have seen sixteen rebels to join their fellows in seclusion at Cape Town, their terms of imprisonment varying from eighteen months to five years, and their fines from £150 to £5,000.

The entire Boer force is at present in a condition of melancholy demoralization. Prisoners recently captured testify that they have not sufficient ammunition to fire a volley, and must needs run on the appearance of the British. The rumor that De Wet's mind had become unhinged, has now been reliably confirmed.

It appears that De Wet's manner has become more and more brutal and arbitrary. He trusts his plans to no one, and never sleeps in camp unless absolutely obliged to do so.

The notorious General Able Erasmus has been captured. Lord Wolsey described this man as "a fiend in human form," and threatened to "hang him as high as Haman."

General Philip Botha, the Boer commander's eldest brother, has been killed. General Bruce Hamilton continues operations in the southeast Orange River Colony.

The four British subjects shot by the Boers at Wolmarstrand, were: Mr. Theunissen, his son, his son-in-law, Mr. McClellan, and Mr. Boyd.

Sergt. Richardson of the Strathcona Horse, being the first representative of the Canadian forces to win that coveted decoration, the Victoria Cross, will be presented with £5,000 on his return to Canada.

The navy estimates for the coming year amount to £21,000,000, an increase of £5,500,000 over last year's.



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will be wonderfully refreshed up, and his whole little fat body will shine with health and cleanliness after his tub with the "Albert"

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£2,900,000 of this sum has been allotted for construction, and the largest amount ever asked in a single year for that purpose.

Our shipbuilding programme, though large, is by no means too liberal. The following is the work laid down for the coming year: Battleships, 3; armored cruisers, 3; third-class cruisers, 2; torpedo-boat destroyers, 10; torpedo boats, 5; sloops, 2; submarine boats (ordered and work commenced in 1900), 5.

In unfolding the estimates, the secretary to the admiralty remarked, that our new 7.5 gun was superior to any gun in any navy in the world.

Lord Salisbury has accepted the proposal for the appointment of a committee of both houses, to consider and report upon the oath made by the sovereign on his accession to the throne.

A South African, imperially aided land purchase scheme is now being formulated. It is proposed that the government guarantee a sum not exceeding £1,000,000 in separate instalments of £1,000,000 each.

The annual Easter Monday meeting of the parishioners of Burton was held in St. John's church, Oranmore, at 10 a.m.

The annual meeting of Trinity Church, Sussex, took place in the Memorial hall on Monday, the 8th inst., at 10 o'clock.

The Duke of Genoa and his staff, on the 10th inst., exchanged salutes with the Russian fleet.

Of Church of England Warden, Vestrymen and Delegates to Synod.

Many of the Episcopal churches throughout the city and provinces, held meetings Monday evening at which the necessary church officials were appointed for the ensuing year.

CITY CHURCHES.

The annual gathering of the congregation of the church of St. John's, held last night, for the purpose of electing vestrymen for the ensuing year, was marked by a very interesting occurrence.

The famous church of St. Mary's, Woodville, the only Roman Catholic in the city proper of London—is now being demolished for local improvement.

The wooden vessel "Discovery" has just been launched at Dundee. Her displacement is 1,570 tons.

Rapid progress is being made with the flying machine now being constructed at Messrs. Denny's Clyde works.

It is reported that the United States government has successfully developed a submarine automatic torpedo, which travels three-quarters of a mile a minute.

The Marquis of Headfort is 23 years of age, and holds a lieutenant's commission in the first Life Guards.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

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THE ST. JOHN Semi-Weekly Sun.

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FREE AIR RING advertisement with image of a ring.

FREE advertisement with image of a product.

FREE advertisement with image of a product.

FREE advertisement with image of a product.

PRESIDENT LOUBET advertisement with image of a portrait.

NICE, April 9.—At a banquet, replying to a toast to his health, President Loubet asserted that the principles of justice, solidarity and good will were the foundation of the republic and inseparable to France.

A CRIMINAL (From the Nineteenth Century.) A friend of mine, the minister of a west-end chapel in London, tells how in his last visit to America, he presided in one of the largest jails, and after the service visited some of the prisoners in their cells.

SUSSEX. The annual meeting of Trinity Church, Sussex, took place in the Memorial hall on Monday, the 8th inst., at 10 o'clock.

METHODIST CONFERENCE. TORONTO, April 10.—The general conference of the board of the Methodist Church today decided to hold the next general conference at Winnipeg in September, 1902.

Advertise in the Semi-Weekly Sun.