

# NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

King George has announced his intention to entertain a hundred thousand London children at the Crystal Palace on June 30 in celebration of his coronation.

By the explosion of a moving picture machine in a small theatre in Bologoe, Southern Novgorod, Russia, causing a panic and fire, over a hundred persons lost their lives, many of them being children.

The expulsion of Jews from various parts of Russia is being pursued with great ferocity, those from Tchernigov alone numbering 2,000. Many families in Chelabinsk have been listed for expulsion, the majority of the men being grain merchants. They have appealed to the Minister of the Interior to consider their case.

The will of the late Lord Swaythling the London banker, has been sworn for probate at £1,500,000 or \$7,500,000. All bequests to the testator's children or those inheriting through the children are subject to a clause providing that at his death they must be professing the Jewish religion and must not be married to persons not professing it. It lays a solemn injunction on the children against abandoning the Jewish religion or intermarrying outside of it at any time or under any circumstances. The trustees are empowered to withhold three-fourths of their inheritance from two daughters who have assisted the Liberal Judaism movement if after his death they assist it directly or indirectly.

The United States Senate has by a vote of 46 to 40 decided not to declare illegal the election of Senator Lorimer, of Illinois, who was charged with having obtained his seat by bribery and corruption, and whose case has caused much acrimonious discussion both in Congress and the Press.

The notorious outlaw Hakim Khan, who has been for years a thorn in the side of the British northwest frontier Indian forces, was surprised the other day with thirty of his followers in a cave by a force under the command of Lieut.-Col. Sir George Roos-Keppel, chief commissioner and agent to the governor general of the northwest frontier province. Hakim refused to surrender and a machine gun hailed lead into his den until all but five of the party were killed.

Pekin despatches say that the Chinese government have agreed to the appointment of Russian and Chinese commissioners, with full powers, finally to determine the frontier, from Abagaitjewsk in the province of Transbaikalia, to the Argun River, which, throughout its course of 40 miles, forms the boundary line between Russian territory and western Manchuria.

The German operations against the rebels in Ponape, Caroline Islands, have ended. Fifteen murderers and officials were court-martialed and shot. The other insurgents numbering 426, were banished. In the recent revolt four Europeans and five friendly natives were killed, and in the subsequent fighting the German forces lost several in killed and wounded.

President Taft has issued a proclamation fixing April 4th for the convening of the sixty-second Congress in extraordinary session to enact legislation regarding the tariff agreement made between the United States Department of State and the Canadian Government, a bill endorsing which had passed the House of Representatives but had failed to reach a vote in the Senate.

The Earl of Dudley, Governor-General and commander-in-chief of the Commonwealth of Australia since April, 1908, will retire in July, and will be succeeded by Lord Denman, a prominent Liberal peer.

An Imperial rescript, published in St. Petersburg on March 3rd, announced the intention of the Emperor Nicholas of completing the work of his grandfather, Alexander II, by transforming the peasants into free and economically strong land owners. This will be achieved by affording them facilities to leave their peasant communes and by improvement in the science of agriculture. A jubilee over the emancipation of the serfs was celebrated throughout Russia on Saturday, public rejoicings and the singing of 'Te Deums' in all the churches being reported. The Emperor and Empress attended the services in the Cathedral at St. Petersburg.

The Earl of Crewe, government leader in the House of Lords and Secretary of State for India, was taken suddenly ill at a dinner party on March 3rd and fell down, causing concussion of the brain, and it is feared that it will be at least two months before he will be able to resume his leadership in the upper chamber or the duties of the Indian office. His illness is particularly unfortunate in view of the important business coming up in the House of Lords which includes Lord Lansdowne's reform bill and the government's veto bill. The Earl's duties have been assumed temporarily by Viscount Morley, Lord President of the Council and former Secretary of State for India.

Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, speaking at Oxford indicated that the government's Home Rule for Ireland bill will be on the lines of Gladstone's second home rule measure, subject to modifications that time has shown will be wise and rational. He said that the government was now engaged in an enquiry into the financial position of Ireland preparatory to granting Home Rule.

Sir Edward Tennant, brother-in-law of Mr. Asquith, has been raised to the peerage on the occasion of his appointment as Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland in succession to the Earl of Stair, an office which is always held by a peer.

After four days debate the veto bill has passed its second reading in the House of Commons by a vote of 368 to 243. Mr. Austen Chamberlain's amendment to the effect that the House would welcome the introduction of a bill to reform the composition of the House of Lords, while still maintaining its independence as a second chamber, was previously rejected by a vote of 365 to 244. The bill was then referred to the committee of the whole. The Unionists gave notice of numerous amendments they would submit. The date of the committee stage was not fixed. The House of Lords passed on its first reading Lord Balfour of Burleigh's bill creating a referendum, which he said was designed to restore the reality of power to the people instead of having power in the hands of a Cabinet oligarchy working through party whips. The bill provides for a reference to the people of matters disputed between the House of Lords and the House of Commons or any matter regarding which a certain fixed proportion of the House of Commons demands a referendum. The result of a referendum will be final unless the majority on the affirmative side is below 2 per cent. of the negative vote.

The Norwegian Government has introduced a bill in the Storting entitling women to hold any State office, except military or clerical positions. The Government wanted to include clerical posts, but the bishops opposed it.

The Emperor and Empress of Germany will attend the unveiling of the memorial to the late Queen Victoria in London on May 16.

A bill has passed the Dominion House of Commons requiring railway companies to pay their employees bi-weekly.

Prof. Jacob Heinrich van't Hoff, the chemist and author, died on March 2. He was professor at Berlin University, and in 1901 received the Nobel prize of \$40,000 for research in chemistry. The professor had written extensively on the subject which he made a life study. He was born in Rotterdam in 1852. In 1877 he published 'Ten Years in the History of a Theory,' a book on the relations of atoms in space. The views he advanced were ridiculed at the time, but his theories have since been substantiated in large measure.

A bomb, evidently intended to end the activities of Superintendent Denham of the criminal investigation department of the Calcutta police, was thrown on March 2 at his motor car in the centre of the city. It failed to explode, and the thrower, a native youth, was arrested. It happened that Denham was not in the car, which was occupied by a public works official.

George Anderson, alias 'Old Bill' Miner, the man who robbed a Canadian Pacific Railway train in British Columbia some years ago, afterwards escaping from prison, has been arrested and sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary for robbery of an express car on a Southern Railway passenger train in Georgia near White Sulphur Springs. Had he escaped conviction, arrangements had been made by the Canadian Government to have him held for extradition, so that he could be taken back to British Columbia to serve out his life sentence for robbing the Canadian Pacific Railway train.

In a cautious and diplomatically phrased speech in the Prussian Diet on March 2, the German Chancellor admonished the Roman Curia that persistence in the recent tendency to the issuance of decrees affecting Germany without previous consultation with the government will lead to retaliation. One result might, he said, be the abolition of the Prussian legation at the Holy See.

The charges that hundreds of young English girls are being sent to the Mormon colonies in Utah and other parts of the United States by agents of that church in various cities of England were brought up in the shape of questions in the House of Commons on March 2. Numerous anti-Mormon meetings have been held throughout the country of late and relatives of the girls and women who have been enticed to Utah have been flooding the Home Secretary with petitions asking for an investigation of the matter. Replying to the questions in the House Mr. Churchill said he had no official information to bear out the charges. The matter was causing a good deal of concern in certain quarters and he was treating it in a very serious spirit.

Fifty United States millionaires, negotiating through a syndicate in Belfast, have chartered the new White Star liner 'Olympic,' which is being built for that company and will visit Great Britain in June in the giantess of the seas to attend the coronation.

McGill University is to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on the Quebec Premier, Sir Lomer Gouin, in special recognition of his efforts to advance education; Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, Chief Justice of Canada, for his work as member of The Hague Tribunal of Arbitration; and Mr. George William Parmalee, secretary of the Department of Public Instruction, for his 'devoted efforts in the cause of education' and his high standing as an educationist and writer.

A despatch from Odessa says that a tragedy of the sea was revealed in the discovery in the Caspian Sea, a few miles off Astrakhan, of a derelict vessel, the whole crew of which, numbering thirty, had been frozen to death. The ship was a mass of ice.