

TO-DAY'S MESSAGES.

READING'S PROMISE.
LONDON, Nov. 28.
Reuter's Delhi correspondent cables that Lord Reading, Viceroy of India, said that recent events had rendered imperative the exercise of the Government's full strength to vindicate the law and preserve order. He promised the fullest protection to law-abiding citizens.

POLISH CHAMPION.
NEW YORK, Nov. 28.
Stanislaus Zbysko of Poland, successfully defended the world's heavy weight wrestling championship, last night, defeating Ed. Strangler Lewis. Zbysko won two falls out of three.

STORM IN NEW ENGLAND.
BOSTON, Mass., Nov. 28.
A storm of sleet and hail, turning to rain, yesterday, caused heavy damage in New England. Two deaths resulted from the storm.

JAPAN WANTS SEVENTY PER CENT.
WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.
To safeguard properly the interests of the Japanese Empire, a ratio of seventy per cent. in the tonnage of capital ships is necessary, Admiral Kato, Japanese Chief Naval Advisor, with the Japanese delegation to the Conference, told the press last night.

FISH CATCH INCREASED.
OTTAWA, Ont., Nov. 28.
Canada's catch of sea fish during October, totalled 489,696 cwts, valued at \$1,466,000, compared with 431,724 cwts., valued at \$1,348,000, for October 1920.

STANDING ALONE.
BELFAST, Nov. 28.
Tyrone County Council decided today to ignore the Northern Local Government's Board, when transfer of services occurred. It also decided to have no communication with British Local Government Board.

CECIL SPEAKS.
LONDON, Nov. 29.
Alluding in a speech at Letchworth, last night, to a suggestion that the Washington Conference might develop into a close association of nations in the future, Lord Robert Cecil held the League of Nations was actually in working order, and that it would be "worse than madness to abandon it for the hope of putting anything in its place, unless we know exactly what it is." He thought it would have been better to postpone reparations payments until Europe recovered its industrial prosperity, and added "everybody should cease looking at these questions with a mind in mind, but in fact I see little sign of any new way of approaching any of our problems."

THE FRENCH PRESS.
PARIS, Nov. 29.
French newspapers of all parties, in view of the discord between France and Great Britain, coupled with the Italian display of hostility, emphasize the urgent necessity of a frank face to face talk between the Allies, in order to reach a genuine and lasting understanding. The Journal Des Debats which, seldom pleads the British cause, strongly criticized Mr. Briand for failure to reach an accord with Great Britain on the Angora affair, before going to Washington. "France has no interest," the paper says, "in having the Premier proclaim the greatest orator in the world by incense bearers, but prefers statesmen, who can battle affairs to the satisfaction of all." Nearly all the papers endorse Mr. Briand's attitude at Washington.

Weird Thanks-giving Ceremony.
On recovering from a serious illness, a Tamil Hindu sometimes makes a vow to do something entailing discomfort and pain to himself as a sort of manifestation of gratitude combined with self-sacrifice and self-abasement.

These vows take different forms, such as rolling over and over a hard metal rod, lashing himself ore being lashed on the back or wearing a hair shirt, but walking over live coals is the means most commonly chosen by the devotee, this being very often accompanied by other forms of self-torture.

The particular day in the year reserved for the paying of these vows is the occasion of a religious ceremonial which is known to outsiders as the Fire Walking Festival.

Tuesday, July 19, was festival day this year and the Hindu temple was crowded. The Tamils present were not those of the coolie class only. There were shopkeepers, traders, merchants, clerks, and the number of cars outside testified to the wealth and position of some of those present.

A little after 5 o'clock in the afternoon the image of the goddess to whom these vows are paid was brought to the temple in procession, those who had vowed to pay being among the immediate escort. Place was made for these as the procession entered the temple grounds and approached the "fire." The fire consisted of a bed of live coals about 18 feet long and 6 feet broad. Although it was not glowing—water having been thrown over it from a little trench at one end—still one felt the heat some feet away.

The first man to get over carried a "pagoda" on his head weighing about twenty pounds. He danced over the coals in slow, measured steps. This method was followed by the others also. There was no stepping over the coal gingerly. Each foot came down as if its owner trod a cement floor. The "fire" was not "walked" over once, but three times.

As each person left the coals he made a circuit of the temple and then entered it. The first man to get through the ceremony dropped at the temple door as he gave up his "pagoda."

Josephine's Gems for Sale.
There was recently sold in New York a pair of earrings which Napoleon gave to Josephine in 1800, when the first Consul's star was in the ascendant and Josephine and he were still living happily together. They were her favorite earrings, and in most of her portraits by David and others, she is shown wearing them. Napoleon himself chose them, and his choice of jewels, as in all things, was that of a master. They consist of

two great pear-shaped emerald pendants, surrounded by diamonds. All the stones are excellence very pure and beautiful. Even after their separation the former Empress wore the jewels, and at her death they passed to the family of Eugene Beauharnais, her son by her first husband, who died on the guillotine in the revolution. After the restoration the Beauharnais family settled in Austria where they were ennobled. In the history of their adopted country they have played at times a conspicuous part, but as with other Austrian families, the war and its aftermath has forced them to sell some of the most treasured family possessions. Among them were these earrings. When the news of the prospective sale was first known in Paris as endeavor was made by some to buy them for the Louvre at the price of 600,000 francs, at which they were valued—much more than Napoleon paid for them. A private subscription, however failed to raise the amount, and as the public treasury is too low at present for the purchase of art treasures, these historical gems were lost to the Louvre.

Some Wireless Problems.
Not the least of several curious problems which are being investigated by scientists, according to an expert at the Marconi House, in London, England, is why is it so difficult to send messages across Spain from west to east, when to send them from north to south is a comparatively simple matter?

Wireless messages received at Soler, in Northeast Spain, from points further north are perfectly intelligible. Yet those sent from stations west of Soler are rarely, if ever, received clearly.

The suggestion has been made that mineral deposits in the mountains absorb the wireless waves, but this hardly satisfies the experts, who want to know why, if this theory is correct, it does not apply to messages sent from other directions.

Another puzzling feature about wireless is the way in which it is affected by sunrise and sunset.

Signals received in England from America during the day are invariably clear. At sunrise, however, they are barely distinguishable many not being received at all.

Similarly, wireless waves sent out from Paris at sunset behave in a most erratic fashion. At one moment a message may be quite plain; at another it may fade away almost entirely, so that the receiving apparatus often fails, so to speak, to grasp it.

Still more extraordinary is the behaviour of wireless in some parts of the Pacific.

Operators in ships carrying sets capable of sending messages a thousand miles, often find the range of their transmitters extended to an almost uncanny degree.

Signals sent three or four thousand miles by instruments normally capable of sending them only half that distance are frequently received. So far no one seems to be able to give a satisfactory reason for this. The effect of daylight and darkness on wireless form another subject for investigation.

Ships out of touch with land during the day often find that they can satisfactorily transmit messages at night, even though—and this is a curious fact—they have travelled many miles from land in the meantime.

Cheer Up at Forty.
Any man (or woman either) whose business or professional career is felt by him to be a success, arises on the morning of his fortieth birthday in a despondent mood. He is apt to look upon himself as a "has-been" and believe that the future has nothing bright in store. It might be well for such a man to cut out and preserve for occasional reference the following: At forty Ulysses S. Grant, later President of the United States, was idling about the streets of Galena, Ill., with no occupation and was generally regarded by the prosperous citizens of that town as a worthless sort of a person. It was not until Caesar was forty-two that he became a general and began one of the most illustrious military careers in history. At forty-seven Handel produced no great musical work, and it was not until he was fifty-six he wrote the immortal "Messiah." At forty-nine Oliver Cromwell was seriously contemplating emigration to America as a farmer. At forty both Dryden and Scott first became known as authors. At forty-six, after an heroic struggle against penury, Dr. Samuel Johnson succeeded in publishing his Dictionary of the English Language. At forty John Bunyan first received his license to preach, and he was forty-seven before "The Pilgrim's Progress" began to appear in print. And the Salvation Army was not founded by William Booth until he had reached the age of forty-nine.

CIVIL COURT.—Several civil cases occupied the attention of Judge Morris in the Central District Court today.

Stafford's Phonograph for sale. At Knowling's Stores, East, West and Central—nov14,tf

Minard's Lament. Lamentation's Friend.

What Will They Find Seven Miles Down?

Difficulties encountered in deep-sea sounding are disclosed by a marine engineer writing in The London (England) Daily Mail.

Deep-sea sounding of late years, he says, has become a very exact science. When a ship, of thousands of miles from land the real work begins. To sink a lead to a quite shallow depth is the easiest thing in the world. But when it comes to working in miles, sailors are brought up against a very different problem.

Even to-day nobody knows exactly where the greatest depth exists, for the simple reason that no instrument at present invented can reach the bottom in the deepest parts. A theory accredited by scientists is that below a certain depth solid matter refuses to sink, because the pressure of the water is so great that specific gravity is overcome.

It is widely held that when ships sink in the deepest parts of the ocean they never reach bottom, but float about suspended in the water at a depth below which their weight is not sufficient to take them. The greatest depth which has been sounded up to the present is just over five miles. But it is thought that parts of the ocean are perhaps four times as deep.

In this branch of nautical science wonderful instruments are used. Attached to the leads of the sounders, which weigh seventy pounds and are suspended on piano wire, are specially constructed cups, which close automatically and bring up samples of the ocean's bed. They are provided with a dial, upon which the depth touched by the leads, is at once recorded, and are in use in all ocean-going cable ships, which must of necessity determine of what the ocean bed consists. Time after time ships working in far seas have seen no record of solid matter reached by reading the sounder dial, because the leads are not sufficiently heavy to reach bottom.

All records may very soon be broken by the Shackleton expedition to the Antarctic. The grab-sinker, which they will use can be employed at a depth of seven miles. What will be found nobody can say. All existing theories may be exploded, but it is certain that some interesting data will be forthcoming.

Naturally, deep-sea sounding is essential from many points. Fog is the seaman's enemy. Sounding must be taken to avoid disaster. Formerly the leads used were smeared with tallow. Many interesting specimens were brought to the surface, but nothing is known of the flora and the fauna that exists at great depths hence the constant attempts to discover better sounding apparatus.

Give Cows for Brides.

A Basuto girl is looked upon by her father as his bank, for when she reaches a marriageable age, the bridegroom will have to hand over a specified number of cattle before he can take her from her father's hut.

There is little of love and romance in a Basuto's girl's marriage. This is not to say that she has no feelings or does not hear the call of romance. Like every girl in this world, these things come into her life and she thinks and dreams as we all do.

But there is no wooing or winning and none of the beauty of realized young dreams for her.

The man who wants her does not consult her—he has known her and she has probably pleased his eye, and so the dusky Hendrika goes to the father and says he wishes to marry Maluma.

The matter is then discussed by the heads of the family and their relations, and the girl gets to know of the coming marriage only by a chance word that may drop here and there. Generally the principal point of discussion among the heads of the family is how many cows and sheep are to be handed over to the father by the bridegroom as "lobola" (a marriage dowry) for the girl.

This being arranged—usually a payment of so many cows down and so many to be handed over later—the girl is informed that Hendrika is to be her husband for better or for worse—generally worse—and whether he be quite an old man or a young man Maluma has to sacrifice herself and go, as she is told.

The young natives living nearer civilization have discarded the old customs and marry without "lobola." The marriage takes place in a native church. The wedding party and the guests are all dressed in European clothes and they return from the church by wagon to the hut of the girl's father on his master's farm, where sheep have been slaughtered and much Karfir beer made; and dancing and singing go on continually for two days.

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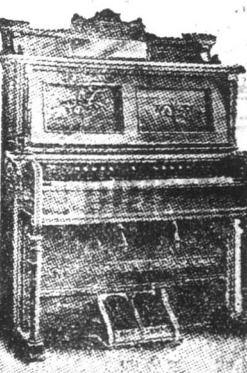
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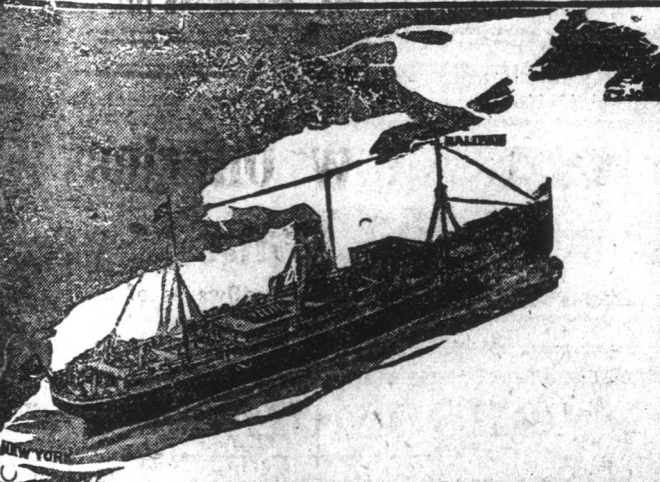
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