

MR. MASSEY ON EMPIRE DEFENCE.

APPROACHING "A DANGEROUS NAVAL POSITION."

Mr. W. E. Massey, Premier of New Zealand, returned on Saturday at Darlington, where he was presented with the freedom of the borough. He declared New Zealand as a country for immigrants. They had ten thousand immigrants in the last year, and he hoped they would be as many next year. "We want to attract them here," he said. "We do not want to allow people to come in from any other country except Britain without the permission of the Government. The effect will be that New Zealand in the future will possess the most purely British stock of any part of the Empire."

"A reference has been made to the League of Nations. I will support anything which makes less frequent. I am not a pacifist, though I am a man of peace, but I will not allow any interference with or injustice to be inflicted upon any citizen of the Empire to which I belong."

"In the Imperial Conference, which has just ended, we have done better than we did on any previous occasion. This was the first time in the history of the British Empire that the representatives of the Overseas Dominions took part in the management of public affairs. We were not consulted in the Conference with regard to Ireland, because it was said that it was a matter that had got to be dealt with by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. We did not bicker for it you know (laughter)—but if we had been asked we should have done our duty and taken the consequences."

The Conference had considered the question of defence from the naval point of view. He knew most certainly that if Germany had been victorious they in the Pacific would have taken possession of it. He and those from the other Dominions in that part of the world were not looking for trouble, but they realised that we were getting into a most dangerous position from the British naval standpoint. If we were not able to protect any part of the Empire that was attacked, then the Empire was done."

He did not care whether men were Labour or Conservatives, Liberals, or "Woo-Frees," as long as they did not interfere with or injure the Empire in which they live. In regard to Imperial Preference, he said he did not think we had done nearly as much as we ought to have done. They in the Dominions already gave British goods preference. He hoped they would be able to do more in that direction in the next few months. He was not asking them in this way to put a tax on food or anything of the kind. All that was wanted was preference for British goods. He could not imagine any man objecting. He supposed that what was proposed would give a certain amount of preference to the British as against outsiders, and to our British country as against others."

Mr. Massey added that New Zealand was going to Britain to place orders. These included 2,500 railway wagons, 45 engines, and many railway rails.

MILIE'S OBJECTION TO SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS.

REFUSAL TO CONVICT MAN FOR STEALING THEM.

Presiding at the Motherwell Police Court, Judge Hugh Ferguson refused to convict a man charged with stealing Sunday morning papers. The case was referred to a man named Andrew Hara, a labourer, who admitted to a charge of stealing twenty and a half dozen Sunday papers from shop doors early on Sunday morning. The prisoner, who was found by the police to sell the papers, had nothing to say.

PEARL ROBBERY ON SCOTCH EXPRESS.

WALLET STOLEN FROM UNDER SLEEPING MAN'S PILLOW.

A London diamond merchant has fallen a victim of thieves while travelling by train from Dundee to London, and a reward of £200 is now offered for the recovery of the two strings of pearls of which he has been robbed.

The merchant, Mr. Rothfield, of the firm of Messrs. Rothfield and Co., Regent Street, W., was travelling by the night express, and carried the strings of pearls, each consisting of 87 graduated pearls with a platinum and diamond cross, in a black crocodile wallet. Retiring to rest in the sleeping car he placed the wallet beneath his pillow. When he awoke he discovered that it was missing, and since then no trace of it has been discovered.

During Mr. Rothfield's stay in Dundee his flat in London was burgled, a quantity of articles, including jewellery, cigars, and an expensive fur coat, being stolen. It is considered that the burglars are members of the gang who planned the robbery on the train. The value of the pearls is estimated at £3,000.

ENGLISHMAN ROBBED AT FRENCH RAILWAY STATION.

Specialists in train robberies do not seem to be confining their activities solely to passengers actually travelling by train. This week an English visitor at St. Malo was robbed at St. Malo railway station before he had entered his train. His pocket-book was cleverly extracted from his pocket, and he did not discover his loss until later. The pocket-book contained £150.—Reuter.

SIR S. OLIVIER AS LABOUR CANDIDATE.

Sir Sydney Olivier, at one time Governor of Jamaica, has expressed willingness to contest Oxford City in the Labour interest at the next general election if invited by the local trade unions. Sir Sydney Olivier is the author of several of the Fabian Society's publications.

POPLAR EFFORT TO RAISE MONEY.

FAIR UNDER MUNICIPAL PATRONAGE.

Poplar made an effort during the week-end to raise the cost of the Council's legal proceedings by holding an Old English fair. The Mayor of Poplar performed the opening ceremony on Saturday afternoon, supported by a number of his colleagues. Addressing a large crowd, he said the fight in which the Council were engaged was to secure equalisation of the rates in London. Political parties in the past had honoured the principle by mere lip-service, and it had been left to the Labour representatives of the borough to force the issue to obtain that justice and consideration to which, as a poor borough with heavy responsibilities to those around them, they were entitled.

CO-OPERATIVE CONVALESCENT HOMES.

The Co-operative Convalescent Homes Association (north-western section), which already has homes at Blackpool and Otley (Yorkshire), opened a third at Scarborough on Saturday. Mr. G. Thorpe (chairman of the Association) declared the home open. It has accommodation

CARDIFF TIMBER-YARD FIRE.

WATCHDOG RESCUED THEN NEARLY DROWNED.

(From our Correspondent.)

Damage estimated at £20,000 was done by fire which broke out in the timber-yard of Messrs. Bartlett and Co., of East Moore, Cardiff, late on Saturday night, and which was not extinguished until nearly midday on Sunday.

Cardiff Fire Brigade had to muster all its strength to deal with the outbreak, including the fire-boat, which worked from the Glamorgan Canal, which formed one of the boundaries of the timber-yard. The brigade were assisted in their work during the hours of darkness by a thick, tarred beam in the centre of the building which burned brightly and provided ample light for their operations.

A watch-dog kept at the yard was rescued from its kennel under great difficulties by a fireman, but it was so overcome by the heat from the burning timber that it fell into the canal and floundered about. It was obviously becoming exhausted when an onlooker dived in fully clothed to rescue it, but before he could reach it it was fished out by an inspector of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who was on the opposite bank.

PREMIER AND THE GREEKS.

SIR BASIL ZAHAROFF'S DISCLAIMER.

Sir Basil Zaharoff's attention has been drawn to a statement made in the House of Commons in regard to himself. He desires to have the following statement published:—

"I have not seen Mr. Lloyd George since the spring of 1919, nor has any communication, verbal or otherwise, passed between us since then.—(Signed) BASIL ZAHAROFF."

The statement, made by Colonel Guinness in Tuesday's debate on the Premier's statement on the Supreme Council's decisions, was as follows:—"I cannot find any expert, whether traveller or soldier, who approves of our present and recent policy in the Near East. This is not to say that the Prime Minister has no counsellors. I believe that in this matter the voice behind the throne, or, I should say, behind the presidential chair, is that of Sir Basil Zaharoff. He is, no doubt, a very able financier. I believe he has international interests in the munition industry. Outside political circles his chief fame is that he either does or did control the armament industries in four or five countries. But even more important than his financial power is the fact that, although he is British enough to be a Grand Cross of the Bath and a Grand Cross of the British Empire, he remains primarily, I believe, a Greek. If we are to be ruled in foreign affairs not by the Foreign Office, not by experts, but by a President, or anyhow by a presidential system, we can at least ask that the voices which he hears should be British voices and the interests those of his own country, or at least of the Entente."

A LINK WITH SPURGEON.

Born on August 21, 1819, at Coggeshall, Essex, Mrs. Amelia Spurgeon celebrated her 102nd birthday yesterday at her home in the Penge district. She was an aunt of the Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon, and lives with her niece, a septuagenarian, whom she brought up from infancy.

DISASTROUS GLUEWORK.

FLAMES SEEN MILES AWAY.

The Wigan fire brigade returned to headquarters on Saturday night after a fire which broke out on Saturday night at the Grove Chemical Works and Chemicals, Limited, a few miles from Wigan. They were assisted by a brigade of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Fire and Marine Insurance Co., Ltd., of Horwich, as well as the private fire engine of the firm, in fighting the flames seen for miles.

The stores contained over 100 tons of glue ready for the market, and this was burnt out the night, fighting up to 10 o'clock with shooting flames and thick smoke, and fumes in great volume. The smell of the fumes penetrated some five miles distant. High water from the Leeds and Bradford Canal was near by were thrown on to the fire, and brigades directing their efforts to save the building premises, which seemed at first to be the two-storied building, but the stores and glue-drying racks were entirely destroyed.

In the intense heat caused by the fire, girders and portions of the roof fell into unrecognisable shapes of twisted metal scrap. When the Wigan fire brigade arrived on Saturday the fire was still smouldering. The company's private fire brigades were busy throughout the day in case of any further outbreak. The firemen's clothes were sticky with glue, which the fire had melted, and sticky mass splashing about to whatever it touched in passing.

It is estimated that the damage done is not less than £50,000.

PUBLICAN AS DRESSMAKER.

DEMAND FOR EXPLANATION WITH ASSAULT.

A publican's attempt to act as a dressmaker's customer's dress formed the basis of a case at the Stratford Police Court yesterday. When Francis William Bank, of Havelock, Iford, and Joseph Bank, of the potman, were summoned by William Thomas Wallis, a 'butcher' from Stratford, Mr. F. A. Stern, for the case, Wallis and Miss Stella Norris went into the saloon bar of the publican's where they were sitting at a table. The manager wished to speak to them, and they went to the counter, and Bank asked you and your young lady to go. I don't like the young lady's dress. They immediately left, but went back for an explanation. The manager told one he was caught by the door of the bar. Shillitoe was in the lobby, and after Banks had been under the jaw, Shillitoe struck the manager. The complaint was made to the police station and reported to the court.

Miss Norris gave evidence that she was in a black dress, with short sleeves, white gloves reaching to the elbow, and a black hat which covered her neck.

Mr. Stern: Is this how you were dressed the night?—Exactly, except the gloves off.

Mr. Stern: And I see that the witness denied doing an assault on the manager.

For the defence it was stated that the manager complained of the dress and the assault.

Mr. Eliot Howard (chairman) asked the publican how he got the people here. He said he had not.

Mr. Howard: It is very serious for a house and not give a cross-examine the complaining witness.

Mr. Eliot Howard said Bank was charged with assault.