

THE GERMAN TARIFF.

PROTESTS FROM PROTECTIONIST CUSTOMERS.

RETALIATORY MEASURES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Berlin, February 1.—Germany's intention, as expressed lately to the Reichstag by Secretary Delbrück, to keep to her present policy of high duties and veiled export bounties has called forth protests from a large number of Protectionist customers. From Austria-Hungary, Russia, and the United States come threats or actual measures of retaliation. Dr. Delbrück's statement was that the present (1903) tariff is on the whole satisfactory, and needs change only in minor points; that the commercial treaties will not be denounced in 1916; that no new Tariff Bill will be put before the Reichstag; and that unless some other country challenges Germany the existing treaties will be treated as satisfactory. The anti-Protectionist Press objected that this was reckoning without the host, as there have been signs of an aggressive tariff policy by Russia, and there are loud complaints from other of Germany's neighbours; that therefore Germany, unless she chooses to make concessions, may be involved in a tariff war, and that in any case a tacit prolongation of the present treaty conditions is unlikely.

Apparently these predictions are to prove true. Both Austria and Hungary have separately issued declarations that they are not satisfied with Dr. Delbrück's plan for avoiding change. The Vienna "Freundenblatt," the organ of the Foreign Office, first took notice of the plan. After declaring that the business corporations of the Empire must make up their minds as to tariff policy towards Germany, the "Freundenblatt" announces that: "The German Government seems to aim at a mere prolongation of the commercial treaties; but it goes without saying that a simple prolongation is unthinkable, and that revision in certain matters through supplementary agreements will have to be effected." In part this declaration is ascribed to Hungarian discontent with German tariff policy. This view is confirmed by the fact that both the Hungarian Society of Industrials and the Budapest Chamber of Commerce and Industry have made militant declarations against German tariff policy. The Vice-President of the former body, and member of the House of Magnates, Herr von Ullmann, says that German policy towards Hungary is unfriendly. His chief complaint is that the famous grain "import certificate" (i.e., export bounties) have forced up Germany's corn export to the detriment of Hungary as a corn-producing country. Herr von Lancy, President of the Chamber of Commerce, declared on the same day that Germany's plan to keep to the present tariff flatly conflicts with the views of Austrian and Hungarian authorities, and that Austria-Hungary intends to insist on a radical revision. As the German cotton-spinners are complaining that they are not sufficiently protected against Austrian competition, it appears that important interests on both sides are against the present treaties. It is clear that Austria-Hungary makes a grievance out of the grain export bounties, Germany has no friends at all in this matter. A Russian Bill to exclude bounty-fed corn is already on the way, and it is announced that the United States under the new tariff law is imposing a punitive duty on German grain products exported under the "import certificate" system.

The threats of retaliation from all sides may make it impossible to keep to the present Tariff. This will make things unpleasant for the Imperial Government, which is satisfied with the present Tariff mainly because political conditions are against a new one. A general reduction of duties is practically impossible, as the Agrarians will not tolerate it. Higher duties are also unlikely. The Reichstag has a firm Protectionist majority; but the National-Liberals, an essential part of it, will hardly dare to support the present Agrarian claim for higher duties on certain food products, and without giving such support they cannot ask for higher duties on manufactured or half-manufactured goods. The high prices agitation of the past four years has practically made it impossible to impose higher duties. The Government No Change policy is meant to avoid trouble, and to prevent pestering by rival interests. If, however, Austria-Hungary, Russia, and other States demand change on threat of retaliation, the Government, despite itself, may have to give way. The anti-High Protection Press generally favours the No Change policy. The "Handelspolitische Korrespondenz," organ of the Commercial Treaties Association, declares that under present political conditions changes will probably be for the worse. The best thing is to postpone the struggle. "It may be expected that in the meantime the development of our world trade will still further discredit the Agrarian Tariff policy; and that in the Reichstag the representation of economically reactionary tendencies will be still further weakened, so that within visible time the Tariff campaign will be finally and entirely thrown down."

In addition to the Russian campaign against Germany's bounty-fed corn export, there is a strong demand for higher duties on certain German manufactured goods. The Russian industrial Press prints complaints on this score. M. Sieverski, director of the South Russian Metal Manufacturers' Union, demands that either a double tariff be imposed on German ready goods, or that the tariff on raw material be reduced. "At present," he says, "our tariff lets in ready goods too easily, and keeps out, or makes dearer, raw material, machine tools, and other things necessary to enable us to carry on our production, and face foreign competition in ready-manufactured goods." "The nature of our Protection," adds M. Sieverski, "is everywhere to put a check on efficient production."

An instructive light on the relation between wages and living cost is cast by the annual report of the Essen Chamber of Commerce. The report gives for the last fifteen years the average weekly wage earned by a Krupp working-class employee in the cast-steel department, and the average expenditure by such an employee on food for himself, wife, and two children. The figures are sup-

plied by the firm of Krupp. The general belief that German wages have risen slightly more rapidly than living cost is not confirmed by this report. Between 1899 and 1913 the average wage rose, without a set-back, from 28s. 4d. a week to 35s. 2d. The food outlay in the same years rose from 17s. 6d. to 22s. 10d. Wages rose about 24.40 per cent, and food outlay about 29.85. In recent years the relation has been still more unfavourable. Since 1907 wages have risen 10 per cent., and food and drink outlay 16.35 per cent. The absolute surplus remaining after paying for food was a little larger in 1913 than in 1899, but Housing and other necessities on which this surplus goes have also risen in price. The "Arbeitsmarkt-Korrespondenz" comments that "the statistics of the firm of Krupp show that the conditions of the working-man have grown worse."

NEW ZEALAND LOANS.

INTERVIEW WITH FINANCIAL MINISTER.

Wellington (N.Z.), Monday.—In the course of an interview Mr. Allen, the Minister of Finance, declared that the main factor in the success of the new loan was the large amount of money available for investment. Another reason, however, was New Zealand's good repute with the British investor, who (declared the Minister) had confidence in the Government's land settlement policy, its firm treatment of industrial questions, and sound administration generally. The Government was not likely to increase the expenditure on public works.

During the current year New Zealand would have to raise a further sum of £3,250,000, which became due in December, being the uncovered portion of the loan raised four years ago by Sir J. G. Ward's Government.

It was essential (concluded Mr. Allen) that in order to raise that amount to the best advantage and to keep their name good on the London market, no effort should be spared to keep the Dominion's finances in a sound condition.—Reuter.

ROYAL VISIT TO FRANCE.

A TRIUMPHAL WELCOME ASSURED TO THE KING AND QUEEN.

The "Matin" states (says a Reuter telegram from Paris) that the visit of King George and Queen Mary to Paris will take place during the last ten days of April, and the "Gaulois" gives the date of their probable arrival as April 20.

King George and his Consort, adds the "Gaulois," will cross to Cherbourg, escorted by a powerful fleet, and will stay five days in Paris, where they will make the British Embassy their headquarters. There will be a great review in their honour, and their Majesties will visit Versailles.

The "Excelsior" states that the coming visit of the British Sovereigns to France is making the happiest impression on all sides. Their Majesties, says the journal, will be everywhere accorded a triumphal welcome, which will prove to them to what extent the Entente Cordiale remains one of the most popular and most powerful elements of French national life.

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIANS.

PROTEST BY MR. GHANDI'S SUPPORTERS.

A meeting of 1,500 Indians at Pietermaritzburg yesterday welcomed the Rev. Mr. Andrews, who has come specially from India to investigate the position of Indians in South Africa. A resolution was passed, says Reuter, endorsing the terms of the provisional agreement concluded between the Government and Mr. Ghandi, as representing the Indians in South Africa. A further resolution was adopted repudiating the right of the Natal Indian Congress, as a mere handful of individuals, to give evidence before the Indian grievances commission on behalf of the Natal Indians and to override the decision of Mr. Ghandi.

It appears, says a Reuter telegram from Durban, that a number of the members of the Natal Indian Congress are protesting against the resolution submitted at the Congress on January 28 to give evidence before the South African Indian Commission. They maintain that 60 per cent. of the meeting endorsed Mr. Ghandi's action, which was opposed to the resolution, but the chairman ruled in favour of the minority, and ignored the demand for a division. The chairman at the same time points out that no members voted. It is believed that the dispute may deter certain Indians from giving evidence before the Commission.

COLLAPSE OF A LEIPZIG BUILDING.

Berlin, Monday.—Following a gas explosion on the premises of a Leipzig firm of booksellers a portion of the building collapsed at midnight. The basement of the premises is used as a restaurant, and is much frequented on Sunday.

One person was severely injured, and four others slightly injured.—Central News.

FIGHTING IN MOROCCO.

Madrid, Monday.—A telegram from Tetuan announces that the column of General Berenguer has routed a considerable force of Moors who were occupying the village of Benisalem. The Moors lost sixty killed and 100 wounded, while the Spanish casualties were a chief and sixteen of the native levies killed, and a chief, three officers, and twenty men wounded.—Central News.

RACHMANINOFF AT THE ALBERT HALL.

A very large audience was present at the Albert Hall yesterday afternoon to welcome the famous Russian composer and pianist, Sergei Rachmaninoff. It hardly needs to be said that the concert was given a great reception. Rachmaninoff was heard entirely in his own compositions, including the piano concerto in C minor, and several shorter pieces, his performances of which revealed his powers as a pianist to fine advantage. The vocalist was Miss Helen Blain, who is a contralto with a voice of good quality, which she knows how to use. She sang Handel's "Rendli" scena al Ciglio, and two charming little songs by Easthope Martin. The Carneval Overture of Dvorak and the Huldigungsmarsch of Wagner were played by the orchestra.

DUBLIN TRAM ACCIDENT.

MORE THAN TWENTY INJURED IN CAPSIZED CAR.

More than twenty persons were injured, some of them seriously, by the capsizing of a tramcar in Dublin last night; and a few of the passengers narrowly escaped death.

The scene of the accident was at the corner of Mount-street and Merrion-square, East; and there was a large number of passengers, said to be twenty-eight, including the motorman and conductor.

With the exception of a young lady passenger, Miss Leahy, who resides in Dalkey, some seven miles outside the city, and a soldier whose name so far has not transpired, the passengers, though receiving some nasty fractures, escaped serious injury. Miss Leahy, in addition to the fracture of one of her limbs, is suffering from concussion of her brain. The soldier is stated to have incurred abdominal injuries.

NOT TO BE LEARNED IN A DAY.

THE WISDOM OF CULTIVATING A LITTLE INCREDULITY.

In the King's Bench Division to-day a settlement was announced in a libel action brought by Mr. Alexis M. de Beck, editor of the "Canadian News," against the Canada Newspapers Company, Limited, and others.

Mr. Shearman, K.C. (for the plaintiff), said a libel appeared in a paper dealing with Canadian affairs. It stated that some three years ago Mr. Beck turned up at Vancouver and launched a company there called the Maricopa Oil Company, "which was a wild cat scheme of the worst kind," and the result was that after another company—the General Securities Company—had been formed three of the promoters, including Mr. Beck, disappeared.

As a matter of fact, said counsel, Mr. Beck did not arrive at Vancouver until some years after both companies were floated. Unfortunately for him, he invested and lost some of his money in what was called "this wild cat scheme." While that money was lying invested, and at the request of some other shareholders, he investigated the circumstances in which the company had been launched, and that was all he had to do with the matter. He was presented with a testimonial by the other shareholders for that work, and at the moment this libel was published he took proceedings. The defendants had now ascertained that there was not the smallest foundation for what had been published, and they would make a statement to that effect and indemnify Mr. Beck against the costs he had incurred.

Mr. Pollock, K.C., for the defendants, said that was so, adding that the material upon which the libel was founded was received from a source which they had reason to believe was perfectly trustworthy. When the writ was issued they pleaded justification, but now they had ascertained that there was no foundation whatever for the libel, and they wished to withdraw all imputations against Mr. Beck, and express their regret that the libel was published.

Judgment was thereupon entered for the plaintiff with an indemnity as stated, Mr. Justice Darling remarking that this showed the advisability of making inquiries before, instead of after, statements derogatory of anyone were published. "Like some of us," added the judge, "the defendants should cultivate a little incredulity." (Laughter.) Mr. Pollock said he would communicate that to the proper quarter.

Mr. Justice Darling: But it is not to be learned in a day.

TAME WILD DUCKS.

AMUSING DISCUSSION IN COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL.

Amusing passages between judges and counsel occurred to-day in the Court of Criminal Appeal when the sentence passed on a man named James Whaley, who at the Cheshire Sessions at Knutsford was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour for stealing a duck, was under review.

Mr. Wane Banks, appearing for the appellant, argued that the conviction could not stand because the Chairman of Sessions did not ask the jury to consider whether the duck was one of a number of wild ducks.

Mr. Justice Ridley: But surely you do not find wild ducks in Macclesfield? (Laughter.) Mr. Banks: The question was whether they were tame or wild ducks.

Mr. Justice Rowlatt: But a tame duck is a confounding bold bird. (Laughter.) Apparently everybody in Macclesfield knew these ducks, and used to feed them.

Counsel: Then they were tame wild ducks. (Laughter.)

Mr. Justice Ridley said no fault could be found with the summing up at the trial. The ducks seemed to have been known throughout Macclesfield, and the Chairman seemed to suppose that they could not therefore have been wild ones. It was true the sentence was a severe one, but the prisoner was an old offender, and had been guilty of many larcenies. However, the Court thought six months' hard labour would be sufficient, and sentence would be reduced to that period.

GRIMSBY TRAWLER WRECKED.

The steam trawler "Duncan," of Grimsby, struck the Causeway, North Wales, during a gale yesterday afternoon, and became a total wreck. The captain and crew of eight took to the boats, and after much buffeting in the rough sea effected a safe landing at Pwllheli.

THE "A 7."

Salvage operations were today entirely suspended on the submarine "A 7," and unless there is a great change in the weather nothing will be done at the scene of the wreck to-morrow.

See HAMPSTEAD is the telephone number wanted one motor-car or tubes repaired. First class, skilled workmen. Any pattern or make repaired quickly and neatly. DUNLOP RUBBER CO., LTD., Kilburn, N.W.

BUILDING TRADE FIGHT.

LONG STRUGGLE FORESHADOWED BY BOTH SIDES.

AREA OF LOCK-OUT EXTENDING.

The position in regard to the building trade lock-out has undergone little change during the last two days. From the employers' side it is reported that support is forthcoming from builders outside the association, who take the view that "the time had arrived to put an end to unauthorised sectional strikes."

The employees of these firms were asked to sign the new agreement as they left work on Saturday, to entitle them to resume work to-day; but many of them did not do so, and the ranks of the idle builders were therefore heavily recruited.

The men, for their part, are taking the view that the master-builders are out to smash the trade unions associated with the industry; and this point was made the text of most of the speeches at the Trafalgar-square demonstration yesterday afternoon, when some 20,000 men surrounded the plaintiffs.

THE STRIKE OF TEACHERS.

SIX SCHOOLS CLOSED IN LEOMINSTER.

Owing to the strike of teachers employed in the elementary schools of Herefordshire six Leominster schools are closed to-day. The teachers' resignations became effective on Saturday, only one certificated teacher and seven supplementary teachers having refused to resign.

The managers of the Church of England and undenominational schools have refused to make any fresh appointments, as they sympathise with the teachers.

Most of the schools in the districts around Leominster are closed, and teachers' pickets are visiting them to-day.

WOMEN WORKERS.

The chief feature of the February issue of the "Anti-Suffrage Review" is an analysis of the 1911 Census in regard to women workers.

A comparison with former censuses reveals the fact that while the last decade has shown a slight increase in the proportion of women in occupations to the total number of women, the present proportion is slightly less than it was in 1891 and 1881.

The proportion of men to women in industries, which they share (i.e., excluding mining, railways, building, and navvy work) is 61.7 to 38.3, as compared with 63.6 to 36.4 in 1901. In the textile industries the increase in the numbers employed in ten years has been 18.7 per cent. for men and 11.8 for women.

A COLLIERY STRIKE OVER.

Pending a final settlement of the points in dispute the 500 colliery workmen who came out on strike at the Gethin Coal Pit, Merthyr, several days ago, have to-day returned to work.

THE NEW ZEALAND STRIKE.

Wellington (N.Z.), February 2.—The Supreme Court here to-day dismissed an appeal by Mr. William Thomas Young, the president of the Labour Federation, who was convicted by the Lower Court on a charge of inciting during the recent strike, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and ordered to find sureties to keep the peace. Other appeals by strike leaders are pending.

Thirteen firemen of the British steamer "Opawa" have been sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment for refusing duty during the strike.—Reuter.

END OF A THREE-MONTHS' STRIKE

St. Petersburg, Monday.—Work was resumed in all departments at the Obukhov works to-day after a three months' strike.—Reuter.

THE KING'S LABOURERS.

According to the "Daily Chronicle" the King has given all the men employed on the Royal farms at Sandringham:

- A minimum wage;
A Saturday half-holiday;
Continuity of employment; and
Security of tenure in their cottages.
- Not only has his Majesty secured this boon for his own workers (the "Chronicle" adds), but he has taken steps to secure it for the men employed by all the tenants on his estate in Norfolk.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

SUMMONS TO THE LIBERAL PEERS. The Marquis of Crewe has addressed the following letter to his supporters in the House of Lords in connexion with the opening of Parliament:

India Office, Whitehall, S.W., January 31, 1914.

My Lord,—On February 10 an Address will be moved in the House of Lords in answer to His Majesty's Speech from the Throne, and I venture to express the hope that your lordship will find it possible to attend in your place on that day.—I have the honour to remain, your lordship's faithful servant, CREWE.

The King will hold a Council on Monday, the 9th inst.

MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENTS.

The following Ministerial platform engagements are announced for this week:

- To-day: Mr. F. D. Acland, at Acton; Mr. Herbert Samuel, at Harrogate; Mr. Ellis J. Griffith, at Newcastle Emlay (Carmarthenshire).
Tuesday: Sir John Simon, at the Rotherhithe Town Hall (8.20); Mr. Ellis J. Griffith, at Skewen, Mid-Glamorgan.
Wednesday: Mr. Lloyd George, at Glasgow; Mr. J. M. Robertson, at Stratford-on-Avon.
Friday: Sir John Simon, at Rugby; Lord Emmott, at Melksham, Wilt.
Saturday: The Hon. E. S. Montagu, at Otley (League of Young Liberals for Yorkshire).