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The Montevideo Times
MONTEVIDEO, APRIL 14, 1909.

NEWS OF THE DAY.
MONTEVIDEO.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1909.

SAINTS JUSTIN AND VALERIAN.—Thos. Oway died, 1685.—Battle of Barnet, 1471.—104 days past, 261 to the end of the year.

POLITICAL NOTES.
Neither of the Chambers sat on Monday. The legislators generally require a rest after a holiday.

On Monday the Finance Committee of the Representatives exchanged views respecting the Public Works Loan and the nickel coinage scheme, but no decision is yet announced with regard to either.

The same Committee is also considering the Bill, presented six or eight months ago, reducing the postal tariff on foreign correspondence. The original proposal, it may be remembered, was to confine the reduction to newspapers and printed matter. This was on the point of being approved when it was further proposed to extend the reduction to letters and all classes of correspondence, causing the Bill to be referred back to Committee. It is alleged that the reduction will make a difference of some \$30,000 in the Post Office revenue. Whether this takes into account the increase in the bulk of correspondence which will promptly follow a reduction in the rate, we cannot say, but in any case the P. O. Revenue has an ample margin of surplus for the purpose. The Postmaster General Sr. García y Santos is to be consulted before the Committee reaches a decision.

President Willman returns to his town residence from Pocos to-day, and will now resume regular attendance at the Government House.

The steam tug «Primus», built in Germany to order of the Ministry of Public Works and intended for light-house services and hydrographic surveys, arrived on Monday. She is a neat little vessel, 40 metres long, 3.35 metres draught, with a natural speed of 11 knots, and fitted with all the necessary hydrographic apparatus. Her cost was \$67,000. She will probably be re-named before being put on service here.

War material, in the shape of arms and munitions, continues to pour into the country. Several large consignments have arrived in the last two or three weeks—each of which was announced as «the last»—and on Monday the «Provençes» brought another. In addition to this, it is just announced that the Government has ordered a battery each of Schneider and Krupp cannons, by way of trial before giving further orders. The reflections which these things provoke are the reverse of agreeable.

Afforestation.
Government Bonus awarded to the British Vice Consul at Maldonado

Under the terms of the Afforestation Act of July, 1897, the Uruguayan Government has recently issued a Decree, declaring Mr. Henry W. Burnett, British Vice-Consul at Maldonado, to be entitled to a gold medal and a bonus or prize of \$3000, for having been the first to plant a plantation of over 10,000 maritime pines.

Mr. Burnett, as some of our readers may know, was one of the survivors from H. M. S. «Bombay», which was lost off Flores Island in the year 1864. He remained in this country and settled down at Maldonado, where, for a great many years, he has acted as British Vice-Consul, and on many occasions has rendered important humanitarian services in cases of shipwreck, without his services in either respect having received any pecuniary recognition from the British Government, which, in this as in other cases, cannot

be accused of any excess of liberality or gratitude towards British subjects who render services to it or to their fellow-countrymen in this part of the world.

During Mr. Burnett's long residence in Maldonado, he has taken special interest in the useful work of cultivating trees, the scarcity of which in that part of Uruguay is remarkable. All round the town and sea coast of Maldonado there is a broad band of loose sand hillocks or dunes, unprotected by vegetation and constantly shifting their position under the influence of the wind. Mr. Burnett bought some of these dunes at a nominal price, and, by dint of great perseverance and constant labor has succeeded in growing on them plantations of maritime pines. At first his young plants were buried again and again under masses of wind-driven sand, but by untiring efforts Mr. Burnett succeeded in raising a screen of trees, and then the rest proved relatively easy. He now possesses handsome plantations of some 100,000 maritime pines, as well as eucalyptus trees, willows, etc., all of which grow with great rapidity in a benign climate free from nipping frosts.

Mr. Burnett's example has been followed by two of the principal landowners in the neighbourhood, and also by the local Municipal Board, and between them they have raised magnificent plantations of several millions of trees which have quite transformed the once arid aspect of that part of the country. Another and very important consequence is that large stretches of land at one time completely worthless and useless are now worth from \$10 to \$50 the hectare.

The British Minister, Mr. R. J. Kennedy, having visited Maldonado and seen personally the splendid results of Mr. Burnett's efforts, found occasion to call the attention of the Uruguayan Government to the same. A commission of experts from the Agricultural Department was sent out to report, and, acting on their very favorable opinion, the President has declared Mr. Burnett entitled to the prize and gold medal as above.

This recognition has certainly been well earned, and we think that Mr. Burnett may not only be congratulated on having obtained it, but also on the fact that the Government of Uruguay has shown a liberal readiness in recognising his public services which his own Government would do nothing by imitating.

In connection with the sand-dunes at Maldonado it is of interest to mention that they are prolific in «fulgurites», the name given to the siliceous or vitrified sand tubes caused by the action of lightning, but often attributed by the ignorant to worms or snakes. These have been found at Maldonado in fragments up to five feet in length, and with an internal bore of an inch to an inch and a half. Mention is made of these in Darwin's «Voyage of the Beagle». Similar fulgurites are found in Westphalia, Silesia, Cumberland, Essex, and other parts of the world, but none of such a size. On account of their brittle nature they are next to impossible to extract entire, but Mr. Kennedy succeeded in securing some good specimens which he has sent home.

Mr. Carnegie and International Peace.

New York, March 14.

A discussion in the Press has followed a proposal made by Mr. Carnegie in his capacity of president of the Peace Society, regarding the most practical steps that could be taken to limit further naval expansion in the interests of international peace. As formally made public through the Peace Society, Mr. Carnegie's view is briefly that Great Britain and America should make an agreement for a period of five years, by which America would undertake to defend against attack the British possessions upon the Atlantic, including the islands in the South, and Great Britain, on her part, would defend against attack the American coast upon the Pacific, Hawaii, and the Philippines. «No peace, but the sword», the *Sun* has christened this proposal, and calls it «highly original and fanciful.» Like the *New York Press* the *Sun* also refers to American fidelity to Washington's principle against «entangling» foreign alliances as a great factor inimical to its adoption.

To the *Tribune's* comments, which charge Mr. Carnegie with inconsistency as a peace advocate, and which are made in a like vein of disapproval, Mr. Carnegie makes a long answer to-day. He says that his suggested cooperation between Great Britain and America arose from an article in the *United Service Magazine*, and a response thereto by Rear-Admiral Goodrich of the United States Navy in the *Army and Navy Magazine*. He explains that his idea is that America and Great Britain should take the treaty between Great Britain and Japan as a model, and so strengthen each other that each could safely restrict the future building of battleships. Providing, as such treaty would, for the mutual protection of their possessions against a foe—a protection, he asserts, not likely to be exercised—there would be no need to increase armaments to meet a danger so reduced. He disputes the contention made that America would have to go to war with any nation with which Great Britain was in conflict, or vice versa; hostilities by America would only be necessary if British possessions which America had guaranteed to protect were attacked—an improbable contingency. The co-operation of the English-speaking race on the high seas would thus of itself maintain peace, especially if the option of arbitration were also provided.

The Continental Sunday.

A parliamentary paper [Cd. 4468] has been issued, entitled «Reports from His Majesty's Representatives Abroad as to Legislation in Foreign Countries Respecting a Weekly Rest-Day.» It is due to a desire, expressed during the course of a debate in the House of Lords on the Weekly Rest-Day Bill, to have information as to whether similar legislation exists in foreign countries, and, if so, as to how far it is really observed. It will be remembered that the Bill in question laid down that every person working for an employer shall have every week the twenty-four hours of Sunday as a rest-day, or, when labor on that day is necessary, shall have one Sunday interrupted in a fortnight and a rest-day during the intervening period.

Reports of various dates since the beginning of last July, have been received from twelve countries, including the United States, and it is noticeable how recently in most of them the question has been the subject of legislation. The latest date at which laws or regulations have been passed for safeguarding the rest-day appears to be 1904 in Germany and Denmark, 1905 in Austria and Holland, 1906 in France and Switzerland, 1907 in Belgium, Spain, and Italy, and 1908 in Hungary, where orders on the subject have been issued since Sir Edward Grey sent out his inquiries. The subject has, therefore, been prominently before most European Legislatures in the last few years. It is also of interest to note that, especially in Roman Catholic countries, the enactments do not conceal a religious purpose. Thus in Austria «on fest-days employees are, according to their various religious beliefs, to be allowed the necessary time for attendance at morning services» while in Spain «every man working on a Sunday is entitled to an hour off without loss of pay or equivalent rest, for the fulfilment of his religious duties.»

In most cases the regulations fall under two heads—those that apply to retail trading and those that concern manufacturing industries. For instance, in Germany employees in the former case—assistants, apprentices, and workmen—may not be employed at all on Christmas Day, Easter Day, and Whit Sunday, and on other Sundays and holidays for not more than five hours; here, too, the time during which work is allowed is fixed in consideration of the church services.

An interesting memorandum is supplied by our Embassy in Paris as to the effect of the recent and well-known law of 1906, the results of which are quite evident to the most superficial observer of French life. The inspectors of labor report that the Sunday closing of large shops, «which alone can offer any considerable choice of goods,» is «gradually inducing the public to change its habits, and do its shopping on week-days.»

It is acknowledged to be difficult to estimate how far these laws are observed, as, in Austria, for instance, no official lists are kept of offences against them. Punishment usually takes the form of fines. In Italy the fines for transgressing individual regulations range from 5 to 10 lire, and the total fine can never exceed 1000 lire, the money thus paid, going to the fund for aged and infirm workmen, except one-fifth, which is paid to agents discovering violations of the law.

Mr. Bryce, in a report from the United States, says that no law of the nature of the Weekly Rest-Day Bill has been passed there as regards male adults. Such legislation is left to the State Legislatures, and, consequently, there is considerable variety.

By Air to the North Pole.

London, March 15.

The largest exhibit at the Olympia Exhibition will be the Wellman dirigible balloon, which has been constructed for a projected journey to the North Pole. On Saturday the mammoth gas bag was inflated and raised to the roof, and visitors will see it with the car and engine attached practically in the condition in which it will start on its voyage from Spitzbergen to the Polar regions.

The gas bag is 182 feet long, with a diameter in the centre of 52 feet, and tapers to a point at each end. The cubic capacity is 7,800 metres. Made with three thicknesses of rubber and three of cloth (two being of cotton and one of silk) the envelope weighs a ton and a half, and is estimated to be capable of carrying ten times the weight that will ever be suspended from it. The balloon is fitted with an 80 h.p. engine, and has a tank 115 feet long, which is capable of carrying three tons of petrol.

«Going to the North Pole is simply a mechanical problem», said Mr. Melville Vaniman, the chief engineer, to a Press representative. «We don't take anything for granted, and we don't intend to take any more risks than you do going down to your office. We know all the conditions we have to face, and we meet them with perfect mechanical provisions.» The balloon, he explained, is designed not for great speed, but for going a long distance and is believed to be capable of remaining in the air for two months in the Arctic regions, where, according to Mr. Vaniman, infinitely better conditions for ballooning prevail than in Europe.

The balloon's cargo, when on business bent, exceeds six tons in weight, and includes 1 1/2 tons of provisions, three sledges, and ten dogs.

Brief Wit from American Papers.

«Marriage is woman's duty», says *Harper's Weekly*. It also is a necessary preliminary to alimony.—*Washington Post*.

How are the mighty fallen! «Jesse James» is in the house of correction for stealing a bottle of milk.—*Chicago Tribune*.

It is lucky for our faithful public employees that Lincoln and Washington were not born on the same day.—*Chicago News*.

What a difference there is in one little article! Also, what a great relief! Hariman is to take a rest. Not the rest.—*Chicago News*.

Harrison takes his place as the chief exponent of non-Euclidean geometry by the debt way in which he makes parallel lines meet.—*New York Post*.

Among the new commerce-destroyers whose construction the Navy Department is urging, why not reserve for one the name of Roosevelt?—*New York World*.

«There are no plumbers in Hades», says the *Charleston News and Courier*. Our Charleston contemporary always speaks with authority.—*Atlanta Constitution*.

We fear seriously that the vigor of Mr. Roosevelt is impaired when he dismisses the westerners who disagree with him as only «misguided men.»—*Atlanta Constitution*.

When Mr. Taft comes to making a selection of his automobiles, the salesman will make him realize what a mere begatelle the election of Cabinet officers is.—*Augusta Chronicle*.

What the country seems to need is less unwritten and more unbroken law.—*New York Post*.

Hobson probably regards the return of the fleet as one of the accidents of war.—*Chicago Record-Herald*.

Philadelphia has boycotted the Salome dancers. Philadelphia limits its wickedness to political brands.—*Chicago Record-Herald*.

Mr. Fairbanks has acquired a California fruit-ranch and is in a position to decline any and all offerings of more lemons.—*New York Press*.

Senator Platt's autobiography is said to be so carefully edited that young people may read it without the slightest interest.—*Augusta Chronicle*.

The Rev. Dr. Shannon would have the word «coby» expunged from the marriage service. That would eliminate the only humorous feature of the ceremony.—*Washington Post*.

With respect to naming a battle-ship for Mr. Roosevelt, the question which the *Washington Star* raises is, «Could such a vessel be expected to endure the inaction which a navy must experience?»—*Atlanta Georgian*.

British Naval Airship.
Portsmouth, March 14.

What is understood to be the preliminary work in connection with the Royal Navy aerial warfare mentioned in the Navy Estimates has been commenced at Portsmouth. It will apparently be prosecuted with vigor, having regard to the present scale of operations and to the large sum of money that has been allocated.

Great secrecy is being observed. The shed of a local builder has been taken over, and put in the charge of two naval officers. Therein an aeroplane is being built up by skilled fitters from the designs of the two officers, who are collaborating, and the framework is well advanced. All who are concerned in the work decline to make the slightest statement, and access to the shed is zealously guarded. It is believed some months will elapse before the trials will take place in the open air.

The naval officers referred to are attached to H. M. S. *Mercury* submarine depot at Portsmouth, and daily supervise and assist in the work of construction. A petrol motor of forty horse-power will be used, and the trials will take place on the water, probably in the upper reaches of the harbour, there being no open land in the vicinity of sufficient area for manoeuvring. The silk for covering the flying planes has already arrived.

SUNDRIES.

—WEATHER.—Variable with a return of high temperature and threatening symptoms. Variable weather with occasional storms is reported as ahead for the next three or four weeks.

—HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.—The choir-master Mr. Henry Marshall having returned from Buenos Aires, choir practice will now be resumed at the customary times.

—TEA AND TENNIS.—We are requested to announce that Mr. Steer will give tea at the Lawn Tennis Club at the Parque Central this afternoon.

—POLITEAMA THEATRE.—This evening will be performed the farcical comedy «Due Celebri Imbroglioni», followed by a variety concert.

—VISITORS.—Among the arrivals by the «Arguaya» were Mr. H. A. Trotter and Mr. A. J. Side, respectively Director and Secretary of the London Board of the Commercial Society Tramway Company of Montevideo. Mr. Trotter is also a Director of the Alliance Assurance Company and the Buenos Aires National Tramways Company.

—EXCURSIONS.—Two excursion trains are announced by the Central Railway Company for Sunday next, both covering the holiday on Monday. One is to Saucedo Port and Colonia, with

option of return until the Friday following, and the other to Mercedes, with option of return until Tuesday the 26th.

—TREASURE TROVE.—On Monday the steam fishing tug «Gaviota» brought into port in tow a small mud-hopper or dredge, which it had found abandoned at sea some 15 miles south-east of Lobos island. The dredge was completely empty and without any mark of identification except the name «Bap 1» painted on the prow. It remains in port until the authorities decide what to do in the case.

—ROLLER-SKATING.—We hear that the large building at one time used as the Union and Maroñas Tramway Station, before the line was electrified, is being converted into a capacious skating-rink for the approaching winter season.

—STREET PAVING.—It is stated that the Intendant Sr. Muñoz, has decided that in future, when it becomes necessary to take up any portion of the street paving for purposes of the electric light, tramways, gas or water-supply, the work of removing and replacing the pavement shall be done by the Municipality at the cost of the Company concerned. The resolution is justified on account of the deteriorated conditions in which certain of these Companies leave the streets, but it is only fair to note that by far the worst offender in this respect has been the Electric Light, whose workmen in some parts of the city have left the side-walks in a scandalous and almost impassable condition.

—RADIUM BOMBARDMENT.—Professor Sir J. J. Thomson gave some interesting information as to the operation of radium at the Royal Institution recently. He said that radium gave out about a million times as much energy as was given by an equal weight of oxygen when combined with hydrogen. It was developed by rapidly moving atoms of helium shot out with incredible velocity, approaching one-tenth that of light. He asked his hearers to imagine the state of other atoms being bombarded by these helium particles as large as themselves. The condition of a ship exposed to the fire of dreadnoughts would be child's play compared with the condition of an atom exposed to a battery of these particles. If they imagined a town exposed to a bombardment of shots as large as houses and moving a thousand times more quickly than any shot ever shot out of a cannon they would have some idea of the condition of a gas exposed to the battery of radium.

—ECCLÉSIASTICAL.—A certain Bishop, during a country visit, was asked how many sermons a preacher could prepare in a week. «If he is a man of extraordinary ability», replied the Bishop, «he can prepare one; if a man of average ability, two; if a blockhead, ten or twelve».

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LONDON NOTES.

MONDAY, MARCH 15.

Speaking at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday night, Lord Crew discussed Mr. Balfour's allusions to Mr. Churchill's language on the subject of retaliation. The President of the Board of Trade had stated that it might be possible in some cases to introduce the principle of retaliation under a system of free trade. That was perfectly true, but to take an obiter dictum of that kind and construe it into an abandonment by the Government of free trade was a thing which passed comprehension. The Government would not compromise on retaliation or other aspects of their fiscal policy.

Mr. J. P. Farrell, M.P., who, on December 23, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in default of giving security for good behaviour on a charge of publishing boycotting reports and articles in his newspaper, was on Saturday released from Kilmainham Prison on the ground of ill-health.

Speaking at Glasgow yesterday Mr. J. Dillon, M.P., said the revival of trade in Ireland was no indication that she could flourish under the present system of government, but showed what a prosperous country she might become if her people had free and fair play. The conflict in the English Liberal party made it incumbent on the Nationalists to keep together and to be ready to act.

Lord Hardwicke died on Saturday morning at his residence in London, after a short illness. He was in his 69th year.

The applications for the sanction of the Local Government Board for loan for works by which employment would be afforded to the unemployed, from August 1 last to March 13, were 569, for a total of £2,708,660—an increase over the corresponding period of 1907-8 of £2,384,222. The total amount disbursed to distress committees out of the Parliamentary grant under the Unemployed Workmen Act up to date is £187,380.

Under Rugby Union rules the international match between Wales and Ireland, played on Saturday at Swansea, was won by the Welshmen by three

