

# Political and Social News by Cable and Correspondence from the Old World

## BRITISH ALARM PROVED BY BLUFF

**Fear of Possible Invasion by the Germans Brings Out Significant Statements.**

## WAR EXPERT PRESENTS SCHEME

**Seagoing Force of Great Strength is Main Reliance.**

## PICTURES DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE

**For First Time in Its History Nation Has Second Naval Line.**

## SUICIDE OF SUPERSTITIOUS MAN

**Members of Trade Unions Reported as More Generally Employed Than at Any Time in the Last Three Years.**

LONDON, Feb. 18.—(Special to The Bee.)—That the government is alarmed at even the possibility of an invasion by Germany—which is apparently aware of the poor condition of the navy for lack of men—is shown by the recent frequency of statements which are calculated to prove that England is prepared for fight at the dropping of a hat.

Following up Admiral Wilson's declaration that England could not be invaded a war expert who says he has carefully considered the subject says:

In the light of the British position as the center of an overseas empire, a defense of four lines has been evolved as follows:

The basic principle is the existence of a sea-going force of predominant strength. This comprises squadrons in foreign waters varying from time to time in accordance with the grouping of the powers, secondly, the Atlantic fleet, acting as "pivot force" between home and Mediterranean waters—reinforcing either as required; and squadrons in the vicinity of the British Isles, arranged as follows:

The first and second divisions of the home fleet, embracing all the newest and most powerful ships, fully manned and stored, and always on a war-footing—constantly ready for war.

The third and fourth divisions of the home fleet, maintained on a peaceful footing with nucleus crews, but with an organization enabling them to be put on a war footing at a few hours' notice.

The "balance crews" to complete the nucleus crews to war strength are always "told off," and immediately available in the depots and instructional establishments of the ports to which the ships are attached.

The first sea lord, as the supreme expert responsible for the naval policy of the country, and the director of its fleet in war, declares that apart from the squadrons serving in far-distant waters, "somewhere within wireless call we have nearly double the number of battleships and cruisers" that any enemy can muster.

The first time in its history the nation possesses a second line of naval defense—a mobile coastal defense—consisting of destroyers and submarines.

## Suicide of Superstitious Officer

Captain H. C. Dines, a retired officer of the Queen's Royal Lancers, who was put on a war footing at a few hours' notice. The "balance crews" to complete the nucleus crews to war strength are always "told off," and immediately available in the depots and instructional establishments of the ports to which the ships are attached.

## Lord Antrim a Worker

Ireland has a nobleman who really works for a living. Lord Antrim, who has just completed his sixtieth year, takes a practical interest in farming. A big, bearded man, Lord Antrim lives at Omeau castle, where he is a recognized authority on stock raising. Antrim was once seen driving three cows along the road, and, on a disputed point as to whether it was a cow or a bull, he said it was not—there were two cows and a bull.

## Ship Building Great Industry

The ship building industry at Belfast is one of the marvels of Irish industries which had to struggle under all the obstacles which a liberal government, Tory and Liberal, have placed in their way. The original Queen's Island ship yard was an enclosure of four acres on an artificially made bit of land. The Queen's Island firm were pioneer builders of vessels of great size and of a new type, which had largely revolutionized ocean transportation.

## Sultan of Morocco Gives Away Seventy of His Old Wives

Sultan of Morocco gives away seventy of his old wives. The Sultan of Morocco has been collecting the opinions of persons of distinction here and abroad as to what they consider the greatest achievement of recent years. Prof. Metchnikoff of Paris awards the palm to the discovery of radium, and hopes that various governments will encourage men of science to pursue their researches in this direction.

## Girls of Missions Wanted by Soldiers

Missionaries who include Austrians, Hungarians, Germans, Brazilians, Frenchmen and Poles, have charged themselves with the education of some 700 natives, of whom 40 are girls. The missionaries contend that they are protected by the Brussels agreement of 1889, but this plea has been ignored, and they are under orders to depart by March 1. The situation is complicated by the fact that the military have designs upon the girls, and have already made overtures to the missionaries with regard to their future when the missionaries have gone.

## KAISER ADVISES SIGNING PLEDGE

**Ruler of Germany is Worried by Drinking Habits of Army and Navy Officers.**

## SOME MEMBERS SICK OF POLITICS

Lectures on steady living. Urges devotees of flowing bowl to quit it.

## VERY SUSCEPTIBLE TO BEAUTY

Next war to be won on nerve. Crown Prince is causing anxiety by his actions.

## Slender on Vatican

It has been erroneously announced that the pope will close the Vatican galleries and museum to the public, so that all those who come to rejoice in the occupation of this city will not be permitted to see those treasures of ancient and Renaissance art.

## Revision of the Vulgate

Police must keep within law. A few days ago Judge Unger of the local criminal court delivered a remarkable dictum to the effect that citizens may shoot brutal policemen.

## Discarded Wife Has Strange Vision Touching Successor

Supposed bigamist in Australia is apparently pointed out as a murderer in strange way.

## China Asks for Plague Fighters

China asks for plague fighters. Wants the powers to send the clearest available doctors to the stricken districts.

## Girls of Missions Wanted by Soldiers

Girls of missions wanted by soldiers. Expulsion of Jesuits from Mozambique likely to be followed by bad condition.

## Church Robber Sentenced

Church robber sentenced. Among other things the burglar took some eight watches, including a gold watch and a pocket watch.

## GRAVE-DIGGER SENT TO PRISON

Dental given to report that Pope Pius is to close the Vatican galleries and museum to general public.

## LIVED HIGH FOR A FEW DAYS

Police dogs used in large numbers by Paris police and criminal elements finds difficulty in escaping.

## Blamed Each Other

Blamed each other. Tiesler interrupted. Desmarret is not speaking to him. It was he who suggested the crime.

## Hired a Mother-in-Law

Hired a mother-in-law. In Macelless the hire of a mother-in-law for a few hours is quoted at two francs.

## Robber's Rich Loot, Secured on Train Soon Taken Away

Robber's rich loot, secured on train soon taken away. Victim plucked on a Swiss train is nervy enough to save life by feigning sleep.

## KICK ON MILITARY EXPENSES

Kick on military expenses. Member of Indian viceroys' council urges that economy must be practiced.

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## GUILLOTINE FOR TWO BOY THUGS

Enticed a bank collector into a house and murdered him for his money.

## EACH LAD ACCUSED THE OTHER

Hiring of mother-in-law involves a bridegroom in trouble.

## REAL ONE REFUSED TO ACT

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## AUSTRIAN BIRTH RATE IS LOW

Has fallen from forty to twenty per one thousand.

## NEW NAVAL ESTIMATE ISSUED

Head of Distilling Firm Responsible for Many Deaths is Let Off with a Fine—Terrorists Work as Mincers.

## Rives to Live in Vienna

Rives to live in Vienna. It is stated on good authority that George R. Rives, who has for a number of years been first secretary of the American embassy here, but who recently resigned, was notified that he was to be transferred to a South American capital.

## Quarrel on Frontier

Quarrel on frontier. The recent incident of Podolozkiya will not have any international consequences.

## Fatal Infantation

Fatal infantation. An extraordinary story of a little girl's death from infatuation for clergymen comes from the town of Godollo, in Hungary.

## Had Brandy Killed Man?

Had brandy killed man? Mr. Kovacs, the head of a firm of distillers at Nagy-Becskerek, Hungary, has been fined \$2,000 for adulterating brandy.

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## KOREAN PRINCE HANGS HIMSELF

Chim Pom Yee Became Weary of Life When Japan Seized the Hermit Kingdom.

## HAD SERVED AT WASHINGTON

Told His Friends He Planned to End Existence.

## CAREFULLY ARRANGED FUNERAL

Bought Coffin and Provided Money for Mourners.

## HEIR TO THE THRONE A WISE BOY

Tarevitch Tries to Get Around an Order of His Father by Framing a Sentry He Will Keep a Close Mouth.

## Annexation the Last Straw

Annexation the last straw. The recent formal annexation of Korea and the transformation of the emperor into plain Prince Yi filled the ex-minister's cup of bitterness to the brim.

## Tarevitch Makes a Hit

Tarevitch makes a hit. A fortnight ago the prince had given an order to one of the principal undertakers here for an oak coffin, a hearse and a solemn funeral with a procession of mourners clad in white, for which he paid \$900.

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## JOLLY TRIXIE DIED AT SEA

World's Fatest Girl Succumbs While on Board Ship to Attack of Apoplexy.

## BRISBANE, Feb. 18—(Special to The Bee.)

The world's fattest boy, "Baby" F. Biles, 18 years of age and weighing 215 pounds, died here at Brisbane, "Jolly" Trixie, the world's fattest girl, who was 22 years old and weighed 65 pounds, joined the steamer at Honolulu, apparently in good health. However, just before reaching Hava she died. Apoplexy is believed to have been the cause of death.

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