

A skirmish on the railway line in Manchuria : a Russian hospital train collecting the wounded (from a sketch by a Russian artist-correspondent).

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employed for furniture.

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A SKIRMISH ON THE RAILWAY LINE IN MANCHURIA: A RUSSIAN HOSPITAL TRAIN COLLECTING THE WOUNDED.
(From a sketch by a Russian Artist-Correspondent.)

Aug 21/05

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Lord Kitchener's scheme would have made the Commander-in-Chief in effect, though not in name, the Governor-General of India, and would have permitted the religious and racial prejudices of our native soldiers to be trampled on by any holder of the office who, like Lord Kitchener himself when first appointed, was ignorant of Indian life. It is not surprising therefore that in opposing the proposal the Viceroy should have been supported not only by his Council, but by the Indian Press, English and native, and, if we except the Headquarters' Staff, by the army also. The compromise arranged by the Government at home has been approved by Lord Roberts, Sir George White, and other men, military and civil, of wide Indian experience. We are bound to presume, therefore, not only that it is workable, but that it safeguards the subordination of the military to the civil authorities. It is obvious, however, that in practice there is room for widely different interpretations of its intention. The proposals which Lord Kitchener has submitted to the Council "for carrying out the orders of the Secretary of State"—proposals which are set out in Lord Curzon's telegram of August 10th, do not encourage a very hopeful view of the effect of the new arrangement. There is, indeed, too much reason to fear that the crisis has not ended with the resignation of one Viceroy, and that the administration of the army in India will be a thorny question for a long time to come.

A RUSSIAN CONSTITUTION.

After long hesitation the Tsar has at last given his sanction to the principle of an elective Parliament for the Empire of Russia. It is true that the proposed Parliament or Duma will have but limited powers. In the matter of legislation it will only be able to advise;

but the point that Russia has to consider is whether it is worth her while to pay an indemnity in order to avoid the risk of further defeat. The same consideration also determines the question of the surrender of the Russian ships interned in neutral waters. Japan is obviously entitled to ask for these ships or for any other ships that are the property of the Russian Government. Whether she will get them depends not on any principle of international law but on the price that Russia is willing to pay for peace. Obviously, too, a similar consideration affects the Japanese. They also have to ask themselves to what extent it is worth while to cut down their legitimate demands in order to avoid the cost and the risks of further fighting.

SANITATION AND SERMONS.

Sir James Crichton Browne certainly possesses the happy knack of making people listen to what he has to say. His remarks at Friday's meeting of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, that the clergy would be better employed in teaching sanitation than in preaching "silly sermons," has evidently been appreciated by the laity, if not by the clergy. The latter can hardly be expected to admit that any sermon could be silly, and it would be discourteous to press the point. There is, however, no doubt that many clergymen might with advantage to the community occasionally devote attention to the present state of the body as well as to the future of the soul. The clergy still have a large amount of influence in the elementary schools of the country, and they would not be outstepping their duty if they used that influence to insist that the children should be sent to school clean. This is a far better way of attacking the problem of national cleanliness than for the State to undertake to clean the children after they get to school. What we have to do

On Saturday the water was pumped out of the dock at Sheerness in which the destroyer Swordfish was berthed after her collision with the Rocket on Friday. The Swordfish was cut down on her starboard bow from her upper deck to within two feet of the keel plate, and the gap across the upper part is two feet wide. The usual court of inquiry has been ordered to investigate the circumstances of the collision.

HIS NINETY-SECOND BIRTHDAY.

Lord Field, who has but one senior in the House of Lords—Lord Gwydyr, who is ninety-five—enters his ninety-third year to-day (Monday). Fifty-five years, it is interesting to note, have elapsed since his lordship became a barrister at the Inner Temple, and from 1875 to 1890, when he retired, he was a member of the judicial bench. The next oldest peers are the Earl of Cranbrook, who will be ninety-one in October; Lord Masham, ninety-one in January next; Lord Brampton, eighty-eight in September; the Duke of Rutland, eighty-seven in December; the Duke of Grafton, who is just eighty-four; and the Earl of Leicester, who will be eighty-three on Boxing Day. Only four members of the House of Lords are nonagenarians, and were living at the time of the battle of Waterloo.

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments were made at the Admiralty on Saturday:—Commanders E. Henslowe, to the Niobe, on commissioning, to date 22nd inst.; E. W. E. Wemyss, to the Devonshire, on commissioning, to date 24th inst. Lieutenants T. B. Scott, to the Devonshire, for Navigating Duties, A. S. Burt, to the Devonshire, for Gunnery Duties, E. B. Compton, to the Devonshire, all on commissioning, to date 24th inst.; J. A. C. G. Sinclair, to the Niobe, for Navigating Duties, temporarily, and W. Hamilton, to the Niobe, temporarily, until torpedo-lieutenant is available, to date 22nd inst.; and F. E. G. Hobart, to the Sappho, to date 18th inst. Acting Lieutenants (R.N.A.) E. D. Drury, to the Dominion, additional, for twelve months' training, to date 19th inst.; H. C. Geddes, to the Hindustan, additional, for twelve months' training, to date 22nd inst.; and W. Barton, to the Roxburgh, additional, to complete training, to date 29th inst. Midshipman V. A. Montgomerie, to the Hampshire, on completing, to date 29th inst. Fleet Paymasters H. H. Dymott, to the Devonshire, to date 24th inst., and C. O. G. Johnston, to the Niobe, to date 22nd inst.