

THE AUSTRIAN PREMIER ON THE PEACE OF EUROPE. (FROM THE SPECTATOR.) The speech made by Count Kalnoky on Monday to the Budget Committee of the Austrian Delegation, was one of unusual interest, for it contains a new ground for hoping that the peace of Europe will be maintained. The world has usually regarded the bloated armaments of Europe as one of the chief causes of danger. The peoples, it has been said, are beginning to regard the weight of military service as absolutely intolerable. But they cannot disarm without war, for the first to begin would be at the mercy of the rest. Since, then, disarmament can only come through war, the nations will make war in order to shake off their burden. This sounded plausible and reasonable enough, and there was no lack of signs that every new turn of the military screw increased the rage and despair of those liable to service. Now, however, if we are to believe Count Kalnoky, a great change has come over the peoples. They are no longer occupied with nothing but the nightmare of military service, but having become accustomed to the infliction, are beginning to think of other things. There were still the same opposite currents in the system of the European States, but a greater calm, said Count Kalnoky, had come over public opinion. "Warlike preparations continued, indeed, on all sides without cessation, and as this was the case both East and West, so, too, was it in Central Europe. But people were becoming accustomed to this chronic evil, so much the more as it did not prevent Governments entering upon great economic schemes calculated upon a long duration of peace. There was no doubt that the conclusion of commercial treaties all exercised a favourable influence upon public opinion." In other words, the sort of fever at first produced in the body politic by the new forms of military service has passed away, and with it the fear that the flame of war might, as it were, be kindled by a sort of spontaneous combustion. We suspect that this change is not solely due to the fact that people are getting accustomed to military service— are accepting the inevitable. A good deal of the new calm is due to the fact that the nations now feel that they have practically yielded everything in the way of the blood-tax that can be demanded of them. In France, at this moment, the Army is practically identical with the adult male portion of the nation; and next year, in Germany, the same conditions will prevail. Hence the nations feel like men who have been obliged to take some very disagreeable step, and have actually taken it, far calmer and more content than they did when they had still a faint, wild hope that they might avoid the sacrifice. The bitterness is past, and no fresh sacrifice can well be asked for, except the ultimate one of war. What is, in fact, universal military service has become a recognised part of existence, and begins to be looked upon like death and the taxes,— something from which a man can neither himself escape, nor hope that his children will avoid. But though Count Kalnoky evidently considers the fact that the European nations have ceased to "jib," and draw their loads with a sort of "sombre acquiescence," of the very greatest importance, it is clear that he also believes the present situation in itself satisfactory. He summoned up his long review of the condition of Europe with the remark; "The constellation of Europe is growing more and more peaceful. There is now no especial cause for misgivings, since the Powers, although they do not discontinue their military preparations, meet each other with the assurance that they wish decidedly for peace, and have no thought of aggression." Nor was this assurance in any way vague and general. The Austrian Premier ran over all, or almost all, the points of danger, and showed that, in his opinion, there was no cause for alarm. Even in regard to the Balkan Peninsula, he had smooth things to prophesy. The situation in that part of Europe had, he said, recently remained stable, whilst in some of the small States "a constant and progressive consolidation" was to be noticed. "Austria-Hungary did not wish to establish herself, or to obtain any privileged position in the East, but was merely desirous that each of the different races should develop independently and progress economically, in the spirit and under the protection of existing treaties. In Rumania, this was what had taken place in a high degree; while in Bulgaria, too, progress was being made rapidly and on a sound basis." The mention of Bulgaria is interesting, because to speak of Bulgaria as if it were a regular and properly constituted State, is certain to wound and irritate the Czar. If the Austrian Prime Minister does not hesitate to speak in terms of approval of Bulgaria, we may rest assured that he has good reason for believing that Russia is not inclined for war. If Europe were in the condition of a powder-magazine, Count Kalnoky would have ventured to strike this

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SAD DROWNING ACCIDENT AT THE DOCKS.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN BLUE.

On Saturday night last Captain John Blue met his death under very melancholy circumstances. Deceased was captain of the steamship "Mermaid," owned by the Lower Shannon Steamship Company, and had acted in that capacity for a great many years. On Saturday night he was, it is presumed, going on board his vessel which was lying in the river at Mountkennett Quay, when he fell into the river having apparently been tripped by the ropes which were attached to the vessels along the quay; his body was subsequently recovered. His death will be heard of with great regret by the travelling public and the citizens generally, to whom he was well known and by whom he was highly esteemed. His long connection with the Company made him a most experienced and reliable officer, and all who came in contact with him held him in the highest respect.

THE INQUEST.

An inquest was held yesterday by Mr Coroner De Courcey, and a jury of which Mr James Kavanagh was foreman, into the circumstances attending the death of John Blue, Captain of the "Mermaid," whose dead body was found in the river at Mountkennett Quay on Saturday night last.

Sergeant Flynn conducted the inquiry on behalf of the police.

John Doyle was first examined. He deposed that he knew the deceased, John Blue, who was about 60 years of age; he was employed as Captain of the "Mermaid"; witness last saw him alive about a quarter past seven o'clock on Saturday night on the quay, at the steamship "Shannon"; he spoke to him, and deceased appeared in his usual health; he was going in the direction where his own boat lay, about one hundred yards away, outside the schooner "Globe"; witness offered to see deceased to his boat, but the latter declined, saying to witness to go back and attend to his own business; he did not see him again that night, but subsequently at ten o'clock deceased's cap was found in the river; witness went to one of the "Mermaid's" crew, a man named Hough, and asked him if the captain was on board, and he replied that he did not know; they went to search and could not find him, and they afterwards made inquiries in several houses in the vicinity; subsequently the river was dragged with grappling irons, and the body was recovered; witness believed that deceased was tripped by the ropes on the quay, which were attached to the "Globe," the "Mermaid," and the "Huntsman."

To the Foreman (Mr Kavanagh)—The ropes are about a foot and a half above the quay at high water.

A Juror—These ropes are most dangerous. Even to-day we saw two or three people tripped by them.

Sergeant Flynn deposed that about 1.30 o'clock on Sunday morning information was brought to him that Captain Blue of the "Mermaid," was drowned, and that his body had been recovered; he went to Mount Kennett Quay and saw the body, which was laid in the steamship "Huntsman"; he examined it and could not discover any marks of violence; he searched deceased's clothes and found a watch, which was stopped at 7.25 o'clock, and threepence in coppers; he believed that deceased met his death by being tripped by the ropes, while he was going to his own vessel.

Dr J. F. Shanahan said he saw the body of deceased on Sunday morning; he examined the head, face, and hands; there were no marks of violence; that morning he made a more minute examination of the body, and could not find any marks of violence, and he had no doubt but death was due to drowning.

Mr Coleman O'Connell gave evidence that deceased had been in his father's place of business on Saturday evening about seven o'clock, when he appeared to be in his usual health and spirits.

The Coroner reviewed the evidence, which he said went to show that the deceased met his death by accidental drowning. He observed that the deceased was known to them all as a kind and genial man and a good sailor. He was most civil and courteous to the people who travelled by his vessel, and he was sure that his death would be much regretted by the citizens generally. The jury returned a verdict that deceased met his death by accidental drowning.

Medical.

only by the monitoring of... present the people of every district, and we should give them the right to select whom they think fit.

Mr John Keane concurred. The Chairman denied Mr Reidy's statement. They represented the people of every district who sent them here.

Mr Reidy—We have not a very representative board here to-day; it may be larger next day. The guardians had no notice that this matter would be brought forward. Adjourn the question until it is considered by a full board.

Other guardians concurred with the suggestion. The Chairman then gave notice that he would move a resolution on that day fortnight calling the board's attention to the question of the appointment of gentlemen to her Majesty's Commission of the Peace. He would receive any names put forward by the guardians.

THE CHOLERA PRECAUTIONS.

The following was read— "Kilrush, October 1st, 1892. "Gentlemen—I beg to inform you that I visited the steamer 'Carysfort,' from Odessa, on Sunday and Monday. She was flying the yellow flag on account of coming from an infected port, but had no sickness on board. After careful examination of the crew, and the ship thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, I was able to let her go after 24 hours detention.

"I am gentlemen, "Your obedient seraant, "J. F. COUNIHAN, "Medical Officer of Health."

The report was approved of. Mr James Clancy's tender to supply for £21 a two-wheeled covered car for the conveyance of patients was accepted. Adjourned.

CLARE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The Governors at the monthly board meeting of the Asylum on Saturday were—Lord Inchiquin in the chair, Messrs Thomas G. Stacpool Mahon, D L; J. W. Scott, J P; J. F. V. Fitzgerald, D L; Colonel Paterson, D L; Bagot Blood, J P; Thos. O'Gorman, J P; R. H. Crowe, J P; Most Rev Dr McRedmond, and P. O'Brien, J P.

STATE OF THE INSTITUTION. Admitted during the month, 2 males, 5 females; died, males 1; discharged, 2 males, 4 females; remaining, 184 males, 150 females; extent of accommodation, 195 males, 165 females; in Ennis workhouse lunatic wards, 18 males; vacancies for 11 males, 15 females; under treatment for surgical diseases, 3 males; for medical diseases, 1 female.

The Clerk (Mr Enright) having read the minutes of last meeting, Dr Gelston submitted his usual monthly report, which was as follows—

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN—In accordance with your orders of last board meeting advertisements have been issued for candidates for the office of head nurse, and for tenders for straw and hay. It will be necessary to apply to the secretary to the Grand Jury for an advance of £2,000 out of the presentment for the support of the Institution for the half year ending 31st March, 1893. As our present contracts for provisions, clothing, etc, will expire on the 31st December next, it will be necessary to advertise for tenders to be considered at your next meeting. I would suggest the advisability of having standard prices for wines and spirits. The health of the inmates is good, and the state of the Institution satisfactory."

It was ordered that the application for the advance be made at once to the Grand Jury Treasury, and it was agreed that the following be the standard prices at which tenders for wines and spirits should be invited—best J. J. & S. whiskey, £1 per gallon; Marsala, 18s per dozen, and port wine 24s per dozen.

TENDERS FOR HAY AND STRAW.

The Chairman submitted tenders for the supply of best hay and straw from Mr George Frost, who offered 15 tons of hay at £2 10s, and Mr M. Killeen, who offered 15 tons at the same figure, and 7 tons of straw at £2.

Both were considered too high, and the steward was directed to purchase a supply of each article in the market.

The Clerk read the following letter— "Workhouse, Tulla, "14th Sept, 1892.

"DEAR SIR—The Master of the Workhouse here placed your letter of the 9th inst before the Board of Guardians at their meeting of yesterday, when the following minute was read—"In the opinion of the guardians the act of sending the man (Sheridan) from the asylum to the workhouse was a violation of the law. It is clear from the letter of the Resident Medical Superintendent that the man was not a pauper patient, and that therefore he could not have been sent here under provisions of section 11, 1892 & 30, 1892."