

years. Hence, given the conditions the Concert works—those which committee, which can only act when Lord Salisbury was bound to be, of course, he was prepared to break it and take a perfectly independent line of action which we perhaps had him take at the beginning of Turkish difficulties. He did not do it, and we confess that a sudden change of policy would now be almost impossible, then, obliged to work through the fact, and his desire to save the people of Thessaly, put him at the disposal of the German Emperor. The wonder is, under the conditions, not that Lord Salisbury did so much. Now he has been settled on the basis that he will assign revenues sufficient to pay the interest on the loans, and to assign them to a Commission which will represent not merely the interests of the Powers—but the Powers—each Power is to have its share in the revenues—these men in possession—it becomes necessary to inquire what sort of government we are to have in the future. In theory, no government will go on as now. In fact, the government by the man in possession cannot, in a small country like Greece, control over the chief sources of revenue, and put practically the government in the hands of the international Commission. Greece has the luck to enter at a period of great prosperity, which is unrepeatable, it is more than likely that the Caisse de la Dette will gradually usurp the government. Some year the assigned revenues will not be sufficient to pay the coupon of the Greek Government will reply in effect, we have your pound of flesh; make it as little as you will, but do not ask for more. This is a conclusive, but suppose the Caisse de la Dette would be all very well if you assigned revenues to come in freely, and not do so. Instead, by the side-wind, you intercept part of what belongs to the Government, and encourage people to avoid payments, and not properly punish those who practice it. If, as is very probable in the case of Greece, these complaints were not heeded, it would not be a very long step to give a veto in all matters of revenue to the Caisse de la Dette. It is such a right of veto would paralyze the Government. Depend upon it, a nation with its capital in the hands of a few men, and its capital is no more free than is the man who has no share in the parlour with possession.

It is said that all this is much to be desired, and that the position of Greece will be improved, or international control will be urged, has gone ahead, not gone back. The Caisse de la Dette was set up, and happy results may be expected in Greece. At there is no foundation for this plea. The analogy between Egypt and Greece is not a very good one. Egypt has improved not because of the Caisse. What has made Egypt strong and prosper has been the Egyptian Government. By their strenuous efforts, and the English financiers acting in concert, have been able year by year to give the full pound of flesh. Hence there is no excuse for interference, and English administration, English soldiers have been able to assist to the work of putting the Egyptian Government on a sound basis. A sound administration and vigilance has prevailed to keep the members of the Government from meddling in the work of government. It can be expected that a weak in-

There are two cavalry regiments shown in the "Army List" without second in command, the 5th Dragoon Guards and 4th Hussars, and they have been in this anomalous position for some months now. Is it not time that the vacancies were filled?

An Irish Army Football Association has been formed in Dublin, under the guidance of Lieutenant Canton, the District Superintendent of the Gymnasia. Considering the number of troops there are in Ireland, and that they are chiefly concentrated in garrisons, the association ought to do good work in promoting a game that does much to improve the physical training as well as the discipline of the men.

#### DEATH OF GENERAL T. C. LYONS, C.B.

General Thomas Casey Lyons, C.B., Colonel of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, died suddenly on Friday, at his residence, 46, Lower Sloane-street, at the age of sixty-eight. The fourth son of the late Mr J. D. Lyons, of Croom House, county Limerick, he was born July 9, 1829, and entered the Army as an Ensign in the 16th Foot in October, 1845, receiving his Lieutenant's commission in November, 1849, and acting as Adjutant of the regiment from January, 1852, to February, 1855. Granted a Captain in the 20th Foot the following July, he served with that regiment in the Indian campaign of 1857-58, commanding the selected marksmen of the regiment in the actions of Chanda, Amerepore, Sultahpore, and the Fort of Dhowraha, whence he assisted in bringing away two guns under a heavy fire. He was also present at the siege and capture of Lucknow, the subsequent operations in Oude, and the affair of Mohan, and commanded four companies in various subsequent actions. From October, 1858, to March, 1859, he was employed on the Staff as Brigade-Major to the 2nd Brigade Oude Force, and was present at the capture of Fort Oohmrea, being three times mentioned in despatches, and receiving the medal with clasp and the brevet of Major for his services. He became Colonel in December, 1873; was Assistant-Adjutant and Quartermaster-General at Headquarters in Ireland from December, 1875, to October, 1877, and Deputy Quartermaster-General from the latter date to March, 1882. A Major-General in July, 1881, he was in command of a brigade at Aldershot for 12 months from April, 1884, to March, 1885, and was a Major-General on the Staff, commanding the troops in the Western District from April, 1885, to March, 1889. He was advanced to be Lieutenant-General in November, 1889, and to the full rank of General in June, 1893. He was Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bermuda from July, 1892, to 1896. It was only on July 20th that he was appointed Colonel of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, in succession to General A. H. Ferryman, who had died in the preceding month. General Lyons, who was created a C.B. in 1877, married, in 1863, Helen, daughter of Mr George Young, of Apley Towers, Ryde.

#### SITUATION IN GERMANY.

The *Spectator* says:—The political situation in Germany has been further complicated, to the disadvantage of the Imperial Government, by Prince Bismarck's attack on the submissiveness of the Conservative party, and the prospect that a new group may be formed under his auspices composed of Agrarians and stray National Liberals. Moreover, the naval schemes of the Emperor, though advocated energetically by

prices, and will probably be so with EXAGGERATED REPORTS. From letters I myself have received from Alaska within the past few weeks, and continued, I can assure you that reports of death and starving miners all of route have been grossly exaggerated. I am amused, lately, by a very practical miner to a newspaper correspondent by way of a miner of my acquaintance. The latter on his return to New York writes that 2,000 people had died from starvation and privation at Klondike within the year. The miner replied that, so far as being 2,000 deaths, there was nobody who had died until a year ago. Since then there have been three deaths in the district. I myself have seen fifty or sixty graves in the cemetery at Fairbanks, Alaska, and these deaths were the result of the past year. The Dominion surveyor, Mr Ogilvie, Captain Constantine, stationed at Forty Mile City, and the Alaska Commercial Company are all friends of mine, so you see I do not speak at random. I don't by any means pick Klondike alone. There are many other parts of Alaska where gold is to be found, even larger quantities, and certainly under circumstances."

#### THE SEAL HERD IN THE SEA.

The latest official information on whether the seal herds in the Behring Sea are decreasing, and the measures taken for their preservation, appears in a despatch from the Colonial Office, written in reply to a presentation from Mr Secretary Sherman of the United States Government. In the reply, dated 26th July, Mr Chamberlain says:—Mr Sherman refers to the fall in the pelagic catch last year in the Behring Sea, and supports the contention that the decline is not permanent, and cites the figures of the catches in 1895, and 1896, from which it would appear that the catch per vessel in 1896 had fallen one-half as compared with 1894. The year 1894 was altogether exceptional, that of any previous year, as well as of any subsequent years, and the extraordinary increase in the catch from year to year to raise the industry render it impossible to draw any safe conclusion as to the state of the seal herds. Mr Sherman questions the assertion that the off in last season's catch was partly due to bad weather, and cites Captain Hooper's statement that boarding operations were possible in 1896, as compared with 25 in 1895, which Her Majesty's Government has no doubt, though it does not follow that boarding operations in canoes are practical, and that boarding is practicable, still less that the weather is favourable for sealing, and, as Lord Salisbury is aware, Admiral Palliser, in his report on the seal fishery, describes the weather as "bad." It is unnecessary to elaborate further than to add that Her Majesty's Government might equally well maintain a comparison of the results of the North Sea seal fishery in 1895 and 1896 that seal herds are numerous in the latter year.

The number of seals is limited, and it is possible therefore that the catch should remain the same while the number of vessels engaging in it has almost doubled. The presence of a greater number of vessels necessarily interferes to some extent with other operations, and, moreover,