

f international law." In face of the German Government has protested that it never expected resistance to the advance of armies through Belgium for the purpose, and that it was amazed and confronted by British opposition to Belgian neutrality. The British Ministers are well aware that if Albert had permitted the Germans to use Belgium as a free and easy passage into France he would have exposed himself to a hostile act against Belgium and would therefore have been regarded as a supporter of German aggression. Yet the resistance of the valiant Belgian nation offered to the Germans has been made the excuse for the exactions with which the rulers of Germany have completed the misery of the hapless people whom they have betrayed. Britain has honoured its duty to defend Belgium, and will continue to do so, brave, but deeply suffering, Belgium has once more secured the rights of which the Huns have so long deprived her.

**OPINION COMMENT.**

**The Navy**

A sample of the British spirit when danger and death is to be found in the effort of the exploit of the picket mission it was to destroy the grounded ships in the Dardanelles. If the Turks could have held the E 15 it would have been a valuable asset under German guidance. The British, subjected, we are told, to a very narrow front only a few hundred yards across, on a number of smaller guns at sea. But these conditions did not deter the British from going straight ahead with determination. In the terse and pregnant official statement, "notwithstanding the submarine was torpedoed and rendered useless. That is the way of the Navy. It has accomplished what they were sent to do." Commander Robinson and those who accompanied him on this little expedition have done their country. It is satisfactory recognition has already been accorded to them, and a further report called for.

**Cotton Industry.**

the "Cologne Gazette" the cotton

at the scene. But in the meantime the flames had got so firm a hold on the structure, which was of timber, in the Charles style, that all efforts at saving the place were hopeless, and in a short time it was burned to the foundations. The sanatorium, which was a very handsome structure, was built by Lady Inchiquin, and presented about three years ago to the Clare Sanatorium Committee. It cost over £1,000, and lately there were some new buildings including a laundry, and this has also been burned.

**LIMERICK RACES.**

May 5th and 6th.

The annual reunion which is fixed to take place on above dates is promising this year to even go one better than any of its predecessors. The enterprise of the executive in so liberally endowing the several events has been generously responded to, the Maiden Plate of 300 sovs, a steeplechase 2½ miles, having received a total of 49 entries. All the leading stables in the country are represented, while the other events have been better supported than in previous years.

**THE LATE CANON CARRICK, P.P.**

The funeral of the late Rev Canon John Carrick P.P., Kilfinane, took place to-day, after a Requiem Service in the parochial Church. There was a large attendance of clergy and laity, and the Most Rev Dr O'Dwyer, who presided at the Requiem Service addressed those present, referring in touching and sympathetic terms to the deceased clergyman. His Lordship said he was a fellow Curate of Canon Carrick 45 years ago, and he never knew a truer, a more honourable, or more unselfish man.

**VICEROY'S BELFAST VISIT.**

The Lord Lieutenant, Lord Wimborne, will visit Belfast on the 18th May, and remain in the city until the 21st. During their Excellencies' stay they will reside in Belfast Castle, which has been placed at their disposal by the Earl of Shaftesbury.

**POSTMASTERSHIP OF WATERFORD.**

The Postmaster-General has appointed Mr R E Gardiner, First-Class Clerk, Surveyor's Department, Dublin, to the vacant Postmastership of Waterford. Mr Gardiner commenced his official career at Cork, and has had considerable experience in the Survey Branch of the Post Office in England and Ireland.

**SERIOUS FIRE.**

**Spinning Mill Burned Down.**

The Alpha Spinning Mill, Denton, near Manchester, was practically gutted by fire this afternoon. Work was in full operation, and in the rush by a number of girls for the exits many of them were injured.

**THE CORPORATION.**

There was no meeting of the Corporation Committees last night, as on the previous Wednesday, owing to the wish expressed, it is understood, that the members should be afforded an opportunity of attending the annual retreat of the

ammunition was hampering their operations in the field, but Lord Kitchener said in the Lords on the 15th March—"We have naturally found that the output is not equal to our necessities." What in the world was the cause of this?

Other speakers followed.

A great impression was made in the House by George's statement. At the same time, of course, realised that still vaster efforts made in the supply is in the next few weeks to keep up with the need. Marked satisfaction also caused by the statement that sufficient explosives are being manufactured, not only for the British, but even to allow them to supply their allies.

**FRENCH REPORTS.**

**Repulse of German Counters Attacks.**

**Belgian Aviators Bombard Arsenal**

The French despatch issued yesterday records the repulse of two German counter-attacks on the line of trenches in the Bois de Vaux which were captured during the 20th. It is also recorded that Belgian aviators have bombed the arsenal at Bugeas. During the last few days the French have gained north of Airey the Meuse and the Moselle, over 700 miles. The German despatch complains that the Argonne the French threw a bomb, the explosion of which caused their soldiers "to vomit."

**THE CARPATHIAN.**

**Austrian Attacks Repulsed.**

The Russian official despatch again records the repulse of several stubborn Austrian attacks to recover positions captured by the Russian Middle Carpathians. The bombardment of towns, including Bielostok, by German aeroplanes and a Zeppelin, is also reported in the despatch. The Germans state, in their communication, that these were mere reprisals for a Russian air attack on the towns of Insterburg and Gumbinnen.

**Operations in the Black Sea.**

**Ten Turkish Ships Sunk.**

Petrograd, Wednesday. A semi-official communication from Constantinople says:—Our torpedo boats cruising off the Turkish coast on the 18th and 19th instant, destroyed ten Turkish vessels laden with ammunition and stores, then approached Arkhane, where they destroyed the Turkish positions, causing a panic among the Turkish troops.

**German East Africa.**

A Berlin telegram contains some details of German operations, both on land and sea, in East Africa during the months of January and February. The principal fighting took place in the region where the Germans claim to have defeated a British force, but the despatch does not mention the fact that the British force numbered 300, and that they lost 200.