ENGLAND'S SHIPPING SCARE.

REAL ALARM THIS TIME OVER THE OCEAN COMBINE.

Question Will Be Kept Before Parliament, but Government Action Is Not at All Likely—Denial That the White Star Line Has Been "Sold"—German Fear.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 26.—It is no exaggeration to say that the average English man regards the North Atlantic shipping merger as a national calamity of the first magnitude. He takes the most pessimistic view of the situation and sees the loss of supremacy of the British marine clearly foreshadowed.

The easiest explanation, perhaps, is that this country is periodically subject to a peculiar malady, a sort of metaphorical seasickness. These attacks are known as naval scares. They are sometimes spontaneous in their origin, but are occasionally induced artificially when the Government seeks justification for bleeding the body politic more severely than usual, as for instance in the forthcoming budget.

At such times John Bull fidgets himself into alarm verging upon despair over the supposed defects in his chief reliance for defence and the dangers to his proudest possessions—his mercantile marine. He is grieved and incensed over the present situation because he conceives that the attack has come from those whom he has counted as his friends.

In a few days he will probably begin to realize that there is something absurd and ludicrous in his present attitude. It is simply silly in a country so intensely commercial as England to raise a popular clamor that the Government should interfere between the purchaesr anxious to buy and the seller willing to sell. Yet such is the object of the agitation now proceeding all over this country.

Twelve years ago British capital bought up American industries in a far greater aggregate than the present proposed purchase of British ships, but there was no word of protest. Moreover, opposition on the ground of public policy would have been ridiculed most loudly in England.

"Yes," the illogical Englishman retorts, "it was not ships then. You can buy anything we ve got but ships. We must keep the carrying trade or our supremacy on the seas is useless and the foundation of our national prosperity is gone."

Such is the burden of public and private comment throughout the country. There are very few who dare to point out that Great Britain has no special claim on the carrying trade or any other business open to the world's competition and cannot hope to maintain her position unless she can prove as strong and as clever as all her competitors. It is this simple but bitter truth that Mr. Morgan has suddenly forced upon the British people, and it is not surprising, perhaps, if at first it is received with unreasonable resentment.

As for the immediate fears of the Britishers the organizers of the shipping merger on both sides of the Atlantic assure the public here that their misgivings are baseless. They say that there is no intention to haul down the British flag on any ships on which it now flies and that its effect on the auxiliary naval resources of the British Admiralty will be nil. This has slightly reassured the English public, but the fact remains that popular apprehension is greater over the shipping situation than any subject save one or two war scares in recent years.

Much public comment has been cabled to THE SUN from day to day. It has ranged from the *Times's* almost unqualified approval of the present position, in which that paper stands almost alone, to the vicious description in this week's *Saturday Review* of "The shipping gang and Yankee grab." The *Saturday Review* is wholly despairing and bemoans the state of things in which there is no guarantee that England will be left even a flag to cover her shame.

The entire question of the North Atlantic shipping situation will undoubtedly be prominent again in Parliament next week. But it is quite clear that nothing can be done under the existing laws of England to prevent the consummation of the deal. It is quite true in spite of the quasi-denials in the House of Commons, that all the facts of the merger have been laid before the Government without reserve, and there is no reason to expect the introduction of any special legislation.

The *Law Journal* defines in these words the legal aspect of the subject:

"There does not seem to be any insuperable legal difficulty in the way of an arrangement under which ships flying the British flag might be placed under the control of foreign capitalists. It is true that section 1 of the Merchant Shipping Act declares that a British ship must be owned wholly by British subjects or by corporations established under British law, and having their place of business within British dominions.

"The Company acts, however, have made it easy to evade the spirit of this prohibition. It was decided in the case of Regina vs Arnad that a ship owned by a company incorporated in England could be registered as a British ship, although some of the shareholders in the company were foreigners. The members of the company, said the Court, were in no legal sense owners of the ship. The British corporation was the owner, and they could not take notice of an individual member not being qualified to own the ship or any part of it."

It is fast getting to be the case of "Morgan on the brain," in financial and commercial circles in England. The newspapers throughout the country are finding his hand in every trumpery little deal effected and scores of combinations which exist only in imagination. Meantime Mr. Morgan is himself to-day quietly drinking the mineral waters at Aix-les-Bains.

There is good authority for stating, in regard to the position of the Cunard company, that that line is willing to make an arrangement similar to that entered into between the German companies and the combination. The directors of the Cunard company are unwilling either to sell out or to grant an option for the future purchase of their shares. The negotiations, however, have not been broken off.

A shareholder of the White Star Line affirms that the purchase price paid by the syndicate was four times the par value of the shares.

PARIS, April 26.—The *République Française* denies that the French Transatlantic Company has joined the Morgan steamship combination. It points out that it would be impossible for this company to enter into the agreement, owing to its duties to the French Government, for which it receives a subvention.

The *Temps* prints an interview with the manager of the Transatlantic Company on the same subject. The manager denied that there had been any communications between Mr. Morgan and the company. He expressed the opinion that the combination would simply result in an increase of the rates of transatlantic fares. When that happened the French line would follow suit.

Mr. Morgan is at Aix. He will return to Paris on May 12. The report that he saw no business men while here in regard to the absorption of the French Transatlantic Steamship Company is confirmed.

LIVERPOOL, April 26.—The *Liverpool Echo* prints an interview with Mr. Bruce Ismay, managing director of the White Star Line, in which he is quoted as saying: "The White Star Line has not been sold to the syndicate. You can state that in the most emphatic manner."

Mr. Ismay declared that Mr. Arnold-Forster was incorrect when he stated in Parliament last night that the White Star Line had not given notice to the Government of intention to join the Atlantic combination. The White Star Line had, in fact, given notice.

BERLIN, April 26.—The *Lokalanzeiger* in an article on the Atlantic shipping merger expresses the universal alarm in Germany over what it calls the encroachments of American enterprise. It also says that an American syndicate is endeavoring to obtain control of the German potash and chemical industry. It says that a Mr. Morgan, not J. Pierpont, however, has paid Commercial Councellor Ribbert of Hanover one-half million of marks in connection with the enterprise and adds that American designs on German commerce are undoubtedly serious.

GROWING DREAD OF DISEASE.

England's Campaign Against Cancer Is Being Generously Supported.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 26.—The recent appeal for a great fund for use by the medical profession in this country in a systematic investigation of the cause of and the cure for cancer is meeting with a liberal response, and there is the greatest interest in the subject. This has induced the *Spectator* to-day to make these comments on the subject:

"We wonder if the fear of death increasse with the growth of luxury. We see no evidence of it, especially on the battlefield, and we fancy that the clergy of all denominations wish despairingly that it did; but that the fear of disease does exist, and especially of diseases accompanied by pain, we have no doubt whatever. The King was not considered in the least undignified, when he recently pressed quite earnestly for further investigations into cancer, and the greatest people in the land are eager in their support of the new and apparently successful treatment of consumption—the open-air freatment which has inspired hope in thousands of households, where formerly there was only pained resignation.

"The reign of quacks, too, has recommenced, which is a sure sign that the disease is dreaded, and even the nonsense of Christian Scientists finds among otherwise sensible people an attentive audience. Indeed, our very manners are changing under its influence, and it has become proper, as George Russell says in a recent diatribe against the decadence of the upper ten, to discuss appendicitis on unseasonable occasions.

"If only they would remember that the sentence of capital punishment passed upon us all is irreversible, and that our object is not to prevent death, but to alleviate or remove needless suffering, which so often accompanies or precedes death, they may do much toward that most practical of all ends—leaving the world better than they found it. For that object the executive committee on cancer may be a most efficient agent, and we heartily hope not only that it may get its money quickly, but get it in such needless quantity as to induce it to widen its purpose and assume some of the functions of a tribunal for the encouragement of all scientific men who are striving to extinguish pain. Nothing is hopeless in that direction when they have already discovered chloroform and are on the edge of a discovery which is indispensable if surgery is to be much improved, namely, a means of seeing through the body. The Röntgen ray does not quite give us that, but ether penetrates everywhere and along ether light can move."

ITALY CHECKS BRITISH PLOT.

Movement to Establish a Protectorate Over Tripolitan Hinterland.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 26.—The mysterious Italian movements which have been so persistently asserted and denied as directed against Tripoli are now explained in despatches from Rome. They have been due to the discovery of what is practically a plot, it is said, to proclaim a British protectorate over the Tripolitan hinterland.

Portraits of King Edward and small British flags were, it is alleged, distributed by wholesale in towns and villages all through the hinterland, and negotiations were opened by the British agents with the saintly Senousis, whose influence is so great over the African Mahommedans that the Sultan would pay a good deal, even in these hard times, for his holy head.

When Italy remonstrated against these unbrotherly proceedings the British Government, so the story goes, placed them to the credit of their over-zealous agents in Egypt and entirely repudiated the latter.

The incident is closed, but it has left considerable uneasiness, both in Rome and Constantinople, which France is doing its best to increase.

"DEAD" ON EMPEROR'S PICTURE.

Anarchist Arrested for Having It in His Possession.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 26.—A despatch from Rome to the Central News says the police of Parma have arrested an Anarchist of the name of Nagri of Trieste, who is suspected of plotting the assassination of Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria. A photograph of the Emperor bearing the word "dead" was found in the prisoner's possession.

QUEEN A LITTLE BETTER.

Friday Night's Rise in Temperature Not of Long Duration.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

THE HAGUE, April 26.—The bulletin issued from the palace at Het Loo this morning in regard to Queen Wilhelmina's condition says: "Last night's rise in temperature was of shorter duration than heretofore. The Queen had a fairly quiet night."

Notorious Brigand Caught.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

AJACCIO, April 26.—The notorious brigand Bolsoni, who is charged with a great number of murders, has just been arrested.

Reginald Smith, English Banker, Dead.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 26.—Reginald Smith, head of the well-known house of Smith, Payne & Smith, the bankers, died at Windsor to-day.

Prince Henry an Austrian Admiral.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

VIENNA, April 26.—Emperor Francis Joseph has nominated Prince Henry of Prussia as an Admiral in the Austrian navy.

BRIGAND POSING AS A HERO.

MUSSOLINO, ON TRIAL FOR MURDERS, TKAES ITALY'S FANCY.

D'Annunzio Putting Him Into a Novel and a Play—His Retorts in Court Applauded—Asserts That He Will Be Set Free and That He Will Visit America.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, April 26.—Mussolino, the Italian brigand, the story of whose long defiance of the entire forces of the Government and the police authorities has been followed in THE SUN despatches, is still rivetting the attention of all his countrymen. His trial which began at Lucca last week, is assuming a character which at one time is sensational and at others ridiculous. It is always theatrical. Every newspaper in Italy prints long reports of the trial and the papers have enormous sale. The excitement extends from the royal court to the lowest cottage.

There is an almost universal belief that Mussolino will not have to wait to be condemned, but will escape through the connivance of sympathizers. The fact that it is known that he made thirteen attempts to commit murder, most of which were successful, does not excite any horror among the people. He declares in impassioned rhetoric that he has exercised the sacred right of avenging himself on his enemies. The public shows a sentimental sympathy with this view, and rather pities the possible fate of the jury which will have to condemn him.

Musolino's vanity, which is his chief characteristic, has been fully satisfied by all the happenings at Lucca. Distinguished men in large numbers have gone there to visit and study him. The poet-dramatist D'Annunzio, the poet Fascoli and the famous psychologist Lombroso all seem to have been fascinated by this picturesque ruffian.

D'Annunzio is writing a novel and preparing a play of which Musolino is to be the hero, and Pascoli is publishing verses by the ream singing his praises, and has written an open letter in which he declares that the brigand is the victim of jstiuce and fate, and pays homage to his "sovereign intelligence."

Lombroso was consulted in regard to the mental condition of the brigand, and declared that he was perfectly sane. He added:

"He is a most exceptional man. If properly brought up, he would, I am certain, have become a glory to Italy. His intelligence, perspicacity and eloquence are indeed extraordinary. He possesses in the highest degree all the qualities of a great orator and a great man, and yet he is merely a brigand. It is a truly fascinating case."

In the trial in the court at Lucca, Musolino bears himself as the master of the occasion. The Judge, the jury, the carabineers, the lawyers and journalists bow down to him and accept his caprices with the greatest readiness. At first he refused to speak; now he constantly interrupts and is immediately listened to in death-like silence, and his remarks are followed with thunderous applause and sometimes by hysterical weeping. When he was brought in at first he refused to be tried or speak because he was dressed as a convict. He said:

"I refuse to be tried unless I am dressed as a gentleman."

After much coaxing he was induced to appear, but he still refused to speak or answer questions while dressed as a convict. The Judge who is presiding used persuasive argument to convince the brigand that the matter of clothes would have no effect on the jury.

"That is all very well," replied Musolino, "but if you were dressed as a farmer no one would take you for a Judge."

He finally consented to make a speech on condition that the Judge would not interrupt him. This was granted, but the Judge inadvertantly made an observation, and Musolino sternly and sharply said to him: "Do not interrupt," and proceeded to give a striking history of his lawless life which was full of a rough sort of poetry that appealed strongly to the jury and the people who applauded and wept.

Musolino declared that with the exception of traitors he never killed any one unless atacked. The only carabineer he ever attacked was one who fired twice at him. His explanation of his treatment of a man of the name of Crea was a typical one. He said Crea sold the news of his whereabouts to the police and had even determined to shoot him. Musolino continued:

"He levelled a gun at me. I frightened him, seized and took away the gun, took the cartridges out, reloaded the gun with shot, and told him to walk away. When he had gone a little distance I shot him in the legs to give him a lesson. I did not like to kill him because he was the father of a family."

Such touches as this last arouse sympathy among the people in the court room and sometimes enthusiasm. But now and again the brute in him overcomes the hero.

There have been undignified scuffles with gendarmes in which Musolino has often had temporarily the upper hand for he is immensely strong. On Tuesday last eight stalwart gendarmes with difficulty held him down when in a moment of fury he had attempted to strangle a woman witness who had addressed him with disrespectful words. It is a curious fact that although there are a dozen families who have had some of their members killed or wounded by Musolino, one father, a carabineer, is the only one who has come forward on the prosecution's side. The others, who are Calabrians, regard the case as a feudal vendette and a private affair and refuse to sell their honor by going to law. But if he escapes they will try to shoot or stab him unless he shoots or stabs first.

It is only in keeping with the records of such cases that Musolino has received thousands of letters and telegrams and addresses expressing sympathy, of which he is consistently proud and he also learns that a number of women have written him throwing themselves at his feet. One letter has been published in the newspapers signed by "A hundred women of decent position in Florence," saying that they pray for his acquittal, and look forward with pleasure to his personal acquaintance. They conclude by declaring him to be the chevalier of humanity.

Musolino has declared to newspapermen that he is confident of achieving his liberty and when he has done so he will realize the ambition of his life by making a visit to America.

Hopes for Good Results From Corn Bill.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 26.—Mr. Robert Hanbury, British Minister of Agriculture, speaking at Stafford to-day, said that he hoped that the new corn duty would have the effect of reviving the British milling trade. He regretted that the duty on importing flour had not been made higher.

CORONATION PREPARATIONS.

London Getting Ready for the Big Show—King Wears Silk Hat at Race Course.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 26.—Preparations for the coronation are now visible throughout the capital. The route of the procession has been to a great extent repaved. On this itinerary there are countless signs on the windows telling of seats for sale, and enormous wooden stands are springing up. One of the largest of these, which is intended for the nation's guests, is now half finished on Constitution Hill. It will accommodate from 7,000 to 8,000 people.

The hospital buildings and churches are already clothing themselves with lofty tiers of sitting accommodations from which they hope to make much profit. Already illuminated mottoes in gas showing the monograms E. R. and A. R., and "God Save the King and Queen" have been fixed in thousands in the doorways of hotels. The great private houses in the West End are being repainted, each selecting colors of its own choice.

King Edward when he was Prince of Wales earned hearty praise for starting the fashion of going to Epsom race course and other race meetings wearing a sort of farmer's pot hat. But this week he appeared at Epsom in a silk hat and frock coat and, to the distress of the Turf Club, caused it to be intimated to them that the King desires them to follow his example. In spite of this, however, the feeling of comfort caused many this week to disregard the pleasure of the King.

AMERICAN LABOR SITUATION.

Report Made by Ben Tillett, the English Leader.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 26.—Ben Tillett, who has returned here after a tour among the labor organizations of the United States, issued to-day his report on the position of American labor. He says that he noticed the buoyant and hopeful demeanor of the workers and that there prevail franker and more business-like relations between capital and labor than obtain in England. The power of unionism seems to be growing. American employers are more scientific than those here and the worker does not give the maximum of work for the minimum of wage, as he does in England.

Tillett maintains that in England the highest quality of skill and energy is said by the employers to constitute what they call average ability. In America, on the other hand, superior proficiency always receives extra compensation.

THOMPSON TRIED FOR ARSON.

Accused of Setting Fire to Utica Maennerchor—Jury Fails to Agree.

UTICA, April 26.—The trial of David Thompson of Oswego for arson, first degree, was concluded before Judge Devendorf in the county court to-day. The jury, which stood 8 to 4 for conviction, reported that it could not agree.

Wallace & Gilmore of Oswego leased Music Hall, owned by the Utica Maennerchor, in September, 1900. An effort to establish a cheap show house failed from the start, and the firm soon tried to get released from its contract. Thompson was the janitor of the hall, and H. Brooks Hooper of Newburgh was the resident manager. In February last the theatre was destroyed by fire and the family of Charles Seufert, who conducted the Maennerchor rathskeller and who lived in the building, had a narrow escape. Lieut. John Bierne of Truck 20 was killed by falling walls and two other firemen were injured.

The prosecution had no direct evidence against Thompson. Witnesses swore that he bought a wax candle the day of the fire and he was seen on the upper floor, where the fire started, about half an hour before the fire was discovered. Thompson formerly lived in New York and Niagara Falls. He worked in Niagara Falls for a liquor dealer whose store was twice burned while Thompson was in his employ. The Niagara Falls police were convinced that the fire was of incendiary origin, but no arrests were ever made. Thompson is about 60 years old. He is better known as "Yorker" Thompson.

AFTER THE DEWEY THEATRE.

Sabbath-Observance Folks Admit That's the One They Chiefly Want.

A delegation from the Sabbath Observance Committee, headed by the Rev. Dr. William C. Hubbell and Lawyer John Morris Parry appeared before Commissioner Partridge yesterday to oppose the renewal of the licenses of several theatres in which they charged that the Sabbath law was constantly violated. Senator Tom Grady and George Krause represented the Dewey Theatre, while ex-Judge Dittenhoffer appeared for two of Proctor's houses.

Judge Dittenhoffer said that the law was just as frequently and just as flagrantly violated by the Metropolitan Opera House and Carnegie Hall as at the places he represented, but that no one seemed to have any fault to find in those cases. Senator Grady promptly chimed in with a tirade against discrimination. He accused the committee of having singled out the Dewey Theatre for attack because Senator Tim Sullivan was interested in it.

"That's right," admitted Lawyer Perry. "We thought that if we could get at a State official that would simplify matters and save us the trouble of going after each one of the other law-breaking theatres."

In reply to a question by the Commissioner, Lawyer Perry said that no specific complaint had been entered against the theatres concerned in the hearing. Commissioner Partridge said that under such circumstances he had no choice but to renew the licenses. As to the theatres not having representatives present, he would defer action.

Will of Shepherd Knapp.

The will of Shepherd Knapp leaves the widow, Emma Benedict Knapp, the use of the estate for life, and on her death it will be divided among the children, Shepherd Knapp, Elsie Knapp and Kate Louise Knapp.

Army and Navy Orders.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—These orders were issued to-day:

First Lieut. Guy E. Manning, Artillery Corps, recently appointed assigned to the Fourth Cavalry at Jackson Barracks.

Capt. Harry F. Rethers, Artillery Corps, to Washington for examination for retirement.

Capt. Frank Ward, Artillery Corps, to Washington for examination for retirement.

Capt. Frank E. Harris, Ninth Infantry, from Buffalo to Madison Barracks.

Capt. Harry Fredland, Third Infantry, from Fort Thomas to Fort Leavenworth for duty.

Lieut. Col. Charles F. Humphrey, Inspector General, on arrival at San Francisco, to the Department of the Lakes, relieving Lieut. Col. Charles F. Mills, Inspector General, ordered to Department of the Lakes.

Second Lieut. Harry Chase, Thirteenth Infantry, recently appointed, assigned to the Ninth Infantry, stationed at Fort Flagler.

Capt. Frank Ward, Artillery Corps, recently appointed, assigned to the Eighth Cavalry, stationed at Fort Meade.

Capt. Carl E. Harbach, Artillery Corps, recently appointed, assigned to the Artillery Corps, stationed at Fort Monroe.

First Lieut. Robert H. Mitchell, Artillery Corps, recently appointed, assigned to the Eighth Cavalry, stationed at Fort Meade.

Capt. Frank Ward, Artillery Corps, recently appointed, assigned to the Eighth Cavalry, stationed at Fort Meade.

Capt. Harry F. Rethers, Artillery Corps, recently appointed, assigned to the Artillery Corps, stationed at Fort Monroe.

Capt. Carl E. Harbach, Artillery Corps, recently appointed, assigned to the Artillery Corps, stationed at Fort Monroe.

Capt. Frank Ward, Artillery Corps, recently appointed, assigned to the Artillery Corps, stationed at Fort Monroe