

explosives not specially designed for war use, barbed wire, horseshoes and shoeing outfits.

Article 47 provides that any person belonging to the armed forces of the enemy and found on board of a neutral war vessel may be made a prisoner of war, even though there be no ground for seizing the vessel. This principle conforms to the attitude taken by the United States in the famous Mason and Slidell case during the civil war, when these men were taken from the British steamer Trent.

The conference declared in article 48 that a neutral vessel which has been seized can not be destroyed by the captor, but must be conducted into the proper port, in order that the validity of the capture may be determined upon. As an exception to this rule it is declared that a neutral vessel seized by a belligerent and which is subject to confiscation may be destroyed if the observance of article 48 might jeopardize the safety of the war vessel or the success of the operations in which the latter is actually engaged.

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British Politics.

A party question was made by the Conservatives in Parliament on the 29th, on the question of naval appropriations. Following the jingo excitement of the past few weeks, over reports that Germany was adding enormously to her naval equipment and that therefore England was in danger, the Liberal leaders had decided to provide for two more "Dreadnaughts." It was upon this declaration that the Conservatives raised the party issue. They moved a vote of lack of confidence in the Ministry on the ground that its policy "respecting the immediate provision for battleships of the newest type does not sufficiently secure the safety of the Empire." In the ensuing debate the Conservatives demanded eight "Dreadnaughts" immediately. They were reproached by the Liberals for making a party question of such a matter, and Sir Edward Grey, the secretary for foreign affairs, assured the House that the Ministry had taken adequate steps to place British capabilities of construction beyond doubt. He then spoke of the progressive improvement in Anglo-German relations and said that in his opinion the only thing that could disturb these relations would be an attempt by either country to isolate the other, a thing which neither contemplated. Discussing the diplomatic aspects of the question, he said that naval expenditures frequently had been discussed by the two countries, always without reserve, and with friendly intentions and expectations. There was apprehension in Germany, he added, that Great Britain was preparing to attack it. This he characterized as "a wild and absurd idea." The motion for vote of lack of confidence was lost by 353 to 135.

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Great Britain and Germany.

While the House of Commons in London were considering British relations with Germany, the

German Chancellor was referring in a speech in the Reichstag at Berlin to the "absurdity of the political fanatics in assuming that there was any hostile feeling between Great Britain and Germany." He reviewed the economic "community of interests" of the two countries, and declared that "Great Britain is for us the most important of all countries with which we trade." The German government, he explained, was not thinking of entering into competition with the British sea power, the only purpose of Germany's naval equipment being to defend the German sea coasts and trade; and he added: "The Imperial government will continue to regard as its task the promotion of all friendly tendencies between Great Britain and Germany and a better understanding between the two peoples, so that no room will be left for suspicion."

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The Unemployed of England.

An enormous mass meeting of clergymen assembled in Hyde Park, London, on the 10th (as reported in Chicago Daily Socialist correspondence on the 24th) to demand the taxation of landed estates (pp. 201, 211, 219) above \$25,000 in value, for the relief of the starving unemployed. According to this report more than 2,000 ministers attended the meeting and the Rev. John H. Clifford, a Presbyterian, was the main speaker. He told the clergymen that the unemployed situation was so serious that immediate relief was demanded, and that while the great landed proprietors were practically without burden, the rate payers of the cities were being burdened beyond measure to support an intolerable situation. "When hundreds of thousands of human beings are in a state of absolute starvation," said Dr. Clifford, "it is time to look around a little. The great landowners of England are not bearing their share of the burdens which have fallen upon society for various reasons. The nobles, the barons and the landed gentry cannot realize the facts as they exist in London today. Perhaps they will realize them if they are brought home to them in a concrete form, in the shape of a tax. You will never cure the unemployed situation until you make the pocketbooks of the gentry open up. That is the only way the landed gentry will understand." Dr. Clifford's remarks were cheered to the echo by the other ministers. Most of those present agreed to preach a sermon on the unemployed situation and the proposed land tax for relief measures before leaving the meeting.

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Servian-Austrian Question Settled.

"War in the Balkans" with the approach of spring has been threatened during the winter, over the question of the assimilation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria during Turkey's distraction while developing constitutionalism. Though