

Captain Sawaski before a court-martial on the charge of bribery and receiving commissions for influencing admiralty contracts in favor of a German firm.



#### Sweden's Cabinet Crisis.

As a result of the position taken by King Gustave on the question of Swedish armament, the Cabinet, of which Karl Albert Staaff was premier, resigned on the 10th. King Gustave, in a speech to 30,000 peasants who had come from all parts of the country announced a policy that had not been discussed with his cabinet. The cabinet protested that he had no right as a constitutional monarch to take such a position, and that before giving public expression to his opinions he should first submit them to his official advisors. The King replied: "I cannot agree to this, as I shall not deprive myself of the right to speak without restraint to the Swedish people." Baron Gerard Luis de Geer was commissioned to form a new cabinet, but failed. Whereupon Baron Hammar-skjold was asked to form a ministry. [See current volume, page 156.]



#### English Politics.

The tenor of the King's speech at the opening of Parliament was expressed in the hope that a peaceful solution might be found for the friction between Ulster and the rest of Ireland, under the Home Rule Bill. A settlement by consent was his hope. Walter Long, on the part of the Unionists, challenged the government to submit the question of home rule to a vote of the country, declaring there were 100,000 men drilling and arming in Ulster, and only British bayonets would force that province to accept home rule. Premier Asquith spoke in a conciliatory tone, as did John Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalists. Bonar Law, leader of the opposition, predicted civil war the moment home rule passed. The position of the government was sustained by a vote of 333 to 255. [See current volume, page 155.]



Lord Charles Beresford, vice-admiral, speaking before the Ulster association of London, said that if the imperial forces were ordered to fire upon Ulster men they must obey. He doubted that the government would go to that extreme to force home rule on Ireland, and added, "If the government does, it will be the first step toward the demoralization of the army and navy, and will lead to the break up of the empire." Edward Carson would not pledge himself to abide by the decision even if the question were submitted to a vote of the people. The government professes willingness to make concessions to the Ulster

men, but withholds its proposition until a more equable spirit prevails in Parliament.



Viscount Gladstone, it was announced in Parliament by the government, would retire from the Governor Generalship of the Union of South Africa in June. Sydney Charles Buxton, now president of the Board of Trade, has been named to succeed Viscount Gladstone. By this change, John Burns, the labor member, becomes president of the Board of Trade. Herbert Samuel is moved from Postmaster General to president of local government board, Charles E. Hobhouse becomes Postmaster General, and Charles F. Masterman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—Woman Suffrage is the topic for the Yale-Harvard-Princeton annual debate in March.

—A slight earthquake shock was felt on February 10 along the Atlantic coast from Canada to New Jersey.

—In Ottumwa, Iowa, 2,000 women voted on a measure for municipal ownership of street lights on February 2. The proposition was carried.

—The Delaware whipping post has a close rival in the Prussian headman's block. On the 7th two women were beheaded at Ratibor prison for murder.

—The Canadian government inaugurated a parcels post system on February 10 with a maximum parcel weight of 12 pounds at a higher rate than in the United States.

—The proposed progressive charter for Detroit was voted down on February 10 by about 9,000 majority. Both political machines had bitterly opposed it. [See vol. xvi, p. 1184.]

—A juvenile court will be set up in Paris, France, in February, for the purpose of combatting the progress of juvenile criminality and the evils producing it, by educational, rather than repressive, means. The methods of the juvenile courts of Chicago and Denver will be used.

—President Zamor of Haiti met with a defeat at Gonaives on the 14th, in an attempt to crush General Theodore, who still holds Cape Haytien. The government force will be re-enforced by gunboats, which will attack the rebel stronghold from the sea. [See current volume, page 155.]

—The first Transatlantic wireless press message was sent on February 12 from New York to Berlin. Greetings were sent by the Associated Press and most of the New York papers to the Berlin newspapers and the leading German news association. A reply in kind was sent from Berlin.

—Viscount Suizo Aoki, one of Japan's most distinguished statesmen, died at Tokio on the 16th. Viscount Aoki married the Prussian Baroness von Rahden, which was the first instance of a foreign woman of rank and title becoming the wife of a