

must be found; and it was only the fear that France, and, with her, other debtor nations, would not even seek to find that middle way, that prompted the recent official statements.

The point is, however, that proposals looking towards a compromise must come from the debtors and not from the creditor. Until there is something concrete to set before the American people, the Administration must perforce hold its ground in this, as in other matters—as, for instance, its refusal to allow its representative at the Allied Financial Conference in Paris next week to discuss the problem of debts as a whole. It is prepared to move, but not until those under obligation to it have come courageously forward to invite a move.

The air of mystery which for the moment hangs about questions of international finance is deepened by the visit to the United States of Mr. Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, and Sir Alan Anderson, Director of the Bank. All knowledge of the purpose of their coming is denied by the State and Treasury Departments, and by the British Embassy, but the newspapers are piling speculation upon speculation.

\* An article on inter-Allied debts, giving a French view of the problem, appears on the preceding page.

## THE DUKE OF YORK'S HUNTING TRIP.

### SHOOTING A RHINOCEROS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NAIROBI, DEC. 31.

First reports from the shooting camp of the Duke and Duchess of York at Isiolo show that a good beginning has been made. On the way from Nairobi, however, the party were overtaken by a cloudburst. Four and a half inches of rain fell in half an hour.

The Duke of York's biggest success was the shooting of a rhinoceros several miles from camp. Accompanied only by a white hunter, he tracked and wounded the rhinoceros, which charged. The Duke waited until the animal was within 30 yards, when he dropped it with a second shot. The Duke also shot a kongoni zebra and impala.

The camp is surrounded by lions, and the party consequently confidently expects to obtain a good bag. The Duchess of York has been successful with small game. It is reported that if the present success continues the Duke and Duchess are likely to abandon their intended visit to the Masai reserve, and to remain at Isiolo, making, however, a special trip to Marsabet in search of elephant.

Captain Brooke and Mr. Buist had an exciting encounter with a leopard, which twice charged their car, and was finally dispatched by Captain Brooke.

## PRIME MINISTER'S RETURN TO LONDON.

The Prime Minister returned to 10, Downing-street yesterday, from his home in Worcestershire, where he spent Christmas. Mr. Baldwin will probably confer with Mr. Churchill before the Chancellor of the Exchequer leaves for Paris as British representative at the conference of Allied Finance Ministers. Mr. Baldwin also hopes to be able to be present at the All Blacks v. England match at Twickenham to-morrow.

## FILING "THE TIMES."

At the annual sale at the Colchester Public Library on Wednesday, the periodicals and newspapers to be taken in 1925 were sold by auction, excepting *The Times*, which is reserved for filing purposes.

## POLITICAL OUTLOOK UNCERTAIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, JAN. 1.

The Madrid Press is once more discussing the reform of the constitution, commenting upon the rumour that several politicians of the old school are elaborating a new draft Constitution.

According to the Conservative newspaper *La Epoca*, these politicians are taking as their model the Constitution of the United States of America. It is not clear whether a Monarch or a President would be Chief of State—that is to say, whether King Alfonso would have the opportunity of becoming the first President of a Spanish Confederate Republic or would find his present limited constitutional rights increased to those of the wide powers of the American President. This last suggestion would fit in with the desire of certain extremists that King Alfonso should assume the Dictatorship.

The denial given by the Vice-President of the Directory to all rumours of impending changes of Government is too recent for any importance to be attached to the statements in *La Epoca*, except in so far as they are symptomatic of the uncertain political outlook with which the year opens. The majority of Spaniards, it may be said, are taking the continuance of the Provisional Directory very calmly. Their calmness is reassuring in some respects; in other respects it is the great obstacle to the realization of the main purpose of the *coup d'Etat* of the Marquis de Estella the year before last, which was to create a new governing body with the cooperation of all men of good will.

## DOMINIONS AND BRITISH HONOURS.

### A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PROTEST

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ADELAIDE, JAN. 1.

The Attorney-General for South Australia, Mr. Denny, stated to-day with reference to the knighthood which has been conferred on Mr. D. J. Gordon in the New Year's Honours List, that the conferring of such an honour on any South Australian when the proposal had been turned down, as in this instance, by the State Government, raised a far-reaching constitutional issue, because the Commonwealth Government was ignoring the rights of a State Government in such matters, although, he claimed, South Australia was a sovereign State.

Mr. Denny considers it probable that the Secretary of State for the Colonies was not fully seized of the consequences, but admits that the Commonwealth Government recently notified him that they did not intend to be limited in any way in respect to proposed knighthoods for South Australian citizens. He thereupon replied that the Governor-General should be informed that such a course might lead to the most unfortunate results, such as the State Parliament passing a resolution expressing disapproval of a particular nomination. Mr. Denny adds that this undoubtedly will happen, although it is regrettable that such a course should be necessary.

\* \* \* The Government of South Australia, which has a Labour majority in the House of Assembly but is in a minority in the Legislative Council, introduced a few months ago a Bill making it necessary for recommendations for knighthood to be endorsed by both Houses of Parliament. The measure passed the House of Assembly, but it was rejected in October last by the Legislative Council, in which the Liberals are in a majority, on the ground that it was mischievous and disloyal interference with the official prerogative.

Richardson (not out, 39) resumed batting, the Australian score being 300 for four wickets. A full description of yesterday's play will be found on page 12.

The weather was warm, and 25,000 spectators were present.

England had an early success, for after Richardson had scored a single, Ponsford played the fourth ball of Tate's third over on to his wicket, his long innings thus coming to an end at the same total as it had been overnight.

Kelleway followed in and scoring was slow. Tate was bowling finely, and in his first four overs he had three maidens for 2 runs and one wicket. V. Richardson showed more enterprise than his partner, and was cheered when he hit two boundaries off Gilligan in one over. He then hit Tate for two boundaries off successive balls, and was badly missed by Douglas at mid-on when he had made 67 runs.

At lunch time the score was 377 for five wickets.

### AUSTRALIANS.

W. Bardsley, c. Strudwick, b. Gilligan	19
H. L. Collins, c. Strudwick, b. Tate	9
A. Richardson, run out	14
W. H. Ponsford, b. Tate	128
J. M. Taylor, run out	72
V. Richardson, not out	40
Extras	10

Reuter.

## "RED" ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA.

### MOSCOW AND RECENT STRIKES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, JAN. 1.

Mr. Walter Marks, a member of the Commonwealth Parliament, who has recently returned from a world tour, declares that the Soviet, whose methods have proved a ghastly and colossal failure, is endeavouring to justify its existence by an insidious campaign against the Empire, particularly in the Dominions.

Mr. Marks had conversed with a number of experienced Russian observers in Berlin who had spent from 30 to 40 years in Leningrad and Moscow, and who told him more about the Melbourne police and tramway strikes than he knew himself, though he was there when the strikes happened. His informants also declared that the most important strikes in Australia had their birth in the Moscow Soviet schools. Mr. Marks believes that one of the Soviet's favourite methods is to dispatch young workers to the Dominions, where they ingratiate themselves with trade unionists and patiently await an opportunity of sowing the Soviet seed. Mr. Marks declares that many envoys have reached Australia as steerage passengers with passports in order.

## LOWEST BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

### LAST WEEK'S FIGURES.

(BY OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Last week the birth rate in London was 9.9 per 1,000. This is incomparably the lowest rate ever recorded in any week. The lowest rate in 1923 was 14.0 per 1,000, which occurred in the same week—the last of the year. The figure for the last week of 1922 was 17.5 and for 1921 18.0. In the 105 Great Towns the rate for the last week of 1924 was 11.4, which is also the lowest ever recorded.

Happily the death rates for this last week of 1924 are also without parallel at this time of year and suggest May rather than December. That for London was 11.2 per 1,000 population, and that for the 105 Great Towns was 11.8. The following table shows the rates in the last weeks of the years 1921-1924:—

		DEATH RATES IN LAST WEEK OF YEAR.	
		Per 1,000 population.	
		London.	105 Gt. Towns.
1921	.. ..	18.5	15.9
1922	.. ..	12.0	12.5
1923	.. ..	13.9	13.7
1924	.. ..	11.2	11.8

the other outlying Republics. Thus the Far Eastern Republic various forms of including Tsarist silver and dollars, have prohibited such circulation and to enforce the sole legal tender.

## POLITICAL V OF MON

Following the outbreak of the Revolution in 1911, its independence, Urga being proclaimed in 1912, Russia signed Urga pledging her assistance as the result of an agreement between Russia and Mongolia. In 1915 a tripartite agreement was signed at Kiachta, Mongolia, an autonomous vassal State of China under the protectorate of Russia.

When the Russian Revolution broke out Peking proceeded to patch up its authority in Mongolia. In 1919, he extorted a petition for the autonomy. Baron Ungern was a follower of the whose activities in the pretext for the attack on Urga with October, 1920. The but it afforded Soviet intervention. Revolutionary Government was proclaimed in the Moscow Communist Affairs dispatched a saying that the Soviet in response to a request from the Government, ordered the suppression of the Chinese Government. Though there is real a request, it disavowed any promptitude.

Meanwhile Baron Ungern remained in the neighbourhood and in February attacked Urga, afterwards placing the remnants of the independent Mongol Government under the protection with Baron Ungern as adviser. In June, 1921, he was defeated by the Chinese troops entered Urga, and the Government was installed. "Red Government" appeal to Moscow for Soviet troops until it was removed. This was followed by a Soviet force, the Cossacks, and never since.

On November 5, 1921, the Chinese and Mongolia for the Outer Mongolia is an integral part of China. May 31, 1924.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed in London on December 22, 1924, recorded by the Employment Exchange was 1,169,100. This is less than on December 11, 1924, when the total included 897,400 men and 215,800 women, and 2