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75TH YEAR.

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TELEGRAMS

ST. CROIX STATION.

Irkutsk, Dec. 23rd.—An intercepted wireless message sent out by the Soviet authorities at Moscow says that a revolt against the Bolsheviks is in progress in Turkestan.

New York, Dec. 23rd.—The steamship "Princess May" which sent out the "SOS" last night, 150 miles south of Sandy Hook, today was proceeding to New York under her own steam. A wireless message says repairs had enabled the crew to pump out the flooded engine room.

London, Dec. 24th.—The House of Commons prorogued yesterday until February 10th. The session was formally closed by the King's speech of prorogation. The King, in his speech referred to the ratification of the Peace Treaties that have passed the final stages, and expressed the hope that others would be concluded. He voiced regret over the conditions in Russia and alluded to the friendliness of the Allied and Associated Powers. The speech recorded the conclusion of the agreement with Persia, mentioned the satisfactions in Great Britain over the cordially of the reception accorded the Prince of Wales in Canada, and the United States, and announced the measures taken to give India a responsible Government. The speech foreshadowed a reduction in the national debt. It reviewed the gravity of the economic situation in Europe and dealt with the question of domestic legislation, including that affecting labour. In beginning the address, it was noted that the deliberations of the plenipotentiaries in Paris had been crowned with success and that the treaties of peace with Germany, Bulgaria and Austria had

been concluded. I signified my approval of the Treaty of Peace with Germany and ratified it. Peace still remains to be concluded with the Ottoman Empire, and the republic of Hungary. I earnestly hope the necessary negotiations to this purpose will shortly be brought to a satisfactory conclusion. I regret that there is no improvement in the unhappy conditions prevailing in Russia, and no immediate prospect in that country, of the establishment of the Constitutional Government which alone can conduce to its permanent prosperity. May relations with my allies and associates in the great war remain of the most friendly character, and I have every expectation that the close and intimate co-operation, which led to the final victory, will long be continued to the benefit of all. In August last, my Government concluded with the Persian Government an agreement tending to cement the ties of friendship between the two countries, which have so many interests in common, and promote the welfare of Persia. There is no doubt that public opinion throughout the world is deeply interested in the manner in which Great Britain is dealing with its labour and industrial problems and I am confident, though difficult times are not yet passed, our course is now fairly towards a return of the national strength and prosperity. I note a steady improvement in industrial conditions. Unemployment, which in the earlier part of the year, was unexampled in extent, stands today at a figure comparing favourably with the years prior to the war. This is all the more remarkable, considering the immense numbers of men and women discharged from the services and munition works at home. Acts for restoring privileges surrendered during the war and stabilizing conditions of employment, have done much to avoid friction in the industrial life of the country. The establishment of an industrial court provided machinery for securing a peaceful settlement of disputes and promoting harmony among those engaged in industry. Proposals have been formulated for fixing the maximum hours of employment, instituting a minimum wage, and making increased provision against unemployment. The King referred to the visit of the Prince of Wales to Canada and Newfoundland, which, he said, filled his heart with feelings of pride and satisfaction. "He subsequently visited the United States of America where he was greeted with a warmth and kindness which will have the hap-

piest effect upon the relations of the British Empire and that Great Republic". Referring to India. The first stage of the development of a responsible government in India has become a law. I rely on all my subjects to work for its success. In a proclamation which I am addressing to my Viceroy, and other princes, and to my people of India, I am expressing my hope that a harmonious political life will steadily be built upon the foundations, and am announcing my intention of sending the Prince of Wales to India to inaugurate the new constitutions. To the members of the House of Commons, the King gave his thanks for their provision, during the year for the public expenditure which has continued abnormal, largely exceeding the permanent, and the temporary revenue, and he trusted that next year with the return of more normal conditions, that the first steps would be taken toward the reduction of the National Debt." The condition of our finance and the state of our credit continue to occupy the serious attention of my Ministers," he went on, only by strict economy both in public and private expenditure, and sustained by increased production can the country maintain its historic position in commerce and finance". In addressing the Lords as well as the members of the House of Commons, the speech expressed grave concern over the economic position of a large part of Europe. The task of restoring credit and giving industry a new start there, was one of the first conditions he pointed out of a settled peace. The task, however, was too large for any nation to undertake unaided. "I was enabled by the liberality of Parliament", the speech continues, "to place a large sum at the disposal of the supreme economic council for the relief of immediate necessities, but that sum is nearly exhausted and further measures of relief and reconstruction can only be undertaken as the result of joint action by all the nations interested in the restoration of international commerce. My Government would gladly cooperate with the Governments of other countries to this end, if a suitable plan can be devised. "Great progress was made last year with the gigantic task, of demobilizing the Navy, the army and the air forces, impeded as it has been by the uncertainties of the situation in large parts of Europe and Asia. The continued high cost of living

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