of the steps which were taken to prevent persons from being detained in lunatic asylums when they ought not to be detained there.

His Lordship was not making any attack on the Commissioners or Visitors, who had difficult and arduous duties to discharge, but what they had heard in this case was somewhat disquieting, and it was an extremely difficult subject to deal with. He thought the question should-be considered to see whether steps could not be taken to protect persons in such a diffi-

Unless a case was classified as urgent and dangerous it was well worth considering whether in the case of a man like Mr. Harnett, where independent medical evidence could be obtained, some sort of judicial inquiry could not be held to settle the question, because it was a very erious question.

The case was adjourned at this stage for legal argument to-day.

A LONG TRIAL. Expenses Estimated at Nearly £10,000.

Apart from the heavy damages awarded by he jury, the Harnett case will take its place n legal history as one of the longest trials ever heard in the King's Bench Division before a special jury, its length having been exceeded in the last forty or fifty years on very few occasions. This does not apply to Chancery cases where many disputes have lasted much longer, ne, in fact, continuing for over one hundred days. The Tichborne trial in the Seventies must also be excepted.

The Harnett case has lasted sixteen days, and one or two more days may be occupied in legal arguments on the jury's answers to questions put to them, which—thirteen in number—themselves practically constitute a record.

The Colin Campbell case, which was tried before a special jury, lasted twenty-four days, and the case in which the Hansard Publishing Union prosecuted Mr. Horatio Bottomley and other directors for alleged fraud lasted eighteen days, the defendants being acquitted. This was the trial in which Mr. Justice Hawkins, who tried the case, sent for Mr. Bottomley (who conducted his own case) and congratulated him on the ability which he had exhibited during the trial.

The cest of the Harnett trial is estimated at not much less than £10,000, as there have been nine counsel engaged in the case: Four K.Cs.the Attorney-General (Sir Patrick Hastings) Mr. J. B. Matthews, Mr. Neilson, and Mr. H. Morris-and five juniors. No fewer than fifty witnesses have been called, while the shorthand notes alone, which have been printed daily, will cost somewhere about £2,000, and the jury fees over £200.

OUR AMBASSADOR TO AMERICA.

Sir E. Howard Reaches New - York.

COURSE.

Reports of German Speculation.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Feb. 27.

A further sharp fall occurred in the franc to-day, and the rates at which business was done after hours this afternoon indicate that the downward course has not yet reached its end. Trading began at nine this morning at 101.60 to the pound, or a further drop of over a franc on yesterday's official closing rate, while the dollar rose similarly from 23.42 to 23.70 at the start. The rates at the close of official hours were 102.75 and 23.90 respectively, equivalent to a fall on the day of over two francs to the pound, and practically-half a franc to the dollar. After hours, however, part of this loss was recovered and the franc rose to 101.60.

The renewed fall in the franc during the past few days is generally attributed in great part to heavy payments that have to be made by French industrialists, as usual, at the end of the month, for their foreign purchases. French opinion is convinced, however, that much of the renewed downward movement is directly due to heavy selling of francs for political purposes by adversaries of the Poinare Government, who are operating on the London, Amsterdam, Basle, Vienna, and ew York markets.

Report are current here of peculative operations by wealthy German industrials on the London market in particular. One case is cited to night in the Intransigeant, on the authority of a London banker, who was recently in Paris, and who stated that some days ago he received a visit from a German, who asked for the opening of a credit for five millions in French francs. This he proposed to cover by the immediate payment of two millions in sterling, on the understanding that he would furnish the balance in Frency currency!" as soon as the franc has fallen a few centimes, which will be about March 1."

Paris hotels report the arrival of large numbers of German visitors, who are in many cases occupying for several weeks stay the most expensive suites available No matter what prices they are asked, the German visitors, who have become wealthy with the rise in the pound and dollar, pay them without a murmur. Most of these people have apparently come to Paris to purchases for themselves and their

U.S. AND HEBRIDEAN DISTRESS.

Appeal Incident Settled.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.

The prompt denial of the Lord Mayor f London following the publication of my despatch that he had appealed for American assistance for the amelioration of distress in the Hebrides has removed all feeling and has closed an incident which might ave given occasion for unpleasant comment. It was the intention of Judge Payne, the President of the American Red Cross, I learn, when he received the appeal of the Sulgrave Institute referred to him by the President, to ask the Secretary of State to ascertain from the British Embassy what assistance was needed and the form it should take: but, having received unofficial intimation that the help of the Red Cross will not be needed, nothing more will be done in the matter.

SUMMER TIME. Franco-Belgian Agreement.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.) PARIS, Feb. 27.

The French and Belgian Governments have now come to an agreement for summer time to come into force as from the last Saturday in March as provided by the law passed in this country last May. The British Government has so far not come to an agreement with the other two Allied nations on the matter, but delegates of the three nations are to meet again very shortly, when it is expected that a decision will be taken for summer time this par to start in each country at the same

without having misgiving as to the sufficiency of the steps which were taken to prevent per-MISS MEEKING.

Marriage at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge.

ROYAL PRESENTS.

The marriage of Lord Apsley, D.S.O. M.C., M.P., eldest son of Earl and Countess Bathurst, and Miss Viola Meeking, elder daughter of the late Captain Bertram Meeking (Xth Royal Hussars) and the late Mrs. Herbert Johnson, M.B.E., of Marsh Court, Stockbridge, Hants, was solemnised yesterday afternoon at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge. The chancel was decorated with daffodils and blue irises.

.The following showed the large company to their seats: The Hon. William Bathurst, the Hon. Ralph Bathurst, Lord. Alastair Graham, Lord Somers, Lord Blythswood, Lord Rossmore, the Hon. Charles Rhys, Mr. Colin Davidson, Colonel Menzies, Mr. Annesley Vachell, and Mr. Peter Bathurst.

A Guard of Honour of troopers of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars lined the side aisles during the ceremony.

On the arrival of the bride, with Mr. Herbert Johnson, her stepfather, who subsequently gave her away, she was met by her retinue of eight bridesmaids, four being children. The little girls were Miss Lilias and Miss Margaret Graham, daughters of Lord and Lady Alastair Graham and nieces of the bridegroom; the Hon. Mary Coke, daughter of Viscount and Viscountess Coke; and Miss Mary Hope Morley, daughter of the Hon. Geoffrey and Mrs. Hope Morley. The elder bridesmaids were the Hon. Olive Camp-bell, daughter of Lord and Lady Blythswood and cousin of the bride; Miss Bertha Speir and Miss Dorothy Miller (also cousins of the bride), and Lady Doreen Hely-Hutchinson, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Donoughmore.

Viscount Gage was best man.

The Rev. John S. Gibbs, M.C., late Chaplain to the Forces, vicar of Badminton, performed the rite. He was assisted by the Rev. George Uppington, rector of Stockbridge, Hants; the Rev. Lewis Westmacott, vicar of Cirencester; and Prebendary Leith, Boyd, vicar of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge. The hymns chosen were: an old Scotch hymn, "O Love that wilt not let me go," "Stronghold sure," and "O Perfect Love." While the registers were being signed and attested the anthem "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth," to Dr. Steggall's setting, was sung, and the brides-maids distributed among the congregation favours of violets, mimosa, and myrtle.

THE CONGREGATION.

Among the large congregation were the Princess Royal, accompanied by Lord Carnegie and Lady Maud Carnegie, Earl and Countess Bathurst, Lord and Lady Somers, the Hon. William and the Hon. Ralph Bathurst, Lord and | Lady. Alastair Graham, Evelyn Countess Bathurst, Colonel the Hon. Ben and Mrs. Bathurst, Lord and Lady Bledisloe, Lady Harcourt, Sir Frederick and Lady Hervey-Bathurst, Lord and Lady Blythswood, Lady Leighton, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Lister, Mr. Martin Lister; the Hon. Lancelot. Bathurst, the Hon. Sir Henry and Lady Yarde-Buller, Lady Evelyn Lister, Mrs. Speir, Miss Joan Speir, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sotheby, the Right Hon. Sir Grand Mrs. Alfred Sotheby, the Right Hon. Sir Grand Mrs. Alfred Sotheby, the Right Hon. Sir Grand Mrs. Alfred Sotheby, the Right Hon. George and Miss Buchanan, Miss Johnson, Major and Mrs. Grahame, Mrs. Hartman, Mr. Henry Hartman, Mr. and Mrs. Bouverie-Pusey. Mrs. Butt-Miller, Mrs. Christie Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Bomford and Mr. J. Bomford, Brigadier-General and Mrs. A. D. Miller and Mr. A. Miller, and Mr. R. Speir.

The Spanish Ambassador, the French Ambassador and the Countess de Saint-Aulaire and the Miles. de Saint-Aulaire, the Netherlands Minister and Madame de Marces van Swinderen, the Dowager Marchioness of Tweeddale, the Marchioness of Sligo, Ledy. Doreen Knatchbull and Countess Stanhope, Dowager Marchioness of Linlithgow, the Earl and Countess of Donoughmore, the Countess of Normanton and the Ladies Agar, the Dowagor Countess of Antrim, the Countess of Northbrook, Countess Beauchamp and Lady Lettice Lygon, the Earl of Clarendon, Viscountess Coke, Viscount Cross, the Earl and Countess of

Glentanar, Lady Glentanar, Lady Dalkeith. Swaythling, Lord Rossmore, Lady Rossmore, Lady Kylsant and the Hon. Olwen Philipps, Lady Redesdale and the Hon. Nancy Mitford. Lady Hylton, Lady Carson, Evelyn Lady Alington, Lord and Lady Ampthill, Lord and Lady Biddulph and the Hon. Adelaide Biddulph, Lord and Lady Askwith, Lord Lamington, Lady Desborough and the Hon. Monica and the Hon.



sion will be taken for summer time this Lord and Lady Askwith, Lord Lamington, Lady year to start in each country at the same Desborough and the Hon. Monica and the Hon. time. Imogen Grenfell, Lord and Lady Fairfax. Lady Lilian Grenfell and Miss D. Grenfell, LOAN TO RUSSIA. Mr. and Lady Margaret Duckworth, Mr. and Lady Mary Strickland, Captain and Lady Evelyn Graham, Lady Edward Spencer-Churchill, Lady Government "Not Unfavourably Vera Herbert, Sir William and Lady Noreen Bass, Sir William and Lady Portal, Mr. and Disposed." Lady Phyllis Allen, the Hon. Geoffrey Hope Morley and Miss Elspeth' Hope Morley, the Hon. With regard to a report published ves-Mrs. Hanbury-Tracy; the Hon. Charles Rhys, the Hon. Mrs. Henry Loyd, the Hon. Mrs. Ralph terday that the British Government con-Yorke, Captain the Hon. Arthur Somerset and templates a loan to the Russian Govern-Miss Blanche Somerset, the Hon. Mrs. Kenneth ment it was learned in well-informed quar-Williamson, the Hon. Joseph and Mrs. Pease, ters vesterday afternoon, state the Press Major the Right Hon. George Tryon and the Hon. Mrs. Tryon, the Hon. Mrs. Esmond Harmsworth, the Hon. Angela and the Hon. Association, that no immediate steps are being taken in this connection. The question of loans will be one of the many Violet Baring. Lady (John) Fox, Mrs. Tristram Fox, Sir. to be discussed at the forthcoming confer-Lionel and Lady Wells, Sir Lionel and Lady ence in London on the whole Russian Darell, Sir Gerald and Lady Mildmay and Miss situation. Mildmay, Brigadier-General Sir Henry Page It is learned, however, continues the Croft, M.P., and the Hon. Lady Croft, Sir agency, that the Government is not unfavourably disposed towards the granting of a loan to Russia, which it regards as a necessary part of the re-establishment of that country. At the same time it is felt Russell and Lady Bencroft Sir Campbell Stuart, Sir Robert Lynn, General Sir Ivor and the Hon. Lady Maxse, Lady Troubridge, Lady, Heathcoat-Amory, Lady Howard-Stepney, Sir, Edward and Lady Naylor Leyland. that only Russians can restore Russian Mrs. Stanley Baldwin, the Dean of Winches credit. ter, Miss Anne and Miss Victoria Keppel, Mrs. Cawte, Miss C. Miles, the Rev. S. Biss, Mr. and Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Hartnell, Mrs. BULGARIAN REVOLUTION Evelyn Pierrepont, Mrs. J. H. Culme Seymour, OFFICIALLY DENIED. Mr. William Gillett, Mrs. John S. Sinclair, Miss Margaret Sinclair, Mr. H. A. Gwynne, Mr. and Mrs. Lovelace and Miss Lovelace, Major The Bulgarian Legation in London cate and Mrs. Wilkie, Mrs. Cooper, the Rev. T. and Mrs. Theophilus, Mr. H. E. Peacock, Mrs. Algerally denies the to the effect that Bulgaria was in the grip non Elwes, Mrs. Arthur: Leatham, Mr. and of a Communist revolution. The rumour is Mrs. Robert Hield, Mrs. Charles Maxwell, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Palmer, Miss absolutely groundless and perfect order prevails in Bulgaria at the present Ellett, Mrs. Uppington, Colonel, and Mrs. Frank Butler, Miss Knott, Mrs. J. Rayner, Mr. moment. and Mrs. N. F. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Philip de OBITUARY. Laszlo, Mrs. Harold Foster Strickland, Mr. and Mrs. four Colvin, Mrs. John Sinclair.
Mr. and Mrs. M. Wilson and Miss
Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Le Roy Lewis. SIGNOR DE NAVA. Mr. and Mrs. Cope Cornford, Major. Wykeham Musgrave, Mr. Horace Vachell, (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.) ROME, Feb. 27. Mr. Hunter Blair, Major and Mrs. Frank Mitchell, Mrs. Lewis Hall, Mrs. Philip Foster The ex-Minister, Signor De Nava, died this morning after a short illness. A native of Reggio, he entered public life in 1897. In 1906 and Miss Irene Foster, Colonel Perkins, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. Keith Murray, Mr. Ward Cook, he became Under Secretary at the Home Office, and in 1915 Minister of Commerce, and later of Communications. In the Nitti Government Major Birchall, M.P., and Mrs. Birchall, Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs. Cadogan, Mrs. he was Minister first of Public Works and then Bazley, the Rev. and Mrs. de la Hey, Mr. and of Labour. While not belonging to the Fascist Party, he was one of those who, like Signor Orlando, gave Fascism their approval and sup-Beckwith Smith, Mrs. Leith Boyd and Miss Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. T. Y. Allen, Sister Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Kiddy, Captain Cullis, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson, Mr. N. port. His name had been included with Signor Pullon, Miss Longuet Higgins, Miss Maude, Orlando's in the Government list of candidates Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Green, Mr. and Mrs. at the coming elections. Holmes, Mrs. Cripps and Miss Cripps, Mr. and Mrs. Arkwright, Mrs. Marjoribanks and Miss. NEW CHAIRMAN OF TRADES Marjoribanks, Captain and Mrs. Pierrepont, Mr. and Mrs. Lowsley-Williams, Mr. P. S. UNION CONGRESS. Lowsley-Williams, Mrs. Eric Penn, Major Stirling, Mrs. J. H. Culme Seymour. At a special meeting of the Council of the Mr. and Mrs Batten, Captain Spencer Trades Union Congress yesterday Mr. A. A. Purcell, of the Furnishing Trades Association, Churchill, Mr. David Lindsay, the Misses Milburn, Major and Mrs. J. G. Dugdale, Mr. was elected chairman in succession to Miss and Mrs. A. Turner, Mrs. Duckworth, Mr. E. P. Margaret Bondfield, M.P., who resigned on join-Webb, Mr. R. G. Emery, Mr. Hanburying the Socialist Ministry. Williams, Colonel and Mrs. Charles, Turner,

shortly, when it is expected that a deci

Lady Biddulph and the Hon. Adelaide Biddulph,



