

of the Sovereign must not be brought into the discussion. The interpellation should be addressed to the Minister without any personal reference to the Czar. The proposed interpellation was then adopted by the House, the proposers having consented that the words objected to should be struck out.

The House then commenced the discussion of the interpellation with regard to the conduct of local officials in the famine districts who are charged with placing obstructions in the way of private benevolence. Several speakers entered strong protests against the decision of the Government that peasants who had taken part in the agrarian disturbances shall not be entitled to assistance. The debate assumed a very sharp tone after the speech of a Cossack deputy, M. Sehnikoff, who said that all interpellations are useless, so long as the present Ministry remains in office. Count Heyden remarked that a vote of want of confidence is not in order, so long as the allegations of misconduct are unsupported by proof. The peasant Deputy Losseff, from Tambow, in a cutting speech, said the Russian Government wishes to leave the people in unrest and to let them starve. (The speaker was called to order.) The Socialist Labour Deputy M. Mikhaïlschenko said the Government alone is responsible for the agrarian disturbances, and should be put upon its trial. (The President here rang his bell, but the speaker continued, amid cheers from the Left): "The Duma is powerless, the country must be told so." (Continued shouts to the speaker to stop, and a call to order by the President.)

Several speakers proposed verbal amendments to the interpellation, and the sitting was adjourned at 2 o'clock for an hour.

The sitting was resumed at half past three. After a conversation on the interpellation the House proceeded to the discussion of the agrarian question. The Polish Deputy Skirmont, acknowledging the necessity of an improvement in the agrarian conditions, nevertheless pointed out the danger that besets the question and remarked: "Supposing we grant lands to the peasants, we shall not have solved the problem. There are many labourers in the towns who will remain without land, who will ask us for houses and factories, and we shall have no right to refuse them." (Uproar on the left. The President rang his bell.) M. Skirmont concluded: "Russia has suffered in the adventure with Japan and in the internal strife aroused by her Government. Will the Duma drag the country into a new adventure, economic, social, and still more dangerous?" (Continued uproar and hisses. The President declared he could not permit the expression of dissatisfaction, as the authority of the Duma rests upon the fact that it hears all opinions.)

Several speakers discussed various points of the proposed law for the regulation of the agrarian question. The peasant Deputy Pawloff said: "No attention should be paid to the assurances of the Government that expropriations are impossible. We know that the Czar will give us land if we ask him to do so."

M. Aladin informed the House of the sudden death of the Deputy M. Andrianoff, whereupon all the members rose to their feet. At eight minutes past five the Duma adjourned; the next sitting will be held tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.

SERIOUS STEAMSHIP ACCIDENT.

Riga, May 30.

A steamship carrying 75 passengers and bound for the pleasure resort Dubbeln foundered here yesterday immediately after the landing stage had been put out; the occurrence was due, it is believed, to over loading; only 10 persons were saved.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

Tokio, May 29.

As has already been announced, difficulties are said to have arisen between Japan and Russia, since Russia is attempting to ignore the treaty concluded between Japan and Korea. The difficulties are due to the different interpretation put by the two Governments on the credentials issued to the Russian Consul General in Korea. The usual form which Russia is in the habit of adopting in the issuing of credentials to her consuls, seeks to obtain recognition of the consuls from the rulers of the country in which the consuls are residing. But this form is objected to by Japan in the case of Korea, since, on the ground of the treaty concluded between Japan and Korea, the latter's diplomacy must be subject to Japan's supervision. There is every probability that the matter will be settled in a short time in a friendly way.

THE TURKO-PERSIAN FRONTIER.

Constantinople, May 29.

General Seki Pasha has been appointed president of the Commission for the settlement of the Turko-Persian frontier, in succession to General Wadschid Pasha who committed suicide.

A MONUMENT TO KING CAROL.

Bucharest, May 29.

The Chamber has voted 500,000 Fr. for the erection of a memorial to King Carol and in memory of the independence of Roumania.

THE ITALIAN CABINET.

Rome, May 29.

The new Cabinet is now formed and the places thus distributed. Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Sig. Giolitti, of the Exterior Sig. Tittoni, of Justice Sig. Gallo, of Finance Sig. Massimini, of War Lieut. General Vigano, of Marine Admiral Mirabello, of Education Sig. Fusinato, of Public Works Sig. Gianturco, of Agriculture Sig. Coccu-Ortu.

The new Ministers will take the oath of allegiance to the King tomorrow.

Latest Telegrams on page 4.

A POSSIBLE ANGLO-AMERICAN DIFFICULTY.

The present Government in England are finding their lines laid in anything but pleasant places with regard to the Colonies, and now in addition to Australian difficulties with the new Hebrides, and the serious native rising in Natal, comes the news of a fresh embarrassment likely to be caused by the reenactment by the Newfoundland legislature of last years Foreign Fishing Vessels Bill with the addition of amendments which make the Bill more drastic even than before. The leader of the Opposition went so far as to characterise the Bill as a "declaration of war against the United States", where certainly the new enactment is bound to be looked upon with grave disapproval; but none the less the Opposition did not challenge a division and the Bill was passed.

The colony is in fact united in its determination to support an aggressive policy against the American fishermen, who have for years been enjoying every concession that England could give them, in the hope that a reciprocity arrangement might ultimately be affected with America, whereby English fishery products might secure free entry. But when the treaty was before the American Senate, it was "stifled", although the fishermen still expected to enjoy the same privileges as hitherto. The treaty of 1818 gave them the right to take fish of every kind on the Southwest and West coasts of Newfoundland and to land and dry their catch on the former slip; but other concessions were withdrawn by the Foreign Fishing Vessels Bill. The American Government contended that two sections of the Act could be so construed as to seriously hamper American fishermen in the permit of their legitimate calling, where entitled thereto by treaty, and consequently in the Act just passed a new article has been inserted decreeing that these sections do not apply to foreign fishing vessels resorting to such parts of the coast as they have treaty right on. But with this proviso the Bill is sufficiently drastic in that it enacts that no foreigner not so entitled by treaty or convention shall fish in British waters, and that no British subject shall fish there on any foreign fishing vessel, shall go outside British waters for the purpose of joining such vessel, or shall sell, hire, lend, or give any such vessel any fishing gear, nets, or boats; while it is also provided that no craft shall carry men or gear outside British waters for the purpose of placing them aboard such vessel; that no master, owner, or agent of such vessel shall engage men or gear in British waters for such purpose; and that any foreign fishing vessel having such men among its crew shall be liable to confiscation. The Bill, moreover, provides that all foreign fishing vessels exercising rights under any treaty or convention shall be amenable to all laws of the colony not inconsistent with such rights.

The objects of these amendments, which are very radical, and strike directly at the Americans, is to make impossible a repetition of the evasions of last winter. The history of what occurred is well known. When the American vessels came to Newfoundland West Coast waters in October to engage in the winter herring fishery, they found the Act enforced against them, restricting them to their treaty rights alone, which allowed them to take fish there in common with British subjects, but not to dry or cure their catch on shore. Formerly, the colony allowed them to buy cargoes of herring from the residents, who actually caught the fish, the venture being really a trading and not a fishing one on the part of the Americans. But now this concession was denied them, and as they could not, either, legally hire men in British waters to help on their vessels, they induced these to go outside the three-mile limit, with their boats and nets, the vessels also going out and taking them aboard there. These evasions were carried on under the eyes and, it is alleged, with the connivance of the American Fish Commission's cruiser "Grampus," which was sent to the scene by the State Department at Washington, with fishery experts on board to observe and report upon the progress of events; and it is also alleged that it was at the suggestion of these experts that other American vessels procured Newfoundland crews in different Nova Scotian ports where these were to be had; while the American fishing vessels, by common agreement, refused to enter or clear at British Custom houses, to pay

light dues, or to observe British fishery regulations contending that they recognised no laws of the colony in these respects, though they had always observed them, and paid fines for breaking them previously.

The question that now arises is whether the Imperial Government will uphold the Colony in its contentions in these respects, and, if not, why not? It is, of course, true that the friendship existing between England and America is far too valuable to be lightly disturbed. But the position of Newfoundland on the matter is a strong one and it is certainly to be hoped that Mr. Secretary Root will so far modify the policy which he adopted when dealing with Canada-Alaska question that there may be no recrudescence of friction when the herring fishery opens in September.

OLD FAITH CURES.

How strongly some of the strange folk-lore and superstitious beliefs still survive in some of the rural parts of Devonshire is illustrated by the following incident which took place recently at Sutecombe, and which is thus described by the rector (Rev. F. G. Scrivener) in a communication to the Press:—

"On Sunday the parish church of Sutecombe, a small village between Holsworthy and Hartland, was the scene of a revival of an interesting old faith-cure. A woman in the parish has of late been a sufferer from epileptic fits, and at the persuasion of a neighbour, who nineteen years ago had done the same thing, and had not suffered from fits since, she went round the parish and got thirty married men to promise to attend the parish church at the morning service.

"At the close of the service the rector desired the selected men to pass out one by one, and as they passed through the porch they found the woman seated there, accompanied by the neighbour who had done the same thing nineteen years ago (as many who were present remembered). Each man as he passed out put a penny in the woman's lap, but when the thirtieth man (the rector's churchwarden) came he took the twenty-nine pennies and put in half a crown. A silver ring is to be made out of this half-crown, which the woman is to wear, and it is to be hoped that the result will be as satisfactory in her case as it was on the previous occasion.

"In a small parish (less than 300 population) it was not easy to find thirty married men, but all were willing to help—farmers, labourers, and tradesmen—and the whole incident passed off very quietly, and all was done with the utmost reverence and decorum. The woman takes her seat in the porch when the preacher begins his sermon, and from the time she leaves her house until she returns she must not speak a word. We have not heard whether she complied with this condition."

The Rev. Roger Granville, of Pinhoe, formerly rector of Bideford, also tells an interesting story of Devonshire superstition. "On one occasion," he says, "a young farmer from the neighbourhood of Torrington called on me and asked me to tell him what was contained in a bag which he had worn round his neck since infancy, and which a white witch had given his mother as a preventative against fits. After cutting open several outer cases, well worn and sweat-stained, I came upon the original inner one, which contained a number of pieces of paper, each bearing one word.

"Piecing them together, I found they formed the following sentences: 'Sinner, Jesus died for thee' (thrice repeated), 'Therefore flee that sin.' At the man's request, these pieces of paper were reinserted in their several bags, and my maid-servant sewed them up again, and he, replacing the charm round his neck once more, went on his way rejoicing, being now in a position to tell a neighbour, whose child had also fits, that was a certain cure for them."

CHURCH SERVICES.

ALL SAINTS' (ENGLISH) CHURCH,
Wiener Strasse.

Thursday, May 31st. 8.0 a.m. Matins.

Friday, June 1st. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany. 5.0 p.m. Choir Practice.

Saturday, June 2nd. 8.0 a.m. Matins. *Vigil.*

Chaplain: The Rev. C. A. Moore, M. A., B. C. L.
Hon. assistant Chaplain: The Revd. M. S. Farmer M. A.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,
Reichsplatz 5, at the head of Reichs Strasse.

Friday, June 1st. Service 10.0 a.m.

Whit-Sunday, June 3rd. Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. and 11.0 a.m. (Sermon.) Afternoon Service and address 5.30.

Rev. J. F. Butterworth, M. A., Rector.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH LIBRARY.

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