

other questions connected with the Armenian church. The meeting further claimed the right to express its views on questions affecting the whole of Russia especially the Caucasus. A resolution was proposed by the minority whereby the meeting would be justified in drawing up statutes and an educational programme, but with reference to other questions the meeting should be considered a preparatory congress for a future national assembly.

*St. Petersburg, September 4.*

An agent of the political secret police who a day or two ago, when in a drunken condition, fired a revolver at the door of the Italian embassy has been dismissed from the force and sentenced to three months imprisonment.

*Helsingfors, September 4.*

The enquiry set on foot to discover how many Finns took part in the Sveaborg mutiny has now concluded. It appears that 180 Finns took part under the leadership of a certain Rantal, who himself was wounded and arrested; 79 of the guilty persons are in prison. They will be tried by the court in Abo. General Goutscharok, sent by the Czar to enquire into the military disturbances in Sveaborg, has arrived here.

*St. Petersburg, September 4.*

The central committee of the revolutionary socialists has issued a statement that General Minn was executed in consequence of a sentence passed on him by the northern "flying detachment" of the revolutionary socialists.

*Riga, September 4.*

A bomb was thrown today at a crowded tram which, owing to the protracted strike of the tram conductors, can only carry on an auxiliary service under police protection. One passenger and a policeman were wounded.

*Helsingfors, September 4.*

Two armed men today entered a local bank, threatened the officials with revolvers and robbed the bank of 9,000 marks. One person was later arrested on suspicion.

#### AGRARIAN REFORM.

The Ministerial Council determined at yesterday's sitting to issue a Government *communiqué*, affirming that the rumours that the Government intended to confiscate land belonging to the Cossacks for division among the peasants, are malicious inventions. In carrying out agrarian reform the Government will hold firm to the principle of the inviolability of private property. The Council recognised the right of the Jews to open lower and middle schools.

#### TURKEY AND BULGARIA.

*Constantinople, September 4.*

In the face of rumours widely circulated that Turkey is making preparations for war, it has been ascertained here that Turkey is by no means inclined to war and has absolutely no hostile intentions. The last Ministerial council and the meetings of military authorities were only for the purpose of deciding what measures would be ultimately necessary should the attitude of Bulgaria render any such desirable. The War Ministry has been given the task of taking precautionary measures.

It is said that Nedchif Pasha has two missions; first, he is to make enquiries as to the reason of Bulgaria's recent attitude and as to the meeting between Prince Ferdinand and King Edward, and to endeavour to exert a pacifying influence on the former; secondly, he is to exercise surveillance on the adjutant Ahmed Dsheladdin Pasha, who has been a fugitive for years, and who is living in Carlsbad or is shortly to arrive there, and is supposed to be going to hold a conference with the young Turks.

#### GERMAN COLONIAL MINISTER.

*Berlin, September 4.*

The semi-official "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" states that Hereditary Prince Hohenlohe Langenburg has requested the Emperor to relieve him of his office of head of the Colonial Department.

Herr Bernhard Dernburg, Director of the Darmstadt Bank, will probably succeed him.

#### AN ACCIDENT TO ONE OF BUFFALO BILL'S AUDIENCE.

*Trees, September 4.*

As the vast crowd was pouring out of the tent where Buffalo Bill's troupe had been performing this afternoon, a street car ran over a man and crushed him to death.

#### Latest Telegrams on page 4.

#### BRITISH AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BRITISH LEGATION: Elisen Strasse 5 c.  
Minister Resident: *Viscount Gough.*

THE BRITISH CONSULATE: Altmarkt 16.  
British Consul: *H. Palmié, Esq.*

THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL: Ammon Strasse 2, p.  
American Consul General: *T. St. John Gaffney, Esq.*

## CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICA.

(By letter from our New York correspondent.)

### PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND THE TARIFF QUESTION.

With his letter to Mr. James Watson, member of Congress for Indiana, in which he breaks a lance for the Republican party and for Republican principles, President Roosevelt has publicly championed the cause of the Republican candidates for Congress. The elections to the House of Representatives take place in November. The President has, to a certain extent, officially opened the election campaign by this letter in which he lays down the programme and the political arguments of his party. His letter—the dignity of his high office prevents the President himself delivering speeches—will serve the Republican electoral speakers as a rule of conduct. A passage of the letter which is of special interest is that which touches on the tariff question.

The President writes: "We are unreservedly in favour of protection, and are not inclined to endanger our phenomenal industrial prosperity in the smallest degree, and it would be foolish to secure a few small advantages at the cost of a general business depression". By this attitude on the Tariff question the President had apparently ranged himself on the side of the out and out "stand patters" and protectionists. As an engrained "stand pater" he is regarded by the Democrat journals and by those papers which are in favour of tariff revision; to another statement made in this letter, that a general revision of the tariffs would only be undertaken, if the best interests of the country seemed to demand it, for then only would it bring more good than harm, hardly any importance is attached by these papers, any more than there is to the statement that if any alteration of the tariff becomes necessary owing to altered circumstances, it would be undertaken if the existing system was not thereby overwhelmed, because these two statements are too hedged in by stipulations.

It is, however, a question whether the President has really "given himself away" as an out and out "stand pater". As leader of the Republican party it was only to be expected of him that he should revere the principles of his party, and in spite of the tendency towards tariff revision in the Republican camp, the bulk of the party has at present no desire for any alteration in the customs policy. The whole campaign, so far as the Republicans are concerned, will turn on the personality and the successes of the President, and on the services of the Republican majority in Congress. The personality of the President at the last national electoral campaign, set in motion a flood of republicanism which still exists in its entirety. Possibly influenced by a fear that a sudden Democratic assault may win a few seats from the Republicans, the President has made up his mind once more to throw the whole weight of his personality into the campaign and to express himself on the campaign "issues". The Democrats desire to put the tariff question in the forefront of the campaign and hope to gain much political capital from this "stand-pat" declaration of the President. But as matters stand, it is not likely that in the Congress campaign things will come to a general trial of strength between the Protectionists and the revisionists; it is far more likely that the question will not be seriously tackled before the next Presidential campaign. It is also a question whether this statement of the President is to be regarded as showing him to be a genuine "stand pater" or whether it does not rather admit of the conclusion that the President has no intention of obstinately clinging to the principle of Protection but will himself support revision if the tendency in this direction grows more pronounced. As a matter of fact the letter is too short and ambiguous to allow of any definite verdict on his actual attitude. In any case it may be assumed that in his next message to Congress the President will express himself more clearly on the question. One may also adopt the standpoint that the President will not hear of the Tariff question being tackled until he has settled various other economic questions e.g. the Trust question. As has been said, his letter admits of various inferences.

The letter has been, of course, praised in its entirety by the purely Republican papers. The politically independent New York *Evening Post* thinks that the President wished to amend the "stand pat" speech of M. Speaker Cannon in Danville, Illinois and wished to remove the impression that this speech was the embodiment of the Republican programme. In that speech Mr. Cannon declared himself unreservedly in favour of protection. Besides this he is at loggerheads with the organised labourers. The *Evening Post* which treats the letter in a humorous way, thinks that the President wished to make concessions on all sides without really making any concession to anyone in order to appeal to all the voters. In this way it would strike pleasantly on the ears of the Republican "revisionists" in Massachusetts, when he said that revision would take place if it brought

with it more good than harm. The Trusts would be pleased when he said that the Trust question and the tariff question had nothing to do with each other. The labourers would be pleased by the assertion that the Republic favoured the organisation of labour quite as much as the organisation of capital.

The New York *World* is of opinion that three quarters of the American people are of opinion that the tariff ought to be revised. The Republican *Tribune* states that the President's letter contains little consolation for those who flatter themselves that differences of opinion on the tariff question exist between the President and the Republican leaders.

The Democratic and independent papers decline to agree with the President that the Trust question and the Tariff questions cannot be dealt with together.

In his letter the President asserted that the tariff question had nothing on earth to do with the regulation of the Trusts. These could be absolutely controlled by the laws already accepted and to say that this could happen by alterations in the tariff was untrue.

In conclusion, to show how differently various passages of the letter are being interpreted, the friends of Mr. Speaker Cannon are claiming the letter as an endorsement of the Presidency "boom" for Mr. Cannon!

### THE PRESIDENT ON THE LABOURS OF CONGRESS.

In the opening part of his letter to Mr. Watson, a letter which apart from the passage on tariff reform deals almost exclusively with the labours of Congress, the President champions the Republican party in general and the Republican majority in Congress in particular, in the following words: "If at the elections only party questions were to be decided I would hesitate to make any public statement. But this is not the case. I am of opinion that all good citizens who have the good of America at heart, will recognise the importance attained by the present Congress in its present organisation and how necessary it is to retain the present organisation in all its strength. With Mr. Cannon as speaker, the House has got through an absolutely phenomenal amount of good work. It has shown courage, common sense and patriotism, so that it would be a serious misfortune for the country not to recognise this. An alteration in the leadership and organisation of the house at the present time would mean that confusion would be caused among those who have been active in the successful, gradual introduction of a large and generally understood system of improvement of our social, economic and municipal conditions. Any such alteration would betoken an objectless confusion, a violent and disadvantageous interruption in the present regular advance within the boundaries of a usefully thought-out policy."

Never has a Congress, continues the President, done so much good in various domains as the present Congress in its first session. With regard to the Panama canal, the President points out that the obtaining of the land for the canal was due to the initiative of Congress, as was the fact that the work would be done in the most satisfactory manner. Without this active action on the part of Congress this giant work would never have been taken in hand or the works already begun would have ceased. Equally praiseworthy was the action of Congress in the matter of creating and maintaining an efficient navy. It was the duty of the country to maintain the Munroe doctrine, and to protect the canal route, and for that a strong navy was indispensable.

With regard to the Trust question the President wrote that the enormous social and industrial changes had made imperative a greater employment of the powers of the National Government in watching over the use of wealth in business, especially in the case of corporative wealth, in inter-State trade. It would not be saying too much to assert that the duties of the Government in this direction had now been observed for the first time. The task was all the more difficult since fanatic and wrong-headed extremists and reactionaries played into each others' hands, whereby the attainment of real and sufficient legislative and executive measures, which would not disturb business prosperity, was rendered all the harder, even if all could not share in them to the same degree, though that was the object they sought to attain. It was easy enough to play the demagogue, to be for ever pointing at the evils of riches, and to point out remedies whose only effect would be to destroy at one blow the prosperity of the country. It was equally easy to appear as an obstructionist, to refuse to recognise the evils of the present system, and to oppose their abolition, whereby they would be really supporting the advocates of extreme measures. It was not so easy, to take up, as Congress had done, a position between the two extremes. Instead of passing anti-Trust laws, by which the wished-for goal would not be reached, Congress had passed an Inter-State Trade Law which made possible full control of the charterers, so that they would be hindered from imposing exaggerated freight tariffs, and from benefiting one person at the cost of another. The late Congress

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