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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In accordance with a motion introduced by the Prime Minister on Monday night and hotly contested by the Opposition, that the new rules of procedure should be closed by compartments, the House passed the new rules by a large majority on Tuesday night. Practically all Bills under these new rules will be referred to Grand Committees.

THE COLONIAL PREMIERS IN LONDON.

The freedom of the city of London was conferred on the Colonial Premiers in the Guildhall on Tuesday. The general attention of all present was directed to the Lord Mayor, General Botha and Earl Roberts as they took their places on the platform. General Botha shook hands with the Lord Mayor and then turned to Lord Roberts, who approached him, and cordially shook hands with him as well; all present burst into loud applause. The flag which was captured at Jacobsdal during the Boer war and which usually hangs in the Guildhall, out of respect to General Botha, had been removed for the occasion.

At the luncheon which followed, the Canadian Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, said in the course of his speech that it was a unique spectacle to see General Botha and Mr. Jameson sitting near each other; five years before they would not have been so friendly. He was of opinion that no nation other than England would have dared to grant such liberty to the Transvaal as England had done.

In the evening the Premiers were the guests of the Eighty Club. Again General Botha was the centre of interest. Among those present were the Prime Minister, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, the Secretary of War, Mr. Haldane, and the Under Secretary for the Colonies, Mr. Winston Churchill. The Prime Minister, who welcomed the guests, in the course of his speech said that the Liberal Party were desirous that the British Empire should remain on a basis of liberty and justice, for otherwise it did not deserve to exist. General Botha proposed the toast of the British Government and said that the confidence which had been shown the Transvaal would never be forgotten. The Transvaal had seized the hand of friendship extended to it and would never let it go. Mr. Winston Churchill said that the principle of self-government was the only one adapted to hold the empire together. The Government was determined with all its heart to support General Botha in the fusion of two great nations into one African nation under the British flag.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN MONTREAL.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* learns from Montreal that the medical department of the Mac Gill University together with a museum, the contents of which can never be replaced, has been destroyed by fire; incendiaryism is suspected.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE THAW CASE.

The *Globe* learns from its New York correspondent that the newspapers continue to devote much space to the Thaw scandal, for a scandal it is of the first magnitude. The members of the jury discuss with all comers the inmost secrets of the consultation room, and the lawyers engaged in the trial talk freely with most unprofessional frankness. How the thing is to end it is impossible to predict. Certainly the average citizen is heartily sick of the whole evil business, and any solution that will prevent the re-trial of the prisoner will be heartily welcomed almost everywhere.

District-Attorney Jerome is understood to insist that there must be another trial, and he will oppose any application to admit Thaw to bail. In this he is running counter to popular feeling, as far as it can be gauged at the moment. The prisoner, although the self-confessed killer of Stanford White, has, it is maintained, been subjected to an awful ordeal, and it is contended that he ought

to be given a chance of recovering his mental and physical vigour in the pure air of freedom. He is certainly giving indications of bodily and intellectual collapse, which continued imprisonment in the Tombs, during the summer months especially, will, it is thought, make certain and complete. The best solution, and one which is steadily gaining in general favour, is for the lawyers on both sides to agree that the man is mentally unsound, and a fit candidate for an insane asylum. This, doubtless, would mean his release in the course of a year or two, but such a failure of justice is contemplated with equanimity, in view of all the circumstances.

Nobody can be found with sufficient hardihood to suggest that Thaw can ever get a fair and unbiased trial in the State of New York, and he cannot be tried elsewhere. On the whole it is fairly safe to predict that Thaw will be comfortably installed in a lunatic asylum in the course of the next few weeks. The District Attorney cannot logically oppose this course, seeing that he himself so recently declared in court his solemn conviction that whatever Thaw's mental condition was when he killed Stanford White last summer, he is undoubtedly insane now.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE ORLEANS FÊTE.

In a letter to the municipal authorities of Orleans, M. Clémenceau said that he was ready to cooperate in every way in the fête in honour of Joan of Arc; but the separation of Church and State forbade the officials and the army taking part in religious festivals.

He writes as follows: "I perceive that the clergy, who have opposed the Separation Law with violence and even yesterday filled the churches with deadly weapons directed against our soldiers, are using the opportunity to join together again the bands that have been finally rent asunder; but if the city of Orleans, which at the last parliamentary election sent advocates of the separation of Church and State to the Chamber, is now attaching such importance to the advantages that the commerce of Orleans expects to derive from the concourse of visitors flocking to the Joan of Arc fêtes, it ought to have thought of that before the votes were taken on the Separation law. Whence could I have the right to subject representatives of the Government under the régime of Separation to the insults of an insurrectionary clergy, as happened even under the Concordat in the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris at the instigation of Father Ollivier?"

M. SAINT-SAËNS AND THE KAISER.

The Paris *Temps* publishes a letter from M. Saint-Saëns from Berlin, in which the famous composer first reports that the opera performances arranged by the Prince of Monaco had been successful beyond all expectation, and goes on to say among other things that the Emperor William congratulated the artists with that friendliness and cordiality which those who have enjoyed the distinction of being presented to him, know so well. His Majesty discussed all art questions with the most perfect knowledge of the subject and with rare subtlety, treating thereby the most serious subjects in that light, merry way which gives his conversations so great a charm. "In the Emperor William" writes M. Saint-Saëns, "are two men; the warrior with the hard features, and the artist with the smiling countenance. To my art comrades and to myself it was granted only to see this face both in the theatre and in the intimate receptions which will leave behind in us ineffaceable recollections.

THE BAKERS' STRIKE.

The strike of bakers in Paris is flickering out. On Tuesday morning only 451 remained on strike.



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On Monday and Tuesday evenings some 18 strikers were arrested on the charge of interference with the liberty of labour. Some of the strikers threw vitriol through a cellar flap on some men working at the ovens; one of the men was slightly injured. An enquiry into the matter is being held.

THE JENA DISASTER.

It is reported from Toulon that the Committee of the Chamber appointed to enquire into the "Jena" disaster has expressed a wish, with reference to this enquiry, to inspect all the ships of the Mediterranean squadron. This squadron, which is carrying out target and tactical practice in the vicinity of Hyères, has accordingly been ordered back to Toulon.

A REQUEST FOR A GARRISON.

The Prime Minister, M. Clémenceau, who is temporarily carrying on the War Ministry in the absence of General Picquart, has informed the Prefect of the department of Cantal that the request of the town of St. Flour that a garrison should be quartered there, cannot at present be granted, as in consequence of the introduction of the two years' service the fourth battalions in about 60 garrisons have been done away with.

THE RECENT ROYAL MEETING AT CARTAGENA.

The correspondent of the *Eclair* in Madrid has had an interview with the Spanish Minister of Marine, Admiral Fernandez, who, to the question whether England had really promised assistance to Spain in the matter of the restoration of her sea power, is said to have replied as follows: "All that I can tell you is, that in the course of the Cartagena meeting there was some talk of the defence of our coasts and the reorganisation of our fleet, which has all England's sympathies. I hope, indeed that this meeting will have joyful results for our future as a naval power."

The same correspondent announces that the upper council of the Marine Command has voted the requisite sums for the construction of battleships.

THE HEALTH OF THE CROWN PRINCESS OF SWEDEN.

The condition of the health of the Crown Princess of Sweden, who lately proceeded from Carlruhe to Capri, continues to be unsatisfactory. The Princess passes the greater part of the day in bed and only now and again is able to sit for a short time on the terrace of her residence.

THE AUSTRIAN EMPEROR IN BOHEMIA.

On Tuesday afternoon the Emperor Franz Joseph, drove amid the enthusiastic ovations of large crowds, to the Chamber of Commerce in Prague. The President of the Chamber, speaking both in Czech and German, welcomed the Emperor and announced that next year, in honour of the Emperor's jubilee, the Chamber would arrange an exhibition; he expressed the conviction that both nations would arrive at a settlement of their political differences. The Emperor expressed his thanks in Czech and German and gave utterance to the wish that the exhibition might be an important step toward rapprochement and lasting peace between the two nations, which he had so much at heart (enthusiastic cheers). He promised that he would most certainly visit the exhibition.

His Majesty then inspected the new national schools and the site of the new Czech and German University, and then returned to the Palace.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

THE DUMA.

The House at its Tuesday's sitting discussed an interpellation with reference to the occurrences in Riga, when 7 prisoners who were endeavouring to escape on the 13th of the month were killed, while 17 others were wounded, the remaining 74 to be tried by drum-head court martial.

The session assumed the character of a duel between the extreme Left and the Centre. The latter desired to refer the interpellation to the Committee which exists for the purpose of examining all interpellations, while the extreme Left wished to refer it to the Ministerial Council as urgent.

M. Kusmin Karavajeff read a despatch from the Government of Riga, stating that none of the arrested persons were threatened with the death penalty.