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PRINCE FUSHIMI IN LONDON.

Prince Fushimi of Japan, who has come to England to return the visit of Prince Arthur of Connaught, arrived in London on Monday and at once drove to Buckingham Palace where he was received by King Edward. Later his Majesty returned the Prince's visit and handed him the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

In the House of Lords on Monday the debate on the second reading of Lord Newton's Bill for reforming the Upper House was commenced.

Lord Cawdor moved an amendment for the appointment of a Committee to examine propositions having for their object the increase of the efficiency of the Upper House in legislative matters.

The Lord President of the Privy Council said that before reform proposals could be discussed a method must be found for settling the differences between the two Houses.

He said that in the view of the Government it was not a matter of the efficiency of the Upper House nor of its hereditary character, but of its party character, and the constant predominating influence of one party. No proposal of the Committee suggested by Lord Cawdor would abolish the party character of the Upper House.

After some further debate the House adjourned. The Government proposals as to the House of Lords were not divulged, but they are believed by Liberals to be of a drastic nature.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Craig, Conservative, Member for South Antrim, asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the recent utterances of Prince Bülow with reference to the disarmament question, the British Government intended to at once place upon their naval construction programme the building of a third ship of the "Dreadnought" class. The Prime Minister replied that the Government fully recognised the importance of Prince Bülow's remarks. From the tone of his utterances, however, it was apparent that the German Government, while preserving its own standpoint, wished to avoid putting difficulties or unpleasantnesses in the way of other Powers interested in this question. The Government recognised that the question of outlay on armament could only be settled with the agreement and consent of the House, but they were not at present in a position to make further statements as to the naval construction programme and matters connected with it.

In reply to a question Mr. Morley gave detailed information as to the Rawalpindi disturbances and said that order now prevails there. The troops which supported the civil authorities had, with the exception of a small detachment of native infantry and cavalry, been withdrawn. Further disturbances are not anticipated.

THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

At Monday's sitting of the Conference the President of the Board of Trade said that the Government would not alter their standpoint in the matter of the tariff question. He concluded by appealing to the colonies not to agitate for a plan which might indeed benefit them, but which, there was a danger, might injure the Mother Country.

THE UNREST IN INDIA.

The race-war in India is assuming a serious complexion. Lord Minto's proclamation, whereby Professors and students are forbidden to take part in political assemblies under pain of loss of stipend and withdrawal of State aid from the United Universities, has caused great sensation. It is announced that disturbances in which a group of Hindu students played a prominent part have taken place at Amritsar.

AN EXPLOSION ON THE RAND.

A serious explosion took place on Monday at Modderfontein on the Rand. Three buildings were destroyed, 3 white men and 15 natives being killed.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE DOCK STRIKE.

The number of dock hands on strike in New York now reaches 8,000, while on Monday 400 more men went on strike, who had hitherto been employed by German and Scandinavian steamship lines.

The dock hands of the Hamburg-America line joined the strike yesterday. The S. S. "Kroonland" of the Red Star Line left on Monday with a large number of passengers, coal and cargo having been shipped with the help of the ship's personnel.

THE CENTRAL REPUBLICS.

The State Department in Washington learns that diplomatic relations between Mexico and Guatemala have been broken off.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

FRANCO-JAPANESE RELATIONS.

The Ministry of the Exterior confirms the statement that negotiations are proceeding in Tokio between French and Japanese representatives, having for their object the recognition by Japan of France's special interests in the Far East. Although the negotiations are making good progress, their conclusion is not expected in the near future.

Reuter's Bureau learns that the Franco-Japanese negotiations are taking the form of an exchange of views as to the maintenance of the territorial status quo in East Asia. So far as it is known, the matter is not directly connected with the treaty under discussion between Russia and Japan.

With reference to the negotiations the Paris Temps publishes an interview with M. Pichon who, among other things, said: "The negotiations aim at the signing of a treaty which will give new pledges for the maintenance of peace in East Asia; they are the logical continuance of the absolutely peaceful policy of France, a policy which has no other object than to set aside all entanglements everywhere, especially in those parts of the world where France has special interests. I cannot today go into details, as the wording of the agreement is not yet settled, but I am glad to be able to describe its general character as I have done."

The French journals speak very favourably of the planned agreement. The Journal des Débats says that it is a matter of an agreement which will guarantee possessions already acquired and the status quo in East Asia. Japan will by her agreement with France reap the advantage of finding public opinion in France more favourably inclined to her, and therefore of finding it easier to obtain the capital necessary for her development.

The Temps writes: M. Pichon, to whom belongs the credit of having thought out and realised a Franco-Japanese agreement, has done a useful, really French work. "We wish that in all capitals our intentions may find the just verdict they deserve. We threaten no one, we desire to cause no one uneasiness". The same journal claims to know that Russia and England have already agreed to the contemplated Franco-Japanese agreement. The negotiations are proceeding hand in hand with those that went on in January and February on the occasion of the Japanese loan recently floated in London and Paris.

THE MOROCCAN CRISIS.

The Daily Telegraph learns from Tangier that Mulai Hafid has declined the dignity of Sultan and has sent messages to his brother, the Sultan, to avoid the horrors of civil war.

The French Colony at Marakesh has received a request to withdraw to Mazagan.

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WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Moderate northerly winds, generally bright and dry, somewhat cooler.

MR. BIRRELL AND IRELAND.

On the eve of the announcement by Mr. Birrell of the means devised by his fertile brain to appease the most unruly section of the Government's supporters, viz. the Nationalist party, there appears, opportunely enough, in the Times a letter from Mr. Ian Malcolm which forms a strange commentary on Mr. Birrell's own statement, recently made in the House of Commons, with regard to the law and order prevailing in Ireland at the present time. The present Chief Secretary is an optimist *malgré lui*, and he resolutely refuses to allow that there are any disturbing elements in Ireland, and stigmatises as carrion crows those Unionist members who call the attention of the House to undoubted and verified instances of agrarian crimes, thereby stimulating the facetious Irish members to interrupt the speeches of their opponents by cries of "caw". But in spite of Mr. Birrell's tendency to cry peace where there is no peace, Mr. Malcolm's letter is calculated to make a good many supporters of Devolution rub their eyes and wonder if it is at all desirable to entrust the ruling of the country to such individuals as Mr. Ginnell, M.P., who seems to be responsible for the initiation of the latest campaign of intimidation in the distressful country.

In a speech delivered at Mullingar last October Mr. Ginnell said:

"Those large Kerry cattle are able to run 30 or 40 miles in a single night, and if the graziers found their ranches empty some fine morning, and after six or eight weeks' searching found their cattle not together, but some in Connaught, some in Munster, some among the Wicklow mountains" (a voice—"And some in hell" [laughter])... The orator failed to finish this sentence. "And if this wandering mania became fashionable and general amongst the ranching cattle all over the country, and if they persisted in it, the ranchers would lose their taste for the people's land, and no injustice would have been done to any one."

The immediate result of this speech was the incident of the Tonlagree farm, the owner of which, having declined to sell his property at a great loss, proceeded to stock it himself. But as the cattle were on their way to the farm a mob of men met them and beating them cruelly with sticks dispersed them. The ringleaders of the mob were put on trial and after one jury had disagreed they were acquitted at a second trial, although the judge pointed out that they were unquestionably guilty and no evidence was even offered for the defence. This incident started the fire which was to blaze merrily throughout Roscommon. Almost daily since the beginning of March meetings have been held at which the speakers in violent language denounced "grazierism and grabberism" and according to Mr. Malcolm there are no less than 23 farms menaced by this hurricane of organised intimidation. The attitude of the Government, which, ostrich-like, buries its head and sees no danger, is thus commented on by one of the more ferocious journals of the intimidated district.

"The great movement against the ranching system in Roscommon has now attained such dimensions that it would be impossible for Chief Secretary Birrell to stay it even if he wished to. But everybody knows in his heart that Mr. Birrell privately would be only too delighted if the people themselves, by rough and ready means, found a remedy for the grazing evil... Police in squads on bicycles are to be met with at all hours of the night on the Roscommon roads, but they are powerless against the uprising of the people's indignation... Let county councillors and district councillors stand in the front rank on these occasions, and success is assured; because, although the police may growl, they know that Mr. Birrell will never countenance any attack by them on men elected by the people."

The italics are ours, and it is curious that although his attention has been called to this view of his policy Mr. Birrell has not uttered one word of disclaimer. The Government insist that Ireland should be governed according to Irish ideas which, if they are generally similar to those prevailing in Roscommon, furnish a bright outlook for peace and order in the country under the new regime. The Irish tenant has been pampered by successive Governments until his position is superior to that of tenants in any other country, but led by such factious agitators as Mr. Ginnell, like Oliver Twist he still cries for more, and is not slow to recognise the gullible, complacent nature of the new Chief Secretary, who having succeeded in stirring up bitterness and strife in England by his Education Act, is now about to throw the increasing prosperity of Ireland into the melting-pot, in order to pander to the self-interested demands of the Irish members who have opposed every piece of sound legislation, by which they did not themselves profit, for forty years.