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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH BILL DROPPED.

In the course of Monday's sitting the Prime Minister made his promised statement as to the course of business. He said that the Government had determined to drop the Bill relating to the Irish Council. They did not propose to hold an autumn session, nor would they introduce their Licensing Act this session, but at the commencement of next.

The Irish Bill, although intentionally limited in scope, was an important measure. It appeared that some misunderstandings with regard to details of the Bill existed in the Irish National Convention, and these misunderstandings might have been set aside by detailed discussion. But after the National Convention had unanimously declined to accept the Bill, the Government were forced to the conclusion that the influence of the Nationalist Members would be exerted against the measure. Under these circumstances, which had caused the Government great regret and disappointment, they could not proceed further with the Bill. The Government would not bring in the Irish University Bill this session, but, on the other hand, the Bill relating to the reinstatement of the evicted tenants would be introduced as soon as possible. The Government had also decided to drop the Bill relating to religious instruction in elementary schools, but next session a comprehensive measure for the re-organisation of the educational system would be introduced.

The Government still hoped to pass the following measures before the prorogation: the Budget, the Territorial Army proposals, the Bill to establish a Court of Criminal Appeal, the Small Holdings Bill, the Evicted Tenants Bill and other measures of less importance. The Prime Minister continued: "When I speak of passing a Bill, I refer only to this House, but if I look beyond this House my gift of prophecy fails. (Laughter.) We cannot tell what treatment will be meted out to our legislative proposals in another place. We intend on the 17th or 26th of July to move a resolution touching the relations of the Upper House to the Lower; we shall then give full expression to our view of the matter and await with pleasure the decision of the House." (Loud applause on the Ministerial benches.)

Mr. Balfour said that the programme of work drawn up by the Government would keep the House occupied until the end of October.

Mr. Redmond discussed the decision of the Government to drop their Irish measure and said that he had recognised from the first that the Government, by introducing this half measure, were attempting an impossible task; the Government would now realise that there was no alternative to reposing complete confidence in the Irish people. He denied that the rejection of the Bill by the National Convention was to be ascribed to clerical influence. The rejection of the Bill was due to a unanimous and spontaneous outburst of the will of the people of Ireland. He regretted the withdrawal of the Irish University Bill, and concluded with the remark that, however friendly the present Government and Parliament was to Ireland, he recognised that the Irish must, in the end, rely on their own efforts.

THE MISSING AERONAUTS.

It has now transpired that the missing officers cried for help to some villagers before they were swept out to sea. As they were passing over Winterborne Abbas, in Dorsetshire, they called to an innkeeper who was standing with some guests at his inn door to seize the rope which was passing close to them. The men ran after the rope, but were unable to seize it; they noticed that the grappling anchor was gone. The aeronauts seemed to have lost all control of the balloon, which disappeared with great rapidity. There is not a trace of the unfortunate occupants, and the War-office has received no news of their fate.

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THE UNREST IN INDIA.

The Police in Amritsar have arrested the agitator Ajit-Singh who recently, when the warrants for the arrest of agitators were issued, managed to escape arrest.

THE ENGLISH JOURNALISTS IN GERMANY.

The English journalists, after their excursion to the Chiemeese, drove to Prien, visited the Royal Castle on the Herreninsel and then drove to the Fraueninsel.

They spent another hour with their German colleagues in the Munich railway station, where German and English patriotic songs were sung. They then entered the express train which was to convey them to Frankfurt, where they arrived at 7.15 p. m. They were met at the station by the reception committee, and drove to the hotel in motor-cars decorated with German and English colours.

Before their departure from Berlin they sent the following letter to His Excellency the Duke zu Trachenberg:

Berlin, May 31.

Your serene Highness,

Before leaving Berlin we ask to be allowed to convey to yourself, and through you to the members of the Reception Committee, our most sincere and heartfelt acknowledgments of the kindness and hospitality extended to us during our stay here, and indeed during the whole of our journey.

Nothing could have exceeded the consideration shown for our convenience and comfort by the members of your Committee from first to last, and our travels have been made easy for us by the unceasing kindness and attention of the gentlemen who have been so good as to accompany our party, and of those who have made us their charge in Berlin. Our sojourn in your capital has been one of continuous interest and delight, and we shall long bear in our minds the memory of the splendid banquet given to us by your Committee on the night of our arrival, and the cordial words of welcome and good will offered to us on that distinguished occasion. Nor can we forget our reception by the Burgomaster and Magistracy of Berlin in the magnificent hall of the Rathaus, the noble hospitality which we enjoyed at the Chamber of Commerce and in the Reichstag, and the truly magnificent representation at the Opera House to-night.

We further desire very respectfully to give expression to our sense of the signal honour paid to us by His Majesty the Emperor in welcoming us "to his country and to his house", if we may permit ourselves to adopt his Majesty's own gracious words spoken to us at Potsdam today. In conclusion, may we add an expression of our hope and belief that this visit to Germany, so memorable to ourselves, may bear fruit in the promotion of friendship and kindly feeling between our two countries.

We beg to remain

Your obedient servants

Fredk. W. Wilson, President.

Frederic W. Dickinson, Hon. Secretary.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE U. S. A. AND JAPAN.

Various announcements from Tokio show that some uneasiness exists there as to the future development of Japanese relations with the United States. Japan may demand an apology from the Mayor of San Francisco, and equal treatment for Japanese and Anglo-Saxons.

THE TARIFF.

A circular has been issued to all the American Consular agents in all countries informing them

that the altered Customs regulations agreed upon with Germany come into force on July 1st. The alterations are not to be applied to imports from Germany alone, but from all countries; thus a way out of the tariff difficulties with France may have been found.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

The *Journal* states that negotiations are pending between France and England for the final settlement of the New Hebrides question. England has proposed that France shall give up her entire claims on the New Hebrides and accept instead Sierra Leone on the West Coast of Africa.

THE SHIPPING STRIKE.

The committee of registered seamen in Havre intends to take steps with the Seamen's Union in Southampton that English ships will refuse to place the emigrants at present in Havre on other ships in Southampton; the Cherbourg registered seamen will endeavour to prevent the emigrants being shipped on vessels of the Hamburg-America line. A collision occurred on Monday between fish saleswomen and the wives of strikers who threw the fish into a stream. Three arrests were made.

The Minister of Marine, M. Thomson, received a deputation of registered seamen. They subsequently informed reporters that the Minister, sheltering himself behind questions of the budget, had showed himself disinclined to make any concessions in the matter of the height of the State-paid pension to seamen.

The Committee of the Seamen has informed the Minister that it has telegraphed to all harbours ordering the strikers to resume work.

It is reported from Havre that the men refuse to obey the directions of the committee. They say they will remain on strike until all their demands have been granted.

A MYSTERIOUS RIOT.

On Monday afternoon in Le Bourget a Boy's League headed by their principal, Abbé Fornierie, was fired on with revolvers by unknown persons. Several persons, among them the Abbé, were wounded, and one of them succumbed to his wounds. An enquiry into the matter is proceeding.

THE SPANISH ROYAL WEDDING OUTRAGE.

The trial began on Monday in Madrid of the seven persons, including the Anarchists Ferrer and Nackers, accused of being implicated in the attempt to murder the King and Queen of Spain in the Calle Mayor on the day of their marriage.

Anarchist placards, demanding the acquittal of the accused and threatening retaliatory measures in the event of their condemnation, were posted up in various parts of Madrid early on Monday; they were removed by the police.

WELLMAN'S ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

A telegram from Tromsø announces the departure for Spitzbergen of the Wellman expedition steamship, with the 180ft-long balloon on board.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

THE DUMA.

The House rejected a proposal to increase the punishment inflicted on persons found guilty of eulogising crime. In the course of a debate on proposals relating to Polish education, several Polish Deputies attacked the Minister of Education, accusing him of endeavouring by means of Government Schools to russify Poland. M. Gherassimoff described the policy of the Poles as wavering between the Government and the Duma and between the various parties. The President of the Polish Club denied this and said that the Poles desired equal freedom for all nationalities in Russia, who had hitherto been oppressed by tyranny.

A proposal of the Minister of the Interior as to the non-admission to the army of persons under police supervision was discussed. He said that it was necessary to take preventive measures against revolutionaries who were trying to force their way into the army. Many Members opposed the proposals, which were rejected by a large majority. The House then adjourned.

THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT.

A bomb was thrown in the streets of Lodz on Monday against two secret police, both of whom were killed, 28 passers-by being wounded. Later on in the day an attack was made on 3 policemen and a military escort. One of the former was killed, another and a soldier were slightly wounded