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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman informed the House that the text of the Government resolution relating to the House of Lords, which is to be moved on the 24th of the month, will shortly be published.

In answer to a question relating to the negotiations going on at present between the Russian and the English Governments. Sir Edward Grey said that he was not in a position to make any statement; the subjects under discussion, however, were connected with the Indian frontier.

In the further course of the sitting Mr. Mitchell-Thompson, Conservative, Member for N. W. Lanarkshire, asked whether the alterations in the American customs tariff made in favour of Germany, will be extended to England under the most favoured nation clause.

Sir E. Grey replied that he had received the assurance of the United States Government that the administrative measures contemplated in the German-American agreement would be also applicable to other countries. On the other hand, the measures relating to the accrediting of special agents and their co-operation with the Chambers of Commerce as well as the recognition of the certificates of value given by the Chambers of Commerce as valid applied only to Germany. The United States Government did not wish to make these measures the basis of differential treatment of other countries and were, therefore, fully prepared to extend them to Great Britain so far as Great Britain's conditions allowed and if the British Government desired it. Sir E. Grey added that he was treating with the Board of Trade, to take steps to fulfil the required conditions.

A meeting was held in the House of Commons on Tuesday of the Irish Nationalist party to discuss the future policy of the party in view of recent events. After a four hour's discussion a statement was issued declaring that Home Rule could only be obtained after a hard fight, by strong agitation in Ireland, by an active, disciplined party in the Lower House, and by taking advantage of every opportunity and every method, which might be offered in England and Ireland, of drawing public attention to Irish grievances and the destructive effect of British legislation. Whatever Government was at the helm, it would, if the Irish people worked seriously in that direction, be forced to bring in a proposal to introduce better administration into Ireland, a proposal differing essentially from that recently rejected by the National Convention.

THE RECENT VISIT OF ENGLISH JOURNALISTS TO GERMANY.

Mr. Sidney Low writes in the *Standard* on the subject of his recent trip to Germany with the English journalists. "The visit of English Pressmen to Germany signified a distinguished attention such as never been paid to the Press in any other country. The words of the Emperor formed the *Leitmotive*, even if we had already been assured beforehand that we were the honoured guests of the nation. Many competent judges of public affairs in England believe that Germany is radically hostile to us and that this latest demonstration is only a fresh scene in an elaborately studied comedy. I am fully convinced that this is an error. This demonstration appears to me to be a proof of the sincere wish of official, industrial and working Germany to show that she has not lost her old esteem and friendly feeling for England. The average German loves the average Englishman. He has become weary of the constant efforts of the sowers of strife. He is heartily tired of the professors of *Weltpolitik* with their vapid speculations as to the future, and of venomous writers in the Press. Our tour left us with the deep impression that Germany desires to live at peace with England, and that a conflict with England would be regarded as an extraordinary

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disaster. No participant in the tour can cherish any doubt as to the sincerity of this feeling. It is there and it is widely spread. It would be disastrous if the friendliness shown us by Germany were misunderstood in England or even ignored."

The British Minister Resident in Munich, Mr. Cartwright, has addressed a cordial letter of thanks to the Mayor, Herr von Borscht, for the extraordinary hospitality shown to the English journalists. Mr. Cartwright remarks that the exchange of hospitality and cultured ideas between distinguished men of both nations will do more to maintain good relations between England and Germany than all the efforts of diplomacy.

THE RED CROSS CONFERENCE.

The Conference of the Red Cross was opened in London on Tuesday in the presence of a large number of influential people. Lord Roberts, who presided, read letters from the Queen of England and the Empress of Russia, who both expressed their sympathy with the activity of the Red Cross Society.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

RIVAL CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

Politicians in New York are eagerly discussing the meaning of the sudden appearance of a Knox boom in connection with the struggle among the Republican leaders for the Presidential nomination. It is rather early to express a positive opinion as to the real meaning of this movement. It looks pretty certain, however, that it is meant seriously, and that it is directed against Mr. Taft, the favourite candidate of President Roosevelt.

Mr. Knox is a strong man in the councils of the party, but he is scarcely the candidate for the masses, because he is a lawyer who has for a long time past been connected in the course of the business of the firm of which he is the head with many of the great trading and financial corporations. He did well, however, during the three years in which he held the important post of United States Attorney-General, except, of course, in the opinion of the anti-Trust fanatics. Mr. Knox is a keen party man, and he has the support of some of the ablest professional politicians in the party. Efforts have been made to elicit the views of the White House upon this subject of the Knox boom, but without much success.

Mr. Taft's friends say that it is not necessarily hostile to his candidature, which would indicate that there may be at the back of Mr. Senator Knox certain interests, the placating of which will bring the Knoxites into line with the Taft men. There is no reason to suppose that President Roosevelt has changed his opinion that Mr. Taft is the best man for the country and the party, but it is important to remember that when the Republican National Convention meets next summer Mr. Roosevelt will be upon the eve of retirement into private life, and it may well be that the professional politicians will then regard him as a spent force,

which may be ignored in the calculations of practical politics.

THE U. S. AND JAPAN.

The New York *Evening Post* learns from Washington that the Japanese Ambassador, Viscount Aoki has agreed that the Japanese injured in the recent disturbances in San Francisco should take legal proceedings against that city. In the State Department and at the Japanese Embassy it is said that a complete understanding, which can only be disturbed by the publication of inflammatory statements, exists between the Governments of the United States and Japan.

In semi-official circles it is stated that in spite of Japanese denials, the Japanese on the Pacific coast have collected a sum of money in order to carry out a secret endeavour of the Progressists to overthrow the existing ministry in Japan.

PRESIDENT CABRERA.

The Guatemalan Consul General in New York denies the report of the murder of General Cabrera and states that has received a telegram from him that he is perfectly well.

The enemies of Estrada Cabrera thus appear to have been unsuccessful in their third attempt upon his life.

Cabrera was born in 1857. He occupied with distinction very high offices in Guatemala, from member of Congress to Minister of the Interior and Justice, and in 1898 was elected President.

His administration has been characterised by ability and energy, particularly marked in his efforts to keep peace within the country and in his work in the cause of education.

An attempt upon his life was made on April 1, 1907. While he was out driving, an explosion occurred near his carriage, killing the horses and wounding his Chief of Staff. The President was not injured. An investigation showed that the explosion was not due to a bomb, but to a mine. The conspirators had dug a tunnel from a house occupied by a man named Rodil, and had placed explosives under the roadway, connected by a wire to a battery in Rodil's house.

Another attempt was made on May 6 last. A mine containing many pounds of dynamite was found in front of the quarters of the guard of honour, not sixty yards from President Cabrera's residence. A number of arrests were made, and it will be remembered that a fortnight ago as many as nineteen prisoners were sentenced to death in connection with the outrage. Some of these prisoners were Italians, and protests were made by the diplomatic body at Guatemala City, with the result that the case was retried by the Court of Second Instance, and the number of death sentences was reduced last week to twelve.

EARTHQUAKE IN ECUADOR.

It is reported from Guayaquil that a violent earthquake occurred on Monday at 5.30 p.m.; it lasted some time and caused considerable panic. It is ascribed to the activity of Mt. Cotopaxi.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE WINE-TRADE CRISIS.

At Tuesday's Cabinet Council the crisis in the wine-trade was discussed. General Picquart announced that he had instituted an enquiry into the incidents reported to have taken place in the barracks of the 100th infantry regiment at Narbonne on Sunday.

In consequence of the resignation of the Montpellier town council noisy streets demonstrations have taken place there. A collision occurred between the rioters and the gendarmes; stones and broken bottles were thrown and a lieutenant of police was dangerously wounded as were several gendarmes. Order was not restored until after midnight.

The resignation of M. Ferroul, mayor of Narbonne, was greeted with loud applause by the populace. A large mob sang the *Internationale* and wished to proceed to the barracks to show their sympathy with the soldiers who mutinied yesterday, but at the advice of M. Ferroul they relinquished their intention.

The Narbonne theatre has been burnt down; it is rumoured that the fire was the work of incendiaries.

All the members of the Carcassonne town council have resigned office.

In discussing the crisis in the Chamber the Finance Minister, M. Caillaux, advised the wine-growers to organise, to regulate production, to cease manufacturing second-class wines and to suppress adulteration.