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THE DANISH ROYAL PAIR IN LONDON.

To conclude the festivities connected with the visit of T. M. the King and Queen of Denmark to London, H. M. King Edward gave a brilliant ball in Buckingham Palace.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Upper House has passed the second reading of the Government proposal to allow women to be elected members of County Councils and other local Government bodies. It is not, however, expected that the Bill will become law this session.

BRITISH COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Edward Grey, has informed the President of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce that, in accordance with the new plan relating to the sphere of action of the British Commercial Attachés in Berlin, Vienna, Madrid, and St. Petersburg, the intention exists of allowing the Attachés to visit from time to time the more important trade centres of Great Britain. They will thereby be placed in the position of keeping in touch with commercial circles, who are interested in the individual branches of the export trade to the countries which form the field of activity of the Attachés.

In a short time Mr. Percy Bennett will become British Commercial Attaché for Austria-Hungary, Italy, and Greece; and will probably undertake the first visit of this nature.

BANQUETS TO LONDON'S VISITORS.

The Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. Sinclair, gave a banquet at the House of Commons on Wednesday in honour of the Delegates of the North Sea Fishery Commission.

A banquet in honour of the Foreign Members of the European railway time-table conference, now sitting in London, was given on Wednesday by the Federation of English railway companies. About 300 people took part in it. Most cordial sentiments were exchanged.

THE LAND WAR IN IRELAND.

At Roscrea Petty Sessions Court sixteen men of the farming class were charged with having driven nine horses, forty-one beasts, and 291 sheep off the land of Mr. Nathaniel Luttrell, at Roscomroe, on April 30. The case, it will be recalled, was heard on May 27, when, owing to the fact that the magistrates were evenly divided, it was sent forward for a further hearing. Mr. Luttrell is a yearly tenant. The local branch of the United Irish League took action against him in the first instance on the supposition that he was a grazier, and even though this has been found not to be the case, Roscomroe is the objective for the activities of the agitators. On February 10 a branch of the United Irish League was formed in the locality. On April 14 a public meeting was held, at which Mr. Michael Reddy, M.P., declared that the people were cowards if they did not take the land from Mr. Luttrell. "You are cowards if you allow Luttrell to stand between you and your just rights. You ask me how you are going to divide the lands, and I tell you to follow the example of the people of the West." Other speeches of a similar character were delivered.

Mr. Dermody, secretary of the local branch of the League, told a sergeant of the Royal Irish Constabulary that if Mr. Luttrell did not give up the land, or prove that he was a yearly tenant, his cattle would be driven off. The agent of the estate of which Roscomroe forms a part, in the course of his evidence, said that some time ago, when the tenants were negotiating for the purchase of their holdings, they asked that two farms, of which Roscomroe was one, should be divided among them. He refused in the case of Roscomroe, telling them that he was selling it to Mr. Luttrell,

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who held under an agreement made in 1894 as tenant from year to year. Ten magistrates appeared to adjudicate, and once again the bench was evenly divided. The case was adjourned for a week, no bail being asked at the hands of the defendants.

The subject of ex-officio J. P.'s appearing on the bench at Petty Sessions out of their districts has been the subject of a question in Parliament, and Mr. Birrell stated that the Lord Chancellor had intimated to certain ex-officio magistrates who had attended petty sessions outside the districts for which they were appointed that if they persisted in such a course of action he would take steps to supersede them.

THE RED CROSS CONFERENCE.

The second sitting of the Red Cross Conference took place on Wednesday, presided over by the Marquis de Vogue. The following points were on the agenda. (1) The report on the Augusta Fund and the distribution of its income since the last Conference and in future; (2) the organisation and activity of the "Bureau of Prisoners of War", so far as the Red Cross Societies are affected by it; (3) decisions of the last Geneva Convention important for the Red Cross Societies; (4) means to avoid abuse of the Red Cross emblem; (5) the position and rôle of women in sanitary institutions and hospitals in time of war.

CHINESE ON THE RAND.

The Transvaal Premier, General Botha, will today announce his decision with reference to the repeal of the law authorising the employment of Chinese labour. The Chinese will be repatriated immediately on the expiration of their contracts. General Botha speaks very hopefully of the possibility of obtaining sufficient native labour.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE IDAHO MURDER TRIAL.

During Orchard's cross-examination, counsel for the defence repeatedly threw out the suggestion that a great counter-conspiracy had been formulated by the enemies of the Western Miners' Federation, and indicated the determination to construct the defence on that line.

Orchard denied the implied imputations of the mine owners that the railway people had any part in the blowing up of Independence station, or that he had a mania for confessing to crimes he had not committed. He exhibited some spirit in answering many of Mr. Richardson's questions, but held firmly to his first stories and remained calm during the whole of his trying examination.

Concluding his testimony yesterday afternoon, Orchard dwelt on the attempt to poison Bradley. "At the time I put strychnine in Bradley's milk," he said, "I was that desperate that I did not care if I killed the whole family, father, mother, baby, and three servants."

Steve Adams is a tenant of the prison, close to Haywood. His custodians say he is sullen, and will refuse to say a word when he is called as a witness.

THE U. S. AND JAPAN.

The New York correspondent of the *Globe* writes that Washington correspondents had aroused expectation in political quarters that President Roosevelt would take occasion, in the course of his speech at Jamestown, to say something soothing about the Japanese question. It must not be assumed that because such oratorical oil was not poured out that the waters are really seriously troubled. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that they are ruffled. The course followed by the Japanese Embassy at Washington and the Japanese Government at Tokio continues to be admirably correct. Both deplore the injudicious talk of the young bloods in Japan, and express absolute faith in the ability, as well as the desire, of the United States Government to see that the right thing is done apropos of the anti-Japanese outrages in California.

There is no need in the opinion of the officials of the State Department to scrutinise too closely the actual form of these amiable declarations. American statesmen pretty well understand that what is being aimed at is the creation of such a state of feeling in both countries that everybody will be glad to get rid of the irritation once for all, by so altering the American immigration laws as to enable a differentiation to be made between the Japanese and other Asiatics. Meantime, it seems settled that Mr. Taft is to proceed to Japan at the conclusion of his forthcoming visit to the Philippines, the scene of his first diplomatic and administrative successes.

Mr. Taft is a charming, able, and cultured man, but in some quarters doubt is expressed as to whether he is exactly the right sort of man to send to Japan on a diplomatic mission. He was sent specially to Rome a few years ago, and did well enough in the matter of the religious corporations in the Philippines, but with that exception his diplomatic dealings have been with inferiors. He is believed to cherish deep down in his heart the irrefutable belief that once Uncle Sam has decided that a particular thing can be done, and must be done, or the other way about, why there is an end to the business. He may be able to adapt himself to Far Eastern diplomacy, the perfection of which is to be found at Tokio, but a good many people here doubt his possession of such adaptability. Mr. Taft's political backers would rather that he remained at home, for either success or failure over this Japanese business may be equally disadvantageous to him as a candidate for the Presidential nomination at the Republican National Convention.

The news comes from San Francisco that an incident, which has occurred in Berkley, California, and reported by the "Japanese Association of America", has given fresh food to the excitement of the Japanese in Tokio. Some boys threw stones at a Japanese work-house, doing some trifling damage. The Association has decided to leave it to the local authorities to take action against the boys.

THE RAILWAYS AND THE COAL COMPANIES.

It is announced officially in Washington that a proposal has been brought before the Court in Philadelphia, which, it is alleged, will dissolve the existing alliance between certain railways in New York and Pennsylvania and leading anthracite coal companies. The railways in question are the Philadelphia and Reading Ry. Co., the Lehigh Valley Ry. Co., the Central Railroad Co. of New Jersey, the Erie Railroad Co., and the New York Susquehanna and Western Railroad Co.

The parties are to be forbidden to continue their alliance, and the existing treaties between the railways and the coal companies are to be annulled.

UNREST IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

The President of San Salvador has cabled to the San Salvador consul in Mexico that Nicaraguans, supported by San Salvador revolutionaries in a gunboat, have bombarded and occupied the town of Acajutta.

Since the resumption of hostilities between Nicaragua and San Salvador the U. S. have sent a cruiser and gunboat to the scene of war to protect foreign interests.

A telegram has reached the San Salvador Embassy in Washington that the revolutionaries have been beaten in a battle 40 miles from Acajutta and driven back to that place, where they attempted to embark on ships.

THE CRISIS IN THE FRENCH WINE TRADE.

M. Clémenceau has had a conference, on the subject of the crisis in the wine trade and the in-