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## THE KING'S GARDEN PARTY.

On Saturday His Majesty entertained the largest garden party that has ever been held in the beautiful grounds of Windsor Castle. Eight thousand five hundred invitations had been issued, and the arrangements made by the Great Western Railway for the conveyance of guests were of the most ample and complete description.

The spacious East Lawn of the Castle is the most admirable site for such a gathering. An immense lawn of the richest green, surrounded on three sides by trees, and on the fourth by the East Terrace itself, is an idyllic spot. Marquees had been erected on the right and left hand of the lawn, and in these dainty teas were served. In the centre was an Indian tent, in which their Majesties received a number of privileged guests.

By half-past four all the guests had arrived, and presented their cards of admission to the lynx-eyed constables who were charged with the duty of seeing that no uninvited guest entered. Admission was by way of the East Terrace and the imposing flight of steps constructed therefrom to the lawn since the occasion of the last garden party two years ago. Then their Majesties left their private apartments and descended to the lawn by this flight of steps, and "received," as the Court phrase has it, their army of guests, who were drawn up in lines, between which the Royal party passed.

The scene on the East Terrace lawns baffled description. Almost every class of society was represented—the Bench, the Bar, Church, Stage, Capital, and Labour were fraternising together on the deliciously cool grass and under the umbrageous shelter of the beautiful trees. The picture was a wonderful one.

## THE SITUATION IN IRELAND.

The growing hostility of Sinn Fein to Mr. Redmond finds expression in a letter which Mr. C. J. Dolan, the Member for North Leitrim, has addressed to Sir Thomas Grattan Esmonde, Chief Whip of the Nationalist Parliamentary Party. Mr. Dolan says that the refusal of the National Directory of the United Irish League to adopt the resolution calling upon "the Irish Party to withdraw in a body from Westminster, as a protest against the betrayal of Ireland by the British Liberals," renders it incumbent upon "me to resign my membership of the Irish Party," and to request "that you will have my name removed from the list." Mr. Dolan criticises the action of the Nationalist Party in the House of Commons, drawing a comparison between what it effected under Mr. Parnell and, by implication, what it has failed to effect under Mr. Redmond. He reserves himself until his last paragraph, however. "It is with curious feelings of regret," he writes, "that I sever my connection with the Irish Party. As the North Leitrim Executive of the United Irish League has expressed approval of my views, I do not intend to resign my seat. As long as I enjoy the confidence of my constituents, I shall not turn my back on them." Here is one branch of the organisation to which Mr. Redmond appealed no later than Thursday throwing in its lot—looking at it from Mr. Redmond's point of view—with the much-to-be-dreaded Sinn Fein policy.

At Athenry Petty Sessions Court, eight men were charged by the Crown with illegal assembly, and with having driven the cattle off the farm of Mr. Burton Perse, at Boyhill, on Sunday, June 9. The solicitor defending the accused quoted Mr. Birrell. He (Mr. Birrell) had said "that the people in charge of stock on the grazing lands ought to do something to protect their own property." He (the solicitor) contended that "there was no protection necessary (sic) for these cattle. What the defendants did on the occasion had not been proved to be an illegal act." The Bench was composed of one resident magistrate and two local justices of the peace. Informations were refused, and the defendants were set at liberty.

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## CHINESE ON THE RAND.

### VEHEMENT SPEECH BY BOTHA.

Reuter's Pretoria correspondent describes the debate in the Legislative Assembly on the Government's policy as of exceptional interest. Sir Percy Fitzpatrick made a vigorous speech, reviewing the whole situation. He asked for definite statements of the Government's reasons for the repatriation of the Chinese, and asked, in what would the country be better or worse if 5,000 Kaffirs replaced 53,000 Chinese. The present temporary surplus of natives was due to the Chinese, and to the fact that public and other works on which natives were usually employed were now stagnating throughout South Africa. Sir Percy insisted that the Volk party since taking office had been fettered by the Imperial Government, and that therefore self-government in the Transvaal was non-existent. He caused a sensation by producing a Star telegram in proof of the assertion that the Government was fettered. The cable message referred to asserts that the passage in General Botha's statement regarding who was to pay for the repatriation of the Chinese was cabled to Sir Richard Solomon, the Transvaal Agent-General in London, who discussed it with the Imperial Government, and that Sir Richard Solomon then cabled that the mines alone were liable to pay, adding that the Imperial Government would veto any retention of the Chinese after March, 1908.

General Botha declared that the telegram was an absolute lie, and said that he and his colleagues would never tolerate Imperial interference. The policy announced on June 14th was dictated solely by consideration for the country's welfare. The Opposition leaders had governed for the past five years, and had trifled with the prosperity of the people, who no longer trusted them. General Botha indignantly hurled back the charges of barter and bargain, and said he was merely fulfilling his election pledges, and would fulfil them to the letter. The last Chinaman must go; there would be no peace until then. The Ministry would remove the canker by its roots, and restore the Transvaal to health. But for the agitation in Great Britain and the Transvaal defeating the mine-owners, there would be not a single white miner on the Witwatersrand today, but 200,000 Chinaman.

General Botha, who spoke with vehemence throughout his speech, sat down amid Ministerial cheers.

## NEWS FROM AMERICA.

### TELEGRAPHERS' STRIKE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Mr. Samuel J. Small, President of the Commercial Telegraphers Union of America is now in San Francisco in charge of the telegraphists' strike movement there. The two companies, the Western Union and the Postal, have made numerous concessions, particularly in New York, and have thus averted a strike in the Eastern States, but the men complain that elsewhere the situation is as bad as

ever, and it is evident that they have grave misgivings as to the good faith of the companies' officials at head-quarters. The state of affairs at San Francisco is said by Mr. Small to be insupportable.

The male and female operators there are herded in temporary buildings in the lowest and most dangerous part of the city, and are in danger almost of their lives when they venture out into the ruined streets in search of refreshment. Notwithstanding that prices of all the necessaries of life have increased enormously since the earthquake and fire, the telegraphists' wages have practically remained at their former level. They participated in the general increase of 10 per cent. granted by the companies a few weeks ago, but the men's point is that this increase should have followed a much larger increase which should have come into operation at the moment that local conditions in San Francisco ceased to be normal, in consequence of the great dual calamity. As it is the operators claim that a man cannot earn the actual cost of his daily existence without working at least four hours overtime. The "split duty" evil is also said to be rampant on the Pacific Slope, while, owing to the black lists secretly kept by the officials of both companies, it is practically impossible for a discharged operator to obtain re-employment.

The importance of the local trouble at San Francisco is that, if it should be long continued, it will inevitably reopen the general situation, and again bring the danger of a universal telegraphic strike within measurable distance. Public feeling is almost unanimously with the operators.

## AMERICAN CUSTOMS.

It is announced from Washington that the American Customs authorities are satisfied that the French and Austrian Chambers of Commerce are competent to give certificates as to the market value of goods exported to America. The same powers are to be granted to the English Chamber of Commerce.

## ALARMING OCCURRENCE IN NEW YORK.

On Sunday night a short circuit occurred in the electric current of the New York Central and Hudson River railway near the Viaduct over 123rd St. Pillars and supports for a distance of half-a-mile were heavily charged with electricity. Huge flames ran along the rails, and masses of molten metal fell into the streets. The noise of explosions caused a wild panic. The fire continued until the current was turned off.

## CHANGES IN THE GERMAN MINISTRY.

The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung announces: We hear that changes in the personnel and organization of the Imperial and Prussian Administration are imminent.

The Secretary of State of the Imperial Ministry of the Interior, Graf v. Posadowsky, has handed in his resignation and will be succeeded by the Prussian Minister of the Interior Herr v. Bethmann-Hollweg who will also carry out the functions of a Vice-President of the Prussian State-Ministry.

The Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of Public Works, Herr Holle, will succeed the retiring Minister of Education, Herr v. Studt.

The President of the Province of E. Prussia, Graf Moltke, will be summoned to the Prussian Ministry of the Interior.

Of the three new men, only Herr v. Bethmann-Hollweg is known to the public, as an undoubtably active man with up-to-date conservative views, while both the new Prussian Ministers are wholly unknown. Graf Moltke is a nephew of the great Field Marshal. Whether he will be able to cope with the important duties of his new post can no more be predicted than it is certain whether Herr Holle is the right man to undo all the mischief wrought in the Prussian Educational Department by his predecessor. But the mere fact of Herr v. Studt's having at last been made to resign from a position he was wholly unable to fill, is a step in advance.

Graf Posadowsky undoubtedly has shown himself, during his 10 years tenure of his office, a hard-working, able man, and our regret at his retirement from the Government would be unalloyed were it not for the fact that he, a creature of the Eulenburg clique, was in direct opposition to the Chancellor's Home policy. By his strong opposition to the dissolution of the Reichstag last winter and his disapproval of Prince Bülow's attack on the Clerical Party, Graf Posadowsky made himself impossible as a member of Prince Bülow's cabinet.

The "Eulenburg affair" is indeed spreading in ever-widening circles, and in addition to those who