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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir E. Grey in a written reply to a question addressed to him, informed the House that they would be asked to vote a sum of £50,000 to Earl Cromer for the great services rendered by him in Egypt.

The debate on the resolution relating to the House of Lords was continued. In the course of the debate several brilliant speeches were delivered. While the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Lloyd George, was speaking, a somewhat bitter altercation took place between him and the Opposition owing to some remarks he let fall on the Boer war. For a time great disorder prevailed, but in the end the matter dropped and the debate continued in a calmer tone. The Amendment of the Labour Member, Mr. Henderson, demanding the abolition of the House of Lords, was rejected by a majority of 215, while the Government resolution was carried by 432 votes to 147.

After a debate lasting two days the House of Lords read the Territorial Army Bill a second time.

EARTHQUAKE IN WALES.

A telegram from Holyhead reports that an earthquake shock accompanied by a rumbling as of thunder was felt there on Wednesday morning. The shock lasted ten seconds and caused considerable excitement.

THE LAND WAR IN IRELAND.

At Roserea Petty Sessions, the sixteen men of the farming class charged with unlawful assembly, and with driving horses, cattle, and sheep off the farm of Mr. Nathaniel Luttrell, at Roscomroe, on April 30, were again before the magistrates for the fourth time. On two previous occasions the ten magistrates who constituted the court were equally divided on the question of sending the accused forward for trial, and on the third occasion the court, consisting of eight magistrates, was also equally divided. On last court day the Crown Solicitor intimated that he would make a report of the proceedings in the case to the Attorney-General, with the view of ascertaining whether the Irish "Executive" would not take the prosecution out of the hands of the magistrates and send on the accused for trial to the Assizes.

When the case was called for the fourth time the Crown Solicitor stated that he had been in communication with the Attorney-General with regard to the prosecutions. The Attorney-General had written that he thought the magistrates of the district themselves should be as much interested as anybody in the peace and good order of the locality, and that when a clear case was put before them, "as appeared to be the case in this instance," and they did not think fit to return the parties for trial, that they should themselves bear the responsibility. The case ought to proceed, and there ought to be a decision one way or the other. Either the defendants should be returned for trial or information should be refused. He (the Crown Solicitor) therefore proposed to proceed with the case. The chairman said that the magistrates present had all heard the evidence at previous sittings of the court, and they would not require the Crown to go into the whole case *de novo*. The Crown Solicitor announced that there was no fresh evidence. The magistrates then consulted, and the chairman announced that the majority of the Bench was in favour of refusing information. Accordingly informations were refused, and the defendants discharged.

Two shooting outrages are reported from co. Galway. On Saturday night the house of Joseph Donohue, Killafin, in the Government district, is stated to have been fired into by a party of armed men, and on Sunday night the residence of Mr. H. P. Blake, J. P., at Holly Park, near Athenry, was fired into. The inmates of both houses escaped injury. No arrests have been made.

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NEWS FROM AMERICA.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT JAMESTOWN.

The London *Daily Chronicle* learns from New York that a telegram has been received from Jamestown, Virginia, that several large hotels, which, in consequence of the Exhibition were crowded with guests, were completely destroyed by fire on Wednesday. A wild panic broke out. Three persons lost their lives and over 2,000 were saved from death with the utmost difficulty.

MR. TAFT AND THE PRESIDENCY.

Further and more authoritative denial is given to the persistent reports that have been current since Mr. Taft's temporary indisposition, while touring in the West, to the effect that there is something so radically wrong with the War Secretary's health, that he will be quite unfit to stand the strain of a Presidential campaign next year.

It is emphatically declared that Mr. Taft is now in first-rate physical condition, and that, in addition to that advantage, he is a good deal younger than any other candidate so far mentioned as in the running for the Republican nomination, with the single exception of Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Taft is to spend his summer vacation in Canada, and in the autumn he proposes to enter actively into political work, directed to the avowed end of securing the Presidential nomination at the Republican National Convention next summer.

Incidentally, it is stated that the partisans of Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, have approached Mr. Taft's friends with a view to making a "deal." This move is understood to have the approval of President Roosevelt, so that it is likely to go through.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE CRISIS IN THE SOUTH.

The *Libre Parole* states that General Bailloud, in chagrin at the fact that an officer junior to him, Colonel Gerard, has interfered in the conduct of his Army Corps, wished to send in his papers. It was only at the urgent request of the Minister of War that he was dissuaded from carrying out his intention.

The *Petit Parisien* learns by telegraph from Mâcon that an Austrian and a Russian have been arrested there; they are accused of having attempted to cause a revolt of the military elements and of having incited the men to insubordination and desertion. Documents that have been confiscated explain the character of the recent mutinies in Mâcon, which had been attributed to the recruiting of the men from the vicinity of that place.

The *Matin* account states that a corporal of the 134th Regiment, whose father is a vine-grower, has been arrested at Mâcon, on suspicion of having given information as to the state of feeling in the regiment, to a Russian baron and his companion an Austrian, both of whom have also been arrested. The two strangers, it is said, had endeavoured to get up an anti-military movement in Mâcon.

The number of the mutinous soldiers of the 17th Infantry Regiment embarked for the Coast of Tunis reaches 550, two men having deserted en

route. On their arrival the men will at once be divided into five companies, from which a battalion will be formed. Marcellin Albert surrendered to the legal authorities on Wednesday. At his preliminary examination he said he had never desired to wage war on laws or men, he had only desired to save the vine-growers.

Marcellin Albert has received a telegram from M. Clémenceau expressing his appreciation of the loyalty with which Albert has redeemed his voluntary promises. M. Clémenceau repeats that he will do all in his power to quiet the populace.

The Argelliers Committee has summoned by telegram a meeting of the local Vine-growers Defence Committee for today to consider the demand of the vineyard proprietors.

In the Executive Committee of the Radical-Socialist party in Paris the whole policy of M. Clémenceau was violently attacked by M. Pelletan, who particularly objected to the great influence exercised by M. Ribot in directing that policy. M. Pelletan predicts the early fall of the Clémenceau Cabinet, and in its place the formation of a suitable Cabinet under M. Poincaré.

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

Sen. Ferrara, the first Secretary of the Cuban Delegation, has resigned office, on the ground that in view of his revolutionary-anarchist past he wished to cause no embarrassment to his Government.

The English Proposal relating to prizes taken at sea embraces sixteen articles. It provides for the creation of a permanent International Court of Appeal which shall have international jurisdiction in the matter of prizes taken at sea. It will be competent in every case in which a Prize Court has given a decision to the disadvantage of the interests of a neutral Power or its subjects. A neutral Power can demand of the International Court of Appeal that a new decision be given either by quashing the original verdict, or by means of appeal proceedings. With regard to the composition of the International Court of Appeal the English proposal suggests that within the three months that follow the ratification of the acts of the present Conference, the signatory Powers, whose commercial fleet reaches a total of more than 800,000 tons, shall each nominate an Attorney of high moral standing who in the domain of international law is authoritative and is ready to act as a Judge. Each Power shall further nominate a representative Judge who must display the same characteristics. The President of the Court will be chosen according to the alphabetical order of the Powers who have nominated the Judges, and will hold office for one year reckoned from the 1st of January. In case of an equality of votes the President shall have the casting vote. In case an agreement already exists between two conflicting Powers, which agreement foresees the settlement of a question of law by appeal to this Court, the Court must conform to the clauses of this agreement. Should such a convention be wanting, and should all civilised nations be agreed as to the point of law, the Appeal Court will have to give its decision in accordance with this general view. In a case where this condition does not prevail, the Court of Appeal will give its decision in accordance with the fundamental principles of international law. The signatory Powers agree to submit to the decision of the Court, to carry out the same against their own subjects, and to make the necessary alterations in their legislation in accordance with the decision. The proceedings can take place in the absence of the accused party. The Judges, in exercising their functions outside their native countries, shall enjoy diplomatic privileges.

The French proposal, containing a draft of the proceedings to be observed in opening hostilities, suggests that the Treaty Powers should recognise that hostilities between them can only follow a previous and unequivocal declaration which may have the form, either of a declaration of war stating the reasons, or of an ultimatum with a conditional declaration of war; the state of war must be communicated to the Powers without delay.

A NEW HAMBURG-AMERICA LINER.

The Hamburg-America line has placed an order with Messrs. Harland and Wolff in Belfast for the construction of a large liner which will surpass in dimensions the new turbine express steamship of the Cunard Line. The ship will be about 785 ft. long, 85 ft. broad and 35 ft. deep. She is to be ready by 1910.