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## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman announced in the House of Thursday that the Government intended to ratify the Convention relating to wireless telegraphy.

## THE LAND WAR IN IRELAND.

At the Cork Assizes, before Mr. Justice Gibson, thirteen men of the farming class pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging them with unlawful assembly, riot, and assaulting the police at Inchigeelagh, in September last. The evidence was of a very remarkable nature. A caretaker, named Davidson, was in charge of an evicted farm on the Grehan estate. Living with him for his protection were a local Irish Constabulary sergeant and four constables. On September 16, 1906, a meeting was held on the farm a quarter of a mile from the protection hut. When the meeting was over, three hundred persons marched to the protection hut, and demanded that the caretaker be handed over to them. They were accompanied by a brass band. The police, reinforced to nine men, stood outside the hut with fixed bayonets. Pushing about thirty women to the front, the crowd, sheltered by the women, commenced a desperate attack, and showered stones at the policemen, seriously injuring four of them. The crowd rushed into the yard and flung stones against the back door of the house, partly demolishing it. The police retired into the hut, and continued the defence from inside. Loading their carbines with ball ammunition, they fired two rounds into the mob, but they "hit no one". After continuing the siege for an hour and a half, the crowd retired. The police identified the accused as the persons who took part in the attack. The jury convicted three of the prisoners of unlawful assembly, with a recommendation to mercy, and acquitted the remaining ten. The men convicted were put back, and the others were discharged.

The trouble between the "orthodox" Nationalists and the Sinn Fein party is coming to a head. Mr. John Redmond recently, at Battersea, let himself go against Sinn Fein, and Mr. William Redmond, at Wicklow has now followed in his brother's footsteps. Mr. William Redmond scouted the idea that Sinn Fein could do anything for Ireland. He said that there was no man in the Nationalist party at the present time who, if he was worth his salt, would not counsel the "extreme course" if there was a possibility of its proving successful. Sinn Fein calls upon the Nationalist Members of Parliament to abstain from attendance at Westminster. Mr. William Redmond ridicules the suggestion. The "exponents of the new doctrine", he claims, do not know what they are talking about. If any blessing is to be wrong for Ireland from England it will only be through the activity of the existing pledge-bound party.

## NEWS FROM AMERICA.

### TERRIBLE ACCIDENT ON THE ELEVATED RAILWAY.

A terrible accident took place on the Third Avenue Elevated Railway in New York on Thursday. At 103rd St. a train ran into another which was crowded by numbers of infuriated Italians fighting with knives for places. Four of the Italians were hurled into the driver's compartment so that he lost all control of the train. The carriages were pressed by the collision to the edge of the elevated railway, and the passengers, who expected every moment to be hurled into the street below, in wild panic fought to reach the doors of the compartments. Women and children were thrown recklessly to the ground by men. The live rail set the debris of the carriages on fire. About 50 injured persons were conveyed to the hospital, many of them being at death's door. The driver of the train was arrested although he was powerless owing to the fighting among the Italians.

### THE DRAGO DOCTRINE.

Special dispatches from The Hague to the *Herald* and other papers in New York indicate that there

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is not much truth in the suggestion made in certain quarters that the South American and Central American Republics by their Delegates are showing resentment at the lead taken by the United States Delegates in the movement to obtain international recognition of at least a part of the Drago Doctrine.

The Washington Government, it is well known, is unable, as the representative of a great World Power, to advocate the Drago Doctrine in its entirety, but it is seeking to embody in an international declaration the principle that force must not be used to collect a foreign debt from a State until after the question at issue shall have been referred to the Permanent Arbitration Court of The Hague Tribunal, and shall have been decided against such State. It is believed that even that principle will not receive the endorsement of the present Conference as a whole. As for the American Republics, some, it is stated, will support it, while others will accept it with the reservation that force should in no circumstances be used for the recovery of debts.

President Castro, through the Venezuelan Delegate, has naturally found himself in sympathy with the latter principle. There are at least half a dozen Powers, including the United States, who have bills outstanding against Venezuela, and have been pressing for payment for years past. It is now announced that Castro has arrogantly declined to abide by the award of the arbitration tribunal to which Belgium's claim was referred. Belgium was awarded two million dollars, and Castro, saying that the award was obtained by false representations, declines to pay anything. The report that the Washington Government has made representations to the Government at Caracas is unfounded, as such a course of action would not be of the slightest use in view of the strained relations which have long existed between the two Republics.

### THE U. S. AND JAPAN.

A report is current in Washington that the contemplated transfer of U. S. battleships to the Pacific has been abandoned.

It is announced from New York that the *World* has published a semi-official announcement, supposed to have emanated from the President, to the effect that he never gave any orders for the despatch of the fleet to the Pacific, and that he knew nothing of any such order. Discussions had been going on for some time as to the naval manoeuvres, and these had nothing to do with the Japanese fleet. For the rest, the journal states that stock-broking circles in San Francisco oppose any emigration law which treats Japanese differently from other people. Generally an attitude more favourable to the Japanese is to be noticed.

An American revenue cutter captured two Japanese fishing schooners on July 5th near the St. Paul seal island for the infringement of the regulations affecting the taking of seals. It is not expected that the occurrence, of which the Japanese Ambassador has been informed, will lead to diplomatic representations.



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### OVERCOME BY THE HEAT.

During the passage through the streets of Philadelphia of a procession 2,500 people were so overcome by the heat as to need medical aid. The crowd that had assembled to witness the procession numbered several hundred thousands.

### MARK TWAIN'S EXCITING EXPERIENCE.

Mark Twain, who left for the United States on board the "Minnetonka" at the end of last week, has had an exciting experience on his homeward voyage. In a wireless message to the *Central News* Dr. Clemens says:—

"We left the Channel on Sunday at 1.30 in doubtful weather, and sighted Scilly, ten miles off, at six o'clock. We then ran into a dense fog, which broke into patches throughout the night. At five on Monday morning the fog thickened, and the ship was simply crawling along. At 6.30 a barque suddenly loomed up close to us, and lost her bowsprit by dragging along our side. We received very slight damage. The barque was coming for our broadside, but prompt action on both sides prevented a direct collision. The barque disappeared in the fog. We saw her twice during a three hours' hunt, but she was so quickly enveloped in fog that we could not speak to her, so we resumed our trail all well.—MARK TWAIN."

### THE SOUTHERN REPUBLICS.

It is announced from Quito that the last treaty between Ecuador and Columbia fixed the frontiers in accordance with the Columbian law of 1824. Both countries bound themselves not to take up arms and to favour an exchange of exports.

### COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS.

The State Department has authorised the Treasury Department to attach the same value to the invoices of the French and England Chambers of Commerce as to those of Germany.

### A JAPANESE GENERAL IN BERLIN.

The Japanese General Nishi gave a banquet in the Palace hotel on Thursday to which numerous German and Japanese officers were invited. General Nishi made a speech in which he said that 40 years ago when Japan wished to become modernised she looked round the world for patterns, and finally decided on Germany whose lessons Japan had been obeying with such fidelity for 20 years. Since then Japan had more than once had occasion to prove her sword, and, without boasting, it might be said she had kept it bright. Japan expressed her sincere thanks to her German teachers. The General expressed the wish that his country would continue to learn from Europe especially from Germany, and that she would thereby grow from youth to manhood.

The speech concluded with cheers for the Emperor William and his world-renowned army.

### THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

In the sub-committee appointed to deal with the question of an Arbitration Court the Argentine Delegate, Señ. Drago, made a long speech on Thursday in which he defended his view and opposed the American proposal. Spain, Nicaragua and Columbia supported Señ. Drago's attitude, while the American Delegate, Mr. Choate, championed the extension of the principle of Arbitration. The English Delegate, Sir E. Fry, said that the Delegation of Great Britain supported the American proposal, which, in his opinion, was fair alike to the interests of debtors and creditors.

A plenary sitting of the Conference is to take place today.

The sub-committee on bombardments has adopted a resolution which is a combination of the proposals of the representatives of several States. The resolution forbids the bombardment of non-fortified harbours, towns, villages, houses or buildings. A