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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Prime Minister made a statement as to the measures which the Government wished to have discussed before the end of the session. Among these are the Bill for providing small holdings in England, two Bills relating to taxation and renting of land in Scotland, the Bill for creating a Court of Criminal Appeal, a Bill to enable women to be elected to County, Urban and District Councils, a Bill relating to the employment of women in accordance with the terms of the Geneva Convention, and various less important measures.

In his reply Mr. Balfour discussed the comprehensiveness of this programme and said that if the Government adhered to it the idea of proroguing Parliament on August 24th, as intended by the Prime Minister was simply ridiculous.

THE BELFAST STRIKES.

The coal workers have resumed work, but the dock hands and carters are still on strike.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE HEAT-WAVE.

The terrific heat in New York still continues and creates much suffering among people and animals.

JAPAN AND THE U. S. A.

According to a telegram from Austin, Texas, a Japanese has been arrested there on a charge of photographing the forts and batteries. It is said that the prisoner has made a systematic tour throughout all the military posts in Texas. A number of photographs of guns, batteries and defence works were confiscated by the police.

THE MURDER OF AN ARMENIAN.

An Armenian, by name Hamparzumian, has been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the recent murder of the Armenian millionaire Tavshanjian. He has confessed and claims to be a tool of a band of blackmailers scattered over all countries. He has given a list of persons in America and Europe whose murder has been determined upon by the organisation. The American police are endeavouring to lay hands on the members of this criminal society and has requested the police authorities abroad to assist them.

The *Evening Standard* learns from its New York correspondent that, stimulated by the numerous appeals from citizens' unions owing to the many outrages on women and children which have taken place in New York, the police patrolling has become more active. Householders are now supplied with police cards giving the telephone number in order that they may summon policemen in case of need. In addition to the Italian "Black Hands," the Armenian revolutionary "Hunchakists" persistently blackmail their wealthy fellow countrymen, threatening them with death if their demands are not complied with. So widespread is the conspiracy and so elaborate are the operations of the blackmailers that Commissioner Bingham states it will be difficult to stamp out the evil unless the city provides a secret service fund. Not the least difficulty is that of obtaining the necessary evidence from the large foreign communities of New York, among whom a veritable reign of terror exists.

Thursday evening's *New York Globe* states that nine wealthy Armenians, who had previously been threatened in common with the murdered Armenian merchant, M. Tavshanjian, have again received demands, accompanied by menaces that they will share the fate of M. Tavshanjian if the demands are not complied with. The letters bear a red seal. Similar letters are alleged to have been received by Armenians in Boston and Chicago.

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

The second sub-committee of the second Committee of the Peace Conference discussed the German proposals as to the treatment of neutrals in the territory of the belligerent parties. The German definition of neutrals, viz. all subjects of the State in question not actually taking part in the



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WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Moderate south-westerly winds, dry and mostly bright, somewhat warmer.

war, was accepted unanimously. The German proposal as to the breaches of neutrality committed by neutrals was, after a long debate, referred to an examining committee as was the German proposal relating to actions which ought not to be regarded as actions in favour of a belligerent.

A very prolonged debate took place on the German proposals relating to the abolition of the enlistment of neutrals for the war service of a belligerent and relating to the veto on subjects of a State binding themselves to enter the service of a belligerent. Voting on these two proposals was deferred.

The Fourth Committee resumed the debate on the abolition of contraband of war. M. Renault, France, opposed the proposal, Lord Reay, England, supported it.

At the instance of M. v. Martens, it was decided to vote on the English proposal at the next sitting which will be held on Saturday, August 3.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS THREATENED.

As King Leopold was visiting the new naval docks at Antwerp, he received an anonymous letter on board the "Alberta" threatening him with death.

The police have taken the utmost precautions to safeguard the King during his stay in Antwerp. An enquiry is going on.

DESTRUCTIVE LIGHTNING.

At Urano near Intra (Lago Maggiore) a number of students were overtaken by a storm while marching to the Alps. Two students were killed on the spot by lightning and 5 others were injured.

THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA.

In the course of the last few days four Terrorists have been arrested; on them were found detailed plans of the Imperial section of railway and of the Imperial yacht "Standart".

The examination of the participants in the attempted murder of the Czar in March has been concluded. A naval Lieutenant, by name Nikitento, is accused of being ringleader. The charges will be laid before the commander in chief at St. Petersburg at the beginning of this week.

THE SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

News from Port Sag confirms the report that the Shereefian Mahalla attacked the customs station erected by the Pretender at Marchion on the 23rd. The Mahalla lost 22 killed among them 2 Caid, and 25 wounded, while of the Pretender's forces 10 were killed and 6 wounded.

THE COREAN CRISIS.

Preparations are being made for the speedy transport of 4,000 sailors from Tshemulpo to Seoul. They will not, however, be sent unless it proves absolutely necessary.

The arrival in Fushan of 4,000 men from Kiushiu has commenced, since Marquis Ito has consented to the dispatch of Japanese troops to Seoul, in order to settle the burning question of the disarmament of the Korean army and the separation of the ex-Emperor from his troops and advisers. The Korean Cabinet is prepared to fulfil these demands if sufficient troops are placed at their disposal.