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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A representative of the Government, in replying to a question on the state of things in Belfast, said that there was good ground for believing that the strike would soon be at an end.

The Debate on the vote for the Foreign Office was opened by Mr. Bonar Law, Unionist, Member for the Dulwich division of Camberwell, who asked for information as to the policy of the Government with regard to the Sugar Convention. In the further course of the sitting Mr. King, Liberal, Member for the Knutsford division of Cheshire, raised the question of the limitation of armaments and the attitude of the British Government on that question; Sir Gilbert Parker, Unionist, Member for Gravesend, referred to the situation in the Congo State. Numerous other questions were brought forward.

In the course of the debate, Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, replying to the various questions on the Sugar Convention, said the Government was endeavouring to ensure an agreement being arrived at, under which, in case the Convention continued to exist, Great Britain might take further part in it but freed from the risk of British markets being restricted by decisions of a majority of the Powers, whose interests as sugar-producers might not at a given moment coincide with those of Great Britain. With regard to the Hague Conference and the armaments question the Minister said he could make no definite statement, since, after all the comments of the European Press on the British proposal, Great Britain had a strong disinclination to put forward any proposal that might transform the Conference, which must have a friendly character, into one torn by contentions. The question of disarmament must be furthered in such a manner that other leading Powers of the world might join Great Britain. It had been said that the representatives of Germany at the Conference had played a much more prominent part on the Peace question than the British Delegates; but with all respect for the achievements of the Germans, the British representatives ought not to be disparaged. With regard to a treaty for a general Court of Arbitration he believed all the Powers were agreed. Great Britain would vote for making the Hague tribunal for arbitration permanent.

In the further course of the debate Sir Charles Dilke entered upon many points of the foreign policy; he finally referred to the proposed Anglo-Russian agreement and expressed his satisfaction at the communication received recently to the effect that the agreement was confined to boundary questions.

After brief allusions to the situation in the Congo State and the Macedonian question, Sir Edward said, with regard to the contemplated agreement with Russia, it was intended to settle all points of dispute between both countries. If the removal of all possibilities of friction should lead to the growth of friendship, the degree of that friendship would be determined by the public opinion of the British and Russian peoples.

KING EDWARD TO MEET THE GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN RULERS.

On his journey to Marienbad King Edward will pay a visit to the Kaiser at Wilhelmshöhe on the 14th inst., and on the following day will arrive at Ischl to spend a day with the Emperor of Austria. His Majesty the King will be accompanied by Sir Arthur Hardinge, of the Foreign Office, while Baron von Aehrenthal, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs will be in attendance on the Austrian Emperor.

THE BELFAST DISQUIET.

Barrett, the leader of the discontented Belfast policemen has been dismissed; five other policemen have been suspended.

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The Viceroy of Ireland has issued an order with reference to the petition forwarded to His Excellency by members of the Belfast Police force. The order expresses the Viceroy's deep regret that just at this critical time such an agitation should have occurred among the Belfast Police. The Government could not consider a petition forwarded under such circumstances of indiscipline and insubordination, and the last paragraph of which takes the character of a threat.

In consequence of the attitude of the police in Cork the Head of Police, who was on the point of going abroad on leave, received orders to remain at his post.

INDIAN SEDITION.

The trial, says *Reuter's* Lahore correspondent, of ten men implicated in the recent seditious riot in Lahore ended by six being sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, one to nine months, and one youth to thirty stripes, while two of the accused were discharged owing to insufficient evidence.

The editor of the vernacular paper *India*, which published an appeal to the native Army to mutiny, and the editor of the vernacular paper *Hindustan*, which printed it, have each been sentenced to five years' imprisonment. The magistrate said that he would have passed the maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment upon the editor of *India* but for his youth. Both the men are Hindoos. An appeal to the Chief Court of the Punjab has been lodged. The seditious appeal published in the journal *India*, and reprinted in the *Hindustan*, was entitled, "A Letter to Native Soldiers from a Frontier Soldier in America." It called attention to the small pay of the Sepoy as compared with that of the white soldiers, and dwelt on the prospects of the native officers, who, the document declared, could not rise above the rank of Subadar or Jemadar, or receive more than 200 rupees a month. Tartar Mahometans, the letter continued, rose to high ranks in the Russian Army, while even the negroes in the American Army received the same rate of pay as their white comrades. In conclusion the letter



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asked Sikhs, Mahometans, and Hindoos to sink their differences, as being the only way to throw off the yoke of the white man.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

ANOTHER PROHIBITION STATE.

Mr. Joseph M. Terrell, the Governor of the State of Georgia has, contrary to the expectations indulged up to the last moment by the opponents of the measure, signed the law passed by the legislative bodies forbidding the sale of spirits throughout the State. The law has not resulted from the general considerations which are undoubtedly at the bottom of the anti-alcohol movement; its object is to check drunkenness among the niggers, and their numerous excesses which lead to intolerable race conflicts and lynching cases.

HAYWOOD TO STAND FOR U. S. PRESIDENCY.

The Socialist Committee in Chicago intends to make the most of the acquittal of William D. Haywood on the murder charge at Boise City, and preparations are being completed for what they call "a hurricane campaign" throughout the United States to propagate Socialist doctrines.

Already their speakers are going about declaiming against President Roosevelt for describing Haywood and his colleagues Moyer and Pettibone as undesirable citizens, and one sheet devoted to the Socialist cause boldly describes the President as "the bloodiest kind of oppressor and tyrant."

The case is certain to play its part in American politics for some time to come. The Socialist leaders have formally invited Haywood to stand as Socialist candidate in the Presidential campaign, and it is likely that he will accept the nomination. For the present, however, he is resting, and has not sent in his reply.

MRS. HARRY THAW'S DENIAL.

Evelyn Nesbitt, the wife of Harry Thaw, indignantly contradicts a persistent report that she is preparing to figure as a "star" in a forthcoming theatrical venture at a Broadway theatre. She attributed the report to the adversaries of herself and her husband, and declared that she had not the least intention of doing anything but stand by her husband until he again comes up for trial in the early autumn. She admitted that she could easily obtain a leading stage position, but she did not need any legal counsel to persuade her from taking such a step.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION INTO AMERICA.

Friction has arisen between the Japanese Consul at Vancouver and the Canadian authorities regarding the landing there of a large number of Japanese from Honolulu. The Consul has telegraphed a report on the incident to Tokio.

The State Department has opened negotiations with Mexico on the subject of the immigration of Japanese coolies into the United States across the Mexican border. The influx in this way of an unwelcome and forbidden element into the United States has assumed such large proportions that the inspectors are taxed beyond their abilities to discover and turn back these Japanese immigrants.

When Chinese coolies were swarming across the border of British Columbia, Canada enacted laws imposing a heavy head tax on Chinese entering Canada, thereby considerably mitigating the trouble. It is believed that Mexico will now pursue a similar course.

FEDERAL AND STATE RIGHTS.

The Washington Correspondent of the *Times* reports that, although it might be better to reserve judgment upon the North Carolina rate case until the higher Courts have pronounced upon it, there

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