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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.—THE SCOTTISH LAND BILL.

The Secretary of State for India, the Rt. Hon. J. Morley informed the House of the appointment of a Government Commission to enquire into the question whether for financial and administrative purposes the relations between the head Government, the Provincial Governments and the Indian authorities subordinate to these latter could be simplified and improved by decentralisation, in a manner that would bring the executive power into closer relationship with local circumstances without endangering the strength lying in uniformity.

In reply to a question relating to the Scottish Land Bill, the Prime Minister said that the Upper House had shown a cynical disregard of the wishes and needs of the people of Scotland, as they were represented by Scotch Members in the House of Commons. The Bill would be very soon reintroduced into the Lower House and passed as soon as possible. The Government would then request the Upper House either to unequivocally reject the Bill or to accept it with sensible amendments. (Loud applause on the Ministerial benches.) Mr. Balfour replied that the whole matter was intentionally calculated to create strife with the Upper House. (Opposition cheers.) After a short, but heated debate, the matter dropped.

GERMAN CRUISER VISITS IRELAND.

The German cruiser "Freya" has arrived in Queenstown from Ireland and will make a stay of some days.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES CUSTOMS DISPUTE.

As a result of the incident caused by the confiscation of a consignment of wire-netting destined for the New South Wales Government in consequence of a refusal to pay the customs duty, the Federal Government and the New South Wales Government have appealed to the Federal Court against each other.

CANADIAN TELEGRAPHISTS.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* learns from Montreal that all danger of a strike of Canadian telegraphists is over. The officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway have signified their willingness to remain at their posts.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

The *Globe* learns from its New York correspondent that Wall-street and the kerb operators are making gallant efforts to derive comfort from President Roosevelt's speech, delivered at Provincetown. That prices should rise on the strength of such an oration by the Chief of the State is pretty conclusive proof of the artificial character of the movement, and to some extent justifies Mr. Roosevelt's taunting references to machine-made distress on the Stock Exchange. Nevertheless, conservative business men are beginning to complain that the President is overdoing his part, and that he does not take into proper account the effects of his words upon interests, quite apart from Wall-street, in America and abroad.

For one thing the feeling of uncertainty and consequent disorganisation in the railway world is having deplorable consequences in such directions as the suspension or actual abandonment of much needed extensions and the maintenance of equipment at the highest level. The Companies simply cannot raise the necessary money, and this inability is certainly not primarily due, it is contended, to the economic situation in the States, or to the troubles generally of the European money markets. Mr. Roosevelt, like Mr. Taft, declared that he had no desire to interfere with honest

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business, but neither could have said less than that, and such platitudes do not mitigate the uneasiness aroused by the President's violent denunciations of financiers and manufacturers with whose methods he is not in agreement.

Nor is the position improved by the methods adopted by Mr. Roosevelt's Attorney-General, Mr. Bonaparte. This gentleman, it is complained, is displaying a marked tendency to ape the style and follow the methods of his masterful chief, while not possessing the President's courage, determination, and popularity. Mr. Bonaparte threatens without following up threats by action, he talks too much to the newspaper reporters, and generally seems to be too fond of the glare of the lime-light. His predecessor in the Attorney-Generalship, Mr. Knox, was less of a politician and more of a lawyer, and the contrast between the two men is held to be damaging to the Administration.

GREAT JEWEL ROBBERIES.

Mail bags containing valuables estimated to be worth 250,000 dollars, have been stolen from a mail train on the Burlington Railroad.

Beyond the fact that the robbery must have taken place while the train was running between Denver and Omaha there is not the slightest clue for the police to work on.

It is stated that this is the biggest mail robbery in the history of the country.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The drafting Committee of the Arbitration Court Committee passed the second reading of the Anglo-German proposal, with amendments suggested by France and the United States, relating to the establishment of a prize Court; the only dissentients were the Brazilian Delegates.

THE MOROCCAN CRISIS.

Reuter's Bureau learns from Casablanca that a strong detachment of mounted Arabs surrounded the town early on Wednesday morning and attacked the French, position in spite of a galling fire directed at them from land and sea. The French sent out a small force before which the Arabs withdrew; after a short time, however, they rallied, and crossing the open plain with marvellous rapidity made a fresh attack, which failed owing



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to the destructive artillery fire. After another interval a strong force stormed down the valley against the French infantry. The mounted Arabs advanced some two miles in close order under heavy fire, and approached within 400 yards before they were driven back. Another unsuccessful attack was made on the West side.

The Spanish Foreign Minister has received a despatch confirming the report that Muley Hafid has been proclaimed Sultan.

According to an announcement in a London journal from El'Ksar the Mahalla of El Merani attacked Raisuli on Monday. The latter repulsed the Mahalla, which withdrew in disorder from the Ukmas country.

It is announced from reliable sources in Tangier that all Europeans in Fez have left for the coast.

Admiral Philibert telegraphed on Thursday that order prevails generally. He is in hopes that the majority of the Daukala tribes near Mazagan will remain quiet. The report of the proclamation of Muley Hafid as Sultan has not been officially confirmed. In Casablanca the Moroccans, under cover of a dense fog, attacked the French camp on Thursday morning. When the fog dispersed they were fired on both from land and sea and suffered heavy losses. General Drude's troops at 2 p. m. occupied several hills lying some 5 kilometres from the camp and exercising violent pressure on the Arabs, forced them to retire precipitately Southwards.

A *Reuter's* telegram of Thursday from Casablanca reports that the Moroccans are showing great activity and throughout Wednesday night kept up an unceasing fire on the outposts stationed round the town. In the early morning the battle-ships steamed along the coast, bombarded villages and farms which were sheltering the enemy, reducing them to ashes, but caused little disquiet among the Arabs who retired behind the hills which lie between the villages and the towns.

The *Kölnische Zeitung* learns from Tangier that within the next few days the French, English, and Spanish Colonies will leave that town. The German Colony has not yet decided whether it will also leave for the coast.

In the fighting at Casablanca on August 21 a captain and 11 men were wounded on the French side. An ordnance officer of General Drude was wounded by three shots and another officer was severely wounded in the abdomen. The cruiser "Gueydon" bombarded the small fortress of Fedhala to the North of Casablanca, which served as a place of refuge for the rebels.

The temporary Chargé d'Affaires of the French Consulate has made urgent representations to the Pasha whereupon the latter took all necessary steps to pay the soldiers their back pay, and to provide them with cartridges.

The *Matin* announces that the War Minister will at once despatch an air-ship detachment with 6 captive balloons to Casablanca. The same journal learns from Casablanca that Muley Hafid has written to the tribes which took place in the recent fighting, promising to join them with a number of adherents to lead the resistance against the French.

THE FRENCH PRESS ON MOROCCAN AFFAIRS.

According to *L'Eclair* the Spanish Ambassador has protested against certain malicious statements as to the bearing of the Spanish force at Casablanca. Spain, true to the task she has undertaken, desires to organise the police in the coastal Towns, that everything may be in order by the arrival of Colonel Müller on September 20th.

The *Radical* claims to know that the programme of the French Government has been subjected to no alteration. No expedition into the Interior will be undertaken, but attention will be paid only to the exigencies of the present situation.

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