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THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

The Bill to permit marriage with a deceased wife's sister passed its third reading in the House of Lords by 98 votes to 54.

The House by 118 votes to 31 rejected the Bill introduced by the Government to establish a new system of land purchase in Scotland.

The prorogation is expected to take place on August 28.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INDIAN UNREST SUBSIDING.

The Secretary of State for India, the Rt. Hon. J. Morley, stated in reply to a question touching the situation in the Punjab that according to the latest news a gradual, marked improvement had set in.

ARREST OF AN IRISH M. P.

Mr. Patrick Farrel, Member for North Longford, and 40 other persons were arrested yesterday in connection with the agrarian disturbances in Ireland.

THE GERMAN NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

Part of the fleet ordered to take part in the autumn manoeuvres arrived here yesterday evening. The ships are lying at anchor behind the dunes of Helgoland.

THE BRITISH ARMY MANOEUVRES.

In a letter to General Scott, Commanding the Thames and Medway forces, Mr. Haldane expresses his satisfaction at the course of the siege manoeuvres at Chatham. He still hopes to see the English army one of the best in the world.

TERRIBLE MOTOR ACCIDENT NEAR SHEFFIELD.

A terrible accident took place on Monday some eight miles from Sheffield. A large car containing 28 persons returning from a trip into Derbyshire came to grief. The driver altered his course to avoid some obstacle, when one wheel of the car caught in a telegraph pole. The car ran in and knocked down a stone wall, and the occupants of the car were only with difficulty extricated from the débris. Three of them were found to be dead while the other 25 were all more or less seriously injured.

TRANS-ATLANTIC STEAMSHIP FARES.

The New York representative of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique announces a reduction of the minimum fares for 1st class cabin passengers for the trip to Europe. In this way the fare reductions decided on by the North German Lloyd and Hamburg-America lines are met. A leading official of the White Star Line has stated that his company will announce corresponding reductions in a few days. On various French ships the cabin fares have already been reduced by 20 to 25 dollars.

THE HAGUE PEACE CONFERENCE.

In Monday's sitting of committee A of the Arbitration Committee, the American Delegate General Porter, acting on fresh instructions, brought in a proposal in favour of an obligatory Arbitration Court, containing a list, similar to the English and Portuguese one, of obligatory Arbitration cases. The committee determined to lay all proposals referring to obligatory Arbitration together before the Conference, whereupon the Austro-Hungarian Delegate,



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Herr Mérey de Kapos-Mérey introduced a proposal whereby the acceptance of a resolution was recommended which at first recognises the applicability of the principle of an obligatory Arbitration Court to certain international treaties but leaves the inevitable technicalities to the special study of the Governments which in a year's time shall communicate the result of this study to each other by means of the Netherlands Government, in order to arrive at some definite conclusion on this basis.

THE FRENCH CABINET COUNCIL.

All the Ministers on leave have been urgently invited to attend the important Cabinet Council fixed for Saturday next.

THE COUTRAS RAILWAY DISASTER.

The accident to the Bordeaux-Paris express near Coutras seems to have been a terrible one. The first three coaches of the express were smashed to splinters, while ten trucks of the goods train which collided with the express were wrecked. The track was torn up for a distance of 300 metres. A young man writes to the *Berliner Tageblatt* that he was travelling with his wife in a 3rd class compartment immediately behind the luggage van. All the passengers were asleep or about to go to sleep, when suddenly shortly before 11 o'clock the train increased its speed to an alarming extent and a shrill whistle sounded from the engine. At the same moment, after a fearful crash, all the oc-

cupants of the train were hurled from their seats. The young man lost consciousness; when he came, to himself he groped in the darkness for his wife who, by a miracle, had remained uninjured. He himself was bleeding from several wounds in the head. The coach lay on its right side jammed between the engine of the express and that of the goods train. Shrieks and cries could be heard. He and another passenger managed to climb through the broken window, and dragged from the débris women and children none of whom were seriously injured, but several had fainted from fear. One unfortunate individual who lay with the lower half of his body under a carriage and was literally crushed in two, cried unceasingly "For pity's sake kill me". First aid was rendered by a doctor who happened to be travelling in the train. Soldiers and a rescue party soon arrived and the work of liberating those hemmed in by the débris began. Among the killed were nearly all the men, six in number, who had been on the two engines. Two young girls were also killed, of whom one has not yet been identified.

FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

M. Cambon, Ambassador to the Court of St. James, received on Monday a deputation of French merchants from Lyons. M. Cambon made a speech in which he spoke of the pleasure that had been afforded him by his visit to Germany, and said that private undertakings of that kind formed the most suitable means of maintaining friendly relations between Germany and France. Further they contributed much to enabling the inhabitants of both countries to learn to know each other and value each other.

ALPINE DISASTERS.

A fatal accident occurred in the Zillertal Alps on Monday, a tourist by name Alex Fulter from Schauteln near Eilkirch in Alsace having fallen from the Hundskelchloch; he was killed on the spot. On the Southern face of Monte Cevedale a German tourist fell down an ice slope 100 ft. high and lay unconscious and severely injured at its foot. A guide by great exertions managed to rescue him and convey him to the hospital at Meran.

SIGNOR TITTONI'S VISIT TO AUSTRIA.

The Vienna *Politische Korrespondenz* publishes an interview with Signor Tittoni accorded immediately before the latter's departure from the Semmering.

Signor Tittoni said, among other things, that the relations between the two neighbouring States were excellent and full of mutual confidence. Relations of that kind betokened for both a guarantee of prosperity and neither he, Signor Tittoni, nor Baron Aehrenthal could see in the perspective of the near future any serious obstacle to such development. With regard to Italy's position in the Triple Alliance and her relation to England, Signor Tittoni said that Italy's close relations with England could form no obstacle to her sincere attachment to the Triple Alliance. Austria-Hungary too maintained most warm and trusting relations with that Power, whose sovereign was one of the most zealous representatives of the peace idea and an absolutely sincere guardian of the general interests of peace. The meetings between the sovereigns of England, the German Empire and Austria-Hungary formed a most gratifying incident. The relations between Germany and England were at present so good that it was impossible that it should any longer be considered a contradiction to be at once the honourable ally of German and a sincere and warm friend of England. With regard to Macedonian judicial reform Tittoni said it would be one of the most beautiful fruits of this summer's interviews if in this matter Europe were to show that harmonious decision which was indispensable for the speedy success of this work.

ROUMANIA'S POLICY.

The *Politische Korrespondenz* publishes an interview with the Roumanian Premier, M. Sturdza, on the subject of his recent visit to Vienna.

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