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## THE RAILWAY CRISIS IN ENGLAND.

London, October 18.

According to the *Evening Standard*, the first step has been taken towards an understanding in the railway dispute. Mr. Lloyd George has arranged to meet one of the most prominent of the railway directors next week. Further meetings with railway directors have been arranged by Mr. Lloyd George, while he is also to have a conference with Mr. Bell.

## AN INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE CONGRESS.

London, October 18.

The Committee of the Cobden Club have resolved to hold an international Free Trade Congress next year to which the leading advocates of Free Trade throughout the world are to be invited.

## ALARMING REPORTS OF STORMS AND FLOODS.

### HEAVY STORMS IN ENGLAND.

Heavy rainfall in the Midlands and the North has caused numerous floods, which have done considerable mischief in the fields and among the cattle. Several villages are cut off from communication.

### FLOODS IN DERBYSHIRE.

Miles of land are under water as the result of Wednesday night's heavy rainfall in North Derbyshire. Such towns as Matlock have escaped, but villages to the north are isolated and flooded. The damage done is unusually heavy. The Derwent is in flood, and its tributaries are causing damage.

Last Thursday morning Claycross Tunnel, one of the longest on the Midland Railway, was so flooded that traffic was seriously impeded, and the mails from the north had to be sent via the Erewash Valley. Miners have been warned, in view of the low state of the barometer, to carefully watch for dangerous accumulations of gas in coal workings.

### CHANNEL STORMS.

London, October 18.

A severe storm is raging on the East and South coast. The Channel steamers are suffering considerably. A steamer which made its way into Dover harbour was thrown upon the Prince of Wales Pier. Serious damage has been caused to the stern of the vessel.

### SEVERE FLOODS IN ITALY.

Venice, October 18.

The Adige, Brenta and Piave have risen considerably owing to severe rain-storms. Several districts have been inundated, while the roads are blocked up in places owing to landslips. Seven bridges have collapsed. Here a house has fallen in, and others are in danger. The rain continues.

Milan, October 18.

In consequence of the storms, Lake Maggiore is higher than it has been since 1872. The lower parts of the towns of Pallanza and Intra are flooded. Lake Como is reported to have risen to such an extent that the town of Como is partly under water. The Po is also rising; in some parts the country is flooded, and much damage has been done.

### FLOODS AT LAIBACH.

It is reported from Laibach that owing to the heavy downfall of rain the lower part of the town



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is under water. Reports from various parts of the district describe the severe damage done to houses and fields. Bridges have been swept away, while railway traffic is partly impeded. Five persons have been killed by lightning.

### SEISMIC DISTURBANCES.

Berkeley (California), October 18.

Professor Buscher of the Observatory of California University stated yesterday that the centre of the seismic disturbances observed on the 16th of this month lay about a thousand miles south of Berkeley in mid-ocean, somewhere between Hawaii and the south coast of Mexico. The disturbance was of the kind known to experts as a subaqueous earthquake, which is usually attended by a tidal wave. Professor Buscher declares that the intensity of the disturbance was far more severe in the region of its centre than the earthquakes in California, Jamaica, Valparaiso and Mexico.

### ENGLISH LADY ROBBED AND THROWN OVERBOARD FROM AN U. S. STEAMER.

New York, October 16.

The coroner for Newport, Rhode Island, today concluded an inquiry as to the death of Miss Frances Gardner, of Manchester, England, whose body was found in Newport Harbour.

The coroner has concluded that the deceased lady was robbed, murdered, and then thrown into the water from one of the steamboats plying on the Sound.—*The Chronicle*.

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