

Baron de Rio-Branco, is described as being of a magnificence unparalleled in Brazil. At the close of his speech at this dinner Mr. Root drank to the memory of James Monroe. At a special session of the Conference on the 31st, Mr. Root delivered a carefully prepared address on the value of popular self-government, and the relation of the United States to the other American republics, which seems to have made a most profound and satisfactory impression, and which is reported as having evoked tremendous enthusiasm. On the second point Mr. Root declared for the United States that—

We wish no victories but those of peace, no territory except our own, and no sovereignty except sovereignty over ourselves, which we deem independence. The smallest and weakest member of the family of nations is entitled to the respect of the greatest empire, and we deem the observance of that respect the chief guarantee of the weak against the oppression of the strong. We neither claim nor desire rights, privileges, nor powers we do not freely concede to every American republic. We wish to increase our prosperity, expand our trade, and grow in wealth and wisdom; but our conception of the true way to accomplish this is not to pull down others and profit by their ruin, but to help all our friends to common prosperity and to growth, that we may all become greater and stronger together.

Continuing, he closed with an exhortation to a common maintenance of the Monroe doctrine, as follows:

Within a few months for the first time the recognized possessors of every foot of soil on the American continent can be, and I hope will be, represented with acknowledged rights as equal sovereign states at the world's congress at The Hague. This will be the formal and final acceptance of the declaration that no part of the American continent is to be deemed subject to colonization. Let us pledge ourselves to aid each other in the full performance of the duty to humanity that this accepted declaration implies, so in time the weakest and most unfortunate of our republics may come to march with equal step with the stronger and more fortunate. Let us help each other to show that for all races of men the liberty for which we fought and labored is the twin sister of justice and peace. Let us unite in creating, maintaining, and making effective all American public opinion, whose power and influence may prevent international wrong and forever preserve our country from the burden of such armaments as are massed behind the frontiers of Europe.

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The Interparliamentary Union.

The conference of the Interparliamentary Union in London closed its session on the 25th after adopting at the conclusion of long debate the following resolution:

The Interparliamentary Union, now assembled in London, expresses the view that the second Hague conference should:

1. By treaty define contraband of war as being restricted to arms, munitions of war and explosives.
2. Reassert and confirm the principle that neither a ship carrying contraband of war nor other goods aboard such ship not being contraband of war may be destroyed.
3. Affirm that even between belligerents private property should be as immune at sea as it is on land.

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In the Parliament of Great Britain.

The much debated Education Bill (p. 30) which

has been so far the most important measure of the present Parliament, passed to its third reading in the House of Commons on the 30th, by a majority vote of 192. The Chicago Record-Herald thus sums up the main features of the bill:

From Jan. 1, 1908, all schools maintained by the local education authority must be "provided" schools. The local authority is given power to purchase or take on hire the existing schools. Teachers shall be appointed by the local authorities without any tests. All schools receiving rates (taxes) will give the same religious education. Religious instruction may be taught two mornings a week by arrangement with the local authority. Attendance will not be compulsory during religious instruction, and religious education will not be given by the ordinary staff. There will be a further grant of \$5,000,000 from the exchequer for the educational purpose of the bill.

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Another important subject under consideration in Parliament is the re-establishment of self-government in the Transvaal. In the peace agreement between the South African Republic (the Transvaal) and Great Britain, signed May 31, 1902, it was provided that civil government should be established in the colonies by the British as early as possible, and representative institutions leading to self-government should be introduced as soon as circumstances would permit (vol. v, 137). To finally fulfil these provisions the present Liberal ministry has proposed to grant a Constitution to the Transvaal, giving full manhood suffrage to English and Boers alike, with secret ballot; either the British or Dutch language to be used in the transaction of public business. The proposal has been received with great indignation by the Opposition, led by the late prime minister, Mr. Balfour, who declared in a speech on the 31st that the present time is too near the war for it to be expected that the Dutch could forget what they suffered. Lord Milner, the first British Governor of the Transvaal after the war (vol. v, 184), declared that he saw a tragedy behind the precipitancy of the government. And Mr. Rudyard Kipling has written a violent poem deploring the martyrdom of the British in the Transvaal.

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Russia Restive under Autocracy.

At the despotic dissolution of her parliament (p. 393) Russia seemed stunned. On the one hand, Count Heyden, Prince Lvoff and H. Stakovich, the three members of parliament who refused to sign the address to the country issued by the fugitive parliament at Viborg just before its final dispersal, sent out a separate address, appealing to the people to submit to the dissolution, and to prepare for the election of members to the new parliament called for next March. On the other hand, the perpetual executive committee elected by the Douma before it separated, "to carry on the work of liberation" (p. 393), is reported as holding secret sessions. The members of the Douma who signed the Viborg manifesto have been proceeded against by the public prosecutor for "attempts to overthrow the existing government." These prosecutions are believed to be intended to prevent the re-election of these members to the new Douma, rather than to procure actual convictions for high treason. Reports come from Yaroslav and even from St. Petersburg, of the setting