

Austen Chamberlain announced his intention of moving, at second reading of the bill, an amendment welcoming the introduction of a bill for the reform of the House of Lords, but declining to sanction a measure placing all legislative authority in the hands of a single chamber; and on the same day in the House of Lords, Lord Lansdowne, the opposition leader in that House, gave notice of a bill for the reform of the House of Lords, but nothing is yet known of the contents of his proposed bill. It is understood, however, that he will propose not only to alter the constitution but the powers of the upper chamber, and that an attempt will be made to send his bill to the House of Commons before or at the same time the House of Commons sends the veto bill to the Lords.

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Debate on second reading of the Asquith bill began in the Commons on the 27th.

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Lord Lansdowne promises to introduce a bill for the reconstitution of the Lords, which will make their chamber representative of national thought. However, unless it offers something less charged with wealth and privilege than have been previous plans emanating from the Lords it is hardly likely to defeat the movement now tending strongly toward what is practically one chamber rule.—Chicago Daily News of February 24, 1911.

Cartoon from Reynolds's Newspaper (London) for November 27, 1910.

FOOLING THE JURY.



The Criminal (to his counsel): "Now, look 'ere, Balfour, I know very well, as you say, I've got no defense—I've been caught red-handed an' convicted so often. So wot we've got to do is to fool the jury somehow! Bluff 'em. Tell 'em if they'll let me off this time I'll reform meself!"

Balfour (the counsel): "Well, it's too funny for words, but still we'll try it!"

The French Ministry Resigns.

The French Premier, Mr. Briand, and his ministry, resigned on the 27th. Aristide Briand became Premier July 24, 1909 (vol. xii, p. 730). He resigned November 2, 1910 (vol. xiii, p. 1071), and at the solicitation of President Fallières immediately formed a new cabinet which was believed to be stronger than the first (vol. xiii, p. 1071). Of socialistic affiliations, Mr. Briand has found it difficult to satisfy the demands of the socialists. The present resignation is due to the smallness of the vote of confidence—a bare majority of 16—received by the government in the Chamber of Deputies on the 24th, following an arraignment of the Premier by Louis Malvy and Paul Meunier, radical socialists, on the charge of not continuing to press the anti-clerical laws, although Mr. Briand was himself the originator of the laws for the separation of the Church from the French state.

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China Makes Conciliatory Response to Russia.

The Russian government announces that China's answer to four out of the six points in the Russian note relative to the treaty of 1881 (p. 181) is satisfactory, and that the remaining two can be adjusted without difficulty; and that consequently the threatened military demonstration against China (p. 181) has been abandoned.

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New Japanese-American Treaty.

A new treaty with Japan was ratified by the Senate on the 24th, President Taft having transmitted it to that body on the 21st. This treaty provides for commercial and personal intercourse, guards the personal rights of the citizens of each country in the other, provides for consular appointments, regulates import duties, deals with corporations, confers certain patent protection, and stipulates for privileges of most favored nation. It supersedes the treaty of 1894, which was not to expire until July, 1912. The provision of the old treaty regarding labor immigration from Japan is omitted from the new one. Washington dispatches enumerate advantages to the United States as follows:

1. The United States will secure the perpetuation of the passport arrangement of 1907 through diplomatic notes and feels able therefore to dispense with that stipulation in the treaty of 1894 regarding immigration which expressed a potential right that never was exercised. This stipulation, it was pointed out to-day, will not impair the inherent and sovereign rights of the United States to legislate on the subject of immigration should it so desire.

2. The industrial and artistic as well as property rights of Americans will be protected. The diplomatic exchange in recent years covering the rights of American patents and copyrights are embodied now in a treaty.

3. The United States will continue to receive "favored nation" treatment in whatever revision of the tariff Japan may undertake in the future.

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The day before ratification the California Senate unanimously adopted a resolution urging that the treaty be not ratified without assurance that "Japan will enforce regulations restricting emigration to the United States of such subjects as are inimical to our Western civilization," for "less than this will inflame the public mind all along the Pacific coast and may lead to a condition that will be deplored by those desirous of preserving amity and good will between the United States and Japan."

NEWS NOTES

—Ex-President Roosevelt made eight speeches in Chicago on Washington's birthday.

—William Jennings Bryan made three speeches at St. Louis on Washington's birthday.

—A woman suffrage amendment in Iowa came within 7 votes of adoption in the House on the 23rd, after adoption by the Senate.

—Edward M. Shepard withdrew his candidacy from the New York contest for United States Senator (pp. 51, 58) in a letter of the 26th to Montgomery Hare.

—The special "outer harbor" committee of the Chicago Association of Commerce decided on the 27th to report "that there should be an outer harbor," and "that the harbor should be publicly, not privately owned."

—The Dominion government of Canada decided on the 24th to stop immigration of Negroes from the United States. At the boundary near Manitoba a party which intended to go to western Canada was detained on that day.

—Revolution is in progress in Paraguay. Mr. Gondra, who was forced out of the presidency in January (p. 86) by Colonel Jara, minister of war, is leading the movement against Mr. Ortiz, who was made president by Colonel Jara.

—The preliminary appropriation for the fortification of the Panama Canal (p. 61), advocated by President Taft, ex-President Roosevelt and William Randolph Hearst, was carried in the lower House of Congress on the 25th by 123 to 81.

—A suit was begun by the United States on the 27th in the Federal court at Denver to recover coal land holdings of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in Las Animas County, Colorado—about 5,800 acres—as having been obtained by fraud, deceit and conspiracy.

—Two thousand women, including advocates and opponents of woman suffrage, marched up Beacon Hill to the Statehouse, Boston, on the 23rd for a hearing on votes for women before a legislative committee. John Weaver Sherman conducted the hearing for the suffragists; the opposition was led

by Charles R. Saunders and Professor William T. Sedgwick.

—The treatment of military prisoners by the government of Haiti, in connection with the current revolutionary movement (p. 157), has been made the subject of protest to the Haitian government by Great Britain and the United States.

—In a most sweeping decision ever made in the history of the Interstate Commerce Commission, that body on the 23rd denied even the slightest advance in any of the rates which the railroads have been contending before it would be necessary to their continued prosperity.

—Sam Walter Foss, author of the popular poem, "The Calf Path" (vol. xii, p. 524), died at Somerville, Mass., on the 26th, in his 53d year. Mr. Foss had done much editorial writing and other literary work, and since 1898 had been librarian of the Somerville public library. He published "Songs of the Average Man" and several other books of poems.

—The government of the Commonwealth of Australia announced its determination on the 27th of taking drastic action against trusts, whether conducted directly or indirectly. The Minister of Trade and Customs is reported to be consulting with the Attorney General with a view to bringing the full force of the present law into operation, and if necessary obtaining further legislation.

—Gov. Carroll of Iowa vetoed the Senatorial primary bill (pp. 107, 157) on the 21st as unconstitutional, on the ground that it was "an attempt to accomplish indirectly, something that cannot be done directly," being an evasion of the Constitution of the United States. The bill was like the Oregon plan (vol. xii, pp. 82, 98), and had passed the Senate by 32 to 16 and the House by 82 to 18.

—"The Adventures of a Bad Egg" is suggested as the title of a report which the United States Department of Agriculture is preparing. Investigators have pursued eggs from birth, to burial in the packing house, with the object of determining the factors causing deterioration. The number of bad eggs is reported to have been materially reduced as the result of a year's work of the Department.

—Two hours of debate resulted on the 23rd in the overwhelming adoption by the State miners' convention at Springfield, Ill., of five resolutions from various locals in the State, condemning the action of the national convention of the United Mine Workers of America (p. 134), by which John Mitchell was given the choice of resigning from the Civic Federation or being ousted from the United Mine Workers of America.

—By a vote of 50 to 37 the Sutherland amendment to the Constitutional amendment resolution for election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people (p. 62) was agreed to in the Senate on the 24th. The Sutherland amendment provides that Congress shall prescribe the qualifications of voters for Senators. On the 28th the amendment came to a vote in the Senate. It received 54 to 33—a majority of 21, but 4 less than the necessary two-thirds.

—A special railway train from Chicago to Springfield will be run on the 7th for the purpose of carrying woman suffragists to a hearing on the Brown