

an early settlement of the whole question and advised fair treatment of the "Concon" interests.

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The Late Session of the British Parliament.

"It is without precedent," says the London Tribune, "that any Parliament which opened with so large a program of work should have come so near accomplishing it in its entirety. The great democratic impulse which filled the House of Commons with a party inspired by the real ardor of reform and the real impulse of progress has shown itself capable not merely of enthusiasm, but of disciplined and careful work." The Tribune believes also that "the best augury for the future of Liberalism is to be found in the spirit in which the whole progressive party faced the momentary defeat which it has suffered at the hands of the Lords." The work accomplished by this session is thus summed up:

A real beginning has been made in the reduction of armaments, and, above all, an offer has been made which may enable the next Hague Conference to meet with a practicable program before it. If one of the two main measures designed to undo the graver consequences of the Tory reaction has failed by the action of the Lords, the trade disputes bill has passed into law, and passed in a form which makes the right of combination a reality and safeguards it from the risk of vexatious litigation. The immense question of the land—the problem of colonizing rural England afresh—remains for another session, yet the agricultural holdings act has made a substantial advance in securing that fixity of tenure and freedom from capricious eviction which can alone assure the independence of the farmer. The two Irish Acts for the benefit of the laborer and the town tenant have filled the more obvious gaps in Mr. Wyndham's reform, while administrative changes have restored to it something of its original vigor. The workmen's compensation act has at last brought us within sight of the ideal with which legislation on these lines started, of insurance to all workers against all accidents. The magistrates' bench has been opened to all classes of the community, and sailors have reason to thank Mr. Lloyd George for his first essay in legislation. If the plural voting bill and the education bill have been destroyed by the Lords, the Commons may at least console themselves with the reflection that only two bills of any importance—the Scottish small holdings bill and the criminal appeal bill—have been abandoned for lack of time.

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Mr. Keir Hardie, speaking at Gateshead on the 16th, declared that the Labor party had decided to give the enfranchisement of women a foremost place in its program for the next session of parliament (p. 921). The party would also make strenuous efforts to obtain the enactment of an old-age pensions measure.

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Home Rule Demanded for India.

At the Indian National Congress in Calcutta on the 26th, 10,000 delegates, representative of nearly every section, cheered the proposal to insist upon self-government for India. Dadabhi Naoroji, formerly a member of the British Parliament, was the man who put the home rule demand before the congress. In his address he pointed out that the Boers, whom Indian soldiers helped to subjugate, had been granted self-government while India still was without it. The speaker declared that as British sub-

jects the residents of India should be granted as full liberty as any other peoples of the empire. They had fought the wars of Great Britain in distant lands and had won the right to recognition. The education of the people of India as to their rights was the first step needed, and the speaker urged the raising of a large patriotic fund to carry on that work. The tumult of applause with which Mr. Naoroji's speech was received is believed to indicate that results are to be looked for.

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Persia's New Constitution Signed.

On the 30th the failing Shah (p. 922) and his son and heir signed the new constitution of Persia. This action is the culmination of the movement toward constitutional government inaugurated in January of last year when the Shah promised the people of Persia a representative assembly. This assembly came together for the first time September 9 (p. 731). The new constitution is a result of its labors. According to the dispatches the parliament will meet annually hereafter for the purpose of revising old laws and edicts and enacting new ones as they may be required. It will fix its own compensation, reorganize methods of rule, and provide for important reforms in administration. This will mean a radical departure, as under the absolute despotism of the old system the government was conducted by a grand vizier, or prime minister, and other officials appointed by the Shah and responsible only to him. Under the new order all Persians of the male sex between the ages of 30 and 70 who are not in the service of the state and who have never been convicted of a crime, are entitled to vote for members of the chamber of deputies. The crown prince signed a separate document in which he promised not to dissolve the present parliament for two years.

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More Terrorism in Russia.

General Litvinoff, Governor of the province of Akmolinsk in Asiatic Russia, was assassinated on the 28th.

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Rioting at Lodz in Russian Poland between "socialist" and "nationalist" workmen has brought on a reign of terror in that city. During the evening of the 28th and the morning of the 29th twenty-six persons were killed and scores wounded, many fatally (p. 896).

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The Amended Separation Law in France.

It was reported last week that a bill amending the law separating church and state in France, was passed by the Chamber of Deputies on the 21st (p. 922). On the 29th the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 190 to 100. This new bill of separation, as cabled over, is as follows:

Article 1—Independently of the associations contemplated by the law of Dec. 9, 1905, public worship can be held by means of associations under the law of July 1, 1901, as well as in virtue of the public meetings law of June 30, 1881, under individual initiative.

Article 2—Even in default of the cultural associations provided for by the law of Dec. 9, 1905, the usage of edifices intended for worship as well as the furniture