

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

contained therein, shall remain at the disposition of the faithful and of the clergy for the practice of their religion. The free usage of the churches may be accorded either to associations formed under the law of July 1, 1901, or to clergy designated under the declarations prescribed by article 25 of the law of Dec. 9, 1905. This usage, however, shall be made under the conditions stated in article 13 of the last mentioned law, by means of an administrative act either by the prefect, for the property placed under sequester, when such property belongs to the state or departments; or by the mayor when it belongs to the communes. The above mentioned regulations will apply to edifices intended for worship which, having belonged to ecclesiastical establishments, will have been assigned by decree to charitable institutions under article 9 of the law of Dec. 9, 1905.

Article 3—With the promulgation of the present law the state, the departments, and the communes will recover the free use of the episcopal mansions, presbyteries, seminaries, and so forth, which are their property, and the use of which has not been claimed by an association formed under the law of Dec. 9, 1905. At the same time lodging indemnities, falling upon communes where there is no presbytery, will cease.

Article 4—The property of ecclesiastical establishments not claimed by associations constituted under the law of Dec. 9, 1905, will be assigned, upon the promulgation of this act, to charitable institutions as provided by article 9 of said law, without prejudice to assignments which may be made under articles 7 and 8 concerning property not dedicated to public worship.

Article 5—At the expiration of one month after the enactment of the present law allowances made under the law of Dec. 9, 1905, to the clergy who have failed to carry out the requirements of that law will be suppressed. The failure of members of the clergy to fulfill the requirements of the law will in each case be determined by a joint decision of the minister of justice and the minister of finance.

Article 6—All the provisions of the law of Dec. 9, 1905, will remain in full force in so far as they are not in contradiction with the present act.

NEWS NOTES

—Denatured alcohol became free of taxation on the 1st (p. 252).

—Donelson Caffery, United States Senator from Louisiana from 1893 to 1901, died in New Orleans on the 30th, aged 71 years.

—The Federal pure-food law went into effect all over the United States on the 1st (p. 321). No methods for enforcing it have so far been provided for.

—Reports continue to come from Cuba relative to petitions signed by wealthy Cubans asking for a permanent American protectorate over the island (p. 801).

—In a rear-end collision on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, at Terra Cotta, a suburb of Washington, in the evening of the 30th, sixty persons were killed and about 100 injured.

—It is reported from Madrid that a group of army officers celebrating the exchange of years in a cafe, insisted that the orchestra should play the "Marsellaise," and shouted, "Long live the republic."

—About 30 persons were burned to death and 40 persons badly injured as a result of a head-on collision on the Rock Island railroad system in Kansas,

50 miles west of Topeka, in the early morning of the 2d.

—Professor Frederick Starr, of the University of Chicago, has returned from the Congo country, bringing with him an extensive collection of pygmy skeletons, pottery, implements and weapons.

—In Berlin the latest large apartment houses of the better class are being built with compartments on the roof, open above, one for each apartment in the building, to be used for air and sunbaths.

—Angela Georgina Burdett-Coutts, created Baroness Burdett-Coutts by Queen Victoria, died at her home, in London, on the 30th, aged 92 years. She was the wealthiest woman in England, and was noted for her philanthropies.

—The town of Arica, the northernmost seaport of Chile, was reported on the 26th, as having been half destroyed by earthquake. Other towns in the vicinity suffered, and shocks were reported from Valparaiso on the 27th (p. 923).

—The new Attorney General of New York decided on the 1st to grant a re-hearing on the application of Wm. Randolph Hearst to try the title of George B. McClellan to the office of Mayor of New York City (p. 898). The hearing will take place before the Attorney General on the 7th.

—On the 31st Mayor Charles E. Jackson, of Rockford, Ill., ordered his chief of police to release all the city prisoners on New Year's day, and start the new year with an empty jail. It is reported that Mayor Jackson has recently read Ernest Crosby's biographical sketch, "Golden Rule Jones, Mayor of Toledo."

—Four million persons are said to be starving in China, owing to excessive rains and failure of crops in Anhui, Honan and Kiang-Su provinces in eastern China. About 50,000 refugees have reached the vicinity of Nanking in a pitiable condition, and the authorities are reported as unable to cope with the situation.

—The "death watch" upon condemned prisoners is to be entirely abandoned in the Cook county (Chicago) jail, under the administration of Sheriff Strassheim. His study of criminology, and also the arguments of John L. Whitman, the county jailor, have convinced Mr. Strassheim that the "death watch" upon a man who is to be executed is an unnecessary official cruelty.

—A peace between the Hereroes and the Germans, in German Southwest Africa, is reported as having been signed in Damaraland. The war has lasted nearly three years, and has been very unpopular in Germany, as shown by the recent refusal of the Reichstag to vote as large supplies for its continuance as the Emperor demanded, thereby bringing on its own dissolution (p. 896).

—William B. Estell, chief of the immigration office at Seattle, died in that city on the 17th of Bright's disease. Mr. Estell was widely known in connection with free trade work for the New York Reform Club and as a disciple of Henry George. As a boy he worked in the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania, where he became active in the early organization of the Knights of Labor. He was a forceful public speaker, devoted to the principles he