

Francisco I. Madero (vol. xiii, pp. 613, 1114), the candidate for President, declared the provisional government would not "undertake any negotiations of peace except under the condition that the delegates shall be legally and fully authorized with written powers." He added that it was further desired by the revolutionists that the arrangement for peace negotiations "should be published and recognized by the federal government officially." These steps, he explained, were necessary because of the repudiation by the federal government of connection with the peace conference arranged by Governor Sanchez last November.

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Canadian Reciprocity.

In the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa on the 22nd, an amendment to the act approving the reciprocity agreement with the United States (pp. 170, 181), made by F. D. Monk, the leading "French nationalist," accepted by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the premier, and adopted without dissent, declared that with a view to dispelling the feeling of unrest created in Canada by comments made in the United States and Canada as to the political consequences of the agreement, the House wished to affirm emphatically its determination to preserve intact the bonds which unite Canada to the British Empire, and the full liberty of Canada to control her fiscal policy and internal autonomy. In speaking on the subject the mover of the resolution explained that in Canada, the United States and Great Britain, some public men and a part of the press had stated that annexation was bound to follow reciprocity; but he believed there was no genuine annexation sentiment in Canada, and that a statement to that effect should be formally made. The Premier said that there was not one man on his side in the House who has ever thought of any such thing as annexation. "But," he added, "if it is necessary in order to strengthen the wavering faith of the honorable gentleman opposite I have no objection to accepting the motion."

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The agreement was reported out of the finance committee of the United States Senate (p. 181) on the 24th without recommendation. The vote in committee was 7 to 6 against a favorable report and 7 to 6 against an unfavorable one. So the measure comes back to the Senate without recommendation. The following members of the committee voted for the measure: Lodge, Penrose, Cullom and Flint, Republicans, and Money and Stone, Democrats; those who voted the other way were Burrows, Hale, McCumber and Smoot, Republicans, and Bailey, Taliaferro and Simmons, Democrats. On a motion to make an adverse report Senator Smoot saved the measure.

The British Parliament.

The measure for the abrogation of the Lords' veto, which Mr. Asquith introduced in the British House of Commons on the 21st with an uncompromising speech (p. 181), provides in substance, as to money bills, that—

if having been passed by the House of Commons, and sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the session, the bill is not passed by the House of Lords without amendment within one month after it is so sent up, it shall, unless the House of Commons direct to the contrary, be presented to His Majesty and become an act of Parliament on the Royal assent being signified, notwithstanding that the House of Lords has not consented to the bill.

A money bill is described as one which—

in the opinion of the Speaker of the House of Commons, contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following subjects, namely: the imposition, repeal, remission, alteration or regulation of taxation; charges on the consolidated fund or the provision of money by Parliament; supply; the appropriation, control or regulation of public money; the raising or guarantee of any loan or the repayment thereof; or matters incidental to those subjects or any of them. No amendment to a money bill which, in the opinion of the Speaker of the House of Commons, prevents the bill retaining such a character will be permitted.

As to other than money bills, the measure provides in substance that—

if it is passed by the House of Commons in three successive sessions (whether of the same Parliament or not) and, having been sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the session, is rejected by the House of Lords in each of those sessions, that bill shall, on its rejection for the third time by the House of Lords, unless the House of Commons direct to the contrary, be presented to His Majesty and become an act of Parliament on the Royal assent being signified thereto notwithstanding that the House of Lords has not consented to the bill. Two years must elapse, however, between the date of the first introduction of the bill in the Commons and the date on which it passes the House of Commons for the third time. Provision also is made for the amendment of measures during the time they may be pending, and the bill also describes what may be regarded as the rejection of bills by the Lords.

Other clauses of the act provide that—

"nothing in this act shall diminish or qualify the existing rights and privileges of the House of Commons," and that "five years shall be substituted for seven years as the time fixed for the maximum duration of Parliament under the septennial act of 1715."

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After debate the measure passed its first reading in the Commons on the 22nd, by 351 to 227—a majority of 124.

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.