

May, and was referred to a committee, was reported on favorably on the 1st, with recommendation that the government endeavor to secure international action in this matter. On the 1st Parliament adjourned until October 12.

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The International Free Trade Congress.

The International Free Trade Congress was opened in London on the 4th, with Lord Welby in the chair. Delegates were present from France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Italy, the United States and Great Britain. "Free Trade and Its Bearings on International Relations," the subject for discussion at the first session, was introduced by Winston Churchill, who argued, according to the press dispatches, that Great Britain was an object lesson. She had pursued the free trade policy, yet she remained prosperous and powerful, and it had been found that British goods entered all other countries on as good terms as were secured by any nation by the most elaborate use of fiscal weapons. Harvey M. Sheppard of the American Free Trade League urged the need of continuing the influence of education in the direction of economic disarmament as a prelude to military disarmament, and said he thought this education was particularly needed in the British colonies, where protection had many adherents.

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Delegates to the Congress were given a dinner by the Cobden Club at the Hotel Cecil on the evening of the 4th, at which the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, was the chief speaker. Reviewing the history of free trade, and examining the records of those nations where protective tariffs exist—the United States, France and Germany—Mr. Asquith said it would be found that America's foreign commerce was a comparatively insignificant factor, but who could deny that a large share of the credit for its abounding productiveness was due to a wise foresight which secured a complete freedom of interchange between the cotton-growing States of the South, the corn fields of the middle West and the manufacturing communities of the East? John De Witt Warner, president of the American Free Trade League, Dr. Theodore Barth of Berlin, and Yves Guyot, the French political economist, also spoke. Among the American delegates present were Professor William G. Sumner of Yale University, Franklin Pierce and Lawson Purdy of New York, and Louis F. Post of Chicago.

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The French General Federation of Labor in Conflict with the Government.

Strike troubles (p. 38) at Vigneux, near Paris, in which many workmen lost their lives at the hands of the government troops, brought on a general twenty-four hours' strike as a demonstration

of the strength of labor. The strike began on the evening of the 29th and ceased on the morning of the 31st. The general secretary of the Federation, Mr. Griffuelhes, explained in an article in the *Matin* that this short general strike was intended to habituate the workers to collective action and train the proletariat in solidarity, just as an army is trained by drill maneuvers. This strike was not as complete as the Federation desired, though 50,000 men are reported as having left their work in Paris. Thousands of workmen, especially from the building trades, made their way to Vigneux, and in a march to the cemetery, where their comrades lay buried, suffered clashes with the troops. This renewed rioting precipitated a still more serious situation, for the government, threatening to suppress the entire organization of the General Federation of Labor, on the 1st arrested the leaders of the Revolutionary Labor party, Messrs. Bosquet, Yvetot and Merrheim, and officers of the General Federation of Labor, including Mr. Pouget, secretary of the official organ of the Federation of Labor, Mr. Griffuelhes, general secretary of the Federation, and Mr. Maucolin, secretary of the Laborers' Union. On the 31st the officers of the Federation had called for a second twenty-four hours' strike, to come off on Monday, the 3rd.

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A Bloodless Revolution.

What is in effect a revolution has come to Turkey with the re-granting of a constitution by the Sultan on the 24th (p. 419). That the orderly working out of a new polity is still in the future, and that much disorder is likely to intervene before it is worked out, does not hamper hopes and ideals.

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It was reported from Constantinople on the 27th that Persian subjects in that city had informed their Shah by telegraph that the Sultan had granted a constitution to his subjects, and that if the Persian constitution were not restored (p. 395) they would become Ottoman subjects. On the 28th, in the presence of the Sheik-ul-Islam, the head of the hierarchy in Turkey, the Sultan took the oath of allegiance to the constitution on the Koran. On the 30th the following message was transmitted through the Turkish legation at Washington to Turkish citizens in the United States:

Inform all fugitive Turkish citizens in New York City and in all the United States, including political fugitives, without regard to race or nationality, whether Greek, Armenian, Turkish, Albanian, everything, that, after promulgation of a constitution for the Turkish Empire, his majesty, the Sultan, upon request of the government, has granted general amnesty, and all political fugitives may go back to Turkey, after having the necessary passports veri-

fed at the office of the Turkish counsel general, 59 Pearl street, New York City.

This message to political offenders in exile was accompanied by amnesty for political prisoners at home; and this was followed by a "jail-delivery" of all convicts who had served two-thirds of their sentences, with an addition of many others. This clemency to criminals aroused the protests of citizens, who feared in it a readiness on the part of the constituted authorities to produce disorders which would demand wide and generally inclusive repression, and moreover might furnish to the authorities material for the organization of "black hundreds," like the dreaded bands of mercenary Jew-baiters of Russia. On the 31st the Sultan appeared in public in his carriage, and was acclaimed by the populace and the troops. On the 1st, for the first time since his accession to the throne in 1876, he walked among his people on the streets, unrecognized as he went. But as the news became known, crowds gathered at the palace to cheer. On the 2nd a proclamation was published declaring the equality of all Ottomans, and their liberty. Announcement was made that all appointments with the exception of the ministers of war and marine, and the Sheik-ul-Islam, will be made on the advice of the Grand Vizier, or prime minister. And announcement was also made of a remodeled ministry.

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This remarkable revolution, not yet, of course, consummated, has filled foreign observers with amazement. It is laid to the energy and resourcefulness and long campaign of preparation of the Young Turkey party. Whatever reactions and counter-actions are in store, the qualities and preparation which have brought on so stupendous a change, are certain to win out in the end.

NEWS NOTES

—There can be no open election betting in New York this year on account of the new betting law (p. 276).

—Tom L. Johnson II, oldest grandchild of Mayor Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland, died on the 31st at the age of four years.

—A disastrous typhoon devastated south China early last week. The loss of life runs well into the hundreds, and the first estimate of a thousand lives lost, may be correct.

—George A. Pettibone, acquitted last January of complicity in the murder of Governor Steunenberg (vol. x, p. 962), died at Denver on the 3d after an operation for cancer.

—The President of Honduras, Mr. Davila, charging the foreign consuls at Ceiba, Honduras, with "unlawful intervention in the political affairs of Honduras," in connection with the revolutionary movements in progress in that state (p. 371), on the 28th

ordered the revocation of their official relations with his country. The matter is now under discussion with the United States government.

—By unanimous vote the Chicago Federation of Labor decided on the 2nd to allow politics to be discussed in the meetings of local unions affiliated with the central body (pp. 369, 418).

—Hamlin Garland has been writing a play to be called "Labor." Donald Robertson plans to produce it at Fullerton hall in the Art Institute, Chicago, during the coming winter. Mr. Robertson says it is the greatest American play yet written.

—A domination of the Gould railroad interests by the Harriman interests has been deduced from certain transactions between George J. Gould and E. H. Harriman which reached their crisis on the 1st. This leaves Mr. Harriman master of trans-continental transportation.

—The next monthly gathering of the Women's Trade Union League, on Sunday, August 9, will take the form of a summer outing and basket picnic in Jackson Park. All members and their friends are invited to meet in the pavilion near the German Building at three o'clock.

—The present system of leasing convict labor in Georgia will be very considerably modified for the better, if a bill passed by the State lower house on the 29th, is also passed by the senate. Under the proposed law the present system is to expire on Jan. 1, 1911, until which time short term leases would prevail. The working of convict laborers more than ten hours a day, or underground, is prohibited by the bill.

—The seventeenth Universal Peace congress (p. 420) came to a close in London on the 1st. Resolutions were adopted advocating an international governmental congress on education with the object of informing teachers regarding the best methods of inculcating a love of peace in their students, and in favor of the exemption of private property from capture at sea. The next congress will be held in Stockholm.

—On account of the declination of Martin R. Preston to accept the nomination for President from the Socialist party (p. 370), it having been tendered to him while he is serving a term in the Nevada State's prison, August Gillhaus, an engineer residing in New York City, has been nominated for President as a "proxy" for Mr. Preston. Mr. Gillhaus has agreed, if he is elected, to let Mr. Preston select the cabinet.

—Samuel Erasmus Moffet, a member of the editorial staff of Collier's Weekly, died of apoplexy while bathing in the surf off the New Jersey coast on the 1st. He was in his forty-eighth year. Mr. Moffet was widely known as an editorial writer, having done important work on San Francisco and New York newspapers and periodicals. He was a nephew of "Mark Twain," and a believer in the economic teachings of Henry George.

—Freight rates between New York and Chicago on sugar and coffee were increased on the 1st, on the former from 26 to 28 cents a hundred, and on the latter from 27 to 30 cents a hundred. Other advances in rates are to go into effect on the 15th. Mr. W. C. Brown, senior vice-president of the New