

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-