



LOCAL RULE FOR IRELAND.

GERALD BALFOUR PRESENTS THE LONG-PROMISED GOVERNMENT BILL.

ADMINISTRATIVE POWER VESTED IN COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILS—THE MEASURE WELL RECEIVED BY LIBERAL AND IRISH MEMBERS.

London, Feb. 21.—The House of Commons was crowded to-day when Gerald Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, introduced the Irish Local Government Bill. In so doing he said he thought it possible the new order of things would at first seem to be a failure, but he believed it would work through failure to the success which it deserved, and which would be the beginning of better and brighter days for Ireland.

The Government, Mr. Balfour continued, proposed that the local administration should be distributed between County Councils, urban and rural district councils and boards of guardians, the election of which would be by Parliamentary franchise, with the addition of peers and women. The qualifications and disqualifications for election as Councillors would be the same as in England, except that clergymen would be disqualified from sitting in the County or District Councils, the Government acting therein in accordance with precedents.

For the sake of convenience, Mr. Balfour further explained, the boundaries of the existing unions and also of the counties would be modified, and the County Councils would take over the duties of grand juries, but only in fiscal matters, and would not include criminal jurisdiction or questions of compensation for malicious injuries. (Irish "Oha") The elections for County and District Councils would be triennial, and all would sit together. The County Councils would be the sole rate-collecting authority, and would control the expenditures. They would also be responsible for dealing with the exceptional distress and would decide when the requests of Boards of Guardians for outdoor relief should be granted. Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Londonderry and Waterford would constitute Independent County Councils. The county would be responsible for half the extra expenditure.

Mr. Balfour also pointed out that the bill provided that tenants should be liable to both the county cess and poor rate, whether in towns or rural districts, which would involve a readjustment of rents, an equal sum to be granted from the Imperial Exchequer as an agricultural grant. Mr. Balfour said he thought the bill was based on broad, democratic lines, adding that if extravagance occurred those responsible for them would bear the burden, while they would reap the benefits of economy.

John Morley, Chief Secretary for Ireland in the last Liberal Administration, welcomed the bill as being a "genuine democratic effort."

John Dillon, chairman of the Irish Parliamentary party, said he thought the measure was an immense advance over the bill of 1892, and fulfilled the promise of the Government, but he declared it was not equal to the English and Scotch measures. He pointed out that the control of the police was not given to the Councils. Nevertheless, the bill would do much good, and his party would endeavor to execute it in good faith.

John Redmond, the Parnellite leader, also welcomed the bill, though he criticised some points of the measure. If it worked successfully, he said, it would be an unanswerable argument in favor of Home Rule.

Colonel Edward J. Sanderson, Conservative member for North Armagh, said a majority of the landlords recognized the necessity of the measure, which offered an opportunity for all classes of Irishmen to unite for a common purpose.

Timothy Healy, Irish Nationalist member for North Louth, praised the bill.

Michael Davitt, Irish Nationalist, threatened opposition to the section promising relief to the landlords in the shape of an agricultural grant.

The bill passed its first reading.

PRESIDENT CRESPO RESIGNS.

CONSTITUTIONAL FORMS OBSERVED IN VENEZUELA.

Caracas, Venezuela, Feb. 21.—President Crespo finished his Presidential term yesterday, and, in accordance with the Constitution, he remitted the Presidential power to General Guzman Alvarez, the President-elect of the Government Council. The republic is extremely quiet, and General Andrade, the President-elect, will take office about February 28 or March 10.

The Constitution of Venezuela obliges the President to resign on February 23, from which date, or under the terms of the Venezuelan Congress has deemed valid the election of General Andrade, the Presidency will be temporarily occupied by General Guzman Alvarez, the President of the Government Council.

GAMBLING DEBTS NOT GOOD.

MORE CHEATING ALLEGED IN A BACCARAT GAME IN ENGLAND.

London, Feb. 21.—The suit of Dudley Gerald, a well-known sporting man, to recover the sum of £338 from Martin Rucker, a former promoter of bicycle companies, was opened to-day in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice. Rucker, it appears, gave 1,000 U. S. for the money while playing baccarat at Newmarket, and says he was cheated. He pleaded the gambling statute.

The case ended in five minutes in a judgment for Mr. Rucker, on the ground that the documents were not proper 1,000 U. S.

REBEL CALLED AN "ETERNAL ENEMY."

GERMANY'S MINISTER FOR WAR SPEAKS FREELY OF FIGHTING THE SOCIALISTS.

Berlin, Feb. 21.—In the Reichstag to-day during the discussion of the army estimates, Herr Bebel, the Socialist leader, deprecated a large army, and General Von Gessler, the Minister for War, replied: "Herr Bebel appears to favor revolution, and he who does that is an eternal enemy. Should this enemy some day proceed to action we should advance against him without hatred, but with the same sang froid as against a foreign foe, and if Herr Bebel was the generalissimo I could only regret this, in the interest of himself and his troops." (Laughter and cheers.)

Herr Bebel answered that he had not advocated force to revolutionize the existing order of things, but he had expressly condemned barricade and street fighting. The deductions of General Von Gessler, therefore, were incomprehensible.

A violent altercation between Count Von Karslow, leader of the Right, and Herr Singer, a Socialist, ensued.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT IT HAS BEEN SETTLED WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Shanghai, Feb. 21.—The "North China Daily News" says an unconfirmed report is current that the Chinese loan has been settled, at Peking, with Great Britain.

FRENCH BATTLESHIP FOR THE FAR EAST.

Toulon, Feb. 21.—The French battleship Yauban, with Admiral de Beaumont on board, sailed to-day for the far East.

WINTERY WEATHER IN ENGLAND.

London, Feb. 21.—The weather here, which was sparkling last week, with blue and budding in the parks, has turned bitterly cold, and sharp frosts and heavy snows are reported throughout the country.

MRS. W. C. WHITNEY HURT.

KNOCKED FROM HER HORSE BY A LOW BRIDGE WHILE RIDING TO HOUNDS.

Alken, S. C., Feb. 21 (Special).—While on a fox hunt this morning, Mrs. William C. Whitney was badly hurt, and is now lying at the Whitney cottage, where everything possible is being done for her. When the accident occurred the party were just leaving the tea cottage of Mr. Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., at Robinson Pond, about two miles from Alken. In the party were Mr. and Mrs. Whitney, Sir Edward and Lady Colebrook, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., Sidney Paget, Mrs. C. F. Havemeyer, Miss Whitney, Miss Randolph, Mr. and Mrs. Dunnean Elliott, Dr. and Mrs. Valentine Mott, and several others.

To reach the public road from the Hitchcock Park it was necessary to ride along the top of the dam, and pass through a rustic covered bridge. Mrs. Whitney had passed this place many times before, but always, it is said, mounted on a smaller horse than the one she rode to-day. She wore a thick veil, as the day was windy, and was at the rear of the party. Mr. Whitney being slightly in advance. As she attempted to ride under the bridge her head struck violently against the rafter, and she was thrown unconscious to the ground. Mr. Whitney and the others at once went to her assistance, and Dr. McGahan was sent for. At first it was feared her skull was fractured, but on closer examination it was found that only a scalp wound, about six inches long, across her head, had been made.

Consciousness with mattresses were sent from town, and Mrs. Whitney was taken at once to her winter home here. Nurses have been sent for, and will arrive in the morning. Mr. Whitney's private car is at the station, and it had been his intention to leave in the morning with Sir Edward and Lady Colebrook on a short pleasure trip. But, of course, this sad accident has obliged them to postpone it. The presence of Dr. Edward and Lady Colebrook is a great comfort to the family in their trouble. Dr. F. McGahan says the wound is not necessarily dangerous, but Mrs. Whitney is seriously hurt. She is resting quietly to-night. It is said the blow on her head paralyzed both arms for a time. The majority of the country takes and is responsible of the town express great sympathy.

Mrs. Whitney is a daughter of Dr. Frederick May, of this city, and is a sister of Mrs. William Whitney and of Mrs. J. Beaver Webb and of Frederick May. Her first husband was Captain Arthur Randolph, of England, to whom she was married in 1874, and is now married to Mr. Whitney on September 19, 1896.

BRITISH ALARM PREMATURE.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DISAVOWS AND DENIES THE ALLEGED INVASION IN AFRICA.

Paris, Feb. 21.—The Government has no news of the French having crossed the Niger into the Sokoto country, and, it is added, any such unauthorized movement would be disavowed by the Government.

A semi-official note issued this afternoon says it is quite untrue that French forces have entered the Sokoto region, and that the story is merely the revival of an exploded rumor.

AFRICA DISCUSSED IN LONDON.

A STATEMENT BY MR. CHAMBERLAIN ON THE WEST AFRICAN REVENUE.

London, Feb. 21.—Replying to a question in the House of Commons to-day, Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, said he received yesterday a dispatch from Lieutenant Pilcher, commanding at Lokohaj, stating that he had received information that four French officers, with a hundred men, had arrived at Argungu (or Argung), on the Sokoto River, and within the sphere of British influence. Mr. Chamberlain added:

"I cannot believe that, pending the negotiations, the French Government can have authorized this invasion of territory over which our rights have been recognized by the convention between Great Britain and France."

Great activity is manifested by the Colonial Office officials, the West African Department and among the higher military officers who are going out to the Lagos hinterland. The latter are inclined to disregard the news which reached the Niger Coast Protectorate, yesterday, to the effect that two French expeditions are advancing toward Sokoto, and to believe that the name which is within the British sphere of influence. But they say that if the news is confirmed it must be followed by a declaration of war.

"The St. James's Gazette" this afternoon, commenting on the subject, says:

"The invasion of Sokoto territory directed from Paris, it admits but of one interpretation, and the seriousness of the situation is increased when it is remembered that the French have been planning for some time to have been planned weeks before the present ferment in Paris over Dreyfus. It would appear that the French Cabinet, in proceeding to the step which is being taken by the trial of M. Zola, had determined to bring affairs in West Africa to a crisis to secure a renewal of its popularity."

A PRINCE RUNNING AN ELEVATOR.

DOWNFALL OF A SPENDTHRIFT SCION OF EUROPEAN NOBILITY.

London, Feb. 21.—The Pall Mall Gazette this afternoon announces that the bankruptcy proceedings against Prince Franz von Auersperg have been concluded. The Prince, it is alleged, squandered an immense fortune before he was thirty-six years of age and disappeared from society. It is reported, according to the Pall Mall Gazette, that the Prince is running an elevator in a big New York hotel.

CARNIVAL OPENS IN NEW-ORLEANS.

New-Orleans, Feb. 21.—The New-Orleans carnival was opened to-day by Rex and his retinue. The river was covered with a brilliantly decorated float when the royal yacht appeared with the King of Mirth. The three warships in port—Austrian, German and American—were attractively dressed. The revenue cutters took part. The procession included the military, the King's retinue, Lords of the Realm and citizens. To-morrow Rex appears during the day and comes at night, and both give balls.

YALE-HARVARD BASEBALL DATES.

Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 21.—The dates for the Yale-Harvard baseball games were announced to-day. The first one will be at Cambridge on June 2, the second at New-Haven on June 23 and the third, in case of a tie, at New-York on July 2.

CONFEDERATE BATTLE-FLAG RETURNED.

Concord, N. H., Feb. 21.—Mrs. Persa F. Chase, of Lancaster, sister of the late Colonel Cross, of the 11th New-Hampshire Volunteers, has returned to the 4th North Carolina Volunteers, C. S. A., the battle-flag captured from a regiment by her brother's regiment at Antietam.

A PARTY OF FISHERMEN MISSING.

Marquette, Wis., Feb. 21.—Nothing has been heard from the twelve fishermen who started from Green Island for this city Saturday. The storm has continued so severe that no one has ventured on the ice. Friends of the missing fishermen believe that they must have found shelter in some of the fisherman's huts on the bay.

THE NORTH SHORE LIMITED.

Morning in Chicago in the snow. Up the valley in daylight. Fine one day railroad ride in the world; leaves Grand Central Station 10:30 a. m. morning; arrives Chicago 8:30 next morning.—Adv't.

ZOLA'S DEFIANT APPEAL.

A DRAMATIC ADDRESS TO THE JURY THAT IS TRYING HIM.

THURICE DECLARES THE INNOCENCE OF DREYFUS AMID HISSES AND MURMURS IN THE COURT-ROOM—M. LABORI'S ADDRESS TO THE JURY.

Paris, Feb. 21.—The rains to-day deluged the crowds about the approaches to the Assizes Court of the Seine, in the Palace of Justice, though the court itself was packed with people. There was no demonstration when the military officers arrived, but Emile Zola was hissed when he reached the court.

When the proceedings of the thirteenth day of the trial of M. Zola and Perreux began the Advocate-General began his address. He severely criticized the attitude of Colonel Picquart and M. Le Blois, and regarding the reproach that the court-martial of Major Esterhazy was conducted behind closed doors, he said that "when a question of foreign affairs is under discussion the matter must be judged among Frenchmen." He added: "The Esterhazy court proved the fact that they were divided in opinion on the question of the trial taking place behind closed doors, but they were unanimous in acquitting the officer."

The Advocate-General declared that M. Zola's assertion that the Esterhazy court-martial acquitted a guilty person in accordance with superior orders remained entirely unproved. Major Esterhazy, he added, could not be the author of the bordereau, and he protested against certain newspapers accusing officers of seeking to overthrow the Republic. In conclusion, the Advocate-General expressed confidence that the jury would condemn M. Zola without hesitation. The session of the court was then suspended.

ZOLA ATTACKS THE PREMIER.

When the session was resumed, M. Zola read an address to the court in which he said that the Premier, M. Méline, "had the air of giving the jury, who are charged to avenge the National honor, the order to find me guilty." (Loud protests.)

The Presiding Judge said: "You cannot say that the Premier has given an order to condemn you."

Continuing, M. Zola said: "Such proceedings are an abominable piece of political manners. I have never insulted the army, as has been said, but I have raised a cry of alarm, and I leave history to judge me and to appreciate my acts."

"Those who dishonor France," M. Zola remarked, "are those who mingle cries of 'Vive l'Armée!' with 'A bas les Juifs!' (Down with the Jews!)" and "Vive Esterhazy!" after the letters he has written. (Murmurs.) If I am here, it is because I wished it. It is I who asked to appear before you, who are the voice of justice. It is for you, gentlemen, that I raise the cry of alarm, and that I wish to bring out the truth, perhaps unsuccessfully, but here I stand before you and await your justice."

M. Zola then complained of the prevailing state of lassitude, and exclaimed:

"Your thoughts, which I think I can read on your faces, are: 'We have had enough of it. The matter must be brought to a close. I am not defending my liberty, gentlemen.' I am not defending my liberty, gentlemen. I am defending the truth. Look me in the face, gentlemen. Have I been bought, or am I a traitor? I am a free writer, who intends to resume his vocation and again take up his interrupted labors."

DENIES BEING AN ITALIAN.

"I indignantly protest against the charge of being an Italian.

"No," he added, "I am not defending my liberty. Condemn me, then, if you wish. It will be but an additional error. It will be the seed which will germinate and prevent France from falling into indifference. If the country is in trouble, the fault lies with the Government, who, in the hope of saving some culprit, had tried to prevent the truth from coming into the light of day. The very life of the people is at stake. It is for you, gentlemen of the jury, to utter the truth upon this affair and render justice."

M. Zola then dwelt upon the fact that the entire people had been thrown into painful anguish through doubts of the guiltiness of Dreyfus, and that the Government had been deceived by an Italian.

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CAPT. EULATE GOES CALLING.

OFFICIAL VISITS TO ADMIRAL BUNCE, GENERAL MERRITT AND THE MAYOR.

A FRIGID RECEPTION AT THE CITY HALL—THE VISITOR PLEASANT WITH HIS RECEPTION BY THE ADMIRAL AND THE GENERAL—OBSERVE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY ON THE SPANISH.

Captain Eulate of the Spanish cruiser Vizcaya yesterday made the calls that were proper and necessary for the commandant of a naval vessel to make on entering a foreign port. He called first on the Spanish Consul-General and then on Rear-Admiral Bunce, Commandant of the Navy Yard. After making these two visits he proceeded to Governor's Island, where he paid his respects to General Merritt, who represented the Army. Later he made a formal call on Mayor Van Wyck, which was really the most informal of all that he made. Instead of being received there with any special honor, he was received in the most frigid manner possible by the Mayor.

While Captain Eulate was making these visits the Vizcaya was lying peacefully at her anchorage, off Tompkinsville. The same careful arrangements to protect her from intrusion as described in yesterday's Tribune prevailed. Lieutenant Dougherty was in command of the boats that patrolled the waters in the vicinity of the Spaniard, and no person was allowed to board her. This careful patrol will continue until orders come from Washington for it to be withdrawn. The captain of the Vizcaya has already expressed his belief that such a guard is not needed, as he is in a friendly port and believes that he can with his own sailors properly protect his vessel.

It was explained to him that the guard had been ordered as a matter of precaution by the Navy Department at Washington and would not be withdrawn until orders came from there to that effect.

It is probable that the guard will be maintained until the Spaniard leaves this port. This will not be done on account of any fear of trouble, but as a matter of precaution to prevent any possible mishap to the vessel, which, while in port, is considered the guest of the Nation. Meanwhile the guards, both naval and police, are being changed at regular intervals both day and night, and Lieutenant Dougherty is maintaining his headquarters on board the Government tug Nina.

WEATHER KEEPS BACK SIGHTSEERS.

As yet the patrol boats have had no occasion for actual work beyond watchfulness, as the weather has restrained those who would otherwise have gone out in boats to see the visitor. Only a few boats ventured near the Vizcaya yesterday, and they were politely warned off by the patrol boats.

The formal visiting of Captain Eulate began early yesterday morning, when at 9 o'clock he left the Vizcaya in a lighthouse tender, which had been placed at his disposal. He was accompanied by two of his officers. The tender left the party at the Barge Office pier, whence they proceeded directly to the Spanish Consulate in Stone-st. There Consul-General Baldassano formally received Captain Eulate. This was the first time they had met since the Vizcaya came to this port, and the greeting between the two was very cordial. After a short private conversation with the Consul-General the two entered a carriage and started for the Navy Yard in Brooklyn to pay their respects to Admiral Bunce.

The proceedings attending the reception of the commander of the Vizcaya by the ranking officer of the Navy at this port were short and purely formal. A few minutes before 11 o'clock in the forenoon a cab containing the Spanish Consul-General and Captain Eulate, of the cruiser, passed in at the Sands-st. gate of the Navy Yard and was received by Ensign Payne and a squad of marines. Lieutenant Aaron Ward, of Admiral Bunce's staff, introduced the visitors to Captain Lyons, acting captain of the yard, and Ensign Payne, and escorted the party to the Lyceum Building, where the formal introduction to Admiral Bunce took place, Lieutenant Ward and the Consul-General serving as interpreters.

After formal greetings had been exchanged Captain Eulate expressed his deep grief over the disaster to the Maine, and also a desire that the Government patrol around the Vizcaya be withdrawn. He said that he could trust American honor and needed no other protection. Admiral Bunce announced that he would communicate with the Department regarding the request.

TO OBSERVE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

He was invited by Admiral Bunce to take part in the celebration of Washington's Birthday, and the ceremonies being explained to him, he announced that he would dress his ship and fire the National salute, and thanked the Admiral for calling the opportunity to his attention. A communication had been received inviting his attendance at a regium mass to be celebrated at the Church of the Sacred Heart in memory of the sailors lost on the Maine, and he asked Admiral Bunce if it was an official affair. On being informed that it was not officially recognized by the Department, and that the officers and men could go or not as they chose, he decided not to attend, following out his plan of limiting himself to purely official functions.

With many expressions of goodwill the visit came to an end, and the departure of the cab containing the Consul-General and the captain was the signal for a salute of nine guns from the cobbleck battery. A couple of detectives were on the cab as it was driven out through the Sands-st. gate.

On the return of the party to Manhattan they were driven to the Government pier at the Battery. The revenue cutter Manhattan took them on board and they were taken to Governor's Island, where Captain Eulate was to pay his respects to Major-General Wesley Merritt, U. S. A., commanding the Department of the East. The visitors were escorted to the headquarters of General Merritt, where they were most cordially received. The Spanish Captain again expressed his sympathy over the Maine disaster and his belief that it was an accident.

An invitation was then given to General Merritt to visit the Vizcaya, and it was arranged that his visit should take place at 11 o'clock this morning. The trip from Governor's Island will be made on the Thayer, the launch assigned to General Merritt's use. The General will be accompanied on the visit by his personal staff, consisting of Lieutenants Lewis H. Strother, Henry C. Hale and T. Bentley Mott.

COLDLY RECEIVED BY THE MAYOR.

After leaving Governor's Island the party started to visit the Mayor of the city. While this visit was one that was not absolutely necessary to comply with the forms of ceremony as laid down for visiting naval officers, it was made out of respect to the power and prominence of New-York City at the suggestion of both the Spanish Consul-General and Captain Eulate. A letter had been sent to the Mayor some time in advance informing him of the time of the visit.

Consul-General Baldassano and Captain Eulate arrived at the City Hall at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and at once proceeded to the Mayor's office. Captain Eulate was in his full-dress uniform. The Consul-General presented the Captain to Mayor Van Wyck by saying: "Mr.

MAINE INQUIRY BEGUN.

THE NAVAL COURT AT HAVANA.

IN SESSION ON THE LIGHTHOUSE TENDER MANGROVE, NEAR THE WRECK.

CAPTAIN SIGSBEE THE FIRST WITNESS—THE MAINE'S COMMANDER EXAMINED FOR THREE HOURS—SPANISH OFFICERS ON BOARD THE TENDER IN CONFERENCE—THE PROCEEDINGS NOT MADE PUBLIC.

Havana, Feb. 21.—The United States lighthouse tender Mangrove arrived here this morning, having on board the officers composing the Court of Inquiry appointed by Rear-Admiral Seward to inquire into the loss of the battleship Maine.

The commander of the Fern sent a boat for Captain Peral, and his secretary, Lieutenant Salas, of the Spanish Navy, who are to take part in the Spanish investigation into the disaster. They were taken on board the Mangrove, and at 1 p. m. were still conferring with the American officers.

THE INQUIRY BEGINS PROMPTLY.

The Court of Inquiry met on the Mangrove at 10 o'clock this morning, with Captains Sampson and Chadwick and Lieutenant-Commanders Potter and Marx present. Captain Sampson presided, and Lieutenant-Commander Marx, recently executive officer of the Maine, acted as recorder.

Captain Sigsbee, the commander of the Maine, was the first witness called. He was under examination until 1 o'clock this afternoon, at which hour an adjournment was taken. It is probable that no further witnesses will be heard to-day, but the Board will make a careful personal examination of the wreck, near which the Mangrove is anchored.

Captain Sampson received the Associated Press correspondent immediately after the morning session of the Board. He said, in the course of the interview:

"I would be glad to give the Associated Press news, but, owing to the delicate situation, the Board has decided to make nothing whatever public. I do not know what testimony may develop or when, and it is only fair to the Spanish Government not to tell the public the testimony until all has been received and the findings have been considered.

"You may say that this rule is absolute. Due care will be taken for the rigid enforcement of it, and all stories purporting to come from the court should be set down as false. I have no idea as to how long the court will remain here. No one is authorized to fix the time, as the members themselves do not know. I will give the Associated Press such routine news of the proceedings as is proper."

AS WAS ABLE TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

Captain Sigsbee, on board the Mangrove, told the correspondent that he was quite pleased with the examination, and that he was able to answer all the questions asked, not only as to his own acts, but as to those of his subordinates on the Maine.

He gave the correspondent a watch to take