

bers of an organized band engaged in robbing stores, three negroes were taken from the jail at Tunica, Mississippi, in October and were hanged. (As regards negro disfranchisement, see Georgia and Maryland, *supra*, p. 756, under STATE AFFAIRS.)

### III. LATIN AMERICA.

The Mexican Central Railroad and the National Railroad of **Mexico** were combined in July as the National Railroads of Mexico, the government buying up a majority of the stock.—Sixteen men were condemned to death in June in connection with the attempted assassination of President Cabrera of **Guatemala**.—A revolutionary attempt at Guayaquil, **Ecuador**, in July, failed, and a court-martial sentenced fifteen soldiers to death for participation in a political plot against President Alfaro.—**Chile** was disturbed in June by a cabinet crisis and a complete strike of state railway employees, but President Montt brought both to an end. There was a severe earthquake at Valdivia on June 13.—The imperial pretender, Prince Louis of Orleans, grandson of Pedro II, endeavored to visit **Brazil** in May but was prevented by the government from landing at Rio Janeiro.—At the opening of the **Argentine** Parliament in May, President Figueroa Alcorta called attention to the unexcelled prosperity of the country. In August rioting was reported from the Brazilian frontier, and disorders in the province of Corrientes are now being investigated by Señor Perez, the national Commissioner.—The Chambers of **Uruguay** passed a bill in September abolishing the death penalty. (See also INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AMERICAN, *supra*, pp. 753, 754.)

### IV. THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

**THE UNITED KINGDOM.**—The fourth Conference of Colonial Premiers, which met in London on April 15 (see last RECORD, pp. 376, 377) under the presidency of the Earl of Elgin, secretary of state for the colonies, closed on May 14. Subject to the reservation of the imperial government against altering the fiscal system of the United Kingdom, the resolution of 1902 favoring preferential duties was reaffirmed. Proposals looking to more effective coördination of the military forces of the Empire were adopted. The secretary for the colonies promised that the affairs of the self-governing dominions should be separated in his office, as soon as this should seem practicable, from the affairs of the crown colonies. It was decided that in future the conference should be designated as "imperial," not "colonial," that it should meet under the presidency of the British premier, and that a permanent secretariat should be organized.

On May 7 Mr. Birrell brought in the promised government bill to create in **Ireland** a council of 82 elected and 24 appointed members to administer the affairs of the Local Government Board, the Department of Agricultural and Technical Instruction, the Congested Districts Board, the Commissioners of Public Works and of National Education, the Intermediate

Education Board, the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Department and the Registrar-General's Office. The bill conferred no legislative power on the council, but Mr. Birrell stated that it might pave the way for home rule. The bill was denounced on the one hand by Mr. Balfour and other Unionists, and on the other hand by the Roman Catholic bishops and by the Irish Nationalist Convention, held on May 21 under the presidency of Mr. Redmond, who opposed it as utterly inadequate. The bill was withdrawn by the ministry on June 3. The Nationalist leaders are now advising against further coalition with the Liberals. Several outrages were reported from Ireland during the summer months. A strike of cartmen in Belfast in August was accompanied by so much violence that the city was placed under martial law. The strike was settled on terms mainly favorable to the employers, and while the troops were withdrawn the local garrison was permanently doubled. Mr. Birrell introduced on June 27 a bill to reinstate evicted Irish tenants. In July, the king and queen paid a short visit to Ireland.—The government has taken a decided stand against the **House of Lords**. The prime minister stated on June 7 before the National Liberal Federation Conference at Plymouth that the time for expostulation with that House had gone and it must understand that the people are master. On June 24 he moved in the Commons a resolution that the power of the Lords to reject or alter bills passed by the Commons should be so restricted by law that within the limits of a single Parliament the final decision of the Commons would prevail; that, if a bill passed by the Commons were twice rejected by the Lords, the Commons might pass it over the Lords' heads. A Labor amendment, favoring the abolition of the House of Lords, was rejected 315 to 100, and the resolution was carried 432 to 147. The prime minister opened the campaign, which is now going on against the House of Lords, at a crowded meeting of Liberals at Edinburgh on October 5. He also advocates quinquennial Parliaments.—Mr. McKenna, the Minister of Education, states that, notwithstanding the rejection of the **Education Bill** last year by the House of Lords, the government will press forward another bill with all the resources at its command.

**CANADA.**—A serious **miners' strike** in the West was ended in May by the adoption of a two-years' agreement with the mine owners.—The growth of **anti-Asiatic labor feeling** on the Pacific coast found expression in Vancouver on the evening of September 7 in a demonstration against Japanese and Chinese. On the 9th the Japanese primary school was set on fire, and was saved only through the efforts of the Japanese. Asiatics were landed by the steamship companies only under military protection. The Dominion Cabinet at once represented to the provincial authorities of British Columbia that the maintenance of the treaty rights of Japanese residents was a matter of imperial duty, and Sir Wilfred Laurier, in conference with Mr. Ishii, the Japanese commissioner, on September 17 expressed his regret for the Vancouver occurrences and intimated the desire of Canada

to reach an arrangement with Japan whereby immigration from that country would be restricted to a moderate number annually. A little later the premier, in reply to a resolution passed by the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress at Winnipeg asking for the abrogation of the treaty with Japan, said that any precipitate action might be regrettable but promised a thorough investigation of the increasing Asiatic immigration. The Cabinet announced in October its intention of sending Mr. Lamieux, minister of labor, to discuss the immigration question with the Japanese government. —On August 29 the superstructure of the southern section of the great cantilever bridge in course of construction over the St. Lawrence nine miles above Quebec suddenly collapsed when a locomotive with three cars of iron material ran on to the bridge. The number of victims was about eighty. — Latest estimates of the western wheat crop give 40 million bushels fit for milling and 25 million of inferior quality. The price of wheat in Winnipeg is the highest known.

**AUSTRALASIA.**—The annual **Conference of the Australian Premiers**, convened at Brisbane on May 27, resolved that equal trade privileges should prevail for all nationalities in the Pacific and that regulations discriminating against Australian traders should be annulled, and disapproved of transferring the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth. Sir John Forrest suggested that the federal government assume the state debts, amounting to £220,000,000.—Lord Northcote, in opening the **Federal Parliament** on July 3, announced proposals for the encouragement of new industries by a bounty, foreshadowed defence measures, and declared the appointment of a high commissioner to be urgent. The Judiciary Bill was passed in September, making the Federal High Court the final interpreter of the constitution. The salaries of legislators have been increased to £600. The government now has a scheme before Parliament intended to secure to workmen a share in the proceeds from the protective policy. Sir John Forrest resigned the federal treasurership on July 30. The High Court has refused to allow appeal to the Privy Council from its decision that federal servants are not liable to pay income taxes.—The Supreme Court of **New South Wales** having decided that state government imports are not liable to duty, the Sydney police force in August seized a quantity of imported wire netting on which duty had not been paid. The incident caused an angry interchange of telegrams between the state and federal officials. The state campaign was conducted with much bitterness, mainly on the issue of the federal tariff, and resulted in the election of 55 Ministerialists, 29 Labor Members, and 6 Independents. The resignation of Mr. Carruthers, the premier, who represented the extreme states' right view, early in October, and the succession of Mr. C. G. Wade promise to relieve the situation. The state Parliament reassembled on October 9.—The Parliament of **Western Australia**, which opened on October 8, is considering the income tax and a modified land tax.—The **New Zealand** budget, introduced on July 16, increased the land tax, while making numerous

reductions in other taxes. The Legislative Council in August rejected by a close vote the bill passed by the House making the Council elective by the House and declaring women eligible for membership. The Court of Appeal, in reversing the decision of a lower court, has affirmed that strikers refusing to pay a fine imposed on them for taking part in a strike are liable to imprisonment. Organized labor is strongly opposing the bill to amend the Arbitration Act. The *Royal Gazette* of September 10 contained a royal proclamation, declaring that the Colony of New Zealand shall be called the Dominion of New Zealand.

**SOUTH AFRICA.**—**Federation** is strongly agitated in all the colonies. Lord Selborne, the high commissioner, issued a memorandum on July 3, urging that South African fiscal, labor and railway problems can only be solved by speedy federation. His opinion received the endorsement of the government of each separate colony, the Transvaal creating a flutter in England by adding the hope of extending "the comity of South African coöperation to the friendly Portuguese province of Mozambique." The report of the Inter-Colonial Defence Committee, published in July, recommended that in case of war or disturbance any colony should requisition from the others such forces as were not required within their own borders. The different colonies have provisionally adjusted their railroad rates to meet the differential reduction of ocean freights.—Federation and "national union" were emphasized at the opening of the Parliament of **Cape Colony** in June. A bill has been passed to prevent monopoly in the meat trade; and Dr. Jameson, the premier, has asked a mandate to amend the constitution so as to prevent the blocking of financial bills by the Legislative Council. A new moderate party has been formed, called the South African Unionist party; also a "South African Nationalist Alliance," which is to pursue an active campaign throughout the country with the objects of inducing people to purchase colonial instead of imported goods and of obtaining a protective tariff.—The **Transvaal** Parliament, which was in session from June 14 to August 20, sustained the government's policy of Chinese exclusion, provided for sending home the Chinese now in the Transvaal on the expiration of the contracts, adopted an education bill and voted to present the Cullinan diamond to the king. The government bill permitting the sale of intoxicants to natives at the mines encountered so much opposition that it was withdrawn. There have been labor troubles on the Rand; and a recrudescence of Chinese outrages is reported, attributed to the unrest caused by repatriation.—The constitution of the **Orange River Colony** was promulgated on July 1.—In opening the parliament of **Natal** on June 25, the administrator said that federation was the most important question. The new governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, was enthusiastically received at Durban on September 1. A party of 25 noted native rebels were despatched from Natal on June 1 for St. Helena. The Hottentot leader Morenga was killed in a fight with a British force in September.—The

British Admiralty agreed on June 14 that the **naval contributions** of Cape Colony and Natal shall be spent locally.

**INDIA.**—**Serious rioting** occurred repeatedly in Eastern Bengal during the summer months, the sedition being confined, according to the *London Times*, to the educated middle class "who are carrying on a systematic propaganda among the peasantry." The government has been prosecuting a number of Hindus for publishing seditious literature. In July the editor of the Calcutta *Yugantar* was sentenced to a year's hard labor for preaching armed revolt, and in September the printer of the *Bande Mataram* was sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment on a similar charge. On October 2 a riot at Calcutta, in connection with an open-air demonstration in honor of students recently punished for assaulting the police, was accompanied by considerable bloodshed. Mr. Keir Hardie, M. P., the Labor leader, who toured Eastern Bengal in October, is reported to have said that the condition of the country is worse than that of Russia and that he will help to make India a self-governing colony.—**The army reorganization**, which went into effect on June 1 (see last RECORD, p. 384), substitutes for the former three departments a northern and a southern command, each under a general officer.—The government has appointed a special committee to prepare a scheme of devolution of financial and other departmental control and to report to a royal commission which will be chosen at an early date.

**OTHER DEPENDENCIES.**—The British government in May gave £150,000 and loaned £800,000 to aid in the economic rehabilitation of **Jamaica**. An earthquake overthrew several buildings at Port Royal on June 13.—Officials in **British East Africa** have been punished for flogging natives at Nairobi.—A British order in council of July 6 changed the designation of the British Central African Protectorate to the **Nyasaland Protectorate** and provided for the appointment of a governor and a commander-in-chief in place of the commissioner and for the nomination of executive and legislative councils. (For Egyptian affairs, see *infra*, p. 776, AFRICA).

#### V. CONTINENTAL EUROPE.

**FRANCE.**—The Chambers reassembled on May 7 and resumed the labor debate. M. Clemenceau denied being antagonistic to the principles of labor-unionism, but strongly opposed what he termed the disorderly revolutionary program of the General Confederation of Labor. After heated debate, the Chamber expressed confidence in the government by a vote of 343 to 210.—In May the **wine-growers of the Midi**, injured by overproduction and adulteration of wine, demanded assistance from the government and emphasized their demands by great popular demonstrations at Narbonne, Carcassonne, Perpignan and Montpellier. The peasants, under the guidance of Marcelin Albert, a wine-grower of Argelliers, announced to Premier Clemenceau that unless their demands were granted by June 10 they would refuse to pay taxes. The threat was carried out; the