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General Sir William Lockhart, the commander of the British forces operating against the insurgent tribesmen of Northern India, has issued a proclamation, stating the terms of submission which he is willing to grant to the Afridis. The tribesmen are given a week's grace in which to accept the General's terms, which include the restoration of the rifles and other government and private property stolen, the surrender of 800 breech-loading rifles, a fine of 50,000 rupees, and the surrender of hostages as a guarantee of compliance with the will of the government. The Khyber Pass will be reopened in the manner the government deems advisable, and all the Afridi tribal allowances are forfeited by their misconduct. It is one thing of course to proclaim conditions, and another to get them accepted. It is quite possible that a good deal of hard fighting will still be necessary before the tribesmen shall be brought to render the required submission. However it appears that substantial progress is being made in reducing the insurgent hillmen to subjection, though not without the sacrifice of the lives of many brave British soldiers.

Some London correspondents of American newspapers seem disposed to make a good deal out of the Anglo-French complications in West Africa. We are told that matters have reached an acute stage, demanding all the calm and conciliatory diplomacy which Lord Salisbury and M. Hanotaux can bring to bear on them. It is represented that the French Premier, presuming on Lord Salisbury's unwillingness to provoke a rupture, has refused to take seriously the latter's protest against the French occupation of certain territory, which by treaty is assigned to Great Britain; and now the English people are in no mood to permit Lord Salisbury, if he were so disposed, to make any further concessions to France. The problem for M. Hanotaux is accordingly to recede from an extreme and unwarrantable position without exciting an outcry from the French "Jingoes," which might have an inflammatory effect upon national public opinion. It appears certain that the British government means to take a firm position in the matter. The military force of the nation in West Africa is being strengthened, and if the French persist in their ill-advised policy there is likely to be trouble. But probably France will listen to judicious counsels before matters are pushed to extremes.

The attitude of Archbishop Langevin, of Winnipeg, toward the Manitoba School law has only been one of determined opposition, and now that his policy seems likely to receive the formal and positive endorsement of the Vatican, his determination not to permit the Roman Catholics of the Province to accept the advantages of the school law will of course be all the stronger. Attorney General Cameron, of Manitoba, is reported as stating that

the possibility of the minority accepting the school system seems more remote than ever. Active efforts have been made, he says, to organize and secure the benefits of the law, but without result. At one time no less than thirty-five or thirty-six separate school districts had come in under the act, but this number had been diminished until it is doubtful whether fifteen remain. He says there is no doubt that if parents were left to themselves, they would avail themselves of the advantages of the national schools, as they naturally desire their children to be as well educated as the rest of the children in the community, but they are debarred from this by the active interference of the clergy, who have succeeded in one case after another in disbanding the national schools and substituting schools directly under their own control. There appear to be indications of a set purpose on their part to fight the present law to the bitter end at the sacrifice of the best interests of the children. Mr. Cameron stated emphatically that there need be no doubt on the part of the public that it is the intention of the government to resist the attacks of the church, and maintain the law as it stands. No concessions except a complete surrender of principles would satisfy the heads of the church, and this is, of course, utterly out of the question.

Conflicting reports as to the condition of Mr. Gladstone's health have been current of late. Some accounts represent him as being, considering his great age, in excellent health, with the exception of some neuralgic affection of the face, and as cheerfully engaged in literary labors, the fruits of which are shortly to be given to the public. But other reports speak of him as being in a feeble condition, and as having become extremely aged in appearance. One who visited him recently says that while his mind is as keen as ever, his physical powers have visibly declined, his form appears shrunken, and a recent examination of his heart showed it to be in a feeble condition, and his strength is evidently waning. Such statements cannot be regarded as improbable. Men do not live forever. Even so strong and well balanced a constitution as Mr. Gladstone's must at length break down and go to pieces. But very likely the feebleness of Mr. Gladstone's condition has been exaggerated for the sake of making a news paragraph of general interest. At any rate Mr. Gladstone was well enough last week to undertake a journey to the south of France, whither, accompanied by Mrs. Gladstone, he has gone to spend the winter.

The resignation of Mr. Lount, M. P. for Centre Toronto, made a contest in that constituency necessary, and, as we write, the political battle is being waged with great vigor. The constituency had been held in the Conservative interest from 1878 to 1896. But in the last general election the Liberal candidate was victorious. The government candidate in the present contest is Mr. George H. Bertram, a member of a prosperous firm of ship builders. His opponent, in the Conservative interest, is Mr. O. A. Howland, a son of the late Governor Howland. Both are represented to be men of high character and popular. The contest seems likely to be a very close one, and each party apparently expects to win. Each will of course do its best to realize its expectation. The government is, for obvious reasons, very unwilling to lose the seat, and the opposition equally anxious to gain it, since the result will be taken, whether rightly or not, to indicate in which direction politi-

cal currents are moving in Ontario. It is gratifying to be assured that, whichever party shall win, Mr. Lount is likely to have a worthy successor in parliament.

The opening of the Quebec Legislature took place on Tuesday last. The speech of Governor Chapleau contained patriotic reference to the Queen's Jubilee, expressing gratitude that she had been permitted to reign so long and so gloriously, the desire that she might long continue to preside over the destinies of the Empire, and pride that Canada had been so brilliantly represented at the Jubilee by a native of the Province of Quebec. Among the important legislation foreshadowed by the speech a new law on public instruction occupies the first place. It is described as containing important changes in the old law without other innovations however than those necessitated by the requirements of the hour. The bill will contain provision for the appointment of a Minister of Public Instruction. Mr. Marchand, the Premier of the Province, is known to entertain advanced ideas on the subject of education. It is said that he would be glad to see established in Quebec a school system on lines similar to that of Manitoba or those of the Maritime Provinces. Quebec of course is not yet able to receive such doctrine as that, but it may be expected that the new measure will go some distance toward superseding the comparatively worthless church schools of the province, and extending to the Roman Catholics of Quebec the educational advantages which are enjoyed by the people of the other Provinces. The financial condition of the province, which has long been far from satisfactory, is apparently not greatly improved. A new loan is projected.

During several days of the past week scenes of the wildest disorder were witnessed in the Austrian Parliament. In the lower house the disturbance became so great as to render deliberative proceedings impossible, and the president of that body, Dr. Abrahamovics, was repeatedly obliged to suspend sittings. At these times riot reigned supreme. The deputies fought, first with their tongues and then with their fists. A strong body of police was called in to preserve order, and a number of the belligerent deputies were forcibly removed. But whenever an attempt was made by the president to resume regular proceedings the disorder was renewed and business was made impossible. On Friday, after the forcible removal by the police of some of the most turbulent spirits, the House succeeded in holding a session, although of a very disorderly character. The immediate cause of all the disturbance was the adoption by the House of a motion that only one of a number of similar petitions against an ordinance, making Czech language co-ordinate with the German in Bohemia, should be read and printed. Back of this, however, there are antipathies of race, religion and class that threaten very seriously the political union of Austria and Hungary. Under the present system each country has its own Parliament, and, in regard to local affairs, is practically autonomous, the two Parliaments being linked together, in all matters relating to foreign affairs, by a third body made up of representatives of both countries, and known as Delegates. Hungary has prospered under the Union and desires its continuance, but in Austria the race and other antagonisms alluded to above are most active and bitter, and the turbulent scenes in Parliament are a result of the attempt of the German groups to secure the ascendancy as a governing class.