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BUSINESS NOTE.

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THE AMERICAN CONGRESS.

The House committee on judiciary reported against the woman suffrage constitutional amendment.

A feeling of dissatisfaction is said to be exhibited on both sides of the Senate over the backward condition of business in the House. Over three hundred bills sent down passed by the Senate lie on the table of the House, awaiting their turn to be referred to the proper committees.

A bill for the relief of the American merchant marine passed the House, being amended a good deal in the process. A duty of three cents per ton, not to exceed fifteen cents per ton per annum, is to be levied on all vessels from any foreign port in North America, Central America, the West Indies, Bahamas, Bermudas, Sandwich Islands and Newfoundland, and a duty of six cents per ton, not to exceed thirty cents per ton per annum, on each entry of all vessels from other foreign ports. The provisions of the marine hospital tax law are to be applied to vessels in the coastwise trade as well as those in the foreign trade. Any citizen of the United States may import iron steamships of not less than 4,000 tons measurement free of duty, such ships to be admitted to American registry if the exclusive property of citizens of the United States and to be excluded from coastwise trade. This amendment, moved by Mr. Cox and being one of his old hobbies, met with strong opposition but carried by 111 to 69. One member calculated it would be "the death knell to building American vessels by American workmen in American yards." The heavy tax upon foreign vessels entering American ports is only one more burden upon the foreign commerce of the nation laid on to increase national prosperity!

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Commons the Right Hon. George J. Dodson, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, confirmed the report that fifteen head of cattle had been found in Wimpole, Cambridgeshire, infected with the foot-and-mouth disease. He contradicted the statement of the cattle inspector at Liverpool that the animals came from America, as all American cattle are slaughtered at the ports where they are landed. Mr. Dodson said the last Canadian cattle that had come over were sound, and he did not believe there was any foot-and-mouth disease in either the United States or Canada. He therefore moved that the

Cattle Bill be reduced to the original form in which it was introduced into the House of Lords by Baron Carlingford, Lord Privy Seal. The motion was rejected by a vote of 185 to 161, whereupon Mr. Dodson asked for time for the Government to consider the position in which it was placed by this vote. The defeat of the Government is attributed to twenty-four Parnellites voting against it just to show what they could do. After a few days' consideration the Government announced its determination to abide by the decision of the House. An amendment would, however, be proposed to the bill, authorizing the Privy Council to admit cattle from one part of a country although foot-and-mouth disease is prevailing in another part.

Mr. O'Brien, member for Mallow, Ireland, called attention to the arrest of Fitzgerald as a Fenian, and asked if there was any precedent for the hugger-mugger system of secret arrests and secret enquiry. Other Irish members followed, condemning private examinations and accusing the authorities of ill-treatment of Fitzgerald in Waterford gaol. Sir William V. Harcourt said the matter had been referred to the prison commission and repudiated charges of inhuman treatment brought against Mr. Trevelyan, Irish Secretary.

The Budget shows the national debt to be lower now than since 1811, and the interest lower than since 1805. The debt was reduced in 1883 by eight and a half millions. This year's estimated expenditure is £85,252,000 against £85,954,000 during the previous year, and the estimated revenue £85,550,000 against £71,866,000 last year. It is proposed to convert the three percent consols into two and three-quarters percent.

Replying to a resolution forwarded by Conservatives of Edinburgh, Lord Salisbury and Sir Stafford Northcote strongly declare that the importance of appealing to the country by the Government is being urged, and that the Government has lost that authority and influence which are absolutely necessary for the proper management of the House of Commons and of foreign affairs. In spite of these authoritative declarations, it may still be doubted if a Government that is known for its good men and its good deeds would be turned out for one composed of no one knows whom, with a policy consisting of no one knows what principles except such as are to be feared. The present Government has been steadily reducing the burdens of taxation, governing the nation more economically than it has ever before been ruled, and steadfastly resisting the clamor of the Tories for class privileges at home and blood and glory abroad.

MRS. ELLA BRENN, a Boston widow, was robbed of her valuables in a New York hotel, while unconscious from liquor. The barber and bell boy of the house are in custody charged with the robbery. It appears the woman invited these menials to her room to help her dispose of several bottles of wine and beer.

THE SOUDAN.

Sir Evelyn Baring, the British minister to Egypt, arrived in London on Sunday. It is believed he came, at his own request, to confer with the Government on Egyptian affairs. It is said that he found the Government's policy to be useless, and that he would never have asked leave to come to England if affairs had not reached a very serious pass. The *London News* has information that every village between Berber and Khartoum is in rebellion, and that the rebels are entering Berber. Sir Samuel Baker, the famous explorer, in a letter to the *Times* makes a bitter attack upon the Government's inaction. He refers to General Gordon's appeal for relief to the millionaires of England and America, asking whether there can be a more terrible example of faithlessness on the part of the Government than the necessity for such an appeal. Sir Samuel proposes that the Sultan of Turkey supply 5,000, India 10,000 and England 5,000 troops to relieve General Gordon. Sir Henry William Gordon, K. C. B., brother of General Gordon, conferred with Lord Granville, Foreign Secretary, regarding the situation before Sir Evelyn Baring's arrival. He said his brother was in no personal danger, and warned the Government that Sir Evelyn was an enemy to General Gordon, so that caution would have to be used in considering any scheme he might propound. Sir Henry called attention to the remarkable fact that a large number of women and children who were sent down the Nile from Khartoum last February for safety are still detained at Berber and are in fully as much danger there at present as they were in February at Khartoum. Lord Granville, admitting that this was a most extraordinary fact, said he had never been able to get any satisfactory account from Sir Evelyn Baring or Hussein Pasha, the Governor of Berber, as to the reasons for detaining these refugees. News has been received in London that Hussein Pasha has proclaimed the evacuation of Berber, and that the inhabitants have fled and the troops joined the rebels. Taking this in connection with the evidence of Hussein's equivocal conduct given by General Gordon's brother, it looks as if this Pasha were a hopeful candidate for hanging. Colonel Burleigh, who acted in the recent campaign as the special Soudan correspondent of the *London Daily Telegraph*, has proposed to the Government that the only feasible method of controlling the Soudan is the construction of a railway from Suakim to Berber. A narrow gauge railway can be taken in rail lengths ready to lay down, by water to Suakim, and can be laid across the desert as rapidly as a fully equipped army can march. The Arabs, he says, can be kept off easier than the Indians were kept off by the Americans when building the railway across the wilds of Western America. Moreover, the building of the road would indicate to the Arabs that the English came to stay, which would do much to subdue them. The road completed the route would be safe forever, and with Berber in constant and easy access from the Red Sea, Khartoum would be

within easy control. All the Powers except France have acceded to England's request for a European Conference upon Egyptian affairs.

THE DYNAMITERS ARE VERY BOASTFUL. A Paris paper says Tynan, the reputed No. 1 of the murder conspiracy infamy, is in England, and in a recent interview expressed defiance of "the English Government and its hirelings." An emissary of the Clan-na-Gaels is reported to be in Paris to buy cruisers fitted out with torpedoes and revolving guns. These craft are to be used for destroying British men-of-war in various harbors. Egan, one of the captured dynamiters, was arraigned in Birmingham on Saturday. Treasonable documents connected with the Fenian movement, found upon him, were produced. According to these members of the brotherhood were required to subscribe threepence monthly for the purchase of war materials and a penny monthly for working expenses. The centres were to buy the munitions and the members to learn to fire well and rapidly. According to the record, the brotherhood had 8,295 old and new rifles and revolvers. Daly, an accomplice of Egan, was put on trial in Liverpool in the morning and transferred to Birkenhead later in the day. It was declared by the prosecution that bombs and other dangerous things were found on the prisoner when arrested. Little progress was made with the trial, and at the close of the proceedings Daly was removed to Chester Castle to prevent the possibility of escape. Threats have been made by Fenians to blow up the guardship in Kingstown harbor, Ireland, and the Paddington railway station in London.

THERE IS GROWING ANGER in Holland over the assumption of control made by Portugal over the lower Congo district. In the States General the Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that Holland demanded no right of sovereignty in the Congo country, but only desired to protect its commercial interests, that were ignored by the Anglo-Portuguese treaty. The proposition of Portugal to establish custom houses at the mouths of the Congo and collect duty from the many Dutch vessels that trade along that river has been debated with much bitterness in the Dutch Chambers. It is believed that Holland will go to war rather than yield to these Portuguese pretensions.

A YOUNG GENTLEMAN of London, whose name has been kept secret from the public through the influence of friends, has made a fearful wreck of his chances in life. He learned gambling in a fashionable club and went deeply into it, losing steadily. For a while he hid his losses by borrowing in all directions, and keeping up his town and country establishments on credit. But the crash could not be averted, and when it came the young man fled before it, leaving his creditors defrauded and his home broken up, and banishing himself to a life of exile, with the alternative of arrest and interminable imprisonment if he ever ventured to return to England.