

Special Cables

Lord Wolseley Favors the Conscription System for the Army—Movement of Britain's Poorly Paid Curates to Start a Union—Ovation to Henry Irving and Ellen Terry—Elaborate Preparations for the Celebration of Sedan Day—The British Parliament a Sorry Spectacle—Pre-Election Pledges Forgotten—Justin McCarthy's Probable Successor.

TALK OF CONSCRIPTION.

London, Sept. 1.—Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, repudiates the report that was started by the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes to the effect that he advocated in the Cabinet a scheme of military conscription and fines in lieu of service, the fines going to float an old-age pension fund. Though Mr. Chamberlain is known as an advocate of voluntary enlistment, some influence inside and outside the Cabinet favor the conscription system. Field Marshal Lord Wolseley, who succeeds the Duke of Cambridge as commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's forces, advocates this system as being necessary to the existence of Great Britain, and the Duke of Devonshire, Lord President of the Council, sympathizes with it. The triumph of Conservatives at the polls has been followed by a clamor on the part of the military press for the assimilation of the British forces on the continental system. The Rev. Mr. Hughes was wrong in fathering the scheme on Mr. Chamberlain, but the question pervades the air.

CURATES' UNION PROPOSED.

Dr. Thackeray, erstwhile Mr. Henry George's right hand in the United States, who is now a curate in South London, proposes to ask the coming Church Congress which will be held at Norwich, to assist in the formation of a Curates' Union. There is no doubt that Dr. Thackeray has a case, but he will find weak backing among the superior clergymen who hold fat fees and pay their curates starvation wages to do their work. The practical objects of the union proposed by Dr. Thackeray include the abolition of private patronage, no big prize offices, and the graduated taxation of clergymen's incomes when they amount to over £1,500. The risk of public ignominy may induce some of the church dignitaries to ostensibly approve of the proposal.

DISTINGUISHED PASSENGERS.

Among the saloon passengers sailing yesterday for New York are Sir Henry Irving and Ellen Terry. Sir Henry and Miss Terry were given an enthusiastic send-off by a large number of their friends and admirers. The mayor of Southampton, accompanied by the American consular officer, met Sir Henry at the ship's side and conversed with him for some time, after which they bade him God-speed. Crowds lined the quay and repeatedly cheered Sir Henry and his party. The latter received the mayor of Southampton in her stateroom and thanked him for the welcome that he had given her.

The Normanna took Gustave Amberg and Marie Durrant. Gustave goes to arrange a tour for the Schiller-see Company. Among the passengers on the Lahn are Joel B. Ehrhardt, Nat Goodwin, Florence Levy, the Rev. F. H. Moore and Dr. Gustave Seligman and wife.

SELLING ARMS TO SLAVE TRADERS.

A Berlin correspondent says: The charges recently made by the Etöle Belge, the organ of the Congo Government, against the German authorities and traders in the Congo region of assisting the sale of arms to slave dealers, met with an indignant denial by the Cologne Gazette. The denial elicited a reply from the Etöle Belge, which declared that proof existed that an English dealer named Stokes had sold all his stock of arms and other goods throughout the German possessions in Africa, the authorities of which territory had imposed a heavy duty upon the guns, etc. German agents worked with Stokes, who, the Etöle says, met his just fate, death. The North German Gazette, after making an explicit and emphatic denial of the assertions of the Etöle Belge, authorities were implicated in the sale of arms to Arabs and slave traders, proceeds to caution the Belgians against their summary execution of white men who were to be tried in court of justice instead of being left to the mercy of a high-handed official. The Gazette suggests that the Congo officials executed Stokes because he was their greatest competitor in the ivory trade, and adds that Germany's interest in the matter is increased by the fact that the Congo State seeks to extend its boundaries to the northeast, and declares that it is extremely doubtful whether or not it has a right to the coveted territory. The Congo State, the Gazette says, owes its existence to the good will of the powers, and that good will it cannot dispense with now. The significance of the utterances of the North German Gazette and the Cologne Gazette are due to indications of the rapid expansion of the German Empire in a common policy in regard to the hinterland against France and Belgium.

SEDAN DAY IN BERLIN.

The preparations for the celebration of Sedan day in Berlin are proceeding with feverish anxiety. The municipal authorities have voted the sum of 50,000 marks for decorating and illuminating the Schloss, which promises to present the grandest spectacle of the kind the capital has ever seen. All of the Government and municipal buildings will be adorned with designs in electric, gas and other lights, and thousands of workmen are busily engaged in arranging today. Crowds of people through the streets viewing the progress of the decorations, the principal centers of attraction to spectators being the Schloss, the Palace of Justice and the statue of Frederick the Great, the latter being covered with garlands of oak leaves, the chief features of which is their arrangement in various unique festoon devices. The appeal of Burgomaster Seelers to the inhabitants of Berlin to decorate their houses with flags, etc., has been responded to everywhere, with the result that the houses upon miles and miles of streets are displaying flags and garlands. Most of the houses have some forms of illumination. Bengal lights having been supplied through the authorities to inhabitants who were unable to buy them.

HEALEY'S AMBITION.

Isaac N. Ford cables from London to the New York Tribune: Mr. Healey's guerrilla warfare has been almost the only sign of political campaigning in one of the duller weeks ever known in Parliament. He has attempted to block supply and prolong the session. With Mr. McCarthy paired, Mr. Redmond silent, Mr. Dillon mildly disputa-

tious and Mr. Sexton absent, he has been battling for the Irish leadership, and has been resolutely supported by a group of followers who believe that a sham fight is better than no fight at all. He apparently set out with a determination to keep the House in session until the close of September, unless Mr. Balfour would make legislative concessions which would enable him to go back to Ireland and say that he had done something, when his colleagues were either sulking in their tents or skulking from the field. Mr. Balfour, after a short period of masterly inactivity, applied the closure mercilessly and secured on Wednesday night all the civil service votes, except the Irish, and the colonial and the post office, which were disposed of on the following days with the army and navy estimates.

The end of the session is now in sight, and cannot be deferred by Mr. Healey's ambition. He will go back to Ireland without having accomplished any practical result, but probably with increased prestige as a leader who never flinches when he has to fight. There has been distinct note of defiance in his policy of exasperation, and it is echoed by his Irish organ's contemptuous comments upon Mr. Plunkett's amiable but impracticable proposals for a conference of Irishmen of all parties and factions to agree upon non-partisan measures for the material progress of the island.

MCCARTHY'S SUCCESSOR.

The New York World correspondent cables: The majority of the Irish party, including a large proportion of the Healeys, regard the selection of Mr. Sexton as Mr. McCarthy's successor as the only escape from a split. Mr. Dillon would willingly accept Mr. Dillon, who is considered a capable and reliable man for the post, though Mr. Healey's superiority as a tactician, as a speaker, in political knowledge and in standing in the House of Commons, is unquestioned. But it is doubtful if Mr. Dillon would take the leadership except by an unanimous request. The outlook for the Irish party is very uncertain just now, unless some decision regarding the leadership in the Commons is reached.

FOOTBALL SCHISM.

The New York Sun's London correspondent says: The long threatened revolution in connection with England's national winter sport, Rugby football, has come at last, with the announcement of the formation of the Northern Union of Football Clubs. The trouble arose out of growing disposition of certain clubs affiliated with the famous Rugby Union to pay their best players, notwithstanding that Rugby football, unlike the association game, is confined to amateurs. Association football has for years been given over to purely professional players. The Rugby Union, in their resolution to keep their game from such contamination as betting and unfairness, went to the opposite extreme, and refused payment to regular players, even of out-of-pocket expenses. The formal decision of separation was done on Thursday night, when delegates representing 22 leading clubs of Yorkshire and Lancashire met at Uddersfield and constituted the Northern Union. Most of the players who have followed this dispute think the Rugby Union absurdly puritanical and behind the times.

THE CEREMONIES BEGIN.

The inaugural ceremonies of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the battle of Sedan, the final engagement of the Franco-Prussian war, took place at Berlin today. The programme in this included the inauguration of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. The church itself was completely covered with flags, flowers and garlands. Troops lined the roadway in front of the church, and the German-American detachment held a position around the porch commanding the entrance. Court Chaplain Faber delivered an address, sketching the life of William the Great, in which he praised that monarch's policy of peace and his simple-minded piety, his kindness and thoughtfulness for the lowest of his servants, and his sincere fear of God. Archbishop Müller preached a sermon from the text of the 26th Psalm. After the ceremonies at the church, the Emperor, the Empress and the rest of the royal party, preceded by Herr von Wedel, left the church by the center aisle, as they resolutely stopped while the bells rang. As they got outside the church the children, ranged on either side of the walk, sang "Wacht am Rhine." The soldiers, who had been stationed at various points in the vicinity of the church, headed by their bands of music, and with colors flying, passed behind the Emperor. The Emperor and Empress then entered their carriage and drove away amid the cheers of the assembled people.

The decorations of the houses along the principal streets showed that the citizens had combined their efforts to produce most startling effects. The effects were that there were long lines of evergreens, masses of flowers, a profusion of flags and banners. In the face of the universal jubilation the Socialist leaders persist in holding counter-meetings, which have been arranged for Sedan Day. It is probable that these meetings, if held, will result in disorder. Later it is proposed to hold a series of meetings for the purpose of declaring in favor of universal fraternity, and denouncing the memory of the late Emperor William.

A STOP-GAP SESSION.

Apart from Lord Lansdowne's explanations of the Government's policy of reorganizing the War Office on the general lines of the Hartington report, and Mr. Campbell-Bannerman's proposals, no important speech has been made from the Ministerial bench this week. The question hours have been filled with chatting badinage and evasive talk. The Government has had only one policy—that of securing the financial votes and postponing everything else until February. The Irish Secretary has had a chance to try his hand fencing with Mr. Healey and Mr. Dillon, and has revealed unexpected resources and skill in debate. Mr. Curzon is showing great ability. But reputations cannot be made in this stop-gap session, which is mainly useful in enabling the new members to learn when to take off hats, how to address the chair, and other small points in the etiquette of the Commons. The Opposition benches have been empty, the Liberals being indifferent to the

progress of estimates and financial routine. Sir Wm. Harcourt has been conferring with men of all factions in private, but has not taken any active part in the debates.

SIR CHARLES DILKE.

Sir Charles Dilke has been more active than any one else on the Liberal side. His influence is steadily increasing by virtue of his knowledge of foreign affairs, his ability in debate and his sympathy with the working classes. His most sanguine friends are forecasting prematurely to complete restoration to his political fortunes. He will undoubtedly exert great influence in the October conferences respecting the Liberal reorganization and policy. What will be the result of those conferences nobody is rash enough to predict, but a reasserting of the Liberal programme is more probable than a change in the leadership, although Mr. Labouchere has declared war to the knife against Lord Rosebery.

A SORRY SPECTACLE.

The spectacle now witnessed at Westminster is unworthy of the splendid traditions of that historic place. The party in power, although supported by a great majority, deliberately evades the responsibility of dealing with public questions of supreme importance and is content to put money into the public purse and force an early adjournment. The Liberal Opposition has almost ceased to exist as an organized body and is honeycombed with intrigue. The benches are vacant and the leaders are silent, listless and indifferent to what is going on. The functions of a vigilant and energetic Opposition have always been regarded as essential to the maintenance of good government under a double party system, but these have been virtually suspended. Mr. Healey's line of skulking and evasion has been followed by Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Parnell have been the champions, and the Irish members are convulsed with merriment when the ambitious leader of a faction threatens to devote his energies to the politics of Mekong or Macedonia, or when Dr. Tanner assumes a tragic air and then follows it with a but impracticable proposal. In these proceedings the impartial observer with the dignity of responsible, representative government. It is well for Mr. Gladstone's peace of mind that he is not compelled to witness these scenes. He is happier at Drayton Manor looking back 60 years and recalling Sir Robert Peel.

FORGOTTEN PLEDGES.

Mr. Chamberlain has lost sight temporarily of his scheme of old age pensions, and also of his project for giving through the local authorities to the poor laborers to own their own homes. Whether these pre-election pledges will ever be redeemed it is now idle to forecast. Lord George Hamilton has come very near revealing his own opinion on the question of the repeal of the Indian cotton duties. Mr. Balfour has repeated his expression indicating a lack of faith in the possibility of an international agreement on the currency question in existing conditions, and thereby has discouraged bimetalists. In Lancashire and elsewhere Mr. Chaplin has discussed the agricultural distress, but has been able to meet the general demand for relief measures only by a vague assurance that the Government may some day do something helpful.

The subject of prison made carpets imported from India has come up in the Commons, but the inquisitive objector has only been referred to the Board of Trade for information. Members of the Government take less interest in these matters now than they did when they were making campaign speeches.

CHAMBERLAIN'S POLICY.

Mr. Chamberlain has not been a conspicuous figure during the week. He has something to say about Cyprus, asserting that the occupation had been a good bargain for France if not for England, and that the island needed roads and irrigation works, and adding that he should certainly ask the House for necessary supplies if he were in power. He has also been asked to assist the Imperial Government in making these improvements satisfactory terms could be secured for the British taxpayer. That is the motive of his new colonial policy, so far as he has disclosed it. Imperial investments for the development of the neglected estates of the realm and the promotion of the interests of British commerce. The German journals have never taken much notice of Mr. Chamberlain. They are now commenting upon the significance of his recent utterances and predicting that his policy will lead to the African colonies and favor opening them up by means of railways subsidized by the State. The North German Gazette remarks that the new and interesting policy of Mr. Chamberlain in colonial matters can be permitted from a certain point of view so long as it restricts itself to its own legitimate sphere. This semi-official utterance means that Germany is at liberty to round out its African empire so long as the circle of annexations does not intersect the German sphere.

NOTES.

Sir Joseph Reynolds, the lord mayor of London, is about to visit Paris. While there he will invite M. Felix Faure, President of the French Republic, to a banquet to be given by the corporation of London.

W. S. Gilbert has sent the completed libretto of a new opera to Sir Arthur Sullivan. Until a vote is given by the corporation of London, the music for the new work.

Ex-Mayor Hopkins, of Chicago, is making a tour of Ireland. Herr Henschel, formerly a Jesuit priest, but recently a convert to Protestantism, was married on Saturday to Fraulein Lettau, daughter of the President of the Berlin Court of Appeal.

The decorations of the houses along the principal streets showed that the citizens had combined their efforts to produce most startling effects. The effects were that there were long lines of evergreens, masses of flowers, a profusion of flags and banners. In the face of the universal jubilation the Socialist leaders persist in holding counter-meetings, which have been arranged for Sedan Day. It is probable that these meetings, if held, will result in disorder. Later it is proposed to hold a series of meetings for the purpose of declaring in favor of universal fraternity, and denouncing the memory of the late Emperor William.

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Toronto, Industrial.....	Sept. 12-14
St. Thomas, Southern Counties.....	Sept. 12-14
St. Thomas, Eastern.....	Sept. 12-14
Wellesley.....	Sept. 17-18
Owen Sound, North Grey.....	Sept. 17-19
Guelph, Central.....	Sept. 17-19
Tavistock, Zorra and Easthope.....	Sept. 22-24
Exeter, South Huron.....	Sept. 23-24
Palmerton, Horticultural.....	Sept. 23-24
Zarich, Hay.....	Sept. 23-25
St. Catharines, Union.....	Sept. 23-25
West Middlesex, Strathroy.....	Sept. 23-25
Milverton, Mornington.....	Sept. 24-25
Paisley, Centre Bruce.....	Sept. 24-25
Cayuga, Haldimand.....	Sept. 24-25
Berlin, North Waterloo.....	Sept. 24-25
Wingham, Turnberry.....	Sept. 24-25
Chatham, Fenelon.....	Sept. 24-25
Woodstock, North Oxford.....	Sept. 25-26
St. Marys, South Perth.....	Sept. 24-25
Clinton.....	Sept. 25-26
Warton, Annapolis and Albemarle.....	Sept. 25-26
Leamington, Mersea.....	Sept. 25-27
Stratford, North Perth.....	Sept. 25-27
Alisa Craig, Northern.....	Sept. 25-27
Mosa and Ekfrid, Glencoe.....	Sept. 25-27
Brussels, East Huron.....	Sept. 25-27
Scarboro, Tuckersmith.....	Sept. 25-27
Wyoming, Vienna.....	Sept. 27
Police Island.....	Oct. 1
Tara, Arran-Tara.....	Oct. 1-2
Kincardine.....	Oct. 1-2
Jarvis, Walpole.....	Oct. 1-2
Granton, Biddulph.....	Oct. 1-2
Mitchell.....	Oct. 1-2
Forest, Union.....	Oct. 1-2
Thamesville.....	Oct. 1-2
Paris, North Brant.....	Oct. 1-2
Windsor, Huron.....	Oct. 1-2
Warkenton, Northern.....	Oct. 1-3
Godolph, Great Northwestern.....	Oct. 1-3
Hamilton, Centre.....	Oct. 1-3
Essex, Great Northwestern.....	Oct. 1-3
Alvinston.....	Oct. 1-3
Kirkton.....	Oct. 1-3
Stewart, North Simcoe.....	Oct. 2-4
Westminster Ag. Soc. Lambeth.....	Oct. 3
Kilnoss Branch Ag. Society, Lucknow.....	Oct. 3-4
Alisa Craig, Northern.....	Oct. 3-4
Fergus, Centre Wellington.....	Oct. 3-4
Galt, South Waterloo.....	Oct. 3-4
Waterford, Townsend.....	Oct. 3-4
Bethwell, Zone and Bothwell.....	Oct. 3-4
Aberfoyle, Pushtich.....	Oct. 4
Guernsey, South Dorchester.....	Oct. 4-5
Springfield, South Dorchester.....	Oct. 4-5
Staffa, Hibernia.....	Oct. 7-8
Ridgeway, Howard Bruce.....	Oct. 7-9
Kintore, East Nisour.....	Oct. 8
Tilsonburg, Bereham.....	Oct. 8-9
Camden, Mount Bedford.....	Oct. 9
London Township, Elderton.....	Oct. 9
Dresden.....	Oct. 9-10
Windsor, Horticultural.....	Oct. 9-10
Chippewa Indian Ag. Soc. Carleton Place.....	Oct. 9-10
Comber, Tilbury W. and N.....	Oct. 9-10
Thorndale, West Nisour.....	Oct. 9-10
Burford, Burford.....	Oct. 10-11
Port Elgin, North Bruce.....	Oct. 10-11
Rockwood, Kramosa.....	Oct. 10-11
Caledonia.....	Oct. 10-11
Agricultural Society, Delaware.....	Oct. 10-15
Sincoe, Norfolk Union.....	Oct. 15-16
Hartford, Colchester South.....	Oct. 15-16
Orford.....	Oct. 17-18
Erin.....	Oct. 22-23

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