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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

English advises under date of 5th August that the Imperial Parliament was prorogued on the 4th by Royal Commission. The following is the Queen's Speech read on the occasion:—

My Lords and Gentlemen.—I am now released from the necessity of calling upon you for the further prosecution of your arduous occupations. In bidding you farewell, for a recess, I make it my first duty to thank you for the loyal promptitude with which you have made further provision for my son, the Duke of Edinburgh, on the occasion of his approaching marriage. This marriage will, I trust, form a new tie of amity between the two Empires.

The best relations continue to subsist between myself and foreign powers. I am able to announce the successful termination of the mission to Zanibar. Treaties have been concluded with the Sultan of Muscat and other native powers, which will provide means for the more effectual repression of the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa.

I have been able to bring to a satisfactory issue commercial negotiations with France in which my Government has been engaged, under the provisions of an instrument signed on the 23rd of July, and awaiting ratification. The treaties of 1869 were again put in force with a comprehensive engagement contracted between the two countries for mutual treatment, on a footing of the most favourable nature, and the deferential tax on shipping under the British flag is removed. There are separate provisions in the treaty for an adjustment of the question of duties on mineral oils, and for the general relief and extension of trade.

I have likewise concluded treaties of extradition with Italy, Denmark, Sweden and Brazil. The ratification of the treaties with the two last named powers has not yet been exchanged, but I anticipate no difficulty in this final step.

I am engaged in negotiation for agreements of a similar character with the other States, both in Europe and beyond.

I am still occupied in giving effect to those

provisions in the Treaty of Washington which relate to British claims against the United States, and to the interests of my possessions in North America.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons;

I am deeply sensible of the liberality with which you have provided for various charges of the State, and likewise enabled me promptly to meet the obligations imposed upon me by the award of the arbitrators at Geneva during the past year.

My Lords and Gentlemen;—I have observed with satisfaction the progress you have been enabled to make in the remission of public burdens by reducing both the sugar duties and income tax to points lower than any at which they previously stood.

The establishment of a Supreme Court of judicature, by which the records of your proceedings have been distinguished, will be found as I hope, to confer corresponding benefits on the country in a more cheap, certain, expeditious, and effectual administration of justice.

The Acts for an amendment of the Education Act of 1870, and of the endowed schools act of 1869, will, as I trust, tend to accelerate the attainment of solid national advantages through the extension of education in the middle and most numerous classes of the community.

The Act relating to the regulation of railways and canals promises to conduce to a more harmonious working of the railways system of the country.

I have with pleasure assented to the Act relating to the merchant shipping, from which, and from the labours of the commission recently appointed, I hope for a diminution of the wrecks to which the sea-faring population are exposed.

The revenue has up to this time fully answered expectations and although activity in trade in some of its branches may have been somewhat restrained by a variety of causes the general condition of the people continues to exhibit evidences of improvement. These and all mercies of a Divine Providence, will, I trust, find a suitable acknowledgment alike in our works and hearts.

Mr. Wm. E. Baxter, Joint Secretary of the Treasury, has resigned that office.

A London special says the Conservatives have won a triumph at Greenwich by electing Mr. Boord, a London distiller, to Parliament, *vice* Sir David Salomons, deceased.

It is stated, on good authority, that Mr. Gladstone will not seek re-election, but contemplates retiring to private life.

John Lathrop Motley, ex-United States Minister to Vienna, has been stricken with apoplexy. The disease deprives him of the use of one side of his body.

Mr. Motley has been obliged, by his illness, to decline the invitation of the Queen of Holland to take up his residence in the Royal Palace.

The election to fill the vacancy from East Staffordshire, took place to-day, 6th August. The result is not yet known here. Betting was strongly in favour of the Conservative candidate, Mr. Allsopp, the well known brewer.

A dreadful accident occurred this morning, 2nd August, on the North Western Railway near Wigan, to the Scotch tourist express train from London. Twelve persons were instantly killed, and thirty wounded. Among the killed is Sir John Anson. Many of the injured will die.

A duel was fought to-day (August 6th) between M. Herve, editor of the *Journal de Paris*, and M. About, the well known author and journalist. The latter was slightly in the right hand.

The *Provincial Correspondent* affirms that the recall of Captain Werner settles the difficulty arising from the capture of the *Vigilante*. The sanction of his act would have been an implied recognition of the Spanish republic by Germany. A court-martial will be held in the case.

Emigration from Russia to America is increasing. Four hundred Russians sailed to-day in one steamer. The movement threatens to depopulate some districts in Russia.

A statement of the Minister of France shows a great increase in the number of vessels engaged in commerce between Italy and the United States.

The International Patent Rights Congress is in session here. One of its first acts was to resolve that the common protection of inventions should be granted by the laws of all civilized countries.