

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT BY COUNT KALNOKY.

THE BULGARIAN CROWN.

[Reuter's Telegrams.]

PESTH, November 13.—In to-day's sitting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Delegation, Count Kalnoky made his expected statement regarding Bulgaria. The Ministry commenced by declaring that in the treatment of the Bulgarian question a distinction must be made between the interests of the Principality and those of Europe. Austria-Hungary's interests lay in questions of principle, and Hungary's interests in the rights secured by existing treaties. It was immaterial how the internal policy of Bulgaria was carried on as long as no essential point was effected. The main point was that the scope of the rights accorded by the Berlin Treaty should remain untouched. "Bulgaria," proceeded Count Kalnoky, "was created as an autonomous principality, and as a vassal State of Turkey, and this fact is guaranteed by treaties. Although no Power has undertaken the responsibility of securing the execution of this guarantee, the arduous and important duty rests upon the Powers, including Austria-Hungary, to see that this fundamental principle of Bulgaria's existence is not infringed, either in the principality or elsewhere. The most difficult task for the Government is, however, to avoid taking action during a momentary excitement." Count Kalnoky then referred to the mission of General Kaulbars, which he characterised as merely a phase of the Bulgarian question, and one the importance of which had been greatly over-estimated. As a matter of fact, nothing had been accomplished by the action of the general which could exercise a decided influence upon the political existence of Bulgaria. He succeeded, indeed, in making Russian influence felt there in the most disagreeable form; but he also called forth the sympathetic feelings of Europe for the Bulgarian people in a manner never before known. "It is to Austria-Hungary's interest," continued the Minister, "that no steps of an injurious character, and at variance with existing treaties, should be taken, and that the independence of the country, as guaranteed by Europe, should remain unassailed. General Kaulbars's mission is only of a passing character, and will hardly leave lasting traces behind it. We must be prepared to overcome greater difficulties, and for the prospect of a wearying and difficult task; and it is therefore advisable to follow with steady attention, but at the same time with patience and care, the course of events in the Principality." Count Kalnoky added that the general aims of Austro-Hungarian policy were contained in M. Tisza's declarations before the Delegations, in which they were clearly and positively set forth. These aims were not based solely upon the present crisis, but rested on principles on which the whole peace of the East was built up, and they would, therefore, for a long time continue to govern Austro-Hungarian policy in that quarter. "As long as the Berlin Treaty exists," said Count Kalnoky, "the interests of Austria-Hungary will remain perfectly secure; and, for this reason, should we find ourselves compelled to interfere for the protection of the Treaty, the sympathy and co-operation of all those Powers who are resolved to uphold European treaties would be assured. As long as her ends can be reached by the path of friendship, Austria-Hungary will not forsake that way. She must avoid taking up a threatening attitude without the most positive necessity; but as long as her good relations with the Powers continue she must endeavour to command respect for her counsels." Count Kalnoky then proceeded:—"Last year I stated that the union of Bulgaria and Roumelia was not contrary to our interests, and that Turkey had neglected to restore in Roumelia the authority guaranteed to her by the Berlin Treaty. Had Russia, however, attempted to take advantage of the union to send a commissioner to Bulgaria to seize the reins of government, and had she taken steps for the occupation of the ports or the country generally, we should under any circumstances have taken a decision; but the Government thought it more important to prevent such acts, and therefore worked in that direction. I think it necessary that it should appear from the proceedings of the Delegations that there is nobody in this monarchy desiring war. We all desire peace, although certainly not at any price." Count Kalnoky combated the opinion expressed in some quarters that Hungary entertained Chauvinist or aggressive tendencies. The proceedings of General Kaulbars had excited a certain amount of irritation and impatience, as well as the opinion—notably in Germany—that Hungary desired war. This view was, however, completely erroneous. Count Kalnoky then referred in detail to the excellent relations existing between Austria-Hungary and the various Powers, and expressed the belief that Austria enjoyed abroad a great degree of confidence, which corresponded to her authority and dignity, and which had been strengthened by the clear and unselfish policy so plainly expounded by M. Tisza in his declaration to the Delegations. This programme could but meet with approval from all the European Powers, and no objection could possibly be raised against the correctness of the fundamental principles explained by M. Tisza. The Minister also expressed the conviction that, should it come about that Austria was compelled to interfere in a decisive manner in the East, this programme would find friends and supporters. "Our relations with Germany," he continued, "have perhaps been referred to lately more than was advisable, and I therefore consider it would be well to make a few remarks on this subject. A mass of conjectures have lately been put forth as to how far our friendship with Germany would be practical and serviceable, and whether, under certain eventualities, the one country could count upon the other. It is only natural that two great States of such extent should have also some interests not common to both, and which lie without the sphere of interest of the other. There are no obligations to protect these interests. It is incredible that one State could pledge itself, without renouncing its independence, to support every interest of its ally. Of course, the nature of the affair lies in the conscience of the one State that independent action is alone of primary importance for its own interests. Relations such as exist between Austria-Hungary and Germany are then only called into practical force when the absolutely united interests of both countries are concerned. From this point of view, it is of small importance how the relations of the two countries are regarded. It is not words or letters but mutual interests which form the strongest foundations. The continuance of each country as a strong and independent Power forms for both an important interest. In the present state of Europe Germany's position without the powerful Austria-Hungary at her side is scarcely conceivable. It is, therefore, greatly to our interest for Germany to continue near us as a strong Power. In this sense the community of the position of Germany and Austria-Hungary is as unshakable as if it were based only on the clauses of treaties. The German Government made no secret of the fact that it was interested in Bulgaria only so far as that country was connected with peace in the East, and in Europe generally, and many statements have been made in Parliament to that effect. Besides, Prince Bismarck has always adhered to this view in the Eastern question. Germany, moreover, has declared that she has no interests to defend in Bulgaria, and hence Prince Bismarck, not for the sake of Bulgaria, or in consequence of the wishes of any one Power, but to preserve peace, made his advice and mediation felt, and in the most loyal and advantageous way for the peace of the world and for our own interests. On this point there exists between the two Cabinets not the slightest want of harmony, and only the most friendly and trusting sentiments."

Turning next to Austria's position towards other countries, Count Kalnoky said: "Our relations towards the other Powers are excellent, and I hope I may say with satisfaction that with the Russian Cabinet also the most satisfactory understanding and friendly relations continue. Both Governments are in a position to express themselves openly, and in the most friendly manner, regarding any matter on which they may differ, and, in spite of all the disquieting incidents which have occurred, I count upon the Czar, who is certainly in a position to exercise influence in favour of a peaceful solution. Our relations with England are at present of special interest, and I attach much value to the declarations of English statesmen in the present question, since they show that through the wholesome effect of public opinion a profitable change of views has taken place. English statesmen attach more and more importance to convincing Europe that the continuity of English policy is assured. The identical views held in England on the important European questions now under discussion, and the wish for the maintenance of peace, permit us to hope that England will also join us if necessary."

In regard to Italy, Count Kalnoky called attention to the friendly relations existing with that country, and admitted the importance of Italian interests as a Mediterranean Power who could not see unmoved a change in the balance of power in the East. Italy also felt the importance of guaranteeing the interests of Europe in the East, and hoped that the existing political understanding might be maintained for the benefit of their mutual interests. In conclusion, the Minister pointed out that, as far as Russia was concerned, in all her declarations she promised to uphold all existing treaties, and declared that she had no idea either of diminishing the autonomy of Bulgaria or of altering its international relations, and, moreover, would never undertake the latter task without the co-operation of the Powers. He therefore hoped that the present crisis would be solved in furtherance of the general peace of Europe and of Austria-Hungary. The Minister resumed his seat amid loud cheers from all parts of the House. Count Andrassy then rose, and declared that it was the general opinion of the House that no sensible man in Hungary desired war, but rather peace, as long as it could be maintained without prejudice to the national honour.

The debate on Count Kalnoky's statement is fixed for the 16th inst.

TIROVA, November 13.—The King of Denmark has replied to the Bulgarian Regents by declining, on behalf of his son, Prince Waldemar, the crown of Bulgaria. His Majesty states that in present circumstances he cannot authorise his son to accept the proffered honour.

1 p.m.—At to-day's sitting of the Sobranje Prince Waldemar's answer to the telegram announcing his election as Prince of Bulgaria was read, as well as the subsequent telegram to the King of Denmark, and the latter's reply. The House then proceeded to consider the advisability of accepting M. Karaveloff's resignation, and subsequently discussed the resignations of M. Stamboloff and Colonel Mutkuroff. After a long debate M. Karaveloff's

resignation was accepted; but the Chamber decided not to agree to the retirement of the other Regents. M. Zivkoff was then elected as the third Regent, in place of M. Karaveloff. A deputation was appointed, composed of M. Stoiloff, Minister of Justice, M. Grekoff, the Bulgarian delegate now in Constantinople, and M. Kaitcheff, a member of the Chamber, to proceed to the European Courts and explain the situation of affairs in the country. The House then adjourned. Most of the Ministers will leave to-day for Sofia, and the Vice-consuls will follow to-morrow.

VIENNA, November 13.—A despatch from St. Petersburg published to-day by the *Political Correspondence* states that the personality of the new Prince of Bulgaria is of little consequence to Russia, the main point being to render it possible for the new prince to maintain himself on the throne. The despatch proceeds to state that the difficulty of the situation lies in the anomaly of the relations of the Principality to Eastern Roumelia. The union cannot be repealed, but must, on the contrary, be extended beyond the stipulated term of five years. The best means to that end, it is added, would be to entrust the revision of the organic statute to an International Commission similar to that appointed for the settlement of the Lebanon question.—The candidature of Prince Waldemar has been very well received by the majority of the Powers, while that of the Prince of Mingrelia meets with but little support.—The *Political Correspondence* publishes a telegram from Tirnova stating that Prince Waldemar's refusal of the Bulgarian crown has caused a feeling of depression and irritation, which was especially noticeable at to-day's sitting of the Sobranje, the deputies being weary of the continued state of uncertainty. The Sobranje accepted the resignation of M. Karaveloff, and passed a severe censure upon his conduct, declaring that he had first betrayed Prince Alexander and then Bulgaria. M. Shivcoff, President of the Sobranje, was elected Regent in his place. The journal also states that a cavass of the Russian consulate at Philippopolis, who recently endeavoured to provoke a gendarme in that city by pointing a revolver at him, was immediately disarmed and handed over to the Russian Consul. General Kaulbars had in consequence requested the Prefect of Philippopolis to dismiss the Commissary of Police.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 13.—Up to the present the Porte has had no official conferences with Sir William White either upon the Bulgarian question or regarding the return of Russia. There is no foundation for the report that the Porte is preparing a fresh circular to the Powers regarding the Bulgarian question. M. Grekoff, the Bulgarian delegate, will leave here on his return to Sofia on Monday or Tuesday week. Madjid Pacha, who has been taking the waters in Bohemia, has been granted permission to return to Constantinople.

OCTOBER 14.—The Ottoman Government has received Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha's report. Said Pacha called yesterday evening upon Sir William White, and had a long interview with his Excellency upon the Bulgarian question, in which the Porte is understood to have resolved to maintain an attitude of observation since the arrival of Sir White. Communications between the Porte and the British Embassy have become more frequent.

ENGLAND AND EGYPT.

SIR H. D. WOLFF SUMMONED TO LONDON.

[Reuter's Telegrams.]

CAIRO, November 13.—Sir H. Drummond Wolff has been summoned to London, and will start on Tuesday next, accompanied by Mr. R. H. Walpole, his attaché, travelling via Marseilles. Mr. Cartwright will remain here in charge of the archives of the Mission. It is not believed that it journey has any special political significance, or that it indicates any change of policy or the conclusion of a new treaty, its sole object being, it is understood, to enable the High Commissioner to confer with the British Government. Sir Drummond expects that his absence from Egypt will not be of long duration.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 13.—Sir William White, Said Pacha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Kiamil Pacha, the Grand Vizier, have already had several private conferences regarding the Egyptian question, but the formal negotiations between the British Ambassador and the Porte will not commence until next week. Pending the arrival of Moukhtar Pacha's report, the previous report of the Turkish Commissioner will serve as a basis for the negotiations. The Ottoman Government is desirous that Sir William White should first make proposals, after which Moukhtar Pacha will be consulted.

The Press Association is officially informed that Sir H. Drummond Wolff is coming home on a short leave of absence to report personally to her Majesty's Government on the progress of his mission, and to confer with them respecting the negotiations which he is carrying on with the Turkish Commissioners in Egypt.

CAIRO, November 14.—A long report from Sir E. Baring upon the Egyptian financial situation will be despatched to London by to-morrow's mail. It makes, however, no proposals, leaving to her Majesty's Government to decide whether it is possible to continue the payment of the coupon without deduction.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

THE BELFAST RIOTS.

Four men charged with taking part in wrecking Duffy's public-house, during the June riots in Belfast, were returned for trial on Saturday. Two men were remanded, charged with shooting a man named Devlin, in Ann Street, Belfast.

THE LAND QUESTION.

The Earl of Dunraven has offered his tenants abatement varying from 15 to 25 per cent. They, however, demand 30, and if not granted will consider the plan recommended by *United Ireland*.

The Marchioness de la Rocella has given her tenants the option of purchasing their holdings.

THE SHOOTING OF MR. KELLY.

A partially-successful operation has been performed on Mr. Kelly, the land agent, of Firgrove, who was shot on the way home from Ennis. The bullet remains embedded in the back, though a portion of the shirting has been extracted. The doctors do not anticipate a fatal termination.

A LAND LEAGUE SECRETARY FINED.

Maurice Murphy, secretary to the Listowel branch of the National League and Sandes Tenants Defence Association, was fined 10s. at Listowel, on Saturday, for assaulting a man named Breunan, who had called him a house-renter, he having taken a house from which Breunan had recently been evicted. Murphy was fined an additional 10s. for contempt of court by interrupting the magistrate.

Mr. Illingworth, M.P., speaking at the opening of the Liberal Club, Gomersal, near Leeds, on Saturday, said the union existing between England and Ireland could only be made secure by giving self-government to the Irish people.

TERRIBLE GUN ACCIDENTS.

LORD ABERDARE SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Lord Aberdare, whilst out with a shooting party at Llwynmadoc, on Saturday, met with a serious accident. His gun exploded, mutilating his right hand, and necessitating the amputation of one of his fingers. According to the latest medical report is lordship is doing well. A Merthyr correspondent telegraphs:—"As far as it is at present known it seems that Lord Aberdare, who left Duffryn, near Mountain Ash, on Friday, was on a visit with his eldest daughter, Miss Bruce, at Llwynmadoc, about six miles from Builth, Breconshire. He went out shooting on Saturday morning, and his gun exploded in his hand. No direct intimation of the accident was received by Lady Aberdare, but Dr. Evans was telegraphed for by a former assistant of his who lives in the locality, and who telegraphed that his lordship had dreadfully mutilated his hand. Her ladyship was communicated with, and she posted to Merthyr with Miss Pamela Bruce and a medical man, in order to take the train on to Brecon Railway Station, the nearest point to the accident." A subsequent telegram states that "doctors have gone on from Builth to attend his lordship."

Mr. Samuel Churchward, the principal of a well-known firm of woollen manufacturers, at Buckfastleigh, Devon, went out shooting on Saturday, on some land in his occupation. He did not return, and in the evening search was made for him. At about two o'clock yesterday morning his body was found lying near a hedge. The upper portion of his head was blown away, and his brains scattered. It is surmised that in getting over the hedge his gun was accidentally discharged, and death appeared to have taken place twelve hours before the body was discovered.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER IN LAMBETH.

As two men were passing through Tyer Street, Vauxhall, about nine o'clock on Friday night, they saw a man opening a first-floor window, and leaning his head out, deliberately draw a clasp-knife across his throat. The men raised an alarm, and, having gained an entrance, went to the room. There they found a woman lying on the floor in a pool of blood, and the man with his head hanging out of the window with his throat fearfully cut. The police having arrived, the man, who it appears was a labourer named Sharpe, was removed to St. Thomas's Hospital, where it was found that his windpipe was almost severed. The woman, Mrs. Sharpe, had a number of wounds about the face and head, besides having her hands severely lacerated. She was taken to the hospital, but was able to return home after her injuries had been attended to. She says that her husband, after returning home last night, accused her of infidelity, and, having written some words on an envelope, attacked her with a knife, and in her attempt to save herself her hands were cut. Her husband then put his head out of the window, and she remembered no more. The envelope was found, and on it were written the following words:—"This is to say the man who has taken my wife is a stock and share broker, King William Street, City, who is a married man. My life is insured in the Prudential." The couple have been married about six years, and have lived very unhappily. Sharpe is not expected to recover.

KIDDERMINSTER.

ASSAULTING THE POLICE.—At the Police Court, on Saturday—before Messrs. T. Tempest-Radford (the Mayor) and J. J. Harvey—James Meakin and Charles Gorman were brought up for drunkenness and assaulting the police.—Police-constable Gunthorpe found Meakin in a drunken state in the streets on Friday afternoon, and arrested him. Meakin assaulted him, and behaved in a rough manner. Police-constable Wagstaff came to the other officer's assistance, and while on the way to the police-station Gorman came up. He was intoxicated, and flourished a reaping-hook over Gunthorpe's head, and Wagstaff wrested the implement from him.—The Bench sentenced the first-named prisoner to six weeks' hard labour, and Gorman to fourteen days. They told the former that he had annually appeared before the Bench since the year 1876, with the exception only of 1884.

Best Cooking Range is "The Kenilworth," made by the Griffin Foundry Co. Can be seen at work at Show Rooms, Stephenson Street (near New Street Station), Birmingham. Marble Chimney-pieces, Minton Tiles, Grates, &c., at low prices. 27
To Working Men.—Lodgings, cheap, clean, and comfortable, may always be found at the Model Lodging House, opposite the General Hospital, in Summer Lane, N.B.—A night porter. 25