

in hand, a reconciliation was effected. Then a fresh dispute arose between Signor San Malato, one of the principals, a noted fencer, and Signor Basilone, one of the seconds, with the result that a second duel was arranged between them, to continue until one of them was incapacitated. The weapons were to be pistols. Both parties, though famed as fencers, proved very bad shots, for at 65ft distance forty-one shots were exchanged without the shedding of blood. At the forty-second shot, however, San Malato grazed his opponent's cheek, making a slight abrasion. The seconds then intervened, honor was declared satisfied, and the duellists embraced each other amid, the report says, a touching scene. Both combatants were congratulated upon their coolness under this hail of bullets. The affair lasted exactly three hours and a half.

It reminds one of the big noise and the little harm that resulted from the use of lyddite in the South African War, or from the terrific bombardment of Matanzas in the Spanish-American struggle. The net result of the thunderous onslaught of the American fleet on the little Cuban town was (according to report) the docking of a war-mule's tail. The Neapolitan affair likewise recalls, by an easier and more direct association of ideas, the famous duel between Mr. Bray and Mr. Clay.

'In Brentford town, of old renown',

When the duellists 'took their stands',

'Fear made them tremble so, they found
They both were shaking hands'.

The result was a compromise. Said Mr. Clay to Mr. Bray:—

'I do confess I did attach
Misconduct to your name;
If I withdraw the charge, will then
Your ramrod do the same?

'Said Mr. B., I do agree—
But think of Honor's Courts!
If we go off without a shot,
There will be strange reports'.

They therefore agreed 'to aim above', as if they 'had called out the sun'.

'So up into the harmless air
Their bullets they did send;
And may all other duels have
'That upshot in the end!'

For all the harm the Neapolitan duellists did, they might as well have begun and ended their fight, as did the duellists of Brentford, by firing 'up into the harmless air'. Unhappily, all duels on the Continent have not such an innocuous 'upshot in the end'. The spread of the (Catholic) Anti-Duelling League will, we hope, mend, and even at last end, in Continental countries, a form of folly that has thus far been there 'proof and bulwark against sense'.

Dear Food

It tends to make us resigned to our ills if we know that many others are in just as evil case. And the all-round rise in the price of food-stuffs is not an experience peculiar to Australia and New Zealand; it seems to have circled the globe. Whether this arises from an appreciation of food, or a depreciation of coin-metal, or both, we leave economists to decide. The Boston 'Pilot', in the latest issue to hand, quotes two bulletins of the United States Bureau of Labor, of the Department of Commerce and Labor statistics, that show a marked increase in the cost of living in the years 1905 and 1906, as compared with the ten-year period 1890-99. In the first of these two bulletins wholesale prices of 258 articles of common consumption were tabulated for sixteen years, with the following result:—

'The 1905 average, contrasted with the year of lowest average prices during the sixteen years from 1890 to 1905, in each of the general groups of commodi-

ties, shows farm products 58.6 per cent. higher than in 1896; food, etc., 29.7 per cent. higher than in 1896; clothes and clothing, 22.9 higher than in 1897; fuel and lighting, 39.4 per cent. higher than in 1894; metals and implements, 41.8 per cent. higher than in 1898; lumber and building materials, 41.4 per cent. higher than in 1897; drugs and chemicals, 24.1 per cent. higher than in 1895; house furnishing goods, 21.5 higher than in 1897, and the materials included in the miscellaneous group, 23.4 higher than in 1896.'

'Summing up these statistics', says the 'Pilot', 'it is seen that the average cost of these articles was 15.9 per cent. higher than the average for the ten year period.' We are told, on the testimony of the second bulletin, that 'the average for 1906 was 5.6 per cent. above that for the preceding year; 36.5 per cent. higher than in 1897, the year of lowest prices since 1890, and 22.4 per cent. higher than for the decade from 1890 to 1899. The highest point attained since 1800 was reached in the last month of last year, when the average was 4.1 per cent. higher than for the year and 6.3 above the average for the same month in 1905. Out of the nine groups into which the 258 commodities were divided, only two showed a decrease as against 1905, farm products and drugs and chemicals.'

'Irish Outrages': XVII 'Faking' and Exaggeration(8)

The dignity of a submarine cable report was also accorded to a statement made by another Tory placeman, Mr. Justice Ross, on May 17, 1907, to the effect that at the time a 'widespread and audacious conspiracy' was 'rampant in the West of Ireland.' A circumstance that the cable-agent failed to say was this: that (as the 'Glasgow Observer' of June 7, 1907, remarks) Mr. Justice Ross 'had no criminal cases before him upon which to rest his dictum', as his statement was 'made in the Land Court'. We may here add that such agrarian trouble as existed in Ireland at the time was confined to the areas which were being impoverished and depopulated by the ranching system. Of the which, more will be said in the course of the present chapter. On May 15, 1907, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman referred to these areas in the course of a speech as follows:—

'He was not aware that there was any foundation for the suggestion that there was an increasing number of outrages throughout the South and West of Ireland. The Chief Secretary informed him that the condition of Ireland, as a whole, was very satisfactory, though in certain limited areas disturbances had recently taken place.'

A vague and general charge of widespread and 'savage boycotting' was made in the House of Commons some three months earlier—in February, 1907, by Mr. Walter Long. Chief Secretary Mr. Birrell described the statement as 'a shocking misrepresentation'. He appealed to the police returns to show that serious boycotting was limited to a score of cases; and (added he), as to 'exclusive dealing and "cutting" people', knowing what Nonconformists had to put up with in English village life, the English records of such incidents would be very formidable ('Weekly Freeman', February 23, 1907). A more detailed story of boycotting was told by an Ulster Orange member, Captain Craig, in the customary form of a question, in the House of Commons on July 3, 1907. He asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland:—

'How many persons in the neighborhood of Dromahair, County Leitrim, are boycotted; how many miles have they to travel to obtain the bare necessities of life, have their horses shod, and dispose of their stock; can he give the reasons why they are boycotted, and state the number of police employed for their protection.'

The writer of an article in the 'Weekly Freeman' of August 3, 1907, states that 'a crowded House of Commons' awaited the answer to this series of charges

A NEVER-FAILING Success! HONDAI LANKA TEA is uniform in Quality, Healthful, Delicious, and Economical. Test it!

LOST Opportunities! Indifferent Blends are but poor substitutes for the fragrant, rich HONDAI LANKA Ceylon Tea.