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## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At Tuesday's sitting, during the discussion of the Budget, the Opposition moved an amendment in which the necessity was pointed out of procuring a broader basis of taxation. The discussion turned for the most part on the question of preferential treatment of the Colonies.

Mr. Balfour said that heavier taxation could not finally be avoided, and they ought in this connection to meet the wishes of the Colonies as far as possible. In any case, the new situation created by the repeatedly expressed wish of the Colonies must not be disregarded.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. H. Asquith, laid stress on the impossibility of coming to an agreement as to preferential treatment of the Colonies on the basis of existing taxation, and said that Great Britain could only grant effectual preferential treatment if she introduced preferential tariffs on foreign food-stuffs and raw materials. The British electorate had, however, by an unexampled majority, declared itself against any alteration of the tariff system. The Colonial Prime Ministers had made their position very clear at the Conference, and so had the Government. This open exchange of opinions had established the fact that the opinions of the Colonies and the mother country differed, but their friendly relations had been strengthened.

The Opposition amendment was rejected by 376 votes to 108, and the Bill was read a second time.

## THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

The Colonial Conference finished its sittings on Tuesday after passing a resolution recommending an express steamship service between England and Australia via Canada.

## THE ENGLISH RAILWAY DISPUTE.

The directors of all the great railway Companies have already met to discuss the demands of their employes, and with the exception of the representatives of the North Eastern have unanimously decided to remain firm and under no circumstances to recognise the Railway Union as representative of the railway employes.

## THE UNREST IN INDIA.

The *Evening Standard* learns from Lucknow that serious riots of a seditious character have taken place in Delhi where the Hindoos outnumber the Mohamedans. The crown is said to have been knocked off the statue of Queen Victoria in that city. The unrest has now spread to the Southern part of the peninsula. In Madras troops are patrolling the streets.

In connection with the recent disturbances in Rawalpindi 45 persons were arrested, and a reward of 30 rupees is offered for the apprehension of various other persons.

## THE IRISH AND THE BILL.

The *Globe* learns from its Dublin correspondent that the Executive of the North Dublin Branch of the United Irish League on Saturday threw in its lot with those who condemn Mr. Birrell's proposals, on the ground that the Bill, in place of "fostering Home Rule rather hinders it." Mr. A. J. Kettle declared that the measure was "built on the lines of the Land Conference Surrender," and he announced his intention of moving a resolution at the forthcoming Nationalist Convention declining, in the name of the "Irish race and nation," to have anything to do with the "Irish Duma." The Bill is "so absurdly inadequate," it is "so insultingly hostile to the national aspirations of the Irish people," that Mr. A. J. Kettle declines even to discuss it. The Chairman said that when Mr. Gladstone introduced his Home Rule measure—the admission is of importance in view of the Nationalist contention that there is no more law-abiding race than the Irish—"the country was not in a peace-

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able condition." Now, however, Ireland was "absolutely quiet and orderly (*sic*), and its intelligence was insulted" by Mr. Birrell. It is safe to say that Mr. A. J. Kettle's resolution will give rise to some heated language at the Convention.

The *Leinster Leader* condemns the Bill root and branch, and it points the finger of scorn at the "mock control" of the Irish Council over those departments which are likely to yield no fruit in the harvest of Administration, and give rise to the greatest political heartburns. "An Irish Council," it concludes, "with control of the minor departments, might develop into something of a national power. The Liberals thought it better to blend the Council with a nominated element, thereby violating the principles for which they stand in England. The position of the Lord Lieutenant in connection with the Irish Council is the most amazing thing that has been proposed in the political world in modern times. We have only one parallel—the autocratic sway of the Czar of Russia. The Lord Lieutenant would have the right of jumping on and suppressing the work of the Council at any time. He would have the right—after the first term of office—of appointing a nominated element on the Council, of appointing the chairmen of the numerous committees—all paid jobs, be it remembered. To our mind the whole thing seems to aim at stirring up a reign of jobbery and corruption, and everything that is rotten in the public life of a country. We need no more proof in Ireland against jobbery and corruption when the temptation is put in our way than any other civilised country in the world, but the creation of this Irish Council Bill, in some of its aspects, appears to offer a field for corruption which must be more demoralising and nationally weakening to a country in the position of Ireland. These proposals are all the more amazing when we recollect that they emanate from an avowedly democratic Government. It would be a sheer waste of time and nothing short of an insult to the intelligence of the people to ask them to elect representatives to undertake a work which is foredoomed; a work in which they could not move hand or foot to develop, or foster one national or helpful work."

It is said that Mr. John Redmond will advise the acceptance of the Bill, but unless a remarkable change sets in, and the provincial Nationalists do a *volte face*, the Convention of the United Irish League will act as an official mourner at the obsequies of the Irish Council Bill.

## NEWS FROM AMERICA.

### THE PRESIDENT'S VACATION.

It is understood that President Roosevelt has just made his arrangements for his customary summer vacation. It would be, perhaps, more correct to describe it as the transfer of the White House machinery from Washington to the seaside, for Mr. Roosevelt always does an immense amount of work while at Oyster Bay, and this year is to be no exception to his rule. He will pay another official visit to the Jamestown Exhibition on

June 11, and on the following day will migrate with his family to his summer residence.

It has been stated that Mr. Roosevelt will devote a good deal of his vacation to a further study of the relations of the railroads and other great corporations with the Federal Government, and particularly with the inter-State Commerce Commission. The powers of the latter body it is thought require extension, and Mr. Roosevelt will consider how best to secure the necessary reforms. He is credited with a desire to restrain the injudicious meddling of State Legislatures with the railroads within their territory, and to have disputes settled by the Federal, rather than the local authorities, wherever possible.

### THE AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY.

Mr. Charlemagne Tower, United States Ambassador to Berlin, sailed from New York on Tuesday by the "Kaiser Wilhelm II."

### NEWS FROM FRANCE.

#### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

In the delegation of the groups of the Left M. Clémenceau, who was accompanied by M. Viviani, appeared and gave an exposé of his speech of the afternoon. He declined to accept the Order of the Day as proposed by M. Delcassé and accepted by the delegation on Monday, for he wished, he said, to maintain the rights of the syndicates unimpaired and intended to take proceedings only against the individual leaders of the Labour Union since they had been guilty of illegal action.

M. Clémenceau said that he would not reinstate in their former posts or re-employ the dismissed Civil Servants.

The delegation rejected M. Delcassé's Order of the Day by a majority of 6 and then discussed an Order of the Day proposed by M. Codet which expressed the opinion that the rights of the syndicates ought to be maintained and the civil servants protected against tyranny by respect for the laws and by discipline, and expressed also confidence that the Government would suppress the anarchist and anti-patriotic instigations emanating from the members of the Labour Union. All the paragraphs up to the words relating to the Labour Union, which were rejected by 12 votes to 8, were passed unanimously.

Since the delegation could not agree as to the necessity of criminal proceedings against one person or several, the whole of M. Codet's Order of the Day was rejected nearly unanimously. The delegation, in consequence, gave its members full liberty to vote as they liked in the division in the Chamber. In the resumed debate in the Chamber, M. Brisson announced that 15 different Orders of the Day had reached him.

M. Ribot then spoke and casually said that M. Briand recalled the unwise policy of earlier Governments. As he was recommending the reinstatement of Nègre he was interrupted by M. Briand, who said that he would regard membership of a syndicate or of the Labour Union as a breach of discipline and would treat it as such.

M. Ribot continued and expressed a wish that legal proceedings should be taken against the Labour Union. He concluded by urging M. Clémenceau to follow a straightforward and firm policy.

M. Sembat reproached M. Briand with acting in contradiction to statements made formerly by him. The Minister of Education had been too harsh to the dismissed teachers.

M. Jaurès expressed himself in mocking terms on the Radicals who were incapable of coming to a decision in the matter of the Civil Servants' Syndicate. (The Radicals cried: "Hu, Hu".)

Many speakers violently reproached the United Socialists with spreading everywhere the report that the Radical party had made a fiasco. Amid ironical applause from the Right the Radicals and Socialists hurled insults at each other. When order was restored M. Jaurès said that the Socialists would not make common cause with the Radicals.

M. Clémenceau then spoke and demanded confidence in the Cabinet and support in its efforts for reform. The majority would now say whether the Government was right in proceeding against people who fed revolution. If they had to leave their posts, they would do so gladly. The violent tone of the Labour Union's manifesto justified the veto imposed upon the teachers, forbidding them to enter the Union. It would be impolitic to dissolve the Union, because many syndicates belonged to it that did not share the views of the Union. He had no intention of proceeding against 3,000 syndicates, or of tampering with the law of 1884 re-