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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Runciman, in answer to a question, stated that the Notes exchanged with the Spanish Ambassador, containing the provisions of the agreement concluded between England and Spain, will be published as soon as possible.

The Territorial Army Bill was read a third time. In the final division, in which 286 Members voted for the Government and 63 against, the minority was chiefly composed of Nationalists and Members of the Labour party.

THE IRISH LAND WAR.

The sixteen men charged with unlawful assembly and with driving the horses, cattle, and sheep off Mr. Nathaniel Luttrell's farm at Roscomroe on April 30 last, were again before the magistrates at the petty sessions court at Roscrea, and for the third time the magistrates failed to come to a definite conclusion, five being in favour of returning the accused for trial and five against. The announcement by the chairman, Major Dease, R.M., at the end of the hearing, that the bench was again evenly divided, and that the case must be adjourned for another week, was received with laughter. He was sorry, he added, that the defendants had to come into Roscrea so often. The Crown Solicitor: "I think they will be saved further trouble. The Attorney-General will send the case for trial himself. We are not going to have three or four adjournments for nothing." This intimation created a sensation in court.

The *Irish Times* correspondent at Carrick-on-Shannon reports:—"During the early hours of Tuesday morning a bailiff, named Brady, who is caretaking an evicted farm a Ballinaglera, Co. Leitrim, set off for the village of Dromahair with the object of buying foodstuffs, which he is denied in the neighbouring towns of Dowra, Drumshambo, and Carrick-on-Shannon. The town of Dromahair is about 26 miles from where he lives, and on his journey there he was waylaid by emissaries of the league, who warned the countryside by the blowing of horns that Brady was on the road. In response to the call numbers left their beds about four a. m., and swooped down upon their unfortunate victim. They took forcible possession of his donkey and cart, and, despite the efforts of the police, who were guarding the unfortunate man, the crowd carried away all that was in the cart. Brady was badly assaulted, and the police came in for a 'little rough handling.' In the course of the day two arrests were made."

A grazing farm on the property of Lord Rosso, at Derrinlough, near Birr, and occupied by Mr. Parsons, of Shinrone, has been cleared of all its stock. The "drive" commenced at ten o'clock, 150 men being engaged in the clearance. A party of the Royal Irish Constabulary appeared on the scene, and the mob dispersed. It is thought that the action of the authorities in instituting prosecutions under a statute of Edward III., instead of under the Petty Sessions Act, will lead to good results, but for the moment the state of the lower half of King's County and of the northern half of Co. Tipperary can only be described as one of turmoil without parallel since the early days of the agrarian agitation. Law-abiding citizens have lost all faith in the Government. Thinking men freely express the opinion that unless the Crimes Act is put in force the United Irish League will be the sole government in certain parts of the country.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE TWO-CENT FARE.

The *Globe* learns from New York that the great railroad companies appear to be weakening in their recently proclaimed desperate intention to fight the two cents a mile fare laws, passed by a number of States, through all the Courts up to the Supreme Court at Washington. The officials of some of them have been studying the railroad situation in

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England, and are said to have been surprised to find that low fares do not necessarily mean bankruptcy.

Other companies, notably those in Pennsylvania, have been reducing travelling facilities, and suspending season ticket privileges, in the expectation, not at all likely to be realised, that the people will be so exasperated that they will rise in their wrath and compel the State Legislatures to rescind the obnoxious law. The Illinois railways have decided to steer a middle course. They will, it is announced, give the two cents a mile fare a fair trial for three months, and if it prove workable will accept it loyally, as a permanent factor in the management of their roads.

No decision has yet been reached by the railroads operating in Ohio, New York, and Missouri, which States have passed two cents a mile Acts, similar to those of the Illinois and Pennsylvania Legislatures. The weaker roads will presumably make no effort to defy or circumvent the new law. It is urged that they, at any rate, must be ruined by the two cent fare, but most of them are either owned or controlled directly or indirectly by big corporations who can look after themselves pretty well.

THE HAMBURG-AMERICA LINE'S MONOPOLY.

The Inter State Commerce Commission has decided to institute an enquiry into the business methods of the Hamburg-America line, which is accused of having formed a ring, and by maintaining a monopoly, limiting trade.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE WINE TRADE CRISIS.

The situation in the wine-growing districts has, if anything, grown worse. It is reported from Narbonne that the first military trains have arrived there. In places between Béziers and Argelliers the firemen held their hoses ready to direct them against the military. The packet found on the railway between Colombries and Nissan contained dynamite, as has been ascertained by examination.

It is announced from Aurillac that a demonstration against the Colonel of the 139th Infantry regiment has taken place in the barracks, the men being incensed at having their Sunday leave stopped.

A police commissioner with five men and a strong military escort left Béziers on Wednesday night on a special mission. He carries an order for the arrest of Marcellin Albert and five other members of the Argelliers committee. On his arrival at Argelliers he effected the arrest of three members, the others with Marcellin are not to be found. In the neighbourhood of Argelliers a wooden bridge has been burnt.

Three regiments of infantry and one of cavalry are occupying Narbonne. A yelling and whistling mob surrounded the carriage in which the Mayor, M. Ferroul, was removed. The infantry, who with fixed bayonets preceded the carriage, supported by cavalry, dispersed the organisers of the demonstration; the colonel of the Cuirassier regiment was injured by a stone thrown at him. The inhabitants of several neighbouring villages have arrived in Narbonne. Since the arrest of M. Ferroul the excitement in the place has grown. All shops and factories, and even the banks, are closed as a sign of mourning. In the course of Wednesday afternoon a waggon filled with straw for the troops was set on fire. A non-commissioned officer, who was pursued by the mob, took refuge in the Hotel de Ville. A mob 500 strong from the neighbouring village of Cazoul has marched off to Argelliers, shouting maledictions against Clémenceau, to protest against the arrest of the members of the Committee.

The Paris journals publish a report from Montpellier saying that Marcellin Albert has been arrested. The Minister of the Interior has received no confirmation of this report. The persons arrested in connection with the wine-trade crisis will be prosecuted under that clause of the criminal code which forbids any agreement to take measures contrary to the law on pain of imprisonment of from two to six months. They can also be punished with loss of civil rights and of the right of holding public office for 10 years; public officials found guilty of neglect of duty by not carrying on the work of their office, may be civilly degraded.

Noisy demonstrations were made on Wednesday by large crowds in front of the gaol where M. Ferroul is lodged; the mob was dispersed by the police.

M. Brousse, a Deputy, has received a telegram from Perpignan describing the arrest of the members of the Argelliers committee, who had no more influence, as clumsy. By these arrests the task of the Republicans and those who preach peace, is made more difficult. M. Brousse will ask a question in the House about the matter.

An attempt was made on Wednesday on the train which was conveying the arrested vintagers on the Narbonne-Montpellier section. Half an hour after the train had passed a certain bridge, the bridge was blown into the air. The train should have passed the bridge at 8 p. m., but it was half an hour early. No one was injured. The same evening a crowd attempted to set on fire the gate of the *Palais de justice* in Montpellier. The police were driven back, the chief of police being severely wounded into the head. Several soldiers fell from their horses and a corporal was wounded. Many arrests were made, but it was midnight before the mob dispersed.

A band of peasants attempted to set a fire to a door at the Prefecture but were driven back. Another band attempted to force their way into the buildings, but after half an hour's fighting were driven back by the soldiers. Some shots were fired and a gendarme was wounded.

The Paris papers of yesterday morning report that the demonstrations in Narbonne on Wednesday evening assumed a very serious character. The troops were repeatedly called upon to act, and some shots were exchanged. About twenty persons were wounded, one of them fatally. Barricades were erected. A Captain in the 139th regiment was wounded in the throat by a fragment of broken glass, and a Cuirassier was killed.

The Committee at Argelliers has been reconstituted with a Chairman, Marty, who is well acquainted with the intentions of Marcellin Albert.

LOSS OF A SUBMARINE.

A report from Toulon states that the submarine "Gymnote", which was lying open for repairs in dry dock No. 1 has been rendered permanently useless in consequence of neglect of duty on the part of the man in charge of the dock; who had omitted to inform the commander of the submarine that water was to be let into the dock in order that some small vessels might be floated out. The "Gymnote" was thus swamped and sank to the bottom of the dock. When the boat was again raised it was found that the machinery had been irreparably damaged.

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

The rumour that the delegates of the Great Powers have agreed, on the basis of confidential preliminary discussions, to refer the question of limitation of armaments to a later Conference is unfounded.

At Wednesday's sitting of the Conference Freiherr v. Bieberstein proposed the institution of a higher international Court which shall finally deal with all complaints relating to decisions of local prize courts.

The first Delegate of the United States has stated in a letter to the President, that he reserves the right to lay before the Committee matters not mentioned in the programme. M. Nelidoff admits the possibility of this, but remarks that according to the order of procedure each new proposal must