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THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

After a two day's debate the discussion on Mr. Haldane's territorial army scheme was concluded, only two amendments of no particular importance having been moved.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In answer to a question the Secretary of State for India, Mr. Morley said that it had been generally admitted that the removal of agitators from the Punjab had had a very salutary effect (applause), and further that the veto on revolutionary meetings had prevented the spread of unrest in the Punjab and had allayed the excitement there. It would, however, be premature to say that the temper prevailing there at present gave no further ground for anxiety. He could only say that the Government did not intend to allow the measures taken to remain in force a day longer than circumstances demanded, but so long as circumstances did demand it and no longer they would be maintained in force.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign affairs informed the House that he expected that the Austro-Russian proposals for judicial reform in Macedonia would shortly be laid before the Powers.

After an animated debate the amendment proposal relating to the tax on sugar was carried by 312 votes to 175.

During the course of the debate Mr. A. Billson, Liberal, Member for N. W. Staffordshire was seized with a fit in one of the lobbies adjoining the Parliament Hall, and was carried away on an ambulance insensible. He died within the precincts of the House.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman informed the House of the painful occurrence and as a token of sympathy the sitting was adjourned.

An additional note of tragedy attacked to the incident as Mr. Billson's daughter was in the Ladies Gallery. She knew nothing of her father's fatal seizure until the distressing news was broken to her as gently as possible by Mr. John Burns.

Mr. Billson, at the General Election, defeated the former member for N. W. Staffordshire, Sir J. Heath, Conservative, by a majority of 2,110.

SIR E. GREY AND MACEDONIA.

The Foreign Secretary, Sir E. Grey, on Monday received a deputation, among the members of which was the Archbishop of Canterbury and a number of Members of Parliament, in the matter of the Macedonian question. The Archbishop of Canterbury pointed out the responsibility England had assumed by her interference in the Macedonian question thirty years before.

Sir E. Grey, in his reply, said that he admitted that there was justification for the appearance of the deputation. It was not certainly that day the same evil that had brought the Macedonian question to the front thirty years before, but, none the less, the situation as a whole was as disquieting as of yore. Under the new conditions brought about by the raising of the Turkish customs, sufficient money for the carrying out of reforms would be available. Further it would be impossible for the Turkish Government, in view of the raising of the estimates for military purposes, to underly limit the estimates for the civil administration of Macedonia.

Sir E. Grey went on to speak of the increase of the Gendarmerie, the guarantee for filling up the ranks of the recruits and the conditions laid down by Turkey in connection with the raising of the customs, for which they had to thank the insistence of England which had taken over the conduct of the matter. The last telegram from the English representative on the Financial Committee expressed the opinion that the Turkish administration had considerably improved. None the less the condition of things with regard to the safety of the person was just as bad as before. A dis-

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couraging circumstance was the fact that crimes had been committed by rival Christian peoples. This rivalry, which would lead to destruction, was caused by the unjustifiable idea that intervention would lead to the autonomy or separation of Macedonia. The Turkish Government was endeavouring to combat it by making plans for further reforms which were necessary if the condition of things were not further to deteriorate. The proposal to place Macedonia under complete Macedonian control was so drastic a remedy that it could not be carried out by England alone. Isolated action on the part of England would only be followed by failure and European complications.

All the above gems are connected with the Order of St. Patrick. The great safe containing the regalia was intact; and it was only on opening it that the property was found to be missing. A duplicate key had evidently been employed.

The custodian of the insignia is Sir A. Vicars, Ulster King of Arms, and they are never kept on public view. The Record or Wardrobe Tower is situated at the south-eastern corner of the castle, and is quite close to the headquarters of the detective department.

THE LAND WAR IN IRELAND.

Disorderly scenes occurred at Abbeylax Petty Sessions when 23 men, composed mainly of townspeople and including three men of the Leicester Regiment were charged with unlawful assembly and riot. Acrimonious discussions took place as to the composition of the Bench, Mr. Kelly, the defending counsel, objecting to Mr. Fitzherbert, Lord de Vesol's agent sitting.

Mr. Fitzherbert said that that was no reason why he should retire. Mr. Brown, Crown solicitor, requested that any magistrates present who were not appointed for the district should retire. Mr. Kettle stated that he was informed the bench had refused to swear a gentleman who had been appointed a magistrate for the county, but the chairman, Mr. Hornibrook, mentioned that the gentleman in question only applied that morning to be sworn in. During these preliminary discussions many of the defendants behaved disorderly, and the chairman threatened to clear the court. Head Constable Spence stated that on the night of June 11 a number of persons marched through the streets shouting, booing, and blowing horns, as they passed the house of Daniel Kennedy. The glass in one of the windows was broken. The conduct of the crowd was such as to cause terror. The witness, while giving evidence, was frequently interrupted by some of the defendants and others in the body of the Court. Their noisy behaviour practically brought the proceedings to a standstill.

Several of the defendants were identified by police constables as being present in the crowd on the occasion. Evidence was given showing that Kennedy was a butcher who had taken grazing land and thus rendered himself obnoxious. The

behavior of the crowd was intended to intimidate Kennedy, and several respectable inhabitants of Abbeylax had complained that they were alarmed by the conduct of the crowd. District-Inspector Patteson said that complaints were made by respectable inhabitants that their wives and children were frightened. He was aware that Kennedy had since given up the grazing land, and that his business had suffered to a considerable extent. After half-an-hour's deliberation, the bench was equally divided, and the case was adjourned for a fortnight.

In conclusion Sir E. Grey expressed himself in favour of bestowing large executive powers on the gendarmerie and of obtaining the cooperation of the Turkish officials in suppressing the Bands. If the continual acts of violence on the part of these Bands led to political disturbances, those Governments who had not taken sufficiently strong measures to prevent the formation of these Bands in their countries would find that they had forfeited the sympathy of the European Powers. He, Sir E. Grey, laid stress on the necessity of doing away with these Bands a necessity recognised also by other Powers. Another important point was judicial reform. The Government was endeavouring to bring it about that neither England nor any other Power should remain indifferent to Macedonian affairs.

THE DUBLIN JEWEL ROBBERY.

In connection with the theft of the insignia of the Order of St. Patrick it transpires that last Saturday when one of the State officials visited the strong room in Dublin Castle where the jewellery worn on State occasions by the Lord Lieutenant, Ulster King of Arms, and Athlone Pursuivant at Arms was kept in a safe, he discovered that much of it had disappeared. The discovery was made presumably in connection with an inspection of the regalia preparatory to their being used during the visit of their Majesties this week. There is a report that the investiture of the Order of St. Patrick announced for Wednesday has been deferred as the result of the robbery.

The following are the jewels stolen: A star studded with large Brazilian diamonds, with a cross of rubies and trefoil of emeralds, surrounded by sky-blue enamelled circle, with "Quis Separabit?" (Who shall separate?), and date 1788, the foundation of the Order, in rose diamonds. Value £30,000. A diamond badge, set in silver, containing a trefoil in emeralds on a ruby cross similarly inscribed, and surrounded by a crowned harp in diamonds and Brazilian stones. Value £16,000. Five gold and enamelled collars of the Order; one collar has round badge attached. The collars consist of harps of gold and enamelled roses tied with knots of gold. Value £4,000.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE U. S. AND JAPAN.

The *Globe* learns from its New York correspondent that the entire newspaper Press of America is now worked up to a state of somewhat extraordinary excitement over the suggested Naval demonstration in the Pacific against Japan, which is a striking tribute to the influence of the particular journal which started the scare, and which is still doing its best to keep it booming. Considering how apt the President is to break into oratory at the slightest provocation, it is regarded as strange that he has not taken occasion to knock the present scare on the head. His silence has had the natural effect of inducing a good many people to express the opinion that there is a good deal more in it than meets the eye of the man in the street.

There is, however, the best reason to believe that this assumption is not justified by the facts. The true explanation of all the pother will be found to be that orders for a concentration in South American Pacific waters were issued by the Navy Department, without any thought of the possible political bearings which the movement might be credited with, and that the mistake having been discovered, insufficient promptitude has been displayed in putting it right. It will be found that the fleet, after visiting Rio, Buenos Ayres, and Monte Video will separate into three squadrons, one going to Europe, one to San Francisco, calling on route at Chilean and Peruvian ports, and the third returning to the North Atlantic by way of the West Indies.

Whether this programme will be officially made public by the Navy Department remains to be seen. If it is it will not be in consequence of any inquiry by the Japanese Government, which officially, either direct from Tokio or through the Washington Em-