

OUR LONDON LETTER.

Thursday Night. Peers and Home Rule.

In what measure the Peers' attitude towards the Government of Ireland Bill was affected by the speeches of the Lord Chancellor and Earl Curzon one can only surmise. Probably they were as much influenced by the letter from Sir Edward Carson which was read from the wool-sack on Tuesday, and by the Foreign Secretary's expression of implicit trust in his sincerity of purpose.

As a whole the House does not like the Bill, but still less does it like the alternative, and in fact of Earl Curzon's merciless exposure of the position of its opponents—the facility of Lord Dunraven's arguments, and the inevitable results of Viscount Midleton's adjournment—two successive divisions went in favour of the Government by majorities of two to one, and the Bill now awaits the order of Committee.

Examination of the main division list—that concerned with Lord Dunraven's motion—reveals the interesting fact that the votes of Irish peers who supported the Bill almost balanced the votes of those who opposed it. The precise numbers, unless I have miscalculated, are 18 and 21, made up as follows:—

For the Bill: The Marquis of Londonderry, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Lords Armainghale, Atkinson, Cavan, Charlemont, Deramore, Dunmore, Galway, Killybegs, Massereene, O'Hagan, Ranelagh, Rathfriland, Roden, Templemore, and Valentia. For rejection: The Marquis of Londonderry, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Lords Armainghale, Atkinson, Cavan, Charlemont, Deramore, Dunmore, Galway, Killybegs, Massereene, O'Hagan, Ranelagh, Rathfriland, Roden, Templemore, and Valentia.

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VICTIMS OF SINN FEIN.

THE JOURNEY TO LONDON.

Remarkable Dublin Tribute to Murdered Officers. IMPRESSIVE SCENES. The first portion of the funeral of the officers who were murdered in Dublin last Sunday took place yesterday, under most impressive circumstances, and the tribute paid by the citizens of Dublin to the memory of the officers was remarkable.

The bodies arrived in London this morning, and before noon services are to be held at Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral, at both of which the King will be represented.

Dublin was obviously deeply moved and impressed by yesterday's scene. All along the route there were dense lines of people and there was scarcely a hat that was not removed as the imposing procession passed. The silence of the people was impressive and they kept to the footpaths without being held back by any authority.

The funeral procession left King George V. Hospital shortly after ten o'clock and proceeded to North Wall, where the bodies were placed on boats, with arms reversed, followed as they then several lands, the drums draped in black. Chopin's and Handel's funeral marches were played and other appropriate music. Behind the bands came a group of army chaplains, followed by mounted officers. Then came the coffin, carried by the mounted on gun carriages, on either side of which walked officers and men. Three coffins were conveyed on Crossley tenders, driven and escorted by members of the R.I.C.

As the coffins passed there was a great hush among the crowds, the only sound heard being the clatter of the horses' hoofs and the strains of the bands. A car containing wreaths followed. They came a group of staff officers, including Major-General Sir H. S. Jeudwine, C.B., Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Ireland; Major-General Lord Bury, commander military authority, Dublin; Major-General Mellor; General O'Connell; General Oldman; the Commandant of the R.I.C. Depot; and Colonel Edgeworth Johnston, Chief Commissioner of the D.M.P.; with a few naval officers. Behind followed a large force of troops, well over a thousand.

The scene on the quayside was most impressive. Many people had assembled, close to the end of the quay where H.M.S. Sea Wolf was berthed, and just before the head of the procession came in sight those standing by heard the strains of "Onward to the Flag". A guard of honour of blue-jackets from the Sea Wolf was mounted, and as the military detachment arrived the sailors formed in line to the gangway and rested on their arms reversed. The coffins were then one by one removed and carried on board the ship, and the presidential band of the R.I.C. As each coffin was carried aboard the officers, naval and military, came to the salute and the various detachments presented arms.

The coffins were thirteen in number. They included the bodies of the nine victims of Sunday's shooting—namely, Major Dowling, Captain Baggally, Captain Newbury, Captain Price, Lieut. Bennett, Lieut. Ames, Lieut. Mahon, Cadet Morris, and Cadet Garvey. Behind them followed four more coffins with the remains of Constable Jay, R.I.C., who was shot in the Leap, near Skibbereen; Constable Fleming and Constable Roper, who were killed in a motor smash between Limerick and Ennis, and Mr. Spence, an ex-officer attached to the R.I.C., who was accidentally killed on Sunday.

ALL IRELAND CONGRESS.

QUESTIONS IN COMMONS.

Suggested Constituent Assembly. THE PREMIER'S REPLY. In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Devlin (N.) asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that at a special All-Ireland Trades Union Congress on November 16, at the Mansion House, Dublin, resolutions were unanimously adopted as the basis of an Irish settlement on the following lines:—

The withdrawal of the British armed forces from Ireland, the calling of a Constituent Assembly to draw up a constitution for Ireland which should afford protection to minorities and prevent Ireland from becoming a military or naval menace; and whether, in view of the fact that the All-Ireland Trades Union Congress pledged the workers of Ireland to the acceptance of this policy, the Prime Minister was prepared to take steps to carry it into effect without delay.

Mr. Lloyd George said he had considered carefully the resolutions and he had been struck by the eloquent speech of his honourable friend the previous day expressing the desire of the Irish Labour organisation for a constitutional settlement, but he was unable to agree that the object could be best attained in the manner proposed.

Mr. Devlin—Does the right honourable gentleman not think that in the absence of any organised method of expression the only way to accept the declaration of the Trades Congress as the declaration of men who are capable of speaking for the nation? Mr. Lloyd George—I do not think Ireland itself would accept that. Undoubtedly this body represents a very powerful section of Irish opinion, and to that extent it is a valuable contribution, but I do not think Ireland would accept an expression of opinion from the Labour conference as the opinion of the nation.

Mr. Devlin—If we gave an assurance that the Congress expressed the will of industrial and agricultural Ireland, would the right honourable gentleman concede the demand made by the conference? Mr. Donald (U.) said the question was entirely misleading. The conference was a political gathering and not a trade union conference at all.

Mr. Devlin—Does the right honourable gentleman think that the workers of Ireland would accept the declaration of the Trades Congress as the declaration of men who are capable of speaking for the nation? Mr. Lloyd George—I do not think Ireland itself would accept that. Undoubtedly this body represents a very powerful section of Irish opinion, and to that extent it is a valuable contribution, but I do not think Ireland would accept an expression of opinion from the Labour conference as the opinion of the nation.

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THE THRONE OF GREECE.

ENTENTE ATTITUDE. Premiers to Confer in London To-day.

"TINO'S" ASSURANCES. M. Leygues, the French Prime Minister, who was accompanied by M. Berthelot and others, arrived in London last night in order to confer with the British Prime Minister on the situation in the Near East, with special reference to Greece, and questions arising out of the peace settlement generally.

Signor Giolitti, the Italian Prime Minister (says Reuters' Home correspondent) finds it impossible to accept the invitation of Mr. Lloyd George to visit London to take part in the conversations with M. Leygues. His place will be taken by Count Sforza, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Streit, the ex-King Constantine's political adviser, returned here to-day from a brief visit to Bern. The object of his visit was to see the British Minister, and to furnish, in the name of the ex-King, the fullest assurances tending to inspire the confidence in Greece's policy towards the Entente—namely, that Constantine fully approved of the declaration recently made by the Greek Premier on the subject of cordial co-operation with the Entente.

Mr. Theotokis, the former Greek Minister at Berlin, and one of the political exiles now elected as a Deputy to the Greek Parliament, is in London at the moment, and returning to Athens. Ex-King Constantine this morning received a deputation of Greek students from Geneva University, who had come here for the purpose of expressing their homage and loyalty to him.

M. VENIZELOS AT NICE. An Enthusiastic Reception. Nice, Thursday. M. Venizelos arrived here to-day accompanied by a numerous suite. He was welcomed by the Prefect and local authorities and by a considerable crowd of well-wishers, including many members of the local Greek colony, who greeted him with cries of "Long live Venizelos!"

In an interview with representatives of the Press, M. Venizelos said that he was glad to come to Nice, and that he was not to ask any questions. When I can speak, I shall be glad to make a declaration. One should not be too hard on the Greek people, who, it must be remembered, were still mobilised two years after the general demobilisation had taken place.

Lord Farnham said he had ventured to address the House because he represented a large body of Loyalists in Ireland who were vitally affected by any decision their Lordships took on their behalf. He supported the amendment moved by Lord Dunraven. He adopted on somewhat similar standpoint to that taken by Lord Donoughmore in the opening remarks of his eloquent and very damaging speech against the Bill.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

Debate in the Lords. SECOND READING CARRIED.

Motion for Adjournment Fails. Resuming the debate on the second reading of the Home Rule Bill in the House of Lords yesterday, Lord Farnham declared that, as chairman of the Irish Unionist Alliance, those whom he represented were against partition and compromise, and therefore they opposed the Bill.

Lord Middleton followed, and moved the adjournment of the debate for a fortnight, this being approved by Lord Dunraven, who had moved the rejection of the measure. On a division there voted:—

Table with 2 columns: Motion, Votes. For the adjournment motion: 91. Against: 17. Majority against: 86.

For Lord Dunraven's motion: 75. Against: 164. Majority against: 89.

The Bill was then read a second time. The Committee stage, as announced by the Earl of Crawford, will be taken on Wednesday next.

Lord Middleton and Southern Unionists. Lord Farnham said he had ventured to address the House because he represented a large body of Loyalists in Ireland who were vitally affected by any decision their Lordships took on their behalf.

Lord Middleton said there was an air of unreality about the points announced by the Lord Chancellor. How in the name of God could the Government expect to frame clauses which would have the effect of enabling the North to have the utmost freedom in its own area, while at the same time avoiding placing it in a water-tight compartment so that it could be most difficult to extricate the situation in the future than it was at the present time.

Lord Middleton quoted Lord Cairns in 1831—"For all the bills we ever bore, we grieved, we sighed, we wept, but never blushed before." As to the bogey of the 1914 Act, he was informed on High legal authority that the Bill did not alter the law. Peace treaty was signed to-morrow, it would be impossible for the Government to put the Act into operation because the financial clauses and constitutional provisions had not been altered, and the law remained. Therefore, to say that the Bill must be passed or else the Act would operate was a complete mistake.

Lord Middleton said that the Government of the British people realised the enormity of the business of the great betrayal that was proposed, nor did they realise the conditions in which the Loyalists would be found to live even. They were only allowed to exist at the will and pleasure of the Republican Army. They were forced to obtain permits, to submit to the decrees of the Republican Courts, to subscribe for the upkeep of the Republican Army, and to part with lands and dwellings by the activities of the Bolshevik elements of the community, and in many cases the utmost cruelty was employed towards them.

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