

WAR ON THE PEERS.

Sir Vernon Harcourt on Behalf of the Government Throws Down the Gage.

The Lords Spiritual as Well as the Lords Temporal Vigorously Denounced.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Mr. John Burns, Labor, M.P., said in a speech to his Battersea constituents last evening: "The country which sent King Charles to sleep without a head, would stand no veto from Queen Guolph or Lord Salisbury. Let the people present such a front as will induce the Queen and the Prince of Wales to tell Lord Salisbury: 'Imperil your own existence if you like, but do not damage our right of succession.'"

Mr. Gladstone declares that the alleged interview with him which was published by the Paris Patrie on February 8, was pure fiction. In this interview Mr. Gladstone was represented as saying that he would retain office to lead the attack upon the House of Lords.

At the meeting of the National Liberal Federation Dr. Robert Spencer Watson, president, said in his introductory address that he rejoiced in the recent conduct of the Peers. They had acted in the manner best calculated to bring to the front the question of ending them, but of ending them, the day for forgiving the iniquities of the Peers, even if they would repeat, had gone. Loud applause greeted this declaration of principles.

The Daily News says this morning that the immediate business of the Liberals is to fight the House of Lords, which cannot be reconciled with the theory or practice of representative government. After remarking on "intolerable conditions to which the Peers have reduced public affairs," the News adds: "The Lords are faithful only to the selfish interests of their class. Therefore their decisions cannot be respected. Since 1832 they have been almost purely obnoxious."

The Daily Chronicle, commenting on the reopening of Parliament, remarks: "There could scarcely be a more humiliating position for a popular assembly than is the case in Great Britain, with the House of Commons taunted and insulted by a survival of medievalism which for no reason under heaven but to satisfy the vanity of anti-popular, reactionary and despotic sentiment."

Owing to the disturbed condition of political affairs, there was an unusually large attendance of delegates. The plan adopted by the executive committee, which will be endorsed by the House of Commons, is known as the "Newcastle programme," save that the clause demanding the payment of members of Parliament is more strongly worded. It is probable that a minority of the convention will make a fight for what is known as the "Democratic Budget," or the abolition of the duties on tea, coffee and cocoa, in order to secure a free breakfast table, the deficit in the revenue to be made good by an increase in the death duties and a further taxation of land. The proposition, however, will undoubtedly be defeated. The convention will be in session for three days.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—A great meeting of the London Labor Union to protest against the existence of the House of Lords was held this evening. Sydney Burton, member of Parliament for the Tower Hamlets, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Colonial Office, made a speech in which he said that the Lords had flouted and insulted the people's delegates, and that it was high time they were called to account. Similar speeches were made by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Henry Labouchere and others.

A number of Radical meetings were held in the provinces last evening, at which the consensus was in favor of abolishing the House of Lords. The agitation against the Lords is increasing daily. The columns of the Radical newspapers are filled with accounts of the movement, the ordinary news of the day being curtailed.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The conference of the National Liberal Federation closed to-day in Portsmouth with a great public meeting. More than 5,000 persons were present. The principal speeches were made by Sir William Harcourt, chancellor of the exchequer. He was cheered repeatedly. "It has never been more needful," he said, "that the Liberals should stand shoulder to shoulder. The party is about to enter a great struggle, from which it will finally emerge victorious. It is this nation's will to be controlled by the representatives of the people—not by a chamber representing nothing but a selfish class. I especially regret the recent actions of the Bishops. Popery has been the chant of the Lords temporal, and Amen, has been the response of the Lords spiritual. Lord Salisbury has thrown down the gauntlet of battle. The Government will not shrink from the conflict. It is the business of the Liberals to convince the Lords that the people will not allow them longer to override the people's will." This declaration of war upon the peers was applauded and cheered tumultuously.

The Earl of Dudley, who offered the "contracting-out" amendment of the Employers' Liability bill in the House of Lords, in speaking in Crewe this evening, referred to the change which the House of Commons, in the motion of Henry Cobb, made last evening in this amendment. It would be out of the question, he said, that the House of Lords should recognize an amendment carried by a majority of only two.

The Daily News says: Sir William Harcourt's assurance that his Portsmouth speech was given by the Government with the dictation of the House of Lords fully satisfied his audience. It will also satisfy the Liberals throughout the country. It is the peers' own fault that they have made themselves impossible.

The Daily Chronicle says: "To argue with the Lords as though they had a title to disown their claims with the Commons, is to admit their right of existence. That right, however, cannot longer be tolerated. The time has come, thanks to Lord Salisbury and the Archbishop of Canterbury, to cleanse the constitution of this monstrous hereditary body."

LONDON, Feb. 13.—In the House of Commons to-day the Government accepted the amendment offered by Mr. Cobb to the Employers' Liability Bill, suspending for three years the operation of the bill in cases where there are still existing work-

men's insurance funds. The amendment was carried by a vote of 215 to 213. The announcement of the figures was received with wild Unionist cheers. The smallest of the majority was due in large measure to the absence of the Irish members. The incident, although it will not affect the Government, is certain to induce the House of Lords to adhere to the Earl of Dudley's contracting-out amendment by rejecting Mr. Cobb's amendment. In the lobby of the House of Commons the Employers' Liability bill is regarded as lost.

The Daily News will say: "The division in the House of Commons yesterday on Mr. Cobb's amendment shows that the Government went beyond the wishes of its supporters in trying to find a method of escape from the Peers, and to save the bill. Seven Radicals voted against the Government, desiring to register their disapproval of compromise. The Conservative newspapers hail the division on Mr. Cobb's amendment as a triumph for their side. They say the Government supporters are dismayed at the smallness of the majority."

PARIS, Feb. 13.—Breton, the bomb thrower, admitted to the judge this evening that he had given a wrong account of himself. He gave a number of names, all of which are believed to be false. Detective Houllier believes that Breton had just arrived from London. The prisoner speaks English and wears an English shirt and other linen marked "A.M." His body was very clean when examined and showed no signs of having been used to decent life. His education is above the average. On seeing Detective Houllier, on Monday night, Breton exclaimed: "Houllier, it is you, I know you well." Detective Houllier admitted that he is on the verge of an important discovery in connection with the case.

ENTOMBED MINERS.

Thirty Acres of Mineral Property in Pennsylvania Cave in—Many Lives Lost.

Great Excitement and Heart Rending Scenes—No Hope of Reaching the Unfortunates.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Feb. 13.—A cave-in of a large area of surface over the slope of the railway mine at Plymouth occurred to-day. Fifteen miners are reported to be entombed in the pit.

SCRANTON, Pa., Feb. 13.—From the office of the Kingston coal company, at Kingston, information is received that the cave-in portion of the mine covers an area of thirty acres. Thirteen men are positively known to be entombed behind obstructions which block the gangway, with no chance of reaching them inside of two or three weeks. Great excitement prevails about the mine openings and in the town of Plymouth business generally is suspended in the anxiety to learn if the entombed men are alive. Men who are well acquainted with the mine say there is no hope of the men being rescued.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Feb. 13.—A number of mine foremen and their assistants, led by John B. Davis, superintendent of the Gaylen workings, who had been in the main all afternoon at the mine, were reported that all the outlets in the mine are closed, also the rock tunnel and all the entrances. The cave-in is now reported to have taken place in what is known as the five-foot, seven-foot and Bennett veins. The cave-in covers an area of about a mile, having extended since noon to-day, and affects the central portion of the town of Plymouth. A few cracks can be seen on the surface. The rescuing party were obliged to retreat on account of a fourth caving in of the mine. The cracking of immense rocks as they came down, the rolling and rumbling of the many falls and the rush and roar of water, but by the concussion forced the men to retreat to the surface. Men who are familiar with mine workings are at the scene of the disaster, and their willing hearts and strong arms are ready to go into the mine whenever the word is given to aid in rescuing the entombed, if such is possible. The men were taken from the shaft this afternoon, as the cave-in was extremely close to the foot. Should the shaft be closed at any time, all hope of rescuing the men will have to be abandoned for an indefinite time. The thirteen timbermen who went into the mine and who are now imprisoned there, were warned yesterday that there was danger ahead, but they were of the opinion that the danger was not sufficient for them to stay out. They said, however, to the hoisting engineer as they went down the shaft that should anything occur they would be found in the big branch vein of the mine. This, however, is also closed, and no way to reach them. The scene about the mine late to-night is heartrending, and from the present outlook there will be at least eleven widows and many orphans to suffer the loss of their only support. The officials are hard at work to devise some plan or plan of rescue, but in order to get the men they will have to penetrate through hundreds of feet of coal and rock. It is thought by the superintendent and others that the men are in the Bennett vein, 700 feet below.

BOMB-THROWER BRETON.

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WINNIPEG WRINGS.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 13.—H. A. Hackett, trustee of an estate in Portland, Maine, recently skipped with \$11,000 worth of bonds entrusted to him. He was arrested here, and yesterday a Maine detective arrived to take him in charge. The detective, instead of beginning extradition proceedings, offered that if Hackett would restore the stolen bonds there would be no prosecution. This Hackett consented to do, and he will be discharged from custody.

Wm. Beckett, the notorious embezzler and forger, who recently broke jail at Devil's Lake and was caught here, has consented to waive extradition, and will be taken back.

Some of the separate schools of Manitoba have been levying taxes as public schools, claiming that under the act they were entitled to be classified as such, although admitting that in reality they were not public schools. At the session of the Legislature last night a bill was passed which withdraws from these schools all power to collect taxes, also shutting them out from Legislative grants.

Charles Chamberlain, of Toronto, who is alleged to be guilty of perjury and perjury in connection with the recent Dominion election, was brought to Winnipeg this morning by the Chief of Police. His trial has been fixed for Thursday.

Two hundred and fifty members, representing lumber firms from Fort William to the Pacific Coast, are in convention here. Among the most important matters under discussion are the reduction of the C.P.R. freight rates and a reduction in the prices of lumber.

Messrs. Norman of Winnipeg, and Hood of Calgary, are contesting here for the checker championship of Manitoba and the Northwest. Norman is four games in the lead and is almost a sure winner. The Massey-Harris warehouse at Griswold was burned this morning.

Governor McIntosh of the Northwest is here.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 13.—(Special)—Winnipeg was to-day the scene of perhaps the greatest gathering of curlers ever brought together on this continent. It was the opening day of Manitoba's big curling bonspiel, and in the first event, which is for the grand challenge cup, a handsome trophy presented by the New York Life Assurance Co., no less than seventy crack rinks entered. These rinks represented all the chief points in Manitoba and the Northwest, and there are representatives of the United States and Eastern Canada. To-day was devoted to narrowing down the contestants, and before morning, for the dozen sheets of ice which are to be occupied night and day until the end of the matches, not more than a dozen rinks will be left. To-morrow the contests for the costly trophy presented by Hiram Walker & Sons, of Walkerville, Ont., and for the international trophy will be commenced. In the latter the St. Paul and Duluth men have been selected to champion Uncle Sam, while two of Manitoba's strongest rinks will be pitted against them.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 14.—(Special)—James Fisher is known as the most Radical Reformer in the Manitoba Legislature. His latest reform resolution is that the Governor-General be memorialized to abolish the offices of Lieut.-Governor in the various Provinces, having the duties appertaining thereto done by some local persons in other positions of trust and eminence. Mr. Fisher contends that the Lieut.-Governors are entirely unnecessary and are a luxury altogether too expensive.

The wheat deliveries throughout Manitoba have entirely ceased and buyers have withdrawn because of the low prices. The suit brought by the Winnipeg horse car lines to restrain the electric railway from running cars will come before the Privy Council of England on the 28th. The Horse Car Co. claims to have been granted a monopoly of the streets by the City Council.

DALLYING MELLO.

His Vacillation Most Unsatisfactory to the Revolutionists—Armaaco Captured by the Rebels.

Admiral da Gama Wounded—A Signal Success for Opponents of the Government.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The Times correspondent in Rio Janeiro says in a letter dated January 24: "Immediately after Admiral Mello's arrival in Desterro the political intrigues began. Certain politicians who were pushing their own interests and quarrelling delayed the insurgents, movements for five weeks, until General Comodoro Saraiva and Salgado bluntly refused to brook further dallying. As the result of this General Cardoso, Mello's War Minister, resigned. At one time the situation was so strained that Saraiva and Salgado threatened to retire with the troops to Rio Grande do Sul and withdraw their aid. It seems that Mello behaved weakly and vacillatingly throughout. This has driven the insurgent officers to regard Admiral da Gama as their real chief, although Mello remains the nominal head of the revolution. Discontent is growing among the Government troops. They blame the Government for its indecision in failing to attempt a decisive blow. Admiral da Gama has gathered round him a number of officers in a manner and speech on January 23 that he meditated interfering forcibly."

MONTEVIDEO, Feb. 12.—A dispatch dated at Rio Janeiro on February 8 says: "The insurgents attacked Armaaco at 4 o'clock this morning. Their launches carried a force of about 1,000 government troops and 5 o'clock on the morning of the landing was not discovered until the officers began to land their men. There was heavy firing for some time and then the government troops retreated, leaving forty men and five officers captives and six officers and fifty men dead on the field. Between 4:30 and 5 o'clock about 1,000 government troops were brought up to the aid of the garrison, and the combined force advanced under a heavy fire from the machine and Krupp guns from Ceju Island. Admiral da Gama called into action more troops from Conceicao and brought his launches and the Liberdade near the shore. The Government was stopped and as they had begun to yield ground to the insurgents. The attacking force passed forward until within 1,000 yards of Armaaco, but was eventually withdrawn as the Government troops were receiving reinforcements. The Liberdade and the other ships, while the Aquidaban, kept back the garrison while the insurgents were embarking. The Liberdade was the target of a hot fire, but remained uninjured and before noon the insurgents had left the mainland after spiking the guns of the Armaaco battery. The Government was stopped and as they had begun to yield ground to the insurgents. The attacking force passed forward until within 1,000 yards of Armaaco, but was eventually withdrawn as the Government troops were receiving reinforcements. The Liberdade and the other ships, while the Aquidaban, kept back the garrison while the insurgents were embarking. The Liberdade was the target of a hot fire, but remained uninjured and before noon the insurgents had left the mainland after spiking the guns of the Armaaco battery. 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