IRISH HOME RULE.

Gladstone's Bill Again Before the Commons.

HE EXPLAINS THE MEASURE

In an Eloquent and Convincing Speech Before a Crowded House.

Eighty Irish Members Will be Retained in the Imperial Parliament—Composition of the Local Chambers—Plan for Obtaining Ireland's Share of the General Revenue—Irish Autonomy Preferable to Coercion — Protection for the Minority.

A last Monday evening's London cable says:

Gladstone entered the House at 3 30 o'clock. Every Liberal and Irish Nationalist in the House stood up and greeted him with prolonged and enthusiastic cheers. When Mr. Gladstone arose at 43 minutes past 3 o'clock to introduce the Home Rule Bill there was another demonstration, so earnest, so enthusiastic and irrepressible that it was several minutes before he could be heard.

MR. GLADSTONE'S SPEECH.

Mr. Gladstone spoke as follows in a clear, strong and resonant voice: I may, without impropriety, remind the House that the voices which usually pleaded the cause of Irish self government in Irish affairs have within these walls during the last seven years been almost entirely mute. I return therefore, to the period of 1886, when a proposition of this kind was submitted on the part of the Government of the day, and I beg to remind the House of the position then taken up by all the promoters of these measures. We said that we had arrived at a point in our transactions with Ireland where the two roads parted. You have, we said, to choose one or the other. One is the way of Irish autonomy, according to the conceptions I have just referred to; the other is the way of coercion. That is our contention. Well, what has been the result of the dilemma, as it was then put forward on this side of the House, and repelled by the other? Has our contention that the choice lay between autonomy and coercion been justified or not? (Liberal cheers.) What has become of each and all of these important schemes for giving Ireland self-government in provinces, and giving her even a central establishment in Dublin, with limited powers? All vanishes into thin air; but the reality remains. The roads were still there—

AUTONOMY OR COERCION.

The choice lay between them, and the choice made was to repel autonomy and embrace coercion. You cannot always follow coercion in an absolutely uniform method. In 1886, for the first time, coercion was imposed on Ireland in the shape of a permanent law added to the statute book. This state of things constituted an offence against the harmony and traditions of self-government. It was a distinct and violent breach of the promise on the faith of which union was obtained. The permanent system of repression inflicted on the country a state of things which could not continue to exist. It was impossible to bring the inhabitants of the country under coercion into sympathy with the coercion power."

"Coming to 1832, when the resurrection of the people began, and thence down to 1880, Ireland could present here only a small minority in favor of restoring to her something in the nature of constitutional rights and practical self-government. In 1886 there were 85 Nationalists, or more than five-eighths. Let us look at the state of the case as it now stands. There are but 80 out of 101, that is to say, the wishes of Ireland for Irish self-government in Irish matters are represented only by four-fifths. (Laughter.) Hon. gentlemen seem to have no respect for such a majority as that. Do they recollect, sir, that never in England has there been such a majority? (Cheers.) No Parliament of the last fifty years has come within measurable distance of it. Unhappily at the successful instigation of those whose plot it was to divide the people of Ireland when they were united at the close of the last century, through the medium mainly of Orange lodges and through religious animosity, there was an alteration of feeling; but the Protestants of Ireland, during the period of the independent Irish Parliament, were themselves not only willing but zealous and enthusiastic supporters of Irish nationality. We who have seen them alter, not through their own fault, are not ready to be persuaded that they will not alter back again to the sentiments of their own ancestors—(cheers)—and with their own blood and their own people form one in noble, glorious unity."

Alluding to English feeling towards Irish home rule, Mr. Gladstone said he would refrain from urging that England would find herself exhausted and her work made impracticable by resistance to Irish demands. He could well conceive England maintaining, if so minded, resistance to Irish demands, but England's conversion to home rule had been rapid. In 1886 England's majority adverse to home rule was 211. It had now declined to 71. In face of such a fact who would guarantee the permanence of the opposition of the remainder? (Cheers.)

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BILL.

He would now ask the patient indulgence of the House while giving an account of the Bill. It would be remembered that the Bill of 1886 had laid down five propositions, as cardinal principles, to which he had endeavored closely to adhere. Change there was, but not a trenchant change, from the principles of 1886. The object of the bill remained as in 1886—to establish a legislative body in Dublin for the conduct of both legislation and administration in Irish, as distinct from Imperial, affairs. (Cheers.) "The limiting conditions which were then observed, and have since, so far as we have been able to do so, been sedulously and closely served, were these: We were to do nothing inconsistent with Imperial unity. Of this I will say, that so far as our convictions and intentions are concerned, they would be but feebly stated by being couched in the declaration that we do not mean to impair it. We wish to strengthen it. (Cheers.) We wish to give it greater intensity than it has ever yet possessed. First, then, Imperial unity is observed, and the equality of all is observed. Secondly, the equality of all the kingdoms would be borne in mind. Thirdly, there would be equitable repartition of Imperial charges. Fourthly, any and every practicable provision for the protection of minorities would be included. The plan proposed ought to be such as to present the necessary characteristics of a real and continued settlement.

THE IMPERIAL SUPREMACY.

"In the first place, we have made it a desire to meet what we thought was no unreasonable demand, for the express mention of the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament. There were two methods in which that might be done. It might be done by clause; it might be done in the preamble. We have chosen the preamble as the worthier and better, for if it were done by clause it would be too much in the character of a mere enactment. It is not necessary to say many words for such a purpose. Our words are: 'Whereas it is expedient, without imparing or restricting the supreme authority of Parliament,' and then the preamble goes on to declare the creation of the Irish Legislature. With reference to the charge, frequently with good faith, made against us, that we are destroying the act of union, I wish to challenge inquiry upon this fundamental point. What is the essence of the act of union? (Hear, hear.) That essence is to be appreciated by comparing the constitution of things found in the country before 1800 with the constitution of things now subsisting in England.

THE IRISH LEGISLATURE.

"Then, the bill constitutes the Irish Legislature—which consists, first of a Legislative Council; secondly, of a Legislative Assembly—empowered to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Ireland in respect to matters exclusively relating to Ireland or to a part thereof. That power is subject to a double limitation. First of all, it is subject to necessary and obvious limitations, imposing certain incapacities on the Irish Parliament, including all that relates to the crown, regency or the viceroyalty. The subjects of peace and war, public defence, treaties and foreign relations, dignities, titles, law and treason do not belong to the Irish Legislature. The law of alliance does not belong to it, nor everything that belongs to external trade, the coinage and other subsidiary subjects. Other incapacities are imposed similar to those contained in the bill of 1886. These provide for the security of religious freedom, the safeguard of education, and for the security of personal freedom, in which we endeavored to borrow one of the modern amendments to the American constitution.

RETAINING THE VICEROYALTY.

"Then, coming to exclusive powers, we retain the viceroyalty of Ireland, but we divest it of the party character heretofore borne by making the appointment run six years, subject to the revoking power of the Crown. Then, also, the post is freed from all religious disability. (Cheers.) Then comes an important provision for the appointment of an executive committee of the Privy Council of Ireland. We propose to make this executive council for the ordinary affairs of the cabinet of the viceroy. The question arises, "Shall there be any legislative council?" All decided that there ought to be such a council. We leave the number at 103 and we fix the term at five years. We leave the constituency as it is now.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Next as to the legislative council, Mr. Gladstone said he did not think they would have been warranted, without some strong necessity, in establishing the system of a single chamber. "But in Ireland," he added, "far from finding any such necessity, we look to the legislative council as enabling us to meet the expectation that we shall give to the minority some means of a freer and fuller consideration of its views. The next thing is, shall the legislative council be nominated or elected? We came to the conclusion that a nominated council would be a weak council. (Ministerial cheers.) Well, then, how do we differentiate this council from the popular assembly? We propose to fix the number at 48, with an eight years' term of office, the term of the popular assembly being lesser. We then constitute a new constituency. The council constituency must in the first place be associated with a rateable value of £20, whereby to secure an aggregate constituency approaching 170,000 persons, including owners as well as occupiers, but subject to a provision that no owner or occupier has a vote in more than one constituency.

THE ASSEMBLY.

Regarding the Legislative Assembly, these 103 members must be elected for Irish legislative business by constituencies in Ireland. We make these provisions in regard to the Assembly alterable in respect to electors and constituencies after six years, but in altering constituencies the power of the Assembly will be limited by the declaratory Act to the effect that due regard must be had to distribution of population. The bill must include a provision for meeting what is called a deadlock. In a case where a bill has been adopted by the assembly more than once, and where there is an interval of two years between the two adoptions or a dissolution of parliament, then upon its second adoption the two assemblies may be required to meet, and the fate of the bill is to be decided in joint assembly. (Cheers.)

"Next, all appeals shall be to the Privy Council alone, not to the council and lords. The Privy Council may try the question of the invalidity of any Irish act—that is, try it judicially and with reasonable judgment, under the initiative of the viceroy or secretary of state.

THE VETO POWER.

Then there is a clause intended to correspond with the colonial validity law, the effect of which is that if the Irish Legislature should pass any act in any way contrary to acts of the Imperial Parliament such law shall be good except in so far as it is contrary to the Imperial enactment.

Two exchequer judges shall be appointed under the authority of the crown, mainly for financial business. Besides the exchequer judges it is provided that for six years all judges shall be appointed as now.

TO MEET IN SEPTEMBER.

The month of September is probably the most convenient month for the assembly to meet. Therefore a clause provides that it shall meet on the first Tuesday in September. (Prolonged Irish cheers.)

Certain clauses secure the initiative in regard to money bills to the assembly.

THE IRISH CONSTABULARY.

"We are now coming to the important question of constabulary. We propose a gradual reduction and the ultimate dissolution or disappearance of that force, with the discharge of every obligation towards them in such a way as will not adversely affect the interests of that honorable force. During the period of transition they are to be under the control of the viceroy. It is contemplated they will be replaced by a force owing its existence to Irish authorities in local areas.

IRISH MEMBERS AT WESTMINSTER.

"On the important subject of the retention of Irish members in the Imperial Parliament, I do not regard, and never have regarded, it as touching what are sometimes called the fine principles of the bill. There are strong arguments which may be alleged in defence of the retention of Irish members in Parliament, but there is one argument I must put aside as a most dangerous argument and in itself quite unsatisfactory, the argument of those who say, "Unless you retain the Irish member there is no parliamentary supremacy over Ireland." I entirely decline to admit that argument. I say that if you do admit it at a stroke you shatter parliamentary supremacy in this country. Although I do not at all admit that parliamentary supremacy depends upon the retention of Irish members, I yet quite admit that the retention of Irish members has a direct practical importance, because it visibly exhibits that supremacy in a manner intelligible to the people. Besides, it gives Ireland a voice, and a full voice, in all Imperial matters. (Hear, hear.)

DIFFICULTIES OF RETENTION.

"Retention involves two points, (1) as to numbers, and (2) as to voting power. Now as to the first question—that of numbers. Is Ireland to be fully represented in this House? (Hear, hear.) Well, probably the feeling will be in favor of the affirmative. Then arises another difficulty. What is the full representation for Ireland? Speaking of the full representation, I imply that the representation in the House from Ireland would be composed of 80 Irish gentlemen. Of course it follows that there would have to be an election. These 80 members from Ireland in the House would probably be indisposed to recognize a commission given to 103 members. So when it had been determined that 80 was the proper number we endeavored to arrange the schedule of the bill in such a manner that this Imperial representation would practically not clash with representation in the Legislature at Dublin.

THE VOTING POWER.

"Now comes the greater difficulty: What voting power are these 80 members to have? Ireland is to be represented here fully. That is my first postulate. My second postulate is that Ireland is to be invested with separate powers, subject, no doubt, to Imperial authority. Yet still as we must from experience practically separate a certain independent power, as has been done in other Legislatures of the empire, Ireland is to be endowed with separate powers over Irish affairs. Then the question before us is, is she or is she not to vote as strongly upon matters purely British? I propose this question in the true parliamentary form—aye or no! Unless the Irish members are allowed to vote on all British questions they must have too little or too much, because there are questions which defy our efforts to arrange them with accuracy and precision on the proper side of the line as either English or Irish. We do not see the possibility of excluding them from one of the highest and most important functions of the House, namely, that of determining the composition of the executive power. A vote of confidence is a simple declaration, but may be otherwise. I do not see how it is possible to exclude Irish members from voting on that great subject. Next, unless Irish members vote on all questions, you break the Parliamentary tradition. The presence of 80 members with only limited powers of voting is a serious breach of that tradition which, whether you resolve to face it or not, ought to be made the subject of most careful consideration.

FINANCIAL LEGISLATION.

"I wish to supply the keynote to the financial part of the legislation. That keynote is to be found in the provision included in our plans from the first wisely and generously acceded to by Ireland through her representatives, that there is to be but one system of legislation for all the kingdoms, as far as external things are concerned, that will be found to entail very important consequences.

THE METHOD ADOPTED.

We provide that revenue levied in Ireland shall be revenue really belonging to Ireland; that is, revenue from goods consumed in Ireland. It is not so with the customs. With the customs there is a large debt from Ireland to this country. It is not so large as is involved in the case of excise, but still it comes up to several hundred thousands. If we adopted the method of quota, we should expose Irish finance to large and inconvenient shocks from changes introduced in English budgets. Imperial reasons also would perhaps make it necessary for us to do what we are, I think very unwilling to do, viz., to give Imperial officers a meddling and intervening power in relation to Irish affairs. (Hear, hear.) The third plan is to appropriate a particular fund. Say this fund shall be taken by us, and shall stand in acquittal of all obligations of Ireland for Imperial services. This fund will sweep away all the difficulties of calculation and intervention which might belong to the quota method. Then we have the fund practically in our hands in the management of the customs revenue of Ireland, which must be British. Consequently, we shall be receivers of a fund which will never go near the Irish exchequer. If it be deemed a fair and convenient arrangement, there can be no question of handing it backwards and forwards. We should keep it and give Ireland a receipt in full, instead of coming upon her for heavy payments from year to year. Then, next, the customs fund would be very nearly the right amount.

POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES.

"Questions may arise, such as, Are we assured that we shall obtain from Ireland a fair share of assistance in great Imperial emergency? I myself am bound to say that I think there is very little to fear from trusting the patriotism and liberality of the Irish Legislature. (Opposition cries of 'Oh, oh!' and cheers from the Government benches.) Stinginess was never a vice of the Irish people, and if we look forward very much I am afraid her sufferings will be due to generous extravagance rather than to meanness.

THE IRISH BALANCE SHEET

stands thus: On the credit side would appear excise, £3,220,000, while taxation, which goes over stamps, income tax, excise license, which are £1,495,000; postal revenue, £740,000; crown land, £65,000; miscellaneous, £140,000, making a total of £5,660,000. On the other side, Ireland takes over the whole of the civil charges, with the exception of the constabulary charges of £3 110 000, inland revenue £160,000, and postal service £790,000. We propose that Ireland shall take part of the constabulary charges amounting to £1,000,000. This would bring the Irish charges to £5,160,000. We propose that she shall receive against that the items I have put to her credit, amounting to £5 660,000. Then she will have a clear surplus of £500,000 with which to start on her mission.

"I will now release the House from the painful consideration of details which it has pursued with unexampled patience.

THE PERORATION.

If this is to be the end of the matter I think dispassionate men would say the sooner ended the better; the sooner we stamp the seal which will efface all former animosities and open the era of peace and good will the sooner done the better. But these are matters which human vision is hardly equal to penetrating. I may say, however, for my own part, that I never will and never can be a party to bequeathing to my country the continuance of this heritage of discord, which has been handed down from generation to generation with hardly momentary interruption through seven centuries—the heritage of discord attended with all the evils that follow in its train. I wish no part nor lot in that process. It would be misery for me if I had foregone or omitted in these closing years of my life any measure it was possible for me to take towards upholding and promoting the cause which I believe to be the cause, not of one party or one nation, but of all parties and all nations. To these nations, viewing them as I do with their vast opportunities, under a living union for power and happiness—to these nations I say, let me entreat you, let me at least breath I would so entreat you, let the dead bury their dead and cast behind you former recollections of bygone evils. Cherish love and sustain one another through all vicissitudes of human affairs in times that are to come. (Prolonged Liberal cheers.)

When the cheering had died out Sir Edward Clarke, who was Attorney-General in the Salisbury Administration, congratulated Mr. Gladstone on the magnificent physical effort which he had just made, and then proceeded to enlarge on the proposals of the bill.

Mr. Sexton paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Gladstone for his steadfastness in the cause of Home Rule and to the intellectual power which he had shown in laying the bill before the House. He declared that its provisions were, on the whole, better than those of the bill of 1886.

On the motion of Col. Saunderson the debate was then adjourned.

The text of the bill will probably not appear until the end of the week.

A JEALOUS FIEND'S CRIME.

Kept His Wife Chained in a Cellar for Seven Years.

A Buda Peath cable says: On Saturday a policeman entered the house of Franz Wild, in the suburbs, to arrest him on a warrant charging him with theft. Wild was not at home, but as the policeman was leaving he heard a moan from the cellar. He tried the cellar door but found it locked. He shouted, and a voice from the cellar begged him to break down the door. He did so, and as the stairs had been removed, let himself down with a rope. He found in a corner of the cellar Wild's wife, her face coated with filth, her feet bare, and her clothes half rotted from her back. A chain twisted around one ankle and fastened to a staple in the stone wall prevented her from walking off a beaten track a few yards long. She said that Wild had chained her there in 1886 because he had found her receiving a call from a man of whom he was jealous. He had kept her there ever since, giving her only bread to eat and just enough water to drink. He had let down the water and bread every morning through a hole in the floor. The condition of the cellar was horrible beyond description. The policeman had Mrs. Wild taken to a hospital, where she is now under treatment. Although but 30 years old, her hair is white, and she is bent almost double, and would pass as a woman 70 years of age. Wild has been arrested. He acknowledges the truth of his wife's story, and says that the punishment was only what she deserved, as he had the strongest proof of her unfaithfulness.

How the Colonel Washed.

The Colonel was in the wash-room of the sleeping-car scrubbing his face vigorously with a towel. He had not slept well, and was not in the best of humors. A little fellow with sharp-cut features and a big soft felt hat covering his head made his way with difficulty through the car, for the roadbed in the North Carolina mountains is not particularly smooth, and the limited makes fast time sometimes.

He thrust his head into the wash-room at last and inquired in a deprecatory way of the assembled multitude:

"Kin you tell me which end I wash at?"

The Colonel glared at him a minute, and then in his deep bass replied:

"Wa'al, young man, I don't know which end you 'wash at,' but at this time o' day I generally 'wash at' the top end."

The young man retreated and didn't "wash at" either end until the Colonel went to breakfast.

Why the Sky is Blue.

The blue color of the sky is probably merely the color of the air seen through a length of about 45 miles. It has been observed by those who have ascended about five miles above the earth's surface that the sky appears of a dark inky hue, owing to the very small reflection and dispersion of the light, while the blue color no longer appears above but below them.

Skirts embroidered by hand and costing $50 each came in fashion in the reign of Elizabeth.

A woman can make a home unhappy for a week over a stain on a marble centre table, and she can smile and say "no matter" when her husband comes home to tell her he's ruined.

There is a little town named Markneukirchen, in Saxony, where nearly every inhabitant is engaged in the manufacture of violins.

"Did you see that pale young man calling out 'Cash!' at the ribbon counter?" "Yes." "Fate is awfully funny, sometimes. Ten years ago, when we were boys together, his one ambition was to be a mighty hunter and catch mountain lions with a lasso."

When a man borrows his wife's knife, he loses it, and when he wants it again he asks to borrow it again, believing that she can find it.

RIVAL STATE LEGISLATURES.

Serious Times in Kansas Between Republicans and Populists.

STATE HOUSE DOORS FORCED.

Republicans in Possession But Armed Militia Besiege Them.

A Topeka, Kan., despatch says: "Bleeding" Kansas nearly bled again to-day. Nothing but the wiser counsel of the calmer leaders of the opposing parties to the struggle for the control of the lower House of the Legislature prevented a serious conflict and the shedding of blood. The members of the representative house, each one carrying a revolver in a convenient pocket, forced a way through a Populist guard stationed in the corridor and the stairway leading to the representatives' hall, fought their way inch by inch up the stairs in a hand-to-hand contest with the Populists,

BATTERED DOWN THE DOORS

of the hall with sledge hammers, took possession of the hall, barricaded themselves within and are now withstanding a siege by which the Populist Government, supported by the entire military force of the State, hope to starve them into unconditional surrender. Not since the time when the anti-slavery and pro-slavery forces were arrayed in hostile attitude against one another has political excitement run so high as it ran to-day, and not since those perilous times has a political situation come so near developing into a battle with arms. The trouble arose out of the bitterness of last fall's campaign for the political control of the State, and when the Republicans elected 63 members, a majority of one in the lower House of the Legislature, the Populists claimed that 3 of these 63 members had been given certificates by mistake, and that their Populist opponents had in fact been elected. This being the case, they decided to not permit the Republicans to organize the House, and thus array an opposition branch of the Government against the Populist senate and the Populist governor, enabling them to kill the proposed Populist legislation. The result of this decision on the part of the Populists was the organization of

TWO DISTINCT HOUSES,

one by the Republicans and one by the Populists. All agreed that the question of which was the legal House should be left to the courts, but the Populists steadily refused, until late yesterday afternoon, to take any action upon which the Republicans could base an action in law, and have refused to take any legal steps to test the Republican position. Yesterday the Populists decided to bring the issue to a crisis, and ordered the arrest of Populist Clerk Rich for illegally interrupting the proceedings of the House. The events of yesterday, the failure of the Republicans to effect Rich's arrest, the appointment of a guard to prevent his capture, the decision of Governor Lewelling to exclude the Republicans from the hall, and the counter decision of the Republicans not to be excluded, are fresh events in the matter. The Republican members, anticipating opposition to their entrance, gathered in a body at the Copeland Hotel early this morning and marched to the capitol. There they found the corridor and stairway leading to the hall in the possession of a Populist guard of twenty men. In

A HAND-TO-HAND FIGHT,

in which several Winchesters and revolvers made their appearance but were not put to use, they fought their way to the doors of the hall, which they found had been locked and barred. Two sledge hammers had been provided for that emergency, and their vigorous use by Speaker Douglass and Speaker *pro tem.* Hoch soon gave the Republicans entrance. Having gained entrance they barricaded the doors from within and prepared for an assault. They had not prepared for a siege, however, and they are now suffering the pangs of hunger and the nips of frost. The Republican members have kept the wires hot all day sending messages to their constituents informing them of the desperate situation of affairs and

CALLING FOR REPUBLICAN VOLUNTEERS

to come to Topeka at once and lend their aid to the Republican House. Responses have been received from all over the State stating that volunteers have offered their services by the hundreds and will arrive in Topeka by the first train. An sample of the messages received are given: D. M. Scott, a Republican member who happened to be at home in Ottawa, telegraphed that he "would be here in the morning with 300 armed men." "Fighting Dan" Anthony editor of the Leavenworth *Times*, wired that 1,000 armed men would come from Leavenworth. The Republican volunteers will be asked to support the Republicans in the occupancy of Representative Hall until the courts decide which is the legally constituted house.

The Populists, anticipating the events of to-day, attempted to throw the burden of information on Sheriff Wilkinson of this county. The Governor informed him officially, late yesterday evening, that rumors, apparently well founded, were in circulation to the effect that a lawless mob, the Republican House of Representatives, contemplated the forcible invasion of the Hall of Representatives, and called upon him to summon a sheriff's posse comitatus to resist such lawless invasion and to preserve the peace.

THE SHERIFF REFUSES TO ACT.

The sheriff, after taking legal advice, refused to comply with the demand of the Governor and the Populist speaker and notified them to that effect. The reply of the sheriff determined the Governor to call out the militia, and after the Republicans made forcible entrance to Representative Hall he wired the commanders of various companies to repair at once with their commands to the scene of the hostilities. The only capable officer of rank on the ground is Col. J. W. Hughes. To him this afternoon Adjutant-General Artz delivered the following order: "You are hereby ordered to assume active command of all officers and troops of the Kansas National Guard assembled in Topeka and around the State House. (Sg'd) L. D. Lewelling, Commander-in-Chief." Upon receiving the order Col. Hughes at once took charge, and brought order out of chaos. The various companies which had been brought up about the state house, according to ideas of the individual commandants, were given stations at the four main entrances to the capitol on its four sides.

THE CAPITOL UNDER SIEGE.

Squads of men were posted at all the basement entrances. Sentinel lines were thrown out, and the situation assumed a really military aspect. The forces were divided into three parts, each to remain on active duty eight hours while the other two, being held in reserve, are permitted to obtain rest and refreshments.

This plan was adopted to aid in carrying out of a general plan of siege. The Populists decided not to force the issue by an assault upon the Republican position in Representative Hall, but to conquer the enemy by siege, and thus avert a conflict and possible bloodshed. The Republican House is in no condition to stand a prolonged siege. It has neither supplies nor means of obtaining them. During the excitement prevalent at noon they succeeded in running the populists' blockade and secured sandwiches and coffee for lunch. Enough was left over for a meager meal this evening, but when this is gone all hope of eating vanishes, except at the cost of unconditional surrender. Guards have been stationed in all the corridors leading to Representative Hall and all entrances to and exits from the building, and no one is allowed to enter the building.

ANYONE CAN LEAVE

the hall who desires to, but once he leaves he leaves for good, and is not permitted to return. No passes are given by Col Hughes through the lines. Even newspaper men are denied entrance to the buildings. The Republicans thus find themselves in a position which cannot be maintained long. Starvation stares them in the face, with unconditional surrender, as the only alternative. An incidental deprivation is that of steam, by which the hall is heated. The janitor of the building, by Adjutant-General Artz's order, turned off the steam in Representative Hall soon after the Republicans barricaded themselves within, and they have been without heat all day. They managed to keep reasonably warm by wearing their overcoats and hats.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 16, Representative Hall, 8 a. m.—The Republican House is still besieged in Representative Hall and the force of State militia is still posted about the Capitol. Col. Hughes has again declined to obey the Governor's order to eject the Republicans and the only resource the Governor has besides the regular militia is the three companies of provisional troops composed of Populists, who, of course, sympathize with the Populists. They would doubtless make an attempt to carry out an order to eject the Republicans. Col. Warner, who had planned the Republican campaign says of these provisional companies: "They are the Governor's pet lambs. We are wolves now and would devour them if given the opportunity."

The outlook at this hour is a belligerent one. The refusal of Col. Hughes to obey the Governor's orders has balked the Populist programme. The Governor will make no statement as to his plans for the day, but it is believed they include an order to the provisional troops to eject the Republicans. Should that be attempted they will be met by armed resistance on the part of the Republicans.

CONFERENCE OF RAILWAY MEN.

Passenger and Freight Rates Discussed and an Agreement Signed.

A despatch from Niagara Falls says: There was a quiet gathering of representative Canadian freight agents of the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk, and other roads on the American side to-day at the Kaltenbach House. Just what was the business of the meeting, which was held behind closed doors, could not be ascertained. It was, however, in regard to freight and traffic rates, and it is generally understood there was in view a discrimination against through trunk lines in the United States. Among those present were: General Traffic Manager Geo. Olds, of the Canadian Pacific, of Toronto; Mr. J. N. Sutherland, general freight agent of the same road, also of Toronto; Mr. J. Burton, general freight agent of the Grand Trunk, Montreal; Mr. John Earls, Hamilton; Mr. A. White, Toronto district; Freight Agents John Gordon, Buffalo; James H. Beatty, Sarnia, Ont.; W. Swinford, Winnipeg; W. H. Waterston, Chatham; F. A. Howe, Chicago; S. L. Moore, St. Paul; W. B. Mackay, R. V. Mackay and J. B. Fairgrieve, Hamilton; S. Henry and C. Arthur Jacques, Montreal; H. G. McMicken, M. E. Belcher, J. M. Beworth and W. Aikin, Toronto; and Wm. Woollett, Walkerton, Ont. No definite information could be gleaned, although several of the gentlemen were approached. It leaked out that a cast-iron agreement had been arranged which all roads and agents had signed. Two sessions were held, and the meeting was quite lively.

ROBBERS' BIG HAUL.

They Board a Train and Secure 500,000 Roubles.

A Warsaw cable says: Details were received last evening of the robbery of a mail train near Nowoscenaki last Friday. Five hundred thousand roubles were being brought to this city in care of five Government officials. As the train slowed up near Nowoscenaki for water three masked men alighted from a first-class coupe, walked forward along the foot-boards, and forced their way into the postal car. Two of the Government officials reached for their arms, but were shot dead instantly. Another official was shot in the breast, and the other two surrendered. The robbers then threw off the boxes containing the money. When the train stopped, they ran ahead, and pointing their pistols at the engine-driver's head, compelled him to start the train again. Two of the men went back and took charge of the money, while the third rode three miles on the engine to prevent the possibility of an attempt at pursuit. He then compelled the driver to stop, let him off, and then go ahead. The two officials who surrendered have been arrested. They are believed to have been in collusion with the robbers. No other arrests have been made.

IN DIRE STRAITS.

The Story of Three Sailors Who Were Driven to Cannibalism.

A Hamburg cable says: A reporter of the Hamburger *Nachrichten* has interviewed the three sailors of the Taekla who are here awaiting trial for having eaten their Dutch companion after the wrecking of their ship at sea. He describes the men as dirty, uncanny creatures who speak only in broken sentences and do not appear to realize that their deed was in any way reprehensible. All spoke of the killing of the Dutchman as the only thing to be done under the circumstances. They do not remember who first suggested the sacrificing of one of the four men in the rigging. Lots were drawn with rags torn from the shirts. After the lot had fallen upon him twice, the Dutchman, by turning his back, gave the sign for them to proceed. Anderson and Jacobson held him by the shoulders and legs while Johannson stabbed him to death. They ate his flesh from the time of killing till when they were rescued.

The Emperor and the Snow.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Miss Ella Gardiner from Berlin: "And now I must tell you a little about Berlin. First of all I have seen the Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II., and also the Crown Prince. We passed through the Brandenburger Thor, one of the city gates to Unter den Linden, the finest street in Berlin. A crowd was gathering on the sidewalk and all looking in a state of expectancy. Inquiring the cause we learned that the Kaiser was coming, and very shortly afterwards he appeared with one of his officers, drawn by beautiful horses, going at great speed, driven by coachmen attired in black and silver mountings. The people greeted him on all sides, with heads uncovered, and he bowing returned their salutations. Again as we were walking along the same street, we saw many persons stopping to raise their hats and upon inquiring found that they were saluting the little Crown Prince. It was snowing fast, and a coachman was driving three of the little princes with an adjutant on a fine, big open sleigh. The youngsters seemed to enjoy it immensely; but think of the poor little fellows having to bow in all directions, all along their route. This street "Unter den Linden," almost approaches Ring Strasse in Vienna in its magnificence. It is very broad and flanked on both sides by most elegant public buildings, stores, etc. It is very cold here and a good deal of snow has fallen, but is cleaned off the street immediately. Not a bit is allowed to remain on the roads, though the roofs of the houses are covered. We see young people going skating all the time, and I am sure the ice must be in prime condition."

Curling.

WINNERS UP TO DATE.

In nineteen years the coveted trophy has been won four times by the Hamilton Thistles; twice by Toronto Granites and once each by Toronto, Bowmanville, Port Hope, Toronto Caledonian, Brampton, St. Mary's Orillia, Paris, Thamesville, Galt, Walkerton and now for the first time by Bobcaygeon. In 1887 Toronto secured it without a contest. The winners have been:

Winning Club.	Year.	Last Club in.
Hamilton Thistle	1875	Hamilton Mechanics.
Toronto	1876	Orillia.
Toronto	1877	No other competitor.
Hamilton Thistle	1878	Port Dover.
Bowmanville	1879	Galt.
Port Hope	1880	Bowmanville.
Hamilton Thistle	1881	Port Hope.
Toronto Caledonian	1882	Bowmanville.
Brampton	1883	Barrie.
St. Mary's	1884	Orillia.
Orillia	1885	Hamilton Thistle.
Toronto Granite	1886	Guelph.
Paris	1887	St. Mary's.
Thamesville	1888	Galt.
Galt	1889	Toronto Granite.
Walkerton	1890	Granite.
Hamilton Thistle	1891	Toronto Prospect Park
Toronto Granite	1892	Peterboro.
Bobcaygeon	1893	Oshawa.

Convincing a Juror.

"And you don't believe in capital punishment?" asked the rural justice of the juror.

"No, sir, I don't."

"An' nothin' could convince you?"

"Nothin'."

"John," said the justice to the bailiff, "grease that rope an' swing him up, an' may the Lord have mercy on his soul!"

Be Careful of "Left Overs."

Never put away food in tin plates. Fully one-half the cases of poison from the use of canned goods are because the article was left or put back into the can after being. China, earthenware or glass is the only safe receptacle for "left overs."—*New York World.*

The name of an alleged rain compeller, who has brought suit in a Nebraska court for $500 for producing a shower last summer, is Swisher—a name peculiarly suggestive of a driving rainstorm from the east.

Friend—It seems singular to me that you have so little to say about your boy. You never speak of his brightness or his witty sayings. Rising Young Author—How can I boast of him? The children of great men rarely amount to much.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Sir John Thompson moved that the House adjourn to-morrow, and stand adjourned until Thursday at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Denison, for Mr. McCarthy, introduced the bill to amend the Northwest Territory Act.

Cries of "Explain, explain."

Mr. Denison—I may say it is the same bill which was introduced last year.

Mr. Hughes—Can the hon. gentleman say when the bill will come up for second reading?

Mr. Choquette—Next year. (Laughter.)

Mr. Costigan introduced a bill to amend the Civil Service Act.

Mr. Foster, in answer to Mr. Rowand, who asked what effect the quarantine regulation lately adopted by the American Government against Canadian cattle would have in sending cattle in bond to Boston or other seaports for shipment to the British market, said the United States quarantine regulation, as published in the newspapers, of which the Canadian Government had not been officially notified, would not admit of beef cattle being carried across the frontier except at the quarantine port of Buffalo. Canadian cattle could therefore not be sent in bond to Boston for shipment unless a transit arrangement was established similar to that by which American cattle can pass through Ontario from west to east, from one United States port to another.

Mr. Davin moved that the duty on barbed wire, on agricultural implements, on coal oil, and on cotton should be reduced, so as to give no more than reasonable protection, and that the duty on binder twine should be abolished. This was not necessarily a motion of want of confidence in the Government. He was a supporter of the Government and a believer in the National Policy. There were three kinds of tariff—pure revenue tariff, moderate protective tariff, or a tariff that would be exclusive and that would be, if there was not direct taxation, a *reductio ad absurdum.*

Mr. Moncrieff, continuing the debate upon the question of the proposed reduction of duties, quoted figures to show that in several States of the Union coal oil sold as high as 20 cents a gallon. If the duty was removed the Standard company will have the entire field to themselves, and will immediately raise the price of oil in Canada. Competition had brought the price of oil in Canada as low as possible.

Mr. Macdonald (Huron) said he had no axes to grind, and spoke from a national standpoint. He was influenced by no monopoly either in the United States or in Canada, and that he thought was a little more than his hon. friend who had just spoken could say. He had looked into this matter thoroughly, and had come to the conclusion that in the interests of the Canadian consumer, and three fourths of the House had come to the same conclusion, the duty on coal oil was too high.

Mr. Edgar moved the adjournment of the debate.

The Budget.

Mr. Foster, in moving the House into Committee of Ways and Means, said: Mr. Speaker, I desire to state that in March last, when I had the honor of making my financial statement in this House, I estimated that the revenue that would be given to us during that year would be, for Customs, $20,500,000. The actual receipts were $20,501,059, being the very slight excess of $1,059. Excise was estimated at $7,000 000, and the actual receipts were $7,945,097, an excess of $945 97. Miscellaneous was estimated at $8,265 000, and yielded $8,475,715, an excess of $21,715. So that, whereas the total estimate at that period was over $36 000,000, the total receipts were $36,921,871, being an excess of receipts over estimates of $256,871. The total then for 1891 2 was $36.921.871, as compared with the total of $33 579,310 in 1890-1, being a total falling off of $1,657,439.

From the following articles decreased duties were received: Brass, and manufactures of, $15 563; breadstuffs, $139,557; bricks and tiles, $11,963; coffee, and manufactures of, $20,709; cotton, and manufactures of, $20 892; embroideries, not elsewhere provided for, $21,715; fishing instruments, $3 320; butter, cheese, lard and meats, $101,753; salt, 7,991; tobacco and manufactures of, $55,308; watches and parts of, $19,158; wood and manufactures of, $10,888.

In making the change in the tariff in June, 1891, I estimated a loss upon the consumption of sugar of the two preceding years of $3,500,000 in our revenue. estimated a gain from the excise duties of $500,000 in malt, $600,000 in spirits, and $400,000 in tobacco. The increase has not come up to the estimates. The actual gained in malt was $339,924; in spirits, $329,610; in tobacco the estimate was exceeded—whereas the estimate was $400,000, the increase has been $514,140; the total increase accruing from these increased excise duties is $1,183,674. In order to offset these increased excise duties to some extent the duties of customs upon liquors were slightly increased; but this result was not to increase the revenues, for although we received an increase in ale and porter of $27,136, and in spirits and wines of $12,874, we had a decrease in imported tobaccos of $56,310; so that the total decrease in customs amounts to $16,298, so far as these goods are concerned. Therefore, as regards the increases and losses which were estimated, the revenue has gained less from the impositions upon the malts and spirits, and we have lost more than we estimated by taking off the duties upon sugar on account of the increased consumption. It is very probable that in taking off the duties upon raw sugar we have remitted to this country upon the actual necessary consumption of sugar in the neighborhood of $4,000,000 during the past year.

I come now to speak for a few moments of the expenditure during the past year. The estimated expenditure of March of last year was $36 600 000, the actual expenditure was $36,765,894, an increase over the preceding year of $432,327. That is, the actual expenditure on consolidated fund account last year, when taken from the total revenue of last year, left a small, but at the same time convenient, surplus to the amount of $155 977. About three or four years ago I predicted that we had arrived at a period when we should call a hal