

HOME RULE PROSPECTS.

A SHORT SESSION OPENED.

Parish Councils and Employers' Bills Will be Pushed, with the Certainty that the Rejection of the Latter will Result in an Appeal.

Despatches from London give descriptions of the reassembling of Parliament, being the first autumn meeting for several years. It promises to be a phenomenally short session. As noted in these despatches heretofore, the government will push two important measures—the parish councils bill and the employers' liability bill.

The last Tory Government gave the country the County Council, which substituted that elective body for a board of appointive Magistrates. The Liberals go much further and propose to establish elective parish councils, which shall take over the powers now exercised by the vestries, consisting in the country generally of the wardens of the parish church and almost complete control of the landed gentry, tradesmen and other smaller landlords. The proposed bill gives a vote to every householder and will thus very largely increase the power of the "common people" to control all local matters.

WOULD GO TO THE COUNTRY.

It seems very likely that if passed in the House of Commons the House of Lords will also throw out this bill. In that event it may be regarded as certain that Mr. Gladstone will at once dissolve Parliament and go to the country. He will have in this issue a popular rallying cry, which not only would return a Liberal majority, but might give a deal of force to the movement against the upper chamber.

Under the existing law of employers' liability the employer has in a large proportion of the cases been able to escape paying any compensation for injuries sustained by his workmen. The principal object of the new bill is to narrow the interpretation of contributory negligence so as to give effective protection to the workman against being cheated out of his fair compensation for injuries (or death) by legal quibbles.

Under the present law also the employer on engaging workmen can get them to sign a contract acquitting the employer of all responsibility for accidents to them. In the cases of some large enterprises, notably the London and Northwestern Railway, which employs 40,000 men, insurance funds have been started, to which the companies have contributed liberally and from which the men were compensated in case of injury incurred during their work.

Men employed by such companies contract themselves out of the employers' liability act. The new bill would deprive workmen of that right, and these workmen are opposed to the proposed reform of the law. But trades union organizations and labor bodies generally are in favor of the bill.

So far as one can judge by Lord Salisbury's utterances the opposition will not only fight this bill in the House of Commons, but may also throw it out of the House of Lords.

WILL THEY STICK TO GLADSTONE?

Can Mr. Gladstone rely upon his present majority, that is to say the Irish part of it, for continued support in these measures? They must not only support him, it must be remembered, but the absence of thirty five out of seventy-two Irish members at the time of a vote would wreck the Ministry. This is the serious question of the day.

The chief topic of discussion in political clubs is the new policy of hostility to the government formulated by Redmond in his recent speeches. The Unionists are hopeful that, as the government cannot possibly accede to Redmond's demand for an evicted tenants' bill during the approaching sittings, he may be tempted to follow up his threatened abstention by actually voting against the government on some crucial question. But Redmond's friends disclaim any such design, at least for the present, though they hint that if the Ministers should fail to reintroduce the Home Rule bill in the session of next year Redmond may avail himself of some opportunity of casting his nine votes against them when by so doing he can insure their defeat.

The attitude of the McCarthyites, in view of the line taken by Redmond, has

also been eagerly canvassed and reports are prevalent that some of McCarthy's followers sympathized with Redmond's contemplated action.

AS MCCARTHY SEES IT.

When asked whether he thought Redmond was likely to detach any members of the Nationalist party on this new policy, the leader of the Nationalists seemed rather amused as he replied, emphatically:

"Nothing that Redmond could do would detach a single member of the Nationalist party."

"You are agreed, then, within your party upon supporting the government in pressing forward their English legislation?"

"We are absolutely unanimous upon the point. We regard it as essential to keep the government in power which has promised to give us Home Rule and which has already carried that measure through the House of Commons. We must do everything to keep the Tories out of office, for if they came in now it would mean the indefinite postponement of Home Rule and the probable renewal of coercion in Ireland."

"Do you consider that Redmond has improved his position in Ireland by his recent speeches?"

"I consider that he has injured his position. It must be apparent to the meanest political intelligence that our policy as Home Rulers should be to do everything to strengthen the Ministry pledged to grant us what we want. It is vitally necessary before there is a dissolution that the Ministers should have done all in their power to fulfil their pledges to the English electorate, and we shall assist them in every way in doing so, knowing that by so doing we are insuring the ultimate triumph of Home Rule."

"Do you believe that Redmond can put the government in the minority?"

"The chances of the parliamentary game are manifold, and by carefully watching them he might find an opportunity when his nine votes would wreck the Home Rule Ministry, but I cannot conceive it possible that he would pursue a policy so certainly fatal to himself and his followers. He may abstain from attending at Westminster; that is a safe and convenient course. But I won't believe, until I see it, that he will openly aid the Unionists in defeating Home Rule. No, I believe that the Ministers, in pursuing the policy that they have decided upon, will be perfectly secure and will insure their triumph at the next general elections, and then the triumph of Home Rule."

HOME RULE PROGRAMME.

While the Home Rule bill will not be reintroduced in the Commons during the present Parliament adequate measures will be adopted to keep the question before the country until dissolution. The proposal made in behalf of the government to the Irish Nationalists is that the bill shall be reintroduced in the House of Lords next year. The Lords, are, of course, certain to reject the bill again, and upon this the government will submit a resolution to the House of Commons reaffirming the principles of the bill and condemning the action of the Lords in rejecting it. This resolution can be carried after eight or ten days' discussion, and will practically have the same effect in keeping Home Rule to the front as if the bill itself had again been carried through the Commons and without the waste of time that such a course would entail.

This scheme has been accepted in effect, if not formally by the Nationalists, but Redmond has not indicated whether it would satisfy his party. It is agreed that it is the best the Ministry can do, since if it were to devote the whole of this session to the Home Rule bill again the best informed opinion is that the disappointment so caused to English supporters would result in the breaking up of the Liberal party, the destruction of the government and the loss of all chance of a Home Rule Ministry being returned at the next election.

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Magistrate: How do you know the prisoner made a great disturbance? Policeman: He woke me up, your worship.

Young Man: "I want an engagement ring." Jeweller: "Yes, sir. About what size?" "I don't know exactly, but she can twist me round her finger, if that's any guide."

Guest: This bill of fare is in French. Waiter: Yes, sir; but the prices is in English, sir. Mue' folks go by them."

London Cabby politely: Beg pardon, sir. Please don't smoke in the keb, sir; ladies do complain o' the 'bacca uncommon. Better let me smoke it for yer outside, sir.

Doctor: I would advise you to take a walk every morning before breakfast. Sappy: But, doctor, I—ah, never get up until after breakfast, y'know.

"When I grow up," said a little 6-year old philosopher, "sha'n't I feel strange for a day or two."

"Falsie sings beautifully, but they tell me he can't tell the truth." "That's right. He's the most 'tuneful lyre' in the State."

"You have seen Jones' wife; what is she like? Should you call her pretty?" "I might if I were talking to Jones."

Tom: Women don't love men for what they really are, but for what they have done. Kitty: And men love women for what their fathers have done.

ELVIRA showing Pearl her photograph: Awful, isn't it? Pearl: It's a splendid likeness, though.

PASSENGER: Why, guard, how's this? There's no room in this train. Guard: There's room enough, but there are too many passengers.

Hostess—"People are very dull to-night, Adolph; I really can't get them to talk."

Host—"Play something, dearest."

It's All Right If he Sent Stamps.—Humorist: I've been looking for the article I wrote the other day on Harlem Goats. I wanted *The Agriculturist's Almanac* to have that, and I believe I sent it off to Puck.

Humorist's Wife—Well, you'll have to wait now, dear, till it comes back..

The following young Oblate Fathers have lately received obediences for the foreign missions named in each case: Father Audic, British Columbia (accompanying Mr. Durieu, who has sailed from Havre); Father Bremont, Mackenzie; Father Chaumont, Labrador; Father Charles Lefebvre, St. Albert, Alberta; Father Vales and Father Comeau, Manitoba.

The Davis Coal and Coke Company, of West Virginia, is shipping coke to Mexico and is succeeding in direct competition with the English coke companies.

By the caving in of a trench at Homestead steel works two men were killed outright and five others injured, one of them fatally.

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