

EVENTS

Published Weekly.

12
Vol. 8, No. 8.

OTTAWA, FEB. 20, 1904.

Whole No. 257.

Chamberlain's Policy Killed.

THE policy of protection in England launched under the guise of preferential trade within the empire and with the ultimate object of depriving the colonies of autonomous government in the name of imperial federation, with the corollary of taxes for defence, received its quietus in the British parliament in the division which took place on Monday, the 15th inst. when Mr. John Morley's amendment only lacked 26 votes of being carried.

When the present parliament was elected it consisted of a ministerial majority of 134 made up altogether from England, with the exception of four from Scotland. The Ministerialists numbered 402 and the Opposition 268. The small majority from Scotland is gone, and the government are in a minority in the representation from Ireland, Wales and Scotland, while in England the bye-elections are rapidly diminishing the large English majority of 218 in 1900.

Mr. Morley's amendment censured the government for conflicting declarations from his Majesty's ministers and condemn-

ed protection. It was moved as a direct vote of want of confidence in the government and yet all of the majority that the Balfour administration could retain was 51. There were 276 members voted for the amendment and 327 against it. The importance of the division can be realized from the fact that this is one of the largest divisions ever recorded in the annals of the British House of Commons, the total membership of which is 670. The vote for Mr. Morley's amendment of 276 would on almost every other occasion have overturned the government.

The despatches state that many Unionists were impelled by the nature of the vote, one of want of confidence, to vote against the amendment contrary to their convictions. As a result out of 60 Unionists only 28 followed the Unionist leaders into the Opposition lobby. If all the Unionists had voted the way 28 of them did the government would have been defeated and there is no doubt that all the Unionists are of one mind on the subject. In addition, straight Conservatives, such as the Rt.