

EXTRA SPECIAL.

TO-DAY'S SITTING OF THE COMMONS.  
ATTACK ON A NEW KNIGHT.  
THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY.

The Speaker took the Chair in the House of Commons at eight minutes to three o'clock this afternoon.

The Kendal Corporation Bill and the Wisbech Water Bill were read a third time. The Devonport Corporation Bill and the Tees Valley Water (Consolidation) Bill were ordered for third reading.

THE U.S. AND NEWFOUNDLAND.

Mr. Hart-Davies asked the Foreign Secretary whether he was in a position to give any information to the House as to the progress of the negotiations with the United States on the Newfoundland question.

Sir E. Grey said he was not able to add to the information already furnished to the House. No agreement had yet been arrived at, but his Majesty's Government were doing their best to come to an arrangement.

RUSSIA AND PERSIA.

Mr. Lynch asked whether, in connexion with the negotiations now proceeding with the Russian Government, with a view to harmonising the interests of the two Powers in Persia, he would appoint a small committee of experts thoroughly acquainted with Persia and the contiguous regions to confer together and to advise him in the preparation of the British case.

Sir E. Grey said he did not think it desirable to appoint such a committee.

BRITISH REPRESENTATION AT THE HAGUE.

Mr. Alden asked whether any new instructions have been issued to British delegates at The Hague with reference to the question of commerce-destruction, and whether Sir E. Satow's views on this subject correctly represent the attitude of the Government in relation to the immunity of private property.

Sir E. Grey said the line taken by the British representative was entirely in accordance with the instructions of H.M. Government.

THE DEFECTIVE RUDDER-CASTING.

Mr. Courthope asked the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the defective casting of the rudder of H.M.S. "Edward VII." was inspected by an Admiralty inspector before being built into the ship, and, if so, whether such inspector had practical knowledge of castings.

Mr. E. Robertson: I am informed that the answer to both questions is in the affirmative.

IRISH TIMBER.

Mr. T. W. Russell informed Mr. Curran that the area under wood in Ireland showed a considerable decrease during the last twelve years. He proposed to appoint a small Departmental Committee to devise a scheme whereby the mischief might be checked, and the best means of approaching the larger question of afforestation.

ATTACK ON A NEW KNIGHT.

Mr. H. C. Lea asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that Mr. James Brown Smith, Clifford Park, Stirling, one of the new knights gazetted in the Birthday Honours List of last month, was a director of the Ayrshire Foundry Company during the time the latter company fraudulently supplied a defective rudder for H.M.S. "Edward VII.," and whether it was proposed to take action against him.

The Prime Minister: Sir James Smith is a man entirely worthy of the recognition which his public services have received. (Cheers)—and a man enjoying the respect of all who know him, no matter to what party or class they belong. I have inquired and find that he was a director of the Ayrshire Foundry Company at the time the circumstances referred to occurred, but he and his fellow-directors had no knowledge whatever of the offences being committed by their servant or servants, for which they themselves have suffered a heavy pecuniary loss.

THREATENED STRIKE AT WOOLWICH.

Considerable anxiety is felt at Woolwich over the threat of the men in the carriage department of the Arsenal to come out on strike as a protest against being compelled to wait about for work without being paid for their time.

THE HOME SECRETARY'S RECEPTION.

The Home Secretary and Mrs. Gladstone will this evening hold a reception at 11, Downing-street. Over 2,000 guests have been invited, and the company will include the Ministers, all the Liberal M.P.'s, members of the late Government, and prominent members of the Opposition.

DISAPPEARING LONDON.

On Monday week the headquarters of the Young Men's Christian Association will be removed from the famous Exeter Hall to 346, Strand (corner of Aldwych), pending the erection of the new building, which is to serve as a memorial to Sir George Williams, the founder of the Association.

HOW TO CHAIN ABORIGINES.

Melbourne, July 11.—Sir John Forrest, who as an explorer has much experience in the treatment of Aborigines, has expressed the opinion that chaining at the neck is humane, and the only effective means of preventing the escape of native prisoners. Sir John Forrest declares that he has no doubt that the blacks themselves much prefer the present method to being chained by the legs.—Reuter.

"HAMMERED" STOCKBROKERS' AFFAIRS.

To-day at the London Bankruptcy Court the first meeting of Creditors was held under the expensive failure of Starkey, Leverson, and Cooke, stockbrokers, lately carrying on business at 2, Threadneedle-street, E.C. The debtors last month were hammered on the Stock Exchange. With regard to Messrs. Leverson and Cooke, it was alleged that they had departed with intent to defeat or delay creditors, but they have since been arrested, and are now under remand upon charges of misappropriating clients' moneys and securities.

In the case of Mr. Starkey it was certified that he was suffering from illness and unable to attend the meeting. Proofs of debt amounting to £105,000 having been dealt with, the chairman said the creditors were aware that criminal proceedings were pending against the debtors Leverson and Cooke with reference to alleged misappropriation of clients' securities, and in the circumstances he did not consider it desirable at present to interview them. Mr. Starkey was confined to his house by illness. He believed that the liabilities would be found to exceed £200,000, and the available assets were not likely to be very considerable. It appeared that about £60,000 or £70,000 worth of securities were held by bankers against the debtors' account. The official assignee of the Stock Exchange had given the Official Receiver all the assistance in his power. An adjudication of bankruptcy was received upon, and a trustee and committee of inspection were appointed.

REMARKABLE SHOOTING AT BISLEY.

SERGEANT-MAJOR WALLINGFORD'S FINE PERFORMANCE.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)  
CAMP, Thursday, 10 o'clock.

This is the first really fine day during the present meeting, a bitterly cold night being followed by a soft, balmy morning. This is especially fortunate, as to-day is Public Schools Day, and the seven events carried in that connexion always attract large crowds of fashionably dressed ladies and gentlemen to Bisley to watch the boys shoot if the weather be fine.

When shooting commenced in the Albert there was scarcely a breath of wind, and the light was good. Captain Blake Campbell, of the 1st C Battalion of the King's Royal Rifles, who is adjutant of the Irish Twenty at Bisley, yesterday sent a telegram to the Equerry to the King at Dublin, requesting him to convey to His Majesty the respectful greetings of the members of the club on the happy occasion of his visit to the land of their birth, and received a telegram this morning from the Equerry expressing the thanks of the King for the message, and requesting him to inform the members of the club that the King and Queen were enjoying their visit to Ireland very much.

The early morning trains brought in troops of young riflemen in every kind of uniform eager to get practice-shots before the start of the competitions. They soon spread themselves over the common, and the scene became more animated than it has been at any time during the present meeting.

In the Albert, the match-rifemen discharge ten shots per man at 800 and 900 yards, and fifteen at 1,000 yards, to decide the ownership of thirty prizes of the total value of £116. Last year Mr. Maurice Blood, of the Irish Rifle Association, won the first prize of £20 with a score of 162. Of the events associated with the public schools, the Ashburton Shield is shot for by teams of eight at 200 and 500 yards, seven shots at each, for the shield, given in 1883 by the first Baron Ashburton. Last year it was won by Dover College, with a score of 467. The Cadets' Trophy is shot for by teams of two at the same ranges. The Spencer Cup is shot for by one competitor selected from the teams shooting for the Ashburton Shield who fires seven shots at 500 yards for the Silver Cup given by Earl Spencer and ten Bronze Medals given by the N.R.A. The Public Schools' Veterans' contest is carried out by teams of five old pupils from each of the public schools, who fire ten shots at 500 yards. The United Hospitals' Challenge Cup is shot for by teams of six from each Metropolitan hospital, who fire ten shots at 500 yards. Other events are the Universities' snap-shooting and the Schools' rapid-firing.

The Universities snap-shooting match was won by Oxford with a score of 43.

11.45.—In glorious weather the Ashburton Shield contest is now in full progress at the Century Butts. The representatives of fifty-six different schools, attired in uniform of various kinds and colours, are spread across the length of the common, and the firing line is flanked by a big gathering of ladies in delicate summer attire, who are eagerly watching the shooting by their relatives.

In the meantime, on the Strickledown Ranges, the Albert is being keenly contested by the match rifle experts. At the 800 yards range Major Richardson, of the 2nd Northumberland Fusiliers, who is to captain the British rifle team on its forthcoming visit to Canada and Australia, put on a highest possible of 50; but at the second distance he had the misfortune to miss with his second shot. At the second range Colonel Gibbs led with 97, having made 48 at the first range and 49 at the second. Colonel Hopton, Inspector of Small Arms, is second, with 96, having made 47 at the first range and 49 at the second, while Major Sandeman was third with a total of 95, having made 48 at the first range and 47 at the second.

Sergeant-Major Wallingford, the champion shot of the British Army, who achieved such a fine record last week at Bisley in the Army rifle competition, performed another remarkable feat this morning in quick firing with the Esser-Barratt repeating rifle. This was a weapon which attracted much attention last year on its introduction at Bisley. This year the Esser-Barratt Company have given a challenge cup for competition with the weapon, and the competitors have to fire at a small figure on a target at the 200 yards range, and get as many shots off as possible in a minute.

To-day Sergeant-Major Wallingford shot for three minutes and made the remarkable total of 301, scoring 34 in one minute, 34 in the next minute, and 33 in the third minute. This feat is the more remarkable as Sergeant-Major Wallingford had never shot with or handled the weapon before, and only had a practice shot. Two points only are allowed for hits on the figure, and other hits count one point.

12.45.—The Public-Schoolboys have just concluded the shooting at the first stage of the Ashburton Shield, and the spectators have witnessed shooting of a very high order. All along the line the youngsters made capital shooting; it was quite an exception to see a poor score registered on the marking-board. The Rugby team is at present leading, with 257 points, while Bradford is second with 255 points, Charterhouse and Clifton next with 251 points.

1.0.—The following are the next best team scores in the Ashburton Shield Competition at 200 yards: Eastbourne, 250; Glenalmond, 247; Murchison, 247; Malvern, 245; Dover, 245; Iron, 245; Lancing, 244; Bedford, 244; Repton, 244; Kelly, 243; Marlborough, 241; Wellington, 241; Haileybury, 241.

The first prize in the Albert has been won by Colonel Hopton, C.I.S.A., who made a fine total of 74 at the last range of 1,000 yards, and totalled 170 points for the three ranges. He wins £20. Colonel G. Gibbs, Gloucester Engineers, with a score of 169, takes £10, and the following are winners of £5:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Mr. Crombie, Ulster R.A.                | 167 |
| Mr. Whitehead, Bury                     | 166 |
| Dr. Sellers, I.R.A.                     | 166 |
| Major Lamb, A.R.A.                      | 164 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Sandeman, Glos. I.V. | 164 |
| Mr. Caldwell, Ulster R.A.               | 163 |
| Captain Ranken, 6th Royal Scots         | 163 |
| Corporal Findlay, 1st Oxford L.I.       | 163 |
| Major Pixley, 1st Middlesex             | 163 |
| Sergeant Watt, Ayr and Gall. R.G.A.     | 160 |

THE MOTOR-BUS NUISANCE.

At a meeting of the members of the ten Ward Committees of the City of Westminster to-day the following resolution was unanimously agreed to: "That this meeting is of opinion that the present style of motor-omnibus is too large, too heavy, and too noisy, and causes grave annoyance to the owners and occupiers, and damage to property, on the lines of route, and that the authorities should be urged to make such regulations as will lessen the noise and vibration, and so remedy the evils complained of; and this meeting is also of opinion that traction engines and other heavy motor traffic should be prohibited from using the roads in such a manner as to injure property or disturb the peace of the inhabitants of this city."

COLLISION BETWEEN GOODS TRAINS.

Early this morning a collision occurred on the Midland Railway between a goods train and a mineral train, and resulted in both main lines being blocked. The passenger express which left St. Pancras at midnight for Glasgow was delayed three hours, and reached Carlisle at 9.30 this morning, after being sent over another route via Sheffield and Chapelton.

THE KING IN DUBLIN.

MESSAGE TO THE IRISH PEOPLE.

The Earl of Aberdeen (Lord Lieutenant of Ireland) has received from Lord Tweedmouth, Minister in Attendance on the King, the following gracious message, which his Majesty wishes to be conveyed to the Irish people:

"H.M. Yacht Victoria and Albert,

"Kingstown, July 10, 1907.

"Dear Lord Aberdeen,—I have received a gracious command from His Majesty the King to write you a letter which shall convey to you, for your intimation to the Irish people, the expression of his own and her Majesty the Queen's most warm and appreciative gratitude for the very hearty and enthusiastic reception given to them by so many Irish men and women during their drive to-day from Kingstown to the Dublin Exhibition, and thence to the Viceregal Lodge.

"His Majesty has had a long and happy experience of the kindness which has been uniformly shown him by the Irish people of all classes, and it was a pleasant thing to find once more on his passage through the streets of the capital of Ireland such evident proof of the loyal feeling towards the Crown.

"Their Majesties greatly admired the grounds and buildings of the Irish Exhibition, and the many objects of interest shown in its various sections. Especially they were struck with the large representation of native industries in Ireland, and they hope that the exhibition may prove a very useful help and encouragement to the development of the native crafts, art, and industries of Ireland.

"Their Majesties further desire to thank you and Lady Aberdeen very heartily for the reception you gave them at the Viceregal Lodge this afternoon, and for all your labour and care to make their visit to Dublin so pleasant and successful.

"Believe me, very sincerely yours,

(Signed) "TWEEDMOUTH,  
Minister in Attendance."

TO-DAY'S VISIT TO LEOPARDSTOWN.

The King and Queen, with Princess Victoria and attended by Lord Tweedmouth, left the Royal yacht at 12.30 and proceeded to Leopardstown races in an open carriage. They were heartily cheered by the crowd.

IRISH PRESS OPINION.

The "Irish Times" to-day says: "It is easy to be over-enthusiastic on these occasions, but to say that, apart from the loyalty which every good citizen owes to the King and Queen, the Irish people entertain a great and growing personal regard for King Edward and Queen Alexandra is to keep within the strictest limits of truth. Yesterday they had an opportunity of expressing that regard, and they took full advantage of it. The lesson of all his Majesty's replies yesterday is a lesson of self-reliance and energy, of the urgent need of perfect harmony between all classes of Irishmen in the advancement of those great national causes which are above and beyond politics, and are far more permanent than politics."

PRINCE AND PRINCESS IN EDINBURGH.

The Prince and Princess of Wales drove from Dalkeith to Edinburgh to-day, where H.R.H. laid the foundation stone of an art school for the city, which is to cost £75,000, and for which the Corporation has given a free site in Lauriston-place.

The streets through which the Royal party passed were decorated and lined by large crowds.

In laying the foundation stone, the Prince congratulated the City of Edinburgh on this proof that her civic authorities, who had been the moving spirit in founding this art school, were concerned not less with the encouragement of art than with the study of science and literature or commercial pursuits.

Subsequently the Prince visited the Jubilee Pavilion at the Royal Infirmary, and afterwards went to the Highland Society's show, witnessing a parade of the stock.

The Duke of Devonshire has passed a good night, and continues to improve.

STOP-PRESS NEWS.

THE LATEST CRICKET.

|                    |                |
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| Surrey all out 239 | Yorks 85 for 2 |
| Lancs 184 for 4    | Glos 124 for 7 |
| Hants 53 for 5     | Notts 85 for 2 |

Warwick 159 for 7

PROFESSIONAL GOLF.

Tom Vardon and Braid beat Wyatt and Harry Vardon by 6 and 5.

BISLEY.

Oxford won the Universities' snap-shooting match. In the Roberts, Coldstream Guards won first prize.

Pontefract 3.45.—Norebo 1, Bon Santi 2, Swinton Maid f 3. Eight ran.

Bibury 3.45.—Spinning Solly 1, Dibs 2, Goldgulden 3. Nine ran.

STOCK EXCHANGE CLOSING PRICES.

Aug Ac 84 3-16, India 3 per cent 85½, Brighton A 82½, Cal 3 per cent 69, C and South London 50, East London 3½, India 2½ per cent 72½, Irish Loan 84½, Great W 124½, Metro Co 48, Mid Pref 65½, North-West 143, Rhymney 197½, South-West Def 45½.  
Antofagasta Def 125½, B Ayres 5 per cent Pref 117, BA and Pac 119, Anglo T A 22½, Darraco 2½, Cordoba Cen 1 62½, Great Boulds Prs 8s., Anaconda 12 3-16, Broken H (8s.) 4½, B. H. North 4½, Do South B, Bk 10 (£9 13s.) 4 13-16, Horse Shoe 6, Lake Copper 3 7-16, Mt. Lyell (£1) 36s. 6d., Jaggers Def 7, Prem Dia D 9½, Rio Tinto 83½, Spassky Cop 3 7-16, Zinc Corp 6s. 6d., Sim and Jack 1½, T C L 2½, Vaal River 2½, Zambesia Ex 1 5-16, Arg. 1887 92½, Braz Fund 102½, Ch. Im. R. 102½, Atchinson 93, B. and O. 99½, Milwaukee 136½, Denver 29, Erie 25½, Illn. Cent. 22½, Mex. Ord. 48½, Greek M'p 48½, Mis K. and T. 34½, Sth. Pac. 80½, Jap. 1905 93½.