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HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 27th February, 1901.

Another Member took and subscribed the Oath.

THE DEATH OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received the following Message of Sympathy on the death of Her late Majesty from the President of the House of Representatives in the Austrian Reichsrath;

Copy.

Austrian Reichsrath,

Office of the President of the

House of Representatives,

Vienna,

Translation.

1st February, 1901.

Sir,

At the opening Session of the House of Representatives in the Austrian Reichsrath, on the 31st of January of this year, I delivered, as President by right of seniority, the following eulogy of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria:;
"Honourable Gentlemen, permit me to touch on the mournful event which has happened almost simultaneously with the Convocation of the Reichsrath. I allude to the passing away of Her Majesty the venerable Queen Victoria of England, that glorious and wise Princess who has departed this life after a reign of nearly sixty-four years. The lofty virtues, by which the deceased Sovereign was adorned, the general respect which was paid to Her on all sides on account of Her truly constitutional principles, the rare qualities of heart and mind which were peculiarly Hers, enable us to appreciate the magnitude of the loss that has plunged into deep mourning both the people and the Royal Family of a great Country which has ever been our friend.

"Our illustrious Monarch, towards whom the venerable Sovereign entertained to the last feelings of the sincerest friendship, has already given moving expression to the deep sorrow which animates him on this occasion.

"By rising from their seats honourable Gentlemen will give suitable expression to their deep sympathy, and will follow the example of all the Parliamentary bodies at present in Session; and this proceeding shall be recorded in the minutes of to-day's meeting.

"In conclusion, I beg the Honourable House to authorise the President to communicate our sincere sympathy to the Speaker of the House of Commons." I have the honour, with the concurrence of the House, which has furnished me with express powers for the purpose, to communicate this information to the House of Commons through your intermediary.

Accept, etc.,

(Signed) DOCTOR WEIGEL.

To the

Speaker of the House of Commons,

The Right Hon. William Court Gully.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WAGES AND EFFECTS OF DECEASED SEAMEN.

Account [presented 15th February] to be printed. [No. 56.]

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

Copy presented, of Annual Statistical Report by the University Court of the University of Aberdeen for 1899–1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 57.]

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES FUND, 1899–1900.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th February; Mr. Austen Chamberlain]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 58.]

NATIONAL GALLERY REPORT.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th February; Mr. Austen Chamberlain]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 59.]

LEAD POISONING.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th February; Mr. Jesse Collings]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 60.]

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th February; Mr. Coghill]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 61.]

NEW SOUTH WALES (FEDERAL ELECTIONS ACT, 1900).

Copy presented, of the Federal Elections Act, 1900 (New South Wales) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 62.]

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.

Accounts presented, for the year ended 31st March, 1900, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 63.]

LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES.

Copy presented, of Statements of Account, and of Life Assurance and Annuity Business and Abstracts of Actuarial Reports, deposited with the Board of Trade during the year ended 31st December, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 64.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [26th February], "That, so soon as the Committee of Supply has been appointed and Estimates have been presented, the Business of Supply shall (until it be disposed of) be the first Order of the Day on Friday, unless the House otherwise order on the Motion of a Minister of the Crown moved at the commencement of Public Business to be decided without Amendment or Debate; and the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 shall be extended to Friday:

Not more than twenty days, being days before the 5th of August, on which the Speaker leaves the Chair for the Committee of Supply without Question put, counting from the first day on which the Speaker so left the Chair under Standing Order No. 56, shall be allotted for the consideration of the Annual Estimates for the Army, Navy, and Civil Services, including Votes on Account, the Business of Supply standing first Order on every such day:

Provided always, that on Motion made after Notice by a Minister of the Crown, to

be decided without Amendment or Debate, additional time, not exceeding three days, may be allotted for the Business of Supply, either before or after the 5th of August:

On the last but one of the allotted days, at Ten o'clock p.m., the Chairman shall proceed to put forthwith every Question necessary to dispose of the outstanding Votes in Committee of Supply; and on the last, not being earlier than the twentieth of the allotted days, the Speaker shall, at Ten o'clock p.m., proceed to put forthwith every Question necessary to complete the outstanding Reports of Supply:

On the days appointed for concluding the Business of Supply, the consideration of such business shall not be anticipated by a Motion of Adjournment under Standing Order No. 17; nor may any dilatory Motion be moved on such proceedings; nor shall they be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House:

Provided always that any Additional Estimate for any new service or matter, not included in the original Estimates for the year shall be submitted for consideration in the Committee of Supply on any day not later than two days before the Committee is closed:

Provided also that the days occupied by the consideration of Estimates supplementary to those of a previous Session, or of any Vote of Credit, or of Votes for Supplementary or Additional Estimates presented by the Government for War Expenditure, shall not be included in the computation of the twenty days.

Provided also that two Morning Sittings shall be deemed equivalent to one Three o'clock Sitting.";(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

And which Amendment was;

"In line 16, to leave out the word 'three,' in order to insert the word 'five.'";(Mr. Dalziel.)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'three' stand part of the Question."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare,. E.): I observe with great satisfaction that the First Lord of the Treasury has, according to the Paper, somewhat modified his original proposal to take all the resolutions of which he gave notice yesterday.

As far as I personally am concerned, I shall be as brief as possible in giving my reason for supporting the Amendment, because, although I protest against the arrangement of the First Lord of the Treasury for limiting the debate upon this matter, I am anxious that the Eight Hours Bill should be discussed and divided upon this, afternoon. It is rather hard upon those who consider that the question of the time allotted to Supply should be thoroughly discussed to find that if they so discuss it they will prevent the consideration of a measure which may do something to lessen the loss of life in the mining operations of the country. The hon. Member for the Kirkcaldy Burghs proposes to extend the time by giving five instead of three addi-

tional days if necessary. It is absolutely essential that at least this Amendment should be accepted, and I challenge any hon. Member to say honestly that there is anything unreasonable in the proposal. According to the resolution the discussion of Supply is to be limited to twenty days. Can it conscientiously be said that twenty days is sufficient for the discussion of all that is

involved in the enormous expenditure of the Government? There are only three days in the whole year intended for the discussion of the total expenditure connected with every part of Ireland. It is a perfect absurdity to suppose that that is sufficient. With regard to the resolution generally, I do not say it is a bad thing in principle that Supply should be to some extent evenly distributed through the session; my objection is that the number of days given is not sufficient. Distribute Supply by all means, but do not make an arrangement by which at the end of the session some of the most important Votes are carried through without a single word of discussion. However, as I am anxious that a Bill of great importance to a large proportion of the working people of this country should be discussed to-day, I will content myself by asking the right hon. Gentleman to accept the Amendment.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone. S.): I have always been in favour of this rule, and I think Supply is infinitely better treated under it than under the old plan, but I rise for the purpose of pressing on the attention of the Leader of the House one fact, and it is because of that fact that I shall certainly support the Amendment. My right hon. friend must be aware that the conditions in Ireland are very different this session to what they have been at any previous time. A great system of local government has been brought into play, and as might be expected a good deal has happened between the Local Government Board and the local authorities in different parts of Ireland. A good deal of friction has been caused, and the result of the decision of the Court of Appeal the other day is a matter of the gravest importance both to the Local Government Board and to the country. I

would point out that the mere fact that that great system of local government has been brought into play will necessitate discussion in this House, and the Estimates will be the only occasion upon which it can be discussed. If we are to be allowed only three days for Irish Supply, as a matter of fact nothing but local government and the administration of the land will be or can be discussed, and the;

*MR. SPEAKER: I would point out to the hon. Member that there is a notice of Amendment on the Paper dealing especially with the number of days that should be allotted to Irish Supply. Perhaps his observations would come rather upon that.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I felt bound to speak upon this point, because if the resolution is carried as it stands it will be very difficult for English Members to consent to Ireland getting six days; if the period is not extended by this Amendment. I rose merely for the purpose of pointing out the difficulty which will arise in regard to Irish Supply unless the time is extended and greater facilities are given for discussions which are absolutely necessary.

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone. N.): I rise simply to say I shall support this Amendment as an Irish Member. Throughout the whole of the last Parliament I found that the most important questions affecting Ireland were guillotined, closed, or whatever you like to call it, under the operation of this rule. There is no doubt that in the present session the rule will press more inconveniently on Ireland than ever, because a great proportion of the allotted time must necessarily be taken up by the Army and Navy Estimates this year, as they will

be much heavier than before, and besides which an entire day will be necessary to discuss the Irish Local Government Board. There is one question, for example, which will require ample discussion in reference to the conduct of the Local Government Board; namely, with regard to the medical officer of the North Dublin Union. Nor will Ireland be satisfied without the question of university education for

Catholics in that county being adequately discussed. What are we taking up the public time with by debating? Mainly, whether or not two days should be curtailed from the long holiday of this House. If five days are inserted instead of three it merely means that the House may not be prorogued until two days later than it otherwise would be. Surely a question of that sort cannot be put in competition with the great interests of the Empire in general and of the small and insignificant portion of the Empire called Ireland in particular. Therefore I hope this Amendment will be pressed to a division, and that everyone really interested in seeing that the country is not unduly taxed, and that abuses do not exist in the numerous Departments connected with Irish administration, will support the hon. Member in the lobby.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) was understood to say that he felt very strongly that with the rule as it now stood there was very great reason for the Amendment. Since the rule was passed five or six years ago the opportunities of private Members for criticising the Government had been very seriously curtailed, and on that ground, which he thought was a very strong one, he should support the Amendment. On Fridays, under the rule, the House did get very proper and satisfactory opportunities for criticising the Government, and as there were so many important matters to be discussed, the period might very well be extended for twenty-five days, especially as it would still be in the option of the Government whether or not they allotted the extra five days.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The hon. Gentleman who has just spoken has thrown the weight of his authority, in the main, in favour of the rule as it stands at present, but he thinks there ought to be an addition to the number of days allotted to Supply, on the ground that there has been a greater invasion of the rights of private Members during the last five years than during previous sessions. I think the memory of the hon. Gentleman has misled him. No doubt it has been my unhappy lot to come down from time to time and ask the House to surrender, either for the work of Supply or for the work of Government legislation, some of the days commonly given to abstract resolutions, but I do not think that that duty has fallen upon me with greater weight than upon my predecessors. They have done it, no doubt, with great reluctance, as I do, but nevertheless they have done it quite as frequently. It is very easy for Gentlemen to say, "What harm can two days more do?" It is really a question of what proportion of the normal and reasonable session ought to be given to the work of criticism, and how much to the work of constructive legislation. I have endeavoured to make very hastily and roughly a calculation of the number of working days we have in the session, and the proportion which, under the existing system and under the rules which now stand, we give to the work of criticism. A session, roughly, is six months; say, 180

days. Subtract from that twenty-eight days for the two holidays; that leaves 152 days, or, roughly speaking, twenty-two weeks. I take a week as consisting of four and a half days of Parliamentary work. That gives 100 working days in the six months session. How, under the existing rules, do we allocate these 100 days? In the first place, we can put down eight days as the minimum amount during recent years for the Address to the Throne; we have spent rather more than eight days during the present session; there are at least ten non-counting days of Supply before Easter, and twenty-three days after Easter; there are two days before Easter on the Second and Third Readings of the Appropriation Bill, and there are two days in August on the corresponding stages of the second Appropriation Bill. Add all these together, and you will find that the number of days, quite exclusive of motions for the adjournment of the House and other incidental matters of that kind avowedly and openly given to criticism of and attacks upon the Government; criticism as distinguished from legislation; is forty-five out of a hundred. That leaves fifty-five days for private Members' time

and Government time devoted to legislation. Can any human being say that that is an excessive amount? I am astonished at the way hon. Members blow hot and cold in this matter. If we propose to take Tuesdays for Supply before Easter they say, "How can you do such a thing as that, and deprive private Members of this or that privilege?" These days are given to Supply. Then when we come to the number of days to be given to Supply they say, "Oh, these are far too few; can we not increase the number?"; always of course out of the time available for Government legislation. This number of twenty-three days was not rashly started in the first instance, nor has it been rashly continued during the five years in which this resolution has been in force. If hon. Gentlemen will look back to the speech I made when originally proposing the rule, * they will find that I based the number of days not upon any arbitrary idea of my own as to the time that should be given for the discussion of Supply, but upon the amount that had actually been given in recent years. Why is this demand made? It is because under the rule now being attacked the days come at so convenient a time of the year that hon. Gentlemen wish the number increased. Under the old system; which is absolutely unknown to many Gentlemen here and is perhaps fading somewhat from the Parliamentary recollection of those who suffered under it; many of the days given to criticism were spent late in August in an empty and tired House, to the utmost inconvenience of the Members who had the courage to stay, and in the absence of a large number who had not the courage and endurance, but who, if they had stayed, would no doubt have added very valuable elements to the discussion.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman overlooks the fact that we spend now £100,000,000 more than we did.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not see what that really has to do with it.

*For discussion on Mr. Balfour's proposals of 1896, see The Parliamentary Debates, Vol. xxxvii., commencing at page 723.

Everybody admits that Committee of Supply does not exist now for the purpose of diminishing Government expenditure, nor have I ever heard a reduction moved

except for the purpose of either attacking a Minister, criticising his policy, or urging the Government to further expenditure.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg the right hon. Gentleman's pardon. I have myself moved half-a-dozen motions for the purpose of reducing the expenditure.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not doubt the hon. Member has moved reductions in the Constabulary Vote, and so on, and he may have put them on the ground of economy, but everybody knows that his reason is not that less public money should be spent in Ireland, but something very different, which it would not be in order now to go into. The amount of money now spent is not relevant to this discussion. The only thing that is relevant is the proportion of our total time which ought to be given to criticism, and which by being given to criticism is necessarily abstracted from other work. If the House seriously think that forty-five days is an insufficient proportion of a hundred days, by all means let them support the Amendment.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): That is not forty-five days in Committee?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, it is what I said it was; forty-five days out of a hundred given to criticism as distinguished from private Members' resolutions, private Members' legislation, and the general legislative work of the Government. I am rather exaggerating, because in the legislative work of the Government is included that which is commonly called legislation; namely, Budget work. If the House follow me in taking that broad view of the general working session, they will not think the number of days allotted under the rule too limited in quantity. Under these circumstances I feel bound, in the interests of the House, to oppose the Amendment. Hon. Gentlemen opposite have attacked this rule as though it was a new and untried proposal which had to go through the fire of criticism, as if it

had never been employed by the House before. I venture to say that ever since the rule was first introduced it has been growing in favour. The more it has been studied the more it has made converts even among those who originally opposed it. Although I have been and still am most unwilling to put this rule outside our ordinary discussions by making it a Standing Order of the House, if every time it is brought forward as a Sessional Order we are to spend a great amount of time in reviewing the

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.

Finch, George H.

Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir Fred. G.

Allhusen Augustus Henry Eden

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne

Milton, Viscount

Allsopp, Hon. George

Fisher, William Hayes

Mitchell, William

Archdale, Edward Mervyn

Fison, Frederick William

Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Arrol, Sir William
Fitzroy, Hon Edward Algernon
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.)
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Flower, Ernest
Morrell, George Herbert
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Bam, Colonel James Robert
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Baird, John George Alexander
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute
Balcarres, Lord
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Baldwin, Alfred
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Myers, William Henry.
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Green, Walford D. (Wdmsbry.
Nicholson, William Graham
Balfour, Maj K. R. (Christchch.
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Banbury, Frederick George
Gretton, John
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Groves, James Grimble
Parkes, Ebenezer
Beach. Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Peel Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley

Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Hain, Edward
Pemberton, John S. G.
Bignold, Arthur
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Pilkington, Richard
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Plummer, Walter R.
Boulnois, Edmund
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Heaton, John Henniker
Pretymann, Ernest George
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Helder, Augustus
Purvis, Robert
Brassey, Albert
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Pym, C. Guy
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Higginbottom, S. W.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Bull, William James
Hogg, Lindsay
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Cavendish, Y. C. W (Derbyshire
Hope, J. F. (Shef'd, Brightside
Richards, Henry Charles
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Hoult, Joseph
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r.
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas Thomson
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Cohen, Benjamin Louis

Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Rutherford, John
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Knowles, Lees
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Cranborne, Viscount
Law, Andrew Bonar
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Cust, Henry John C.
Lee, Capt. A H (Hants. Fareham
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Dewar, T. R. (T'rH'mlets S. Geo.
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Stock, James Henry
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Macdona, John Gumming
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Maconochie, A. W.
Stroyan, John
Doughty, George
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Malcolm, Ian
Thornton, Percy M.
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Tollemache, Henry James
Fardell, Sir T. George
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Valentia, Viscount
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Walker, Col. William Hall

matter, I shall have no alternative but on some future occasion to make this part of our fixed and permanent Standing Orders. I hope the Amendment will be withdrawn and the resolution permitted to go through unanimously. as I am sure the rule has secured the general confidence of Members in all parts of the House.

Question put.

The House divided:;Ayes. 179; Noes, 141. (Division List No. 15.)

Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (Taunton
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N.
Williams, Rt. Hon J Powell (Birm
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES;
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath
Sir William Walrond and
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wylie, Alexander
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
Abraham, William (Bhondda)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

O'Dowd, John
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Hammond, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Harwood, (George
O'Malley, William
Austin, Sir John
Hayden, John Patrick
O'Mara, James
Barlow, John Emmott
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
O'Shee, James John
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Partington, Oswald
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. CharlesH.
Paulton, James Mellor
Bell, Richard
Holland, William Henry
Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
Blake, Edward
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Boland, John
Horniman, Frederick John
Rea, Russell
Boyle, James
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Reckitt, Harold James
Broadhurst, Henry
Jacoby, James Alfred
Reddy, M.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Joicey, Sir James
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Burns, John
Jordan, Jeremiah
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Burt, Thomas
Joyce, Michael
Roche, John

Buxton, Sydney Charles
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Roe, Sir Thomas
Caine, William Sproston
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Russell, T. W.
Caldwell, James
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Leng, Sir John
Shipman, Dr. John
Cogan, Denis J.
Lough, Thomas
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (Kent)
Soares, Ernest J.
Colville, John
Lundon, W.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Condon, Thomas Joseph
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Craig, Robert Hunter
M'Crae, George
Sullivan, Donal
Crean, Eugene
M'Fadden, Edward
Tennant, Harold John
Crombie, John William
M'Govem, T.
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Cullnan, J.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Daly, James
M'Kenna, Reginald
Thomas, J. A. (Glam. Gower)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Markham, Arthur Basil
Tomkinson, James
Dillon, John

Mellor, Rt. Hn. John Wm.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Donelan, Captain A.
Mooney, John J.
Ure, Alexander
Doogan, P. C.
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
Wallace, Robert
Duffy, William J.
Murnaghan, George
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Duncan, James H.
Murphy, J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Edwards, Frank
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Elibank, Master of
Newnes, Sir George
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Ellis, John Edward
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Farrell, James Patrick
Norman, Henry
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Fenwick, Charles
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Ffrench, Peter
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Field, William
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
Yoxall, James Henry
Flavin, Michael Joseph
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES;Mr.
Flynn, James Christopher
O' Doherty, William
Dalziel and Mr. William
Gilhooly, James
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)

Redmond.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford. N.): My hon. friend the Member for East Mayo has asked me to move the Amendment which stands in his name. It is with very great regret that we are standing in the way of the discussion of the Miners Eight Hours Bill, which is a measure in which I take personally a great deal of interest. The blame, however, in this matter does not lie with the Irish Members, but with the Government, who have taken the most extraordinary course of springing this proposal upon the House. Like every other Irish Member, I feel very strongly in this matter. Year after year we have been coming to this House to ventilate various Irish grievances and to lay before this House and the country the feelings and wishes of our constituencies in regard to Irish administration, and we find, by the way in which the proceedings are conducted, it is impossible for us to discuss these questions properly. The hon.

Member for South Tyrone has drawn attention to one matter of very great importance, which unquestionably ought to be largely discussed in the House during the present session, and that is the administration of the Irish Local Government Act. There are many other questions of Irish administration which are similarly circumstanced, and which for years past we have never been able to discuss at all. For these and other reasons I hope this Amendment will be carried, and I simply rise for the purpose of entering my protest against this proposal. I beg to move the Amendment standing in my hon. friend's name.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg leave to second the Amendment. I wish to point out that during the operation of the Local Government Act in Ireland the representatives of the people have been dealt with in the most autocratic manner by the Irish Local Government Board. In many cases in Ireland the local bodies have not been allowed to exercise the rights and privileges which they are entitled to exercise by the Act.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order; The hon. Member will not be in order in discussing the conduct of the Local Government Board upon this Amendment.

MR. CULLINAN: Then I will formally second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed;

"At the end of the Question, to add the words; 'Provided also that not less than six nights shall be allocated for the discussion of Irish Estimates.'"; (Sir

Thomas Esmonde.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

MR. DILLON: I beg to enter my protest against the practice of the Government, for it is without parallel in the House of Commons to introduce an important Sessional Order at the tail end of a long sitting of the House. I have never known a Sessional Order or a complicated Standing Order dealing with the procedure of the House which was not put down at the beginning of the sitting under circumstances which would give hon. Members of the House a fair opportunity of discussing it. On the present occasion the House of Commons has been treated in the most contemptuous manner, for the First Lord of the Treasury has not only selected a time which renders it impossible to give it fair and reasonable consideration, but he introduced it

sub silentio. Whatever his motive may have been, I notice that the right hon. Gentleman has abandoned the project of carrying this Order without an explanation, for he gave us to-day a long explanation, during which he was frequently interrupted by the Whip of his party.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: He never said a word about it.

MR. DILLON: We have always taken a very considerable interest in the working of this rule, and I thought we were entitled to lay before the House the result of our observations. This Amendment proposes to safeguard the rights of Irish Members by securing that a minimum number of six days shall be given to Irish Supply. I am anxious, like other hon. Members who have already spoken on these benches, not to place any barrier in the way of the discussion of the Miners Bill, but I shall be exceedingly brief. I wish to enter my protest against the rather sharp practice of the First Lord of the Treasury in depriving us of our right to discuss his proposal fully and reasonably. Under the present rule, what is the position of Irish Supply? With the rule as it stands, the Minister can give exactly as much time to Irish Supply as he thinks fit. He may give four days, as he did when this rule was introduced, and he may reduce it to three days, as he did in subsequent years. He may reduce it to two days or to one day, or to no days at all, and we have absolutely no remedy. Is that a fair position in which to place any section of the Members of this House? This is not a question of Irish Members only, for the same discretion applies to every other subject in Supply, and this rule will allow the Minister to become an absolute despot. No Minister ought to have the power to do such a thing, and under this rule a Minister can absolutely abolish discussion upon any branch or section of Supply which he thinks is troublesome, or which he chooses to decide it is not in the public

interest to discuss. We heard the other day in the House of Commons with some amazement a Secretary of State deliberately state to the House of Commons as a reason for depriving Members of this House of one of their most cherished privileges that foreign Ambassadors strongly approved of this action. Is there a Member in this House who does not know perfectly well that all foreign Ambassadors would strongly approve of the abolition of discussion on all foreign matters? Is there a single hon. Member who does not know that Irish officials would strongly approve of a similar course being taken? We were told by the present Secretary of State for War; and he used it as an argument in favour and in justification of the abolition of our right to ask supplementary questions; that foreign Ambassadors thought it a good innovation. We shall be having the Chief Secretary for Ireland standing up in this House and saying, "I have consulted all the Irish officials, and they agree with me that the reduction of the number of days for discussing Irish Supply has very much facilitated the working of the machinery for governing Ireland." Why, the only thorn in the bed of roses upon which Irish officials lie is that they suffer from criticism in this House, and the less criticism there is here the more the Dublin officials are pleased. What I contend is, that no matter how good the intentions of the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chief Secretary for Ireland may be, once you place in the power of Ministers the right to curtail and

finally do away with the discussion of Irish Estimates, the pressure from behind of the permanent officials in Dublin will drive the Ministers inch by inch until we shall probably be reduced to one day only upon which to discuss the whole of the Irish Estimates. In the discussion which has already taken place we have had various proposals put forward. Several hon. Members have said that this rule gives too much power to the Executive Government, and they propose that in each session so many days should be allotted to each branch of Supply. I remember the First Lord of the Treasury himself in a previous session said he would have no objection to this course being taken. If you ask the House to measure out the time of the

session to each Department of Supply without any elasticity, I am afraid the discussion of certain matters will suffer in consequence. What happened in the last session? Owing to the hard and fast rule which is in operation, when we got nearly to the end of the session it was found impossible for the Government themselves to give a day to the discussion of the Colonial Office Vote, and we spent a considerable amount of time discussing by what trick or dodge such a discussion could be allowed. The Government executed a flank movement with this rule, and they took a Wednesday. They set down some bogus Bill in front of Supply, and it was only by that device that we were able to get a discussion upon the Colonial Office at all.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order; The hon. Member is discussing the general working of the rule. I would remind him that the question before the House is that not less than six nights shall be allocated for the discussion of Irish Estimates.

MR. DILLON: I was trying to defend my position, inasmuch as this Amendment proposes to do what I opposed as a general principle on the main question, namely, to measure out a certain number of days to Supply, which I believe to be a bad thing. It was only for the purpose of illustrating that point that I alluded to the general working of the rule. I have only this to say in conclusion, for I really desire to be as brief as I possibly can; the First Lord of the Treasury to-day has laid down a principle which is enough to make the old economists of this House turn in their graves, for he has stated that for the future the Committee of Supply of this House has nothing to do with checking the expenditure of Ministers.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member is mistaken. What I said was; that that is the practice of Parliament.

MR. DILLON: The practice of Parliament?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, the accepted practice of Parliament.

MR. DILLON: If it is the accepted practice of Parliament, all I have to say is that it is one which may lead to the most awful jobbery and waste of public funds, because once you proclaim that no criticism is to take place in Committee of Supply with regard to any expenditure or waste of money, then you open the flood-gates to every form of jobbery, and a more ruinous rule it would be impossible to lay down. The right hon. Gentleman stated that no hon. Members in recent years ever moved a reduction of the Estimates with the honest desire of putting a stop to extravagance of any kind. That is not true so far as my own

experience goes. I believe that in recent years, unhappily for the House of Commons, this practice of moving reductions has fallen off, with the result that the whole country is now contemplating with alarm and consternation the frightful swelling of the taxation of the country. Fortunately for the taxpayers of this country, this practice has not entirely passed away, for if it was once admitted that this practice was a thing of the past, and the Committee of Supply was never to be used again to check public expenditure, then I say the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be a very unhappy man, and the tax payers of this country would have to prepare for an absolutely intolerable burden of taxation. We spend most of the time in Committee of Supply in criticising the conduct of Irish Ministers, and we have endeavoured to use our opportunities in Committee of Supply for criticising and condemning the scandalous waste of public money in Ireland, and we have tried to reduce some of the outrageous Irish Estimates. We desire to get fair treatment as regards the financial relations of the two countries, but we do not desire to see money spent in Ireland in a wasteful fashion. I desire to protest on behalf of the Irish Members; and I think there are many Radicals who would like to join in that protest; against this novel doctrine, which I have never heard before announced from the Ministerial Front Bench.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): It seems quite impossible for the right hon. Gentleman to pacify hon. Members opposite. I am sorry I shall not be able to vote for this Amendment; I intend to 'vote against it. I will, however, say that,

at all events, Members sitting on the Ministerial side of the House have a grievance with regard to an appointment which took place last year in connection with the Irish Agricultural Department, which is deeply resented by Members on the Ministerial benches; yet that matter could only be discussed on a Vote which was one of the Votes closed. That may be an argument that more time ought to be given for Supply. I think the first business of the House ought to be Supply, and we ought to spend more time on it. The First Lord of the Treasury seems to think that we ought to give nearly the whole of our time to legislation, especially Irish land legislation, which is as bad as it can be. The Order has one fatal defect, and that is the large number of divisions which take place on the last night of Supply. That alone is sufficient for me to take every opportunity of recording my vote against the rule. I confess that in the past I have voted both for the rule and against it. But after what took place last session, and after studying the working of the rule, I feel convinced that hon. Members do not get such a full opportunity of discussing Supply as they did at the time when I first entered the House in 1886. If nothing else can be said against the rule, the fact that we have to have the extraordinary proceeding of walking through the lobbies at the end of the session is sufficient justification for ending the rule. I do not think, however, that the Amendment is quite fair to England, and I must vote against it.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): I desire to remind the House for a moment I or two what the area is which we are expected to travel over in the six days we are asking for. Take, for instance, the Irish Constabulary Vote, which is a very

large sum. Then there is the law expenses. Now I think that either of these two Votes might reasonably be given a full day of the time of the House for their discussion. Then there is the Vote which has been mentioned by my hon. friend in regard to the new Agricultural Department. In regard to this there is a widespread idea that the money has not been properly spent, and, as this is a new and important matter for Irish Members, I think it might have had devoted to it at least one day of the time of the House. With regard to education, I think the Irish Members ought at least to have a full day to discuss the different branches of education in Ireland. In the new programme of national education there is a very wide subject for discussion, in which vast changes have been introduced, and it is only reasonable that Irish Members should expect to get suitable opportunities for discussing this immense question. In regard to university education, upon which we have the sympathy of many hon. Members on the opposite side of the House, I do not think it is unreasonable that we should ask for ample time to discuss this subject in view of the strong view held in Ireland as to its great importance. Then there is the question of the Congested Districts, which the Chief Secretary for Ireland himself has admitted to be a pressing subject. We have had no promise in the King's Speech in reference to this. There is also the conduct of the Local Government Board in regard to their dealings with Irish local bodies, the question of the salaries of the Chief Secretary for Ireland and the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, all of which are very important subjects. If you are proposing to devote the bulk of the time of this session to Army and Navy reform and to Supplementary Votes for the war, how can you expect Irish Members to be satisfied with six days only for the discussion of all those important subjects to which I have alluded? I think we ought to have at least sixteen days, and I enter my protest against the carrying of this resolution. I heartily support the Amendment of my hon. friend.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): May I ask you, Mr. Speaker, if it is in order to move an Amendment to an Amendment?

*MR. SPEAKER: Yes; that would be quite in order.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I can readily understand why the First Lord of the Treasury, with only twenty-three days allotted to Supply, is unable to give six of those days to Ireland; but I would suggest to my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury that a compromise might be made between six days and three. I appeal to the Government to look the facts fairly in the face. I know that many hon. Gentlemen would be very glad to get rid of Irish Supply and Irish affairs altogether, but I do ask the House to bear in mind that the Government undertake to govern Ireland, and that they must, having undertaken that responsibility, face what it involves. It is quite impossible that this question can be brushed aside as a matter of no importance. This year has presented in Ireland elements for discussion in Supply such as no previous year has ever presented. The Local Government Board Vote alone must take a day. It is quite impossible to discuss that question, with all the friction which has arisen, and which could not well have been avoided. All that must come up and be faced. Again, there is the administration of the Land Act. Nothing could well be worse;

and for the Government to say that that cannot be discussed in the House of Commons is to abrogate their functions wholly and entirely. Then the Government have brought a new system of national education into operation, and also a new system of intermediate education into operation, and there are at least a dozen things to be discussed this year in a form in which we have never discussed them before. How can we go back to our constituents at the end of the session; those of us who do go at all; and say that when we asked for an additional day or days to discuss those subjects we were not given this opportunity, and were all closed in the House? I appeal to the Government to come to some reasonable arrangement, and give not six days; we cannot expect six days out of twenty-three; but to give us some reasonable, workable arrangement that will enable us to go back to Ireland and say to the people, "We at all events have been able to perform our duty in this Unionist House of Commons."

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg leave to move an Amendment to the hon. Member's Amendment on the Paper, which he may possibly see his way to accept, and if he does accept it he may get some support on this side of the House; at all events he will get my support. My proposal is that not less than five nights shall be allocated to Irish Estimates, and not less than three nights to Foreign Office Estimates.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot add the last words relating to the Foreign Office, for his Amendment must be relevant to the Amendment before the House.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: But the Amendment comes at the end of the new rules.

*MR. SPEAKER: An Amendment to an Amendment must be relevant to the Amendment itself. I do not say that the latter part cannot be moved afterwards.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Then I will move the second part of my Amendment afterwards.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It has been stated that the Government have taken a course which has prevented this rule being discussed fully and reasonably. I do not know whether the House considers that it has been reasonably discussed, but I am sure that the hon. Gentleman opposite has discussed it fully. He made very long speech on it to-day. He has risen on this occasion to discuss the wrongs of Ireland, and he says, among other things, that every Irish official would, of course, like to see the discussion on Irish Supply limited or even abolished, and that the result of that would be the smooth working of government in Ireland. But that is not my experience. I think, from the point of view of the Irish Chief Secretary, and those whom he has got to defend, discussions in this House are a most valuable antidote to the mendacious calumnies which are so constantly spread in Ireland against the Irish officials, and certainly it is not on their behalf that I wish to see the discussion of Irish Estimates curtailed. Let us consider this argument more closely. The hon. Member says it rests with the First Lord of the Treasury not only to determine what Department of Supply shall be discussed, but also to determine the amount of time that shall be allocated to it, and he says that it rests with the First Lord of the Treasury to decide this, and that it is also within our power to squeeze out any particular subject of Supply and prevent it being discussed in this House. That was, shortly, the argument of the hon. Member, although he

was good enough to say that the present occupants of the Front Bench might not be prepared to take so violent a course. I desire to have the fullest discussion of Irish or any other affairs, and I believe the danger alluded to is perfectly illusory. During the five years in which this rule has been in operation I have done my best to consult the wishes of the House as to the allocation of the twenty-three days. Any lead given by the right hon. Gentleman or any of his colleagues on the Front Opposition Bench is immediately followed by the Government, and any expression of opinion from any large section of the House has always received the fullest consideration from the Government. If the House thinks that any danger exists it could be avoided by having a Committee, not to settle at the beginning of the session how the twenty-three days should be allocated, but a Committee which week by week would exercise discretion in this matter. That Committee, as I myself once suggested, might have upon it, contrary to the ordinary practice of this House, a majority of the Opposition, so that they might be sure of obtaining the opportunity they desired of criticising the Government. I myself suggested that plan; not in any formal shape; and it is a plan which would relieve me of a most onerous and laborious task, which brings me many kicks and no halfpence. I do not think, however, that the proposal has ever met with any favour in any part of the House, and I therefore do not think it desirable to press it further. The hon. Gentleman complained to-day that during the last two or three sessions only three days have been occupied with Irish Supply. It has always been left to the Irish Members themselves to determine the order of Irish Supply to be followed. It is perfectly true that the time at their disposal is not unlimited, but so far as the allocation of the time is concerned they have absolute discretion. I hope they will not think I am saying anything in the least offensive when I say, judging the matter with all the impartiality I can command, that if they were really to economise that time, compress their remarks, and select their ablest representatives to put their views forward, they could in these three days have perfectly adequate discussion year after year. In addition they have opportunities which they feel compelled to take in moving the adjournment of the House, and also on the debates in reply to the King's Speech; opportunities which they have always availed themselves of, and which they have a perfect right to avail themselves of. I myself think that the three days is an adequate amount, but four days have at times been given to Irish Supply, and nothing makes it impossible that four days should in the future, if necessary, be also given to the same subject. We are not now discussing the adequacy of the twenty-three days. We are discussing the propriety of fixing the time as between different subjects by the terms of our Sessional Order. I do not agree with my hon. friend below the gangway in the Amendment he foreshadowed, but I agree with him that if we fix the time to be given to Irish Supply we must also fix the time to be given to other classes of Supply; the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, and the other great Departments of the State. In that case, as my hon. friend says, the life blood of this Order would be destroyed. Under these circumstances I would suggest to the House that we should come to a decision on the matter and allow hon. Members deeply interested in another

question to proceed with its consideration.

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)

Cogan, Denis J.

Field, William

Abraham, William (Rhondda)

Colville, John

Finch, George H.

Allen, Charles P (Glouc, Stroud

Condon, Thomas Joseph

Flavin, Michael Joseph

Ashton, Thomas Gair

Craig, Robert Hunter

Flynn, James Christopher

Atherley-Jones, L.

Crean, Eugene

Gilhooly, James

Barlow, John Emmott

Crombie, John William

Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.

Barrey, E. (Cork, S.)

Cullman, J.

Goddard, Daniel Ford

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)

Daly, James

Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

Bell, Richard

Dalziel, James Henry

Hammond, John

Blake, Edward

Delany, James Henry

Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William

Boland, John

Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.

Harwood, George

Boyle James

Dillon, John

Hayden, John Patrick

Broadhurst, Henry

Doogan, P. C.

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-

Burke, E. Haviland-

Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)

Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.

Burns, John

Duffy, William J.

Holland, William Henry
Burt, Thomas
Duncan, James H.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Caldwell, James
Edwards, Frank
Horniman, Frederick J.
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Ellis, John Edward
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Carew, James Laurence
Farrell, James Patrick
Jacoby, James Alfred
Causton, Richard Knight
Fenwick, Charles
Joicey, Sir James
Cawley, Frederick
Ffrench, Peter
Jordan, Jeremiah

MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): I wish to move an Amendment to the Amendment. It is to substitute "five" for "six." There is a feeling that six nights is too much, and that five nights would better meet the views of hon. Members.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the Amendment;

"To leave out 'six,' in order to insert 'five.'"; (Mr. H. J. Wilson.)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have nothing to say in disagreement with this suggestion.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie): I hope my right hon. friend will have regard to the weighty argument he has just addressed;

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My hon. friend misunderstands me. I have only accepted "five" in order to vote against it.

Amendment to the Amendment put and agreed to.

Question put, "That the words 'Provided also that not less than five nights shall be allocated for the discussion of Irish Estimates' be there added."

The House divided: Ayes, 141; Noes, 213. (Division List No. 16.)

Joyce, Michael

O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid

Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarshire

Kitson, Sir James

O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)

Soames, Arthur Wellesley

Layland-Barratt, Francis

O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.

Soares, Ernest J.

Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington

O'Doherty, William

Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Leigh, Sir Joseph
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Leng, Sir John
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
Sullivan, Donal
Lundon, W.
O'Dowd, John
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
M'Crae, George
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
M'Fadden, Edward
O'Malley, William
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
M'Govern, T.
O'Mara, James
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
O'Shnughnessy, P. J.
Tomkinson, James
M'Kiliop, W. (Sligo, North)
O'Shee, James John
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Markham, Arthur Basil
Partington, Oswald
Ure, Alexander
Mooney, John J.
Philipps, John Wynford
Wallace, Robert
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Pirie, Duncan V,
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Power, Patrick Joseph
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Murnaghan, George
Rea, Russell
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Murphy, J.
Reddy, M.
White, Patrick (Meath, North)

Nannetti, Joseph P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Newnes, Sir George
Redmond, William (Clare)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Nolan, Col, John P. (Galway, N.
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Roche, John
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Norman, Henry
Roe, Sir Thomas
Yoxall, James Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Russell, T. W.
TELLERS FOR THE AYES; Sir
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Thomas Esmonde and
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
Shipman, Dr. John
Captain Donelan.
NOES.
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Gretton, John
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Groves, James Grimble
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Allsopp, Hon. George
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Hain, Edward
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midrx
Arroll, Sir William
Cranborne, Viscount
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Austin, Sir John
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Harris, Fleverton (Tynemouth)
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Dalkeith, Earl of
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Dewar, T R (T'rH'mlets, S. Geo.
Helder, Augustus
Baird, John George Alexander
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Balcarres, Lord
Dickson, Charles Scott
Higginbottom, S. W.
Baldwin, Alfred
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Hoult, Joseph
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Howard, Capt. J (Kent, Faversham)
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch.
Doughty, George
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Banbury, Frederick George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Bignold, Arthur

Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Bigwood, James
Faber, George Denison
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Fardell, Sir T. George
Knowles, Lees
Bond, Edward
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Law, Andrew Bonar
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Lawson, John Grant
Boulnois, Edmund
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Lee, Capt. AH (Hants, Fareham
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Fisher, William Hayes
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Fison, Frederick William
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Brassey, Albert
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Long, Col. Charles W. Evesham
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Brown Alexander, H. (Shropsh.
Fletcher, Sir Henry-
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Bull, William James
Flower, Ernest
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Macdona, John Cumming
Buxton, Sidney Charles
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Naim)
Maconochie, A. W.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-

M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb'rgh W
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Malcolm, Ian
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Green, Walford D. (Wednesday
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry SEdm'nds
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Pym, C. Guy
Tennant, Harold John
Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick G
Reid, James (Greenock)
Thornton, Percy M.
Milton, Viscount
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Tollemache, Henry James
Mitchell, William
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
Tomlinson, Wm, E. Murray
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Valentia, Viscount
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Rolleston Sir John F. L.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sh'f Id
Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monm'thsh.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Walker, Col. William Hall
Morrell, George Herbert
Rutherford, John
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.

Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u-Lyne
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Shaw-Stewart, M. H.(Renfrew)
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell-(Bi'm
Myers, William Henry
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Wills, Sir Frederick
Nicholson, William Graham
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Orr-Kwing, Charles Lindsay
Spear, John Ward
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Stanley, Edward J.(Somerset)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Paulton, James Mellor
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert W.
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R, (Bath
Pemberton, John S. G.
Stock, James Henry
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B.Stuart-
Pilkington, Richard
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Wylie, Alexander
Plummer, Walter R.

Stroyan, John
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
TELLERS FOR THE AYES;
Pretymann, Ernest George
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sir William Walrond and
Purvis, Robert
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Mr. Anstruther.

Main Question again proposed.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I must confess I have been converted by the argument of my right hon. friend the Leader of the House, in which he said it would not do to allocate days to one portion of the Estimates and not to all. Although I am greatly in favour of the appointment of some Committee to meet occasionally to consider the allocation of the Estimates, I do not propose to move the Amendment I mentioned a few minutes ago. I am quite aware the House is anxious to get to the discussion of another subject, and I do not propose to detain it, but I sincerely hope that the Government will allocate more time to the Foreign Office Estimates this session than they did in recent sessions. I do not agree with my right hon. friend the Leader of the House that full time has always been given to the Foreign Office Estimates. I think very important questions such as the question of China have been put on one side, if not buried. They demand greater attention, and I hope my appeal will not fall on deaf ears.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Although the House is already aware, from the views which have been expressed by hon. Members on these benches, that we have not had sufficient notice or

opportunity for the discussion of this motion, we are exceedingly anxious not to stand in the way of the discussion of the Bill which is coming on, and we are therefore not disposed to continue the discussion. We feel that the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House has, to some extent, succeeded in the object he had in view yesterday, which was to bring pressure to bear on us to curtail the discussion on this motion for fear it might be said we were standing in the way of the Mines Bill. Notwithstanding that, I hope my hon. friends will now allow a division to be taken on the main question.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I must inform the hon. Gentleman that there is no sort of ground for his allegation, and that the motive he imputes to me has no foundation.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I will not attempt to argue the question, and, of course, if he says he had no such motive I accept, as I am bound to accept, the statement of the right hon. Gentleman. But the evidence on which I made my accusation is before the House, and it can judge for itself. I hope my hon. friends will now allow a division to be taken on the main question, and that an opportunity; although, no doubt, not the full opportunity they ought to have had; will be given to hon. Members to.

bring under the consideration of the House an important question affecting many hundreds of thousands of the working classes of this country.

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.

Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.

Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte

Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-

Kitson, Sir James

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel

Doughty, George

Knowles, Lees

Allsopp, Hon. George

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers

Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn

Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)

Law, Andrew Bonar

Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.

Doxford, Sir William Theodore

Lawson, John Grant

Arrol, Sir William

Duncan, James H.

Lee, Capt A H (Hants, Fareham

Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis

Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin

Leese, Sir Jos. F. (Accrington

Ashton, Thomas Gair

Edwards, Frank

Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton

Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie

Austin, Sir John

Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas

Leng, Sir John

Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy

Faber, George Denison

Leveson-Gower, Fred. N. S.

Bailey, James (Walworth)

Fardell, Sir T. George

Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham

Bain, Colonel James Robert

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward

Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.

Baird, John George Alexander

Fenwick, Charles
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Balcarres, Lord
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'uth
Baldwin, Alfred
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Macdona, John Gumming
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Finch, George H.
Maconochie, A. W.
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
M'Calmont, Col H. L. B. (Cambs
Balfour, Maj. K R (Christchurch
Fisher, William Hayes
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Fison, Frederick William
M'Crae, George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Fitzroy, Hon Edward Algernon
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Malcolm, Ian
Bignold, Arthur
Flower, Ernest
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Bigwood, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Bond, Edward
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Milton, Viscount
Boulnois, Edmund
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon

Mitchell, William
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Brassey, Albert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Greene, Sir E W. B'ry S Edm'nds
Morgan, Hn. F. (Monmouthsh.)
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Gretton, John
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
Bull, William James
Groves, James thimble
Morrell, George Herbert
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Morris, Hn. Martin Henry F.
Burt, Thomas
Hain, Edward
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Caldwell, James
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Causton, Richard Knight
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Myers, William Henry
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'uth
Nicholson, William Graham

Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir A. D.
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Collings, Rt. Hn. Jesse
Helder, Augustus
Partington, Oswald
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Paulton, James Mellor
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert W.
Colville, John
Higginbottom, S. W.
Pemberton, John S. G.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Hogg, Lindsay
Philipps, John Wynford
Corbett, A Cameron(Glasgow)
Holland, William Henry
Pilkington, Richard
Craig, Robert Hunter
Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brig'htside
Pirie, Duncan V.
Cranborne, Viscount
Horniman, Frederick John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Crombie, John William
Hoult, Joseph
Plummer, Walter R.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Pretymann, Ernest George
Dalkeith, Earl of

Hudson, George Bickersteth
Purvis, Robert
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Pym, C. Guy
Dewar, John A. (Invermess-sh.
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Rea, Russell
Dewar, T R (T'rHmlets, St. Geo.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Dickson, Charles Scott
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Question put.
The House divided::Ayes,257; Noes, 104. (Division List No. 17).
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M Taggart
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Stirling- Maxwell, Sir John M.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Stock, James Henry
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Whiteley, H (Ashtonund, Lyne
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Stroyan, John
Williams, Rt. Hn J Powell-(Bir.
Russell, T. W.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Rutherford, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Wills, Sir Frederick
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.

Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Tennant, Harold John
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Thornton, Percy M.
Wilson, J. W. (Worcester. N.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Tollemache, Henry James
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.>
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Wylie, Alexander
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Ure, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Smith, James Parker(Lanarks.
Valentia, Viscount
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Vincent, Col Sir C E H (Sheffield)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES;
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Walker, Col. William Hall
Sir William Walrond and
Spear, John Ward
Wallace, Robert
Mr. Anstruther.
NOES.
Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
O'Doherty, William
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Flynn, James Christopher
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud
Gilhooly, James
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
Atherley-Jones, L.

Goddard, Daniel Ford
O'Dowd, John
Barlow, John Emmott
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Hammond, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Harwood, George
O'Malley, William
Bell, Richard
Hayden, John Patrick
O'Mara, James
Blake, Edward
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Boland, John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
O'Shee, James John
Boyle, James
Jacoby, James Alfred
Power, Patrick Joseph
Broadhurst, Henry
Joicey, Sir James
Reddy, M.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Jordan, Jeremiah
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Burns, John
Joyce, Michael
Redmond, William (Clare)
Caine, William Sproston
Leamy, Edmund
Roche, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Roe, Sir Thomas
Carew, James Laurence
Lundon, W.
Shipman, Dr. John
Cawley, Frederick
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Soares, Ernest J.
Cogan, Denis J.
M'Fadden, Edward

Stevenson, Francis S.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
M'Govern, T.
Sullivan, Donal
Condon, Thomas Joseph
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Thomas, Alfred(Glamorgan, E.
Crean, Eugene
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Thomas, JA (Glamorgan Gower
Cullinan, J.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Daly, James
Mooney, John J.
Tomkinson, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Murnaghan, George
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Murphy, J.
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Delany, William
Nannetti, Joseph P.
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Newnes, Sir George
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Dillon, John
Nolan, Col. John P (Galway. N.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Donelan, Captain. A
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Doogan, P. C.
Norman, Henry
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Duffy, William J.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Yoxall, James Henry
Ellis, John Edward
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
Farrell James Patrick
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
TELLERS FOR THE NOES; Sir
Ffrench, Peter

O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
Thomas Esmonde and Mr.
Field, William
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
Henry J. Wilson.

Resolved, That, so soon as the Committee of Supply has been appointed and Estimates have been presented, the Business of Supply shall (until it be disposed of) be the first Order of the Day on Friday, unless the House otherwise order on the Motion of a Minister of the Crown moved at the commencement of Public Business to be decided without Amendment or debate; and the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 shall be extended to Friday.

Not more than twenty days, being days before the 5th of August, on which the Speaker leaves the Chair for the Committee of Supply without Question put, counting from the first day on which the Speaker so left the Chair understanding Order No. 56, shall be allotted for the consideration of the Annual Estimates for the Army, Navy, and Civil Services, including Votes on Account, the Business of Supply standing first Order on every such day.

Provided always, that on Motion, made after Notice by a Minister of the Crown to be decided without Amendment or Debate, additional time, not exceeding three days, may be allotted for the Business of Supply, either before or after the 5th of August.

On the last but one of the allotted days, at Ten o'clock p.m., the Chairman shall proceed to put forthwith every Question necessary to dispose of the outstanding Votes in Committee of Supply; and on the last, not being earlier than the twentieth of the allotted days, the Speaker shall, at Ten o'clock p.m., proceed to put forthwith every Question necessary to complete the outstanding Reports of Supply.

On the days appointed for concluding the Business of Supply, the consideration of such business shall not be anticipated by a Motion of Adjournment under Standing Order No. 17; nor may any dilatory Motion be moved on such proceedings; nor shall they be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House.

Provided always that any Additional Estimate for any new service or matter, not included in the original Estimates for the year, shall be submitted for consideration in the Committee of Supply on any day not later than two days before the Committee is closed.

Provided also that the days occupied by the consideration of Estimates supplementary to those of a previous Session, or of any Vote of Credit, or of Votes for Supplementary or Additional Estimates presented by the Government for War Expenditure, shall not be included in the computation of the twenty days.

Provided also that two Morning Sittings shall be deemed equivalent to one Three o'clock Sitting.

MINERS (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I desire at the outset to say that if, by the

chances of the procedure of this House, an opportunity is now afforded us of discussing this Bill, it is largely due to the kindness of Members on both sides who supported the protest I made yesterday, and to the opposition which has kept a debate that might very properly have occupied the whole of this afternoon within very narrow limits indeed. I have to acknowledge also the concession made by the First Lord of the Treasury in taking from the Paper today two of the three Sessional Orders which it was intended to submit for the acceptance of the House. I am, therefore, in the happy position of being able to give thanks all round.

The Bill, of which I have the honour of moving the Second Reading, proposes to enact that a person shall not in any one day of twenty-four hours be employed underground in any mine for a period exceeding eight hours from the time of leaving the surface until the ascent hereto, except in the case of breakage of machinery or explosion from fire-damp or any accident involving the stoppage of the working of the mine. The proposal has the disadvantage of being a more than twice told tale. * It is not a new one to this Chamber, even if it be to the present House of Commons, and if there is difficulty in finding new arguments in favour of it, it is, happily, equally difficult to find new pretexts against it.

Nevertheless I recognise that at the present time I have to deal with a certain attitude of the public mind as regards the price of coal; the high price which I has ruled in the coal market for the past twelve months; and that attitude renders my task this afternoon a little more difficult than it would otherwise have been. One hon. Member has told me that the view of his constituents is, that so long-as the price of coal is kept up at its present level it is absurd for miners to desire to have their hours of labour reduced. I have observed, too, in the press a suggestion that if I were to include in the Bill a clause preventing miners taking too long holidays, then, my pro-

* For the Debate on the Second Reading of this Bill in the year 1900, see The Parliamentary Debates, Fourth Series, Vol. lxxix., page 1303. The footnote references there given furnish the complete Parliamentary history of the movement.

posal would be received with more sympathy than it is likely to meet with now. I say, however, without fear of contradiction, that the high price of coal and the peculiar conditions of the coal market during the past twelve or eighteen months have not been in any respect whatever due to the hours of labour or the wages earned by the miners, and therefore I think this debate can well proceed without prejudice from that point of view. Coal has been rendered somewhat scarce and very dear by a series of causes entirely outside the condition of things which would be set up by the operation of this Bill. In the first place there was a boom in the iron trade in this country, and coincident with it there was a partial failure of the coal supply abroad together with a greater demand for coal for export. There was also a panic among the public. The demand for coal for home use was concentrated within a few weeks, and consumers laid in large stocks in a hurry, with the result that prices went up rapidly. Indeed, I have not the slightest doubt that many Members of this House not only filled their coal-cellars to overflowing, but also utilised part of the accommodation

afforded by their wine-cellars, in order to secure a sufficient store of black diamonds. The panic was not confined to the well-to-do. In the East End of London I have been told there were cases in which the very poor, who were not the fortunate possessors of coal-cellars, actually stocked the commodity under their beds, because they feared that in the winter time prices would reach such a pitch that they would be unable to buy. Mine-owners and coal merchants were naturally not slow to take advantage of this state of things, and they realised enormous profits. But I want to make it clear at the outset that this panic and this congestion of the trade were not caused in any way by a restriction of the hours of labour of miners or by any increase of their wages. The men were, in fact, working practically full time in that period. They were working eleven days in the fortnight, and so far from their wages having caused the increase in the price of coal, I think I am well within the mark when I say that for every shilling added to the selling price of coal per ton the miner has not received more than one farthing. If it is the desire of the public to bring the price of coal within reasonable limits they should do so not by refusing to pass this Bill, but by considering whether coal should not be treated in the same way as gas and water, and a limit put by law upon the profits earned in its production.

It has been suggested that if this Bill becomes law the output of coal would be restricted, and that that would send up the price. But I have already pointed out that prices have gone up without the operation of an Eight Hours Bill, and I am now going to argue that the adoption of this measure would not cause any great increase in the cost of obtaining coal, and would not, for a long period at any rate, produce any restriction of the output. The temporary inflation of prices to which I have referred is already passing away, and I am told that, within the past fortnight, contracts for steam coal have been entered into at nine shillings per ton. The miners' wages remain practically steady under the agreement maintained by the beneficent operation of the Conciliation Board, the principle underlying that agreement being that there shall be a living wage with an irreducible minimum, that there shall be no unreasonable demand for a rise of wages above that minimum, and that there shall also be no unreasonable demand on the part of the employers to reduce them. I think it is for the general public to recognise that during the recent critical period not only have employers shown themselves reasonable in the matter of wages, but that the men, acting under the guidance of respectable and responsible leaders, have made no attempt to get an increase of wages contrary to the spirit of the agreement. I am told by my hon. friend the Member for Mansfield that it is agreed by mine-owners and mining agents and engineers that if the Eight Hours Bill is applied to the coal trade it will not add very much to the normal price of coal, and one estimate is that the increased charge for all purposes will not exceed sixpence per ton.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): It would not amount to anything like that.

*MR. YOXALL: That, I believe, is the case, but for the purpose of argument I have adopted an extreme limit, and I do ask the House to bear in mind how small will be the economic disturbance caused by the change embodied in this Bill.

Then there is the question of the restriction of the output. There have been experiments; certainly not very many; in the direction of working mines on the eight hours a day principle, and they enable us to draw a conclusion as to the result. The hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division tells me that he has for a considerable period experimented in his own coal mines in this direction, and he assures me that, although there may have been some slight reduction in the output, he considers that on the whole the limitation to eight hours has worked advantageously, and that he has gained by the adoption of the eight-hour day. I should like the House to consider some further arguments on this point. The statement is that if you reduce the hours of labour you necessarily reduce the output. On the face of it that would seem to be a logical result, but I wish to point out that the restriction would be merely temporary, and by the play of economic forces and by intenser effort on the part of the miners the output would, after a short period, be brought back to what it was before the reduced hours came into force. Simultaneously there would be a reduction in the price. There would be more pits opened for working, and pits now abandoned when partially exhausted would in the future be completely exhausted, in order to bring more coal on the market, so that within a short period the normal condition of things existing before the reduction of the hours of labour would be regained. Therefore I am entitled to argue, with some show of reason, that the restriction of the individual output and the general output would be only temporary, that output would very quickly get back to equilibrium, and to the normal condition of the trade, with this great advantage, that you would have reduced the hours of labour of a great class in the community from ten to eight, and that you would have produced a great humanitarian reform which would give satisfaction to myriads of highly respectable, industrious, hard working artisans in this country. You would also take a long step along the road, on which of late steps have been rather infrequent, of factory and mining legislation generally, and set up another milestone on the path of progress towards, comfort and human conditions surrounding the work of all the people in this country. You would do this also at the cost of a temporary disturbance, which, financially, could not measure more than 6d. per ton, and perhaps not more than 1d. per ton; a disturbance which has existed again and again for the profits of mine owners and coal agents during the period to which I have referred. As to output, there is no fear of the supply of coal not being adequate to meet the demand for manufacturing and household purposes, for I have endeavoured to show that a disturbance of general output would be compensated for by the greater number of pits and workings-coming into play. It will not be contended, I suppose, that miners working under ten hours-a day, at this date, do not get practically as much coal out of the mines as they did a hundred years ago, when they worked fifteen or sixteen hours a day. The intensity of the labour accounts for some of it, but there are other reasons; improved mechanical appliances, better winding, closer and more enlightened organisation, and railways; and it is from these means that equilibrium would be reached after a brief disturbance. This House, apart from the difficulties of rules of procedure, does consist of men who are earnestly

desirous of taking every opportunity they can of producing for the labouring population of the country improvements and reforms in every possible way in the conditions of labour. Who are the men who make this request from the House? If one studies the condition of the country a little more than a century ago he will discover that the miners of that day were a discredited class, ignorant, ill-mannered, and rather brutal. These were the days before Factory Acts, Mining Regulation Acts, improved education, and higher wages, which purchase more in the market than of old time.

But different conditions have begun to exist in the class whose claims I am advocating this afternoon. I speak from

eight years personal knowledge of miners in the Nottingham district, and I venture to say that, all class prejudices and misunderstandings apart, the miners of to-day are as respectable and respect-worthy a class as you will find in the whole community. The miner is a taciturn man, who does not wear his heart upon his sleeve. He conceals his thoughts and emotions; but when you get below the surface you find a hard-headed, shrewd, frugal, industrious, respectable man, who deserves the consideration of this House. He is not a casual day-labourer, but a skilled artisan, who must serve, after his boyhood, a two years apprenticeship; and when men of that stamp come before this House to the number of 500,000, and express a wish for the passing of this Bill, I submit that the House will do well to give that wish every consideration. Think what work they have to perform; Their labour is in the bowels of the earth. They know the upward rush of the earth, as they descend into the pit. They know the damp and the wet, the extremes of temperature, the risks of an inrush of water, the dangers of fire-damp and of falling rock. These are not the conditions in which we would like to labour; but they are conditions which bring about a great number of accidents every year. It has been estimated that 100,000 casualties occur every year underground in coal mines. The greater part of these are slight; but 850 men are killed and 3,650 are seriously injured. I am told that the percentage of killed to wounded in a battle is ten, but it is much higher in coal mining. If the membership of this House was so dangerous an occupation that every fifteen months a Member was killed by accident, that forty-two were seriously and ninety slightly injured every twelve months by the fall of blue-books or the explosion of oratorical gas, we should rapidly adopt for ourselves an eight-hours day. Boys under sixteen and over thirteen years of age can be compelled by law to work in the mines fifty-four hours per week. Of 700,000 persons employed in coal mines there are 45,000 under sixteen years of age; and my Bill applies to them as well as to the adults. When you consider the death-roll, the mutilations, and the maiming of the persons employed in mines, the House will not wonder that the miners, through their great organisations, come to this House and ask for the passing of this Bill.

I submit, in spite of the contradictions made before, and which will probably be made again, that something like five-sixths of the miners outside Northumberland and Durham ask for this Bill, and that a large proportion of the miners inside Northumberland and Durham would see the passing of this Bill with pleasure. I acknowledge with sorrow that a discordant note comes from Northumberland and

Durham, and that that is the weak point in the prospects of this Bill passing. The hon. Member for Morpeth last year stated to the House that comparatively few of the men in Durham, and also I think in Northumberland, worked more than eight hours per day, that some of the boys only worked eight hours per day, and that the coal-hewers and other classes of adult labour worked less than eight hours per day. If that be so, these miners have secured what I propose by this Bill to apply to all the boys and adults throughout the country. I hope the House will not be led away by the plausible statement that the men are not united on this point into condemning the whole Bill. An hon. Member opposite stated on the last occasion that on a poll ninety per cent, of the miners voted in favour of the Bill. A poll was taken of the Durham miners, when 28,000 voted against eight hours, but 12,000 voted in favour, and 20,000 did not vote at all. Therefore I think I have some reason and justice for submitting to the House that there is not inside the area of Northumberland and Durham an unanimous opposition to the Bill. A cry has come year after year from the miners throughout the country for the passing of this Bill. It began in 1886, and attained its first expression in this House in 1892, when the Second Reading was lost by 112 votes. In 1893 the Second Reading was carried by seventy-eight votes, and in 1894 by eighty-seven votes. It came before the House again in 1897, when the Second Reading was lost by forty-one votes, and last year by twenty-four votes only.

I hope that in this first session of a new Parliament the Second Reading will be carried by a number which will show that whatever the last Parliament may have said on the point, we are determined to do what we can to help forward the humanitarian movement which I advocate. Sometimes in this House we hear Black Rod knocking at the door, and the summons, which is that of the Crown, or of the deputies of the Crown, is listened to by us respectfully. These miners are knocking at the door of the House this afternoon. It is not a summons of the Crown or of the deputies of the Crown, but a summons of men banded together, knowing what they want; of men upon whose labour the very foundations of the prosperity of this country are built, and upon whose labour depends our comfort and our trade. We listen with respect to the summons of the man with the Black Rod; I ask the House to listen with respect to the knocking of men with black faces. What shall we answer? Shall we tell them that they are strong enough to obtain their desire without the help of the Legislature, by means of strikes or agreements? That is the argument which is put forward, as a rule, on occasions like these. But is that an argument that ought to be put forward from a temple of legislation, from this House of Law, where all laws are made? Agreements are but temporary things. There have been agreements on this point, but they have broken down again and again. In one case in Wales the men were locked out nine weeks for demanding the fulfilment of an agreement for an eight-hours day. The trade unions of the country are turning more and more against strikes, and demand the regulation of these things, wherever possible, by law. I ask the House to intervene, and to remember that in regard to almost every other point but this the working of coal pits is already regulated in the closest and most minute manner by law. I ask the House to apply law to the question of the maximum hours to be spent in labour in the coal mines. There are some Members in

this House, coal-owners, who are opposed to the proposal, but there are others who are equally in favour of it. Other Members there are who have been miners, who support it, and others who oppose it. I

appeal to the impartial sense of the House to settle the dispute. We are told that accidents will increase, and that mining is an exceptionally healthy occupation; but all that is special pleading. I beg the House to forget the weakness of the advocate in the strength of his cause, and to carry the Second Reading of this Bill which I now move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.): I congratulate the hon. Member on the courage which, in introducing this Bill, he has shown in facing what appears to me to be an impossible position. He has admitted, with great candour, that the effect of the Bill would be to reduce the hours of labour by two hours a day. At present the miner works only six and a half to seven and a half hours a day.

That is to say, if you reduce the hours of labour by two, you reduce the time of work by something like 30 per cent. The statement that that will not reduce output seems to me to require no answer whatever. The hon. Member very courageously grappled with the point by suggesting that a man could do really as much work in eight hours as in ten. But at present miners are not working eight hours, but only six and a half or seven and a half, and to argue that to reduce these by two would not reduce the output is, I think, a monstrous proposition.

The hon. Member said it would reduce the cost of getting the coal by, at most, 6d. per ton. Now, I have some knowledge of the cost of getting coal;

MR. YOXALL: I said the selling price of coal, not the getting it.

SIR ALFRED HICKMAN: I think the hon. Member is very much further astray in making that statement. He may make some calculation as to what is the cost of getting coal, but to calculate what would be added to the selling price is beyond the hon. Member's ingenuity. Let me deal with the question of cost. The best opinion I have been able to form or to obtain is that the addition to the cost would be at the very least 2s., and in many cases as much as 3 s. per ton. But the effect of diminishing the output would add enormously more than that to the selling price. The hon. Member attributed the late advances in the price of coal to the fact that consumers had become alarmed and had filled their coal cellars; it is obvious that reducing the output percent, would add much more to the price than this. The output of coal would be reduced by from 20 to 40 million tons a year, and the effect of that would be not only to enable, but to compel coal-owners to double or treble the price of coal. [Laughter from the Opposition benches.] Hon. Members may laugh, but I assure them I am perfectly serious in the statement I am now making, and I have been engaged in the coal trade from my youth upwards.

I must say I was surprised that this Bill should be brought forward this session, for we have just had an object lesson as to the effect of the high price of coal. But if this Bill passed, what we have seen would be but a drop in the ocean as compared with what the effect would then be. There is not a Member in the House who has not felt in some form or another in his pocket the effect of the recent additional price of coal. Every man who holds shares in railway or

gas companies has had his dividends diminished, and if he employs labour he will find that his poor workmen have had to pay 2s. or 3s. per week more for their coals. The British Government are buying bridges from America for Uganda, Egypt, South Africa, and Burma. We are buying American rails, and even coal is being imported into this country from Australia and America. Take one trade, with which I am best acquainted, the iron trade. The imports of pig iron in January, 1901, were 85,000 tons compared with 40,000 tons in the same month of 1900. The increase of imports of puddled iron is no less than 1,200 per cent., and of steel unwrought nearly 400 per cent. What is more serious is that while our imports have been increasing our exports have been diminishing. In January, 1901. the exports of pig iron were 177,000 tons compared with 528,000 tons in January, 1900, a reduction of no less than 66 per cent.; while the exports of steel unwrought were reduced 39 per cent. We have also seventy-four furnaces fewer at work, or a reduction of 20 per cent. I claim that the main cause; I would be scarcely exaggerating if I said the one cause; of all this has been the price of coal. Look, again, at how soon the price of coal begins to re-act on the workmen themselves. Only forty-six per cent. of the miners worked in the month of January this year for twenty days; whereas last year 68 per cent, worked twenty days. So that it is evident if this proposal of working two hours a day less were accepted and acted upon, retribution would follow on the workmen with very quick steps.

But look at the effect on the general community ! Coal is as much a necessary of life in winter as food; if women and poor children do not get warm in their houses they die as readily as if they were cut short of food.

Intolerable suffering has been caused by the recent high price of coal, and many lives have been lost. Is the miner so oppressed, is he in such a bad position that the whole community must suffer, that all the manufacturing interests of the country are to be sacrificed or destroyed in order that people may be made to pay double or triple for a first necessary of life? The miner is so protected by the splendid organisation of his trade that on the very same day in which the newspapers announced a reduction in the price of coal of 3s. per ton, there was likewise announced an addition of 5 per cent, to the miners' wages. What is the position of the coal hewers at the present time? Suppose they are working by the day; I speak of my own district; they earn 5s. 8d., to which must be added 4d. for the coal supplied free, or 6s. a day in all. But if they work by piecework they earn from 6s. to 10s. a day.

MR. PICKARD (Yorkshire, W.R., Normanton): They do not earn that wage.

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN: They earn on piecework from 6s. to 10s. a day of six and a half hours in the Warwick-

shire district. I can only give what happens in my own colliery with my own workmen, and I challenge any hon. Member to deny the truth and accuracy of the statement I have made.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): How many hours winding?

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN: Nine.

MR. PICKARD: Was it in the month of January?

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN: The figures I have quoted have all been for the month of

January. I have had a careful examination made of my accounts, and I find that on an average the individual miner works only four and a half days a week; although some work five and a half or six days. That is to say, the average miner works twenty-nine and a quarter hours per week. Is that so big a hardship that the Legislature should interfere and compel those miners to work fewer hours, who are willing to work more? The hon. Member who moved this Bill said that, owing to improved mechanical appliances and the greater skill and industry of the British miner, there had been a larger production of coal of late years than had ever been made before. I can give the hon. Member some figures on the point. In Great Britain in 1883 the average production per miner was 347 tons; in 1890 it dropped to 308 tons, and in 1897 it was still further reduced to 297 tons. That is to say, there had been a reduction in the average production per miner of about 20 per cent., instead of an increase, with improved mechanical appliances. That is not the worst of the case. If all the miners throughout the world were in the same condition, we might be able to hold our own. But while we are diminishing the output, miners elsewhere are increasing it. In the United States the production per miner was 443 tons in 1890 and 450 tons in 1897; that is to say, the American miner gets 50 per cent, more coal than the British miner.

MR. PICKARD: What part of the United States?

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN: I am taking the United States as a whole.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE: They use machines.

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN: I beg the hon. Member's pardon; I will deal with that point presently. I say that the production of the United States miner is no less than 50 per cent, more than that of the miner in the United Kingdom. That is not because the miner there is more skilful than the miner here, but because he works more; instead of working six and a half hours, he works ten hours. The consequence is that in the United States coal is less than half the price that it is in this country. I must admit that there is a natural sympathy with a man who works underground; a sympathy which I fully share. He is exposed to very difficult conditions, and the labour which he has to undergo is very arduous. But I was so struck with the smaller cost of American coal that I sent out to America to inquire what was the reason for the difference, and I was told that the principal reason was that the American miner used mechanical appliances for coal-getting. I accordingly sent for these machines and introduced them into my pits; but I am sorry to say they were a complete failure. Every other day they would keep breaking down; something happened and they would not work. But I put to each machine an under-manager, and while the under-manager was with the machine, watching it, it was a complete and perfect success, and the output where the machine worked was doubled, and the men earned more money and had less hard work. I am sorry to say, however, that the moment the supervision of the under-manager was withdrawn the machines broke down again; and as I could not keep under-managers for all the machines, I was obliged to part with them. Now, it was said that a very large proportion of the miners; 90 per cent., I think; are in favour of the Bill; but the hon. Member who quoted the figures did not explain how the percentage was arrived at. Meetings are called at the pit-head

to discuss the question, and I am told that those who are in favour of the eight-hour day attend the meeting and vote for it, and that those who are not in favour of it keep away. It is a fact that in my own district not more than 10 per cent. of the miners attended these meetings, and of course it is very easy to arrive at unanimity when that is the case.

Well, we must come to the conclusion, beyond any possibility of doubt, that the effect of this Bill would enormously reduce the output of coal. Some authorities put it at as much as forty million tons; but supposing it were only twenty or thirty million tons per annum, the effect would be to run up the price to famine rate. First of all there would be a great rise in the price of coal, and the masters would gain much more than the miners. But when the manufactures of this country had been destroyed by the effect of high prices of coal, the whole thing would come tumbling down and we should have ruin all round. The hon. Gentleman spoke very feelingly about the dangers to which miners are exposed, and this is the very greatest and the strongest objection I have to this Bill; it would lead to an increase of accidents. We all know that the miner's life is placed in a very precarious position unless the props, etc., are carefully watched. But if he is working at high pressure, if he has got to do in five and a half hours what he ought to take six and a half hours to complete, then the proportion of accidents would be enormously increased. I have endeavoured to condense my observations on this Bill as much as possible, although there is a great deal more to be said about it. I think, as this is a new Parliament, there ought to be a very full discussion upon it, and I trust that there will be no attempt to burke that full discussion.

The Bill introduces a new principle, that of regulating the hours of labour of adult miners. The hon. Gentleman who proposed the Bill said that everything in a pit was regulated. Yes, there are a great many regulations, but all these are framed with the idea of preserving life and limb, not of limiting the adult labour of men who are in the full possession of their faculties. I have never heard of anyone being compelled to work in a pit, unless it might be a boy who was constrained to do so by his father. The effect of this Bill would be to prevent an industrious man, anxious to better his position in life, from deriving the full benefit of the fruits of his industry; and

I venture to say that some of the most respected coalmasters, who were originally working miners themselves, would not have attained their present position if this Bill had been law. The effect of the Bill would be to reduce all to a dead level, and to prevent any man working more than six hours a day. Moreover, it is a Bill which would upset all the relations between the employers and employed. I believe it would be disastrous, first of all to the manufacturers of this country, second to the workmen, and last of all to the employers.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

Amendment proposed;

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"; (Sir Alfred Hickman.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. FENWICK (Northumberland. Wansbeck): I regret that, as this is a new Parliament, the time at our disposal is so short for fully debating the merits of this question, or at least of debating it in such a way as to justify us in taking a division on the Second Reading of the Bill. I must say that, so far as the mover of the Bill was concerned, none of us who are opposed to this measure, and will have to vote against it if we go to a division, can complain, in the slightest degree, either of the language or of the spirit of the speech in which my hon. friend moved the Second Reading. And that at all events is an improvement upon what has happened in past Parliaments when this Bill has come up for discussion in the House. My hon. friend the Member for West Nottingham has said, and said very truly, that this measure is by no means new to the House of Commons. This is the sixth time during the last nine years that the Bill has been brought before the House, and all those who have been so long in the House are no doubt familiar with the arguments for and against, and, as my hon. friend truly said, looking at the number of times this Bill has been before the House, it is difficult to find new arguments either in its support or its opposition; but as this is a new Parliament, it is only fair that we should state the ground upon which the question was first of all advocated by the Miners' Federation and those who are outside the scope of the Federation. My hon. friend has said it is not the object of this measure to limit the output of coal; but that was really the object with which the agitation in favour of this measure was originally begun. That agitation commenced in 1887, but it only arrived at an acute stage in 1888, and at the Bradford Trades Union Congress, when this question was debated, in a speech delivered by Mr. Samuel Woods, it was distinctly stated among other matters that it was to restrict the output of coal, which was about 20,000,000 tons per annum more than necessary. That was the distinct object with which the agitation was begun, but when it was found that the British consumer would have something to say in respect to any limitation of the output, then the promoters of the Bill took up another line of defence, as their second line of defence, and said that if the hours of labour were reduced employment would be found for a greater number. But the weakness of that line was at once pointed out, which was that if it was intended to keep up the limit of output of coal by the increased intensity of labour during shorter hours, how were you going to find room for more labour? Then when they find their position on these lines untenable, the promoters of this measure take up the third line of defence, that this Bill is calculated to increase the safety of the miners. If they convince me that this Bill conduces to the safety of the miners they have gone a great way towards disarming my opposition and the opposition of those whom I represent in this House. They intend to keep up the production of coal by increasing the intensity of labour, but is the rush and hurry which will thus be created not calculated to increase the risk of the miner rather than diminish the risk which he at present has to contend with? The increased intensity of labour is the very thing which causes in a number of cases the accidents which unfortunately arise from time to time. Now, my hon. friend touched on the question of increased cost, if this Bill were

to become law, and he treated that aspect of the question with a light heart; he practically disposed of it with a wave of the hand as being a matter of such small importance that it was not for a moment to occupy the attention of the House of Commons; but I think I shall show before I have finished that, so far as we are concerned in Northumberland, this question of increased expense is of great importance. It is not only calculated to disorganise our industry, but to injure the men employed in that industry. The hon. Member referred to a statement made to him by the hon. Member for the Mansfield Division of Nottingham, who speaks with great authority upon this subject and upon his authority alleges that this Bill would only increase the price of coal about sixpence a ton, and in answer to the hon. Member for West Wolverhampton he said it would not affect the cost of getting the coal, but the price of coal to the consumer; but if the cost of production be increased by only half that sum it would do much to drive us out of the market in which we have for generations been accustomed to trade. During the debate upon the Workmen's Compensation Act I stated that we in Northumberland had lost a contract with Russia that we had been in the habit of fulfilling for years and years on a margin of threepence a ton. Let hon. Gentlemen bear in mind that Russia was the chief foreign market for Northumberland, and threepence a ton increase would be a very large increase so far as we are concerned. Excellent as was my hon. friend's speech, it did not carry us any further forward. He treated this subject altogether from: an academic point of view, and gave no practical suggestion to get us out of the difficulty that confronts us. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean told the House last year, when this question was before us, that this was not an academic but a practical question of how we were to regulate the system of working our mines. From what takes place both in this House and outside, it would seem that the remedy for the present state of things rests with those who have had least experience of mines; and those who, like myself, have been closely connected with the industry for many years, are the only persons who are utterly at a loss for a remedy which would not inflict greater hardship upon those engaged in this industry. My hon. friend has also stated that there is no other industry where the conditions of labour are so varied, and yet it is for such an industry as this that they attempt to make cast-iron rules of uniformity. You cannot carry on such a business on such rigid lines of uniformity. If you are to carry on the industry satisfactorily you must have some elasticity; but those in favour of this Bill would tie us down to a hard and fast rule; a thing they are not prepared to ask for in other industries. My hon. friend said that this was the demand of labour: but is there any industry in the country which is prepared to adopt such lines as are attempted to be forced upon us by this Bill? The very furthest that the Trade Union Congress has ever gone is to pass a resolution for forty-eight hours per week. The whole thing seems to me to be ridiculous in the extreme. The right hon. Gentleman has told us that the real difficulty in dealing with this question is the system which prevails in Northumberland and Durham; a system that has existed for more than two generations, a system by which one set of boys,

working ten hours a day from bank to bank;[Cries of "Shame."] I shall have something to say in reply to that. These boys have to take away the produce of two sets of coal-getters working fifteen hours a day, calculated from bank to bank. To upset that arrangement would completely revolutionise the system of working our mines in the north of England. You would reduce us to one of two alternatives. You would compel us to adopt the single-shift system, much as we dislike it. In Wales they had thirteen months experience of the double-shift system, working eight hours a day; and at the end of that time a deputation waited upon the mine-owner and requested that he would allow them to return to the old system and work more hours. We have, therefore, either to adopt the single-shift system and dismiss a considerable number of our hewers, or we have to adopt the double-shift system with two sets of boys. Now, that we have fairly and fully considered, and we find it is utterly impossible to get the boys for a double shift. We should want additional boy labour, but we should not have any additional labour for men, and a man would not come into a neighbourhood merely to find occupation for his family if he could find none for himself. As I said before, our boys work ten hours a day. Somebody cried out "Shame," but we in the north are no more wanting in natural affection and parental instinct than you are in other counties, where, in many cases, your boys are employed for longer hours than we employ them in the north. ["No, no";] I say. Yes, yes; because it is only two years ago that a charge was made that we worked our boys like little galley slaves; and what could be a more shameful charge? We are not more wanting in parental instincts than other men, but even if we were, that would not justify you in working your boys longer hours. When this question was before the House in 1894 we gave to the miners of all outside districts an opportunity of reducing the hours of the boys by agreeing to the passing of the Bill subject to a local option clause; the widest that has ever been suggested in this country by labour; by the exercise of the vote of a simple majority. But they were not prepared to take it for themselves unless they were allowed at the same time to inflict a positive injustice on the people of the north.

What is the case so far as foreign competition is concerned? In 1899 the output of coal in Northumberland amounted to 11,000,000 odd tons; out of that 11,000,000 odd tons we exported direct to foreign countries no less than 8,547,000 tons, leaving us for home consumption 2,693,933 tons. So that we in the north have no home market; we depend entirely upon the markets abroad, and the slightest increase in the cost of production would affect us very severely. To Russia alone we in Northumberland send only 708,000 tons less than the combined districts of Wales, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Scotland, and although we have no home market, those who support this Bill desire to strike at these markets in which we have a so much larger interest. I protest against a measure of this kind being passed without due respect being paid to the difficulties which confront us in various directions, and I protest against this attempt to cast upon us this cast-iron uniformity. In conclusion I will say that, so long as we are unable to find for ourselves any practical solution for all these difficulties, so long as our

friends who support this measure are unable to suggest a solution for them, it will be our duty to vote against this Bill, which, if it becomes law, is calculated to inflict considerable hardships on a great industry. I beg to support the rejection of the Bill.

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): I represent in this House more than 10,000 men and boys who are employed in coal mines, and I desire to enter my strongest protest against the way in which His Majesty's Government have curtailed the opportunity for discussing this most important Bill that we have now under consideration. Trades like that of coal mining; an exceptional trade, dangerous and arduous in its character; need exceptional treatment, and the 10,000 men of the Barnsley Division of Yorkshire whom I represent are unanimously in favour of this Bill now under the consideration of the House. I believe it cannot be denied that the great majority of those employed in coal mines throughout Great Britain also support this Bill.

What is the object of this Bill? It is that no one shall be employed underground for more than eight hours out of the twenty-four. Now there is one thing upon which I think we are all agreed, and that is that it is indefensible that growing lads of from thirteen to sixteen years of age should be employed underground in a vitiated atmosphere, deprived of daylight and sunshine, for ten hours a day, whilst their fathers and other men are underground for not more than seven hours. These boys are kept underground at a time when it is essential for their proper growth and development that they should have a sufficiency of day light and sunshine in order that their development may go on rapidly. In the rules of the Northumberland Miners Association in 1863, one of their objects was to shorten the hours of labour of boys in mines to eight hours per day. Then at the National Conference of

Miners in 1893 the hon. Member for Mid Durham proposed this resolution; "That in the opinion of this Conference the hours of labour in the mines are in the majority of cases excessively long, and can and should be materially shortened."

So that we are practically all agreed as to the propriety of shortening the hours of boys employed in coal mines, because it cannot be denied that for a young lad to rise at five in the morning, go underground at six, and come out at four leaves him unfit for technical education or continuation schools. To such facts as these is also owing that alarming increase of physical deterioration in the British race which the enormous number of men who volunteered for service in South Africa, and who had been rejected as physically unfit, showed. Hon. Members of the House ought to make it one of their most important duties to safeguard the dangers of such work as this, so that the health of these lads should be protected to the greatest possible extent.

I regret that the short time at our disposal to debate this question entirely deprives me of the pleasure of showing to my hon. friend the Member for Wansbeck how the Eight Hours Bill might be applied to Northumberland. The only difference between us is that some of us are seeking to obtain this reform by trades union effort, whilst others think the shortest way is by legislative enactment. What was the result of voluntary effort? It was only by the passing

of the Factories Act that boys under sixteen years of age were prevented from working underground for more than ten hours a day, and it was by passing the Coal Mines Regulation Act that the mines of the United Kingdom are to-day working under more satisfactory conditions than before.

The time at my disposal prevents my going into detail as to how I should apply this Eight Hours Bill. I am somewhat interested in Durham and Northumberland myself, and if I thought this measure was going to be disastrous to the iron, coal, and steel industries, I should not say a word in support of it. I do not deny that it may add to the cost of production of coal if this Bill is passed. I am to some extent a coal-owner myself, but I am willing that this Bill should be applied compulsorily at the collieries in which I am interested so long as it is applied to all competing collieries. So far as I am advised, the increased cost of production is not quite so serious as that quoted by the hon. Member who moved the motion for the Second Reading of this Bill. Two shifts of men and one shift of boys increased in number would not result in an increase of more than 2d. to 3d. a ton on the average, and with regard to the working of collieries you can only take the average. On both sides we are agreed on the desirability of shortening the hours of labour, especially of boys, and we ought to approach this question in that spirit. It would not be difficult for the masters to find a solution for the difficulties which confront them, and benefit the boys working underground. The issue before us does not affect coal hewers and under-ground datale men, but only a number of boys, and when we have improved the mechanical appliances for getting the coal from the working face to the surface, this concession can be given to the lads.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.): I rise with considerable diffidence to express my sympathy with the mover of this Bill. What has moved me in this matter is my solicitude on behalf of the boys who work so many hours in the mines, and, although I readily recognise the force of the argument adduced by my friend the Member for Wansbeck, I have not found it so affect my mind as to counterbalance my views as to the condition of these lads in the pits. These lads, many of them only fifteen or sixteen, go to work at six in the morning, and they remain in the pits till four in the afternoon; ten hours; and during the bulk of the year, with the exception of four days a fortnight, they never see the light of day. Now, I know that it is said that if you look at them you find them sturdy, healthy lads, and I remember that some years ago those who represented the mining interests of Durham and Northumberland then, as the hon. Member for West Wolverhampton does now, urged that there was no necessity on the part of Parliament to reduce the hours, that these children were so happy, and bright, and brisk and enjoyed life to such an extent that when they came out of the pits they gambolled about like lambs. We know from the Reports of the Government Commission that the health of the children materially suffered, and my observation has convinced me that morally, mentally, and physically these boys in Durham do suffer from their long confinement in the mines. Therefore it is not so much on behalf of the miners of Yorkshire and Derbyshire that I support the Bill, but what has moved me to come into conflict with some of my constituents has been my solicitude for the pit

lads of my county. On that point I am not at all certain whether the hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division really represents the majority among the miners. I know that he honestly claims that he does, but I have never hesitated, during the time I have been a Member of this House, now some fifteen years, to express without any fear or qualification my approval of the principle of a measure which will limit the hours of miners' work, and so protect the children from what I believe is an evil that exists under present circumstances.

May I refer very briefly to some of the arguments which have been used to-day?

An hon. Member who opposed the measure used the stale argument that you have no right to legislate for adults. This is no innovation. Legislation for adults commenced in 1847 by the passing of the Factory Act. It is true that it was not eight hours, but ten hours, then; and by a series of legislative enactments, passed in spite of similar arguments to those used to-day, and passed through, the kindly interest of the Conservative party at the time, in 1850, 1870, and 1874 Parliament has directly or indirectly legislated upon the hours during which adults should be employed, and therefore it seems to me there is no force whatever in the argument which says. that people should be allowed to work out their own destiny by voluntary effort. Upon that point of voluntary effort may I make this observation? It seems to me;and it was aptly put by a former speaker;that it is very much better that the public through their representatives should legislate upon matters which affect the public at large than that a section of the population belonging to one particular trade, without conferring with others and without obeying what is the obvious desire of the public, should assert by voluntary effort what might be opposed to the interests of the others. In other words, this is a legislative machine for the purpose of giving effect to what is believed to be not merely for the interest of any particular class, hut what is believed to be for the interest of the community at large. I agree that that is an academic argument, and I do not want to press it. What does the hon Member for the Wansbeek Division mean when he contends that you are going to attain this by voluntary effort?

MR. FENWICK protested against the statement just made by the hon. Member. He never contended that this limitation should be brought about by voluntary effort. His position had been clearly stated throughout the whole debate.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES: I willingly accept my friend's renunciation of my suggestion. What I do know is that the argument is used in this House. Let me ask this question;How is it to be effected? It certainly car not be effected by voluntary effort on the part of the miners. [An HON. MEMBER: Why not?] Because the employers have laid down a non possumus. I heard from the mouth of the hon. Baronet opposite that it means ruin to the trade of this country, and we have heard over and over again that the great bulk of the employers will not support the Eight Hours Bill. How can an eight-hour day be obtained except by legislation? It can only be obtained from costly, disastrous, and deplorable strikes, and I am not sure that it can be obtained by strikes. Anyone who takes the trouble to look through the records of strikes will find that almost every strike;or, at all events, a very large percentage of the strikes, for the

reduction of the hours of labour; has been abortive.

It comes to this, then, if you are going to get an eight-hour day you must get it by legislation, or you will not get it at all. I admit freely that the economic difficulty is undoubtedly a serious one. I am not able myself to appreciate it. I am not able myself to thoroughly grasp what the consequences will be, but why is that? Because the Gentlemen who oppose this measure on the grounds of the economic difficulty do not condescend to give us any particulars. I should like to ask them this question; What is the rate of wages in relation to the cost of output? What, on the average output, do wages represent? I should like to know the amount paid in wages in reference to the question of profit. The very same arguments which are used to-day about the destruction of trade were used as far back as the year 1847, and if anyone will take up Hansard for that year he will find that practically he might be reading the very debate which is taking place in the House now.

There are one or two points to which my hon. friend the Member for Wansbeck referred to which I wish to refer very briefly. We were told there would be a decrease in the output and an increase in the price. We were told by the hon. Baronet the Member for West Wolverhampton that certain mines worked only twenty days in January, that the average time of the men's work was three, four, and five days a week, and that very often they did not work more than three days a week. Now, what do we propose to do? The Bill proposes, where a reduction would be necessary, to reduce the hours of labour by some hour, hour and a half, or two hours a day. Might I not fairly suggest to the hon. Baronet and to my hon. friend the Member for the Wansbeck Division that it is not an unreasonable argument that instead of working spasmodically, as you are doing now, three or four days a week for ten hours, you should work steadily for five or six days a week seven or eight hours a day? Therefore, it appears to me that, so far from tending to reduce the output and increase the price, you would simply have a regular and more persistent output and more regular and persistent employment. Let me say to those who are going to vote on this question, whether they be representatives of workmen or employers, that a large number of men of experience, aye, and some of them men who have risen from the position of working miners, will be found, not voting with the hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division, but voting with those who oppose him.

*MR. HIGGINBOTTOM (Liverpool, West Derby): I rise to oppose the Bill. I do so on the following grounds. The hon. Member opposite asked; What is the rate of wages? I am in a position to give him the rate of wages that has been paid at my own colliery in three mines during the seven weeks of this year. I hope this will be an answer to his inquiry. The rate of wages has been 12s. per day in one mine, 9s. per day in the second mine, and 12s. per day in the third mine.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE: Are these average figures, or do they refer to individual cases?

*MR. HIGGINBOTTOM: These figures have only been sent to me by this morning's post, but I can vouch for their accuracy.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (rising again amid cries of "Order!"): I was only asking, Mr. Speaker, whether they were averages, or applied to individual cases.

*MR. HIGGINBOTTOM: They are averages of the whole wages of each man for each week. The hon. Member would like the weekly averages. I can give them to him. I have worked them out for the seven weeks of this year, and they are as follows: 9s. 11d. per day for the first week; 11s. 7d. for the second; 13s. 5d. for the third; 11s. 1d. for the fourth; 12s. for the fifth; 12s. 1d. for the sixth; and 13s. 9d. for the seventh. These miners are supposed to work fifty-two hours per week. During this year they have worked forty hours per week, and the mines have been open every day from the 1st of January until to-day. The workmen might have been employed every day, but instead they have only worked an average of forty hours per week.

I am sent here by a very large constituency to oppose this measure, as I am sure it is against their interests. I represent one of the divisions of Liverpool, and if this Bill passes I look upon it as a most serious matter for the shipping industry of Liverpool. I look upon it as a most serious matter for the various trades in the county of Lancaster, particularly the cotton, chemical, and iron industries. I calculate that if this

Bill is carried we shall have to lose in output something like 30,000,000 tons per annum. If the men had been at work, as they might have been, we should have had 20,000,000 or 30,000,000 tons more coal produced during the past year. I hope this House will not attempt to legislate at the present time. I believe that some of the leaders are anxious on the subject, but I do not think that the workmen, if they had their own way, are anxious for legislation.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE: I desire in the first place to call attention to the actual conditions of the coal trade. I shall do so very briefly, considering the limited time at my disposal. In the last issued Report by the Home Office the following sentence occurs;

"The most striking fact recorded in these mineral statistics for 1899 is the enormous output of coal, namely, 220,000,000 tons, showing an increase of 18,000,000 tons compared with the previous year. This country is now producing twice as much coal as it did in 1870, and probably nearly four times as much as it was in 1850. Durham and Yorkshire together are now yielding about as much coal as the whole of the United Kingdom half a century ago."

That refers to the country as a whole. I thought from what has been stated that the coal industry in Durham and Northumberland must be in a very delicate position, but I find that the figures for these counties show an increase of 882,000 in the output for the year 1899. Much has been made of the statement that this Bill means a restriction of the output. There is no practical miner in this House, with all respect to my hon. friend the Member for the Wansbeck Division, who will seriously make that statement.

MR. FENWICK: I did not make that statement.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE: I know you did not, but the House thought you did. This Bill does not mean restriction of the output. The figures given by the different inspectors in the various districts go to attest the fact that where the hours of labour are shortest the output per individual, other conditions being equal, is highest. That accords with all the experience we have had of the eight hours system. One way of stimu-

lating the industries of Durham and Northumberland is to give the lads there a shorter working day. It is absurd to say that this would impose a burden on the people of these two counties. My hon. friend says that boys could not be found to equip a second shift if this Bill came into operation. A second shift would mean an increased output, and an increased output would require additional colliers to produce the coal, and this would naturally bring into the counties a sufficient number of boys to equip the two shifts if this Bill became law. I am told, sotto voce, that they are working two shifts in Durham and Northumberland; yes, two shifts of men and one shift of boys. We ask that the boys in these counties shall have their hours reduced to not more than eight per day. That would involve two shifts being worked of all hands instead of two shifts of coal-getters and one shift of boys. In regard to the cost of production, the hon. Baronet the Member for West Wolverhampton alarmed the House by speaking of an increase of 2s. or 3s. per ton as the result of the operation of this Bill. I was sorry to hear my hon. friend who introduced the measure speaking of even 6d. per ton as the probable increase. We have heard these figures years before. The Workmen's Compensation Act was going to ruin industry by adding 1s. or 1s. 6d. per ton to the cost of coal. The experience of the working of the Act has proved that the actual cost is a little over 1d. per ton, and in some districts not so much; but I speak as a practical collier who has worked eleven hours and eight hours per day, and I can testify in this House that coal is produced in greater quantity, at less cost, and with more safety; a very important point; in the shorter working day than in the longer working day. I prove my point with regard to safety in this manner. A collier in a pit, when kept constantly at work, and when his hours are short, has all his faculties alert and active, he sees danger and makes provision against it; but when his hours are long inertia overtakes him, and he is not so alive to danger and so alert to protect himself against it. If it be true that the eight-hours day is going to add to the danger of the collier at work, why, I ask, do they adhere to the short working day in Durham and Northumberland of six and three-quarter hours? It has not increased the number of accidents; and if it has not done so in Durham, why dare any hon. Member say to this House that it would do so in other parts of the country?

I trust the House will not be misled by this fallacious argument. I use the word with all respect for my hon. friend. If the angels in heaven do weep, it must be when a representative of working men, paid by workmen to come to this House to protect the interests of workmen, draws forth the enthusiastic cheers of employers of labour in opposing a measure which is introduced for the benefit of working men. I trust that the House will remember that this matter in regard to the Durham miners does not affect the principle of the Bill. It is a fair subject for discussion in Committee. It is a matter that could possibly be arranged in Committee, and I confidently express the hope that no Member who otherwise would vote for this Bill will vote against it because of the opposition from the north of England. Whatever that opposition may be worth, is a question entirely and exclusively for Committee.

I trust the Second Reading of this Bill will be agreed to by this House, so that

we may get rid of one large social question which excites more interest and arouses more support among people of all classes in the community than any other question. My hon. friend said that we only proposed to apply this rigid cast-iron rule to mining. He must have forgotten the Factory Acts. Under the Factory Acts we have the hours of labour rigidly regulated. No harm has come to the cotton trade on that account, and it is absurd to say that what was applied to the cotton trade with such marked benefit will not also be for the advantage of the mining industry.

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street): There has not been one solid argument brought forward by the promoters of the Bill to induce us to come to any different decision on this question from what the previous House of Commons came to. I have listened with very great interest indeed to the various speeches on this question to-day, and I must congratulate my hon. friend the Member for the Wansbeck Division, who happens to be my own representative, on the very clear statement he made of our case. I think the House will agree that not one solid argument which he advanced has been dealt with satisfactorily by those who have supported the Bill. Before the House should be induced to make a change on a great question of this kind, it is for the promoters of the Bill to show that that change is justified. I maintain that in the debate to-day, certainly, there has been no such justification given.

I confess I am very much surprised to find that workmen representing the mining industry of certain parts of the country are proposing legislation of this kind. The only thing which a workman has to sell is his labour, and here are those hon. Gentlemen coming forward and asking this House to tie his hands in dealing with the only thing he is at liberty to sell. Notwithstanding the sneers given at employers in this House to-day, I maintain that I am here as a representative of the working classes as much as any man in this House. The working class of the Division I represent sent me here specially to oppose this measure. I cannot help thinking that the feeling in favour of this sort of legislation is not gaining ground in the country. I have observed that although a certain number of gentlemen have been returned to promote this Bill from mining-class constituencies, yet there are a number of mining-class constituencies which persistently send gentlemen who hold opposite views to represent them in this House, and when hon. Members who have supported this measure state to me that the bulk of the working miners in the federation districts support their action in supporting this Bill, I reply they have not yet proved to my satisfaction that that is the case. They have taken no general ballot in the constituencies, so far as I am aware. I feel sure that if such a ballot were taken it would be found that a very large number of the miners were opposed to this legislation. I put alongside this that certain districts in the mining federation persistently return gentlemen to this House pledged to oppose the Bill. I think the House will agree with me that there is grave reason to doubt that the federation districts are practically unanimous on this question.

I admit that it is a most difficult thing to get the House of Commons to understand this question. Whilst I have been present in the House and heard the movers of the different Bills on this question, it is very seldom indeed that

there has been a Member moving the Bill who has understood the question. There has been a great deal said with regard to the effect of this measure. I am not one of those who give estimates, because I know you cannot depend upon them. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil said it was an accepted statement when the Compensation Bill was before the House that it would raise the price of coal 1s. 6d. per ton. I challenge any Member of the House to point out to me where any such statement was made. I was present during the whole of the discussion, and, while I never pledged myself to any estimate, the sum stated was threepence per ton. I am happy to say that, so far as that estimate is concerned, the cost has been even less than that up to the present time. With regard to the effect of this measure, I am not going to say whether it would increase or decrease the output, because estimates dealing with a question of that kind are very unreliable. A colliery proprietor informed me that he put three pits on the eight-hours system, with the result, as regards output, that there was in one 22 per cent., in the second 22 per cent., and in the third 23 per cent. reduction. I am not prepared to say whether that would occur over the whole area of this country or not, but I am prepared to say, as one who has had considerable experience in the working of mines and the selling of minerals, that there are times when a shortage of five per cent. production as against consumption is sufficient to force up the price five shillings per ton, and there are occasions when an overplus of five per cent. as against consumption is a sufficient reason to bring the price down shillings per ton. The forming of estimates is quite unreasonable and unsatisfactory, so far as my experience goes. I can speak so far as the districts of Durham and Northumberland are concerned. While speaking of them I may say that I associate myself with almost the whole of the speech

of the hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division. We are certainly in a peculiar position, as eighty per cent. of the production is exported. I can give a striking instance of what effect foreign competition has on the prices in these two counties from my experience during the last week or two. We have seen in Durham and Northumberland prices fall quickly; at a much quicker ratio than in other parts of the country. Coals which sold twelve months ago for exportation at 16s. to 17s. are to-day 9s. to 9s. 6d. That reduction is much greater than in other parts of the country. It is because we have the competition of Westphalia, Belgium, and France to contend with, and wherever we send our coals these countries have reduced their prices so enormously that we have been forced to follow suit, and any decrease in the production would limit the area we now supply and would give an increased area to our competitors; the Westphalian and Belgian coal-owners.

I listened to the speech of my hon. friend the Member for the North-West Division of Durham with great interest. When he speaks in this House I am never quite sure which side he is going to take, and when he sat down I failed to hear whether he was in favour of the Bill or opposed to it. I think every employer of labour is extremely anxious, if he can see his way, to give the boys and workmen he employs the best conditions both as regards hours and wages. When the hon. Member says that no great benefit has resulted from conciliation boards of

workmen and employers in the north of England, he does not know the facts. In 1870 or 1871 there was an important measure passed in this House dealing with the regulation of mines. I may say that a representative meeting discussed that question, and it was decided then to reduce the working hours of boys from eleven to ten. That is one instance where a practical result has come from AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)

Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy)

Blake, Edward

Abraham, William (Rhondda)

Bain, Colonel James Robert

Boland, John

Aird, Sir John

Barlow, John Emmott

Bolton, Thomas Dolling

Allen, Chas. P. (Clone, Stroud

Barry, E. (Cork, S.)

Boulnois, Edmund

Ambrose, Robert

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)

Boyle, James

Arrol, Sir William

Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol

Brand, Hon. Arthur G.

Ashton, Thomas Gair

Bell, Richard

Broadhurst. Henry

Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry

Bentinck, Lord Henry C.

Bryce. Rt. Hon. James

Austin, Sir John

Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.

Burdett-Coutts, W.

voluntary effort. If I had opportunity I could give a great many instances of that kind to show where it has been possible to arrange a reduction without interfering with the successful working of the industry. Many people act in dealing with a question of this kind with a light heart. In the north of England we have a system of conciliation boards and committees to deal with wages and all the conditions of employment in our mines. These boards have taken thirty years to build up. They consist of representatives of the men and masters, and if you pass this measure you completely upset the whole of this organisation.

[Cries of "Divide."] I have a great deal more to say on the subject. I

"Divide." It has been stated again and again;["Divide."];I do not think that the House has yet realised the fact that in Durham and Northumberland the boys are working exactly the same number of hours as in other parts of the country.

["Divide."]

MR. YOXALL: I beg to move that the question be now put.

*MR. SPEAKER: The motion of the hon. Member places me in a position of considerable difficulty, having regard on the one hand to the shortness of the debate and the importance of the question, and on the other hand to the length of time the measure has been before the country, and the extent to which it has been discussed inside and outside the House. On the whole, I have come to the conclusion that the proper course for me to adopt is to leave the House to decide the question.

Question put, "That the, Question be now put."

The House divided::Ayes, 231; Noes, 184. (Division List, No.18.)

Burke, E. Haviland-

Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir A. D.

O'Shee, James John

Burns, John

Helder, Augustus

Partington, Oswald

Buxton, Sydney Charles

Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.

Philipps, John Wynford

Caine, William Sproston

Henderson, Alexander

Pickard, Benjamin

Caldwell, James

Holland, William Henry

Pirie, Duncan V.

Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)

Hope, J F (Sheffield, Brightside)

Power, Patrick Joseph

Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.

Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)

Rea, Russell

Carew, James Laurence

Howard, Capt. J (Kent, Faversham)

Reckitt, Harold James

Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton

Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.

Reddy, M.

Causton, Richard Knight

Hudson, George Bickersteth

Redmond, John E. (Waterford)

Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)

Hughes, Colonel Edwin

Redmond, William (Clare)

Cawley, Frederick

Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)

Reid, Sir R, Thrcshie (Dumfries)

Clare, Octavius Leigh
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. K.
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Rickett, J. Compton
Cogan, Denis J.
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Jordan, Jeremiah
Roche, John
Colville, John
Joyce, Michael
Roe, Sir Thomas
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Craig, Robert Hunter
Kinloch, Sir John George S.
Russell, T. W.
Yean, Eugene
Labouchere, Henry
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Cremer, William Randal
Law, Andrew Bonar
Schwann, Charles E.
Crombie, John William
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Seton-Karr, Henry
Cullinan, J.
Leeky, Rt. Hn. Wm. E. H.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Daly, James
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Shipman, Dr. John
Dalziel, James Henry
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarshire)
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Leng, Sir John
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Lough, Thomas
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Delany, William

Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-shire)
London, W.
Soares, Ernest J.
Dickson, Charles Scott
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Spencer, Ernest (W. Bromwich
Dillon, John
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Donelan, Captain A.
M'Crae, George
Stevenson, Francis S.
Doogan, P. C.
M'Fadden, Edward
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
M'Govern, T.
Sullivan, Donal
Dully, William J.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Duncan, James H.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Tennant, Harold John
Dunn, Sir William
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Elibank, Master of
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Ellis, John Edward
Malcolm, Ian
Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan Gower
Evans, Samuel T.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Thomson, F. W. (York, A V. E.)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William

Tollemache, Henry James
Farrell, James Patrick
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Tomkinson, James
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith
Milton, Viscount
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ffrench, Peter
Mitchell, William
Tully, Jasper
Field, William
Mooney, John J.
Ure, Alexander
Fison, Frederick William
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Wallace, Robert
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algemon
Moulton, John Fletcher
Walton John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Murphy, J.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Flynn, James Christopher
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Poster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Newnes, Sir George
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Webb, Colonel William George
Gilhooly, James
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Norman, Henry
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'ry
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Gretton, John
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
Wilson, Fred. (Norfolk, Mid
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Haldane, Richard Burdon
O'Doherty, William
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Hammond, John
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Hudd'rsh'd
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil)
O'Dowd, John
Wylie, Alexander
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East.)
Harwood, George
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
O'Malley, William
TELLERS FOR THE AYES;Mr.
Hayden, John Patrick
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Yoxall and Mr. Jacoby.
NOES.
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anstruther, H. T.
Baird, John George Alexander
Allhusen, Augustus Henry F.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Muntz, Philip A.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)

Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christchch
Greene, Sir E W (Bry S. Edum'nds
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Banbury, Frederick George
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Grenfell, William Henry
Myers, William Henry
Bartley, George C. T.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Nicholson, William Graham
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Guthrie, Waiter Murray
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Beckett, Ernest William
Hain, Edward
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Bignold, Arthur
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Parkes, Ebenezer
Bigwood, James
Hamilton, Rt Hon Ld. G (Midd'x
Paulton, James Mellor
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Pease, Sir Joseph W.(Durham)
Bond, Edward
Hardy Laurence (Kent Ashford
Penn, John
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynemouth
Percy, Earl
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Pilkington, Richard
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Plummer, Walter R.
Burt, Thomas
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead

Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Butcher, John George
Hobhouse, Henry(Somerset, E.
Purvis, Robert
Cavendish,VCW (Derbyshire)
Hoult, Joseph
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Renwick, George
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Richards, Henry Charles
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Joicey, Sir James
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Coddington, Sir William
Kenuaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Kenyon Slaney, Col.W. (Salop
Round, James
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Kimber, Henry
Rutherford, John
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Kitson, Sir James
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos Myles
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Knowles, Lees
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Corbett, A. Caineron (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Cranborne, Viscount
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)

Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Leigh- Bennett, Henry Currie
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Leighton, Stanley
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Cust, Henry John C.
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R,
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Spear, John Ward
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Long, Col. Charles W (Evesham
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M 'Taggart
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (Kent)
Thornton, Percy M.
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Edwards, Frank
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Macdona, John Gumming
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Faber George Denison
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton)
Fardell, Sir T. George

M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
M'Kiliop, James (Stirlingshire
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Finch, George H.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Fisher, William Hayes
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Milward, Colonel Victor
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R (Bath)
Forster, Henry William
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Furness, Sir Christopher
Moon, Edward Robert Racy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
TELLERS FOR THE NOES;
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh
Sir Alfred Hickman and
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Mr. Fenwick.
Colliding, Edward Alfred
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Question put accordingly, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."
AYES.
Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Boland, John
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Barlow, John Emmott
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Allen, C. P. (Glouc, Stroud)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)

Boyle, James
Ambrose, Robert
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Arrol, Sir William
Bell, Richard
Broadhurst, Henry
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Austin, Sir John
Blake, Edward
Burns, John
The House divided:;Ayes, 212: Noes, L99. (Division List, No. 19.)
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Caine, William Sproston
Helder, Augustus
O'Shee, James John
Caldwell, James
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Philipps, John Wynford
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Henderson, Alexander
Pickard, Benjamin
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Holland, William Henry
Pirie, Duncan V.
Carew, James Laurence
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Rea, Russell
Causton, Richard Knight
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Reckitt, Harold James
Cawley, Frederick
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Reddy, M.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Jones, David Brynmo-(Swans'a

Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Cogan, Denis J.
Joyce, Michael
Rickett, J Compton
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Keuyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Ridley, S. Forde (BethualGreen
Colville, John
Kinloch, Sir. John George Smyth
Roche, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Labouchere, Henry
Roe, Sir Thomas
Craig, Robert Hunter
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Relleston, Sir John F. L.
Crean, Eugene
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Rutherford, John
Cremer, William Randal
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Crombie, John William
Leng, Sir John
Schwann, Charles E.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Lough, Thomas
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Cullinan, J.
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Daly, James
Lundon, W.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Dalziel, James Henry
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Shipman, Dr. John
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Macnamara. Dr. Thomas J.
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)

Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
M Arthur, William (Cornwall
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Delaury, William
M'Crae, George
Soares, Ernest J.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
M'Fadden, Edward
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (N'rthants
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
M'Govern, T.
Spencer, Ernest (W. Bromwich
Dillon, John
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Donelan, Captain A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Sullivan, Donal
Doogan, P. C.
M'Killop, James(Stirlingshire)
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Tennant, Harold John
Duffy, William J.
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Dunn, Sir William
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Thomas. Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Elibank, Master of
Markham, Arthur Basil
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ellis, John Edward
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Thomas, J A (Glamorg'n, Gower
Esmonds, Sir Thomas
Milton, Viscount
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Evans, Samuel T.
Mitchell, William
Tomkinson, James
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Mooney, John J.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Farrell, James Patrick

Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Tully, Jasper
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Ure, Alexander
Ffrench, Peter
Muntz, Philip A.
Wallace, Robert
Field, William
Murphy, J.
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Fison, Frederick William
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Newnes, Sir George
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Flynn, James Christopher
Nolan, Col. Jn. P. (Galway. N.)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Webb, Colonel William George
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Norman, Henry
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Gilhooly, James
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Gretton, John
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.

Wilson, Henry J. (Yorks, W. R.
Haldane, Richard Burdon
O'Doherty, William
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Hammond, John
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex)
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.
Woodhouse, Sir. J T (Hudd'rsh'd
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
O'Dowd, John
Wylie, Alexander
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
Harwood, George
O'Kelly, Jas (Roscommon. N.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES;
Hay, Hon. Claude George
O'Malley, William
Mr. Yoxall and Mr.
Hayden, John Patrick
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Jacoby.
NOES.
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Banbury, Frederick George
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Aird, Sir John
Baird, John George Alexander
Bartley, George C. T.
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Balcarres, Lord
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Allsopp, Hon, George
Baldwin, Alfred
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Austruther. H. T.
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Beckett, Ernest William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Balfour, Maj K. R (Christchurch
Bignold, Arthur

Bigwood, James
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Hain, Edward
Myers, William Henry
Bond, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Nicholson, William Graham
Boulnois Edmund
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld G (Midd'x
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Parkes, Ebenezer
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashfd.
Paulton, James Mellor
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Harris, FLeverton (Tynemouth
Pease, Sir Jose ph W. (Durham)
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Penn, John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Percy, Earl
Burt, Thomas
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstd.
Pilkington, Richard
Butcher, John George
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield Brightside
Plummer, Walter R.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Hoult, Joseph
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Howard, Capt J. (Kent, Faversh
Purvis, Robert
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry

Hudson, George Bickersteth
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Coddington, Sir William
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Rentoul, James Alexander
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Renwick, George
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Johnston, Heywood (Sussex)
Richards, Henry Charles
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Joicey, Sir James
Ritchie, Rt. Hon Chas Thomson
Colston, Chas. Ed W. H. Athole
Kenuaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Round, James
Cook, Frederick LUCAS
Kimber, Henry
Russell, T. W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Cranboine, Viscount
Kitson, Sir James
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Knowles, Lees
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
Cust, Henry John C.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Sharpe, W. E. T.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Law, Andrew Bonar
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Lawson, John Grant
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Dickson, Charles Scott
Lecky, Rt. Hon. William Ed. H.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage

Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Smith Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Leighton, Stanley
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N S.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Lockwood, Lt. Col. A. R.
Spear, John Ward
Duncan, James H.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Stanley, Edward J.(Somerset)
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Stevenson, Francis S.
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol S.
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Edwards, Frank
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Lowther, Rt. Hon James (Kent)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Faber, George Denison
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Thornton, Percy M.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Lucas, Reganild J. (Portsmouth
Tollemache, Henry James
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Lyttleton, Hon. Alfred
Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
Finch, George H.
Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. E.
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Macdona, John Gumming
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir W. H.
Fisher, William Hayes
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Wason, John C. (Orkney)

FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton)
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Malcolm, Ian
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Forster, Henry William
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (City of Lond.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. (Bath)
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Colliding, Edward Alfred
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Young, Commanded Berks. E)
Graham, Henry Robert
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
TELLERS FOR THE NOES;
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Sir Alfred Hickman and
Grenfell, William Henry
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Mr. Fenwick.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
MR. YOXALL claimed, "That the Main Question be now put."
Main Question put accordingly, and agreed to.
Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

NEW BILLS.

VACCINATION.

Bill to amend the Vaccination Acts, ordered to be, brought in by Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Thomas Bayley, Sir John Rolleston, Mr. Channing, and Mr. Grant.

VACCINATION BILL.

"To amend the Vaccination Acts," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 20th March, and to be printed. [Bill 71.]

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND).

Bill to prohibit the sale or supply of Liquors to Children in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Andrew Agnew, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Baird, Mr. Law, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Hozier, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Orr-Ewing, and Mr. J. Wilson.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To prohibit the sale or supply of Liquors to Children in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 6th March, and to be printed. [Bill 72.]

THE OGADEN SOMALIS.

On the motion for the Adjournment of the House,

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he had any further information to give the House in respect of the reported British check in Somaliland.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): I cannot give any details beyond those which have appeared in the press. It is quite true that the punitive expedition sent to avenge the death of Mr. Jenner were engaged with the enemy at a place about fifty miles northwest of Aff Madu; that they beat the enemy off; and that there was a loss of about forty killed and wounded on our side and an estimated loss of 250 on the enemy's side. After the engagement the commandant of the forces, Colonel Ternan, returned to Aff Madu, where he is at present.

Adjourned at Six of the clock.

In pursuance of Standing Order No. 1, "Sittings of the House," I hereby nominate;

The Right Honourable Charles Beilby Stuart-Wortley,

Mr. John Edward Ellis,

Mr. Edward Blake,

Mr. Arthur Frederick Jeffreys, and

Mr. Henry Hobhouse,

to act during this Session as temporary Chairmen of Committees when requested by the Chairman of Ways and Means.

WILLIAM COURT GULLY,

Speaker.

27th February, 1901.

Appendix I.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME LXXXIX.

The figures in parentheses in the last column relate to the page in this volume.

"[H.L.]" following the title indicates that the Bill originated in the Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.

Brought in by

Progress.

Cremation [H.L.]

Lord Monkswell

Read 1a 21 Feb. (650)

Habitual Drunkards [H.L.]

Bishop of Winchester

Read 1a 19 Feb. (436)

Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Travellers) [H.L.]

Bishop of Winchester

Read 1a 19 Feb. (436)

Licensing Sessions [H.L.]

Bishop of Winchester

Read 1a 19 Feb. (436)

Light Load Line [H.L.]

Lord Muskerry

Read 1a 19 Feb. (436)

Merchant Shipping 1894 Amendment [H.L.]

Lord Muskerry

Read 1a 21 Feb. (650)

Select Vestries [H.L.]

;

Read 1a 14 Feb. (30)

Trawlers' Certificates Suspension [H.L.]

Earl of Camperdown

Read 1a 25 Feb. (978)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.

Brought in by.

Progress.

Beer

Mr. Purvis

Read 1a 19 Feb. (450)

Benefices

Major Rasch

Read 1a 22 Feb. (903)

Borough Funds Acts Amendment

Sir Albert Rollit

Read 1a 19 Feb. (460)

Church Discipline

Mr. Charles M'Arthur

Read 1a 22 Feb. (904)

Title of Bill.

Brought in by

Progress.
Coal Mines (Employment)
Sir Thomas Roe
Read 1° 19 Feb. (451)
Coal Mines Regulation
Sir Charles Dilke
Read 1° 19 Feb. (461)
Colonial Marriages
General Laurie
Read 1° 22 Feb. (904)
Compensation for Damage to Crops, etc.
Mr. Hudson
Read 1° 19 Feb. (452)
Congested Districts (Ireland)
Mr. Flynn
Read 1° 19 Feb. (450)
Constabulary (Ireland)
Mr. Condon
Read 1° 19 Feb. (459)
Contempt of Court
Mr. P. A. M'Hugh
Read 1° 19 Feb. (464)
Conveyance of Cycles
Sir Howard Vincent
Read 1° 22 Feb. (902)
Coroners' Inquests (Railway Fatalities) [48]
Mr. Channing
Read 1° 19 Feb. (463)
Crimes Act (Ireland) Repeal
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Date from which the Period runs.

Period to lie upon the Table.

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40 days

Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Ireland), 1877,;Copy of Order in Council, dated 28th December, 1900, giving effect to Rules of Court [40 and 41 Vic., c. 57, s. 69]

14 February

100 sitting days

Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Ireland), 1877,;Copy of Order in Council, dated

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14 February

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Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899 (Rules),;Copy of Rules made under the Act for the execution of the Judicial duties in the Fisheries (Ireland) Arts, 1842 to 1898 [62 and 63 Vic., c. 50, s. 28 (2)]

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14 February

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Union of Benefices Act (All Saints, Knightsbridge, and Holy Trinity, Knightsbridge),;Copy of Scheme for effecting an union of the Benefices of All Saints, Knightsbridge, and Holy Trinity, Knightsbridge [23 and 24 Vic., c 142, s. 15]

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Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 (Ordinance),;Copy of University Court Ordinance No. III. (St. Andrews No. 1) (Foundation of the Bute Chair of Anatomy in the University of St. Andrews) [52 and 53 Vic.,c. 55, s. 20]

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Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford);Copy of a Statute made by the Governing Body of Brasenose College, Oxford, on 20th June, 1900, altering Statutes III., V., XIII., and XVI., of the Statutes of that College [25 and 26 Vic., c. 26, s. 7]

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Date from which the Period runs.

Period to lie upon the Table.

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Public Records (Paymaster General's Department),;Copy of Second Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents which have been removed from the Office of His Majesty's Paymaster General, and deposited in the Public Record Office, but which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]

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