

The delegates have urged the local branches of the various unions concerned to adopt the proposal experimentally for one year.

The Unemployed.

Mr. Asquith has promised a full and definite statement on the question of unemployment in the House of Commons on Wednesday. He said that if the Labour party considered the statement unsatisfactory he would give a day for the discussion of the question.

While the House of Commons was discussing the Children Bill an old White-chapel Jew, from the strangers' gallery, tossed a bundle of papers on the floor of the House, exclaiming, "Read my scheme for dealing with unemployment." He was ejected, after being admonished.

Mr. Asquith states that the Government intend at the beginning of next session, to deal with the permanent causes and conditions of unemployment. A grave situation had arisen, necessitating direct and immediate treatment.

This temporary dislocation of the machinery of production had, he said, occurred throughout the world, and not merely in the United Kingdom. The present number of unemployed was substantially in excess of anything experienced for some time, and Mr. John Burns had worked night and day to provide relief.

Between June and October the Local Government Board had sanctioned loans for local works of utility to the extent of £4,388,000, being much in excess of the average. Other heavy loans were likely to be sanctioned. Works were being accelerated in the metropolis and large provincial centres. The Water Board intended to construct an additional reservoir, which would cost £520,000. The Government did not intend to authorize local authorities to levy a penny relief rate. The Post Office intended to employ 8000 extra hands as temporary. The War Office would take 24,000 recruits for the special reserve, at a cost of £200,000. During the winter, 21,000 would be engaged in the Government dock-yards on repair work.

Tenders had already been accepted for new destroyers, costing £2,000,000, and tenders would shortly be accepted for five unarmoured cruisers, at a cost of £1,500,000. All this navy work had been commenced six weeks in advance of the usual time.

The Government proposals made no pretence of finality. They were merely anodynes affording temporary relief.

Liberals are divided about the proposals outlined by Mr. Asquith for the relief of the unemployed, some considering that they are not sufficiently far-reaching.

Unionist members regret that the unemployed in Scotland are not utilised in the excavation work at the Rosyth naval base.

The Labour party considers that the administration concessions are quite inadequate.

The "Daily Mail" says that by providing work for 45,000 Mr. Asquith assists one in 15 out of 655,000 unemployed.

The "Daily News" declares that the proposals will afford no relief to unemployed women.

The destroyers ordered in Glasgow will employ four thousand hands.

The Glasgow Corporation intends to memorialise the Government urging it to proceed immediately with the construction of the ship canal connecting the Clyde, with the Firth of Forth, in order to provide work for Glasgow unemployed.

Terrible distress prevails in many parts of the United Kingdom, and it is feared that serious rioting will take place before the winter is over.

Early last month the Sheffield City Council voted £10,000 for special works to relieve the distress there. The Liverpool Council, on the same day, spent £6000 on the purchase of land on which to employ 150 men for three months.

At Manchester hundreds of workless men demanded work of the authorities, declaring that their patience was exhausted. The situation at Glasgow was acute when the last mails left. The City Council had undertaken to provide meals for children under five years of age, and various measures were being inaugurated for the relief of the adult sufferers. Owing to the unrest all leave had been stopped among the troops at Maryhill Barracks.

Mr. Will Thorne (Labour member for West Ham) was charged at the Westminster Police Court to-day with having incited a riot while addressing the unemployed at Trafalgar Square, when he

urged the unemployed to rush the bakers' shops, and to steal rather than starve.

Defendant denied the charge, and claimed that his speech was taken too literally. Still, he held that it was not a crime for a starving man to help himself to bread.

The magistrate (Mr. Curtis Bennett) ordered defendant to enter into sureties for good behaviour for a year, failing which he would be imprisoned for six months. His Worship remarked that if such incitement were allowed to go unchecked, the lives and property of peaceful citizens would be placed in jeopardy. A stop must be put, he added, to attempts to cause people to assemble for illegal or wrongful purposes.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Winston Churchill (President of the Board of Trade), in reply to Earl Winterton (Conservative member for Horsham, Sussex), admitted that the unemployed in Great Britain were somewhat more numerous than in Germany.

Increase in Agrarian Outrages.

Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, informed Captain Jas. Craig, Conservative M.P. for Down, in the House of Commons to-night that the number of agrarian outrages reported to the police during the whole of 1906 was 234.

In 1907 the number had increased to 372, while for the first nine months of 1908 the total was 417.

Imperial Statesmanship.

"The Times" says that the problem confronting Imperial statesmanship is the reconciliation of the growing forces of nationalism in the autonomous dominions with the principle of common aims and common action in crucial questions affecting the Empire as a whole, and advises Imperial statesmen to acquaint themselves at first hand with the feelings and ambitions of the colonies.

Blackmailers Sentenced.

Charles Winborn has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment and Arthur Canham to three, for threatening the life of J. B. Joel.

At the hearing of the charge letters were read showing that the writers posed as members of the Camerista Monenera, a secret society, and informed Mr. Joel's wife that a member of the society had been chosen by lot to assassinate Mr. Joel. On seeing an advertisement agreeing to pay money, another letter was sent to Mrs. Joel, stating that a man would call for the money at Mr. Joel's house. When Canham called he was arrested. He confessed that Winborn wrote the letters, and promised him half the money if he assisted.

Rifle Shooting.

Natal won the Roberts trophy with a score of 498, England being second with 451, Australia third with 437, New Zealand fourth with 431, and Queensland fifth with 412.

England won the Meath trophy with a total of 862 points, Australia being second with 801, and the South Island of New Zealand fourth with 736.

The Suffragettes.

The hearing of the cases against the suffragette leaders—Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, and Mrs. Drummond—of attempting to provoke a breach of the peace in connection with the recent attempt to "rush" the House of Commons, was continued at the Bow-street Police Court.

Miss Christabel Pankhurst elicited from Mr. Lloyd-George, who was called as a witness, the fact that he was present at the Trafalgar Square meeting on the 11th inst. Mr. Lloyd-George said he considered the demonstrations were formidable, but thought the suffragists' appeal to the public to "rush" the Commons was not very serious.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone was also called as a witness, and said the "rushing" of the Commons meant the employment of force. The result of the suffragist demonstration against the House of Commons was that 37 arrests had been made and 40 watches and purses stolen.

Defendants insisted that Liberal statesmen had encouraged the suffragists to adopt the line of action they had followed.

Local Option.

In the House of Commons, the Government's amendment to clause 3 of the

Licensing Bill was adopted by a majority of 160. It provides for a two-thirds majority for local veto purposes after the end of the time limit.

Factories in Ireland.

There is a prospect that as the result of the representations of Mr. John Redmond, the noted Irish Nationalist leader, who recently visited America, several American manufacturers will start factories in Ireland. This follows upon the new British patent law requiring articles protected by patent to be manufactured within the United Kingdom.

Old Age Pensions.

Mr. Lloyd-George (Chancellor of the Exchequer) states that up to Saturday, 273,862 claims for old age pensions had been presented in England, 13,160 in Ireland, 49,077 in Scotland, and 13,615 in Wales.

On the introduction of the bill it was officially estimated that, at the present time there were 2,110,000 persons aged 65 years and upwards, of whom 1,254,000 were 70 years and upwards. Of the 1,254,000 (it is further estimated) deductions due to disqualification on one or more of the grounds common to all old age pensions schemes would reduce the number of eligible pensioners to 387,000. To provide these with a weekly sum of five shillings each would roughly cost something over five million pounds. The estimate, it will be seen, was a remarkably accurate one.

The Sculling Champions.

F. J. Pitman, ex-amateur champion sculler of England, presented Ernest Barry with the "Sportsman" Cup and medal, which accompany the professional sculling championship of England.

The presentations were made at a crowded and enthusiastic meeting in the Hammersmith Town Hall, the Mayor presiding.

Geo. Towns, who was defeated by Barry for the trophies, met with a cordial reception. He suggested that Barry should take a trip to Australia to meet some of the local men before sculling the holder, W. Webb or his challenger, R. Armit, for the championship of the world.

The Unemployed.

The London County Council has authorized work to absorb the unemployed, including the expenditure of a sum of £281,000 for the electrification of trams, but negated the scheme to expend a million in electrical traction and street widening.

The Great Motor Race.

Seventeen cars started in the race for the Vanderbilt Cup in New York.

Geo. Robertson, driving an American car, was the winner, covering the course of 258 miles in 241 minutes, an American record.

A quarter of a million spectators witnessed the race.

Many minor accidents occurred, but none resulted fatally.

Only the first two cars finished, owing to the spectators rushing the course after these had passed.

The Suffragists.

After hearing twenty-seven witnesses at the Westminster Police Court, Mr. Curtis Bennett, the presiding magistrate, retired to permit the waste of time of the Court in listening to a further string testifying to the orderly nature of the suffragette crowd outside the House of Commons on Tuesday evening.

He bound Mrs. Pankhurst and Mrs. Drummond in £200 to keep the peace for a year, the alternative being three months' imprisonment. Miss Christabel Pankhurst was bound over in £100 or an alternative of 10 weeks' imprisonment.

Miss Pankhurst made an emotional speech of an hour's length, and then burst into tears.

Mrs. Pankhurst also concluded a speech sobbing.

After the magistrate's sentence the prisoners dramatically elected to go to prison. The Court officials failed to suppress a loud and continued suffragette demonstration in the Court.

Home Rule.

Mr. Asquith states that Mr. Winston Churchill's references to Home Rule in

his recent speech at Dundee were made on his own responsibility.

Mr. Asquith adheres to his declaration made early in the session as to the Government's intentions.

Mr. Winston Churchill, speaking to his constituents on 9th inst., described the Liberal party as the Home Rule party, adding that the party should not bind itself at next election not to present a policy for the proper pacification of Ireland.

Wool Sales.

Brisk general competition was maintained till the close of the wool sales, American bidding keenly. The quantity sold for the Home market was 106,509 bales, for the Continent 102,000 bales, and for America 9000 bales, 37,000 bales being held over.

Compared with the July sales greasy merinos generally were unchanged, good parcels occasionally realising five per cent higher, scoured merinos 10 per cent lower, fine cross-bred per to five per cent higher, medium coarses par to five per cent lower, scoured sheep a penny lower, lambs unchanged.

EUROPE.

M. Picard, an engineer, not a politician, has succeeded M. Thompson as French Minister for Marine.

A Papal circular to the French Bishops forbids the clergy to attend the State Universities.

The French Government is guaranteeing an issue of Messageries Maritimes bonds securing improved services with the East and with Australia.

Trials made in Russia show that quick-firers, trained at an angle of 40 degrees, constitute an excellent defence against airships. Projectiles aimed at a dirigible rose to a height of nearly two miles.

The "Daily Express" reports that Germany intends to begin her 1909 battleship programme forthwith. Simultaneously Great Britain is beginning her 1908 programme.

Germany will thus complete 14 Dreadnoughts by 1911 to Britain's 12.

The Kaiser as Peacemaker.

The Kaiser delivered a speech to the Prussian Diet in which he declared that the German Empire, in faithful co-operation with its allies, would work for the peaceful and equitable solution of difficulties in the Near East.

Ignoring the Powers.

Turkey is showing its disposition to avoid a conference of the Powers, and has negotiated direct with Austria and Bulgaria.

The latter is also disposed to negotiate direct with Turkey regarding the Orient railway.

Tolstoy on Single Tax.

Count Leo Tolstoy, replying to birthday congratulations from the Australian Federation and Single Tax League, expressed the warmest sympathy with Henry George's teaching.

He added that he would gladly assist the League's efforts to abolish the injustice and evil of property in land, which was the cause of economic misery, political disorder, and the moral degradation of the people.

Prospects of Peace.

The "Temps" states that Prince Ferdinand on Saturday, through the French Minister at Sofia, telegraphed to President Fallieres his pacific intentions and determination to come to an agreement with Turkey, and adopt the principle of compensation.

M. Pichon (French Foreign Minister) informed the Turkish Ambassador, who communicated with Constantinople, thus stopping the mobilisation.

Turkey has ruptured the negotiations with Austria, declining Austria's demand that the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be recognised as an accomplished fact.

Prince Nicholas of Montenegro calls upon Montenegro to expend the last drop of her blood in the Serbian cause.

He has sent a Note to the Powers, claiming compensation if the annexation is persisted in.

The Minister for War is asking the Duma for an extraordinary credit of nine millions sterling, in addition to the nine millions which he asked immediately