

placed thousands of pounds in Sir Thomas Bent's pockets.

Sir Thomas Bent characterised Mr. Watt's statement as untrue. The route he had proposed for the line was not adopted, the present route taking its place. A syndicate of 10, including himself, had purchased land at auction. He bought it because it was not on the route he had proposed. He had made no secret of his purchase.

Mr. Murray's censure motion was carried by 37 votes to 25.

The Governor subsequently granted Sir Thomas Bent a dissolution.

The granting of a dissolution by the Governor created surprise.

Mr. Murray, mover of the censure motion, declared it an unprecedented step which should only be taken when there was no chance of a stable Government being formed.

The Leader of the Labour party said it seemed an extraordinary procedure, giving Sir Thomas Bent two chances.

Sir Thomas Bent, in a speech at Ben-Zigo, said it was true he had been defeated by his friends. Intriguing was going on, but he was not going to take it lying down. Overture had been made to him to go to the Labour party, carry the Land Valuation Bill, and break up his own party. He replied, "Go to you know where." He was not very polished on such occasions. The proper thing to do was to ask the people for a verdict.

Queensland Budget.

The Queensland Treasurer, in his Budget speech, said the revenue last year had been £4,488,000. The year had closed with a surplus of £1,152,000. The loan expenditure had been £1,034,000, of which £285,000 had been spent on railways. The loan expenditure for the coming year was estimated at £1,590,000. The deposits in the Government Savings Bank had increased in four years by £1,180,000. The deposits in the Government banks equalled nearly £50 per family, which was a gratifying index of the general prosperity of the State.

The estimated revenue for the current year was £4,595,700, and the expenditure £4,390,500. He urged the need of keeping a close rein on the expenditure, in order to prevent additional taxation.

THE OLD COUNTRY.

A graving dock is to be constructed on the Clyde of sufficient size to take the largest battleship afloat.

Over 500 assisted emigrants, with capital, are sailing in the steamers Mamari, Wakanni, and Ionic for New Zealand.

A large and influential committee has been formed, irrespective of party, to oppose the extension of the franchise to women.

The Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund has received between £600,000 and £700,000 under the will of the late Mr. George Herring.

It is rumoured in London that Mr. Lloyd-George (Chancellor of the Exchequer) contemplates an ad valorem tax on dealings in securities.

It is reported that the British India, Federal, Boulder and Shire lines have arrived at an agreement in connection with the new direct mail service to Queensland via Torres Straits.

Mr Horatio W. Bottomley, Liberal M.P. for South Hackney since 1906, and a prominent city financier, has answered a summons to appear at the Guildhall on a charge of conspiring to defraud the public in connection with the operations of the Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation.

Death of a Millionaire.

The death is announced of Harry Barnato, founder of the firm of Barnato Brothers.

Mr. Barnato left a fortune of five millions, and bequeathed a quarter of a million to charities.

Tariff Reform Win.

The election for the Chelmsford division of Essex, due to the resignation of Major Sir F. Carne Inagh, has resulted in the return of Mr. Prettyman, a tariff reformer, the polling being:—

Mr. Prettyman (C)	6142
A. H. Druce (L)	3587
Majority for Prettyman	2555.

Compared with Germany.

Mr. W. C. Steadman, Liberal and Labour member for Central Finsbury, after visiting Germany, reports that Germans work longer for lower wages, but are better cared for and get infinitely more out of life than Englishmen, who drink and gamble more.

Old Age Pensions.

The number of applications for old age pensions in England is 367,197, in Ireland 193,138, in Scotland 67,785, and in Wales 23,950.

The total originally estimated was half a million, a number which is exceeded by 132,070.

Protection of Children.

The House of Lords has passed the Children's Bill previously passed by the House of Commons.

The Lords introduced from the dead Licensing Bill a clause prohibiting children entering the bars or licensed premises.

A Reckless Chauffeur.

A chauffeur named Dalley, who was convicted at Guildford of the manslaughter of a lad whom he ran over while driving a car at excessive speed, has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment with hard labour, and he is then to be deported.

More Passive Resistance.

Following upon the rejection by the House of Lords of the Licensing Bill, Dr. Clifford (President of the Baptist World Union) has come forward with an extension of the "passive resistance" scheme.

He projects a league of taxpayers who will refuse to pay the income tax until Mr Asquith introduces a measure to deal with the House of Lords for its action in what Dr. Clifford describes as thwarting the will of the people.

Abandoned.

It is officially announced that the Education Bill has been abandoned. Cabinet's decision was practically unanimous, and was due to the impossibility of arranging contracting-out terms.

A Valuable Library.

Great prices were realised at the final sale of Lord Amherst's library.

A first volume of the Mazarin Bible fetched two thousand guineas.

It is believed that Mr J. Pierpont Morgan bought the famous sixteen Amherst Caxtons.

Last week it was announced that owing to the alleged defalcations of Charles Cheston, a London solicitor, Lord Amherst lost £250,000, partly trust money, and this may account for his sale of his most cherished possessions. At the time of the former sale it was announced that his Lordship had lost heavily through misplaced confidence.]

To Reform the Lords.

The report of Lord Rosebery's committee has been published. It recommends a remodelled House of Lords, to consist of three peers of the blood Royal, peers nominated by the whole of the peers of the realm for one Parliament, 130 qualified hereditary peers, 10 spiritual peers, and five lords of appeal.

The committee recommended that the life peers should not exceed 40, and that only four be created in any one year.

A Deadly Machine.

Sir Hiram Maxim, in the course of a speech, asserted that the aeroplane was a very important military weapon, enabling the bombardment of towns from a great distance, and creating a revolution in warfare equal to that resulting from the invention of gunpowder.

Riotous Suffragettes.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd George, was announced to speak upon womanhood suffrage at a meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation in the Albert Hall.

A demonstration from the militant section of the suffragettes was anticipated, and a large force of stewards was engaged

for the purpose of suppressing any disorder.

The building was crowded, and it was quickly evident that the militant suffragettes were there in large force. As soon as the Chancellor attempted to speak pandemonium broke loose in various parts of the hall, women shrieking the suffragette war cry, "Votes for Women," and refusing to give the Minister a hearing.

The stewards seized and carried out dozens of women, who struggled and fought until ejected.

A number of others, adopting tactics used outside the Premier's residence and in the galleries of the House, chained themselves to the pillars and chairs and kept up their fire of interjections.

Finally, Mr. Lloyd George was compelled to abandon his attempt to address the meeting.

The uproar was tremendous, and sometimes twenty scurrages were proceeding simultaneously in different parts of the hall.

A number of women who have served terms of imprisonment for causing disturbances at earlier suffragette demonstrations, dramatically threw their cloaks aside and appeared in prison dress.

Several of the interrupters were very badly handled by the stewards during the process of ejection.

Between the bursts of interruption Mr. Lloyd George succeeded in stating that the Government would draft an electoral Reform Bill, which would enable a private member to introduce a clause extending the franchise to women. If such a clause were carried by the House, the Government would accept the responsibility of carrying it through the remaining stages.

They were unable to introduce a Bill themselves, because a sincere and powerful minority of the Cabinet was opposed to the extension.

EUROPE.

Germany has ordered six submarines to be built at Danzig.

A Popular Monarch.

In connection with the Emperor Francis Joseph's jubilee, extensive illuminations took place in Vienna. A panic occurred in the densely-crowded streets, 60 persons being injured in the crush. A deputy of the Reichsrath and a woman were crushed to death.

Forty-four of the Emperor's grandchildren gave a fairy play at the Schonbrunn.

After Mass at the Cathedral, the Emperor received the congratulations of princes, ambassadors, and officials.

Finally a brilliant performance was given at the Opera House.

Killed in a Fog.

A dense fog hung over Paris early last week, making street traffic a difficult and dangerous undertaking.

Many serious accidents have occurred in the semi-darkness.

The worst of these was at Poissy, about fourteen miles to the northward of Paris, where a train collided with a carriage containing four wedding guests at a level crossing.

All four were killed by the impact, but the train was not derailed.

Antediluvian Monsters.

The German Government is sending an expedition to investigate the remains of gigantic antediluvian animals discovered by Professor Fraas in Southern German East Africa.

The hind leg bones of one animal are 114 feet long, and the spine is a third longer than that of any animal yet discovered.

Germany's Population.

An estimate of the population of Germany shows that the increase during 1907 was 282,000.

[The population of Germany at the census of 1905 was 60,641,278, the increase for 1906 being of about the same ratio as that recorded in the cable above. Germany's neighbour, France, shows a declining population, and it is only a matter of 20 years when, at the present relative rates of increase and decline, there will be two Germans to every Frenchman.]

The Casablanca Incident.

France desires that Sir Edward Fry be one of the arbitrators in the Casablanca dispute.

Sir Charles Fry is a member of the Hague Tribunal, while he was Ambassador Extraordinary and first British Plenipotentiary to the Hague Peace Conference in June last year. He is an ex Lord Justice of Appeal, and has held many other high and honourable posts.

The Balkans.

A message from Belgrade asserts that Austria is moving 100,000 more troops to the recently annexed province of Bosnia. A Buda Pest telegram states that Austria is assembling at Ragusa transports for 8000 troops.

Prinen von Buelow, Chancellor of the Empire, conversing with representatives of the Powers, expressed his complete confidence that peace would be maintained, and that Austria would satisfactorily settle her differences with her neighbours.

The Paris correspondent of the "London Daily Telegraph" declares that Britain, France, and Russia are about to address to Austria firm representations regarding her menacing preparations, emphasising Serbia's prompt and effective compliance with the recent appeal to cease warlike preparations on the frontier.

Instead of a Ransom.

Herman Neufeld, a wealthy German resident of Holfstadt, in the Caucasus, was kidnapped by brigands, who took him to the village of Petrovsk.

They refused a ransom of £2,000 which was offered, demanding double that sum.

A party of mounted police, armed with a couple of machine guns, then bombarded the village, and killed the ring-leaders of the bandit gang.

Neufeld, by throwing himself on the ground, escaped the hail of bullets, and was rescued uninjured.

Celebrating the Constitution.

An enthusiastic procession, two miles long, including Turks, Armenians, Jews, and Greeks, with their spiritual leaders, marched through Constantinople, escorting the ballot boxes used at the first election and cheering the Constitution.

Gussinjeah, an officer of the Turkish Army, assassinated General Maber Pasha at Constantinople, a supposed spy of the old regime.

Curbing the Kaiser.

All the resolutions submitted to the Reichstag dealing with constitutional guarantees have been referred to the Procedure Committee.

Herr Singer, a Socialist member, urged that the Reichstag's assent to the proposal for financial reforms be made dependent on the granting of the constitutional guarantees. He declared that at present the Reichstag was in a condition of impotency.

ASIA.

Fishing Fleet Destroyed.

A disastrous typhoon is reported from the Japanese Island of Hatuu, involving much loss of life and damage to property.

The typhoon came down very suddenly while the fishing fleet was at sea.

Before they could get back to port 75 of the boats were wrecked, while three hundred and fifty fishermen employed on the fleet were drowned.

Infant Emperor.

The infant Pu-Yi was crowned Emperor of China at the Royal Palace today, the coronation being attended with great ceremony.

The Emperor added to the throne without assistance, and received the kowtow of the princes and officials.

An Imperial decree issued in Peking orders the convocation of a Parliament in nine years from 27th August last.

The Changeful Shah.

The Shah's proclamation abolishing the Constitution and refusing to summon a Parliament has again been placarded in Tehran.

It is believed that the action has been