

the omission of the words, "in remembrance," used in administering bread and wine, is recommended; and also optional immersion in baptism, and a new alternative burial service of great beauty and simplicity.

The position of the Church in New Zealand relative to the changes in church services recommended was defined by Bishop Julius in discussing the subject with a "Press" reporter last week. Bishop Julius also expressed his personal opinions on the alterations proposed.

"I do not know," he said, "what the value of the recommendation of the committee may be, but the Church cannot act upon it. All that can happen at present, so far as I know, if these recommendations were adopted, or any part of them, by the Convocations of Canterbury and York, would be that representations ought to be made and the sanction of Parliament obtained. That, however, would only affect the Church in England, for it would be open to any province to make these or any other changes if they think fit, quite independently of the Church in England. With the exception of the Church of the Province of New Zealand, under the original constitution of the Church in New Zealand, adopted in Bishop Selwyn's time, certain clauses of the constitution were declared fundamental and beyond the power of any general or diocesan synod to alter, revoke, add to or diminish. These clauses related, among other matters, to the use of the revised version of Scripture and the present book of Common Prayer, and until the Church of New Zealand obtains complete powers of self-government from the Parliament of this country it is not in our power to adopt any of these proposals."

The Bishop explained further that the appeal to Parliament did not in any way involve any question of the doctrine of the Church; it was really the only legal way to obtain relief from the fundamental clauses without jeopardising the property of the Church.

On the matter of proposed alterations, Bishop Julius said he was not prepared to express his approval of all of them. In some respects they did not appear to him to go far enough, as in the use of the Psalter and greater variety in the services of the Church. He heartily approved of the optional use of eucharistic vestments, the Athanasian Creed, and an alternative burial service; and he thought that a revised lectionary and use of the Psalter were much to be desired. He objected to the proposed change in the manner of the administration of Holy Communion. As far as immersion in baptism was concerned, that was the rule but not the practice of the Church.

Arrested of His Honeymoon.

Duncan McIntyre Johnson, who was arrested aboard the *Suevic* last week while on his honeymoon trip on a charge of forging a telegram by which he obtained £100 from the firm of Younghusband and Row, Melbourne, has been remanded at Bow-street. When arrested he admitted that he committed the forgery on the spur of the moment.

He had intended to repay the amount before sailing, but wanted the money for his honeymoon.

Getting Into Touch.

Sir Charles Lucas, one of the Assistant Under-Secretaries of the Colonial Office, and head of the Dominion's Department, who is to pay a prolonged visit to Australia and New Zealand, accompanied by Mr. A. A. Pearson, formerly principal clerk in the Colonial Office, proposes to reach Fremantle (West Australia) on March 30.

Sir Charles and Mr. Pearson will spend April in West Australia and South Australia, May in Victoria and New South Wales, June in Queensland and Tasmania, and July in New Zealand, returning home via Fiji and Vancouver.

Even in the Air.

The suffragettes are indignant that no reference was made in the King's Speech while opening Parliament, to the subject of women's franchise.

Three of the militant section of the suffragettes invaded an at home at the residence of Mr. Reginald McKenna, First Lord of the Admiralty. One addressed the guests from a chair. All were ejected.

Another suffragette voyaged over London in a balloon armed with a megaphone. She shouted the battle cry of the suffragette, "Votes for Women," and also displayed a huge banner bearing the same legend.

In the House of Commons a Government bill has been read a first time providing for a maximum of six months imprisonment for disorderly conduct by strangers in the Houses of Commons and Lords.

A Terrific Explosion.

A terrific explosion in the West Stanley pit, Durham, entombed 147 miners who were at work below at the time of the explosion.

A huge tongue of flame shot up the shaft, destroying the shafting and the hauling gear, there being thus no means of egress from the mine.

At first it was feared that all the men below had perished, but the rescue parties were stimulated by hearing rappings, suggesting that some of the men in one of the four seams were still alive, and were signalling the fact to their comrades.

By heroic efforts the rescuers reached thirty-seven of the entombed miners and conveyed them to the surface. They had escaped death by remaining in a by-way until the gases had cleared.

It is feared that the remaining 110 have all perished.

A number of bodies have already been recovered, many of them being badly burned and mutilated by flying masses of coal.

All hopes of further rescues from the Stanley Colliery, Durham, where a terrific explosion occurred yesterday, have been abandoned.

The total death roll stands at 150.

The Workless Thousands.

Some of the unemployed participating in a march in the West End of London got out of hand, and, rushing a jeweller's shop, broke the window.

They were prevented from looting the premises.

Checking Consumption.

A national Tuberculosis Conference, dealing largely with preventative measures, has been opened in Caxton Hall, London.

Preventive measures have had a great effect in controlling the white plague in Great Britain. In 1838 the deaths were 59,025, or 39.9 in every ten thousand persons living. In 1855 the proportion had fallen to 27.7 per 10,000, while in 1906 the number of deaths was 39,746, or only 11.5 per ten thousand.

Parliament Opens.

The King attended and opened Parliament in State last week.

The scene in the House when the King read the Speech was an impressive one. Among those present were the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Queen was wearing the Cullinan diamond, presented by the Transvaal Government last year.

The Speech from the Throne opined that the cordial welcome extended to Their Majesties on the occasion of their recent visit to Berlin would tend to strengthen the amicable feelings essential for the mutual welfare and peace of foreign relations. A friendly Canadian waterways treaty had been arranged with the United States, and the advice of the Dominion had been sought and followed throughout.

His Majesty trusted that the arbitration on the dispute between America and Newfoundland over the fisheries question would effect a final friendly settlement.

Arbitration agreements had been renewed for five years with France, Italy, and Spain.

His Majesty was happy to see an improved prospect of a solution of the Balkans difficulty, and hoped the settlement would be satisfactory to all.

Affairs in Persia had caused the Government anxiety, and though there was no desire to intervene, the situation imperatively demanded the establishment of a representative institution, as the present troubles endangered the numerous commercial interests of Great Britain and Russia. The two Governments were exchanging views on the matter.

The Speech made kindly reference to the sympathy of the British people and the assistance rendered to a friendly nation in connection with the Messina disaster.

Parliament would, the Speech mentioned, have an opportunity to discuss the results of the conference now sitting in London on international maritime law, which might enable the Government to ratify the Prize Court Convention.

The Speech expressed deep satisfaction with the measures designed to improve

the Indian Administration, and desired that steps be taken to give effect to the Royal Speech in November to the people of India to protect the interests and advance the welfare of all the native races.

Reference was also made to the South African Union.

The "Times" says the presence of the King redeemed the opening of the session, which otherwise was tame.

The one purple patch was that disestablishment in Wales was not to be pressed beyond the second reading, but was then to be reserved as a missile to fling at the House of Lords in the succeeding session.

Real interest centres in the Budget. The specific recognition that increased expenditure on the navy is necessary is very welcome.

In the House of Lords the Address-in-Reply was moved by the Earl of Liverpool and seconded by Lord Hemphill. The Marquis of Lansdowne, the Leader of the Opposition was surprised that the Speech contained no reference to Ireland, where there was a scandalous reign of terror. He referred to the revelations regarding the payment of old age pensions in Ireland to people who were not qualified to receive them, and twitted the Government with omitting references to the campaign against the House of Lords.

The Earl of Crewe, referring to the situation in Ireland, said the Government was not using the Crimes Act, because it was a rotten weapon. The position was largely due to the Land Act, the unfortunate fruit of an otherwise noble tree.

In the House of Commons the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply was moved by Mr F. E. N. Rogers, member for Wilts, and was seconded by Mr Wedgwood Benn, member for Tower Hamlets.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, Leader of the Opposition, referring to the problem of unemployment, warned the Government that no plan not attempting an increased demand for skilled labour would have a good effect. It was necessary to increase the confidence of the investing public. The Government, by rash speech and action, had driven capital abroad. The folly of rejecting every method by which bargains could be effected with other nations and preference obtained for our own colonies should be obvious to everyone not hidebound by formulas inherited from ancient writers.

Mr Balfour incensed the Nationalists, and provoked hot interruption by adding statistics showing a great increase in agrarian crime in Ireland. He called upon Mr Birrell (Chief Secretary for Ireland) to put into force the Crimes Act of 1887.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Asquith) promised an inquiry into the alleged pension frauds in Ireland. He did not desire to palliate or minimise the deplorable state of things in certain districts in Ireland, but it had not been proved that the administration was weak.

Matters of finance would, Mr Asquith added, largely occupy the House. They could not indulge in the luxury of social reform without paying for it. Money would have to be found by methods and from sources consistent with justice and sound policy.

Notice has been given in the House of Commons of no less than thirty amendments to the Address-in-Reply.

Two thousand additional recruits have been enrolled in the London territorials.

The Waterloo Cup resulted in Den-draspis beating Such-a-Sell in the final course.

The King motored to Brighton, where he is proceeding to rid himself of traces of the cold contracted in Berlin.

Many racing engagements have been rendered void owing to the death of Mr. Douglas Baird, the well-known sportsman.

The "Daily Telegraph" states that Mr. Lloyd George (Chancellor of the Exchequer) proposes a super tax on incomes of £3000 and upwards.

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, whose retirement from the command of the Channel Fleet was announced last week, refuses to be interviewed on the subject, stating, "My business is to obey orders."

EUROPE.

A Heinous Crime.

Thirty-one "Jack the Ripper" outrages upon women have now taken place in Berlin.

The perpetrator of one outrage was caught in the act on Thursday.

An army of detectives is patrolling the city, and 50 arrests have been made. All have been released, however, on proving alibis.

The police suggest that women and children should carry small parcels of flour to throw over their assailants to enable them to be quickly identified.

They ascribe the outrages to a gang of criminals acting for sport in mockery of the authorities.

Turkish Army and Politics.

Rifat Pasha, Turkish Ambassador in London, at first declined, but later accepted the portfolio of Foreign Affairs in the new Cabinet.

Nazim Bey refused to return to his former command or accept another post, objecting to the army's participation in politics before Kiamil Pasha's defeat.

Army officers lobbied members while the resignation of the ex-Grand Vizier was pending.

"In spite of the existence of a Turkish Parliament," says "The Spectator," in an article on the Committee of Union and Progress, "the veil is not yet lifted from before the mysterious committee which has directed one of the most romantic revolutions in history. A revolutionary transition from autocracy to constitutionalism postulates a period of non-legality; but when the transition is accomplished, one would expect that those who were the temporary and irregular depositories of power—very admirable depositories, as it happened, in this case—would regularise their position. It may be that the Committee of Union and Progress means to do this as soon as possible, and we should be the last to urge that, if there are serious obstacles in the way, constitutional theory in a country where constitutionalism is little understood should be made a fetish, and that both convenience and expediency should bow down to it. But the news from Turkey does not give a scrap of evidence as to what the function of the committee is to be in future; the committee remains all-powerful, and exists side by side with an elected Chamber, and yet no man outside its inner circles knows how it moves and has its being. This is a great mystery. While we acknowledge one excellent side to the picture (nobody can accuse of personal ambition men who are content to work anonymously and subterraneously), there is also a great danger. The committee is at present thoroughly beneficent, and behaves with every manifestation of high-minded responsibility; but the membership may change, and may even change rapidly, and therefore every well-wisher of the new regime would desire to see the theory of the committee defined, or best and most logical of all, the committee merged in the Ministry. It did its work splendidly, but the era it strove to create has arrived; the short period of irregularity is over; the committee should take on a new function, compatible with the new circumstances, or should become an honourable memory. We must confess that the deep, continued mystery which shrouds the committee stands, to our thinking, for the complexity of the task before the new Turkey."

Desperate Anarchist.

A Russian anarchist named Seiliger shot and killed two police officers who endeavoured to arrest him at his lodgings in Ghent.

Seiliger had manufactured a bomb, which he intended to explode at the residence of the Belgian Minister for the Colonies, M. Renkin.

Austria's Ultimatum.

Unconfirmed reports have been received to the effect that Austria has presented an ultimatum to Servia concerning the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Russian Press and people are growing bellicose owing to Austria's action in the matter.

The death occurred last week of the Grand Duke Vladimir (uncle of the Czar) from asthma, in his 62nd year.

The Kaiser has sent the German Ambassador in Paris his warm thanks for concluding the Morocco Treaty, which he states, rendered King Edward's visit more cordial.

A bill has been passed through the Reichstag increasing the North German Lloyd subsidy by £13,500 on condition that the freight charges do not exceed 20 marks for the services to Australia, New Guinea, Hongkong, and Singapore.