DISASTROUS FIRE IN LEEDS.

ENORMOUS DAMAGE.

GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL BURNED DOWN.

Large Warehouse Destroyed.

One of the biggest and most disastrous fires that Leeds has ever experienced broke out last night in Wellington-street, involving not only the total destruction of a large six-storied warehouse, but also the Great Northern Hotel, which has long ranked among the best known buildings of the kind in the kingdom. The fire seems to have originated in the warehouse of Messrs Hotham and Whiting, which stands at the junction of Wellington-street and Thirsk-row.

This is a large building six stories in height, devoted to the warehousing of Manchester and other goods, in which the firm do a great business throughout the world. The basement of this building, fronting Wellington Street is occupied as a shop by Messrs J. Hepworth and Son, wholesale clothiers.

About a quarter past nine an alarm was given, and within a minute or two of the arrival of the brigade flames were observed bursting through the roof near the wall dividing the premises of Messrs Hotham and Whiting from those of Messrs. R. B. Brown and Sons, wholesale clothiers and fustian manufacturers.

An instant's glance sufficed to proclaim the doom of the building. The seat of the fire was altogether beyond the reach of the brigade, and well-nigh before steam could be got up in the engines the flames were shooting aloft fifty feet high.

It was a magnificent spectacle, and at the same time deplorable that nothing adequate could be done to stay the advance of the flames. When water was brought to bear upon the building, it was seen that the jets were far short of the centre of the fire, scarcely rising above the second story.

When the brigade got fairly to work, there was an improvement in this respect; but the appliances proved all too inadequate to cope with the fire, the vast magnitude of which became momentarily more apparent. Crowds gathered from all parts of the city, attracted by the glare; but the operations of the firemen, who worked nobly all through in a losing cause, were not materially hampered. The top story of Messrs. Hotham and Whiting's establishment was devoted to the storing of cotton and other inflammable goods, and within a few minutes of the outbreak a second story had ignited, and the flames leaped up much like a miniature Vesuvius.

ANXIOUS SPECTATORS.

The only question that the bystanders asked themselves was whether the adjoining premises of Messrs. Brown and Sons could be saved. These premises are comparatively new, and arranged on the American system, with open floors and fireproof walls, while over the roof rises a small water tower, provided with or attached to sprinklers in the most approved modern fashion. As floor after floor of the adjoining warehouse fell in, and the whole became rapidly reduced to the state of a roaring furnace, all eyes were anxiously turned towards Messrs. Brown's building, for it was felt that the slightest ignition within would mean a total demolition of the premises.

FLAMES SEIZE THE HOTEL.

Fortunately, the dividing wall stood the strain and heat, whilst the firemen and sprinklers worked efficaciously. What was of even more moment was the fact that the strong wind that prevailed bore the flames away from Messrs. Brown's premises across Thirsk-row towards the Great Northern Hotel.

For some time no one entertained the idea that the hotel was in any actual danger, but as the flames grew fiercer and the heat proportionately more intense it became only too obvious that the hotel would ere long succumb.

RAGING SEA OF FIRE.

From basement to far above what had been the roof, the warehouse of Hotham and Whiting was a raging sea of fire, into which the floors and walls fell at intervals with a dull crash, accompanied by vast showers of sparks.

The spectacle was a magnificent one, for the amount of inflammable material was very large, as the firm had laid in an immense stock, valued at £50,000, in anticipation of the busy season that will shortly commence.

Presently it was seen that showers of sparks had settled on the roof of the hotel; and in view of the imminent danger, the staff and visitors to the hotel were removed to a place of safety. It was well that this was done, and various articles of value carried away, as slowly but surely the towers of the hotel took fire and burned up in view of thousands of spectators who had gathered in the surrounding streets.

ARRIVAL OF BRADFORD AND WAKEFIELD BRIGADES.

It was the irony of fate that this should have taken place at the very moment when fire at Messrs Hotham and Whiting's establishment betrayed signs of abatement. The material in the building appeared well-nigh all consumed, and Supt. Monk and his men were pouring in thousands of gallons of water that gradually began to take effect.

But the outbreak on the roof of the hotel was even more serious than anything that preceded it. The very height at which the flames broke out—considerably above the level of the roof of the burning warehouse made it hopeless to think of coping with the outbreak. Assistance had been sought from the neighbouring towns, and the Bradford and Wakefield brigades attended and joined the Leeds men in their efforts. But the water could reach the blazing roof of the hotel, and, as in the case of the warehouse, the splendidly equipped hostelry—recently erected at great expense—was doomed from the outset.

The coping caught first, and soon the rafters were laid bare. From that moment the fire were slowly but surely extended downwards. Nothing could stop its progress. All the efforts of the firemen, well directed as they were, proved utterly futile. Floor after floor gradually gave way, and the fire fought its way greedily downwards until the eye ached appeared nothing more than a gutted shell.

As to what the damage may be, no one can yet say with anything approaching accuracy. The stock of Messrs. Hotham and Whiting was valued at £50,000, whilst the building cost something like £30,000. Messrs. Hepworth, too, had a large and valuable stock in the basement shop.

As for the hotel, its destruction must mean at least £100,000, and probably much more. The principal sufferers by the fire were all adequately insured, but many of the hotel visitors and others lost valuable belongings. Fortunately there was no loss of life, though two firemen were severely burned by falling débris.

At an early hour this morning the hotel was still blazing, though the concentrated efforts of the firemen engaged was exerting a manifest effect. Possibly nothing could have saved the buildings thus involved, but it was really pitiful to see how utterly inadequate were the means available to cope with the outbreak. The firemen appeared defeated by the very height of the premises, and the fact that the fire laid hold of the roofs first.

AT MESSRS. HOTHAM AND WHITING'S.

Few minutes elapsed after the first discovery of the fire before the flames were licking the outer fabric of Messrs. Hotham and Whiting's. The linen and fancy goods of course fed the flames, and the whole premises were soon one roaring furnace.

With flames bursting from every window of the six-story building, the structure appeared at times to be one mass of flame. With a roar the roof was engulfed, and clouds of sparks spread all over the street.

It was quickly obvious that not only was the building doomed, but that all the adjoining property was menaced. The combat appeared to be a hopelessly unequal one.

Wellington-street was an inferno, with sparks falling like rain, tongues of flame leaping into the air and bellowing out across the street.

Floor after floor fell in, and the fire reared like a furnace. Explosion after explosion sent the crowd retreating in a panic, and while every attention was being directed with little apparent result—and it was stated, although the report lacks confirmation, that brigades from Bradford, Wakefield, and Halifax were co-operating — fire broke out in the Great Northern Hotel, and also in one of the warehouses across Wellington-street. The brigade quickly turned their attention to the outbreak in the latter building, and after some attention got the upper hand. Meanwhile the Great Northern Hotel was assuming a crown of fire.

The firemen in the street were now playing on the fire in momentary danger of being smothered in the rocking front wall of Messrs. Hotham and Whiting's. It was a wonder, too, that no serious injury befel the thousands of people assembled, for the alarms, oft-repeated, that the wall was falling sent them back with something dangerously like a panic.

A PERSISTENT SIGNAL.

All the while a fire alarm-bell in Messrs. Brown's was persisting in ringing its alarm. It provided a peculiar accompaniment to the hissing cauldron of fire and water.

Eventually the building was burned to a skeleton, and even then the fire could not be got under. Occasionally it was left by the brigade, who turned all the available power on to the hotel.

At a late hour this morning the fire brigade was still playing on the burning pile while others were vainly attempting to cope with the outbreak at the hotel.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. WHITING.

Interviewed after his building had been gutted, Mr. Whiting, speaking to a "Mercury" representative, said he estimated the damage done at £50,000. "We occupied six stories and two basements, and altogether employed seventy people in this warehouse."

"We have no idea how it originated. There is, of course, a lot of combustible material in the place. The premises were closed, I think, about seven. From what one hears the fire seems to have broken out at 9.30 in the upper stories. The loss is covered by insurance."

Much uneasiness was also felt after the doom of the hotel was indicated concerning the safety of the station. Experienced police and fire-brigade officials stated at midnight, with both hotel and warehouse aflame, that this has been the biggest fire in Leeds for a number of years, with the exception of the New Station outbreak.

STREET SCENES.

People gathered on all eminences in Leeds to watch the fire. There were hundreds of people on Woodhouse Moor, and by ten o'clock all the suburbs were emptying into the city. People rubbing their eyes and scarcely out of bed came along at midnight. The fire was watched by thousands. Hawkers who had retired brought out their produce, and offered it for sale to people who they calculated would stay all night.

Looting was, of course, to be expected, but an audacious attempt was frustrated. A man tried to escape the attention of the police and lift a piece of cloth. He was too slow, and the police stopped him.

A feat of endurance on the part of one of the brigade is reported. One of the men arrived early on the scene, and lost his helmet. Yet he stood through all the heat at his post.

At twenty minutes to twelve the servants employed at the Great Northern Hotel left the premises and walked across Wellington-street, accompanied by the male employés in livery. It was not a cheerful procession.

The police helped to keep good order. They were under the charge of the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr. Dalton.

THE HOTEL ABLAZE.

MAGNIFICENTLY TERRIBLE SIGHT.

SEEN FROM THE ROOF OF THE METROPOLE.

Terrible as was the spectable of the flames, which roared with awful fury from the original centre of the conflagration, there was a still more terrible scene to follow. The heat, which was so intense that it could be felt 200 yards away, quickly charred the woodwork on the side of the Great Northern Hotel. A few minutes before ten o'clock a cry was raised from the street, "The hotel has caught." The cry was only too well founded. In a few minutes a cornice of fire was seen quietly blazing along the edge of the roof. Here again the fire brigade was helpless. They could not get a stream of water to reach within 40ft. of the roof, and try as they might the men were compelled to watch the woodwork slowly devoured by the flames.

The deadly shower of sparks continued to fly over the hotel from across the narrow street, and a moment later tongues of flame began shooting up from all parts of the roof.

From the top of the Hotel Metropole the whole conflagration was witnessed by a crowd of visitors, while the hotel staff quickly ran out the hose pipes all over the roof, and turning on the water drenched the surrounding buildings. From this coign of vantage one could see a little tongue of fire start out from the base of the great square tower at the corner of the roof. In a moment the flames shot up with terrific ferocity and roared skywards in great blazing sheets. Slates and iron beams came crashing down on to the roof, but the main supports of the tower held firm.

On the roof of the hotel could be seen one of the staff with a hose-pipe directing a stream of water on the flames, which were far above the reach of the engines in the street below. It was like trying to extinguish a blastfurnace with a garden hose.

The man stood pluckily to his part, but in a moment the great tower at the opposite corner burst into flames, and with almost incredible ferocity the fire licked up the structure, the flames roaring skywards, just as the flames from a blast furnace do when the top is opened and the blast is blowing it out.

At the same moment the other two corner towers burst into flame, and the whole roof of this great building was a sheet of living fire, which roared and crackled, shooting great tongues of flame and showers of sparks skywards in magnificent but awful grandeur.

FIREPROOF FLOORS COLLAPSE.

As the brigades stood below helpless, a fireman mounted a ladder in the centre of Wellington-street, but still he could not make the stream of water reach anywhere near the seat of the fire.

Every floor of the hotel is constructed on what are supposed to be fireproof principles, but little did the flames care for obstacles of this sort.

At eleven o'clock a great portion of the roof crashed in, and then the flames burst out in the floor below. Windows flew into splinters, and as the air rushed in the flames again rushed up with a roar. A few minutes later the rest of the roof collapsed with a soft crackling sound, and again great clouds of lurid flame shot upwards.

Still the water could not reach the seat of the fire, and in a few minutes the whole of this floor was a perfect inferno, from which, black against the lurid setting, stood out the massive masonry of the chimney stacks.

ANOTHER FLOOR COLLAPSES

By this time the original fire was dying down, and seemed almost insignificant when compared with the greater outbreak it had caused.

Just after midnight the next floor gave way, and windows that a few moments before had been dark suddenly lit up with a dazzling glare. Meanwhile great beams of timber began falling from the roof into the streets below, and the zinc and copper on the edges of the roof melting and catching fire, blazed up in brilliant colour, and fell in molten masses to the ground.

By this time, however, the flames were within reach of the water supply, and a full dozen streams began to pour into the burning building and to make an impression on the conflagration.

CONFUSION IN THE HOTEL.

Mr. J. O. Andrews, the barrister and ex-M.P. for Barkston Ash, who was staying at the Great Northern Hotel for the Leeds Assizes, rendered great assistance in the hotel. "When I saw the roof of the hotel take fire," he told a "Mercury" representative, "I went inside the hotel, and found the place in a state of indescribable confusion. A large number of people were congregated in the passages, and they seemed to have no comprehension of the danger they were in. I had a consultation with the manager of the hotel, and after the roof had got well ablaze it was decided to clear the people out.

ANXIOUS TO SAVE BELONGINGS.

"This was done only with very great difficulty, as the visitors showed a disposition to save their property, and the servants to save their boxes. It was soon impossible to ascend the main staircase, and portions of the burning roof were falling down into the basement."

Mr. Andrews said that every effort was made to save the hotel from the inside, but the efforts from the outside were absolutely parlous.

FIREMEN BADLY BURNED.

About one o'clock two firemen, named Tinker and Fowler, who were at work inside the hotel, were severely burned by falling debris. They were removed to the Infirmary in the ambulance. About this time the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company's fire brigade from Newton Heath arrived by special train.

CHIMNEY FALLS INTO THE STREET.

By three o'clock this morning the brigades had got the better of the flames.

They had succeeded in confining them to the three top storys of the hotel, but the whole of these floors were completely destroyed, and the deluge of water poured into the building had practically ruined a large portion of the rest of the furnishings.

Shortly after three o'clock one of the tall iron chimneys, about 30ft. in height, came crashing to the ground only a few feet from where a group of firemen were working on a ladder.

A cry of horror broke from the crowd, but it was followed by a sigh of relief when it was ascertained that none of the men were hurt.

One of the hose pipes was completely cut in two by the falling metal, and for a few minutes the engine had to stop working until a new hose could be coupled up.

During the course of the outbreak accidents to the pipes of this nature repeatedly occurred, between twenty and thirty hose pipes being cut open.

At 3.30 this morning the fire was practically extinguished, though the men continued to play on the smouldering embers.

NATAL TROUBLE.

THE COUNTRY STILL UNSAFE.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION FOREIGN SPECIAL.)

Durban, Wednesday.

Two officers who had taken part in the recent operations, and who are intimately acquainted with the natives, have stated in the course of an interview that they did not anticipate any further trouble from organised impis in the north-east or in Zululand, but they considered that the country was still unsafe, as hundreds of rebels were skulking in the bush, and might attack isolated places.

It is said that the Intelligence Department has received information that tribes in Southern Natal are turbulent, and are certain to break out. They have not been intimidated by the punishment of the rebels in the north, and believe that they can rise successfully.

QUEEN WILHELMINA.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

The Hague, Wednesday.

Queen Wilhelmina's condition to-day is satisfactory. She passed a good night.

CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP.

TO-DAY'S GREAT MATCH.

The interest in the match which begins to-day between those old rivals, Yorkshire and Surrey, is, says the "Daily Mail" in its leading article, mainly due to the fact that the result of it will probably decide the championship of 1906. It is some seven years since Surrey were champions.

For a while they lost their grip and dash. They felt the loss of Lohmann and Richardson, and the days when the chief matches of the year used to be "Surrey v. Notts," and then later on "Surrey v. Yorkshire" seemed to have been left far in the past.

Now, thanks in large measure to Lord Dalmeny's strong captaincy, the Surrey team is itself again. It has done very well so far this year, and we may count with certainty upon its making a good fight against the Yorkshiremen, who have been continuously in the front rank for so many years now—thanks also to the influence of their captain, Lord Hawke.

The two counties start very nearly equal, and all the indications point to a close struggle between them.

CITY EDITION.

THIS MORNING'S Latest Telegrams.

[By Our Private Fleet-street Wire.]

THE TSAR'S BLOW.

RUSSIA STAGGERED INTO SILENCE.

OMINOUS CALM & SIGNIFICANT PREPARATIONS.

("DAILY MAIL" TELEGRAM.)

St. Petersburg, Wednesday.

The first effect of the Duma's dissolution has been to create greater order and tranquillity everywhere, except at Odessa, where the riots are really not connected with the dissolution.

The Government's sudden and vigorous blow would seem to have momentarily staggered all opponents.

The absence of inflammatory Duma speeches, the prohibition of popular meetings, the understanding that the Government has quenched disturbances, the recognition that the reports of army disloyalty are much exaggerated, and finally the Tsar's heartfelt appeal to the people have all contributed to this greater tranquillity.

The conviction is growing that the Tsar fully intends to keep his promise to convoke a new Duma, in spite of the Viborg manifesto's denunciation.

The Octobrists have issued an appeal to the people to counter-balance the effect of the Viborg manifesto. The manifesto refers to the Tsar's good-will, maintains that his Imperial Majesty has the right to dissolve the Duma, and admonishes the people to be quiet and abstain from outrages.

This quietness probably means only the postponement of the unavoidable terrible conflict.

The revolutionaries do not mean to acquiesce in the new situation. They will work for a general strike.

At the moment this is difficult, for strike funds are low, as workmen were long unemployed after the last general strike.

It seems improbable that there will be serious trouble before October, when the revolutionaries will be ready.

The Government will take comprehensive measures to meet the danger. Soldiers, railway pointsmen, engine-drivers, and telegraph and telephone operators have received special instructions.

Troop trains will be ready at the chief stations to leave at a moment's notice for any threatened point.

REFORMS WILL BE REALISED.

MESSAGE FROM THE RUSSIAN PREMIER.

When the Tsar dissolved the Duma, the "Daily Express" telegraphed to M. Stolypin, the new Premier, asking for an expression of opinion as to the policy of the Government, and the future of the Legislative Assembly.

The following reply has been received:—

St. Petersburg, Wednesday.

"To the Editor of the 'Express'—

"In response to your telegram, I beg to inform you that St. Petersburg and the provinces received the news of the dissolution calmly.

"The Emperor firmly intends realising the reforms proclaimed in the Imperial manifesto of November 30th.

"The dissolution of the Duma was indispensable, as the first body of Deputies pursued tendencies which threatened to prevent the peaceful development of the reformed Empire."

REVOLUTIONARIES AT WORK.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

Warsaw, Wednesday.

Colonel Salamatoff has been stabbed to death in the street by revolutionaries.

The spirit of lawlessness assumes very serious proportions, twenty State spirit shops and other premises being plundered.

THE TSAR'S APOLOGY.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

St. Petersburg, Wednesday.

An official statement, issued to-night, says that from its very first day's, and throughout its existence, the Duma overstepped all limits of law; and, by excessive demands, by consistently discrediting the Government, and by assuming functions of executive power, created a situation which necessitated the decision to dissolve the Duma.

ODESSA POGROM STOPPED.

COSSACKS AND OFFICIALS HELD UP.

("TRIBUNE" TELEGRAM.)

St. Petersburg, Wednesday.

The pogrom at Odessa has been stopped. The reason for this unusual act of the Administration is, according to the Idessa correspondent of the "Retch," the formal declaration made by a naval battalion, the sappers, and a regiment of infantry, to the effect that they would certainly kill the authors of a massacre.

On Monday night the Lublin Regiment surrounded the Cossack barracks, and announced its intention to murder them all if they take part in the "pogrom."

The railwaymen also declared to the Prefect of the city that they would immediately declare a strike if the "pogrom" were not stopped at once.

Lastly, four hundred sailors and a large number of Christian workmen from several factories left work, and joined the Jewish Self-defence Committees.

In consequence of these remarkable warnings, General Kaulbars has taken strict measures to stop the massacres. However, two Jews were killed and four seriously wounded by the police.

To-day Generals Kaulbars and Karangozoff, and the city Prefect, Grigorieff, have issued a joint order forbidding further disturbances, and calling upon the population to give up their arms. This is regarded as a move to disarm the self-defence committees.

St. Petersburg, Wednesday.

A despatch from Odessa of to-day's date says that the city is quiet.

Upwards of 10,000 Jews camped out last night.

"SPOKEN AS A MAN."

ITALIAN PRAISE FOR C.B.

("DAILY CHRONICLE" TELEGRAM.)

Rome, Wednesday.

To-night's "Tribuna" eulogises the magnificent imprudence of Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, who, it says, has risked an unprecedented violation of diplomatic etiquette, and has spoken as a man to men.

Because of this he is at this moment perhaps the most popular personage in the world's democracy.

Moreover, because he represents one of the world's greatest nations, his words assume a unique importance, and touch the whole of humanity.

What Gladstone did for Italy a half-century ago, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman has done for Russia to-day.

DREYFUS AT THE ELYSEE.

Paris, Wednesday.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

President Fallieres received Major Dreyfus at the Elysee to-day.

SCHOOL-GIRL BATHERS DROWNED.

Disaster at St. Annes.

CAUGHT BY THE TIDE.

Four Brave Rescuers.

Two girls of St. Annes High School were drowned yesterday noon in the sea opposite the school on the North Promenade at St. Annes. The loss of life, lamentable as it is, would have been much more serious but for the prompt and exceedingly commendable efforts at rescue carried on by several men.

The best account of the terrible affair was given by Mr. John Whitfield, of Apperley Bridge, near Bradford. He said that about half-past twelve he was sitting on the promenade, and saw the girls, numbering about twenty, going down to the shore.

Shortly afterwards he heard a cry for help, and he saw that some of the girls were in difficulties, and others were rushing about, screaming.

WADED UP TO THEIR WAISTS.

He and another man, named Herbert Alcock, of 10, Springfield-road, St. Annes, rushed to the water's edge and waded into the sea up to their waists. Mr. Whitfield could not swim, and therefore could go no farther, but Alcock plunged in, and securing one girl after another, passed them on to Mr. Whitfield, who in turn carried them to the shore.

John Ibberson, a boatman, who was rowing thirty yards south of the pier, rowed as fast as he could to the spot where the girls were, 300 yards away, and joined in the work of rescue. He applied artificial respiration to each girl as she was brought out, and a fourth man, named Windrow, of Shropshire, assisted.

When eight girls had been dealt with in this way, it was found that Miss Adlard, aged 19 years, of Leigh Bank, Leamington, and Miss Annie Ridehalgh, aged 14 years, of Oak Bank, Nelson, were missing. Search was made for them, but it was a long time before their bodies were found.

COULD NOT RESTORE LIFE.

Artificial respiration was applied for an hour, but in vain, and they were taken to the school. There also every effort was made in the hope that life might not be quite extinct; but it was of no use.

Dr. Walton, the school doctor, of South Shore, Dr. Booth, St. Annes, and Dr. Knight, with the members of the local ambulance, used all efforts to restore animation, but failed, and after working for over an hour, gave up.

Ten of the girls were altogether more or less in danger. Five were assisted out without trouble by the mistresses.

The ages of the bathers ranged from 12 to 30. They were in charge of one or two of the mistresses. Some reports say they were all expert swimmers, but others state that they were indifferent swimmers.

The girls went out about an hour before high tide was due, and they went round a sand bank, and apparently forgot about the tide. When they returned a strong current was running round the bank. Then, it seems, and it was only natural, they lost nerve, and instead of quietly trying to reach the shore, rushed about, as well as the water would permit, heedlessly.

Some of them were not out of their depth.

BREAKING-UP DAY.

They were 30 yards from the shore only, and it is believed that if they had remained calm no lives would have been lost.

The girls who were drowned received prizes on Monday, which was Speech Day, and they were to have gone home for the holidays to-day.

The afternoon's performance on the pier was abandoned, and the occurrence has thrown a gloom over the whole town.

MEETING OF THE CABINET.

In consequence of the luncheon to the Inter-Parliamentary Congress having been fixed for yesterday, the usual Wednesday meeting of the Cabinet was not held in the morning at 10, Downing-street, but took place instead in the Prime Minister's Room at the House of Commons at five o'clock in the evening.

The Premier presided, and there was a full attendance of Ministers.

HAVE THE LABOUR SUCCESSES CHECKED TRADE?

Mr. T. H. Morris, presiding at the annual meeting yesterday of the Halifax Commercial Banking Company, stated that they were suffering in this country by a change of Government at a time when business was just beginning to expand. He thought he was not going too far in stating further that in the change of Government the Labour party had had distinctly a tendency in checking business generally in this country.

Whilst money had been poured out of this country for investment abroad, their own gilt-edged securities had been steadily declining and diminishing, and there had been unusual unwillingness on the part of capitalists to extend or involve themselves in capital expenditure here.

He might be wrong, but he attributed it entirely to the present Government being so largely influenced by the Labour section, who seemed to be blind for the moment to the fact that anything that hindered or cramped trade was bound to bring an evil influence, not only on the trade of the country, but was bound sooner or later to react on themselves.

RACING SELECTIONS.

From This Morning's London Papers.

LIVERPOOL MEETING.

SPORTSMAN (Vigilant).—All-aged—Ianthe, Riverside—Yellow Peri. Liverpolitan—Canterbury Pilgrim c. Cup Course—Quintet. Knowsley—Bridge of Canny. Southport—Orpah filly.

SPORTSMAN (Latest from the Course).—Athena—Charlemagne. Castle—Fireman. July—Phyllorera. Thames—Bulbo. Thursday—Songbird. Apprentice—Woodspring.

SPORTING LIFE (August).—All-aged—Courad. Riverside—FAIRFAX.* Liverpolitan—Brettanby. Great Lancashire—Marsh Marigold colt. Cup Course—Caro. Knowsley—Black Arrow. Southport—Minnesota.

SPORTING LIFE (Man on the Spot).—All-aged—Ianthe. Riverside—Armenian Boy. Liverpolitan—Brettanby. Great Lancashire—Marsh Marigold colt. Cup Course—Rowpoint. Knowsley—Bridge of Canny. Southport—VENILIA.*

DAILY MAIL.—All-aged—Hand-in-Hand. Riverside—Fairfax. Liverpolitan—VASCO. Great Lancashire—Manti. Marigold colt. Cup Course—Floridity. Knowsley—Black Arrow. Southport—Snow Bunting colt.

DAILY GRAPHIC.—All-aged—Ianthe. Riverside—Ambi. Liverpolitan—Vasco. Great Lancashire—Marsh Marigold colt. Cup Course—Quintet. Knowsley—Black Arrow. Southport—Simontus.

TRIBUNE.—Liverpolitan—Brettanby or Vasco. Great Lancashire—Marsh Marigold colt. Cup Course—Quintet. Knowsley—Black Arrow or Bridge of Canny. Southport—Minnesota or Balbrigan.

DAILY CHRONICLE.—Great Lancashire—Marsh Marigold colt or Lemore. Knowsley—Black Arrow.

MORNING LEADER.—All-aged—Hand in Hand. Riverside—Cortona. Liverpolitan—Vasco. Great Lancashire—MARSH MARIGOLD COLT.* Cup Course—Quintet. Knowsley—Black Arrow. Southport—Snowbunting colt.

WINDSOR MEETING.

SPORTSMAN (Vigilant).—Athena—Acolus. Castle—Burnside. July—Kittesl. Thames—Bulbo. Thursday—Rocco. Apprentice—Cogrosi.

SPORTSMAN (Latest from the Course).—All-aged—Mixed Dance. Riverside—Fairfax. Liverpolitan—Canterbury Pilgrim filly. Great Lancashire—Linacre. Cup Course—Caro. Knowsley—Bridge of Canny. Southport—Orpah filly.

SPORTING LIFE (August).—Athena—Catmap. Castle—Fireman. July—Rifleite. Thames—Craigellachie. Thursday—Red Hearts Pride. Apprentices—Woodspring.

SPORTING LIFE (Man on the Spot).—Athena—Shower Bath or Charlemagne. Castle—Fireman. July—Rifleite. Thames—Craigellachie. Thursday—Songbird. Apprentices—Woodspring.

DAILY MAIL.—Athena—Acolus. Castle—Burnside. July—Tom Funny. Thames—Love Song. Thursday—Song Bird. Apprentices—Woodspring.

DAILY GRAPHIC.—Athena—Acolus. Castle—Fireman. July—Tom Funny. Thames—Craigellachie. Thursday—Songbird. Apprentices—Rifleite.

TRIBUNE.—July—Zerifer. Thames—Craigellachie and Love Song.

DAILY CHRONICLE.—July—Rifleite or Tom Funny.

MORNING LEADER.—Athena—Shower Bath. Castle—Fireman. July—Kittesl. Thames—Bulbo. Thursday—Red Hearts Pride. Apprentices—Woodspring.

TO REGULATE THE MOTOR-CAR.

Royal Commission's Report.

SUGGESTED ABOLITION OF FIXED SPEED-LIMIT.

Greater Responsibilities for Motorists.

ALL-ROUND TAXATION.

The report of the Royal Commission on Motor-cars was issued last evening as a Parliamentary paper.

It recommends, inter alia, that the present general speed limit of twenty miles an hour for light motor-cars should be abolished, speed being controlled by special regulations, while in towns and villages and at dangerous corners, steep hills, and similar places where caution is required, there should be a twelve-mile speed limit where adopted by the local authorities.

These twelve-mile limits should be indicated in small towns and rural districts by danger signal-boards, and in London and large towns by notices in the "Gazette" and other advertisements.

The speed limit of heavy motor-cars, weighing from two to three tons, and having non-resilient tires, should be reduced to five miles an hour.

MOTORISTS' DUTIES.

The duty of a motorist as to stopping when any damage or accident had occurred should be enlarged, and made more explicit.

The revenue derived from the taxation of motor-cars should be devoted to the improvement of roads, allocation to be directed by a central department.

Some additional power and facilities should be given to local authorities for obtaining the removal of obstructions to the public view on rural highways in certain cases.

Consideration should be given with regard to amendment of the law as to extraordinary damage done by traffic on highways.

Cars should be registered annually with a small yearly fee. Identification plates should be slightly larger than now. The registering authority should have the power of weighing any car, but the definition of the weight of a car laden or unladen should be amended.

Further facilities should be arranged for enabling members of the general public to ascertain the name and address of the owner of any car. Owners should be liable to a penalty if, on summary conviction, they are shown to have abetted their drivers in committing certain offences connected with the driving of a motor-car, and the duties of owners as to giving information leading to the identification of their drivers should be enlarged.

LICENSING QUESTION.

The procedure with regard to the issue, renewal, inspection and production of driving licences should be simplified and slightly amended.

More specific regulations should be made as to the position and illumination of identification marks.

A special penalty should be imposed for being drunk when having charge of a motor-car.

The endorsement of licences should be at the discretion of the Court, except for the more serious offences. The holder of an endorsed licence should be entitled to obtain a clean licence after two years, during which he has held a licence without further endorsement. A right of appeal should lie when the endorsement or a fine of over 20s. has been imposed.

The emission of smoke or visible vapour on a public highway in such a quantity as to cause annoyance or danger, and the causing of excessive noise or vibration not of a momentary description, should be an offence.

Two lamps should be carried on the right and left front respectively of all motor-cars other than motor cycles.

REVISED TAXATION.

The great change that is taking place in many parts of the country in respect to heavy traffic on the highways demands a reconsideration of the question of taxation of vehicles. With regard to the sumptuary tax, the Commissioners think it not unreasonable to increase it, and as 90 per cent. of pleasure motor-cars which weigh less than one ton pay no special tax as such, the Commissioners are of opinion that the classification by weight for taxation purposes might also be amended.

The scale proposed is as follows:—Motor-cycles to pay £1 a year; motor-cars, weight unladen not exceeding 2 cwt., to pay two guineas a year; motor-cars, weight unladen exceeding 12 cwt. but not exceeding 15 cwt., to pay three guineas a year; motor-cars, weight unladen exceeding 15 cwt. but not exceeding 25 cwt., to pay five guineas a year; motor-cars, weight unladen exceeding 25 cwt., to pay eight guineas a year; trade and public service motor vehicles to pay one-half of the foregoing rates respectively.

In signing the report, Sir E. R. Henry and Mr. H. C. Monro reserve their approval of that part of it which proposes to do away with the general speed limit. They think it is necessary to retain the present limit in the interests of the general public, so that it may be applicable when required.

LIBERALS RETAIN BODMIN.

MR. FREEMAN THOMAS'S VIEWS ON THE RESULT.

The result of the Bodmin election was announced yesterday as follows:—

FREEMAN THOMAS (L.) ..	4,969
SANDYS (C.)	3,876

Liberal majority .....' 1,093

In 1900 the Unionist was returned by 1,032 majority, and in this year's general election the Liberal, the Hon. T. Agar-Robartes, by 1,172.

After the declaration of the poll the new Member for South-East Cornwall and his opponent were carried by their supporters shoulder-high to the hotel, from the balcony of which they addressed a large crowd.

Mr. Thomas said he did not disguise the fact that the personal element had entered largely into the contest. He should now, however, take for his motto the Cornish "one and all," and remember that he represented all his constituents in South-East Cornwall.

Mr. Sandys and Mr. Robartes, the unseated member, also spoke, the latter remarking that he regarded the magnificent victory as a vote of confidence in the Liberal Government, in their new member, and also in Lanhydrock. They had wiped out the slur the Tories cast on the constituency.

In an interview Mr. Thomas attributed the victory to the deep feeling aroused by the petition, and to the strong opinion in the constituency in favour of Free Trade and the Education Bill.

Mr. Sandys, interviewed, said he believed the strong Unionist feeling in the constituency had been overawed by the influence of the Clinton family, who neglected no advantage their position gave.

Mr. Freeman Thomas, the new member, is a grandson of Viscount Brand and a son-in-law of Lord Brassey. At Eton he captained the school eleven, played four seasons for Cambridge, and has represented his native county.

From an early age he devoted himself to politics, and studied Colonial questions on the spot. His capture of Hastings took him into Parliament, when he became one of the leaders of the Liberal Imperialists. At the general election, after he had been appointed to the post of Junior Lord of the Treasury, he was defeated, the surprise of the contest.

TOWNSHEND INQUIRY

THE MARQUIS TO ATTEND.

EXCITING STORY OF A MIDNIGHT STRUGGLE.

QUESTION OF EVIL INFLUENCE.

The inquiry into the mental condition of the Marquis Townshend was resumed yesterday in London.

On taking his seat the Judge said his attention had been called to a statement in a paper which was generally so extremely accurate—"The Times"—alleged to have been made by him. The observation, which he did not make, and which he should have been very wrong to make, was that he (the Judge) would not allow anybody to appear on behalf of the Marquis so long as he sat outside the jurisdiction of the court.

His Lordship said if the Marquis either came there himself or was represented by persons properly instructed he would be allowed to exercise very right that he had. But things must be done properly and in due form.

Mr. Ward Coleridge, barrister, mentioned that after the hearing on Tuesday the Marchioness proceeded to Boulogne to see the Marquis. He had that morning received a telegram which was handed in at Boulogne at 8.20:—

"I am returning to attend inquiry upon the assurances given. Reserve right to cross-examine witnesses. Must have some money for maintenance, as agreed.—Townshend."

It was agreed that in order to give the Marquis an opportunity of attending the inquiry, the proceedings should be adjourned for a week, but that before the adjournment the evidence of the male nurse should be taken.

The case must be finished before August 12th, said the Judge.

An exclamation of surprise burst from the jurymen, who were evidently amazed at the suggestion that the inquiry was to be so lengthy, but they were reassured when Mr. Lush said that he thought four more days would finish it.

Mr. G. Mears, a barrister, asked for permission to represent the Rev. Mr. Davidson, who, he said, was attacked on Tuesday by Mr Lush, it being said that he had tried to persuade the male nurse to tell Lord Townshend that he would be sent to a lunatic asylum.

Mr. Lush said he only said what he did with the object of showing that at that time the Marquis was not possessed of the ordinary faculties.

Later the Judge agreed to allow Mr. Davidson, Mr. Robins, Mr. Sutherst, and others who thought they had been attacked to be represented and cross-examine on their giving an undertaking that they would go into the witness-box.

Counsel representing Mr. Robins and Mr. Davidson agreed to do this, and Mr. Sutherst, who was again in wig and gown, when questioned by the Judge, replied "Certainly, my Lord. I am most anxious to go into the witness-box."

THE NURSE'S STORY.

The male nurse, who attended the Marquis at Brook-street, was then called. At the request of counsel his name was not divulged.

He stated that he took charge of the Marquis on January 26. When he first saw the Marquis he found him wildly excited, and Mrs. Sutherst said she thought he must have been hypnotised by Mr. Robins.

Was the Marquis allowed to go out as he pleased? No, he was not.

What steps were taken to prevent his going out? The door was locked.

Occasionally the Marquis was taken out for drives, the nurse or Mr. Sutherst generally accompanying him. The door of the Marquis's bedroom was kept locked, and the nurse slept in the next room.

Who kept the key of the Marquis's room? I think Lady Townshend, but I could not be sure.

The Marquis was generally quiet at night, though occasionally he could be heard talking aloud to himself and weeping.

The nurse specially remembered the night of March 1, when the Marquis went to a theatre and the Carlton Hotel. The Marquis went to bed about 12.30. Shortly after 2.30 the nurse was awakened by hearing the Marquis shouting and raving.

Going into his room, he (witness) found him "with his head at the foot of the bed and the bed-rail grasped firmly in both hands."

On seeing the nurse, the Marquis sprang up in bed and exclaimed, "Oh! it's you, Mr. Dunn, is it? I will kill you, if they hang me for it."

A MIDNIGHT STRUGGLE.

The witness added that his name was not Dunn. (Dunn was the name of the Somerset House clerk mentioned on Tuesday, to whom the Marquis wrote asking for an introduction to Miss Sutherst). He went across the room to turn on the light, and the Marquis sprang at him.

They struggled together for fifteen minutes, the Marquis shouting and raving all the time. The Marquis then fell back exhausted, and after a few minutes went to sleep.

He spoke about killing you. Did he say how he was going to accomplish that? Yes, he shouted "Give me a revolver."

The next morning the Marquis said he had had a very bad night, and that he had dreamed he had been fighting with Mr. Dunn, and left him bleeding on the ground.