

IRISH LAND BILL IN BRITISH COMMONS.

It Provides for a Grant of \$60,000,000 for its Purposes.

London, March 30.—The Irish Secretary, Mr. Wyndham, introduced the Government's long-anticipated Irish land bill in the House of Commons this afternoon. It proposes a free grant of \$60,000,000 for the purposes of the bill.

The keen interest felt in this new legislation, which it is hoped, will promote peace and contentment in Ireland, was evidenced by the crowded House. The Peers' gallery and the distinguished strangers' gallery were filled, and there had been no such gathering of members of Parliament since the opening of the session.

Michael Davitt, father of the land league, celebrated his 57th birthday by re-entering the House for the first time since he ceased to be a member in order to bear the Chief Secretary for Ireland unfold his plans.

Mr. Wyndham, who was warmly cheered, rose to speak at 2.40 p.m. At the outset he announced that the Government thought cash aid was necessary for the fulfillment of the proposed scheme, but it attached greater importance to the credit operation than to the cash operation.

He then unfolded the scheme, which provides for advances of money for the purchase of land by the tenants. The advances will be in the shape of cash and not of stock, but in order to enable the

cash to be raised a new stock is to be floated. It will be called "guaranteed 2 3/4 per cent. stock," and will be redeemable for thirty years. Mr. Wyndham doubted if \$500,000,000 of stock will be needed. It will be issued at the rate of \$25,000 yearly for the first three years, and afterwards, in larger sums. In addition to this the Government proposed a free grant of \$60,000,000 to be raised by additions to the stock, the interest and sinking fund of which will be borne by the treasury, and the maximum annual charge of which will not exceed \$1,950,000.

The advances to tenants through the provisions of the Land Bill are limited to \$2,500 in the congested districts, and \$5,000 elsewhere.

The bill will become effective November 1st.

Mr. Wyndham said \$7,500,000,000 could safely be advanced on Irish land, but he thought the scheme would not involve \$500,000,000.

The Irish Secretary explained that while the maximum charge of the English treasury would not exceed \$1,975,000 in a single year, the reduction in the cost of the administration of Ireland would amount to \$1,250,000.

The bill also provides that tenants shall pay 3 1/4 per cent. interest on loans from the government, that untenanted farms and grazing lands shall be sold to neighboring tenants and that three commissioners shall supervise the sales.

Serge will be retained and a uniform, as worn by the dragoons, will be adopted for full dress.

Mrs. MacQueen, of Toronto, on her way through London to North Dakota, was taken from a train suffering from cocaine poisoning and is at Victoria Hospital. She is supposed to have taken the drug in mistake for medicine.

Postmaster J. A. Johnston and George Cliverton were arraigned before the County Court judge at Dalhousie, N. S., and pleaded guilty to stealing \$428 from the post-office on July 30th last, and were remanded for sentence.

Closing exercises were held at the Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto.

The Grand Trunk's Pacific petition for incorporation was presented at Ottawa.

In the libel suit of Schmuck against the Guelph Mercury, the newspaper got the verdict.

Annie Reame escaped from the jail at Chatham by prying the lock off the woman's ward.

Chicago hotelmen are seeking representation on the board of the King Edward Hotel Company.

Mr. James W. Hevey, of West London, has been appointed Division Court bailiff in succession to the late Bailiff Burns.

Manager A. J. Small, of the Toronto Opera House, which was destroyed by fire, has announced that it will be rebuilt before September.

Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick proposes an amendment to the criminal code to put a stop to immoral exhibitions.

The Canada Shipbuilding Company has purchased a large tract of land near Bridgeport, Ont., on which to erect its plant.

Representatives of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress will interview the Ontario Government on April 1st.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association has decided to hold the annual meeting in Toronto on Sept. 17 and 18.

Fort William has closed an important contract with a Chicago company for the development of electric power.

The Canadian Northern, or rather the representatives of Messrs. MacKenzie and Mann, have taken possession of the Great Northern.

Mr. V. C. Brown has been appointed Inspector of the Bank of Commerce, Mr. C. Cambie succeeding him as assistant inspector.

The Temiskaming Railway Commissioners have ordered four engines and are having specifications for cars prepared.

The smallpox patient on the steamer Corinthian, at Halifax, has been sent to the quarantine station, and the passengers have been allowed to land.

The will of Mrs. Borden, who died on Sunday in Halifax, bequeaths \$23,000 to the Presbyterian Church, and the Halifax Ladies' College gets \$17,000.

Mr. R. L. Borden, it is understood, is opposed to the demands by local politicians that Toronto be given eight or nine seats under the new redistribution bill.

The Ottawa Typographical Union is agitating for an increase in the wages of typists men from \$18 to \$20 a week. They threatened to strike unless their wishes are met within a certain time.

The militia bill, which Sir Fredrick Borden will introduce this session, will probably provide for an increase in the permanent corps, and also give power for the appointment of a Canadian officer to command the militia.

Lorna Jacke Habatza, a Hungarian employed as a guard at the immigration buildings at St. John, N. B., has consented to accept a position for assisting detained immigrants to enter United States. He will be deported to Liverpool.

It is announced that the uniform which is to be adopted for the Toronto Mounted Rifles has now been almost determined upon. The khaki color at Winnipeg.

The weather has turned bitterly cold at Winnipeg.