

Bill containing any provisions to extend the maximum duration of Parliament beyond five years, is passed by the House of Commons in three successive Sessions (whether of the same Parliament or not), and, having been sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the Session is rejected by the House of Lords in each of those Sessions, that Bill shall, on its rejection for the third time by the House of Lords, unless the House of Commons direct to the contrary, be presented to His Majesty and become an Act of Parliament on the Royal Assent being signified thereto, notwithstanding that the House of Lords have not consented to the Bill: Provided that this provision shall not take effect unless two years have elapsed between the date of the second reading in the first of those Sessions of the Bill in the House of Commons and the date on which it passes the House of Commons in the third of those Sessions."



There have been absolutely no disturbances in Ireland since the Commons passed the bill. And the Liberals are awaiting action by the House of Lords. They doubtless will amend the bill by incorporating Carson's demands. And then will begin such haggling and concessions as will either secure the passage of the bill by consent, or its enactment according to the Parliament Act.



Sinking of the Empress of Ireland.

The Canadian Pacific steam, Empress of Ireland, bound from Quebec to Liverpool, was rammed by the Danish collier Storstad shortly before dawn of the 29th. The collision occurred in the St. Lawrence River off Father Point, about 150 miles below Quebec. A fog had shut down on the two ships after they had sighted each other, and owing to misunderstandings and mismanagement the Storstad struck the Empress of Ireland amid-ships. The latter sank in a few minutes, drowning 964 of her 1,367 passengers and crew. The collier, although damaged, proceeded to port under her own steam. A commission has been appointed by the Canadian government to investigate the disaster.



British Militant Suffragists.

Many acts of violence and vandalism on the part of the British militant suffragists have been reported during the month of May. Several paintings in public galleries have been injured with hatchets, among them being Herkomer's portrait of the Duke of Wellington and J. S. Sargent's of Henry James, the latter probably ruined. On May 17 buildings at the Birmingham race course were destroyed by fire. On the 20th near the King's and Queen's tent at Aldershot a great brush fire was lighted; and next day a deputation of militants

fought fiercely with clubs in an attempt to present a petition to the King at Buckingham palace. Mrs. Pankhurst, her daughter Sylvia, and thirty other suffragists were arrested, and, when arraigned in the police court next day, made a tremendously noisy disturbance. Mrs. Flora Drummond was released on the 21st from her jail sentence for camping on Sir Edward Carson's doorstep and promptly rearrested for immediately thereafter having stationed herself at Secretary McKenna's door. The King and Queen were harangued by suffragists in the theater on the 22nd, and the same day Miss Annie Kenney, while forcibly seeking an interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury, was re-arrested under the "cat-and-mouse" act. Sunday, the 24th, was apparently chosen for a time of special activity. Sylvia Pankhurst, chained and handcuffed to fifteen women and surrounded by other supporters, marched with a long procession to Victoria Park. There the police managed to shut the gates with only the chain-group inside. Miss Pankhurst was then forcibly freed from her manacles and arrested. Meanwhile outside the park, suffragists and anti-suffragists fought until separated by the police. Further demonstrations on this day were reported to be several window-smashing raids and the interruption of religious services at Westminster Abbey and Newcastle cathedral by women who fiercely resisted ejection. There were indications on this Sunday of angry animosity on the part of the people toward the violent suffragists—anger said to have been aroused in particular by the recent acts of art vandalism and of interference with the King. This recent singling out of the King for especial attack, and remembrance of the frantic death of a militant suffragist at the Derby last year caused the Derby race course and the King's box at Epsom Downs on May 27 to be most thoroughly guarded. No disturbance of any moment was reported during the day, but that night windows were smashed at Buckingham palace, where the King and Queen were, by two suffragists who evaded the guards. [See current volume, pages 369, 488.]



French Elections and Militarism.

Later advices give a different interpretation to the recent elections, from that of the earlier press dispatches. Instead of its being an endorsement of the military policy of President Poincare, it is held by European critics to be the reverse. It is claimed that the Three Years' Service Bill will be repealed as a result of the heavy gains of the Socialists, and the losses of the Briandists. The government musters only 315 out of a total of 602 deputies. The second balloting raised the number of Socialist deputies to 102, which is taken as a victory for the democrats and anti-clericals. [See current volume, pages 418, 516.]