

yesterday Mr Blythe reviewed in a one and a half hour's speech the financial position of the Saorstát.

The most unexpected point in his proposals is a tax on betting. Otherwise there was nothing very startling in his speech.

The system of double taxation is abolished. A revised scale of charges is proposed for motors, which will relieve the handicap on Fords, and increase the tax on heavy vehicles.

A Customs tariff of 2s. 6d. per cwt. is placed on oatmeal, but none on manufactured goods.

A Tariff Commission is, however, to be set up, and if the Government find themselves able to agree with the Commission's recommendations, a resolution will be submitted to the Dáil, no matter at what period of the year, imposing the tariffs recommended.

Announcing that the Government could not see their way towards reducing the excise duties on beer and spirits, the Minister said that only a substantial reduction would be of any use, and this would mean a loss of revenue of about £1,400,000.

The brewing industry was able to take care of itself.

To keep the reputation of Irish whisky right it was proposed to increase the period for which spirits must be matured from three to five years.

The duty on wine is to be increased by 100 per cent., but owing to the enormous rates of profit in the trade that should afford no excuse for increasing the price to the public.

Owing to the quantity taken out of bond recently no appreciable increase in revenue is expected this year, but next year the higher duty should yield from £150,000 to £200,000.

With regard to broadcasting he announced the fee for crystal sets at 10s. The imposition of a customs duty of 33½ per cent. on transmitting or receiving sets is proposed.

The existing ban on betting is to be removed. Bookmaking will be legal for persons who have paid £10 excise licence duty. A £20 licence duty must be paid on premises where betting is carried on. All transactions will be liable to a tax of 5 per cent. on the sum staked. The provision of the Gaming Act will remain, and it will be an offence to attempt to bet with a bookmaker outside the Free State.

The Executive Council were unable to agree to the recommendations of the Special Committee of the Dáil regarding the duty on home-grown tobacco. Tobacco growing on an economic basis in the Saorstát was not feasible, and they should stop throwing good money after bad.

Defending the arrangement regarding double income tax, the Minister said that

in the Fire Brigade Ambulance to the City Home and Hospital and detained.

SALARIES AND WAGES ON RAILWAYS.

Companies Proposals for "Cut."

At a special meeting of the Irish Railways Board in Dublin the companies put forward their proposals for a reduction in the salaries and wages of the employes. The men's representatives opposed the proposals.

ACCOUCHEMENT OF DUCHESS OF YORK

The Duchess of York gave birth to a daughter at 2.40 yesterday morning. Both the mother and daughter are doing well.

HAVERGAL AND ROXBOROUGH SCHOOLS.

The annual bazaar in aid of the Havergal and Roxborough Schools will be held in the Diocesan Hall next Saturday afternoon, commencing at one o'clock, and on the following Monday evening, doors being open at 6.30. There will be various stalls as usual, and a concert programme, including selections by the children of the schools.

DEATH OF MR MATTHEW BOURKE, K.C.

We regret to announce the death of Mr M. J. Bourke, K.C., late Recorder of Cork, which took place yesterday morning at his residence, The Lodge, Banteer, after a brief illness. Mr Bourke, a distinguished lawyer, and a genial and courteous gentleman, was well known in Limerick, when he practised on the Munster Circuit, and figured in many important cases. He was a close personal friend of the late Chief Baron Palles.

HARBOUR BOARD VACANCY.

The election of a Commissioner in the Harbour Board to represent the ratepayers, in room of the late Mr F. J. Herriott, will take place on Monday next. The only candidate nominated up to the present is Mr James McGuire, of the firm of Messrs Martin McGuire & Sons.

ALLEGED LARCENY.

Last evening Sergeant O'Flynn arrested a young girl named Bridie Nolan on a charge of stealing a pound note and some clothing from Mrs Fanning, Ballinacurra. The defendant was remanded to the City District Sessions to-morrow.

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