

Lordship pointed out, led to a situation which made financial measures of an original character inevitable, but he said that "the transaction which Lordships were invited to approve was antagonistic to the country." The Government profess that they will have nothing to do with the Upper Chamber. Yet Lord Lansdowne reminded them, they are obliged to seek the assistance of the House of Lords in carrying their present proposals. "The Government," his Lordship proceeded to observe, "proposed to proceed when they might collect taxes. That is not good business. The proceedings of the Government seemed to be calculated to prolong that very chaos which the Government anticipated with so much alarm. The House of Lords took the step of passing the Finance Bill to the judgment of the people." Then why this delay in dealing with the Budget? Of course the Government knows the reason, but there can be no doubt that Lord Lansdowne voices a very rare of public opinion when he declares the withholding of the Budget, although weeks have elapsed since the General Election, "is unfair alike to the country and to the House of Lords." The Earl of Balfour admitted that "the postponement of the annual collection of taxes undoubtedly caused a loss, but he did not think that the delay of a week or two, more or less, would make any appreciable difference." It is a point on which a wide diversity of opinion exists. But dealing with the question, it is necessary, Lord Balfour says, to look at the political situation as a whole, and in this connection he, of course, maintains that the action of the Government is "the indirect consequence of the Government's action last December." Yet Lord Lansdowne assures us that if the Finance Bill passes the Commons it will receive the sanction of the Lords; but in the face of the fact that the Government's assurance Lord Crewe could give no support to the undertaking when the Bill would come to the Upper House. The fact that the Government do so will surprise no one, having regard to the complexities and uncertainties of the present political situation as it stands. The

The Progress of Temperance.

Last year's 3s. 9d. a gallon on duty on spirits, has, without doubt, greatly curtailed consumption, but the falling off in whiskey drinking is not wholly due to the addition to the duty. Official figures show that the amount of whiskey consumed within the United Kingdom last year amounted to 25,459,566 proof gallons, a decrease of 5,953,831 gallons on the previous year, and of 7,214,825 gallons, as compared with 1907. This shows that the consumption was on the down grade before the duty was raised. With respect to tobacco, the increase in duty has had little effect on the consumption. The Customs Board anticipated that it would reduce consumption by 6 per cent. So far the reduction is only 5 per cent., and it looks as if the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not fully get the extra £1,900,000 he expected from the tobacco revenue.

AN ASKEATON TRAGEDY.

Policeman's Supposed Suicide.

Details of what points to a determined case of suicide have been received from Askeaton, the scene of the tragedy. Some time last evening the police at Askeaton were startled by the report of firearms in the barracks, and on repairing to the place whence the report came the discovery was made that Constable Patrick Healy had shot himself. Medical aid was summoned, but it was at once apparent that there was no hope of his recovery, and this morning he succumbed to his injuries. No motive can be assigned for the tragic affair, which has been keenly felt in Askeaton, where the deceased had served for some years, and was held in high respect. So far as his comrades are aware, Healy was not in difficulties of any kind, consequently they are at a loss to ascribe a reason for the rash act. He was a man of exemplary character, and had just completed 27 years' service in the force, being stationed at Kilmurry, Barrington's Bridge, and this city. He was unmarried, and a native of the County Galway.

TARIFF REFORM AND FREE TRADE.

What has been described as a non-political debate will be held in the Theatre Royal on Friday evening at 8 o'clock, when the subject of Tariff Reform versus Free Trade will be discussed. Major O'Connor, Honorary Lecturer to the Irish Tariff Reform League, will give his views on Tariff Reform, and Mr. John Hamilton Superintendent of the Limerick School of Commerce, will reply on behalf of Free Trade. The chair will be taken by the Mayor (Councillor T. Ryan), and on the platform every aspect of political thought in the city will be represented. It is safe to anticipate that the theme will receive full treatment from the protagonists of both sides of our fiscal system, and go a long way towards educating local public opinion on questions of great moment. A charge of sixpence will be made at the door to cover expenses, but admission to the gallery is free.

The residents of Nicholas-street were thrown into a state of consternation this morning by the report of a terrible crash, and a thoroughfare it was found the next morning. The Corporation Alms-house and the debris scattered in all directions. The building had been unoccupied for some time and was a mere shell. At the time of the collapse the street was clear, and the results might have eventuated differently had it not been for the man who was injured.

LORD EMLY

Lord Emlly, says a writer in the *Independent*, was 52 on Saturday last. His father, William Monseil, was Postmaster-General in Gladstone's first Administration, and a peerage in 1874. He spent some time in Parliament, and his many offices included Vice-President of the Council and Under-Secretary of State for

CHURCH OF IRELAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Council was held at 10, North Street, Dublin, last week. The Rev. Canon Kennedy, B.D. (Chairman), presided. Present were also present—Revs. Canon Hayes, Canon Freeman, J. C. Irwin, Plunkett, F. de B. Sidley, Sir. Professor Carpenter, Messrs H. A. Irwin, P. H. Frierson, S. A. C. P. Balfour, D.L., Wm. Hayes, and the Rev. Apologies for absence were received from Canon Hobson, and J. H. Madden. The annual report and statement for year ending 31st January, 1910, were read and adopted.

The Council adjourned till Thursday next.

"HALLEY'S COMET"

Lecture by Dr. Boeddicker.

We would desire to draw our attention to a lecture on "Halley's Comet" by Dr. Otto Boeddicker to be held on Friday next, the 11th inst., at 8 p.m., in the Hall of the Protestant Young Men's Association. "Halley's Comet" will be visible to the eye next May, after an absence of 76 years. The lecture has a more than ordinary interest, especially when it will be given in a popular scientific way by such an astronomer as Dr. Boeddicker, who, as mentioned, is in charge of Lord Rossmore's telescope at Birr Castle, where is situated the largest telescope in the world. Further particulars will be given in our advertisement columns.

CHARGE OF LARCENY

On Sunday morning John Ford, employed by Messrs. Wallis & Co. as an agent, was arrested by Sergeant Keenan of stealing a bag of sugar, the property of the Great Southern and Western Railway. Subsequently he was brought before the Magistrate by Leahy, J.P., and remanded for eight days.

COUNTY HOUND