

OUR PARLIAMENTS.

AUTUMN RECESS.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent says it is now certain that the Houses of Lords and Commons will adjourn for the Autumn Recess to-morrow, and reassemble on or about Tuesday, Oct. 15. The legislative holiday, therefore, will be two days short of ten weeks.

ALIEN WATCH COMMITTEE.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent states that a meeting of members specially interested in the alien question, and representing all political parties, was held in the House of Commons last evening, when it was decided to form an Alien Watch Committee for the purpose of following the action of the Executive in relation to aliens. Sir Edward Carson was elected chairman, on the proposal of Sir Henry Dalziel, who was chosen vice-chairman. Sir Richard Cooper is to fill the post of hon. secretary. It is the intention of the committee at once to set up a bureau for dealing with the mass of information which came into the possession of the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee during its deliberations, and such further information as may be submitted to it. Letters to the committee should be addressed to 6, Carlton-gardens, S.W.

IRELAND AND CONSCRIPTION.

THE "BOMBSHELL" IN AMERICA.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., and Mr. Richard Hazleton, M.P., were the guests of the Irish Parliamentary party at a dinner last night in the House of Commons in celebration of their return from their mission to the United States.

Mr. John Dillon, M.P., who presided, said that looked at from the point of view of the interests of the Allied cause, the mission had been of greater service than all the official British propaganda that had been pursued at a cost of millions of money. The Irish party, when they realised that on this occasion England was in the right, did not allow their historical wrongs to prejudice them. They declared that they would be loyal and true, and they stood faithfully to that declaration to-day. All the humiliation and insult they had been compelled to endure at the hands of this Government had not clouded their vision as to the fundamental issues of this war. "I say deliberately," Mr. Dillon added, "that if Mr. O'Connor had not been in America when the Irish conscription clause was passed, and the German plot was invented, that the whole of America would have been swept by this poison gas into an attitude of hostility, and the mischief done would have been incalculable."

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, describing the feeling which he encountered in America, said that on his arrival he found he was regarded in certain quarters as a British agent, if not a British spy. The story went that he had acquired millions of money by betraying the cause of Ireland, and that he was so much the servant of the British Government that he had come over in a British cruiser. (Laughter.) After describing organised efforts to break up any meetings he addressed in America, which led him practically to abandon platform work, Mr. O'Connor said he was at San Francisco raising dollars very rapidly, when suddenly the Irish conscription bomb was sprung on the world, and he had to abandon California and get to Washington. What he asked America to consider was that Ireland must get freedom herself before she fought for freedom, and that only one body had the right to force Ireland to enter into the fight, and that body was the Irish Parliament, which was the law of England and the law of Ireland. He did not deny that there was a strong tide of American opinion that Ireland should forget all these things, and in a generous spirit enter the fight before getting freedom herself. "But," said Mr. O'Connor, "you can be generous with the generous, you can be loyal with the loyal, but you cannot be generous with the mean, and you cannot be loyal with those who are not loyal." (Loud cheers.) In conclusion, he asked, What were the fruits of the Sinn Fein policy? They only had to look at the state of Ireland, where Sinn Fein had wrought division and all the passions of civil war.

Line 7. Carson
1918 Aug. 7

... progress is being made in the construction of 1,000-ton seagoing barges for the Admiralty Department of Merchant Shipbuilding. Vessels of this class are urgently required, and the programme of construction already authorised comprises barges and other vessels representing some 200,000 tons of shipping, and a capital outlay estimated at nearly £4,000,000, apart from the cost of land and shipyard plant. On the designs adopted the saving in steel is fully 70,000 tons on what would have been required for steel ships of the same carrying capacity. It is believed that a still larger saving will be effected when practical data becomes available as to the minimum proportion of reinforcement that may be employed with safety. The United States Shipping Board have not advanced quite so rapidly as our own Admiralty in the matter of concrete shipbuilding. According to latest advices the United States has only two concrete shipyards ready for operation, compared with nearly twenty in the United Kingdom. On the other hand, America is to be credited with the completion of one reinforced concrete steamship of 5,000 tons capacity, a courageous experiment, which has been amply justified by the vessel on her trial trip and subsequent voyages.

According to official estimates, the cost of wood, steel, and concrete hulls is £30, £35, and £25 per ton respectively. Hence the programme of the United States Shipping Board for fifty-eight concrete ships of 7,500 tons capacity, represents an outlay on hulls alone of about £10,870,000 on the basis of 435,000 aggregate dead-weight capacity. The saving in steel will probably exceed 125,000 tons, and the saving in the cost of the vessels, as compared with steel, according to the official estimate, will be £4,350,000. At present only two of the United States Government yards have been decided upon, one at San Francisco and the other at Wilmington on the Atlantic Coast.

PARIS ECONOMIC RESOLUTIONS.

Colonel Sir F. Hall asked the Prime Minister in the House of Commons yesterday if his attention had been drawn to the speech recently made by the French Ambassador, M. Cambon, as to the importance of taking steps to prevent Germany obtaining a similar control over industrial interests in the Allied countries to that which she had secured prior to the outbreak of the war, and whether the Government would fully adhere to the principles embodied in the Paris economic resolutions.

Mr. Bonar Law, who replied, said: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The policy of his Majesty's Government remains the same, and includes a close co-operation with our French and other Allies, with whom we are in communication on the subject.

SOLDIERS FOR THE HARVEST.

The Army Council has decided to release several thousand soldiers on agricultural furlough for harvest work. These men will be distributed among the counties where labour assistance for the harvest is most needed. Farmers requiring additional labour to gather the harvest should apply at once to their county agricultural executive committee.

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