

shape in which it left this House, is a gross violation of Constitutional liberty by which, among other consequences, the people will be precluded from again pronouncing upon the policy of home rule.

[See current volume, page 776.]

+

Intense excitement prevailed in the House as Mr. Balfour arose on the 7th to speak in support of his motion. He charged the Ministry with having "acted wholly without precedent," and not "in order to meet any great question of state," but "in order to further a party arrangement between different sections who support them, and in order to prevent the people of the country from pronouncing their opinion on home rule." Mr. Balfour laid special emphasis upon his statement that the Ministry had placed the King in a cruel position by exacting a promise from him to "swamp the House of Lords" when he had just come to the throne.

+

Mr. Asquith, on rising to reply as Prime Minister, was received with enthusiastic demonstrations. He is described by the dispatches as appearing in his best form. Beginning with taunting thanks to the Opposition for "this opportunity though unexpected motion," the "very thing that the Ministry wanted," Mr. Asquith laid bare—with the King's approval, as he explained—the whole story of the guarantees he had obtained from the King for "swamping the House of Lords." He had not begun with a king just come to the throne; but as early as April 14, 1910, he had advised King Edward that the only method of dealing with the situation the Lords had raised and the Tories were supporting was through the use of the Royal prerogative of appointing lords. He had already told in his speech of his hope and belief that the House of Lords would obviate the unpleasant necessity by accepting the Lords' veto bill, and that "only when that hope was frustrated, as it was last month [by the final action of the House of Lords] was His Majesty asked—and consented if it was necessary—to exercise his prerogative" of appointing enough new lords favorable to the measure to secure its enactment. The democratic spirit of the Ministry came clearly to the surface when Mr. Asquith said:

We took the only course consistent with honor and a true regard for the dignity of the Crown. The course was correct, considerate and Constitutional, and in my own name and in those of my colleagues I am perfectly content to accept the decision of the House and of my fellow countrymen in regard thereto. I have served three Sovereigns, and have always been an upholder of the dignity and just privileges of the Crown. But I will hold office not only with the favor of the Crown but with the confidence of the people. I would be guilty of treason at the

supreme moment of the struggle if I betrayed their trust.

+

When Mr. Balfour's motion came to a vote, it was defeated by 365 to 246—a majority of 119 in a House of 611 and out of a total membership of 670.

+ +

The Haytian Revolution Succeeds.

President Antoine Simon of the French Negro Republic of Hayti in the West Indies, fled from the capital city of Port au Prince on the 2nd, taking refuge on the sole Haytian warship, "The 17th of December" (named for the day on which President Simon was elected in 1908). Port au Prince was left to two revolutionary parties and such committees of safety as the diplomatic corps could provide. English and German marines were landed from ships of their respective nations, for the preservation of order. The American minister, Mr. H. W. Furniss, not approving of the use of foreign armed forces, made no call for American marines. On the 4th the ex-President sailed for Jamaica. The two revolutionary parties, each straining for control, are headed respectively by General Cincinnatus Leconte, a former minister of the interior, and by General Antenor Firmin, who deserted his post as Haytian minister to Great Britain, to join the revolt against President Simon. On the 6th General Leconte's army entered Port au Prince and immediately proclaimed their leader as President. The American minister had gone outside of the city previous to the entry, and warned the victorious army that if public order was disturbed he would cause American marines to be landed to keep the peace. The troops advanced in good order and occupied all the stations in the city, dislodging therefrom the supporters of General Antenor Firmin, who marched out without any show of resistance. Later General Leconte made triumphal entry into the capital and was acclaimed by the populace. On the day following General Firmin arrived by steamer, and upon the order of General Leconte was permitted to come ashore. Arrangements are being made for a joint session of the Senate and Chamber of Communes to meet as a national assembly for the election of a president in succession to President Simon, this election by joint session being the constitutional method by which Hayti elects her presidents. [See current volume, page 806.]

+ +

Land-Value Taxation in Texas.

When J. J. Pastoriza, the Singletaxer, was elected one of the Commissioners of Houston, Texas, it was not supposed that he could do more than promote "good government" in the superficial