

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, SEPT. 17.

The Speaker took the chair at a few minutes before nine o'clock.

Mr. COCHRANE took the oath and his seat for Bedford.

Mr. SHARMAN CRAWFORD presented a petition from an individual named James Bullock, of Peterhead, Scotland, complaining of manufacturing distress, and praying for an extension of the Corn Laws.

Mr. BENTLEY presented a petition from the Young Men's Association at Manchester against the Corn Laws.

Mr. GORDON presented petitions from King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth, and other places, praying for the repeal of the Corn Laws.

Sir E. WILKINSON presented a petition from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, praying for the enforcement of the laws against the slave trade.

Mr. VILLIERS presented a petition from certain manufacturers of North Derbyshire, complaining of distress from the want of a sufficiency of the necessities of life, and praying for the total repeal of the Corn Laws.

The SPEAKER informed the House that he had received a communication from the examiner of recognitions, stating that the sureties entered into for the petitions against the returns from the following places were unsatisfactory:—Cardigan, Nottingham, Wakefield, Rochester, Rippon, Southampton, Newry, and Gloucester.

Captain PERCIVAL moved that returns of assessed taxes from 1832 be printed.

The order of the day for the House going into Committee of Supply being read.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL rose and addressed the House. He said that he was in the opportunity this motion afforded him to make some observations upon the course which the Right Hon. Gentleman at the head of her Majesty's present Government had lately followed in relation to the petitioners.

Observations being made by the Right Hon. Gentleman applied to the House to place a sum of the public money at the disposal of the Crown. He considered this the fitting opportunity to state the views he entertained both of the petitioners and of the Government of the course which the Right Hon. Gentleman had stated to be his intention, as the head of the Government, to pursue.

Before, however, he entered into the topics relative to which he differed greatly from the decisions to which her Majesty's Government had come, he wished to address a few remarks to the House on the great public importance.

With respect to the foreign relations of the state, it appeared to him quite unnecessary to do more than to say that the state of Europe appeared to be in a state of peace.

The continuance of that peace, on which her Majesty's speech last delivered in this House comminates her Parliament. The affairs of Europe being in this state, there was certainly a question with respect to the United States of America, which in some respects bore a very important appearance.

When his Noble Friend stated to this House, as Secretary for Foreign Affairs, his opinion in respect to this matter, it appeared her Majesty's Government and that of the United States were perfectly agreed as to the character to be attributed to the American Government.

Caroline, that it was a question to be debated between nation and nation, and not considered as an individual case of grievance. (Hear, hear.) The Noble Lord then expressed his confidence that the case at issue would not lead to any injury to the peace and amity subsisting between England and America; he also felt that there was every disposition in the people of this country to have the matter arranged amicably. (Hear, hear.)

He had nothing to say against the policy which the Noble Lord had pursued, but he had to say that the Noble Lord had admitted that that difficulty had at least got over—(hears)—and that he had given a guarantee to the people of Ireland that they would be treated impartially. (Hear, hear.)

He would take care, as he had said, to have the administration of the law administered with fairness and impartiality, and he hoped with vigour; and, at all events, he would take care not to allow the Administration of Irish affairs to be influenced by the hope of gaining support in the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.)

He had said that he should be glad to see the Right Hon. Gentleman, Sir R. Peel, in the House, and so far as depended upon himself those engagements should be fulfilled. (Hear, hear.)

The appointment of Lord de Grey as Lord Lieutenant, and of Sir E. Sugden as Lord Chancellor, had not been publicly notified, nor had he been notified, and had therefore not been necessary to be notified. (Hear, hear.)

Sir R. Peel gave notice that on Tuesday he would bring in a Bill for the continuance until July of the Poor Law Commission and other Bills. He did not propose to make any alteration in the Poor Law Bill until it should come before the House in the extension of Parliament.

Sir G. CLEER, in reply to a question from Mr. Williams, said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not be able to go into Committee of Ways and Means until the 20th inst.

In reply to a question from Mr. Hawes, it was stated by Sir R. INGLIS that it was not his intention to renew his motion for Church Extension during the present session.

The Right Hon. Member having remarked upon the presence of Sir Edward Sugden in the House after his appointment to the Irish Chancellorship, and without having been re-elected for Ripon.

Sir R. INGLIS said that there were some forms to be filled up, and that he would be glad to see the Right Hon. Gentleman, Sir R. Peel, in the House, and so far as depended upon himself those engagements should be fulfilled. (Hear, hear.)

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Sir G. CLEER then moved that the House should resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

Mr. O. CAVE spoke at considerable length in favour of the Bill, and in the course of his speech he proposed no considerations of political support should be taken into account by the House.

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old England would yet ride safely through the storm; but if it were postponed, he felt satisfied that they would have been able to do so.

He thought that the want of adequate compensation was the great cause of the distress, and if they went on taxing the people with the view of maintaining an expensive and unproductive expenditure, it must end in a complete and violent revolution.

Dr. BOWRING seconded the motion. He thanked the Right Hon. Baronet for the sympathy which he had shown for the case of the weaver, and all he would say was, that the sympathy which they felt for the sufferings of one man might be kindly extended to the sufferings of millions. They wanted a delay of five months—a delay certainly it would prove to be a long one, but it was a delay which was necessary in the country—but too long a time he was convinced they would think it, if they would take the trouble first of looking into the condition of the people, to leave that condition unaltered, and then to proceed to the consideration of the subject.

In the case referred to by the Right Hon. Baronet, the relief officer said that he had been applied to for relief about three months before he died, that he visited him, found him and family at work, with more than 8s. a week coming in, but that, the standard adopted by the Board was 2s. 6d., and he was in a case for relief, and the man died without it, the next application having been for a coffin, and the case was buried by him.

He (Dr. Bowring) did not complain of the conduct of the Board, but he did complain of the fact that the Board was not in a position to do what was right, and that there were thousands of suffering beings in the country whom the Poor Law Commissioners could not find relief for.

He thought that there existed a vast deal of unexplored ground, and that the Poor Law Commissioners were persons of high-minded pride, whose tale of misery was not told until the parish was called upon to inter their bodies. (Hear, hear.)

The Noble Lord, the Member for Liverpool, said that the Corn Law Commission was not a body which was to be trusted, and that the Noble Lord could not deny that the House of Commons was urgently called upon to look into, and endeavour, if possible, to discover where these causes lay.

The House might be assured that there was much discontent in this proposed delay, since there was much discontent which was likely to be increased when the members of the Opposition in that House should feel themselves obliged to inform their constituents that they had agreed to a delay of five months.

The House then divided, when there appeared—

For the motion..... 149

Majority against the amendment 108

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