

sting lines. The preliminary which have begun are the prelude tactical tactics to be developed. Naturally, secrecy is maintained general idea upon which the are based, but sufficient is known to be fairly certain that a serious I be made to test the possibility of making a raid on our shores. Ships of all classes will be engaged in manoeuvres. They will be converted into a great fighting machine and a striking display of the might of our sea power, and of the modern preparations for war. There has been a keen controversy as to the practicability of a military invasion. One great military expert has declared that a force of 70,000 men could effect a landing, while other naval experts have argued that an army with all its impedimenta past our first line of defence for practical purposes, beyond the possibility. Theories and arguments do not settle the matter, and it would be too much to expect that a few manoeuvres, whatever may be the result, will convince either one side or that they are in the right or in the wrong. But the general public may be brought to light thrown on the problem by the evidence. As far as is possible the evidence in the North Sea, and the English Channel, will be seen what the umpires will be bringing the manoeuvres will have to display the strategic skill and naval manoeuvres displayed, but the "battle" will probably be pluckily fought both by the attacking and the invading forces. There can only be sure, be no inclination to work, and the operations must be of the highest value to the officers and men who participate in them. The Government will supply them with excellent equipment and help to promote the efficiency of the service. They will be able to get a clear conception of the duties which will be called upon to perform in

## Temperance Bills.

In the House of Commons yesterday, the Committee stage of the Plural Voting Bill was considered and the Scottish Temperance Bill was read a third time under the operation of the Parliament Act, a proposed new clause introduced under the 'suggestion stage' being rejected.

## WELSH CHURCH BILL PASSED

### Rejection Motion Lost by 103.

The Welsh Church Disestablishment Bill was read a third time in the House of Commons on Tuesday without a division, a motion for its rejection being defeated by a majority of 103.

The rejection was moved by Mr Bridgeman, who contended that it ought not to be carried under the Parliament Act by the aid of Irish and Scottish members, who were in no way concerned.

## IRISH LAND PURCHASE BILL.

### To be Introduced on July 21st.

In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Birrell, replying to a question by Mr. Touche, said that, subject to revision by the Prime Minister, the Land Purchase Bill would be introduced on Monday, July 21st.

## DEATH OF MR. DAVID MEANY.

Mr. David Meany, a member of the Clerical staff of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company died last evening, after a comparatively brief illness, at Baggott Street Hospital, Dublin, to the great grief of his relatives, and the friends of the lamented deceased. Mr. Meany, who was a native of Limerick, was in his thirty fifth year, and was a great favourite with all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. His business capacity was recognised by the railway authorities here in Limerick, and at Listowel, whither he was removed some few years back, his attention to duty and his sound and discriminating judgment being much appreciated. In addition to his aptitude for business he was a young man with an abiding taste for literature and linguistic studies, the latter trait proving an incentive to him being an active member of the Gaelic League, a pronounced supporter of the Irish Language revival, and an earnest worker in the movement. His conspicuous natural ability, his modesty and generosity of view greatly endeared him to his friends, and there is accordingly wide and sincere sympathy with his relatives at the sad loss they have so unexpectedly sustained. Mr. Meany was a young man, and it is a great affliction that a life so full of promise should be snapped in its prime.

## THE LATE MR. JUSTICE WRIGHT.

At the Sligo Summer Assizes, Major C. K. O'Hara, H.M.L., foreman of the Grand Jury, announced to Mr. Justice Gibson, who presided in the Crown Court, that they had passed the following resolution:—

"Resolved—That we, the members of the County Sligo Grand Jury, at Summer Assizes assembled, desire to express our deep regret at the death of Mr. Justice Wright, who was for so many years associated with the Connaught Circuit. His kindly consideration and courtesy in the dispensation of justice earned the respect and regard of all classes of the community, and we wish to convey our sincere sympathy to his bereaved relatives."

Mr. Justice Gibson said he was very glad indeed to receive this resolution, coming as it did from those who were so well able to speak of the many excellent qualities of his late lamented brother,

evidence in the sworn inquiry as to the working of the Corporation Gas Works for the ten years ending 1912.

Mr. P. Kelly (instructed by Mr. J. Dundon, solicitor) appeared for the Corporation, at whose request the Local Government Board granted the inquiry.

Mr. P. J. O'Sullivan, solicitor, appeared for the Gas Committee, and

Mr. H. Moran, solicitor, for the gas workers. Evidence was continued.

At the request of Mr. Michael O'Brien, B.C., Francis Murphy was called, and said he was a carbo-nising foreman. In the late Mr. Spillane's time they were in the habit of getting unscreened coal, and there was no change. The coal they were getting was about the same, and there was practically the same amount of slack in it.

Stephen Halpin, a labourer employed by the Gas Committee, gave somewhat similar evidence. Witness was employed since 1904, and he was secretary to the Gas Workers' Society.

In answer to Mr O'Sullivan, the witness said the men's condition as regards wages had been improved.

By Mr Moran—The wages paid did not exceed those given in similar concerns.

The Witness asked could he give his views

The Inspector—As to the management, the way the Gas Committee did their business.

The Witness—Yes.

Mr Moran, intervening, said he did not propose to examine the witness except on anything that arose through the enquiry.

The Inspector said he would hear the witness briefly.

The Witness said in answer to the Inspector that he noticed in his time that previous to Mr. Ryan coming on the Gas Committee, Mr. Holliday supplied all the glass and putty for the street lamps, but when Mr. Ryan became a member, the contract was divided. During nine years he found Mr. Holliday the one strong man on the Committee, the Von Molke of the Gas concern. (Laughter.) He came to that conclusion because when members were canvassed respecting concessions to the men it was always asked if Mr. Holliday was on the questioner's side. When Mr. Holliday was on the side of the men anything could be obtained, but when not, they had to fight for it.

Mr. Patrick Bourke attended and handed in a number of documents with reference to his evidence given yesterday, and the minutes of the Committee at a meeting where the tender of a Mr. Gough was accepted for structural works. He said he disagreed with the minutes, for it was fallacious to state that his (Mr. Bourke's) tender for the work did not conform to the terms of the advertisement.

Mr. Martin Fitzgerald, Secretary to the Gas Committee, was examined by Mr. Sullivan, and said he was 23 years at the office and 5 years secretary. In 1902 Mr. Patrick Riordan was manager. He died in October, 1907. Mr. Philip Baker was the engineer, and he resigned in 1906, before Mr. Hawker's appointment. Mr. Alfred Baker was also an officer, the two Bakers having been taken over by the Corporation from the old Company. On the 31st March, 1901, the Gas Committee were in debt to the amount of £4,629 whereas on the 31st March, 1912, they had a credit balance of £8,269 in bank. In the interim a sum of £5,288 12s 6d was given to the Corporation in money or free gas, the reserve fund being increased from £1,440 to £2,918. The witness gave details as to receipts and expenditure during the several years under review. Unscreened coal was used and it was improved by the admixture of Cannel coal. It improved the illuminating power of the gas, and lessened very considerably the value of the coke. The witness detailed how the residuals were affected. Since 1904 all screened coal was used, save a few emergency cargoes, and a saving of £300 a year was effected. The witness took exception to the way the figures for 1905 had been arranged on the other side. Revenue was not affected by the expenditure, and a statement made yesterday