

now be taken when the Bill was in Committee to remedy that error.

Bill read 2°, and committed for To-morrow.

MILITIA PAY BILL.—COMMITTEE.

Order for Committee read.

COLONEL DUNNE said, he wished to express his satisfaction that so many as 156,000 of the militia were called out for drill during the year. The difficulty with the militia now was not with the men, but with the officers, who were pecuniary losers, and he would therefore suggest that they should be allowed lodging money.

SIR GEORGE LEWIS said, the present had been a peculiarly successful year for militia. The recruiting had gone on in a satisfactory manner, and there was no necessity for adopting any measure to encourage it in the militia. He would direct his attention to the subject mentioned by the hon. and gallant Gentleman before the third reading.

Bill considered in Committee.

House resumed.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read 3° To-morrow.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.—SECOND READING.

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. PEEL moved the second reading of this Bill.

In reply to Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY,

MR. PEEL said, that hitherto when any extraordinary expenditure had taken place the amount was paid out of the surplus Votes. It was proposed to continue the practice, but to make the charge temporary and not final, and in the next Session to take a specific Vote to cover the advance.

Bill read 2°, and committed for To-morrow.

POOR REMOVAL BILL—[BILL No. 151.]

THIRD READING.

Order for Third Reading read.

SIR GEORGE GREY moved the third reading of the Bill.

SIR HERVEY BRUCE said, he rose to move that the order be discharged and the Bill recommitted. In explanation of the Motion he wished to state that he had omitted at the proper time to propose an Amendment which he then sought to introduce, and which had received the approval of several hon. Members. If the

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Bill were passed as it stood, the poor Irish residing in Lancashire and Cheshire, and thrown out of employment in consequence of the want of cotton, would be sent back to Ireland. It was with the view of preventing such a result that he would move the Amendment of which he had given notice; namely—

“That no poor person leaving Ireland when under five years of age should be sent back to Ireland from England or Scotland except with his or her parents, and no poor person should be sent back to Ireland who had lived five consecutive years in the same parish in England or Scotland, or ten years in different parishes.”

If he failed in inducing the House to insert the Amendment, he should move for leave to bring in a Bill enacting such a provision early in the next Session.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Order for the Third Reading of the said Bill be discharged.”

SIR GEORGE GREY said, that the Amendment did not come within the scope and object of the Bill, which related to the power of removal and not to the law of settlement. It might be very proper to consider the proposal at a future time, and the hon. Baronet was quite entitled to bring in a Bill upon the subject in the next Session.

COLONEL DUNNE said, he should support the Amendment, in the belief that it would remedy a great injustice which the Bill would entail on Irish paupers. He hoped, however, that a further opportunity would be given to consider the matter. The House was in too apathetic a state to consider serious questions, for all that the few Members who remained desired to do was to go home.

MR. MONSELL said, he thought it would be more prudent not to press the Amendment, since it involved so large a question. At the same time it was the duty of the Government to take this real grievance into their consideration.

Motion, by leave, *withdrawn*.

Bill read 3°, and *passed*.

COPYRIGHT (WORKS OF ART) BILL.

[BILL NO. 192.] LORDS' AMENDMENTS.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL said, that the Bill, as originally introduced, gave a copyright in works of art to all persons without distinction, whether foreigners or British subjects; but the House of Lords had introduced an Amendment which would leave foreigners to resort to the

International Copyright Act in case of an infringement of their copyright. That he thought was not a material alteration. Next the House of Lords had introduced an Amendment, requiring registration in all cases to precede the acquisition of copyright. If the House opposed these Amendments, the passing of the Bill that Session would be endangered, and therefore he was prepared to ask the House to agree to them.

Lords' Amendments *agreed to*.

POOR RELIEF (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL.

[BILL NO. 225.] LORDS' AMENDMENTS.

SIR ROBERT PEEL said, there were some of the Amendments to which he should offer no opposition, but there were others from which he should ask the House to disagree.

Lords' Amendments *considered*, and *agreed to*, as far as the Amendment in page 2, line 29.

MR. HENNESSY said, he felt an objection to that part of the Lords' Amendments which struck out of the Bill the clause which would have repealed what was known as the Quarter-Acre Clause. The part struck out by the Lords was one of the most important parts of the Bill. In times of great distress in Ireland, persons who held small pieces of land might need parochial relief, and by the Bill as it went up to the Lords the guardians would have been empowered to give the holder of a quarter of an acre of land outdoor relief, but the Lords' Amendment would prevent the administration of relief to such persons unless they consented to become inmates of a workhouse. He would therefore move that the House disagree with the Lords' Amendment.

SIR ROBERT PEEL said, he thought it would not be judicious to quarrel with the Lords as to that Amendment. If a workhouse was full, the guardians would have power to give outdoor relief, not in money, but in food, to the holders of a quarter of an acre if in distress.

MR. MONSELL contended, that if outdoor relief were advisable in any case, it was especially so in that of the class of persons in question.

MR. GEORGE said, he had voted for a repeal of the Quarter-Acre Clause, but he thought the Lords had introduced an extremely desirable Amendment.

MR. BUTT urged that outdoor relief should be no more denied in Ireland than

it was in England. He would support the hon. Member opposite (Mr. Hennessy) if he called for a division.

Page 2, line 29, the next Amendment, read 2°.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

The House *divided*:—Ayes 61; Noes 11: Majority 50.

Amendments *agreed to*, as far as the Amendment in page 2, line 32.

MR. HENNESSY said, the House had just come to a decision the very opposite of that at which it an hour or two before arrived in the case of England.

SIR ROBERT PEEL said, he would then move that the House should not assent to the Lords' Amendment, striking out Clauses 3, 4, 5, and 6. The clauses in question had been rejected in the Lords only by a majority of two, whereas the first of them had been adopted in the House of Commons by a majority of ninety-six as against sixty-nine. County infirmaries—the aid afforded by which the clauses sought to increase, by making it lawful for the guardians of any union, in cases requiring special treatment, to send the inmates of workhouses requiring medical aid to any hospital or infirmary which might be available—were admirable institutions. Being situated, however, in the county town, they were—as for example, the cases of Galway, Mayo, Leitrim, and Donegal—sometimes thirty or forty miles distant from remote parts of the county, so that there was not the facility in all cases for providing medical relief on the part of the poor which it was the object of the clauses to provide. That being so, he trusted the House would not agree to the Lords' Amendment.

COLONEL DUNNE said, he thought the Lords were justified in rejecting the clauses. His objection to the clauses was that they empowered the Poor Law Commissioners to order the Unions to build hospitals to an unlimited extent. He hoped the Lords' Amendments would be sustained.

Page 2, line 32, the next Amendment, *disagreed to*.

Amendments *agreed to*, with Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 6, line 11.

MR. HENNESSY said, that by another alteration made in the Bill the Lords had