

HOME RULE MADE LAW UNDER PARLIAMENT ACT.

CHEERING AND SINGING IN LORDS AND COMMONS.

UNPRECEDENTED SCENE.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

The "Freeman" writes:—

The Home Rule Bill received the Royal Assent on Friday in the House of Lords, and there followed subsequently in the House of Commons a scene unprecedented and unparalleled in British annals. The whole assembly rose, as did likewise the occupants of the Strangers' Gallery and the Press Gallery, while the members sang "God Save the King." Then a Radical member shouted out, "God save Ireland"; to which Mr. John Redmond responded in ringing tones, "And God save England." Cheers loud and prolonged followed.

These were the memorable incidents that marked the final act in perfecting the instrument of national self-government. If stage managers had been projecting for years a closing scene fitting for a great political drama they never could have equalled, or come near to equalling, the electrifying effects which these spontaneous outbursts produced.

The King's Speech from the Throne had spoken of the terrible European war, its perils and its trials, and of the resolution and determination to see it through. It was a simple epitome of British courage and doggedness.

IRISH SELF-GOVERNMENT.

After the speech came the note of confidence in which was announced the gift of Self-Government to Ireland—the outward and visible sign to all the world of the completeness of the unity and harmony of the British Empire and of the unreserved support in the hour of her supreme trial of Irishmen in Ireland, in the Colonies, and in the United States. Events so dramatic could not but produce scenes of enthusiasm, and the forms they took were marvellous and unique. Cheers were to be expected.

Sometimes Parties in the House of Commons are exuberant, at other times they are downcast, but to-day some good fairy ordained otherwise, and succeeded in inspiring everyone present with a desire to participate to the full in the wonderful scene. Members in all parts of the House sprang to their feet and joined in the singing of "God Save the King." Then it was that Mr. John Redmond's answer to the cry of "God Save Ireland" roused the assembly to a pitch of wild enthusiasm.

THE COMMONS ASSEMBLES.

The House of Commons assembled shortly after 12 o'clock. Mr. Whitley, Deputy Speaker in the chair. There was a large attendance of Ministerialists, and the Treasury Bench was well filled, the Ministers present including Mr. M'Kenna, Mr. Hobhouse, the Attorney-General, the Chief Whip (Mr. Illingworth), Mr. M'Kinnon Wood, and Dr. MacNamara.

The Irish benches were crowded. Mr. John Redmond occupied his usual seat on the corner of the top back bench above the Gangway. Below him sat Mr. John Dillon, Mr. Swift MacNeill, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor. Amongst other familiar faces were those of Mr. Wm. Redmond, Mr. John O'Connor, Mr. Wm. O'Malley, Mr. W. A.