

The Government Inquiry as to Hydro-aeroplanes on Windermere.

Sir William Byrne, of the Home Office, and Mr. Jenkins, of the Board of Trade, held a public inquiry at Windermere on August 27th. J. T. Bownass, Esq., solicitor, for the District Council; Sir James Scott, for the Yacht Club; George Gatey, Esq., solicitor, and Mr. Warburton, for the Protest Committee; Mr. F. W. Garnett, "for the public"; and Mr. Heelis, solicitor, for certain residents, all gave evidence, and asked for stringent regulations as to speed, areas, hours, etc.

The only definite allegations made against the waterplanes were :—

(1) That babies had been awakened by them.

(2) That a horse might have been frightened one day, but, in fact, was not, as the waterplane turned aside before getting too near.

(3) That a sheep jumped into the lake on seeing one.

As this seemed the most substantial grievance alleged the Commissioners inquired further into it, as follows :—Q.—

"The sheep was drowned?"—A.—"Oh, no; it was not."—Q.—

"Well, at least seriously endangered, and rescued with difficulty?"—A.—"No. Westmorland sheep are good swimmers."

Q.—"Then what damage is alleged?"—A.—"Well, it might have got a chill and developed pneumonia, and pneumonia is very fatal among sheep." Q.—"But, in fact, it did not?"—

A.—"No."