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## Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, - - Proprietor  
W. F. LLOYD, - - - Editor.

Friday, April 15, 1910.

### The Rival Reformers.

Yesterday we discussed, so far as information was available, the Rosebery proposal of modifying the composition of the House of Lords. We pointed out that this remedy was no remedy, as it did not touch the disease, that it could not cure it, and would serve to aggravate it. The complaint from which the House of Lords suffers is partisanship. This diagnosis is admitted by the Tory Lords themselves. The Upper Chamber does not revise, delay, or reject the measures of Tory administrations. When the Tories are in power the House of Lords is passive and its powers dormant. When Liberals are in power, the House of Lords is active, and aggressive in the exercise of the powers of amendment, delay and rejection. Although the majority of the peers are prepared to give up their right to be legislators, hitherto inherent in every male peer of the United Kingdom, they propose to set up another House of Lords in which the magnates of the nation shall be more strongly entrenched than they have ever been before. They propose to take away from the Crown by statute its unlimited prerogative of creating members of the Upper Chamber, and by so doing render it impossible for the Crown and Ministry to bring the House of Lords into line with the will of the People, even after there has been a plain unmistakable declaration of that will. Lord

#### BLACK AND RICH

##### Is the Way Postum Should Be.

A liquid food that will help a person break a bad habit is worth knowing of. The President of one of the state associations of the W. C. T. U., who naturally does not want her name given, writes as follows:—

"Whenever I was obliged to go without coffee for breakfast a dull, distracting headache would come on before noon. I discovered that, in reality, the nerves were crying out for their accustomed stimulant.

"At evening dinner I had been taught by experience that I must refrain from coffee or pass a sleepless night. While visiting a physician and his wife I was served with a most excellent beverage at their dining and elegant table and, upon inquiry, discovered that this charming beverage was Postum and that the family had been greatly benefited by leaving off coffee and using Postum.

"I was so in love with it, and so pleased with the glimpse of freedom from my one bondage of habit, and so thoroughly convinced that I ought to break with my captor, that upon my return home I at once began the use of Postum and have continued it ever since.

"I don't know what a sick headache is now, and my nerves are steady and I sleep sound, generally eight hours. I used to become bilious frequently and require physic; now seldom ever have that experience.

"I have learned that long boiling is absolutely essential to furnish good Postum. That makes it clear, black and rich as any Mocha and Java blend. Please withhold my name, but you may use the letter for the good it may do."

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

Rosebery's plan is calculated to weaken the Crown and Ministry, to defeat popular legislation passed by the House of Commons, to defy the vote of the electorate, and to render the House of Lords independent by statute of Crown, Ministry, Commons and People. Nothing more revolutionary has been proposed since the days of the Commonwealth, and nothing more calculated to foment conspiracy, sedition and rebellion has ever been discussed in Parliament.

The fundamental features of our constitution are: (1) The supremacy of the law, and (2) The political sovereignty of the electorate over administration and legislation.

The statutory enactment of the Rosebery proposals as set forth in his Resolutions, and as they appear in the meagre report of his plan would render the House of Lords absolutely independent of the Electorate, and would render it impossible to bring them into subjection except by contempt for law and a resort to arms.

We propose now to turn to the reforms proposed by Premier Asquith. It will be noticed that his proposals as set forth in what are called the "Veto Resolutions," passed the House of Commons last night by a majority of 103 amid excitement not experienced there for a quarter of a century.

It will be remembered that the electorate sent to the House of Commons a few months ago a majority of members with a mandate to do something effective in curbing the partisanship of the House of Lords. The Government submitted their views to the House of Commons in the form of the resolutions passed last night. The Premier took charge of them. They show that the Government purpose to take away from the House of Lords all power to reject or amend money bills, and to impose on the Speaker of the House of Commons the duty of deciding whether a measure is a money bill or not.

The Government also propose that the duration of Parliament shall be limited to five years.

The motion which we set forth next, appears to us as highly objectionable. It is as follows:—

"It is expedient that the powers of the House of Lords as respects other than a money Bill be restricted by law, so that any such Bill which has passed the House of Commons in three consecutive sessions having been sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of a session has been rejected by that house in each of these sessions shall become law without the consent of the House of Lords, on the Royal assent being declared, provided that at least two years shall have elapsed between the date of the first introduction of the Bill into the House of Commons and the date on which it passes the House of Commons for the third time. For the purpose of this resolution the Bill shall be treated as rejected by the House of Lords if it has not been passed either without amendment or with such amendments only as may be agreed upon by both Houses."

This section as it stands is not calculated to promote legislation in the interest of the people at large. It will foment all kinds of bargains and deals with small factions in the House of Commons, and this without any chance of the electorate having a word to say on the matter, however revolutionary the proposal may be. For instance, a small faction of forty members, independent in party management from the Government party, insists on some fad of theirs being embodied in a statute. The life of the administration depends on the support of this faction. For the sake of party expediency the party whips make a deal. The fad is embodied in a bill, is rejected once by the Lords, passed by the Commons a second time, rejected again by the Lords, passed a third time by the Commons, in not less than two years, and the fad be-

comes law. Now this is a fad of 40 members, representing one-fifth of the whole electorate, and by this means one-fifth are allowed to impose their will on the whole electorate. As the measure is to become law in the same parliament, without any reference to the people, it enables such deals to be put through, although they may be revolutionary and highly objectionable to the great majority of the people. Such a rule will foment the rule of factions and faddists, and permit of all kinds of objectionable measures being put on the statute book, even against the will of the people. If such a rule is to prevail, there is no need of a second chamber. The chief value of a second chamber is to force a Government which has put a doubtful measure through the House of Commons, which it believes is not in accordance with the will of the electorate, to seek a mandate from the people—the political sovereign—before it permits the measure to become law. Otherwise the second chamber will become useless, and the political sovereignty of the people be frequently set at naught to preserve a party administration by deals with factions and faddists.

An evil exists at present owing to the gross Tory partisanship of the House of Lords. Lord Rosebery proposes to entrench land, beer, and money behind statute against the advancing tide of democracy. But it would be stupid to dethrone the eldest born, the beer baron and the financier to enthroned faddists as dictators. The Asquith Bill which was introduced last night on the lines of his veto resolution should embody the principle of a reference to the people before measures which have been rejected by the Lords could become law. If this is not done, the will of the Sovereign Electorate will not prevail, and the last state of the constitution will be worse than the present.

### Marine Notes.

The S. S. Wasie left Sydney at 4 p.m. Wednesday with coal for Kennedy & Mullaly, and is due here this evening.

The S. S. North Britain is now out several days, salt laden, from Cadiz, for Job Bros. & Co.

The S. S. Castile, which was here with a similar cargo last season, will shortly leave Cadiz with salt for Morey & Co.

The barqn. Devon, Capt. John Snow, is now out 22 days from Barbados with molasses for Goodridge's. The barqn. E. S. Hocken is out 21 days from Barbados with molasses for Baine Johnston & Co.

Rork & Sons, barqn. Caladora is due shortly to arrive with a molasses cargo from Barbados for Ayre & Sons.

The brigtn. Clementine is now several days out from Figueria consigned to Goodridge & Sons.

The sch. Olive, Capt. P. Rumsey, is now 30 days out from Barbados with a molasses cargo for Goodridge's.

The S. S. Regulus with 1,780 tons ore, and the S. S. Thuxgra with 6,112 tons of ore left Bell Island last evening for Philadelphia.

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### "The Green Half Door."

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—I should feel obliged if you would republish the following letter which appeared in yesterday's Chronicle, and also the reply thereto:—

"The Green Half Door."

Editor Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—I notice that last evening's Telegram gave Mr. Goodland the credit of unearthing, as it calls it, the song "Green Half Door," written by the late Mr. St. George. Mr. Goodland, as far as I am aware, has or has not been the first to have it sung in public, but I assure you that I gave it publicity eight years ago. First in five hundred copies in a book containing one hundred pages in 1902, again in the fall of the same year I published it in a book of one thousand copies of one hundred and twelve pages, and again in 1904 in a book of one hundred pages.

Those books have gone to all quarters of the globe and to all parts of Newfoundland as well. Therefore, Mr. Goodland cannot be given the credit of being the first to unearth it. I do not write this to take the honor that Mr. Goodland is deserving but merely to show that the song has been before the public this past eight years in the manner stated above.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES MURPHY.

Isolated paragraphs from lectures, like isolated passages of Scripture, are very apt to open them to the construction which the reader often puts upon them. I should like therefore to give a short history of the poem of the late Mr. St. George, entitled "The Green Half Door," referred to by my friend Mr. Murphy in the aforesaid letter.

The late Mr. St. George, whose pen name was "Eros Wayback," has bequeathed to us some exquisite poetry, and it would be a graceful tribute to his memory if these poems could be collected and printed in book form. His "Green Half Door," a literary gem, in composition, melody and pathos "equals anything from distant Australia." This poem has been in my possession for twenty years. How long it had been composed before that time I am at a loss to say. But I obtained it from the Evening Herald, to which paper it was sent by a contributor over the nom de plume "A Girl of the Period." The clipping from the Herald is very interesting, because of the graceful introduction to it, and it has been in my possession ever since. It is evident, however, that the late poet was either too modest, or that he didn't think the poem of sufficient merit, to sign it.

No doubt Mr. Murphy knows a good thing when he sees it, and having given the poem publicity so often, as his letter indicates, I feel sure he is quite honest in his belief that the verses had passed into oblivion until he had rescued and published them eight years ago. But such is not the case.

Over eleven years ago (1898) the verses were republished from my album in an edition of five thousand copies of Christmas Bells under its proper head, and this sub-head, viz., "A Gem from a Scrap Album." Then Mr. Murphy published it. A few years after it must have wandered back to Mr. St. George, because when next I saw it in print it was signed "Eros Wayback," which, it is well known, was the deceased gentleman's pen name. A foot note this time informed the reader that the poem had been revised. I read this bit of information with regret, because it seemed to me it could not be improved by revision. I compared it with my old copy, and found that the revision consisted only in the transposition of a few of the verses. This time, if my memory serves me, it appeared in the Nfld. Quarterly, but not a word was altered from the original copy.

I introduced the poem in my lecture "Ramblings in St. John's," to illustrate a feature of architecture conspicuous in some of our localities in the last century. And I am glad I did so, for I know of nothing which has been so well received as this certainly was when it was sung for the first time to a St. John's audience in the British Hall on Monday, April 11th.

I have long been an admirer of Mr. Murphy's enterprise. Himself a poet and a connoisseur of our local literature, he always introduces what he publishes with a bit of history, which is very useful. I feel sure this explanation will serve a two-fold purpose. First, to enhance his interest in "The Green Half Door," for which, like myself, he seems to have a veneration; and second, that he will be convinced on a careful perusal that I am entitled to the little honor which the Telegram has accorded me in giving the credit for being the first to unearth it and cause it to be sung.

Yours truly,  
W. H. GOODLAND.

P.S.—There is one other reported item in my paper which is likely to have a wrong impression, and that is with regard to the old Post Office. I give the extract in extenso: "Perhaps nowhere can the progress which has been made during the last century be better gauged than in the growth of the mail service in St.

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### The Wharfinger and the Wharf.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Sir,—I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to the fact of a neglect of duty on the part of the St. Lawrence County Council. The public wharf which has been in constant use the past four years is now badly in need of repair. The expenditure of \$150.00 would put it in first-class condition. The attention of the Chairman of the Council has been called time and again to the matter, more than that he has been notified in writing by the wharfinger on two occasions of the urgent need of repairs. The wharfinger has asked for about two dollars worth of new manilla rope to replace the tackle now in use and worn out, and it has been refused. A letter in reply from the Chairman himself says that the fees collected by the wharfinger are to go towards the repairs of the wharf. Now the fees collected amount to about \$120.00 per year. There is no Government salary and I write to ask the Hon. Mr. Piccott is this reply of the Chairman of the St. Lawrence Council correct, and if so what is to pay the wharfinger for his labour in handling heavy shipwrecks day and night, rain or shine, as there is no Government salary allowed.

TAXPAYER.

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