THE BRITISH GIANTS OF DEBATE ON THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILL

Mr. F. E. Smith Opposes and Mr. P. B. Haldane Supports It-Mr. Smith Sees Disaster-Mr. Haldane Punctures Mr. Smith's Arguments.

brought out many excellent speeches. (Cheers.) Then, as to Australia. Australia of the best of these were by Mr. tralia had a population of 4,200,000,

Mr. F. E. Smith (C. Walton, Liver-The theory that there was such a benefit of the whole community. If women had a right to vote, they had it everywhere, including priest-ridden lisis and our great eastern dependen-Eupposing our Indian fellow-subbut the unillumined zenanas. It would which enjoyed female suffrage. tion to leave out of account the pro-

class country in the world. 124,000 square miles. Was there any- bers returned. (Laughter.)

The speech on the woman suffrage supplied us with useful guidance in sort they could coerce minorities, and ill in the British House of Commons the decision we were asked to take? F. E. Smith, Conservative, who op-posed the bill, and by Right Hon. R. The House was invited to see in the B. Haldane, minister of war, who case of a lady who formerly lived at pool), moved the rejection of the bill. one and a quarter to the square mile, it was said that women had the and which was not in the enjoyment right to vote. No one had an abstract of sovereign functions, an overwhelmright of that sort, declared Mr. Smith. ing reason why the Blackburn lady's The theory that there was such a sister who lived at home should be enright was as dead as Rousseau. franchised. He was wholly uncon-(Laughter.) The vote was given on vinced by that argument, and, what with the aid of the female vote, to approved public grounds to such sections of citizens as in the opinion of Blackburn relict would not obtain the laughter.)

The Example of Utah. Continuing, Mr. Smith said that jects were ever enfranchised, the oper- by the United States, and great reli- pose the powerful eloquence of the late ation must include not the men only ance had been placed upon the states Mr. Gladstone against the Bulgarian not be right in discussing this ques- recital of the names of those states root in the emotional mind of a female digious fact that we were asked to ho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. have been that the majority of women take a step for which there was no (Laughter.) No one familiar with the nodel and no example in any first- government of Colorado would lay great stress on the argument from the in a war for which they had no inclin-Mr. W. Redmond (N., East Clare) - circumstances in that state; and, as ation. is not Australia a first-class country? to Utah, it was an interesting circum-Mr. Smith explained that he was stance that the same bill which abolspeaking of countries which discharged ished polygamy stipulated for female or two million electors, as to whose in their entirety Sovereign functions. suffrage (laughter) and that, as a redecision no man could pronounce with The case of Norway was the only one sult of the first election, Mr. Brigham confidence, was the moment when, if cited. Norway had a population of Roberts, the uneasy possessor of three the pacific discussions at the 2,328,000, distributed over a territory of wives, was one of the earliest mem-

occuping the equipose of empire balanced upon democracy in the east, and we were asked to be the body upon whom this experiment was to be made for the experiment was to be made for the never played, and if George Eliot had first time on a large scale in the history of the world. (Cheers.)

One contention put forward in every debate on this subject had never been menaced by the intrusion of women answered. Majorities were allowed to into politics that he moved the re-rule peacefully because in the last rebecause it was more agreeable to vote than fight in those circumstances. In other words, votes were to swords exactly what banknotes were to gold the one was effective only because the other was believed to be behind it. He upon an actual majority.

Women and Military Service.

Suppose those men who believed in compulsory national service were able, press it upon an actual majority of the male voters. Would the Labor the state were likely to use it for the suffrage under this bill. (Cheers and party accept that? Suppose as the result of a sinister alliance between Mrs. Pankhurst and Sir Thomas Whittaker (laughter) every public-house good deal had been said in previous was closed. Would the men of the debates about the illustration supplied country ever acquiesce in that? Sup-A and Armenian atrocities had found was sufficient answer. They were Ida- electorate. The result might easily the men would have had to go to fight

> In conclusion, Mr. Smith said the moment chosen for creating a million decision no man could pronounce with conference should unhappily prove unsuccessful, the country would be

lieved that the influences which most animated manking were gravely

War Minister's Friendship. Mr. Haldane, secretary of state for war, reminded the House of the posi- ment of the time-the democratic tion in which the members found

themselves. "Here, with a question of absolutecase of a lady who formerly lived in a Blackburn and who now lived in a community where the population was try would ever vote all together, but House," he said, "it is impossible for the square mile, one and a quarter to the square mile, women, with a minority of men, might easily attempt to impose their views with the Government of the day, but it is equally true of the front Opposition bench. We are divided in opinion, and the division is of such a character that I believe it to be impossible under any conditions which are likely to occur soon for any government to give a lead on this ques-

> "There is this new feature in the situation at this moment—that the Government has given time for the full discussion of this question so that this House of Commons may, for the first time, express itself, and that some judgment may be passed as to what the mind of this House of Commons is. No doubt that is a very important concession to opinion, because if this House of Commons expresses itself very strongly upon the principle, then it is reasonable that an effective opportunity should be given at some time for the House to translate its opin-ion into a concrete form." (Cheers.) Mr. Haldane cautioned the House,

frage, to act carefully, in the absence out of his minu that to some extent against the relegation of the bill to could not associate themselves toa committee, which might be disas- gether with the force which came of trous to the measure in another place. As to the proposals of the bill, he had listened to one of the most admirable of many speeches ever made by the honorable and learned member for Walton (Mr. F. E. Smith), whose the bill is presented, but speaking for earnestness no one could have failed myself, I would rather have this bill to appreciate; but there was one reflection which must have gone through tainly vote for it in all its stages, their minds, and that was that these rather than go without the principles arguments, however cloquent, how- I used some years ago to bring in a ever admirable, and however impor- bill which always seemed to me to lier stage in the history of this quesion, came too late. (Cheers.)

The Woman on the Throne. "The honorable member for Walton retary proceeded, "as though it were large scale, (Laughter.) an open one, which we were discussing on its merits without a history benind it. He told us, and with great cording to what is fit, and that is why eloquence, that the sovereign reigns I am not moved by the argument that over between 300 and 400 millions of you are going to enfranchise a great colored subjects, who would resent number of women who will be in the the domination of government by wo- majority over the men. We do not men. Well, I think it might, with count heads in estimating the imcrushing force, have been retorted on portance of communities in the him that these very subjects not only state. Therefore, I, for my part, look endured, but accepted and welcomed, upon the advent of women to political the reign of a woman on the throne, life without any misgiving, and with and that if there be one thing that the certainty that in many respects it stands out prominently in the history would make very little difference incan be occupied, that has been occu- acter of the life of the state would be to the supreme position in the state tinuity of its traditions, its history, and in the empire a distinction and its instincts would vary in the least. by no man." (Cheers.)

the steady development of the position in a way that has never happened bewhich women had taken in the na- fore. tion. And who, he asked, were those tions, (Cheers.)

against the emancipation of women on our doubts were the outcome of

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rearly. \$2,000,000 assets as security.

e aware of what was going on. Matthew Arnoid was fond of saying unat the attitude of the British aristocracy to the great spiritual movemovement-reminded him of the attitude of Pontius Pilate in presence of the phenomenon of Christianity. Today they had the same illustration of people who would discuss things on abstract grounds and on the footing of the supposed wishes of women on the subject. But what one looked to was what was going on in the country, and was still more likely to go

on next year. But every month brought forward some new phase of the great social puestions in which the interest - of women was so intense. Did they not invoke the voice of woman to tell hem on the one hand the effect of taxation on the home in the controversy about free trade, and on the other hand what ought to be the duty of man towards the empire? It was therefore plain that the question had reached a stage at which it was quite impossible to deal with on the footing of ten or twenty years ago.

The question was becoming almost an urgent one, not urgent on the ground of agitation, because he did not believe that agitation really carried these things further, but because of the character of the problems with which they where dealing. Everyone knew that the position of women in regard to wages was not so good as as a strong supporter of women's suf- that of men, and he could not get it Government guidance. He was this was due to the fact that women the fact that people possessed a certain political importance.

"A Great Superstition." own, Mr. Haidane proceeded "that I do not like the form in which fant they would have been at an ear- contain the right principle—a bill for the removal of the legal disabilities of women, leaving it to nature to do the rest. I never believed that women would become warriors or commandspoke of this question," the war sec-retary proceeded "as though it were will take to nursing women in any

"I have the conviction that these things would adjust themselves acof this country, it is that its throne deed. I do not believe that the charpied, by women, who have imparted altered. I do not believe that the conan influence that have been outdone But I do believe there are questions which would receive attention, and Mr. Haldane went on to speak of classes that would come to the front

"I believe the time will come when who objected to this enfranchisement? people will look back upon the state. They were the very same men who of things today in which we have were welcoming the advent of women drawn this political distinction with to take a large part in imperial ques- as much amazement as we look back upon the period when slavery was a There were many superior persons recognized institution. The time will who wrote in the newspapers for and also come when people will feel that abstract grounds. But this was not a great superstition, and will marvel matter which could be decided on abstract grounds. The real argument today was in the concrete. That was that people will come to se that this why he did not find himself in sym- bill only represented a very natural pathy with the line of argument pur- step forward that I for one shall give sued by some of the very aristocracy my vote for the second reading. of thought, who, notwithstanding their (Cheers.)

After a Row

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the place of reason. It was fear, lest when a ship has been in collision on than their personal safety. There is sesses him he cannot win. He may battlefield is recalled. Fear lowers moral character, cour-

been, since the days of William the

Courage can be cultivated. There

Abel had gained greater favor in the the ocean a panic seizes crew and pas- no nation but has to blush when some turn and flee, or, in the cowardly effort to save himself, become a very "devil" in human form. After all age raises it. Cowards are usually Shakespeare was not far wrong when

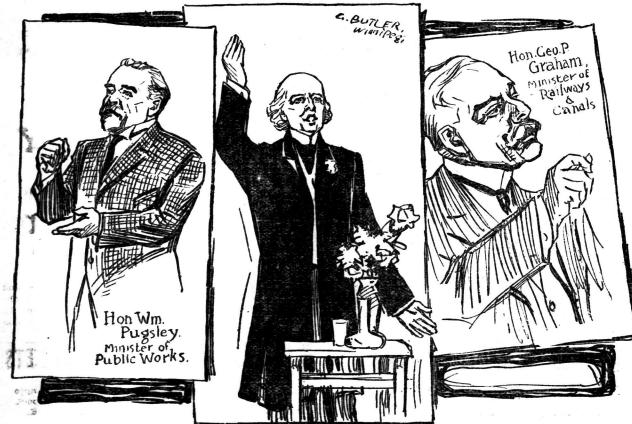
MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DANDRUFY.



body who would say a case like that Upon those illustrious precedents we confronted with the risk of being gov-ILLUSTRATIONS OF LAURIER'S WESTERN TOUR



the French-Canadian village near Winnipeg, where a mounted body, bearing Union Jacks and tri-colors, escorted the party from the depot, along the gally-decorated route to the picnic grounds. There Sir Wilfrid addressed the meeting in French, also complying with a request to "speak a few words in English."



"No man will be able to stand on my grave and truthfully say, 'He was unfair and an instigator of discord among his fellows.' On the contrary, my life has been, and will continue to be, devoted to conciliation, and the spread of the Gospel of Good-will among the people."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the Pavilion at Winnipeg.



frid sounding the clarion note of Canadianism before an immense audience at

(DAVICO)(DAVICO)(DAVICO)(DAVICO)(DAVICO)

too true that: "Fears make devils of against society and to remove the dan-

admitted to be, but a passion-is not who fear to face the battle of life. that too strong an expression? Love The passion of fear like the passions

had deservedly won the admiration of most accursed," is realized. and slew his king. Fear of discovery regiment, if fear reigns in the opposmies? and fear that he might lose his base- ing host. Every war presents a num-

guilty of grave breaches of trust, em bezzling the funds of individuals and -Henry VI., Part I., Act V., Sc. 2. institutions. Fear is the passion that usually prompts such action. Invest-The statement, that "Of all base ments have been made and failure is passions fear is most accursed," is threatened. It is a time to bravely comewhat startling. It is true that it face disaster, but this base passion is uttered by Joan of Arc to stir the fear turns the honest man into a thief. heart of King Charles and make him Even more shocking crimes than their valiant in the presence of the English have been occasioned by fear. The troops, and is an exaggeration for a majority of the murders of the world particular purpose. However, there is are committed to conceal lesser much truth in it. As Shakespeare has crimes. Dread seizes the criminal that it in Troilus and Cressida it is often he may be discovered for some deed ger he resorts to murder. Practically It is rather astounding to hear fear all suicides, save those of the unforcalled a base passion. Weakness it is tunate insane, are the acts of cowards

and hate, joy and grief, avarice and revenge, are passions, but fear—can it of joy, and hate, is contagious. What be placed in the same category? is a panic, but a sudden plague of Brutus feared Caesar's ambition. His fear? In a crowded building an unmind was so swayed by this feeling of usual cry startles some timorous soul. fear that, from a staunch friend and A rush is made for safety. Without ideal citizen, he became one of a knowing why, others act in a similar group of brutal murderers. Such fear manner and the panic spreads till the can only be classified as passion. It audience is a seething mass of hustirs a man to the roots of his being, manity. Such a building becomes a changing his nature, often dethroning pandemonium filled with wild-eyed, his will; mere animal impulse taking unreasoning demons. Occasionally eyes of Jehovah than himself, that sengers. A fierce scramble for life caused Cain to slay his brother. It follows; boats are overcrowded and was fear that made Peter deny his overturned, the weak are thrown into

the sea. In the presence of such crueller than brave men when they he made Joan of Arc say, "Of all base Macbeth was a man of such high scenes the truth of Joan of Arc's have an opportunity of showing their passions, fear is most accursed." honor, courage and loyalty that he words, "Of all base passions, fear is power. The Anglo-Saxon race has the nation and the esteem of his In time of battle fear is the greatest Conqueror, renowned for its courage. king. He was "peerless" among the enemy with which troops have to con- And what people or what individuals nobles of his time. Tempted, he fell tend. Courage is as valuable as a are as generous to their defeated ene-

ly-won throne haunted him, and from ber of instances of this base passion. are few men who have it in their first that moment he became a devil incar- Regiments through fear have acted as battle. A regiment must be shot over nate. In slaying Banquo, Lady Macmight sheep at the approach of wolves. before it can be depended on. If it
duff and her children and others, he individuals show the white feather, stands firm under a storm of bullets. duff and her children and others, he was not prompted by revenge or mere hate, but by fear.

Communities are often startled by the crime of someone held in good repute. Men highly esteemed, and deservedly so, have been known to be individuals show the white feather, and startled by fear armies have been swayed. When a retreat begins, it spreads. At first only a few timid cowards may fall to the rear, but their act often causes contagious fear to selze their compared by the crime of someone held in good repute. Men highly esteemed, and deservedly so, have been known to be rades. They fear an ill report less faces his first battles. If fear pos-