

Our British Letter

Lloyd George and his Opponents

London, Eng., May 24.—I suppose the best abused man in the government is Mr. Lloyd George; no invective is too strong to be hurled at him, his opponents will stop at nothing which they think will discredit him. But Lloyd George is fighting the battle of the common people and the common people have given him a very warm place in their hearts. In this connection I might refer to a very eulogistic article in The Schoolmaster, the organ of the National Union of Teachers. It is based upon an interview a deputation had with the chancellor of the exchequer and representatives of the Board of Education as to the superannuation allowance for primary and secondary teachers. After members of the deputation had spoken, they were asked to retire for a few minutes, and on their return, as the result of his consultation with the education officials, Mr. Lloyd George promised additional benefits which on the average will cost about 200,000 pounds a year. The Schoolmaster in its leading article acknowledges the very sympathetic reception accorded the delegates, and goes on to say: "It is unexampled that a great minister of state, second in place to the Premier only, speaking within the stately old room which has been the centre and ultimate nucleus of the nation's finances for more than a century, should say with some emotion, and with pride rather than the reverse of it, that he was himself a poor teacher's son. It is unprecedented that a chancellor of the exchequer should acknowledge in public that teachers have been shabbily treated by the state hitherto. To Mr. Lloyd George, therefore, the primary and secondary teachers in England and Wales owe gratitude warmly felt and in no stinted measure, and they will gladly pay that debt and need. . . . To him now, as a first and vicarious instalment of the real thanks which will be felt in myriads of homes of teachers, we tender this brief and inadequate but earnest word of praise." This article is presumably from the pen of Sir J. H. Yoxall, M.P., the editor, who is also secretary to the National Union of Teachers, and whose knighthood was at the same time a graceful tribute to a most honorable profession, and a credit to the King who bestowed it. I the more gladly mention this article because it forms so pleasing a contrast with the execrable taste displayed by a certain aristocrat, who for reasons best known to himself, at a recent Conservative gathering, incidentally referred to his acquaintance with "a lady whose cook was Mr. Lloyd George's aunt." Fortunately the "little Welsh attorney," as other of his opponents delight to call him, is above the reach of such contemptible attacks as these.

Lloyd George and the King

Of course kings nowadays have no favorites, but it is no secret that King George holds the chancellor in very high esteem, and I happen to know that when King Edward died an incident occurred which drew them very close together. According to the usual practice Mr. Lloyd George had to wait upon the new monarch and give some account of the condition of things in his department. When, however, he entered the royal presence, he for the moment forgot that he was chancellor of the exchequer on an official visit to his sovereign; he saw before him a bereaved son, mourning the loss of a well beloved and affectionate father, and he spoke such consoling words of sympathy, that the King, who was profoundly moved, heartily thanked him and expressed a wish that he would perform the same kindly service for his mother. Mr. Lloyd George readily acquiesced, and was able in turn to comfort the widowed Queen Alexandra. A few weeks after when King George was in residence at Balmoral Castle, he specially commanded that the chancellor should serve as minister in attendance upon him.

The Dockers' Strike

Behold how great a matter a little fre kindleth. We have this week had an illustration of this familiar truth. Some two years ago, a foreman lighterman

on the Thames was removed from his post, and is now, or was recently, serving as a watchman. Foremen are not required to be trade unionists, but, inferentially, ordinary workers are. This man still claims to rank as a foreman, though not now so employed, and as such declined to join the union. His mates therefore refused to work with him and demanded his dismissal, and as his employers would not discharge him, a strike of all grades of Thames workers has resulted. At present some 150,000 men are directly involved, and the ships' cargoes remain untouched, so that a famine of wheat and other food-stuffs appears imminent. Where the matter will end no one can say, but it is considered of so serious a nature that the government have instituted a court of enquiry, under Sir Edward Clarke, K.C., into all the circumstances relating to the disputes in connection with the transport workers in the Port of London and on the Medway. The case of this one man was of course only the first spark, other complications have arisen to add fuel to the flames, which are certainly being fanned by the new labor paper The Daily Herald. Its leading article today is headed "The Great Strike"; it begins with these words: "War is declared. The gage of battle has been flung into the arena by the masters, and taken up by the transport workers. Now for the fray." It ends: "Railway men, force the pace; join the Transport Workers' Federation, help in the fight and share the spoils of victory." The writers of the articles appearing in its pages may honestly believe their denunciations of the government and the masters, and their appeals to the men are fully justified; but I am sure that many who desire to see the lot of the workers improved, very greatly regret the tone and attitude adopted.

Noble Offenders Escape

The sentence of six months' imprisonment imposed upon Tom Mann, the labor leader, for inciting the army to mutiny by appealing to soldiers not to fire upon strikers, has been reduced to two months by the Home Secretary.

Many people, while realizing that the article in The Syndicalist could not be passed over, quite fail to see why certain noblemen and right honorables who are opposed to Home Rule are allowed with impunity to incite Ulstermen to rebellion in case the Home Rule Bill is passed, and openly to boast of preparations which are being made in that event.

On Wednesday Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Mrs. Pankhurst, the suffragists, were convicted of conspiracy and incitement to break windows in the West End of London. They were all sentenced to nine months' imprisonment in the second division, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence and Mrs. Pankhurst were ordered to pay the costs of the prosecution. The judge took into consideration the fact that the jury recommended the prisoners to the utmost clemency and leniency on account of the undoubted purity of their motives. A letter appears in The Daily News and Leader today, in which the writer says: "If the convicts had been a costermonger and two match-girls we should have heard a good deal less of their 'noble spirits and pure motives.'" W. W.

NEW TRACTOR IN THE FIELD

A new company is being formed in Winnipeg under the name of the Canadian Heer Engine Company, Limited, R. McLennan, manager, to place the Heer Engine, manufactured by the Heer Engine company, of Portsmouth, Ohio, on the Canadian market. The manufacturers claim that this tractor will do all the work on a 320 acre farm without the aid of a horse. The recent trials held at Stonewall, Man., demonstrated the practicability of the four-wheel drive, which is the principal feature of this new tractor. This tractor will be shown at the annual summer fairs at Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary and Saskatoon and at the Dry Farming contest at Lethbridge. It is also being used for demonstrating purposes by the Manitoba Agricultural College.

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