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Mr. Balfour's **Thorny Path**

nued Existence of Govern ment After Events of Week Creates Surprise.

Premier's Explanation of Conduct Towards Former Colleagues Unsatisfactory.

Expert Election Forecasters at

four's reply to Lord Rosebery is expectantly awaited.

Winston Spencer Churchill (Conservative), unceasingly harries Mr. Balfour. In a letter to his constituents. Mr. Churchill says that the amendment introduced by Mr. Wharton condemning Joseph Chamberlain's policy, but supporting Mr. Balfour's retaliation programme, was drawn up by decree of the Fremier. The protectionist members, he says, compelled the withdrawal of this amendment. "Face to face with immediate ruin," wrote Mr. Ghurchill, "Mr. Balfour surrendered. The government, which at 4 o'clock in the afternoon resolved to support a free trade declaration, opposed in word and spirit to protection and preference based on the taxation of food, at 5:15 p. m. resolved to do nothing of the kind, and at midnight appealed to its followers to meet, with a direct negative a proposal to condemn the policy of preferential or protective tariffs. When Mr. Balfour had the power to combat protection, he had not the will. Now he has the will, but he has no longer the power."

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Experts in British elections express diametrically opposite forecasts regarding the probable result of the appeal to the country which is now somewhat impatiently awaited by the public. They all agree, however, that neither Mr. Chamberlain nor Mr. Balfour, on their respective planks of protection and retaliation, are likely to be returned to power. Whether the Liberals or a coalition of the Liberals with the Union ist free traders could secure a sufficient majority to remain in power without the consent of the Irish party, is regarded as extremely doubtful. The best balanced opinion is when Mr. Balfour either ends the tenure of the present government, or it is ended for him, there will be a series of see-saw political evolutions, with the Irish party holding the scales,

INSURANCE MAN DEAD. Montreal, March 12.—Geo. Simpson. manager for Canada of the Royal and Queen's Companies of England, is dead of cerebral hemorrhage, aged forty-two

GERMAN EMPEROR'S TOUR.

Bremerhaven, Germany, March 12.— Emperor William sailed this morning for the Mediterranean on the North Ger-man Lloyd steamer Koenig Albert. On His Majesty's arriaval at Veigo, Snain, he will be met by the King of Spain. RUSSIAN REFUGEES.

Now, York, March 11.—Of the two thousand and sixty-five steerage passencers brought here by the steamship Graf Waldersee today, fully eighteen bundred are Russians, many of them, it is said, heing refugees who fied to escape possible army service against Japan. An imperial edict, issued several weeks ago, suspended the isoft passports to any male between the ages of fourteen and forty-five, the prescribed period for army service, the prescribed period for some of those on the Graf Waldersee, a large exodus from all villages within reach of the frontier.