

## THE PARTY SYSTEM.

(London Daily News)  
When a discussion of the Party System arises in England it almost invariably appears that none of the debaters remember what the Party System really is. I doubt if I should remember it myself if I had not had it impressed on me by practical experience in local government, which is free from the system.

The Party System was invented at the end of the seventeenth century to enable William III. to secure steady parliamentary support for his war upon Louis XIV. It was a very simple invention, and a very subtle one. Up to that time it had been the natural and obvious practice for the King to fill the posts whose holders constitute the Government by the fittest men, without regard to their party; so that all the Governments were what we call Coalition Governments. The fact that the King was never so impartial as Mr. Wells feels, and that James II. for example, limited his choice to Roman Catholics, as all Kings limited theirs to courtiers, does not affect the argument; the fact remains that if—adopt Mr. Wells's illustration—the best available War Minister were a Tory and the best available Chancellor of the Exchequer a Whig, there was nothing to prevent their holding office in the same Government.

The Party System was the postulation of the condition that every member of the Government should belong to the same party. It was so little understood at first that when William III. died, Marlborough (his real successor) went back to the old system, and presently found, without knowing why, that his parliamentary support for the war was going to pieces. Thus he was forced by circumstances to return to the innovation which William had introduced intelligently. The system remains in force to this day, with occasional interruptions when the emergency of a formidable war reduces it to absurdity.

In local government it has never been introduced. The consequence is that Mr. Bennett or Mr. Wells, by serving for a while, first on a municipal body and then in Parliament,

will find that on the municipal body they will be free to vote every time on the merits of the resolution before the body, whilst in Parliament they will never vote on the resolutions at all, but solely and always on the question of which party is to remain in office for the rest of the septennial term. A Government defeated on a division must resign; and its whole program and personnel go into Opposition and impotence with it. Mr. Wells probably considers cordite superior to the gunpowder of Waterloo for modern artillery use. If he ventured in Parliament to give effect to his preference by voting against gunpowder, he might find himself voting also against Home Rule, Welsh Disestablishment, public control of Church Schools, and the Parliament Act, not to mention substituting three or four obviously inferior heads of State departments for obviously superior ones.

On a local body he might vote just as he thought best, and nothing whatever would happen except that the course he thought the wisest one would have a better chance of being taken. If he carried an amendment against a committee, the chairman of that committee would not resign, nor would the committee be deposed and reappointed. There might be personal sulks and huff and so forth; but very few suns would go down on them; and they would not matter anyhow. On municipal bodies there may be a Progressive Party and a Moderate Party, a Conservative Party and a Liberal Party; and if any of these finds itself a majority after the election, it may secure all the committee chairmanships for its own members; but the chairmen do not form a Cabinet; do not stand or fall together; and are utterly unable to suggest to members of their own party and secondary disagreeable consequences of voting against them. Thus municipal councillors may have party organizations, and hold party meetings under a party chairman in committee rooms in the town hall, and have a beadle with mace in imitation of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and play at the Party System without understanding in other more or less silly ways; but

if they have strength of mind enough to have any municipally, they can and do vote as they think best without reference to ulterior effects on their party.

The Party System, then, is not a spontaneous and inevitable result of the fact that men have different opinions and form parties to support them but a definite artificial constitutional contrivance which can be applied, or not applied, to any governing body, and which is, in fact, applied to some governing bodies to-day and not to others. It seems to me that Mr. Bennett and Mr. Wells will be merely beating the air until they discuss the Party System as it exists, the alternatives as they may be able to devise. For instance if Mr. Wells were to propose the abolition of the Cabinet and the application of the municipal system in the House of Commons, the discussion would become practical at once. Or if he were to propose a definite scheme as an improvement on both, the same desirable result would ensue. It is in the hope of bringing matters to this point that I have ventured to interpose.

As the bearing of the Party System on the existing crisis, it was clearly the reticence of the late Government as to our engagements and intentions which led Germany to believe that we were not going to fight; and many people believe that an explicit declaration might have saved the peace of Europe. And there is no explanation of this reticence apparent except the obvious one that an explicit declaration might have broken up the Liberal party. Now it is impossible to conceive Mr. Wells or Mr. Bennett as caring more for the integrity of the Liberal party than for the peace of Europe; and for that reason they will never be good party men in the par-

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## AT THE NICKEL

### WHAT JAPAN IS DOING NOW FOR ALLIES

Premier Explains the Increasing Output of Munitions as the Most Practical Help to Give

Tokio, August 24.—The decision of the Japanese government, announced yesterday, to mobilize the industrial resources of the country to increase the output of arms and ammunition for her allies, is explained by Premier Okumura Shimbun.

"Russia has a great number of soldiers, but she lacks munitions and other war material," the premier is quoted. "England is in the same position. France alone among the entente powers is able to meet her own requirements."

"Japan now realizes that all the allies must co-operate to defeat our common enemies, and has decided to give further assistance to the allies. We have sent instructions to our ambassadors abroad to that effect."

**Workmen Improving**  
The Premier referred to the sacrifices Japanese had made already, but pointed out that they were not as great as those of her allies, for whom he stake was their national welfare. Japanese workships and workmen, he explained, were not trained to the manufacture of such large amounts of munitions, but there has been a great improvement, and he predicted that their output in the future would be sufficient to meet the demands of the entente powers.

**Why No Troops Sent**  
Referring to what he called the impracticability and impossibility of sending Japanese troops to Europe, the Premier expressed the idea that it would naturally be difficult for the Japanese soldiers to fight so wholeheartedly as they would for their own country. Moreover, it was not reasonable to send an expedition to Europe at the expense of weakening Japan's defence at home. He was confident the increased help which Japan now is undertaking to extend would satisfy her allies.

### Two Brothers Fall One German Shell

London.—When talking together in a trench in France, two brothers, the sons of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Linnell, 23 Mill Lane, Lincoln were killed by a German shell. It is rare that two brothers should have died side by side in this way—even if it is not the first time such a thing has happened during the war.

A third brother, Ralph, in the same company, wrote home: "Try and bear it I know it is very hard. They never had any pain, for they were killed instantly, both doing their duty in the trenches. It was done by a German shell bursting in the trench as they were talking to each other. I went over and saw them buried last night."

Of the five surviving sons of Mr. and Mrs. Linnell, Ralph is with the Lincolns and George Henry is in the navy. Two other sons are engaged in munition work.

"It is a very anxious time all the while when you have that number fighting," said the mother.

The company commander, Captain M. Staniland, who was killed two days later, wrote to Mr. and Mrs. Linnell:

"I cannot speak too highly of the son who has been with us ever since we have been out here. He was an excellent soldier and a great favourite in his platoon, and although I know little of the other, as he only joined us recently, I have no doubt he would have proved as good as his brother, and they will both be greatly missed in the company. I hope the knowledge that they died doing their duty may be some help to you in healing your loss."

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### It's a Clean and Decent Way

Stobs Camp, Scotland, Aug. 18th, 1915.

Dear Father—I received your letter yesterday, and was more than glad to hear from you, and that you were all well. I was longing to hear from you, to see how you were getting on. Father don't be a bit uneasy about us, we are all having the best of times, it is only nonsense to worry about us, because if we do have to go to the front we got the same chance there we got anywhere else, that is the way I look at it, and if we die we will give our lives for a good cause, and like Instructor O'Grady used to tell us in St. John's, "It's a clean and decent way to get out of the world." It don't trouble me now one bit about going to the front, but first when I joined I felt a bit scared at the idea of going into the firing line, it is surprising how one can get used to such things.

Drill and discipline are the two things that can make a man out of anybody. It is doing me a lot of good since I've been here. I never get tired at anything. Just fancy, we get up in the mornings here, and we have an hour's drill before breakfast and come of the field with an appetite. We have breakfast and an hour's rest, after that probably we'll go on a route march about 25 miles in full marching order, that is with our full equipment which will include the fifteen pieces of equipment and a great coat and blankets, and a half gallon of water, in all about 75 pounds and a rifle, besides that walk and run with that for 25 miles (you would sweat I bet besides wanting your dinner). The first thing we do then after getting back is take of clothes and have a wash with cold water, then dinner and another hour's rest (and a smoke mind you) and then we are as fresh as ever. After route march we always have physical drill and bayonet fighting, that is the thing to take the laziness out of you, we would never stand it only for the drill we get.

It's hard work drilling, you bet your life, but a fellow is never forced you know, that is the best part of it; quite a lot of difference in four hours drilling and four hours work with pick and shovel, for instance, after one you would almost break off in the middle, and after the next one you would feel so loose that you would be almost afraid to stir for fear of falling to pieces. Father, I would like to be home now to swipe some of mother's black currants, but I expect they will be all picked by the time I get home.

So long Dad. Write soon to your loving son,

GEORGE.  
P.S.—The above writer is George Haines formerly of Jamestown, B.B.

### Color Army Horses

Ever since the war broke out experiments have been made by the British War Office with a view to dyeing the coats of white horses, but simple as it may seem to the uninitiated a satisfactory result has not yet been obtained. Numerous inventors came forward with vaunted dyes, but after the preliminary tests only one liquid seemed to resist the rain satisfactorily. A battery of twenty-four white horses was consequently treated, and sent out on duty in all weathers. When they returned after a week or ten days all the beasts were of a beautiful bottle green, and are expected to retain that hue for some time to come.

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