CALM BEFORE THE STORM IN AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

The Next Great Bottle Will Be Between Socalism and Anti-Socalism.

Trumpets Already Sounding for the Fight—Australia's Versatile Premier—How a Steamship Company Defeated the Nation—Canadian Politician Critised.

[Special Correspondence of The Advertiser.]

Sydney, N. S. W., April 16.—For the last seven months, since the premiership fell into the hands of George Houston Reid, him of the monocle and the ready wit, Australia would have seemed a dull place for Mrs. Grote if she were alive and here. It was she, I think, who said that the only two subjects in the world worth talking about were theology and politics. Theology is not a subject which is ever likely to figure largely in the life of the devil-may-care Australian. He is little given to pure philosophy, and his disregard of authority is shown by his national incapacity for respect and reverence. It is impossible to imagine sectarianism thriving in Australian soil. But the very clearness of the air and brightness of the sun which prevent Australians from developing into a church-going people, have gone far towards making them the most democratic people in the world. If there is one thing which is interesting in this continent, it is its politics. Yet, ever since the Labor Government of J. C. Watson was replaced by the Reid-McLean coalition, Australia has been politically asleep.

It is one of the delightful accomplishments of Mr. Reid that he can drop off to sleep in the stormiest political meeting. The eye-glass slips silently from its place, the head tilts comfortably to left or right, the lower jaw drops ever so little, and the hands, that had been clasped before his ample form, fall loosely on either side. The

ILLUSTRATED QUOTATION.

Four a.m.

"Methought I heard a voice cry, Sleep no more!". . . . To all the house."—Macbeth.

picture is a charming one—and it is typical of political Australia today. Yet, in the twinkling of an eye, Mr. Reid can wake from his slumber as piercing and witty as ever. So it is with Australia. Before this letter gets itself into print, Australia may have had a political sensation and a change of ministry.

Not, however, if Mr. Reid knows it. He waited nearly four years for office (a very long time in Australia), and he is not likely to retire rashly out of any Quixotic spirit. In his native state of New South Wales, he holds the record for holding on to office. Beginning in 1894, he purchased the support of the Labor party by adopting the day labor system on government works and by passing several democratic measures, including a Public Service Act, which put an end to the spoils system and made political influence of no avail to the civil servant. With this Labor support he was able to dish the protectionists—and he kept them dished for five long years, during which he gave New South Wales a large measure of free trade. Five years of power may not seem long to you in Canada—but it was unequaled here. About the same time, across the Murray, Sir George Turner was breaking all previous Victorian records by staying in power for five years at the head of the protectionists. And now Sir George is in the federal government led by Mr. Reid. With so much staying capacity concentrated in one small cabinet, it would be surprising if there were any reckless resignations.

FREE TRADERS AND PROTECTIONISTS COMBINE.

Mr. Reid, indeed, has openly announced that he will "avoid all contentious measures during the life of the present parliament." The coalition between the freetraders and the protectionists is based upon the burial of the fiscal hatchet until the next election, and so there can be no fighting over that most contentious of all bones, the Tariff. A Tariff commission is at work listening to manufacturers, importers and consumers making complaint against the present tariff, but the commissioners seem to be in no hurry to complete their work, and Mr. Reid is not likely to worry them for an early report. Since this parliament was elected, some sixteen months ago, the only measure causing any contention has been the Federal Arbitration Bill, which wrecked two governments and landed Mr. Reid in power and, now that it is safely on the statute book, Mr. Reid has no inclination to introduce any other ultra-progressive measure of the kind. Neither will he submit any reactionary legislation which would drive some of the least loyal of his new protectionist allies into the arms of the Labor opposition. Instead, he may be relied upon to balance himself delicately between the two extremes.

There is nothing incongruous to Australians in the sight of Mr. Reid leading both freetraders and protectionists, and opposed to Labor by the grace of which he was for five years Premier of New South Wales. He has a reputation for being on both sides of a question at the same time. He has made dozens of speeches attacking a bill, ending each one up with a few brief reasons why he should, nevertheless, vote for it. His nick-name throughout Australia is "Yes-No George." The Sydney Bulletin (cleverest of papers) delights to represent him in its cartoons as a clown on a tight rope dexterously maintaining his equilibrium by a balancing-pole weighted, at one end, with a Yes-ball and, at the other, with a No-ball. How delicate his balancing feat is just now may be judged from the fact that the present house of seventy-five members was returned at the last election divided practically evenly between fretraders, protectionists and labor men. Within a few months, protectionist Mr. Deakin went out of office because he refused to bring the state railway employes under the new Federal Arbitration Court. Five months later, Mr. Watson and his labor colleagues went out, rather than sacrifice the principle of preference to unionists in the Arbitration Bill. And now Mr. Reid holds power simply by his skill in keeping the more conservative of his old protectionist foes separated from the more democratic ones who are in substantial sympathy with the labor party. And so Australia merely smiles when the Federal Premier blandly announces, with well-assumed naivete, that he will "avoid all contentious legislation during the life of the present parliament."

POLITICAL STORM BREWING.

The thought of the next parliament cannot be a very pleasant one to Mr. Reid. As each of the three leaders has held the premiership in turn, the constitutional possibilities of this parliament may be said to be exhausted. The defeat of the Reid ministry can therefore lead to nothing but a dissolution. And a dissolution under present circumstances would be a signal triumph of labor. The moderate tone and efficient administration of the Watson government taught thousands of Australian electors how empty were their old fears that a Labor ministry would be but another word for wholesale confiscation and anarchy. Since an avowedly socialistic government has been seen in power, Socialism has lost half its terrors.

It is now some two or three years since the opinion was ventured in these letters that Australia's great fight in the near future would be Socialism versus Anti-Socialism. It seemed a long way off at the time, for the hostile camps were then flying Freetrade and Protection banners. But already the trumpets are sounding for the new fight. Mr. Reid himself is modestly practicing the "Assemble" for the anti-socialistic forces. Without leaving his tight-rope "during the life of the present parliament," he proposes to shouder the task of organizing the reactionary party for the next election. That is an heroic piece of aerial juggling worthy to be compared with Blondin cooking his dinner half-way over Niagare Gorge. But the straight-out fight between the friends and foes of Socialism was bound to come whether Mr. Reid blew his trumpet or not. With state railways, state telegraphs, state telephones, state tramways, an eight-hour day, a public service board, an early closing law, a compulsory arbitration act and old age pensions, Australian Socialism has made no small progress, and it is about time for Individualism to make a stand if ever a stand is to be made.

AN ANTI-SOCIALISTIC CAMPAIGN.

Recognizing this, Mr. Reid has called upon all enemies of Socialism to sink their fiscal differences and old political enmities so that they may unite and organize for the next election. He has even suggested an anti-socialistic alliance to Mr. Deakin, who, like Lord Rosebery, has been plowing a lonely furrow for the last year. Mr. Deakin replied that, before entering on any such course, he must be given a clearer idea about the programme proposed. Although a strict constitutionalist by training, he is a thorough democrat at heart, and probably has little sympathy with the reactionary ambitions entertained by the more conservative followers of Mr. Reid. With the Labor spirit he is in general accord, save when it goes too far towards sacrificing individual liberty to the iron rule of the majority. With whichever side Mr. Deakin finally allies himself, he will be a power for good in saving his party from extremes. Neither side can long remain satisfied with the present Fabian policy of Mr. Reid. Even Fabius had some higher object than merely to hold an indolent command as long as possible.

The dislike which all advanced Labor men have for Mr. Reid is too well known to need comment or example. But the dissatisfaction of the conservative capitalist class is only now beginning to voice itself. A week ago, a mild revolt was headed by Mr. Bruce Smith, K. C., one of Mr. Reid's oldest and staunchest supporters. Coming from a well-known shipping family, educated for the bar in England, enjoying both wealth and leisure, and representing in parliament a well-to-do suburban district, Mr. Bruce Smith is naturally one of the most out-and-out opponents of recent labor legislation. He is one of the few public men who do not subscribe to the policy of a White Australia—the policy of maintaining the racial purity of the Commonwealth by shutting out the black and brown races of Polynesia, India, China and Japan from this continent, even its tropical third, where white labor is all but impossible. Against compulsory arbitration he has launched his dozens of articles and speeches with an energy worthy of a better cause. If he had his way, he would not only bar all further progress towards Socialism, but he would repeal the laws which have already been passed during the last ten years. He has no sympathy with the Yes-No attitude of Mr. Reid, who considers it his duty, as the head of the Government, to administer rigorously the socialistic laws which he has repeatedly denounced as operating directly against the welfare of the Commonwealth.

Accordingly, when the Government whip notified him of a series of ministerial meetings, Mr. Bruce Smith replied that he could not see his way clear to attend them. With Mr. Reid's abstract declaration against Socialism he is in thorough accord, but he is not satisfied with an attitude of mere passive resistances to any further socialistic legislation. He will hold aloof from his party until its leaders make their anti-socialistic professions something more than empty theorizing. He calls for a programme of re-active character to wipe out wholly from the national records those blots made by the rough, ignorant, clumsy hand of Labor.

THE ASIATIC LABOR PROBLEM.

Nor is Mr. Bruce Smith in accord with the Government in minor matters of administration. He criticised harshly the mail muddle, which has since been settled. This has been the main topic, indeed, for some months past. Labor influences in the last parliament succeeded in inserting into the Postal Act a clause that mail contracts should not be given to any steamers that carried colored crews. This was extending the White Australia policy to a White Ocean policy. Trouble was at once anticipated, as colored crews are now carried by both the Orient and the P. & O. lines, which together supply Australia with an excellent weekly mail service to London. The P. & O. Company refused to tender for the contract under the new conditions, but the Imperial Government contracted with it on the old terms, for a fortnightly service. It was then left to the Australian Government to make terms with the Orient Company, or some other line, for a similar service on the alternate weeks. Although they found Lascar stokers far more satisfactory than white men in the terrific heat of the Red Sea, the Orient Company made no objection to the White Labor clause. But, they demanded an increase in the annual subsidy from £72,000 to £140,000. Three Governments in turn refused to make a new contract on those terms. It was thought that the Company, which has not paid a dividend for some years, would only be too glad to get £72,000 a year, and would not dare to let the contract lapse. In this the politician sadly mistook the business man. The contract did lapse. The department tried to force the steamers to take the mails at poundage rates. The captain took them under protest, but said he would dump them down at the first port in Ceylon. No effort was made to keep the steamers up to their old speed or regularity. Adelaide, where the mails had always been transhipped, was dropped as a port of call. Commercial Australia was up in arms, not against the Orient Company, but against the Government. Bankers pointed out that the loss in exchange to Australian merchants would amount to more than the extra £68,000 a year. But, for a long time, Mr. Reid and his Postmaster-General, Mr. Sydney Smith, stood firm. In this they knew that they would be backed up by the Labor party, and also by the Protectionist party, which naturally thinks that it would be a great deal better for Australia if fewer orders were sent to England and more were executed here. When the Government offered £100,000, and the Company refused it, it became clear that there was little use in further bluffing. At last, the matter was settled a week ago by the Government offering £120,000 a year—and the manager of the Orient Company publicly congratulated the citizens on the excellent bargain they had made with the Imperial postman.

The mail contract with Canada has just been renewed temporarily for three months on the old terms, pending the final arrangements of a new contract. The present arrangement was entered into before Federation, and so the Australian share of the subsidy is borne entirely by Queensland and New South Wales, as it is only at Brisbane and Sydney that the Vancouver boats call. It is understod that the present economic government of Queensland seriously objects to this arrangement, considering that all the states should pay for a service by which they all benefit. At the same time, it is understood that New Zealand is anxious to have the Vancouver boats call either at Auckland or Wellington, instead of passing through Fiji. It is unfortunate that the volume of business between the two countries is not sufficient to justify a more frequent and quicker service than the one supplied at present by the Aorangi, Miowera and Manuka.

DR. MONTAGUE CRITICISED.

It may be remarked in passing that friendly relations and brisk trade between the two are not likely to be promoted by such foolish speeches as the Hon. Dr. Montague is reported to have made at a recent banquet of the Canadian Club in Vancouver. He there took it upon himself to criticise the Australian Federation. His abundant assurance and his ignorance on the subject may both be explained by the shortness of his visit to this country. As a politician, of course, he is entitled to criticise the political institutions of another country. It is reported, however, that he proceeded to sneer at the "Music Hall English" spoken by Australians. It is natural, of course, for every man to think his own accent is the only proper one, and it is fair to say that Australians poked so much fun at Dr. Montague's nasal twang that they can take but little exception to his recent remark, foolish and unjustified as it was. A few of the lower class Australians may say "kike" for "cake" but the nasal twang is universal with all classes of Canadians, high and low, however little they may be aware of the fact until they go abroad to countries where the English of England is spoken. However, people here would have taken no offence if Dr. Montague had stopped with criticizing their institutions on their accent. Unfortunately, the cable reported that he said Australians walked with short steps (an absolute untruth), and proceeded to explain it by the fact that this was at one time a penal colony. The papers published this report, and found no great difficulty in explaining Dr. Montague's venom. They had merely to recall the fact that one of the ablest judges in Australia, Mr. Justice Hood, recently found Dr. Montague guilty of trying to bribe members of the Victorian Legislature. If Dr. Montague is bent on comparisons, he might compare the political morality in the two countries as shown in his own case. Although Judge Hood expressly reported that Sir Alexander Peacock, the then Premier of Victoria, was not guilty of any corruption in his relations with Dr. Montague, nevertheless the incident has ruined Peacock politically. He is not likely ever to sit in another cabinet, and I doubt if he can ever be re-elected to the House. This is the political punishment which Australians visit upon those public men over whom even a breath of suspicion has passed. Yet Dr. Montague, who was found guilty of the offence, is still held in honor by one Canadian party, and he was recently offered the nomination for my own native constituency. But keen as his resentment against Australian justice may be, Dr. Montague ought not to set himself to the making of speeches which cannot but mar the good feeling which Australia has for Canada. His speech has already done much harm to the excellent Canadian institution which he represented when in Australia, and a few more speeches of the same kind would go far towards undoing the good work done by J. S. Larke and D. H. Ross, the Dominion commercial agents in this country.

BURRISS GAHAN.

Lady Jeune Discourses on Tendencies of English Society.

By Arthur Lawrence In the New York World.

There can be no one in England who has a better understanding of the whole art of entertaining than Lady Jeune. There would seem to be no subject with which she it not familiar, no one of consequence with whom she is not acquainted. For many years Lady Jeune has occupied a position as hostess which no one else could fill. The retirement of her husband, Sir Francis Jeune, from the presidency of the divorce court, and his elevation to the peerage as Lord St. Helier, has caused husband and wife to be much written about in the press of late, but the death of her only son a few months ago has thrown the family into mourning, and determined Lady Jeune not to write for the press, and still less to be interviewed. But characteristically Lady Jeune could not refuse the claims of friendship, however slight those claims may be, and so her consent was kindly given to the following interview:

Lady Jeune's first husband was the late Colonel the Hon. Constantine Stanley. Both her daughters are married, the younger to Mr. St. John Brodrick, M. P., and the elder to Mr. Alhusen, M. P. It was in 1881 that the marriage with Sir Francis Jeune (then Mr. Jeune) took place.

THIRTY YEARS OF ENGLISH SOCIETY.

"English society has changed a great deal in the last 30 years," said Lady Jeune. "Thirty years ago, for instance, people with small incomes did not keep a carriage. The women did not dress as they do now, but on the other hand, at that time each costume was more expensive than now. In fact, the cheapening of food and clothes, and the other necessaries of life is the outstanding feature of the last 30 years, and although this explains much, yet life was very much simpler in the seventies. In the arrangements for dinner, for example, there were fewer flowers, less decoration generally, and not the present custom of placing a super-abundance of silver upon the table. Everything was much more homely.

"I must admit that the tendency of today is for most people to try to live up to the standard set by those better off than themselves. This applies to all ranks of life, and as the standard of expenditure has become so high, this tendency has a bad effect on people with small incomes. The rich Americans and those who have made money in South Africa spend a great deal, and everywhere there appears to be a desire to emulate those who are wealthy. Many of these rich people have come into English society, and I do not see that there is any reason why they should not. In so many instances they have paid handsomely for their footing.

THERE IS NO REAL 'SMART SET.

"No, I have not been able to recognize that there is in English society any so-called 'smart set.' I should say that the Duchess of Buccleuch is the best representative of the true English aristocrat, but the gatherings at Montagu House are of a somewhat cosmopolitan character. Then again, invitations today are sent out in a different way from that of 20 years ago. Miss —— is a good-looking girl, and a hostess will say, if she comes to my ball its eclat will be increased. Consequently Miss —— is invited in a roundabout way, although she may not be acquainted with her hostess. Money seems to be the one thing that everyone wants, and people will go anywhere to be amused, and the richest people are those who give the finest entertainments.

"The actress is received in English society in a way which I believe is not the case in New York. I remember many Americans when they first came to England expressed their surprise at meeting actresses at dinner in fashionable circles. The prejudice against actresses took some time to die in this country, and for a long time the late Queen was very strict about receiving them, but adopted a different view a few years before she died, as she always invited the leaders of the theatrical world to her garden parties at Buckingham Palace. Princess Henry of Battenburg was very fond of the theater, and encouraged theatricals in the royal household, and thus it happened that the Queen used to receive the players after the performance was over, giving them presents, shaking hands and chatting pleasantly with them, so no one could protest after that. Personally, I believe that the English actress is usually the most exemplary woman and that the tone of private life of most actresses is very high indeed.

"Then again, society has changed very much in admitting to its circles not only the man of ability, the literary lion of the old days, but his women folk as well."

I think I ought to interpolate here that Lady Jeune was perhaps the pioneer in this very proper reform in the etiquette of our social arrangements. In her case, if an eminent man hitherto unknown in society was invited to dinner, it was a matter of course with Lady Jeune to invite his wife also. Yet, for a long time, people did not do this, and it now seems a remarkable fact that the writer or artist, or man of science, would accept an invitation to those houses where his wife was not invited.

NEVER ASKS FAVORS OF HER GUESTS.

"So far as I am concerned," Lady Jeune continued, "in all these long years I have never asked anyone to my house with the idea of their helping me in any way. I have never asked anyone to sing or play for me. In other words, I have never invited anyone for the purpose of getting anything out of him. If he expressed a wish to do anything, that was another matter, but the suggestion never came from me.

"In those days men high up in the political world would be asked without their wives. The position of women in what one may call the professional class has also altered in that respect. In the old days, the woman of intellectual attainment was always regarded as being a little Bohemian.

"In regard to what we might call Society with a big 'S,' I think the standard of morality is much higher than it used to be. If there are some who do not possess a high moral code, I think they are much more anxious than used to be the case, that anything which they do, not in accord with a high moral code, shall not be known even to those with whom they are most closely associated. If they are not virtuous, they do at least pay that tribute to virtue. Whereas, thirty or forty years ago the doings of this small minority were much more open and undisguised.

"I am not surprised that President Roosevelt regards the divorce laws of the States as being too lax. It used to be said that you could be married and divorced in an hour. All you had to do was to be married in one State, get into the train, travel a few miles and be divorced in the next. I do not believe that any society can have any stability where the marriage laws are not strict. In Scotland divorce can be obtained either for cruelty or misconduct, not necessarily both, as is the case in England, but in some of the States almost any pretext seems to serve for divorce. Moreover, in the States divorce seems to be no bar to retaining your social position. One of my acquaintances assured me that he found himself at a big dinner in the company of a lady whose three former husbands were there at the same time. Then, too, a woman who has been living rather under a cloud may marry a rich man, and he will succeed in getting her received into society. Money can do that in America, but it cannot do that in England.

AS TO THE BRINGING UP OF CHILDREN.

"In regard to the way children are brought up in England, I am inclined to think that reaction is taking place against the indulgence with which children are treated. I was brought up with what would now be described as severity, and in my mother's childhood no child would sit down in the presence of her parents and address them otherwise than with 'sir' or 'ma'am,' and from this strict discipline mothers have gone almost to the other extreme. I brought up my own children with as little restraint upon them as possible. Indeed, it may be said that these are the days for the young. It seems to me the better way, for it is a great thing to have treated your children from an early age as friends, so that they look back to nothing but happy memories, and to a time when their lives were without cloud or sorrow.

"If I were a millionaire I think I should devote all my efforts to providing better homes for the poor. The erection in London and elsewhere of huge artisan dwellings has done a great deal of good in so far as it has enabled the workingman and his wife to have a cleaner and more sanitary home, but so far as London is concerned, I am not sure whether it has been wholly advantageous to the children. In the case of these people, the children are apt to be kept upstairs in the little flat, whereas previously, if the smaller houses were unhealthy, the children at least had the benefit of the air which London provides, or they played all day in the streets, instead of being confined to the top of an eight-story building. I cannot bring myself to sympathize with those economists who say that we must only help those that help themselves. These doctrinaires do not seem to realize that what these poor people want is something which one may describe as a jumping-off ground. It is necessary, so to speak, to provide certain benefits for them, and to give them a clean and wholesome place to live in, before we can expect them to develop those virtues which are born of self-respect.

"It is in the big cities that one is so impressed by the necessity of philanthropic work on a large scale in regard to the dwellings of the poor. It is almost too much to expect men and women to live a decent and happy life under the circumstances which exist in many places in the metropolis and elsewhere. In the country it is no unusual thing to find a family, including eight or nine children, living with some hardship, and yet healthily and cleanly upon 14 shillings a week. The children are bright and clean, well shod and tidily, although, of course, poorly dressed. One is astonished, indeed, at the wonders achieved by the wives of agricultural laborers in the expenditure of money on which they have to bring up a large family. Yet there is one thing to be grateful for in the present day, and that is that, in London especially, greater efforts are being made to assist the poor and to relieve them from their more acute distress. Matters have improved very much in this direction during the last thirty years.

"There is one matter more important than all the others, on which, however, I think we have retrogressed, a mean that religious belief seems to have declined. For some time past it has been a smart thing to be an agnostic. The works of so-called rationalists have been published in cheap form, have been brought within the reach of the poorest people, and have been sold by the million. This decline of faith, this loss of belief in a future life, or in the truths of Christianity, has taken place, it seems to me, among rich and poor, and in all ranks of society."

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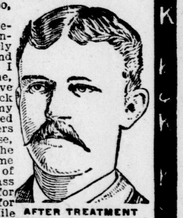

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Standard remedy for Gleet, Gonorrhœa and Runnings IN 48 HOURS. Cures Kidney and Bladder Troubles.

MIDY

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Shirt collars ironed straight, so as not to hurt the neck. Stand-up collars ironed without being broken in the wing. Ties done to look like new. Give me a call. If you are not satisfied, no pay. Washing returned in 24 hours. All hand work. Best in the city. Parcels called for and returned.

An Attack of Croup Warded Off.

"Our little girl, 2½ years old, woke up coughing with the croup one evening recently. We happened to have some of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy on hand and gave her two doses of it. She went back to sleep and woke up next morning without a trace of cold. It is certainly a great medicine," says A. J. Luginbill, editor of Star, Villa Rica, Ga. An attack of croup can always be warded off by giving this remedy as soon as the croupy cough appears. It has been in use for many years, and has never been known to fail. It contains no opium or other harmful drug, and may be given to the smallest child with perfect confidence. For sale by all druggists.

ASK FOR MINARD'S AND TAKE NO OTHER.

Silly Condemnation.

There is altogether too strong a disposition to assume that every rich men is a criminal. A great fortune does not necessarily connote wickedness; it may imply simply thrift and good luck, and a moderate fortune may be accumulated by fraud. But some persons seem to lose their moral perspective the moment $1,000,000 is mentioned and to reason: A man with $1,000,000 is probably bad, a man with $10,000,000 is certainly bad, but a man with $100,000,000 is ten times worse, and a man with $400,000,000 is a public enemy, and the bill he puts in the plate contaminates the entire collection. This is ethically and logically absurd. As Burns said, 'A man's a man for a' that." He may be rich, but honest, and frequently is so—not invariably, by any means—but his riches have no morality one way or the other.—Hartford Times.