

The Quarterly Review

CRITICIZES LLOYD GEORGE.

Mr. Algernon Cecil severely castigates Mr. Lloyd George in an article in the Quarterly Review.

HIS OPPORTUNISM.

"Man is a political animal, but Mr. George defies classification.

"Though no man with so great a position and so long a lease of power could have avoided doing wise and useful things, his schemes were, for the most part, ill-timed, ill-matured, ill-executed, and attended by ill success.

"The key to the history of his political adventures," says Mr. Cecil, "is opportunism. Mr. George's attack on the house of Chamberlain for its connection with the 'corrupt bargain' of Kynoch, his exploitation of Chinese labour as an election catchword, his speeches at Limehouse and Newcastle when Chancellor of the Exchequer, the 'coup d'état' by which he ousted Mr. Asquith from supreme command, are all, notes Mr. Cecil, examples of the shifting, and sometimes base, expediency of the born opportunist."

OTHER PEOPLE'S CREDIT.

Nor is Mr. Cecil unaware of Mr. George's trick of attracting to himself credit that belonged elsewhere. Thus he ruthlessly exposes any hint or claim that the Premier won the war:—

"No large, successful scheme of strategy sprang from his brain like Pallas from the head of Jove; nor were his relations with certain eminent generals such as to convey the grace of inspiration. His services, like those of Liverpool, chiefly consisted in holding on, in making decisions of various worth, in keeping a Government together; and, though these are all no mean gifts, no one has ever suggested that they entitle Liverpool to be called the conqueror of Napoleon. Yet this is not the entire tale. The public, which credited him with exceptional capacity for warfare, was not wholly deceived. He had unusual powers, but they were rather physical than intellectual. He possessed a rare vitality; his blood pressure was as the blood pressure of a boy, his vigour rose with each rebuff; he was inexhaustibly full of fight; and, if he had never won battles upon the playing-field of Eton, he now seemed competent to have done so. This infectious, irrepressible, defiant pugnacity, rather than insight or foresight, or judgement, with all of which things there were men in his Cabinet better endowed than himself, was his particular gift."

ELECTION PROMISES.

"At the December election, he made political victory assured by promises of reparations and punishments in excess of the possible to exact. Hence on discounting all traditions of constitutional statesmanship he executed the heterogeneous and kaleidoscopic foreign policy that has produced the present international chaos.

"What the Versailles settlement was worth, with Germany in confusion and a Russia in convulsion, no one could tell at the time, or can tell even now. But the frequency and plurality of Mr. George's post-Treaty Congresses, afford some measure of the instability and insufficiency of his work. With the vast paraphernalia of his diplomacy, with his legion of secretaries, typists, journalists, and hangers-on, with his pleasant villas, and his special trains, he became, indeed, in the years that succeeded in Peace of Versailles, a jest to the humorist and a burden to the taxpayer.

HIS CHANGING POLICY.

"Here lay indeed an illustration of Mr. George's supreme defect as a statesman. He had grown so accustomed to find his policy change, his pledges fall of their performance, his morality adapt itself to the suggestions of the passing hour, that he did not well understand what perplexity and inconvenience his gyrations, defaults, and counter-marches caused alike to the honourable and the confiding. His cheery forecasts and his plausible undertakings lost their charm for the miners and the farmers who supposed themselves cheated of coal-nationalization and guaranteed prices; for the ex-soldiers who had expected to find homes fit for heroes to live in, and found, in fact, their old habitations in worse repair; and for a nation which had been roused to exertion by pleasing visions of a new heaven and a new earth, and learned in the event that human nature remains constant, even when Prime Ministers become erratic."

HIS FLAUBILITY.

"Amongst the rack and ruin of the times Mr. George yet persisted grimly in his policy."

"His many mistakes of policy and judgment might have ruined a greater Minister than Mr. George. He survived them by his power of putting things plausibly to a House of Commons not remarkable for astuteness; by his almost infinite capacity for extricating himself from tight corners, by a belief, very assiduously inculcated and widely entertained, that he was the only man equal to the burden of his office; and, above all, by the continued political existence of Mr. Asquith, whose return to power the country at all costs resolved to prevent. These were the main reasons

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for his long continuance in power. He had a remarkable degree of the faculty of winning his colleagues; and the more astonishing in that he was an old association without any particular in the case of his friend, Mr. Addison, whom he had to clamour and persuade himself to taunt with clinging to the sake of its emolument. The heaviest charge against George is that public life has been a more desperate and more derelict than his administration, that the team in which politicians were grown less, that the power of the caucus was augmented, that it lost its value and chivalry, its such allegations do not seem to be proof; and politicians have long the quarry of moralists. It is easy to suppose that they either much better or much worse. Yet it was possible to detect the attitude of Mr. George's more serious defenders a peculiar about respect. They did not pretend to contribute anything to the purity, or the distinction of public life. They excused their conduct for him; they stunted their protest; they had no wish to hurt themselves. If love is blind, it is ardent, no trace of either about their eulogies. They were useful, and they held him cheap.

Army Gas Mask not Universal Protection

The army gas mask, in its form, does not afford protection against all noxious gases. The mask laboratory of the United States bureau of mines at Pittsburgh investigated the army type of mask, determining its fitness for use in about smelters, blast furnaces, and industrial operations, or in mines. It also has tried to make the mask for such use.

The investigation developed this type, while affording protection against all the gases met in war, does not afford protection against gases met in industrial life. It protects against carbon monoxide, gas hazard in coal mines, not illuminating gas, natural gas, and the products of combustion found in burning buildings. The bureau seeks to develop types of masks, suitable for industries, that will serve to protect the wearer. The bureau has now work on a "universal" mask, which would serve to protect the wearer against all the gases in air combat. A lightweight form of mask has been developed for use by firemen.

The charcoal and soda-lime canisters protect against certain gases and organic vapors, say experts, but they should not be in gasoline vapor, afford protection against ammonia or the monoxide which may be found in the products of combustion and in gas, coal gas, water gas and furnace gas.



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