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BALFOUR LAUDS GREATNESS OF LLOYD GEORGE

Makes Powerful Plea for Continuance of Coalition System.

CRISIS HAS SUBSIDED

Observers Now Doubt Dissolution of Parliament Until Autumn.

LONDON, March 7.—"He is one of the greatest figures in the world's history—what is the use of abusing him," said Arthur J. Balfour, alluding to Prime Minister David Lloyd George, in a speech at the Carlton Club today.

This speech, which was expected to give some clarity to the situation, threw no new light on the crisis, however, and Sir Arthur, like his Unionist colleagues, Austen Chamberlain and Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, far from reproaching Sir George Younger, who was the real provoker of the crisis, did not even mention his name.

Balfour made a powerful plea for continuance of the coalition system, opposed to a return to the two-party system, which he declared was only a fair weather system, totally unsuited to the present abnormal times when the nation was still laboring under the aftermath of the war.

Never, he said, was there a time when the co-operation of the Unionists and Liberals was more desirable than now, declaring that he had spent many years politically fighting Mr. Lloyd George and therefore

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Viscount Grey Undergoes Operation for Ulcer.

LONDON, March 7.—Viscount Grey of Fallodon, former secretary of state for foreign affairs, underwent an operation tonight for ulcer.

Grave symptoms connected with this long-standing affection necessitated the operation, and although the operation was declared to be successful, the patient is considered to be in quite a serious condition.

Viscount Grey is also suffering from a disease of the kidneys which, it is announced, will need to be dealt with later.

ought to know something about him. Balfour paid a more glowing tribute to Lloyd George than had ever been heard from the prime minister's most enthusiastic admirers.

May Influence Party.

The whole importance of the speech lies in the influence it is calculated it will have on the rank and file of the Conservative party as coming from the oldest and most respected leader of that party. The extent of this influence cannot immediately be calculated.

Throughout his political career, including the period of his premiership, it was always made a reproach against Balfour by the extremists that he was disinclined to take a strong line on any given policy; it is, therefore, open to surmise that his plea in behalf of the coalition will have but little effect on the supporters of Younger.

No announcement was made in the speech of the premier's future plans, and in this way the speech was disappointing and Balfour only repeated in heightened terms the eulogy of the coalition and the assurances of support already conveyed to the premier by Mr. Chamberlain and the secretary for war and other ministerial colleagues. It leaves the situation unchanged.

Problem Unsolved.

While the crisis has subsided the problem has not been solved. The prime minister has acceded to strong representations, and will remain to see through the government's Irish and Geneva policies. He is retiring to the seclusion of his home in Wales for a period variously mentioned as a fortnight to six weeks, leaving active charge of the situation to Mr. Chamberlain and other cabinet ministers. His condition tonight was so far improved that he was able to get out of bed. He hopes to preside over the cabinet at noon tomorrow and will start Thursday morning for Criccieth.

The general view is that the crisis will not recur until autumn, when parliament will be dissolved. But the activities of the dissentient Unionists have by no means ceased, as indicated by their determined attacks on the free state bill in parliament yesterday. Sixteen of their leaders, eight in each house, today issued a stirring manifesto to their followers in a sound Conservative policy including "efficiency of the second chamber, so gravely impaired of late years," which is a claim for restoration of the lord's veto, and declaring that "the ambiguous language and inconsistent action of the past must in the future be scrupulously avoided."

ENTER FURTHER PLEA TO HAVE CATTLE BAN LIFTED

British Meat Traders Claim That Move Would Lower Prices.

LONDON, March 7.—(Canadian Press Cable.)—Further expressions of opinion in favor of the removal of the embargo against Canadian store cattle were registered at Newcastle today. At the annual meeting of the National Federation of the Meat Traders' Association there, President Dickinson said he believed the removal of the embargo would cheapen meat to the British consumer.

Earl Grey, Lord Armstrong, Lord Joicey and Sir Francis Blake among others, sent messages favoring the lifting of the embargo to the meeting of breeders, meat producers and consumers at Newcastle.

The Duke of Northumberland presided, and said that as an owner of a Shorthorn herd he had come to the conclusion that far from being detrimental to the interests of the breeders, the lifting of the embargo would be in their favor.

A resolution was passed urging the removal of the embargo.

ST. THOMAS LIVE HOGS BRING \$12.50

ST. THOMAS, March 7.—Live hogs opened Tuesday at \$12.50 per cwt., according to quotations received from St. Thomas Packing Company, Limited. While the price is 50 cents below the top price reached last week, buyers look for a steadying of the hog market.

Egg prices took another slump, the wholesale price Tuesday being 25 cents a dozen as against 28 to 30 cents last week. The butter market is reported firm with prices ranging from 32 to 34 cents, wholesale.

No price changes were reported by Empire Flour Mills, Limited. The company is still paying \$1.35 per bushel for Ontario winter wheat and \$2.50 a bushel for white beans, hand-picked basis. Middlings are quoted at \$33 to \$35 a ton this week.

COALITION HOLDS WOLVERHAMPTON

LONDON, England, March 7.—In the Wolverhampton bye-election today, the coalition retained the seat against a strong labor attack. Sir Robert Bird, coalition Unionist, received 16,790 votes to 13,799 for the labor candidate, A. G. Walkden.

Sir Robert Bird's father, whose death caused the vacancy, had a majority of 3,171 at the general elections.

GALT RIVER FLOOD DAMAGES BRIDGES

Residents Are Marooned in Homes For More Than Hour When Water Rises.

FIRES ARE QUENCHED

Ice Floes Batter Railing and Flooring Free From Steel Railway Structure.

GALT, March 7.—The Grand River went on its annual rampage this afternoon, doing its usual damage to bridges and private property, as well as overflowing its banks and river walls, with the result that ice floated down Water street in two spots.

At Queen and Water streets the stream overflowed its banks, the water running back onto the side streets for a block. On Water street south, the outlet of Mill Creek became blocked with the result that the creek overflowed into the street, and the houses on the river bank, for two long blocks, were completely surrounded by water, their occupants being marooned for more than an hour.

The cellars of houses and industrial plants along the river were flooded, in some cases the water reaching the flooring. Fires were extinguished, and as a result one of the three city bridges over the river, that on Queen street was the only one to escape damage. In two places on the Main Street Bridge, railings, part of the steel work and the flooring were carried away, and this structure is now closed to traffic.

The Grand River Railway Bridge proved an obstacle for the flood waters, and at times ice passed over the top of the steel work. This bridge received a terrific pounding from the ice, which must have affected its strength. The Concession

We Beg to Announce Our

Showing of New Millinery

A most unusual showing, portraying everything new from foreign markets, and original models from our own designing rooms.

SMITH & HESSEY

Claims He Was Knocked Senseless When He Answered Door.

ST. MARYS, March 7.—S. G. G. Kirby of Blanshard has laid a charge of assault against Robert Berry, jun., also of Blanshard. The case is a complete mystery at present, the information being to the effect that Mr. Kirby answered a rap at his door, and upon opening it was knocked senseless. He did not recover consciousness until the following day, and the charge was then laid. The case is in the hands of Magistrate Makins of Stratford.

house became full of steam, and the fire department was called out, the maid thinking the home was on fire.

Warm Means Well--

Just as long as children romp and play all day in the cold, and never feel it, you can rest assured they're well.

When they begin to say: "I'm so cold!"—then watch out. Here's a danger-signal. They're not getting enough nourishment from their food.

Perhaps you are feeding them too much meat, and other rich protein foods, too heavy for quick digestion.

Keep the health-fires burning brightly with

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MOTOR CLUBS PLAN TO STUDY ROAD CONDITIONS

Elgin Members Arrange Series of Trips Into the Surrounding District.

ST. THOMAS, March 7.—For the purpose of studying road conditions in the surrounding districts and to create a better feeling of community spirit and co-operation between its members, the executive of the St. Thomas and Elgin Motor Clubs are arranging plans for several trips and excursions to be held as soon as the

weather becomes suitable. It was announced at a meeting of the executive that the membership of the club had already reached 200 with many applications still being received. The drive for members will be continued.

Hon. F. C. Biggs, minister of public highways, has written his regrets that he will be unable to attend a luncheon to be given in the near future when, it was hoped, the provincial highway scheme would be discussed.

J. R. Harmer, secretary of the club, has received a number of car badges, which are ready for distribution among the members.

CONTRACT FOR HALL.

KITCHENER, March 7.—The contract for the construction of St. Peter's parish hall was let today to Dunker Bros. of this city. The work on the building will be started at once. When the structure is completed it will be one of the most handsome and complete parish halls in Western Ontario.

Make Your Seat Reservations Early For the Spring and Summer Fashion Show

Grand Theater---March 13, 14, 15---Twice Daily

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