which it detested.



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13,14,17,21,25

PARLIAMENT ACT

With Success or Failure of the Asquith Government in the Present Session.

COMMONS IN DANGER

Losing Forever Its Supremacy Over the House of Lords If Tories Succeed in Attack.

which has just opened will certainly the history of England. It involves some of the most vital questions on There is, of course, the question of the Welsh Church; there is the quesment; and yet its passage into law. some time or other, is absolutely inevitable. But the 'Parliament Act this point in particular, that either it is carried out in this session or that it ceases to exist, and can never be brought back to life again in anything like its present form. The Parliament Act was brought into existence for the purpose of breaking the omnipotence of the House of Lords, and for giving a Liberal Ministry and a Liberal House of Commons a weapon history the Liberals have been able for carrying their policy into law to overcome the obstinate resistance with or without the assent of the House of Lords. This is the first opportunity of employing it. If it be employed successfully, then the death sentence which was passed on the existing House of Lords when it was Tory majority in the House of Lords. enacted will be confirmed and confirmed beyond any further chance of either appeal or repeal. If it is not

used, then it becomes a broken and discredited weapon, and the House of Lords, though it may not be restored its old omnipotence, will yet get prestige that it will be necessary for to fight.

back so much of its old power and the Liberal party to begin its old work all over again, and Sisyphus-like to roll up the hill the stone that almost OTTAWA HEARS seems to fall back again to the valley

jus as it reaches the top. Would Be Discredited

For it cannot be doubted that if the Parliament Act broke down there would be so much discredit thrown upon it that it would cease to count any more. The Liberals of the country would, of course, blame in the first instance the feebleness of a ministry that, having such a weapon, allowed it to fall hopelessly from its paralyzed hands. But regrets do not effect much in politics or in anything else, and the net result would be that such a wave of despondency and disgust would pass over the Liberal ranks they might take years to recover. And, during the interval, it is more than probable that we should have again a long spell of Tory reaction and of Tory power, and that this interval would be employed by them in putting on the necks of the British democracy the chains from which the Parliamen Act was supposed to have liberated For this would be the program of the Tory party if they got into office: they would abandon the old House of Lords that is condemned by Tory opinion as much as by Liberal; they might even go to length of impairing enormously, if not altogether destroying, the hereditary principle. During the discussions of the Parliament Act several of the younger generation of Tories openly proclaimed their readiness to create a purely elective Second Chamber. But this program is not the less anti-Liberal in intention, and would be none the less anti-Liberal in result, than if the Tories insisted on keeping the House of Lords in its present anomalous position. Indeed, so far as Liberals are concerned, the -on such lines as the Tories indi- may arrive from the Polar Sea.

Difference in Desires

For there is this immense gulf between the Liberal and Tory conception of the House of Lords-that the reports that when he left the Karluk Tories want a strong Second Cham- come through the summer ice withber: It is the whole essence of the out the slightest mishap. She was Liberal creed that the House of provisioned for three years. There tives along the coast in case the men Commons, the really popular Cham- were on board altogether twenty-five on the Karluk should get ashore, or ber in the British State, should re- persons, including the crew, five Eski- find any means of communication with main supreme. They will not tolerate mos and six scientific members of the the mainland. Captain Bartlett was any Second Chamber which has pow- expedition. Stefansson left letters of asked to proceed to Prince Patrick ers co-equal with those of the popu- instructions to Captain Bartlett of Island in the spring and look for coo secon secon secon secon secon secon secon secon lar Chamber. And, if anything, they the Karluk, with a number of the na- Stefansson there.

regard a Second Chamber on Tory lines of reform as more dangerous and more objectionable than even the STANDS OR FALLS present House of Lords with all its absurd and anachronistic anomalies. absurd and anachronistic anomalies. For the present House of Lords is weak in proportion to its anomalies; whole the new Second Chamber would be powerful just in so far as those anomalies were destroyed. A House of Lords on its present lines can always be bullied into submission if there be sufficient popular force behind a Liberal ministry to do so It has had to yield over and over again in past epochs of British history, and to swallow legislation The new session of Parliament

But create a Second Chamber or purely elective lines or on partially elective lines, and it might well get a great deal of public opinion in favor of its asserting co-equal rights with which England has ever been divided. the House of Commons. Of course the elective lines which the Tories Home Rule; there is the question of would propose would not be democratic in form or in purpose. Their idea is to create a Second Chamber in question more momentous than all which, by reason of the limited franthe others, and it is the question chise or by indirect election, wealth which will certainly involve influence, | would be dominant. The experience | would fight before they would accept and even overshadow all the others— of the United States and of other it is the Parliament Act. Home Rule | countries plainly proves that an assembly in which wealth would be the and still, as everybody recognizes, predominant element, could be more it would come up again immediately, dangerous to popular rights and and would have to be settled what- popular movements than even such an hereditary Chamber as we now have Welsh bill will be carried; but yet in the House of Lords. It could not be assailed with the arguments which Democrats can bring against the present House of Lords, for it could claim to be in some sense representative of the people through election, and, therefore, its powers would be less assailable. In short, a Second Chamber on Tory lines would substitute for the tyranny of birth the non-formidable tyranny of plutocracy Such a new chamber, too, would

deprive the Liberals of that final weapon by which so often in British of the House of Lords. No Liberal Government could retain the reserve power of creating such a number of new peers as would carry their measures over the present permanent

The House of Commus would have become more helpless than even when it consisted of a Liberal mapority. Monopoly, privilege, wealth, would have secured themselves beind a new fortress far less vulnerable than the crumbling, time-worn and gutted castle behind which they now have

FROM STEFANSSON

Late Despatch From The Explorer Received At Naval Department At Ottawa.

KARLUK'S MEN ARE IN DANGER

There Are Twenty-Five Persons On Board, and The Ship Is Pro-

visioned for Three Years Ottawa, March. 16 .- A brief telegraphic despatch received by the Naval Department from Supt. Moody, of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police Fort Macpherson, transmits nessage received from Mr. Stefans-Canada's Arctic explorer. The despatch is dated February 3rd, and was transmitted from the Mackenzie | tice which it does to Ireland, is an im-Delta to Fort Macpherson by southbound trappers. In it Stefansson ing with finance are quite unsound, says that he reached Collinson Point and many of its provisions are abon December 14th and found the parunder Dr. Anderson there safe and well. Stefansson plans to go to Herschell Island this spring and then to lic majority live peaceably and amic-Coronation Gulf. If opportunity offers ably in Quebec, it is possible that the he will also visit Banks' Land. The party is prepared for wintering two land?" years and the men are determined to carry out the original plans of the expedition as nearly as possible.

Hopes For Success

The despatch says: "Ultimate prospects of success still good. Believe Karluk on Polar drift unless already reported to you. Consider her men in no grave danger. Rewards have been offered the natives for any information concerning the Karluk." Stefansson adds that a relief expemajority of them would prefer that dition would be worse than useless, the House of Lords should remain but he asks the Department to notify as it is rather than that it should be all circum-polar countries to instruct reformed-if that be the proper word. the natives that shipwrecked me

On Board the Karluk

In a letter to the Department written from Point Barrow, Alaska, under date of October 24th, Stefansson

EXCLUSION ONLY SOLUTION FOR PEOPLE OF ULSTER

Earl of Dunmore Certain That Ulster Will Fight For Their Rights.

HAVE POWER TO

ENFORCE DEMANDS.

Consider Premier Asquith's Concessions Simply a Political

Toronto, Mar. 20.-That the concessions of Mr. Asquith to Ulster are entirely out of the question is the opinion of the Earl of Dunmore, who is on a visit to Canada and was asked by The Toronto Star about the political situation in England. He was quite confident that the people of Ulster the Home Rule bill, and he pointed out that they not only had rights in the question, but also had power to enforce their rights.

"Ulster is in a position to-day," said Earl of Dunmore, "of being able to enforce its own demands. These are that she should be eft under the British flag, and to remain as citizens of the British Empire.

"They have a right to this, but they have also what is more important than rights, they have the power to enforce their rights.

"The Liberals ask the people of Ulster to go under a domination which they both hate and fear. The question as to whether their fears are justified or not, does not enter into the matter at all."

One Basis of Settlement.

"There is only one basis of settlement for Ulster and that is exclusion of the four Provinces for all time. To accede to the request of Mr. Asquith to limit the period to six years simply means that Ulster would have to give up all their organization and it would leave them at the end of that time at the tender mercies of whatever Government was in power."

"It is only a political move and nothing more," he added.

"Then you think it would be right to rebell?" the Earl was asked.

"They are not rebelling. To enforce their demands would not be rebellion because they were put in their present position by the Act of Union-they were put under the British flag, and they have a right to remain there There is no rebellion in that."

"Do you think that Ulster would be satisfied with a federal form of gov-

"As a practical politician I would not care to enter into the consideration of the question or any federal system. That is a very big question, and you must remember that the position of the United Kingaom is entirely different from that of Canada, and it would not, in my opinion, be so easy to produce a federal system as satisfactory as that of Canada has proved

Federal System impossible.

"I am not opposed in principle or in theory to some federal system, bu one of my strong objections to th present Home Rule bill is that i would make such a rederal system quite an impossibility in the future "This Home Rule bill, even on it merits and quite apart from the injus possibility. Some of the clauses deal

"Do you think that, just as a Protestant minority and a Roman Cathosame conditions might pertain in Ire-

"Yes," answered the Earl, "it might quite easily be possible at some future date when conditions are changed."

"What is the feeling in England at present in regard to a general elec-

"I do not think that the Liberal Gov ernment will go to the country on this question if they can possibly avoid it -though I am not at all sure that they will not be forced to do so.

"Ulster will fight if the Government tries to force the bill through, and no Government can face the consequences of civil war, especially on question which has been put twice before the representatives of the United Kingdom in the House of Commons and been defeated."

"Are not the majority of the representatives of the people in the House of Commons in favor of Home Rule?" "My answer to that is undoubtedly in the negative."

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A Free Gift Prize of \$5.00 Cash will be given to the person who foretells the date of arrival of first steamer from the icefields this spring with number of seals such steamer brings into port. In the event of no person stating exact number of seals the prize will go to person stating nearest number. Condition of the gift, is as follows:-

The Coupon attached must be sent or mailed to our store and 10 cents enclosed for purchase of an article to this value. City and Outports are alike entitled to enter for this Free Gift Prize and competition will close on 25th of this month. Every Coupon reaching us by this date will be accepted and competition will apply only to steamers reaching destination after midnight of 25th, in the event of steamer arriving previously with or without seals before this date.

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