

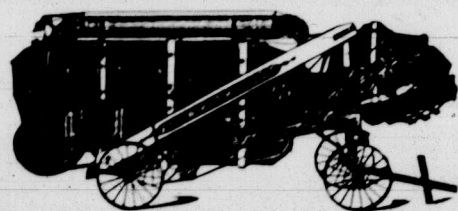
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TRAFFIC IN TITLES

A Humorous Episode in the British House of Commons

(From the London Daily News)

The curtain-raiser was this afternoon more entertaining than the play. When it was seen that Mr. Oliver Locker-Lampson had reappeared with his Traffic in "Titles" Bill, certain eminent persons on both sides quietly slipped away. Sir Harry Verney, whose baronetcy dates from some prehistoric period, tried to forestall the Bill on a point of order, arguing that on a recent Friday the House did not wish to hear the honorable member and that he ought not to circumvent the wishes of the House. This was ingenious, but the Speaker ruled that the wishes of the House had changed, and Mr. Locker-Lampson, thus encouraged, rose with an air of youthful modesty. "Titles," said he in a gentle voice, "are conferred on rich nobodies."

"Ask your own Whips," interrupted Mr. Handel Booth, but, as his own Whips had fled, Mr. Locker-Lampson continued placidly—"sold like boots and shoes and potatoes."

"Nobody ever wants to be a peer," he went on, "but when a man has £20,000 a year he says that his wife—(laughter)—would like to be a lady."

"On the Front Bench there is a division of labor—the Chancellor of the Exchequer looks after the millions and the Chief Whip looks after the millionaires—yet, I should have thought"—this reflectively—"that the successful sale of sausages would have been its own sufficient reward."

The House was uneasy at this new idea.

"Mecca of Snobs"

"The House of Lords—why is it not reformed? It is the Mecca of snobs—cloud Liberal cheers and much glumness among the Cecils—the receptacle for dumping the unfortunate"—pause—"the unhappy"—pause—"the vulgar"—more uneasiness.

"Privy Councillors sit with peculiar grace on working men like Mr. Burt and Mr. Burns—(general cheers)—and how proud I should be to earn an honor honestly—how disgusted to buy one from the Chief Whip of my party."

The House applauded a graceful and witty little speech—perfect for ten minutes.

"Does the honorable member rise to oppose?" asked the Speaker.

"I do," replied the indomitable Mr. Hogge. "One thing is certain. Neither the honorable member nor I am good—neither of us is great—neither of us is rich—and no Government that can be conceived will give either of us a title." The House agreed.

"This traffic in Titles Bill reminds me of another measure—the Bill to prevent traffic in worn-out horses—much the same principle is involved." (Much laughter.)

"Yet we must preserve our nobility." (Loud cheers.) "The Chancellor of the Exchequer is depriving us of our capital. We must multiply titles in order to increase the import of capital from abroad—there is no tariff, Mr. Speaker, on American heiresses. Abolish titles and the drama will suffer. The stalls at our theatres and music-halls will lose their clientele." (Laughter.) The honorable member should have thought of that.

"You say that the House of Lords is the Mecca of Snobs—well, we are all agreed as to that." (Liberal cheers)—"but what we really want is not to do away with the sale of titles, but to screw up the conditions. A man on receiving his title should promise to support the party which gave it to him."

Sir John Rees looked conscious. When the question was put a division was challenged, and the Tories cheered ironically when Mr. Gulland gently glided up the gangway, presumably to suggest to Mr. Hogge that a vote was unnecessary. Detected in this manoeuvre, Mr. Gulland hastily returned to the front bench, amid laughter, which he enjoyed. The introduction was approved by 207 votes to 42, and Mr. Oliver Locker-Lampson was heartily welcomed when, with slow and stately mien, he advanced up the floor of the House. It was skilfully done.

PITY THE POOR RICH!

The London Daily News and Leader of May 8, says: Mr. Petyman once more lifted up his voice yesterday and denounced the errors of the unhappy rich, crushed under the weight of income tax, super-tax, death duties, mineral duties and "the ridiculous system of land taxes." One answer to these lamentations Mr. Herbert Samuel supplied with commendable promptitude. The income chargeable to super-tax has increased by £8,000,000 in the last two years—from £141,000,000 to £149,000,000—so that in spite of Mr. Lloyd George's whips and scorpions and in spite of the "flight of capital" and the absence of Tariff "Reform," the rich, like the mass of their neighbors, are getting richer and richer with astonishing rapidity. Mr. Snowden is not exaggerating when he says that there are "hundreds of millions" which can be drawn upon in an emergency; and it is a fact obvious to the naked eye that the pleasures of the wealthy have not as yet been restricted in any degree by the taxation which moves their champions to such vehement outcries. Fashionable life was never more costly and extravagant than it is at present; and the real burden of taxation on the average working man is certainly equal to and probably greater than any which the ordinary wealthy person, with all these much-decried imposts upon him, ever has to face.

BUSINESS MEN AT SCHOOL

(From The Public, Chicago)

"He stood and talked to us like a college professor lecturing a lot of raw undergraduates," reported one of the party of manufacturers that called on President Wilson to protest against so-called "hostile legislation." If President Wilson did talk so it was because the business men badly needed the instruction. Perhaps the attitude of a college professor was inappropriate. That of a kindergarten teacher might be more effective in imparting information to grown men who have not yet grasped the idea that people in need of food, clothing and other things do not refrain from buying or making these things because of doubt concerning proposed legislation. Whatever depression exists may clearly be traced—not to any proposed laws—but to laws that have long been on the statute books. These are the laws that restrict and prevent access of labor to opportunities and the laws that interfere with and hamper exchange of products. It is not fear of a proposed antitrust law that keeps people in need of food from engaging in food production, but fear of an existing law that denies them the right to use of the earth. No pending law is preventing any one in need of clothing from buying it. What does prevent him is denial of a chance to produce wealth to exchange for clothing. Business men or other men, who have failed to take note of such evident facts, are surely incapable of giving advice of any value to the President concerning removal of business depressions.—S. D.

ROLAND CUTS OUT CIGARETTES

Roland, Man., June 5.—No cigarettes go in Roland, at least as far as the retail sale is concerned, commencing this month. The local Women's Temperance Union last week secured from all the local dealers in ready-made cigarettes and "the makings" a joint promise that they would immediately discontinue the sale of these articles upon disposing of their present stock, which the union has offered to purchase and destroy, should the dealers not be able to return them to the wholesalers.

MONUMENTS



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