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SAINT JOHN, MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 3, 1910.

THE CRITICAL WEEK.

This will be the critical week in the British election So far the position that parties usually at the time of dissolution has been reversed. of an administration on the defence and an op-

the year.

Mr. Chamberlain would not have had it so, if he had been leading the Opposition. Even as it is he has in two statements called the attention of the electors away.

The remedy of one is to avoid the germs while the other recommends the example of the man who sought the old bramble bush to scratch his eyes in again.

Now we turn to a Liberal journal in Mr. Robinson's from the House of Lords, first to tariff reform, and secondly to the budget. Under his guidance the ministers would be obliged to defend the financial programme of the ministry, and to make argument in favor of existing trade conditions. Mr. Balfour has the instinct of the tactician and sees the necessity of aggressive warfare. Though he is fonder of parliamentary dialectics. the tactician and sees the necessity of aggressive warfare. Though he is fonder of parliamentary dialectics
than of the ruder work of the campaign, it appears that
he is-emerging from the sick chamber with a fighting
disposition on, and that from this time forward the
combat will not be forced all the time from the Gov
ernment side.

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SEARCHINGS OF HEART.

Ex-Premier Robinson is invited by his more though il and candid supporters in the press to do some incial campaign. The machine organ tells him that vincial campaign. The machine organ tells him that he must appeal to the Liberal party for support, which is a way of admitting that the Opposition leader and the group about him have little merit or ground of appeal of their own. The Telegraph has reason to believe in Government patronage. It has no faith in oppositions or in principles. Only one thing can poll Mr. Robinson out of the hole. That is the power, influence and plunder which can be derived from the spending and appointment departments at Ottawa. Mr. Robinson must attach himself to the procession, and enlist with the "buccaneers."

The Sun, whose Liberal principles are not obscured by federal patronage, takes the opposite view. It

by federal patronage, takes the opposite view. It declares that "the electors of New Brunswick have placed themselves on record upon no public question more emphatically than in their repeated expressions for opinion that the affairs of this province should be managed in accordance with the interests of the province, and without regard to Dominion party lines." But "ince, and without regard to Dominion party lines." But while differing from the Telegraph on this question the Sun is with it in the attempt to keep Mr. Robinson from appealing to his own record and that of the late provincial administration. The Sun, which did all it could to keep Mr. Hazen out, is equally anxious to get him out. Naturally then the Sun charges that the Hazen ministry has declined in popularity. But that Mr. Robinson and his friends may not take, the women was Robinson and his friends may not take the wrong way to attack the Hazen ministry the Sun reminds them of a fact "obvious to any one who takes pains to keep in "touch with public opinion," that "the name and record "of the old Government are not things to conjure votes 'by." And the Sun goes on to say:—"If the presen 'Opposition undertakes the defence of the old Govern ment as part of its present programme, it accepts a heavy load. The farther it separates itself from old conditions, which have nothing to do with what is

"changes. Thus while the Telegraph wishes the Provincia Thus while the Telegraph wishes the Provincial position on the offensive, ministers have been conducting the aggressive operations while their leading opponents have been compelled to defend the action of their party in the House of Lords. At the commencement Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr. Winston Churchill began the attack, and they were the assailing party at the end of the old Government. Both recognize the disease, but to keep as far as possible from Mr. Pugsley as well as Mr. Robinson, Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Farris, Mr. Labillois and the other representatives of the old Government. Both recognize the disease, but the results of the old Government.

present or what is to come, the better will be

The Unionist contest will probably be prosecuted in Yorkshire, and other free trade centres, while the Government is making its attack on the Conservative strongbold of London City. In the patronnic the Conservative strongof Liberal victory are to be held lightly. The

ernment is making its attack on the Conservative stronghold of London City. In the metropolis the Conservatives are sure of a majority, but if the party is to come near winning, it must get nearly the solid support of the London ridings. The by-elections have shown that the Government is likely to lose a large number of the seats now held in Greater London, which contains more than one-fifth of the people of England.

It is pointed out that the Conservatives must gain 170 seats to have a majority over all classes of Government supporters including home rulers and labor representation. To make the Conservatives as strong as the regular Liberals it will be necessary for the Opposition to gain about 40 straight Liberal seats and still have a majority over Conservatives, Home Rulers and labor members combined. Liberals and labor parties

Of Liberal victory are to be held lightly. The party will thrive without them; it must struggle for victory if handicapped by them."

This is plain talk. We know who composed the "cotorie of so-called party men." We know who discredited the administration before Mr. Possed the "cotorie of so-called party men." We know who discredited the administration before Mr. Possed the "cotorie of so-called party men." We know who discredited the administration before Mr. Possed the "cotorie of so-called party men." We know who discredited the administration before Mr. Pista substant talk. We know who composed the "cotorie of so-called party men." We know who discredited the administration before Mr. Pista substant talk. We know who discredited party men."

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have a majority over Conservatives, Home Rulers and labor members combined. Liberals and labor parties may lose 80 seats and leave the Government still in dependent of the Nationalists. If 100 seats are lost to the Conservatives, as seems rather likely, the Irish parliamentary party will be in a position to dictate terms to Mr. Asquith. The forecast of the Conservative in the mext House will be more than the Liberals, but not so many as the Liberals and Home Rulers. That is the situation which will be most satisfactory to Mr. Redmond and his following, and, perhaps, not welcome to the ministers.

The tariff reform movement is evidently gathering strength in the British Conservative party. Those Unionists who a few years ago stood out against the Chamberlain movement are now either silent or else active in support of Mr. Balfour and the Chamberlain movement are now either silent or else active in support of Mr. Balfour and the Chamberlain movement are now either silent or else active in support of Mr. Balfour and the Chamberlain add some effect in driving them to the preference programme as the lesser of two evils, if it still seems many as the Liberals and Home Rulers. That is the situation which will be most satisfactory to Mr. Redmond and his following, and, perhaps, not welcome to the ministers,

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Philadelphia, Jan. 1,—With
ing from a jet, Charles Br
years old and his sister, Ann
Reading, Pa., were found
dead on a bed in a local
bouse. Their axphyxiation, t
believe, was accidental.

pelieve, was accidental.

Trains Crash.

Billings, Mont., Jan. 1.—
Jerce snow storm which bli
migheers. Great Northern B
rans-continental passenger 44, and an extra freight train
lead on early today at Oxfor
Great. Northern railroad, ki
fremen of the passenger t
mail clerk, and one of the

Fear For Vessels. Fear For Vessels.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1.—Muchension is being felt for som which were bound either to Hampton roads in the storm mas day, which have not sileard from. One of these in masted schooner Wyoming fr Me., to Hampton Roads and a the H. W. Cramp, from Bosts salled on December 14th light

\$5,000,000 In Smoke Alexandria, Egypi, Jan, customs tobacco stores control bacco to the value of nearly \$\pi\$ was gutted by fire today, assisted by 200 sailors from man cruiser Freya, succeeded ing the greater part of the

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