

MOVE FOR REFORM OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON THE WANE

Its War-Time Rise in Popular Esteem Silenced Most Critics of British Upper House.

London, April 27.—(Special Correspondence).—One of the odd things about the present political situation in Great Britain is the attempt of the "die hards," the little group of reactionary unionists, to excite public resentment at the failure of the Coalition Government to deal with the House of Lords reform, and the general apathy of all parties of the question.

It is a striking indication that "the times have changed," for it was not so long ago the cry for House of Lords reform came from Liberals and Radicals, while Tories stoutly defended the Upper House as "the very ark of the Constitution." In the first decade of the present century, when Mr. Lloyd George was "robbing the hen roost" in his budgets, and the Asquith Government was endeavoring to get a Home Rule Act passed, the House of Lords, the peers and their constant hindrance to progressive legislation, were bitterly denounced in the Radical platform. The House of Lords, then, was the enemy of the people, and with more telling effect, than did Mr. Lloyd George who, in a famous speech at Limehouse, employed all the resources of his expressive vocabulary in mockery of "the duke" and their kind.

Claws of Peers Cut.

But all that sort of thing died away with the passing of the Parliament Act of 1911, which cut the claws of the peers, and put an end to their old power of delaying indefinitely legislation of which they did not approve. If, during the lifetime of a parliament, they twice throw out a bill sent up to them from the Commons, the next time the bill would receive royal assent whether or not they rejected it. Under that act the House Rule bill was placed on the statute book. It was the only bill which the Peers fought to the last ditch.

Today the House of Lords stands higher in the public estimation than ever before in modern times. In part this is due to the opportunity it was given during the war. The Upper House is a much freer form of discussion than is the House of Commons, rigidly controlled as the latter is by the Speaker and the Government. The Peers never have found it necessary to frame such restrictive rules of procedure as were deemed necessary in the House of Commons by the obstructive tactics of Irish members. Nor, though the Lord Chancellor presides over the House, does he exercise anything like the authority of "Mr. Speaker," the House itself decides which of its members shall first be heard, and in its own guileless manner. Consequently, it was possible during the war to discuss matters, and to make speeches in the House of Lords, which the Government could not permit in the Commons. More than one question of urgent importance thus received healthy ventilation by the Peers.

But a larger reason for the growth of the Upper House in the public estimation is the fact that it has become greatly altered in character personally. It is no longer a close preserve of the old nobility and the landed interests. "Are you a blood peer?" a lady is reported to have asked Lord Riddell while he was in Washington, and, on the presumption she meant a peer of ancient creation, he was vain to admit he was not. He is no solitary case. More than half the existing peerage are of nineteenth or twentieth century creation; not one even as of a date later than Queen Victoria's accession. The really historic peerages are few; not more than fifty, including Scotch and Irish creations, antedate James I.

Things Done Differently Then.

A century or so ago, it would have been looked upon as something of a constitutional outrage to have conferred a peerage on a man who, like Lord Riddell, was a business man. George III held out for a long while against Pitt's desire to ennoble Smith, the banker. Merchant princes in those days might be wealthy enough to own a mansion, but they could not hope to become "my lords" until they had left their counting houses and had become territorial magnates. But now all that is changed. Today business is almost as strongly represented in the Lords as in landed property. Not only are there many in the House who owe their promotion to personal success in business, but there are also a good many "blood" nobles actively engaged in trade and commerce.

But other than business men have found their way into what was, of old, "the preserve of birth." The "fount of honor" is not so pure a stream as one could desire; it is too often worked for the replenishment of party chests. Still a wholesome tradition has grown up that, especially in the New Year and birthday lists, the old motto, "Fama est meritis ferat," should obtain in some of the creations. Great poets, painters, writers, doctors, and men of science, have thus found their way into the "gilded chamber," and they have proven a wonderful leaven, and have added to the weight and authority of the House.

It used to be said of a certain club in London—not the Athenaeum—that if you joined its dinner table any evening, you would be sure to rub shoulders with someone who was an expert in his particular line.

And it may, in all fairness, be said there is no public body in Great Britain in which you will find so many members of expert knowledge as the Lords. No one whose duty it is to attend the debates in the two Houses, or to peruse them in Hansard, can fail to note the general quality of speeches in the Upper House in much higher than in the lower, and that there is far less "talking to the gallery." The conditions, too, in the House of Lords are more favorable to expert discussion. True, the House has for some time to time its full-dress debates, and on such occasions can come out strongly in oratorical effort, but its ordinary debates have much of a conversational character, in which a man with something of importance to say finds it easy to take part.

But if the House has thus risen in estimation, why, it will be asked, do Conservatives, of all people, want to reform it? "Why not leave it alone?" as a Unionist is apt to say. The answer is that reform with them is an end in itself; they want to India, Egypt and the Mediterranean.

IS THIS A "LOVING-PIPE?"



We've all heard of Loving-Cups, out here we see Harold Lloyd and Mildred Davis trying to enjoy a "Loving-Pipe" in the big Associated Exhibitors comedy, "A Million-Dollar Man."

RUSSIANS ACT LIKE LIZARDS; MOVE LIKE ANTS, SAY ALLIES

British See Them Crawling Into Holes and Popping Out Unexpectedly—Italians Say, "Like Ants They Wander in Different Directions, But Get There."

Genoa, April 28.—"Oriental bargaining" is the way the British delegation describes the tactics of the Russian experts.

"The Russians are like so many lizards," say the British. "They crawl into their holes, then come out in unexpected places. It isn't the written proposals which are so remarkable, but the amazing explanations and interpretations of these."

"Russian tactics when discussing any subject may be compared to the movement of an ant," said the Italian spokesman today. "The ant goes slowly, wanders in different directions, but finally gets there. The Russians do likewise; they are the opposite of the businesslike, straightforward Anglo-Saxons. Therefore great patience and much time are necessary, but the ultimate object will be reached."

For these reasons the Italian delegation considers the wave of pessimism which spreads over conference circles last night much exaggerated. The Russians, continued the speaker, can not help realizing that any accord would be useless unless such as to invite the capital of the world to return to Russia. Therefore, above all, it is in the interest of Russia that the conclusions reached here should offer plenty of guarantees, especially to former owners of property in Russia, who would be the first to return there.

Women of Sweden May Be On Equal Footing With Men

Bill Introduced Into Riksdag Would Give Them Right to Hold Office.

Stockholm, April 30.—Admission of women to nearly all public offices on an equal footing with men is provided in a bill soon to be submitted to the Riksdag by the government. The principle of equality of the sexes in public service was virtually accepted by the Riksdag last year and the purpose of the present bill is to put it into practice from January 1, 1923. The measure provides that women shall be admitted to all governmental posts except in the army and navy, diplomatic and consular service, which it is felt cannot be filled by women. They are also disqualified from occupying positions as officials of prisons and asylums for inmates and of the customs and forestry service, involving work which men can perform better than women. Women will not be called upon to perform guard duty nor teach gymnastics to classes of men.

There will be nothing to bar women from other high executive offices in public life heretofore regarded as reserved for men alone. The Minister of Justice in discussing the bill favors admitting women to judicial offices. No distinction is made in the bill between married and unmarried women. But the Minister stated that no special discrimination would be shown to married women in public office as regards hours of work or fulfilling her duties.

There were erected enclosures for cattle, horses, mules, donkeys, fodder, for great guns and small timber carts. Later there appeared enclosures for prisoners and the military staff of contractors' huts, officers' quarters and barracks that made up a great war center.

When the armistice was signed, Egyptian stores included quantities of every appearance of war. Its dismantling began in 1920. Contractors rushed in and secured great bargains. Gradually the vast accumulation dwindled until, a few days ago, the Disposals Board finished its work and the site was handed over to the Egyptian Labor Corps—a despatched, empty hull.

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GERMANS SEE WAR IN SPEECH OF POINCARÉ

Believe France Will Not Hesitate to Carry Out Military Programme.

Berlin, April 28.—The Germans have weighed every word of Premier Poincaré's speech, particularly that part dealing with possible sanctions (penalties) should Germany not fulfill the conditions of the last note of the Reparations Commission. That France reserves the right to take independent action and will keep the weapons at hand which the Versailles treaty accords her is looked upon by the conservative press as a tentative French declaration of war against Germany.

"The storm gathers, and probably France will not hesitate this time to carry out her long announced programme of military measures in the Ruhr Valley," is the tenor of most comment.

But the Germans expect that this time Great Britain will not support France in her purpose. One paper says that "Poincaré's present policy leads straight toward breaking up the Entente."

The Tag asserts that "France stands today isolated before the world. The time has come for England and the Powers to use vigorous measures against this disturber of the people of the world."

The Socialist press sees Caesarism in the German situation.

The Herald correspondent interviewed a number of prominent Germans today and found the characteristic attitude toward the reparations to be one of passive resistance. True, the friends of Chancellor Brüning make a maximum fulfillment of peace terms their programme, and in the opinion of the speaker, all will do all within reason. Yet they do not give much close thinking to exactly what Dr. Brüning will do, but rather they are discussing the moral obligations of reparation in general.

For Passive Resistance.

They look for outside political events to turn in their favor. Also there is a growing passive resistance toward the catastrophic policy which the French would impose. Hugo Stinnes and the big industrial party which he and Gustav Stresemann lead, which opposed it a year ago before the London ultimatum, takes the same position today. Let the French come and let them have as much they can salvage," is their cry.

A prominent German financier who prepared part of the German relief for the Genoa conference said: "Germany cannot and should not promise to fulfill the impending reparations demands. British economy and even the German economy are too weak to hinder our capacity to produce goods."

Stinnes' Berlin paper, the Allgemeine Zeitung, asserts: "The French would make us helpless cripples. The French will do this alone in favor of sanctions and it is better to let them go ahead. Germany must make the refusal now which she should have made two years ago."

All circles are encouraged in the attitude of passive resistance by the Franco-British discord over the Russo-German treaty.

Obituary

Joanna Adam.

The death of Joanna Adam occurred suddenly at the Provincial Hospital yesterday. The deceased had been in failing health for some years, but the death came as a great surprise. She was a member of St. David's Church and belonged to one of the older families connected with the church.

The funeral will be held Tuesday afternoon from her late church home. She is survived by one sister, Miss Georgina.

John Holland.

The death took place early Saturday morning at the Public Hospital of John Holland, 92 Harrison Street. Deceased, who had been ill only a few hours, is survived by his wife, three sons, Joseph, Anthony and Ronald, at home; one brother, Felix, and two sisters, Misses May and Julia, all of West St. John. He was longshoreman and had been for many years in the employ of Gregory Bros. He had many friends in the North End and his death was a great loss.

The funeral will be held Tuesday morning at 8.45 from St. Peter's church.

Timothy L. Daly.

Roselle Park, April 26.—Timothy L. Daly, 65 years old, a resident here for the past twelve years, died last night at his home, 106 Union Street, after an illness of six months. He was born in Boston, Mass., and came to this country about thirty-five years ago, residing for a time in Elizabeth, N.J., and later in Hingham, Mass. During the entire period he was employed in the needle department of the Singer plant, Elizabeth. He was a communicant of St. Joseph's church, Roselle, and a member of the Holy Name Society of that parish, as well as of Court Hamlet, Independent Order of Foresters.

Mr. Daly is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ella Milla Daly, two daughters, the Misses Elsie and Winifred Daly, three sons, George L., William J. and Albert P. Daly, and three grand-children. The body will be sent to Boston, Mass., on Friday, and interment will take place in Calvary cemetery of that city on Saturday.

George H. McEllan.

St. Stephen, April 30.—George H. McEllan, one of our most respected citizens, died at his home here on Saturday afternoon, caused a post-mortem of the illness of about two weeks. He was for many years a well known and popular engineer on the C. P. R., running between St. Stephen and Woodstock and retired on pension about three years ago because of failing health. He was sixty-six years of age and is survived by his wife and a grown up family of sons and daughters. The funeral will be held Monday afternoon and will be attended by representatives of many religious organizations. Dr. Goucher of the Baptist church will officiate.

TORIES USE GENOA TO HIT LLOYD GEORGE

Die-Hards Hope to Use Discord as Base for Attacking Premier.

London, April 28.—The reconvening of the House of Commons today will be the signal for the reopening of the fight on Premier Lloyd George by the scattered Tory "die hards," using the troubles at Genoa as a new club against the Government. The malcontents of various parties, although hopelessly unorganized before the adjournment of the Easter holidays, hope now to find a common ground for united action.

It is expected that they will proclaim that the Prime Minister already had failed at Genoa and that it is useless to go on when he is only leading Europe deeper and deeper into the mire of misunderstanding. Mr. Lloyd George is expected back for the next week end, when his friends are counting on a full statement from him as to what has happened at Genoa, what the prospects are and where the blame lies.

It is feared in some quarters that Premier Poincaré's outburst may result in France withdrawing from the conference, and if she does, the Government followers believe that Mr. Lloyd George will ask for another vote of confidence for the continuance and completion of the work already started. The Coalitionists declare that the Premier has made himself indispensable, and now anticipate that the Government will be free to go on with domestic affairs.

The tremendous home interest in the budget programme, it is regarded, will soon quiet complaints about the trend of the Genoa conference. It is reported that when Sir Robert Horne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduces the budget on Monday he will advocate that a shilling be taken on the income tax and perhaps a few slight reductions be made in the tax on sugar, tea and beer, which, if they materialize, are almost certain to increase greatly the country's confidence in the Government.

According to the Coalition programme, if Mr. Lloyd George is successful at Genoa a general election will be called, otherwise it will be delayed until conditions are made favorable.

The funeral of Cecil Jordan was held Saturday afternoon from his home at Hilliard street to Cedar Hill. Rev. Dr. D. Hutchinson conducted service.

More Troops Needed, Says Japanese Delegate—Blames Chita for Dairen Failure.

Tokio, April 27.—M. Matsumura, the Japanese delegate at the Dairen Conference, insists that the evacuation of Siberia is now impossible and that the present troops are insufficient and should be strengthened. He blames the Chita delegate Petrov's obstinacy for the Dairen failure, saying the Japanese offered to fix the withdrawal date after the signing of the agreement. The foreign office states that Japan offered to withdraw within three months after the signing, but the wording of Article X in the proposed treaty was the chief stumbling block.

The Chita version of Article X is that "the Government of the Far East Republic, notwithstanding the laws of the republic, will grant the Japanese subjects concessions in mining and forestry industries," and also "the right to participate in Russian companies." This was too much like the twenty-one demands, although the foreign office states that Japan proposed the Open Door and abolition of restrictions hitherto imposed on foreigners.

This was the only point of disagreement in the treaty. The war minister states Japan offered "to negotiate" withdrawal after the signing of the treaty. Popular opinion favors immediate withdrawal which hindered Matsumura.

Petrov often referred to the Japanese newspapers asking why Japan did not evacuate when the people favored withdrawal.

Matsumura criticizes the press for hurting the national interests by printing Russian propaganda. "We must understand once and for all that we will not evacuate unless Chita accepts our demands and signs the treaty," he declares.

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