

BUDGET SPEECH OF CHURCHILL MUCH TALKED OF

Tributes Paid Cleverness But Some Proposals Are Criticized

LONDON VIEWS ON GERMANS' CHOICE

Visit of Italian War Vessels—Dickens' Anniversary June 9.

Correspondence of The Times-Star.
LONDON, April 30.—Mr. Churchill's budget speech was a brilliant effort in conception and delivery. On all sides one heard tributes to his cleverness, not that the proposals escape criticism even among the Government's supporters. Some of them think that the chancellor would have been justified in making a general reduction of one shilling in income tax instead of a general reduction in the standard rate, and varying concessions on earned incomes under £1,000 which in the lower grades work out at well over one shilling. Others, while welcoming the widows' pensions scheme, dislike the idea of balancing reductions in war pensions against the growing cost of widows' pensions—in other words, as one Conservative remarked, of stabilizing national expenditure round £800,000,000. Liberals are incensed at the reimposition of the McKenna duties and the general protectionist trend of the budget. In some cases, too, the reduction in super-tax is vigorously criticized. The really disgruntled section of the House, however, is the Labor Party, the burden of whose complaint is the contributory element in the widows' pensions scheme. Actually, the Labor Party's main grievance is the fact that it has been forestalled.

THE SPEECH

Mr. Churchill's speech will be remembered for matter rather than its manner. It was a competent rather than a brilliant performance, with passages of eloquence and some of humor, but as a whole it was kept to a pedestrian level by the mass of facts and figures which he had to crowd into two and a half hours. The chancellor went through his task with easy confidence, a striking contrast to the only comparable occasion 16 years ago, when Lloyd George occupied over four hours and had to have a rest in the middle. Once or twice he had to pause in order to fortify the revenue, as he called it, but slipping a straw-colored fluid, and generally he reverted to the flavoring of jocularity which has fallen out of fashion for some years in budget speeches.

THE GOLD STANDARD

An important announcement was that an immediate return is to be made to

Klan Dragon to Court



Here is D. C. Stephenson, organizer and former head of the Ku Klux Klan, at Indianapolis, leaving the county jail with his lieutenants, where they are confined without bail on a charge of murdering Miss Madge Hobbs. Left to right they are William Anderson, deputy sheriff; D. C. Stephenson, Earl Klink and Sam Gentry.

the gold standard, but not to gold coinage, which the country could not afford. Certain precautions have been taken to prevent any disturbance of international finance, and especially to discourage speculation; but Mr. Churchill is convinced that these will not be necessary. A similar step has been, or is being, taken by the Dominions, and the chancellor is confident that the effect will be stimulating to trade. That and the increase of security for the workman's home he regarded as the prime necessity of the hour. He took obvious pride in the fact that he was able to effect both simultaneously, though he gave the house a general warning that unless expenditure is reduced—and he is confident that ten millions can be saved each year by closer scrutiny of the departments, for which purpose a standing committee of the cabinet has been set up—fresh demands on the treasury cannot be met except by increased taxation.

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

There is a touch of tragedy in Germany's Hindenburg gesture precisely at the instant of France's Caillaux move. Nothing could more perfectly typify the ineptitude of the "Quotient" mentality in the realm of politics and diplomacy. Just when the apostles of real European peace began to make their voices heard in Paris, Berlin invites the Poincaré batteries with another Hindenburg line. And sky-high are blown the slow hopes of five tortured years. Today all France echoes the Paris boulevard philosophy that the Boche is always the Hun, that Teuton and Gaul are pledged foes to the crack of doom, and vae victis the only sane plan. An attempt is made to draw an historical parallel between Germany now and France half a century ago. Just as Germany's new republic has rejected Marx for Field Marshal Hindenburg, so the new French republic, in May of 1873, rejected Thiers for Marshal MacMahon. It is a weak, but the convincing difference is considered between the French Commune and the German republic. One was a vital popular upheaval; the other a national

warrior of the khaki legions, suitably uniformed and smartly paraded, is busy cleaning the West End doorsteps and polishing up the West End door-knockers at 8s. a week, inclusive. A start has been made with Mayfair and Belgrave, because these sumptuous regions are generously policed, likely to respond to the ex-service appeal, and, moreover, are curiously sloppy in the matter of clean doorsteps and bright knockers. This may be explained by a caste prejudice, in the kitchens of the wealthy, which menial work, in conspicuously infra dig. Later, the Ex-Service Association will extend its step-and-knocker fatigue to the more prosperous suburbs.

DICKENSIAN MUSEUM.

June 9 will be the 55th anniversary of the death of Charles Dickens, and on that day will begin the annual congress of the Dickens Fellowship, a nobly growing companionship of kindred spirits. The occasion will be made popular by the formal opening of a Dickens Museum in the house on Drum Doughty street where "Boz" spent the earlier years of his married life. About £4,000 has been subscribed for this purpose, and a most interesting collection of Dickensian relics obtained either as gifts or loans that may become bequests. Among these personal things are the desk at which the great humanist made his public readings, and a pewter tankard and a copper warming-pan. The latter will be placed in the Dingley Dell kitchen. During the congress a series of pilgrimages to Dickensian spots in and about London will enliven the proceedings.

HAS BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Friends of Miss Winnie Woodley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Woodley, were very pleasantly entertained at her home on Wednesday night when she celebrated her birthday and received many nice gifts. Games and dancing were indulged in and passed the time delightfully. Dainty refreshments were served. The guests included Miss Christie McAfee, Miss Isabel Kinsman, Miss Yang, Miss Marjorie Addison, Douglas Carmichael, Frank Wetmore, Bob White, Douglas Gibbon and Bert Williams.

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CITY MUST TAKE UP THIS MATTER

Retaining Wall Situation Serious Is Statement at Meeting

Douglas Ave. Question Again—Power Co. Asks Water Rate Reduction.

A communication was received by the City Council yesterday from Thomas Zed, 84 Prince Edward street, asking that the city repair the retaining wall in front of his property. It was referred to Commissioner Frink for a report.

The commissioner said the retaining wall matter had to be faced by the council as there was a great deal of this kind of work which needed to be done and the appropriation had been about all used up already. The city was facing a serious situation and running a risk in letting this matter drift. He said he would look into the complaint of Mr. Zed and submit a report soon.

ASKS ABOUT BRIDGE.

Commissioner Bullock was given authority to ask for competitive bids for a new tar and gravel roof on the McLeod warehouse and for timber and lumber for the harbor department work this summer.

T. L. Simons, chief engineer of the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada, wrote asking what steps had been taken in the matter of an overhead bridge across the railway tracks at the western end of Douglas avenue, the time for completion of which had been extended by the commission to April 1.

Commissioner Frink said he would present a report at the next meeting of the council on the cost of paving the street with broken stone, with tar lin-

der and the council could then decide whether the street should be paved or the overhead crossing gone ahead with. The letter was filed.

ASK LOWER RATE.

The New Brunswick Power Company wrote asking that the manufacturers' rate of one-half cent per 100 gallons for water be allowed them as they used much more than the maximum of 100,000 gallons a quarter. The letter was referred to Commissioner Wigmore and the city solicitor for a report.

Commissioner Wigmore said this

matter had been taken up once before by the company and at that time the city solicitor had ruled the company were not manufacturers and were not entitled to the lower rate.

The secretary of Salvage Corps No. 2 wrote that Fred W. Campbell had resigned and E. H. Belyea, R. C. L. Parkinson, T. E. Pettie, Dr. J. R. Hutchinson and G. G. Wetmore had been elected to membership. The warrant of Mr. Campbell was ordered cancelled and warrants were ordered issued to the new members.

The consolidated business license

by-law was read a first and second time and ordered passed and confirmed. Mayor Potts announced that the next meeting of the committee would be on Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 and the council meeting at 3 o'clock of the same afternoon.

His Worship said he was leaving Friday afternoon for Montreal and asked Commissioner Frink to take over the duties of acting Mayor in his absence.

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Healthy Children

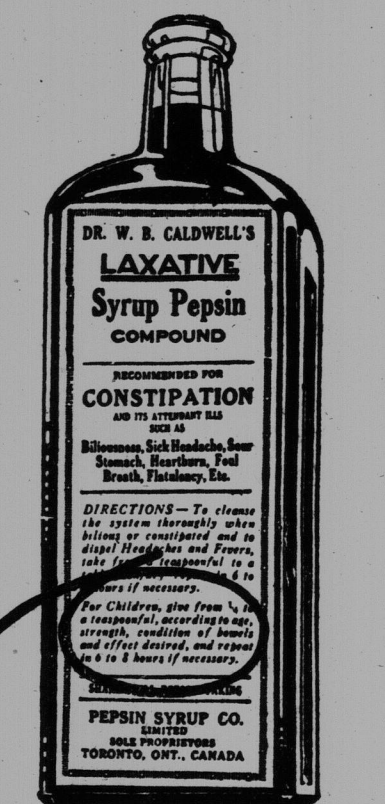
WHAT a joy there is in the laughter of children. How quickly that laughter dies when constipation—that great enemy of healthy bodies—coats the tongue and dulls the appetite of your boy or girl.

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