

The Political Situation in Great Britain

Opposition to the Coalition Government Taking Formidable Shape.

By W. E. DOWDING.

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The political situation in England to-day is difficult to understand unless one is in possession of a few points that are not generally discussed in the press. The present session of Parliament will end in a few days with provision made for the prolongation of the life of the Parliament for six or eight months more. A few days ago the Prime Minister said, in effect, that he did not know who would be Prime Minister next year. To some people this was an indication that the Government believed the war would soon be over. I do not think it possible, however, for even the Government to foresee coming events with clearness enough to take action thereon. Although the Allies are making such good steps toward the constriction of the enemy, our military knowledge does not go far enough to fix a date for the termination of hostilities. When they cease, there will commence a long and harassing period during which peace-terms will be discussed and the map of the world re-drawn. I find it hard to believe that the men who have upheld the burden of the State for two years of war will wish to be actively associated with protracted and wearisome negotiations to follow.

The Growth of Opposition.

While the people of the country are generally indifferent to political affairs and not at all interested in politicians, there has been growing up a some-

what powerful body within the Houses of Parliament ready at any moment to attack the Coalition and ambitious to take over the responsibilities of government. It has not grown up spontaneously. It is a deliberately planned opposition led by Sir Edward Carson, who a short time ago would have been the last man one would expect to see at the head of any responsible party. But Sir Edward Carson possesses qualities which fit him for the work which it is the object of this party to achieve. In theory it bases its existence on the desirability of an organized opposition to whatever government may exist—even though it be a Coalition Government. But this theory breaks down when it is remembered that the Coalition has always been subjected to plenty of criticism within the House from members of both parties.

— Sir Edward Carson.

The real reason for the organization and growth of the group headed by Sir Edward Carson is the desire to take full advantage of the political upheaval the war has created. The Unionist party in this country has never been a very happy family. It has contained men of extreme aristocratic tendencies, and men of extreme democratic tendencies. Some of the latter may be thrown off when the time comes to reform the permanent parties of peace. On the other side there are many Liberals who will wel-

come an opportunity to cross the floor when the problems of the future come up for settlement. At one time we heard a good deal about the formation of a middle party with Mr. Lloyd George at its head, but I believe sincerely that Mr. Lloyd George is wholeheartedly occupied with the prosecution of the war and that the politics of the future find little place in his mind. It was inevitable that some irregular party should be formed, and failing Mr. Lloyd George we have Sir Edward Carson. So little is known of the strength or personal of the party he represents that no list of its members has been published, and of its objects the public remains completely ignorant. It is supported by some of our most powerful journals and it is constantly adding to its strength men who are known not only here at home but in the Dominions Oversea. From this it may be presumed that the new party will be what we should call here an Imperial party—though why every party is not "imperial" I have never been able to understand. I think also it will be found to include many powerful representatives of our leading industries and that fiscally it leans toward protectionism. It is hard to make labels for everything, but if we are ever going to use the word "reactionary" again we shall probably be able to apply it to the party which I am trying to describe.

While so many minds are occupied intensely with the problems of the future, one feels rather uncomfortable that there stands in the background a party ready to exert its sinister influence without having made any plain declaration of its policy. No survey of our present condition, politically, industrially or socially, is complete without the knowledge of its existence. We have made so many sacrifices; we have been lifted to such a high level of national devotion and endeavour, that we have grown to believe that when the war is over life will continue on this higher plateau. The bulk of the population has forgotten that such beings as politicians ever existed. It is just as well that we should occasionally remind ourselves that the species persists.

Intensive Farming

What can be done on a Few Acres with Intelligent Treatment.

By A. A. AYER.

It requires a man of some ambition, some ideas, some knowledge of farming, and a willingness to learn, or to use a farmer's saying, a man of some "gumption" to be an intensive farmer. Judging by the look of seven-eighths of the farms in Eastern Ontario and Province of Quebec, not to speak of numerous sections and particular farms further West and East, their farmers do not belong to the gumption class. Why is this?

It is difficult for me to understand why farming is done in such a thoughtless way by most of the farmers in all this region of country. The front yard is untidy, the barns and house are not painted and look neglected, the fences are in poor condition, and the meadows and pastures have had little thoughtful attention. This is a sad but truthful picture. Here and there a bright example of good farming and tidiness shows its effects upon the neighbors.

Most men and women are satisfied to act like, to live like, and to look as well as their neighbors. It is easier to be a "laissez-faire" farmer than it is to "hustle," to force ahead, to be "intensive," or be ambitious. But the easy life is not the life of real enjoyment. If anyone in any walk of life wishes to have a real good time, then let him set to and bring something to pass. There is a real fascination in proper intensive farming. The success that comes from intensive farming should bring as much joy to a boy as winning a race or securing a prize. The tendency to get rich quick, which fascinates so many, does not tend to build up character and lasting enjoyment. The slower and surer process of farming brings satisfaction, stability, and character.

Where would I recommend trying the experiment, what will it cost and what will be the results? A farm of from fifty to one hundred and fifty acres, well located in almost any section, can be made as productive as a well kept garden. It is done in France, and it can be done in Canada anywhere.

Cost \$3,000 to \$10,000 for the Farm. Result, Health, Happiness, Character and a Good Living.

Farmers generally, in these provinces, have failed to experiment with fall plowing on new land. Where it has been done the advantage is very marked. They have also failed in studying the adaptability of the land for certain crops. I know Canada from

East to far West, and there is no better opportunity in the Dominion for men of small means to make good and enjoy life and bring up a family with right ideals than there is on the neglected and half worked farms aforementioned. The revenue from such farms could be easily doubled and quadrupled by intensive farming. What is wrong?

The result of successive generations of easy going ways has led to the belief that the best possible farming is now being done, or at least that "I am as good a farmer as my neighbor." Plowing is too frequently done without any study of the soil, as to whether it should be plowed deep or shallow, whether it should be plowed in the spring or autumn, or what kind of fertilizer should be used and how. No pride is shown as to the looks of the field, as to evening the ends of the furrows, or as to the fences or the weeds. Many of the pastures are a disgrace to the farms. No attempt is made to cut or destroy the weeds, to drain the land, or to better the pasturage in any way.

Plenty of farm manure, or other fertilizers, thorough cultivation, and using only selected large seed, will give as good results from one acre as shallow and poor plowing, insufficient harrowing, planting or sowing poor, small, or unsifted seed, will from two or three acres.

During the past fifteen years or so experimental farms have been established by the Government, lectures have been given, a better class of cows has been introduced. The Government has done its part. McDonald College has given splendid instruction. Some progress has taken place, but there has been no general movement, nothing sufficient to make farming generally attractive.

While the breed of cows in Canada has been to some extent improved, proper care and proper feeding have not followed in due proportion. Without this good breeding is all in vain. I am alluding to this, because this is a dairy country and the monetary results of farming depend largely upon the dairy, and the attractiveness of farming largely depends upon handsome, well bred cattle. Upon the breeding and feeding of cows depends the profit of the dairy. There is no excuse for any farmer failing to feed a cow with a proper mixed ration, both before and after calving. There is scarcely an issue of a dairy

paper that has not something about feeding. The dairy farmer who does not take a farmer's paper and who has not a silo can never be expected to do intensive farming.

The cow that does not give at least thirty pounds of milk per day during the first three months of her milking period is not worth keeping, and should be sold to the butcher. If the cow has been fairly well bred, the reason for not giving thirty pounds of milk daily can usually be found in lack of care and feeding. Forty, fifty and even sixty pounds of milk daily is quite a common yield in first class dairies, and yet one half of the dairies in the Province of Quebec are not yielding twenty-five pounds daily per cow.

How to Commence Intensive Farming.

First Instance.—Make one acre produce as much as three acres of poorly cultivated land next to it now produces. It can easily be done. For instance, I have in mind four acres of meadow land that a few years ago did not produce three tons of hay, and that this year produced fifteen tons. What happened? The farmer manured it heavily, plowed it thoroughly, planted it with corn the first year, raised a crop of oats on it the second year and seeded it with clover and timothy. The third year he had ten tons of clover hay. After two more years he again plowed and raised fodder corn that stood an average of thirteen feet high, and the field was estimated to have produced eighty tons. Then followed a year yielding a splendid crop of oats, and then the land was seeded for clover and hay again. Such a transformation in the productive power of land makes farming a pleasure.

Second Instance.—A wet field produced good crops in a dry season and poor crops in a wet season. This field was underdrained, using tile, and its products doubled in wet years.

Third Instance.—A rough pasture long neglected had become covered with hummocks and weeds, so that two acres gave scarcely feed for a cow. It was plowed, underdrained and subdued by a series of crops similar to No. 1 and with like results. Every farm should be treated like a garden.

Fourth Instance.—A worn out neglected farm containing about 160 acres was purchased some eight or nine years ago for \$3,500. This price included eighteen cows and two horses. The farm had not raised sufficient hay and roots to winter these animals and it was necessary to buy ten tons of hay. As a result of somewhat intensive farming, this same farm produces sufficient to winter fifty head of cattle and four horses, and has feed to spare.

Fifth Instance.—I know a young man who has from

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