

The British Budget. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announces a deficit of £15,762,000 for the financial year 1909-10; due chiefly to old age pensions and increased naval estimates. The Asquith government started to build a house without first sitting down to count the cost, and governments yet unborn will have to struggle under the pressure of a constantly increasing load of expenditure. The situation is one that calls for a courageous policy. The old age pension expenditure will never be any less than it is to-day; the cost of the navy will evidently have to be greatly increased before it is reduced. The consensus of opinion in military circles the world over, is that Germany is bent upon war, and at any cost of money or of blood, the British Empire must maintain its independence. Between two such nations as England and Germany the issue must be largely financial. Neither of them is lacking in military genius, courage, physical endurance or patriotism. The war, if ever it comes, will be the crime of crimes and a blot upon civilization. Woe to the man by whom the offence cometh; but woe also to any British government that allows the country to be caught unprepared for the shock of arms.

As announced in his budget speech of yesterday, the chief means by which Mr. Lloyd George proposes to "raise the wind" necessary are a reduction of £3,000,000 in the amount placed in the sinking fund; increased income taxes, death estate and legacies duties; a tax of 20 per cent. on future increases in the value of lands due to the enterprise of the community; increased taxes on some classes of public houses and heavier excise and customs duties on spirits and tobacco.

The School Question. The Finnie bill providing for an elective board of Protestant School Commissioners of Montreal, has been thrown out. But this scarcely settles the school problem as between the Protestants and the Jews; which is likely in this city to become acute. We believe that it would be wise to get matters arranged now, or as soon as possible. The most satisfactory arrangement would probably be for the Jews to have their own schools and a separate taxation panel. They are well able to support them and are growing both as to population and wealth. In any arrangement they should, of course, get their fair share of the taxes from the neutral panel. It must be remembered that twelve or fourteen years ago they were in the Roman Catholic panel and only came into the Protestant panel because they found it more advantageous.

English as Dictionaried. The dangers of English "as she is dictionaried" are strikingly shown in the following recent Montreal Want Ad, evidently translated from original French copy:

AN ABSOLUTELY sober, honest, very well recommended man wanted, possessing a strong experience in life insurance, to take charge of the usual department as superintendent of a well-known solvable company.

"Strong experience" certainly would seem necessary in undertaking charge of the "usual department" of a "solvable company." The "ordinary" department of a "solvent" company is a less alarming proposition.

C.P.R. Gains. The Canadian Pacific has been leading American roads in recent gross traffic increases. The gross earnings for March were \$6,518,763, as against \$5,424,932 last year, giving the substantial increase of \$1,093,831. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of \$502,678 in net profits, the gain being from \$1,301,030 during March, 1908, to \$1,803,708 this March.

The total gross earnings of the company from July 1 to March 31, were \$56,958,488, as against \$54,938,032 during the same nine months a year ago—an increase of \$2,020,456. The net profits for the same period were \$16,996,780, as against \$16,713,140 a year ago, a gain of \$283,640.

The Situation in Turkey. Abdul Hamid has not been gathered to his fathers, but nevertheless Mehmed Reschad reigns in his stead. Mehmed has been the life-long prisoner of his brother Abdul. To-day Abdul is the prisoner of Mehmed. A tyrant, a coward, and a menace to the peace of Europe, has made his exit from the stage and a new era has dawned for Turkey. Mehmed the Fifth is the thirty-fifth Sultan of Turkey and the first constitutional monarch of that country. The victory of the Young Turkish party is complete, and every civilized nation will rejoice in their success.

Wheat. Despite last week's break in the alleged Chicago corner, wheat prices in that centre have been hovering around \$1.23 for May delivery—indicating that high prices have been due more to worldwide conditions than to local manipulation. Winnipeg closing prices yesterday were \$1.20¾ for May and \$1.21¾ for July delivery. Crop reports from abroad and from the United States point to high prices throughout the year. The Canadian West, selfishly if you will, naturally rejoices as to this—but has its own worries in a delayed seeding. However, there is still a fair time-margin if Old Probs will now consent to do the decent thing. The wheat acreage will be 20 per cent. greater than last year in Western Canada.

The Conquest of the Air. Australia is never afraid of a new idea. The Australian government is buying six aeroplanes and six dirigible balloons for experimental purposes. Canada, the native land of Graham Bell, is a little slow in this matter, but, no doubt, will soon join the procession in which England, Germany, France, the United States and Australia are taking the lead. One aeroplane flying over Montreal would awaken public interest in aerial navigation and we venture the prediction that within five years aeroplanes will be as common in Canada as automobiles are to-day.

The Disqualified Aldermen. It is to be hoped that the Court of Appeals will take prompt action on the aldermen's appeal from the judgment unseating and disqualifying them. It is a matter of urgent public interest that the question should be settled before the prorogation of the Legislature. The general feeling is that their mistake was of a technical character, and it would lead to much public inconvenience if any further technicality were to lead to further delay in rectifying it.