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SEMI-WEEKLY
EDITION

VOLUME V.

ASQUITH'S GREAT STATESMANSHIP

Prime Minister Looms Up Large as
Leader in Defying Nationalists
—Sensation Sprung Today

NO HOME RULE BILL
AT THIS SESSION

London, Feb. 23.—Premier Asquith in the Commons today announced that the government will not introduce an Irish Home Rule bill at this session. The statement created a sensation because of the relations of Liberals and Asquith's promise of Home Rule before the election.

London, Feb. 22.—The Liberal ministry today began drawing up a bill to limit the veto power of the Lords, taking from the Upper House all say in financial matters and reducing its deliberations to little more than a mockery. By this bill the government will stand or fall, in the words of Winston Churchill, spokesman of his party on the veto bill, and lead the fight for its passage.

From the fighting of the last few days one figure today looms up as a strong leader, whereas, when parliament convened on Monday its speedy dissolution and overthrow of the government appeared imminent. Today the Liberal government is optimistic and its leaders are inclined to admit that their opponents are in a fair way to straighten out the tangle of politics, finance and constitutional questions. The cabinet members were again in conference today. The declaration of the unionists that they desire to put an end to the government and the backing down of the Irish party were never so clearly cleared the way for the beginning of real work.

The selection of Winston Churchill, as spokesman for the government, marks another triumph for the radical element within the Liberal ranks. David Lloyd George was who led the fight for the budget and Churchill is regarded as even more radical than Lloyd George.

London, Feb. 22.—The parliamentary situation is somewhat more hopeful for the government. The Nationalists and Labour parties are aware that they have little to gain by overthrowing the government, which would lead to dissolution, and a possible if not probable victory for the Conservatives at another general election. Hence the extremists today displayed a more conciliatory spirit. The ministers met today to draft the veto resolutions. The result of their deliberations was a speech by Winston Churchill, president of the board of trade at today's session of the House of Commons announcing the determination of the government to stand or fall by the veto bill. Speaking of the committee news, Mr. Churchill said that the cabinet would make its whole reliance upon the passage of the veto bill, and he promised that a resolution embodying its principles would be brought forward at the earliest possible moment. He did not think that any responsible member would recommend that the House exercise its power of refusing the necessary supply.

Independent Nationalist Talks.
William O'Brien, Independent Nationalist, declared that the only effectual thing the House could do was to terminate its own existence. He said that Redmond had yielded to the ministers the substance which retained the shadow. The government had the budget, and all that the Irish people had was a post office for Home Rule on the death of the House of Lords. Personally, he did not regard the veto of the House of Lords as dangerous to the excess of Home Rule, as would be the passage of the budget. Home Rule would be a curse if based upon the Imperial scheme of taxation; and if the veto bill was passed before the budget he was satisfied that the chancellor of the exchequer would have a weary wait for his Irish taxes.

Hurdie Supports Government.
James Keir Hurdie, president of the Independent Labor party, protested against any attempt at reconstruction of the House of Lords. As the Laborites did not believe in confining the veto power of the Lords, which was a relic of feudalism, and an insult and an outrage upon democracy, but as the Labor party could not go the other way they would accept the second best course and support the government in getting rid of the veto. He hoped that the government would make the passage of the budget contingent upon the veto bill going through, and he urged the government to reduce the supply as a means of forcing the Lords to agree to the abolition of their veto.

(Continued on Page Three)

NEW CANAL ON PLANET MARS.

Prof. Lowell Reports Discovery of 1,000-Mile Ditch Dug Last Year.

Chicago, Feb. 22.—A new canal on Mars, a thousand miles in length, has been discovered by Prof. Percival Lowell, of the Flagstaff Observatory, in Arizona. This is evidence, according to the astronomer, that the planet is inhabited. The announcement of the discovery was made yesterday by Prof. S. W. Burnham, of the Yerkes Observatory.

Not only did Prof. Lowell see the new canal, but he photographed it. Previous photographs of this region, made as late as last May, failed to show any trace of the new canal. The fact that it developed between May and September, when it was first observed, Prof. Lowell regards as positive proof that it is artificial and therefore that living beings exist on the planet.

"Prof. Lowell's discovery is of the utmost importance," said Prof. Burnham. "It seems to be the strongest confirmation yet obtained of the belief that there are living intelligent beings on Mars. It is bound to cause a stir in the world of astronomy."

"Prof. Lowell's theory that the markings on the planet are canals and that these canals are the work of living beings is the only one that fits all the known facts."

MORE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST SIR WILFRID

Conservatives at a Meeting Held in Toronto, Harshly Criticize His Naval Policy—Charge Him With Aiming at Canada's Independence.

Toronto, Feb. 21.—The proposed establishment of a Canadian navy was freely criticized by several speakers at joint meeting of the central and south Toronto Conservative associations this evening. The meeting was held in the club-rooms on Simcoe street. Mr. Arthur Van Koughnet presiding. Among the speakers were Mr. E. Bristol, M. P.; Mr. A. Claud McDonald, M. P.; Thos. Hook, E. W. Jowens and Henry Sheehy.

Mr. Bristol, in criticizing the proposal, argued that a separate navy was a waste of money. He said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was aiming at an independent existence for Canada in the future, and he quoted the support of his contention. He said it would take fifty years to produce a proper navy, whereas if we were to take place in the world, we would be able to do so in a few years. He urged that the government should take the shape of a Dreadnought.

Mr. Macdonald also urged an immediate contribution of Dreadnoughts, as a step toward the independence of Canada. He said that Canada could not do better than follow the example set by New Zealand.

Mr. Thos. Hook, in supporting the case for the Dreadnoughts, said that Germany's explanation that her naval expansion was to keep growth of the mercantile marine, and he thought it had a sinister meaning toward the British empire.

IMPERTINENT U. S. OFFICIALS

Windsor Aldermen Would Dump Cus-
tomers in River.

Windsor, Feb. 22.—Complaints have been registered over the insulting and arrogant methods adopted by the U. S. immigration officers stationed at Windsor ferry dock. They are allowed to take up their position on the Canadian side, and keep tab on people crossing the river. They may ask questions, but are not allowed to take any action till the object of their enquiries reaches the American side. It is alleged that they have fallen into the habit of insulting Canadians who make the ferry trip.

The matter came up in council last night when Alderman Bramble waxed wrathful, and suggested throwing the offending officials in the river. Mild or courteous, however, prevailed, and it was decided to place the question in the city solicitor's hands, and find out if U. S. immigration officers have a legal right to stop Canadians on their own soil and ply them with questions. Townsmen await developments with decided interest.

WAY PAVED FOR TREATY.

German Government Organ Sea Definite
Tariff Treaty With Canada.

Berlin, Feb. 22.—The text of the German-Canadian commercial arrangements, as published here, confers the right to give notice of withdrawal from its terms, and this can be exercised by either country, which should contemplate abrogating the agreement, when, within a reasonable period of giving such notice, it would go out of existence.

It is semi-officially observed by an organ in close touch with the government that the ground is now prepared for the definite settlement by treaty, which will later ensue.

Meanwhile, it may be expected that the removal of the surtax and the application of the conventional duties to a large part of Canadian exports to Germany will prepare for the development of that active exchange of goods and products considered desirable for both parties to the agreements.

MOB PUTS STATE MILITIA TO FLIGHT

Philadelphia Strike Riots Assume
Alarming Proportions—Many
Serious Conflicts.

Philadelphia, Penna., Feb. 22.—It is stated by labor leaders here today that President Gompers, of the Federation of Labor, has forbidden a general strike. It is said that President Gompers and Organizer C. O. Pratt are working against a general strike plan.

It is believed the crisis of the strike has been averted. The street car officials declared today that yesterday's fighting resulted in a loss of \$45,000. In all two hundred and ninety-five cars were wrecked, and a mob of 2,000 attacked a car strike was marked by bloodshed and rioting. Five policemen early today were killed by sticks thrown by strike sympathizers, when a mob of 2,000 attacked a car strike.

The fourth day of the street car strike was marked by bloodshed and rioting. Five policemen early today were killed by sticks thrown by strike sympathizers, when a mob of 2,000 attacked a car strike.

The police fired revolvers at the mob without effect. The mob was badly beaten. The car police finally dispersed the mob. There were numerous arrests.

Philadelphia, Feb. 22.—The mob, the bomb, and the torch held command of the street car strike situation today. Martial law was declared in the city, but the rioters made a farce of it. They stripped the uniforms from the backs of the State Fenibles, the one military organization that was called out, and threw their coats, hats and rifles into the sewers. Then they pulled out their revolvers and shot at the Fenibles.

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A Leader Protests.

But C. O. Pratt, the leader of the carmen's strike, vetoed the proposition. He pointed out that if the mob strike was a long one they would have to rely on their union brethren for funds to keep alive and they could not do this if the other unions were out of work too. Murphy agreed with this logic and thereupon called the various unions off, at least temporarily.

"We won't be called off," declared some of them. "We'll strike anyhow, and show these corporations the power of unionism in Philadelphia."

Murphy said tonight that he felt sure that these workmen, numbering 25,000 the least, and including plumbers, the layers, steam fitters, were not reported at their shops tonight. There will be a general strike, however, if the company do not win. This is certain. Murphy, Pratt and the other leaders have been patting that the sympathy is against the railroad way company and with the motormen and conductors, and that now, if ever, is the time to enforce recognition of the Carman's Union. This is the one big point at issue.

President Timothy Healy, of the Station Street car officials declared tonight that yesterday's fighting resulted in a loss of \$45,000. In all two hundred and ninety-five cars were wrecked, and a mob of 2,000 attacked a car strike was marked by bloodshed and rioting. Five policemen early today were killed by sticks thrown by strike sympathizers, when a mob of 2,000 attacked a car strike.

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STRIKE RIOTING IN PHILADELPHIA

100 Persons Injured in Riots Resulting From Street Railway Men's Strike.

Philadelphia, Feb. 22.—More than 100 persons were injured in a general riot in the trolley men's strike here today, many of them seriously.

One little girl was shot in the abdomen by a policeman and will probably die. Four thousand extra policemen were to be recruited to cope with the situation and it is rumored that the state constabulary will be called out.

A general strike of union men affected 10,000 workers in threatened and the Rapid Transit company declares it will spend every cent in its treasury rather than give an inch to the strikers.

C. O. Pratt, for the strikers, declares there will be no compromise. Not a car is running in the city tonight.

A dozen riots, two of them of big proportions, marked the progress of the strike in south Philadelphia this afternoon. As a result nearly every car that the company operated was battered and smashed. Their crews and guardians were roughly handled while one car was set on fire.

Boy's Skull Fractured.

One boy, a passenger in a car that was smothered, sustained a fractured skull and will probably die, while a number of persons were less seriously injured, and lasted for fully an hour. It began at three o'clock. The tracks of the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Wilmington railroad cross Wharton near Twenty-sixth street and a mob of several thousand persons shoved a freight car from the railroad tracks, placing it across the trolley tracks, completely blocking traffic.

The first car that approached on Wharton street found this barrier confronting it. The trolley men, who were armed with clubs and other weapons, were not to be moved. The mob charged the police, and the latter fired their revolvers and fired over the heads of the crowd.

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VISCOUNT'S SON NOT LABELLED.

Jury Declares Articles Justified. No Character to Lose.

London, Feb. 22.—The Hon. Henry Frederick Walpole Manners-Sutton, son of Viscount Canterbury, today lost his suit against T. W. H. Crossland, editor of the Academy, when a jury found that the latter was not guilty of the charge of libelling him when he wrote articles for the Academy, of which Lord Alfred Douglas is the editor. Crossland made serious attacks on the moral character of Manners-Sutton, who is the head of a religious publishing concern, and a relative of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The plaintiff charged that the defendants, in printing scandalous stories about his private life, were actuated by his refusal to advance a certain amount of money to carry on the publication of the Academy. The defendants when called upon to answer the libel charged pleaded justification. Some of the testimony during the trial was unpalatable.

As Result of Coal Strike.

Strikers, Feb. 22.—Twenty persons were sentenced by Judge Lawrence in the supreme court today to various terms in the penitentiary and county jail. The bulk of the offences arose out of the strike. The docket, which contained seventy-one indictments, was largest ever tried in Nova Scotia.

GRAIN DEALERS WAIT ON THE GOVERNMENT

Grain Exporters From Both East and West Ask Federal Government to Take Over the Terminal Elevators at Port Arthur and Port William—A Big Undertaking.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 22.—Representatives of the grain dealers and grain exporters from the east and west today asked the government to take over the control of the terminal elevators at Port Arthur and Port William, or if not willing to do that to require the railway companies, which transport grain, to control them, thus eliminating middlemen.

The gentlemen who went before the government with the request were Messrs. Hargratt, Buttan, Flemming, Stoddard, and Metcalfe, of Winnipeg. They were accompanied by Messrs. Carstairs and Morris, of Port Arthur, and Captain Richardson, of Kingston. Grain Inspector Short was also present at the interview.

The members of the government, to whom the request was presented, were Sir Richard Cartwright and Hon. Messrs. Fisher, Oakes and King.

The case was fully gone into by the members of the delegation, the chief speakers being Messrs. Hargratt and Stoddard. The grain men made several charges against the lessees of the terminal elevators at Port Arthur and Port William, who are supposed to clean the grain, in practice the grain is not cleaned, and the elevator men get credit for the weight of the chaff.

The chief ground of complaint was against the practice of "mixing" grain. They claimed that there is a constant manipulation and mixing of grades.

They said that high class grain taken for the purpose of bringing up an inferior grade to a grade which will enable the elevator men to get a price, and that for the high grade grain thus taken a low grade is substituted for the purpose of making up the quantity to the number of bushels in the original consignment.

The members of the government stated that there was a special committee of the government named to deal with the question of grain handling, and that the government would be glad to receive the most careful consideration. It was pointed out, however, that the demand which was made on the government was not a small one, as the taking over of the terminal elevators would require an expenditure of several million dollars.

There was also involved the important question of government ownership of elevators. It was further pointed out that if the demands were granted legislation would be required and the government could hardly hope to get a bill through along with the large amount of legislation now before parliament still remaining to be disposed of.

HOLD-UP MEN ARRESTED.

Two Miners Held for Complicity in Coal Creek Outrage.

Fernie, B.C., Feb. 22.—Thos. Davis, Coal Creek miner, and Fred Talbot, miner working at Michel, were arrested today at Michel by Provincial Constable Norris and brought to Fernie and are being held in the city jail. These men are supposed to be part of the party who held up Quinn and Baird on Saturday night at Coal Creek, securing about \$1,200. No trace as yet has been discovered of the two men who did the actual hold-up.

Amnesty to Political Prisoners Spain.

Seville, Spain, Feb. 22.—King Alfonso has signed a decree granting complete or partial amnesty to all political prisoners, chiefly the Catalan revolutionists.

KING SWINGS TO ASQUITH'S SIDE

Third Parliament of His Reign Opened Today—Momentous Statement in Speech.

London, February 21.—Edward VII. opened the third parliament of his reign with all the pomp and pageantry of a medieval show. Seven hundred and a thousand persons lined the streets and squares and pecked themselves about the House of Parliament, herded into solid masses by thousands of police and troops. Interest was at fever heat in the struggling, reeking throng, for this is the day of the opening of the real fight between the Lords and Commons that will go down into history as a crisis.

The path of the King to Parliament was lined with the Life Guards, shown in their red capes, gold helmets and plumes through the streets clattered horsemen in nearly all the uniforms of the British army and for miles upon miles a host of stiff, forming human chains to hold in bounds the crowd.

King Edward in the speech from the throne to the new parliament today swung squarely to the side of Premier Asquith and the most advanced members of his coalition party in the following momentous commendation:

"That proposals be early laid before parliament to secure the undivided authority of the Commons over finance, and their pre-eminence over all legislation."

The opinion of some prominent Liberals is that if there is to be a general election, the sooner the government will not last six weeks. Winston Churchill was overheard remarking: "The situation is certainly serious, but I think we will beat the beggars yet."

LORD CURZON IN DISFAVOR

Student Body of Glasgow University Resent His Neglect of Them.

London, Feb. 22.—Lord Curzon is getting himself disliked in Glasgow University, and indications are that unless he takes speedy measures to remedy the situation, his comfort will be served by keeping away from that institution hereafter.

As recently as November he thought it worthwhile to present himself for election as Lord Rector of the University. He won the honor by a very narrow majority. Since then he has been shamefully neglectful of it in university eyes.

According to precedent it was his duty soon after the election to deliver the rectorial address. The successive dates were set for it himself, and he carefully excused himself on political engagements. Now he has broken a third appointment and the student body has sent him a respectful communication. The message asks him if like Chantler, he imagines that the sun would not rise in England if he should absent himself for a couple of days in Scotland.

It is now his duty to give an account of his conduct, but he has been unable to do so. Lord Curzon maintains a dignified silence, and declines to fix any date for the address.

FRENCH POLAR EXPEDITION

Dr. Charcot Tells of Observations of Scientists in Antarctic.

Buenos Ayres, Feb. 21.—The correspondent of the Prensa, at Punta Arenas, again has interviewed Dr. Jean M. Charcot, who was somewhat reluctant to talk. He said he had discovered many portions of land, too many to give an accurate description of, but he visited only a part of the Antarctic region and that he believes to be land to be a part of the continent.

Studies made by the eight scientists of the expedition include analysis of water at several depths, astronomical and meteorological observations. The expedition brings with it a rich collection of unknown species of vegetation and animals and some unknown varieties of seals. The night temperature experienced was two degrees above zero and the lowest 30 degrees below.