## The Leaderless

Action of the British Liberal Federation -- The Party Without a Leader, But Far From Being Demoralized.

The American Peace Envoys Knew Their Business -Czar of Russia Sincere in His Peace Propo sition-The French Shore Dispute-London Women Smokers-Great Boom in British Ship

stands for measures, not men. The National Liberal Federation, has wisely refrained from premature meddling with the question of leadership, and has left the members of parliament in the House of Commons free to choose their own captain. Dr. Spence Watson, with the cheerful optimism of Mark Tapley, directed the conference with beaming face and strong hand, and Sir Wilfrid Lawson, the chief party humorist, kept the delegates in high good humor. Sir William Harcourt was warmly thanked, but his resignation was accepted as final. The delegates resolutely declined to go into caucus for a leader, and imposed upon the Liberal members of the House of Commons the obligation of working out their own salvation. Mr. Asquith's address was delivered with great difficulty, since a section of the audience was hostile, but he succeeded in minimizing the lines of clevage within the on questions of foreign policy. The day's work was characterized by soberness, tact and good judgment. NOT DEMORALIZED.

Liberalism is without a leader, but it is not demoralized, nor does it await with a frenzy of excitement the coming of Lord Salisbury's Mad Mullah in a Jehad to carry away the lot. The choice of Sir William's successor will be reached by the process of exciusion. Mr. Morley is the ablest man, but as Harcourt's lieutenant, he cannot hope to succeed where his captain has failed. Mr. Asquith ranks next in force of character, but he is positively identified with Lord Rosebery's fortunes, and lacks flexibility and tact. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman is also one of Lord Rosebery's adherents, and he has the serenity of temper required for leadership, is personally popular, and has been 30 years in the house. Seniority in service is his strongest claim, and his promotion would excite no jealousy, but he is rich and indol-ent, and shirks hard work. Mr. Fowler is a good debater, but is a natural trimmer, lacks power of decision, and seldom knows his own mind. Mr. Bryce is not a political manager, but a scholar in politics. Mr. Herbert Glad-stone has his father's name, but the Liberal fortunes cannot be directed by a dead hand. Sir Edward Gray springs from a race of statesmen, is a hard worker, has resources of tact and energy requisite for leadership, but is too young to command veterans. PERSONAL AMBITION BARRED.

Personal ambition will have nothing to do with the selection of a Liberal leader in the commons, since nobody will venture to aspire to the honor of directing the forces of the opposition, when Harcourt and Morley are free lances on the same bench. The Liberal members will choose a man for a dangerous service, and will not be at that London Liberalism has underrated the strength of old-time traditions of foreign policy prevailing in the provinces. The undertone of the discussion in that body of representative Liberals was hostile to the new imperialism of Rosebery and Asquith. The old ideas of retrenchment are still cherished in Manchester and the provinces. Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Morley stand for policies associated with Gladstone, and provincial Liberalism is not prepared to break away from them. The London view has been that Irish home rule and Manchester ideals of diplomacy were buried in Westminster Abbey with Gladstone, and that the party could carding both and meeting Mr. Cham-berlain on his own ground. The radical socialism and anti-imperialism of the Birmingham conference have warned the "hotspurs" that they must make haste slowly, or they will be in danger of splitting up their distracted party. A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

From this point of view this week's crisis may be a blessing in disguise. Provincial Liberalism has thrown a wet blanket upon factional intrigue and zeal for new policies, foreign and domestic. Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Morley will be unhampered, and will speak for a strong minority in the Liberal party, which still believes Ghadstone's principles, and is not willing to be rushed wildly into imperialism and jingoism. Lord Rose-bery and Mr. Asquith, now reprecenting the majority of the Liberal party, will be more conciliatory and discreet when they are exposed to destructive criticism from Harcourt and Morley-one the best parliamentarian, and the other the greatest intellect of the Liberal side. It was easy for Lord Salisbury to raise a laugh by describing the country's enemies as all fighting with one another, and to follow up the gibe by stating that nothing was better for a strong government than a strong opposition, but it is hardly open to question that there will be a larger scope for critical functions in consequence of Sir William Harcourt's action during the Responsibility without power of enforcing personal authority crippled Rosebery and Harcourt in turn. Lord Rosebery increased his political resources by resigning the leadership. Sir William also will have greater force and authority when hereafter he takes up foreign questions as an independent Liberal.

A SINGULAR SUTUATION: The Liberal party has neither a commander-in-chief nor a leader in the House of Commons. It would be impossible at this moment to point out a single personality of inciple and say, "This represents Liberalism." A meet- Associated Press, says: "I have seen

London, Dec. 19.-King Caucus is never important, as it has no power to pledge any body to anything. But this time it leaves confusion worse confounded. Lord Rosebery wisely pre-

serves a complete silence. Meantime, the Irish are delighted, be-cause they calculate the worse the condition of the Liberal party becomes, the greater will be its temptation to make terms about Ireland. The betting is all in favor of the permanence of a Tory majority till 1910. The moral of the situation confirms the wit who said, The worst thing an able-bodied leader can do with a post is to resign it. sober truth is that except in the halfbaked minds of a few fanatics of either side, there is no ground whatever for any Liberal split over imperialism. Neither party propose any immediate extension of the empire. Both are perfectly agreed upon holding tight to what Great Britain already has. Both are profoundly in favor of the most cordial co-operation with America. Both sympathize with the struggles of modern Japan. Both would be glad if any common basis of action or inaction could be found with Russia. Moreover, such a split would have this result, the old Liberal party would be rent asunder. The imperialist wing would coalesce with the Unionists, many Conservatives joining them, while the other Liberals would be coerced by the advanced Radicals into a semi-social programme. Then the mother of parliaments would risk becoming little better than the legislative bear garden of Vienna.

MR. HARCOURT'S EXIT. Another correspondent says: The sensation of the political week has been Sir William Vernon Harcourt's trapdoor exit from the front of the Liberal stage, which has thrown down his party in a broken-winged condition, and it is very clear, from the speeches delivered at Friday's meeting of the National Liberal Federation, that the rank and file are seriously displeased with what is regarded in the light of desertion. The letters of Sir William Vernon Harcourt reveal that a state of intrigue and internal division has existed in inner Liberal circles for the past year. But Liberal organs speakers emphatically deny that there was any desire to supplant him. Now the Liberal organs openly give Sir William a piece of their mind. SEVERE COMMENT.

The Speaker says: Neither the tone had the right to expect from them. They have been regarded as shining examples, and we are sorry they have fallen short of their own reputation. Dr. Spence Watson, the great "wirepuller" of the party, referring to Sir William Vernon Harcourt's letter of resignation, remarked snappishly:
"There is no such office as 'leader of the Liberal party."

DIVIDED.

The Liberals seem quite divided on liberty to decline the position. Mr. the subject of Sir William's successor, Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Asquith and and the tone of their press is marked able candidates for the succession in by an embarrassing conflict of preferthe order named. The Birmingham ences for Mr. Morley, Mr. Asquith, Sir conference has offered a striking proof Henry Campbell Bannerman, Mr. Asthat London Liberalism has under quith, perhaps, having a slight lead, and if he consented to sacrifice his big practice at the bar, which is inconsistent with the duties of the Liberal leadership, he would undoubtedly be selected.

Harcourt will remain a private member of the party, and as soon as the Liberals come into power he will receive a peerage and practically retire from parliamentary life. THE IRISH MEMBERS.

The Irish members of parliament affect to be highly pleased at the disorganization of the Liberal party. The Freeman's Journal hits home when it hope to regain power only by dis- says: "The Liberal wise men for years have been lecturing the Irishmen on the subject of dissension, which they gave as justification for their postponement of home rule. But they completely ignored the beam in their own eye." The Freeman's Journal then declares that the disruption of the Liberals enormously enhances the power of the united Irish party, "as it prevents such a triumph of the hostile elements in the Liberal party as to render them independent of Irish power." HARD WORK FOR THE PEACE

COMMISSIONERS.

It is doubtful if a more businesslike, hard-working body than the American peace commission, which sailed Saturday afternoon for New York on board the American Line steamer St. Louis, from Southampton, ever represented the United States abroad. On the arrival of the commissioners at Paris they immediately settled down to work. Between the joint meetings the Americans spent their days conferring in regard to their policy. These conferences developed wide differences, the quintet of commissioners representing every shade of opinion on the policy of expansion. Sometimes the meetings were almost stormy, but the commissioners always presented a solid front to the Spaniards. The Americans were greatly indebted in all stages to the learning of Prof. Moore, secretary of the United States commission, who participated in the conferences, and whose advice was often a deciding factor in weighty problems. The American commissioners also say that a high compliment was paid to Mr. Arthur Ferguson, the interpreter attached to the commission, by the Spaniards, who, although he was an American attache, trusted him to represent both parties. Mr. Ferguson is gifted with a remarkable memory. He would listen to a speech ten or twenty minutes long, and would then repeat its substance in the other language. The accuracy of his translations

was never questioned. SINCERITY OF THE CZAR. Mr. William Stead, writing the

something practical should be done, and that quickly, to divert to the services of humanity some of the many millions now devoted to preparations for war. He has taken the initiative in summoning the conference. He is prepared to give earnest of his sincerity by arresting the future increase of Russian armaments. But, unless he is supported by the people who detest militarism as well as by those who groan under its burdens, his well-meant endeavor will fail.

"The American people can, if they will, prevent so fatal a catastrophe. As the greatest and latest born of the world's powers, they can, if they choose, save this supreme opportunity of the century from being sacrificed by the skeptical apathy of the governments. But to do this it will be necessary to act, and to act at once.'

GERMAN SOCIALISTS

The socialistic faction has introduced in the reichstag a number of motions in favor of the abolition of lese majeste paragraphs in the criminal code, the abolition of the dictator paragraph respecting Alsace-Lorraine, the legal establishment of an eight-hour workday, and the widening of the present rights of political associations. These matters come before the house after the Christmas adjournment. Several of them have not the ghost of a chance of adoption, but they will lead to lively debates.

ABODE OF THE VIRGIN MARY. Particulars of the acquisition of the legendary abode of the Virgin Mary at Jerusalem by the German Catholics, which the emperor announced during the Palestine trip, has thrown fresh light on the recent scandal in connection with the sale of the American cemetery at Jerusalem. Coffins were said to have been exhumed and the bodies dismembered and packed in small boxes and reinterred elsewhere. The names of the purchasers of the cemetery and the particulars of the transaction have been concealed. It now transpires that the cemetery formed part of the site of the abode of the Virgin Mary, and was bought by the German Catholics in confident anticipation of an arrangement by which the sultan, to oblige Emperor William, would place them in possession of the rest of the property, which was in the hands of Mussulmans, who were forced to sell under the order of the sultan. The Catholics press notes, in mock surprise, that while the Catholic clergy and press formally and generally thanked the emperor for what he has done for them in Palestine, the Protestant press and episcopacy have remain-

GETTING TOGETHER. It is gradually leaking out in diplomatic circles that negotiations of some kind are proceeding between Great Britain and Russia with a view of discovering whether the present unmistakable drive toward a rupture cannot be stopped. Count Muravieff has recently made certain representations to the British ambassador in St. Petersburg, which resulted in a kind of unofficial mission for the Grand Duke Serge, who with the grand duchess, is visiting the Queen at Windsor. The next step was a visit of Baron de Staal, the Russian ambassador, to Lord Salisbury at Hatfield. Next comes the remarkable speech of M. Tatischieff, the Russian financial councilor, in which he gave a strongly-worded innor the actual language of Sir William vitation to English capital to come to Harcourt or Mr. Morley are what we Russia, assuring a hearty, welcome, and adding an eloquen neutral political understanding.

All this has been supported by representations from the German pire and inspired utterances of the German press, Germany desiring to extend her present understanding with England, but being held back by fear of affronting Russia, whose vast army on her frontier is the only thing she fears.

PEACE NECESSARY.

It becomes more and more evident that Russia must, by hook or by crook, insure herself against international complications. Her treasury is drained dry by demands for the army and navy, and the trans-Siberian railway. Though nobody questions the loftiness of the czar's personal convictions, his advisers' love for peace is making a virtue of necessity. So far as England is concerned, however, Russia can lay the foundation of peace when

MOVEMENT GAINING GROUND. The movement in favor of an international demonstration in support of the czar's peace conference is taking shape in Great Britain, and is attracting much sympathy from the Queen and other members of the royal family, who are said to be aware of the entire sincerity of the czar. Mr. Balfour writes: "I see you claim your scheme will draw still closer the bonds of union between English-speaking people and promote a better understanding between them and the Slavonic races, and inaugurate an era of international peace. If its effects for mankind are even a fraction of what you hope, it is surely worthy of international sympathy.'

ALLIANCES.

The Spectator says: "The air is full of talk of alliances and of how good for this country it would be to ally ourselves to this or that power. Frankly, we do not feel any very great enthusiasm on the subject, except in the case of the United States, and there we do not want to see so much alliance as recognition of the bond of kinship. We want the acceptance of the principle that however different may be their interests and aspirations brothers in blood will never desert each other in the hours of need. We want England and America each to feel what we firmly believe to be a fact, that if either gets its back to the wall the other will come to its help, no matter what the cause of the quarrel."

A CLOUD ON THE HORIZON. News which has reached official quarters during the last few weeks indicate that it will be the Anglo-French contact in North America, rather than in Africa, over which British statesmen would be most concerned when Easter comes. I refer to Newfoundland. For well-nigh 50 years the French shore dispute there has only been kept from an acute stage by personal influence brought to bear by successive British ministers upon successive Newfoundland ministers. But the Reid railway compact has changed all this. The controlling voice is no longer that of the ministry at St. Johns, but of a powerful capitalist, who is determined that his enterprise shall not be wrecked to save the peace of mind of British statesmen. It is this situation which causes great disquietude in official circles, for at last this century-old dispute, touching the "This represents Liberalism." A meet- Associated Press, says: "I have seen rights of a self-governing British coling of the National Liberal Federation the czar. I have heard from his own ony and the historic pride of every

lips the earnest desire of his heart that | Frenchman, assumes such a shape that | life he was a great curier among curiit can no longer be passed over. This is the threatening cloud on the new year's horizon.

BOOM IN SHIPBUILDING.

Notwithstanding the coal strike this looks like turning out a record year in shipbuilding reports. Not all are out yet, but the returns of Harland & Wolff, Belfast, show that they have launched almost 70,000 tons, made up of seven large steamers. This firm will launch on Jan. 14 the leviathan ship Oceanic, which is expected to revolutionize the Atlantic passenger trade.

WARK'S SENTENCE. Not for a long time has any death sentence created such wide-spread sympathy and indignation as that passed upon Lieut. Wark, of the Royal Artillery. What was anticipated has come to pass. Lieut. Wark has been reprieved, and sympathy for him is so great that a movement is being prosecuted to secure a free pardon.

WALES' EXPENSES.

"Mainly About People" has some notes on the financial position of the Prince of Wales. His own and the Princess of Wales' vote from parliament and his income from the Duchy of Cornwall amount to \$550,000 a year. This income is easily spent upon the expenses of Sandringham and Marlborough House. The enormous presents, especially wedding gifts, have become a heavy tax on the royal pair. and entertainment expenses and private amusements form a very heavy item, to say nothing of their wardrobes and the numerous costly uniforms that the Prince of Wales must

WOMEN SMOKERS.

Walking in Bond and Regent streets the other day, I was struck by a novelty which is announced in the windows of jewelry stores to be a cigarette holder for ladies. Some are exquisitely cut in amber and encrusted with jewels. Some are fixed to rings studded with brilliants and worn on the finger. The majority, however, are jeweled with turquoise, which ladies consider a lucky stone for December. A jeweler from whom I inquired told me he already had sold many for Christmas gifts. A west end tobacconist said he had sold six times as many cigarettes, specially made for ladies, as last year, but the most reliable opinion seemed to be that smoking among the ladies had quadrupled here in one year.

# A WORTHY

Death of Rev. John Robertson, of Ingersoll.

Father of Professor Robertson. Dominion Commissioner of Agriculture.

A God-Fearing and Useful Life-His Zeal for Agricultural Progress.

Ingersoll, Ont., Dec. 17.-Rev. John was a man of remarkable parts, and in many respects a type of the Scotchmen who settled in Canada between the early fifties and seventies. He was descended on his mother's side from the Howies of Lochgoin, the most notable of whom was the author of the "Lives of Scots Worthies," a book which molded the ideals of religious life for several generations of those who succeeded the Covenanters. The Howie family have lived for nigh seven hundred years in the same place, and the present John Howie is said to be the 31st direct descendant without a break in the male line of succession. Some of these facts were brought into prominence at a historic gathering at the old homestead in Ayrshire in 1896, when some 4,000 people, many of them the eminent and worthy sons of Scotland, met at Lochgoin to dedicate a monument to the author of that book.

Mr. Robertson was born at Dunlop, Ayrshire, in 1828, and came of a longlived, hardy race. His father lived to enter his 85th year, with his faculties all good; and his mother, Jean Howie, the good angel and friend of the poor throughout the parish, was hale and energetic long past 80. One of his sons tells of seeing the deceased's grandmother tying up her "ane twa'l cows in the byre" at the age of 96.

Mr. Robertson's was one of those ardent natures that take up with enthusiasm whatever they go into. In early



Of all the bereavements ble to a home, the loss of a child is perhaps the most disappointing, and the hardest to bear. During the heated spell in the summer in New York City as many as a thou-sand babies have died in a week. Of course, in a crowded city, with its unsanitary districts, many of these deaths would have occurred

any way. The fact remains that this tremendous mortality was to a great extent due to the lack of inherent resisting power in the victims. These babies when born had in their bodies the seeds of disease. The deadly heated term only shortened the period of their sufferings.

If a woman wishes her babies to be healthy and strong and able to resist the usual ailments of childhood, she must take proper care of herself in a womanly way during the period of gestation. A woman who suffers from weakness and disease of the organs distinctly feminine is unfitted for wifehood and motherhood. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a wonderful medicine for ailing women. It acts directly on the delicate and important organs concerned. It makes them well and strong. It allays inflammation, heals ulceration, soothes pain, stops exhausting drains and gives rest and tone to the tortured nerves.
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ers, and to the last the click o' the stanes would waken the old spirit of sport. Away back in the fifties he became closely associated with Rev. Mr. Gebbie, the parish minister of Dunlop, noted throughout Scotland for the ferthat time Mr. Robertson and his beau-tiful wife—Mary Wilson, of Langton,— gave themselves as heartily to the advancement of the Christian cause as they had before to the enjoyment of dancing parties and emotional entertainments of that ilk. Henceforth the watchword of his home in the old patriarchal sense was, "As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord.

In 1875 he brought his family to Canada, and settled on the Maple Grove farm, London township. He had a thorough practical knowledge of the farming methods and dairying of his native county, Ayrshire; and was, course, at once interested in the a culture of Ontario. His sons inher some of his tastes and abilities. of them is Prof. Robertson, of Ottawa; and a younger son returned to Scotland in 1888 to act as dairy instructor in the

southwestern counties there.

Mr. Robertson was a fluent speaker. and was well known in Ontario and New Brunswick as a leader and teacher in improved methods of farming. He was a frequent speaker at the farmers' institutes of Ontario; and the illness which resulted in his death began with a severe cold and backache caught on one of those trips last spring.

Religious zeal of a manly, unselfish sort was his predominant characteristic. In 1863 he sublet his farm in Scotland for three years and devoted himself as a missionary among the coal miners and iron workers at Ardeer. After he came to Canada that same spirit let him be easily persuaded into holding services regularly for a small Baptist church at Nilestown, which was then without a regular minister. After some years he yielded to the solicitation of the members there and others, and consented to be ordained as their minister. He meanwhile attended to his farm and other business work. Ever

since he has ministered in that capacity to several needy churches. Among them are Nilestown, Gladstone, Lobo, Nissouri, St. Marys and others. He was a Christian gentleman, with an unusually high sense of the duties and privileges attached to a personal profession of that religion.

His wife, Mary Wilson, died in 1881. Of the children who came from Scotland with him, four daughters and three sons survive him. He married as his second wife, Louise Edwards, of Ingersoll, and she, with one daughter and son, are left to mourn his loss.

The funeral will be from Ingersoll to Webster's burying ground, London township, on Tuesday, Dec. 20. There will be a service in the Baptist Church in Ingersoll at a quarter before ten o'clock, and a service in the Talbot Street Baptist Church, London, at half-past one o'clock. At the latter his old and beloved friend, Rev. John Dempsey, will speak.

REV. DR. PARKHURST MAY RE-

New York, Dec. 17.-Rumors are current in Presbyterion circles that Rev. Dr. Parkhurst may retire from the pastorate of the Madison Square Presbyterian Church as the result of a proposition to consolidate this church with that of Fourth Avenue. Parkhurst stated that he was ready to step out if his doing so would consummate the consolidation. He would not, however, confirm or deny the rumor regarding his prospective retire-

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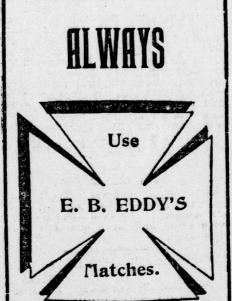
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