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POLITICAL ISSUES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

With the prospect of a general election in Great Britain before the close of the year the politicians are making hurried preparations for a campaign which, if short, will be no less strenuous than usual. The champions of Tariff Reform appear to have decided that the time is not opportune to again press this issue upon the electorate and the forces of the Unionists are concentrating for an attack on Home Rule which, with Mr. Redmond and his friends holding the balance of power has become once more a burning question in British politics.

The attitude of the Observer, one of the most aggressive Unionist journals, and the editor of which is Mr. J. L. Garvin, indicates the line of attack. It says: "What is the vital word in this struggle? It is that John Redmond landed in Queenstown last night with \$200,000 in his pocket for the purpose of tearing down the British Constitution. He comes to provide, if he can, with his Transatlantic subsidies and nothing else, another majority for his kept ministry. He comes with the money of Patrick Ford to wipe out the political interests of England, to hand over England to the domination of Socialism, to keep free imports fastened on the back of the British masses, to make a final end of the old dignity, honor, and estate of the Mother of Parliaments. Above all, he returns with his Republican cash to extort from the British Crown his guarantees, and if he can net them for forty thousand pounds, let us concede that they would be dirt-cheap at the price."

"In a word, he comes once more with his freely-imported pelf to resume the evil work that hurried King Edward to the grave. He reappears to effect a conquest more shameful, more ignominiously fatal, than could be effected by foreign arms. We not only tell him that he will never succeed until the very soul and patriotism of England are dead; we tell him that from the judgment of England he shall not escape. This nation recognizes the emergency—recognizes that in the politics of any great people. Within a week throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain a blaze will be lighted that no efforts of the kept ministry and of the men with American money shall put out. It will consume them. The price of the great betrayal of every permanent interest of the Constitution is \$200,000. It will be as suicidal a sum as the thirty pieces of silver."

A similar, but milder, tone is adopted by Mr. F. E. Smith, M. P., who recently raised the Unionists to great enthusiasm by a speech at Brackley. After referring to the fighting spirit of the Conservative party he continues: "Never did a great army attack an enemy embarrassed by such open humiliation. Premier Asquith is inarticulate; no Cabinet decision on any point is possible. He will take no decision until the uncrowned King of political mendicants, his pockets bulging with American gold, appears from the sea, like Aphrodite, but less lovely, to give insulting directions to the successor of Clatham. The Liberals, supreme a year ago in the House of Commons, are today no more than equal to the Unionists. If this was achieved in January, before the Budget was nailed to the counter, what is possible in December?"

The Liberals on the other hand will make their appeal to the people on the question of Reform in the House of Lords. Mr. Lloyd-George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is emphatic on this point. "Having in vain," he says, "used every endeavor through conciliatory methods to win equal political rights for all Britons, we are now driven to fight for fair play in our native land. We repudiate the claim put forward by the Peers that they were going to control the destinies of 45,000,000 of their fellow-citizens and to trample upon their wishes for the good government of their own country."

The Daily Chronicle gives as a watchword:—"Strike Now! Strike Hard!" It calls Mr. Garvin's article a wild Dervish dance of inflammatory rhetoric, and says his suggestion that King Edward was hurried to his grave by the government's policy is a cruel calumny for which there is not a shred of justification.

The Daily News vehemently declares that the nation will not be dragged by appeals to national and race hatred, and adds:—"The sole issue is, Shall the Lords or the People Rule?"

It may occasion some surprise that Tariff Reform should be suddenly relegated to the background. But it must be remembered that two recent elections at South Shields and Walthamstow, necessitated by the promotion of Sir William Robson to the bench and the acceptance of the office of Solicitor General by Sir John Simon, had results which were not inspiring to the Unionist party or the tariff reformers. If a majority is to be gained for Tariff Reform by the Unionists, it must be done by carrying the great industrial towns whose vote was cast for the Liberals at the last election. Both South Shields and Walthamstow were such constituencies, and a comparison of the figures of the recent elections with those of the general election scarcely tends to give hope at present of any shifting of public opinion.

At the general election, in January last, Sir William Robson was returned for South Shields with a majority of 4236, out of a total vote of 12,944. On the recent occasion Mr. Russell Roa, the Ministerialist, defeated Mr. Vaughan Williams, the Unionist, by 3019 out of a total of 12,839. It is true that this shows a decrease of 1200 votes in the Liberal total, but it has to be remembered that Mr. Roa was a stranger to the constituency, whereas Sir William Robson had represented it for fifteen years and was deservedly popular. If, however, Mr. Roa's poll decreased by some 1200,

that of Mr. Vaughan Williams only increased by some 50 votes, as the result of all the efforts to return him on this occasion. Such a result was no cause for gratification to the Unionist managers.

If the result of the South Shields election showed little signs of a tariff reform reaction, that in the Walthamstow division of Essex showed even less. Here the government was at no disadvantage with respect to candidates, as both the Ministerialist and the Unionist had contested the division at the last election, while the Ministerialist had sat for it during the last four years. In spite of this, circumstances had made the position of Sir John Simon a distinctly difficult one. As a law officer of the Crown, the attitude of the Trade Unionists towards him, in respect of the Osborne judgment, was a dangerous one, and had resulted in a disagreement which had led the Trade Union Council to direct all the members in the division to vote against him. In a division in which the voters were to an enormous extent working men this was an extreme course. Out of a total poll of 33,257 at the last election, Sir John Simon's majority had been only 2195. If, therefore, the Trade Union Council had been able to exercise any serious authority, Sir John Simon's seat was as good as lost. As a matter of fact, when the figures were declared, it was found that he had increased his majority by some 600 votes, from 2195 at the last election to 2795 in the present instance.

The inference is inevitable that, even when directed by their leaders to vote against the Liberal candidate, the Trade Unionists not only refused to vote for Tariff Reform, but even to refrain from voting for the Liberal. The total decrease in Sir John Simon's poll was only 1053, while that in his opponent, Mr. Johnson's, was 1681. It is difficult to draw any conclusion other than that the great industrial constituencies in England are not yet ready to accept Tariff Reform. The shifting of the battleground to more live issues tends to strengthen this view.

ABNORMAL WHEAT.

A British agriculturist has just produced the most rapidly grown wheat crop ever known, and sees no reason why land should not yield two crops a summer—regardless of winter sowing. The new crop—two acres of it—appeared five days after the seeding, instead of after the usual three weeks. The entire crop was in full head eleven weeks later. The seed was planted and cultivated in the usual way, without especially favoring conditions and without undue stimulation of the soil.

The cause of the accelerated growth is in the treatment of the seed itself. A secret process affects the germ, trebling the life force. The "new" wheat will no longer come in stalks but in "bushes"—not only in quicker time but in larger quantities. The experimenters think that an active farmer might get in two crops the season—one sown in March, the other in June. The conservative cultivator, satisfied with one crop, might still derive benefit from the opportunities of the new order. He could postpone his single planting until May, or even later, thus selecting his weather and minimizing all risks.

Though the process of treating the seed is still a secret, it can scarcely remain so. If this agricultural miracle is a practical reality it involves a matter too vital to remain private. Nothing is said about the probable ultimate effect of this rapid growth on the soil itself.

Current Comment

(Hamilton Herald.)

A Toronto petition has been forwarded to the British Home Secretary, asking that Dr. Crippen be not hanged. Three reasons are given for this request. One is that it is not certain that Mrs. Crippen is dead. But the jury decided that point. Another reason is that Crippen has some good qualities. If that reason were a sound one, then no man would be executed, for "there's good in the worst of us." The third reason is that capital punishment is wrong anyhow, and ought to be abolished. Ay, there's the rub. Whatever may be thought about capital punishment, however, British law can not be changed, on the petition of these Toronto folks, in time to save Crippen.

(Montreal Gazette.)

One Toronto Liberal paper, dealing with the political composition of the Senate, wants the Government to fill all vacancies not only with Liberals, but with Liberals who are young and healthy and good life insurance risks. Recent events have evidently set the Government's friends to thinking of the future, when Liberals will be in opposition, and under the working of their own practice can only hope for such enjoyment of place as is got by looking from outside at the warm fire through the office window.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

Secretary of State Murphy reports that maladministration and graft have marred the management of the Printing Bureau at Ottawa. As a result of these evils the country has lost an amount of money that cannot be estimated. Here we have an admission from within of the charge of impropriety that has been so freely made in the country and in Parliament. What has happened in the Printing Bureau would never occur under an Administration that is awake to its duties and honest in the conduct of business.

(Montreal Star.)

To make the process of securing justice so costly as to drive men and women in poor circumstances to accept injustice rather than face the expense of an appeal to the courts, is subversive of the most important of all tenets upon which society is built. Justice is neither free nor equal when we so overload it with fees and expenses as to make it, for practical purposes, only available for those with long purses.

(Calgary News.)

A state-owned cable between Great Britain and Canada would result in each country getting a comprehensive daily news service of the happenings in the other. The news would not be colored as it is when it comes through foreign channels, as was that dispatch from Teheran relative to the trouble in Persia.

(Moncton Times.)

Mr. Emmerson is reported to have intimated to Mr. Brady that his time would be short on the Intercolonial. Mr. Brady is reported to have replied that he might be still on the Intercolonial Board after Mr. Emmerson had been retired from public life. Time will tell which is the stronger power.

(Toronto Star.)

Six hundred sane people in the theatre bear a cry of "Fire," and there is a panic. Six hundred insane, in an asylum are menaced by a real conflagration, and escape unharmed. What is the answer?

(Chicago Tribune.)

"Well, who do you think you are?" asked David, unafraid.
"I am the man higher up," gruffly answered Goliath, looking contemptuously down upon him.
But David got him.

Sun's up! You too! Before you dress, get in shape for the day; drink a glass of **MAGI** THE WATER OF QUALITY

A BIBLE STUDENT
LOOKING FOR TRUTH

Criticism of Present Day Theological Dogma of Resurrection and Final Judgment—Wrong Conclusions.

No. 6.

In this letter I propose to discuss that special feature of orthodox theology, viz: the resurrection, the immortal bodies the spirits are to assume and the judgment which is to follow. Christian theologians tell us as a portion of their teaching that when the body dies the spirit goes to Heaven, Hell or Purgatory and some say it rests or sleeps, until the morning of the resurrection. The Apostle Paul puts this clearly when he says, "All that are in their graves shall hear His voice and come forth, while those who are alive on the earth, shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air." According to this view there is to be a general resurrection, and all the spirits are to receive new bodies, or the old ones resurrected after their ten thousand times ten thousand transformations into different forms of matter.

Supposing our world has been inhabited a million years—with human beings, and will be inhabited a million years longer, and all the spirits that have passed through are re-embodied and come to judgment. The books are opened according to Christian theology, and all are being judged for the deeds done in the body and a verdict given that will seal their fate to all eternity.

Where will the court be held? This world would not be large enough to hold them. I will suppose a place is found large enough to hold them, and the judgment begun. How many thousands and years would the last ones have to wait before it came to their turn to be judged? While those judged would enjoy thousands of years of the happiness in store for them, while others would have thousands of years of misery as the case might be, while the last to be judged would be waiting for their turn. Those conclusions are certainly a legitimate outcome of the promises laid down by Christian theologians in their teachings upon this subject.

But it would not stop there. The mind naturally goes farther. The subject is boundless. The theology I have been discussing deals with the immortal spirits, the countless millions of worlds with intelligent beings upon them, under the same infinite guidance and control, pouring into space the thoughts and numbers that would set figures at defiance, going on from all eternity past, and continuing to all eternity to come. We can conceive of worlds being eternally dead, as far as animal life is concerned. That such changes have ever been going on, and will continue to go on, cannot be doubted. Would those which had intelligent beings upon them end with a similar consummation to what theologians give ours, with similar resurrections and judgments? Those are the problems naturally growing out of Christian theology. And do they not throw grave doubts as to whether the great being we call God ever inspired such theology? Surely some better explanation could be found of what they call a divine plan made for human beings in connection with this world of ours. I cannot avoid the conclusion, that, instead of showing the infinite wisdom of a wise and loving Father, they insinuate reflection of a very different nature, which I am confident, Christian theologians never intended.

Leaving For The West.

A. Tanzman, proprietor of the Union Store, at 223 Union street, is selling out his business here and will leave for Vancouver in January. Mr. Tanzman has made many friends while in business in this city and they will regret to hear of his decision to remove to the west. On account of the heavy stock stored in his store at 223 Union street and the short space of time left in which to dispose of it, Mr. Tanzman will offer some exceptional bargains at his big sale which will open on Friday, Nov. 18.

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