

fact that the Dominions insisted on some kind of direct representation, and undertook to plead their own case, may have made the Imperial delegates less zealous than they would have been if the whole responsibility had rested on their shoulders. We have no doubt, however, that Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues desired to support the Dominions' contention and yielded only when the majority of the great powers obliged them to do so. What else could the British Ministers do, unless they were prepared to withdraw from the Conference and from their alliance with the other nations that had shared the burdens of the war? The nations which agree to participate in the Peace Conference must be prepared to accept the conclusions to which the Conference may come. The delegates of the British Government doubtless are acting in this spirit. That they have not been able to secure what Australia, New Zealand and South Africa desired is much to be regretted. Let us hope that when the details of the proposed "mandatory" system of government come to be arranged they will mitigate in some measure the dissatisfaction which is now keenly felt in the Dominions chiefly concerned.

## A Man of the Future

ONE of the prominent Liberals who went down to defeat in the recent British elections was Sir John Simon. In the presence of such a sweeping victory as that won by Mr. Lloyd George's Government, those who have only surface views of British politics may easily suppose that the men who have been defeated have reached the end of their political careers. That would be a great mistake. Many of the candidates who were rejected in the recent contest will within a very short time be found in Parliament again. One who will most certainly come to the front and take a high place in the politics of the Empire is Sir John Simon. A brilliant lawyer and exceptionally well informed on economic questions, Sir John won a place in Parliament more prominent than was usually attained by men of his years. While he was Attorney-General he had the opportunity of going to the House of Lords as Lord Chancellor, the highest post in his profession. A similar chance came lately to young F. E. Smith, who eagerly grabbed it. But Simon refused the post because he preferred to remain in the House of Commons, the real centre of power. Differing from his colleagues at one stage of the war he resigned and returned to the practice of his profession, where his talents command a large income. Naturally he was invited to be a candidate at the recent election, and he shared the general downfall of his party. Defeat, however, has neither soured nor disheartened him. "Defeated candidates," he says, "are prone to dyspepsia, but I have no liking for people who labor to explain away their defeat, or who proclaim that the country has gone to the dogs because they have gone to the bottom of the poll." He fully recognizes the great qualities of energy and optimism which served Mr. Lloyd George against the enemy, and against his former colleagues and followers in the battle at the polls. He reminds the public that a triumph very much like that of the recent

election was won by the Unionist Government in a Khaki election in 1900, and was followed by a Liberal triumph on the next appeal to the country. "The problems of the immediate future," he says, "are not going to be solved by murmuring incantations. We have all got to do our best, 'with charity towards all and with malice towards none,' to help, and not to sulk. We shall soon see whether the proposals which Mr. Lloyd George makes are proposals which men and women who care more for the future progress of their country than they care for any personal success ought to support. If so, let us support them with all our might. If they really turn out to be of this character they will need the backing of us all, for they will certainly encounter the opposition of those vested interests which Mr. Lloyd George used to fight, but of which he says he is no longer afraid." If, as Sir John Simon probably anticipates, the Premier is unable to overcome the hostility of his Conservative associates to a real progressive policy, "the country will gather round the nucleus which no election can destroy, and the rebound of public opinion will be on the rapid and emphatic scale which always follows a great reversal at the polls."

Whether this be the course of events, it may be regarded as certain that within a short time Sir John Simon will find a seat in Parliament and that he will resume a career which we believe offers every prospect of seating him in the Prime Minister's chair at no distant day. Meanwhile it is pleasing to note that the British Government are availing themselves of Sir John's great ability by retaining him as one of their legal advisers at the Peace Conference.

## Conference News

THE army of newspaper correspondents at Paris are having much difficulty in accepting the decision of the ruling powers to conduct important business in secrecy. To break the force of this decision there are occasions when, there being no real business in hand, the correspondents are allowed to look in on the proceedings. As respects all the actual deliberations and debates of the Conference, all that the public get authoritatively is a brief communique which tells that a certain subject was under consideration. If one compares this brief and colorless official statement with the correspondent's report of the same date one is moved to admiration of the skill with which the enterprising reporter makes a hogshead of lather from a scrap of soap. Sometimes these alleged reports of what the delegates are saying and doing are harmless, but occasionally the clever reporters are over-zealous and get into trouble. Thus, we have from the London official press bureau a despatch of the 30th January as follows:

"We are authorized to state that the account of the proceedings of the peace conference regarding the disposal of the German colonies and territories of the Turkish Empire, which appeared in certain papers to-day, is mischievous and inaccurate, and entirely misleading."

If the correspondents will insist on giving their readers information in matters of which

nothing can be known they must at times indulge in guessing which is "mischievous, inaccurate and misleading."

## A Word for the Kaiser

THE demand for the punishment of the Emperor William has been world-wide. In all the allied countries there is a conviction that he was chiefly responsible for the war; that while he tried at first to seem to be in the background, and claimed that he was driven into the war to defend Germany from her enemies, it was his hand which directed the Austrian demands on Serbia, and that he could easily have averted the conflict if he had so desired. That he should now escape after millions of his deluded subjects have been killed and staggering burdens in various forms are to be imposed on the Germans who live, does not seem to be in accordance with justice. World-wide is the hope that means may be found of bringing him out of his refuge in Holland and within the reach of justice. There are, however, occasional dissenting voices. One of these is the voice of an eminent Englishman, Lord Halifax, who has written to the London Times. "This demand for the extradition of the Kaiser," he writes, "is madness. We war with nations, not individuals. The Kaiser is no worse than his countrymen. Do we intend to ask for the extradition of all who are concerned in the guilt of the war, and if not, why not? . . . The appeal is to force, not to law. Germany has lost and the Allies, if they can enforce their demands, can imprison and behead the Kaiser, if they are so minded, but if they do they will be guilty of an act which posterity will condemn, as it has condemned the treatment of Napoleon, and which will invest the Kaiser with a halo and an interest in the imagination and hearts of men which at this moment he has lost forever. . . 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.' And surely Divine justice, and the penalty that justice exacts, was never in the history of the world more conspicuously exhibited than it is today in the case of the Kaiser and the German people."

There may be grave international difficulties in obtaining the extradition of the Kaiser from Holland. Lord Halifax, it will be noted, does not speak of these. His view is that even if the person of the Kaiser can be brought within reach of the Allies, he should not be more severely punished than any other German.

If the Kaiser can be brought out of Holland, it might be a good idea to postpone the ultimate sentence for a period of years, and in the meantime send him, with his family, to Devil's Island, or some other isolated place, to receive every day the fare and the treatment accorded by the Germans to the British prisoners of war. As a guarantee that the treatment is correct, strictly according to the German example to be followed, the Kaiser and his party might be placed under the care of a guard carefully chosen from the ranks of the British prisoners who are now coming home from Germany. After say five years' treatment of that kind, the question of what further punishment should be imposed might then be taken up. Perhaps the tender consideration which Lord Halifax seems to desire for the Kaiser might then be more acceptable to the Allies than it is likely to be at present.