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HOUSE OF LORDS REJECTS THE BUDGET

An Interesting Description of the Greatest Crisis in Recent British History--The Cause of the New Budget.

Amid scenes which have only twice been repeated in more than a hundred years the British house of lords by a vote of 350 to 75 last week passed the Marquis of Lansdowne's amendment for the rejection of the budget. A general election in January is now certain when the people of Great Britain will be called upon to decide between Lloyd-George's free trade fiscal programme and the Unionist policy of tariff reform or protection.

Not since the Peers rejected Gladstone's Home Rule bill in 1884 has there been such a scene in the red chamber.

When the result of the division was made known a demonstration was started outside the house of parliament but the noisy crowd which gathered quickly yielded to the good-humored persuasion of a considerable police force.

The final day's debate was again distinguished by oratorical excellence, particularly the speeches of Lord Curzon of Kedleston, formerly viceroy of India and the Archbishop of York, both of which were of exceptional brilliancy.

The Archbishop of York's speech was his maiden one in the house of lords and its eloquent periods, added to Dr. Long's fine presence and beautiful voice, made a deep impression. The archbishop strongly opposed Lord Lansdowne's resolution, declaring that it would be unprecedented for the lords to reject a finance bill passed by the house of commons with such a majority.

Lord Curzon spoke with all his accustomed vigor and art. He maintained that the lords had an absolute right to reject the finance bill, and he argued that the country was on the eve of a momentous struggle, which might lead to the reform of the house of lords, from which the lords would shrink.

Earl Cawdor, formerly first lord of the admiralty, who wound up the debate for the opposition, maintained that there had been an attempt to evade the lord's ancient right to reject each tax by placing all taxes on one bill. It was idle, to pretend, he said, that such a change of procedure by the house of commons could effect one iota the responsibilities and duties of the second chamber. He quoted Premier Asquith as stating, on assuming the premiership that the function of the house of lords was to check slovenly and precipitate legislation, which Earl Cawdor thought fairly represented the action the lords purposed to take.

Referring to the tacking on of license proposals and land valuations to the budget, he said that as both of these previously had been rejected by the house of lords it would destroy all the power of the upper house if the lords were unable to veto the finance bill, in which these were now included. He asserted that the budget had already drawn capital from the country to an alarming extent, had stunted the building trade and increased unemployment.

They were told that the rejection of the budget would cause financial chaos, but Lord Lansdowne's offer of assistance in order to avoid inconvenience had not been cordially received by the government. Therefore, he said, if chaos came, the responsibility would rest upon the ministry.

The government wanted a single chamber, independent of any check, while the lords had been fighting for one principle, namely, the separation of the judicial and administrative functions. Unless they could establish this principle what was to become of local authorities and individuals?

The people, Lord Cawdor concluded could get rid of the decision of the second chamber by an election, but they could get rid of an autocratic single chamber only by revolution.

The Earl of Crewe, secretary of the state for the colonies, and lord privy seal, closed the debate in a speech frequently interrupted by ministerial cheers. Lord Lansdowne's amendment, he contended was the negation of all precedent and flouted all usage. All agreed that it was necessary this year to raise a large amount of extra money by taxation, necessitated by the claims of national defence and the adoption of old age pensions. The sum total of the long debate, he declared, was that the opposition considered the government's method of raising money illusory and that that justified revolution.

Turning to the charge that since the introduction of the budget capital was leaving the country, there had been a serious fall in securities, the Earl of Crewe said that he admitted that capital was timid, and some people were induced by what they had heard to sell British securities and invest abroad.

But that, he said, was due to the speeches of the lords, who wished to bring about what they had professed to deplore. The industrial concerns of Great Britain had not found difficulty in securing and keeping all the money necessary for their requirements.

The division was the most tame and decorous on record. When the vote was announced, a little before midnight, the majority emitted a languid cheer; the defeated minority maintained polite silence. Some ignorant members of the house of commons began to hiss, but the hissing was drowned by the general movement toward the doors.

The house was thronged to suffocation, Lord Lansdowne, lord high chancellor, having had a dozen peers sitting on the woolpack with him, there being no place elsewhere. The space about the throne was filled solidly with noblemen of all ranks, but they thronged in only when the division was about to be taken. Then even the Earl of Wenys and March, who is 91 years old, appeared to be counted.

The peeresses in brilliant costumes and dazzling jewels lined the gallery and lent the only touch of color and brightness to the scene. Grand Duke Michael of Russia and Countess Torbey, his wife, were the only outsiders in the distinguished visitor's gallery, and they were admitted there by the king's special permit.

As a rule, the ministers hurry from the house of commons, and from the steps of the throne listen to an important debate by the lords. But on this occasion no minister, save Winston Churchill, who watched the scene with undisguised glee, and John Burns, who always takes sarcastic delight in the lords' doings condescended to attend.

WHAT THE BUDGET IS.
The budget of England is the annual estimate of the expenditures needed, or proposed, by the government for the ensuing year. The officer who makes this estimate is the chancellor of the exchequer. He not only draws up the estimate, or budget, but he proposes ways and finds means of raising the sums he wants.

In the ordinary course of business the chancellor submits his estimates to the house of commons, which, as a general rule passes it without much change, and it is then referred to the house of lords—the upper chamber of the British parliament—or, rather, it is automatically rejected by the house of lords, as this body is theoretically held as having no power, under the British constitution, to interfere with revenue measures initiated by the commons.

Never before in the history of England has the annual budget been held up by the house of lords. Never, of course has it been held up by the commons, except temporarily, and then only for strategic purposes by some small faction in the house which at the time was the balance of power. Accumulated wealth and "the trade," as the liquor business is popularly called, were made to bear the burden of the 15,762,000 pounds sterling (\$78,810,000) deficit of the fiscal year incurred by the old age pensions and the race with Germany in the building of Dreadnaughts.

In a memorandum issued prior to the introduction of the budget, the chancellor estimated the revenue for the fiscal year of 1908-10 as amounting to \$741,950,000, and the expenditure at \$820,760,000. The chancellor pointed out that nearly all branches of trade and industry suffered serious depression, the foreign trade returns showing diminution in value to the amount of nearly \$370,000,000 as compared with 1907.

The debate on the bill in the house of commons began on May 3, but the measure was held up on several occasions and it was not until Nov. 4 that the commons passed the third reading, the vote being 379 to 149.

The announcement of the vote, showing the government's majority to be much larger than had been expected, was greeted with prolonged ministerial cheers, and the Liberal papers pointed out that the budget had left the house of commons backed by a solid majority, representing the whole strength of the party, including the labor members.

When the second reading of the budget bill was moved in the house of lords on November 22, Lord Lansdowne, leader of the opposition, offered a resolution that it be rejected because "This house is not justified in giving its consent to this bill unless it has been submitted to the judgment of the country."

Throughout the debate during the past week the oratory has been brilliant, particularly notable being the speeches of Lord Rosebery, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lord Cromer, Lord Lansdowne and Lord Morley of Blackburn.

Lord Rosebery, during the course of his address, said: "This is the greatest political moment in the lifetime of any man born since 1832."

In that year the last great struggle arose over the reform bill. This resulted in new elections, the formation of a new cabinet and the continuation of the struggle, the ministry again leaving office. On the reorganization of the cabinet, under the menace of additions to their numbers, the peers abstained from further opposition and the great charter of 1832 received the royal assent.

LAWYERS DISSATISFIED.

A meeting of the Moosomin Bar Association was held in the library of the court house on Tuesday of last week, advantage being taken on the fact that a number of members of the profession from outside points were in attendance at the supreme court sittings. The matter chiefly discussed was the great inconvenience and impropriety of the manner in which applications in actions pending in this judicial district are continually being dealt with by the supreme court judges in chambers at Regina, presumably at the request of Regina lawyers, instead of by the local master at this, the judicial centre of the district. The feeling was strong among

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Among all the members that this was contrary to the intention of the legislature at the time the courts were constituted, and that the attention of the government should be directed to directed to the practice that is growing up in this respect. A committee consisting of E. L. Elwood, J. M. Stevenson and W. A. Nesbet was appointed to prepare a memorial to be sent to the attorney general's department giving specific instances of the practice complained of, and pointing out the inconveniences and delay resulting therefrom, and asking the department to take some action in the matter.—Moosomin World.

KINDERSLEY'S GROWTH

Another new town has sprung up in the west. Eight weeks ago the townsite of Kindersley, Sask., was sold by the Canadian Northern Railway company. Immediately between 300 and 400 persons populated the place. A board of trade with a charter membership of 23 was organized. A main street was graded, a steam heated hotel was erected, lumber yards established, and now, but 60 days since, 200 buildings stand as a nucleus to a possible city of thousands. Kindersley is essentially an agricultural centre. It is a division point on the C.N.R., and as a terminal has the usual round house and repair shop facilities. It is on the Moose Lake branch between Saskatoon and Calgary. The election of civic officers will be held December 28.

A Moosomin hotel man claims that the travelling public are not in favor of local option. He submitted two petitions to parties stopping at his hotel. The petition in favor of local option had only three signatures, as against 115 to the petition against local option.

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