

CREWE AND LANSLOWNE CLASH ON QUESTION OF THE BUDGET

Debate in the House of Lords—Lansdowne Wants to Know Why Budget is Not Sent Up Again and Censures Government—Crewe Says the Lords Are to Blame for Delay and Confusion By Their Rejection of It in November.

The House of Lords met on March 2, at 4:15. The Marquis of Lansdowne (leader of the Opposition), rose amid cheers to call attention to the delay of the Government in laying before parliament their proposals for raising the revenue necessary for the current year and to ask for information as to the date when those proposals would be known to the House.

"The proceedings, so far as they have taken place up to the present time," Lord Lansdowne proceeded, "seem to me to be proceedings of a kind which are really calculated to create and prolong that very chaos which his majesty's Government anticipated with so much alarm, when we took the step of referring the budget to the people. I am aware that some loss to the taxpayers is inevitable. There will be a loss, I take it, under the head of stamps; there will be a loss, though not a very large one, under the head of land taxes and death duties. I want to know why the Government are trying to add further to the loss which the taxpayers must inevitably sustain owing to the failure of the Government to collect this money (Opposition cheers). The singularity of these expedients certainly seems to me to be a fresh illustration of the unfortunate results which are occurring, and which are certainly occurring from the procrastination of the Government in proceeding with the budget of last year. The withholding of that budget seems to me to be most unfair to the country, and is certainly most unfair to the taxpayers' House."

"Throughout the whole of the election campaign, in almost every speech delivered by the adherents of the Government, the first object and aim of the Government was to bring back their budget and force it through the House. The public were told that the budget had been murdered, that John Brown's body was lying in the ground, but his soul was marching along. We were told the budget would be brought back and driven through—rammed through. I think, was a pretty fair promise. It was a promise, and we were told it was to come back unaltered, unmodified in the slightest particular; and, unless I am mistaken, the chancellor of the exchequer has made the public believe that the finance bill would be on the statute book by March 31."

"When we read the gracious speech from the throne, we found in it no mention of the budget, and it was not until after this that it was the intention of the Government to place the budget in the front rank and before any other proposal. That was a perfectly intelligible and perfectly justifiable policy on the part of his majesty's ministers. They had appealed to the people, we had appealed to the people, and the question that is now being pushed to the front is the question of the veto of the House of Lords—obviously arose only in the second line; because, if this House was right and rightly interpreted the intention of the country in rejecting the budget, then there could be no question of condemning us or of taking exception to the manner in which we had used our right of veto. (Opposition cheers.)"

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whether, when the budget comes up again, it is to stand or fall on its own merits, or whether its merits are to be confused with the question of the veto of the House of Lords. And we see that verdict to which we had looked forward so long confused in such a manner that some of those who support the budget will vote for it because they like it, while others will vote for it in spite of their dislike of it, because they regard it as a means of effecting the object they have in view—I mean the disruption of the United Kingdom? (Opposition cheers.) "If that is the way in which the issue is to be put, all I can say is that I for one can scarcely regard it as fair fighting. (Opposition cheers.) It may be very slim and very ingenious, but I do not think it is the kind of manoeuvre which will greatly commend itself to the plain people of this country. (Opposition cheers.) What ever may be thought of it outside the walls of Parliament, I venture to say that such a course would be grievously unfair to this House, which, at all events, has appealed to the people of the country, which is ready to abide by the result of the election which awaits with impatience the verdict which we have asked the country to give." (Opposition cheers.)

Reply for the Government.
The Marquis of Lansdowne's speech, said the noble marquis seemed to take a more close and intimate interest in these financial questions than did many of his right honorable friends in another place. He observed, left these discussions rather to the skirmishers of their party, instead of taking part in them themselves. "I can assure the noble marquis and the House generally," Lord Crewe continued, "that no question of wounded dignity or amour propre ever crossed our minds in connection with this matter. It is a very much wider and deeper question of parliamentary question, and to suppose that we should deliberately sacrifice—so far as we are sacrificing, although the extent has been exaggerated—the public funds to any form of wounded pride, ethereal individuals or as a government is to do us some injustice."

"This action of ours is an indirect consequence of your lordships' action last November. (Opposition laughter.) People must be taken to intend the indirect no less than the direct consequences of their action. On this question of separate bills, I revert to the budget debate of last year. At that time a number of charges of rather a rabid kind were made against us of having introduced tacked matter into the budget. I think I am right in assuming that that charge was entirely withdrawn? (Opposition cries of "No, no.") Well, I confess that surprises me—(Opposition laughter)—and for this reason, that I understood if the House you are going to pass it, (Ministerial cheers.)

"That you should say you are going to pass a bill into an act although it

contravenes the old-established rule admitted by us no less than by yourselves against tacking, I confess does cause me some surprise. (Ministerial cheers.) I make you a present of that argument. (Laughter.) What I believe is in your lordships' mind, although you do not admit it, was that the propositions of the budget were curious and novel, and therefore ought to have been introduced in separate bills. That is an entirely different question, but it has a real bearing on the position at this moment, namely, that if you will not find in this House of Commons you may find that another and more subservient one will agree to do anything which involves the splitting up of the budget into different bills; that they think—and I am not at all sure that they are wrong—that your lordships would be very glad to have the practice of tacking which existed in 1861 of splitting up the financial proposals of the year."

"State of War."
"We have to take up the broad political ground on this matter," Lord Crewe concluded. "We greatly regret the necessity. We should, of course, have greatly preferred it if this House had thought fit to pass the budget and allow matters to proceed in the ordinary course. But as that was not done, it is useless to expect that the other House will abandon the position it has taken up. What would be said by any member of the majority of the House of Commons would be that something like a state of war exists at this moment between the two Houses, and when a state of war exists you may have to blow up some of your own line of railway, and those who suffer by that must be prepared to stand that temporary loss. If they are not prepared to do that, they had better go over to the other side. If the country does not support us in taking this action I quite agree that the sooner we go about our business the better—(Opposition cheers)—and we will endeavor to adopt the course which the private station to which your lordships would like to relegate us. (Laughter.)"

"What is the practical issue? No proposition of this kind to bring about a change in the Government, although it saves a certain amount of money to the country, would have the faintest chance of succeeding in the House of Commons, as it exists at the present moment. Even if the Government were so impressed with the argument of the noble marquis, I do not believe there is one of our supporters would go into the lobby with us. It is one of those occasions on which the chances of success are against the Government. Even if they were to go off of themselves, even if we did not go on as a government, and placed our resignation in the hands of his majesty—even then the noble marquis would not get the majority, and a new parliament came together the whole matter would still remain still, and the payment of these taxes would be still longer deferred. It is not practical politics to suggest that anything of this kind should be done."

Lord St. Aldrich entirely agreed that the finance bill of each year must be treated as a whole, and as an old charceller of the exchequer he would certainly never suggest that the Government should bring in a separate bill for the income tax.

The lord chancellor said that the present financial difficulty and its consequences were wholly and solely their lordships' own. (Cheers.)

The House rose at 7 o'clock.

JOBS FOR RICH MEN

Ambassadors, Lord Mayors and Sheriffs Must Be Wealthy.

Dorchester House, which has been the residence of Whitelaw Reid during his residence in London as American ambassador, is one of the finest private residences in the world and its rent is proportionate to its splendor.

"This figure, we believe," says "Pearson's Weekly," is \$22,500 a year, or nearly half as much again as the official salary of Mr. Reid's post, which is only \$15,000 a year.

The rent is, of course, only the beginning of Mr. Reid's expenses. His entertainments probably cost at least \$7,000 a year. He has also taken a very fine country house, West Park, in Bedfordshire, and his splendid week-end parties must run him into a vast expenditure.

It is calculated that no American ambassador to the Court of St. James can possibly keep up his position upon an income of less than \$20,000 a year, and this only by paying less than half the rent paid for Dorchester House. Consequently it is impossible for any man who is not extremely wealthy to accept such a position as that which Joseph Choate, John Hay and Whitelaw Reid have filled.

Our own ambassadors are far better paid. Our representative in Paris receives \$22,500, and at Constantinople \$40,000. The salaries of our ambassadors to Austria, Germany and Russia are the same, but he who goes to Washington only gets \$22,500, and as he is forced to entertain on a great scale, he, too, must be a wealthy man. However, in addition to their salaries, all our ambassadors live rent free. Most of the embassies belong to us, and at St. Petersburg, where we have no house of our own, there is an allowance of \$10,000 a year for rent.

A position which none but a rich man can possibly fill is that of Lord Mayor of London. Certainly the city corporation contributes the handsome sum of \$50,000 to his expenses during his year of office, but this does not nearly cover the enormous expenditure necessitated by the constant entertainments at the Mansion House.

The cost of the Lord Mayor's show and banquet alone is about \$2,000, half of which comes out of the Lord Mayor's own pocket. His other disbursements are enormous. He has to entertain the sum which he is out of pocket. Roughly speaking, this is a year's income on a capital of \$250,000.

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A sheriff so chosen cannot refuse to serve. If he does he is heavily fined. Yet he gets no salary at all. His duties are many, and comprise attending on the judge who holds the assizes. A high sheriff of Hampshire once forgot the date of the judge's arrival and failed to turn up at the station. For this omission he was fined \$1,500.

A general election means endless responsibility and expense for the high sheriff, and he is legally responsible for the carrying out and execution of all judgments and orders of courts of law within his county. His one consolation is that he cannot be compelled to serve a second time.

It is only within the last few years that men without large private incomes have been able to offer themselves for election to the House of Commons, and even today the Labor members must receive a salary from their party in order to enable them to exist as M. P.'s.

The average cost of a contested parliamentary election in England, whether for successful candidates or unsuccessful, works out at \$23 per vote, and election expenses are but a trifle of the calls on the purse of a member of Parliament. Subscriptions alone to various objects in their own constituencies run up a yearly total which is usually well into four figures. Although a candidate for parliamentary honors need not be a millionaire, he must certainly be a wealthy man.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SMOKERS

A "smokers' pavilion" attached to a church is somewhat of a novelty in the British dominions. A recent visitor to Kaigoorle, the famous western Australian goldfield, made and proclaimed this discovery. It seems that in the early years of the goldfield there were many diggers dwelling in tents who never budged themselves with Sunday clothes, and consequently never bothered about going to church. Anxious to attract this class, the minister of the Congregational Church fitted up an open air inclosure in which the men could listen to the services in free and easy fashion without being embarrassed by the formalities of indoor worship. A large archway was opened up the side of the church, and the inclosure, and the pulpit was so placed that the preacher could be heard by both congregations. The idea was successful and the "smokers' pavilion" (the occupants of the open air inclosure exercised the privilege of smoking during the sermon) became a popular Sunday resort.

GREAT MEN'S WIVES FACTORS IN SUCCESS

Mrs. Disraeli and Mrs. Gladstone Notable Examples.

It is a significant fact that almost all men who have risen to great eminence have been happily married, and how much their work owes to their wives' influence few can guess. How much did England owe, for instance, to Mrs. Gladstone for her unswerving care and tender watchfulness, which was undoubtedly instrumental in prolonging the life of the great statesman?

Lord Beaconsfield, Gladstone's great rival, also owed a tremendous debt of gratitude to his wife, whose thoughtfulness ever her husband comes out in the following incident: One evening, when she drove with her husband to the House on the occasion of one of his great speeches, her finger was jammed by the carriage door just as Disraeli was leaving. She concealed the fact, however, for fear of distracting his mind from his speech, though the pain was so severe that, when he had gone, she fainted. A man's wife, in fact, the greatest factor in his success in life. She makes or mars her husband's career in a thousand unconscious ways. Perhaps her brilliant social gifts and accomplishments may be a bridge, and keep the talents of a shy and retiring husband into prominence, as in the case of Lord and Lady Eldon.

When Lord Eldon received the great seal from the king, the king remarked, "Give my remembrance to Lady Eldon." The lord chancellor naturally looked surprised, and the king added, impatiently, "Yes, yes, I know how much I owe Lady Eldon. I know that the private station to which your lordships would like to relegate us. (Laughter.)"

BIRTH SHRINKAGE IN SUNNY FRANCE

Will Soon Rank Lowest Among Greater Powers.

Charles Turquet contributes to the Parisian monthly *Je Sais Tout* some striking figures on the birth shrinkage in France.

During the last five years for which statistics are available, France's population only increased by 330,000, while Germany's rose 4,000,000. The writer puts it this way:

"As the average population of a French department is 447,811, Germany has added in one quinquennium to her population a number equalling that of nine French departments while France has only gained the population of a moderate sized town."

According to the writer Field Marshal Von Moltke spoke the bitter truth when he said that "the French lose a battle every day." At the present rate of decline France will occupy in 1950 the lowest place among the greater powers.

In 1870 France's military resources were about equal to those of United Germany, but in 1911 Germany can put into the field twice as many men as France. And yet the soil of France is as fertile as any in Europe.

To give a few examples, the births during the last six months in the smiling *chate d'Or* department were 2,445, while in the *Yonne* department the figures were respectively 2,382 and 3,627. These numbers tell their own tale of depopulation.

Neither do Frenchmen emigrate, on the contrary immigration is on the increase, and at present there is in France one foreigner to every thirty-five natives. The average rate of mortality in France is lower than those of Germany, Austria and Italy, yet the three last named countries grow while France declines.

All majorities in France are decreasing owing to her low birth rate, which is now in proportion of 2 to 3 compared with its neighbors.

The writer suggests no new remedy except that which the fathers of the French parents for excessive anxiety to leave their limited progeny well provided for. If, he says, French fathers are more willing to make their sons take their chances in the struggle for life it would put more backbone into the French nation.

WOMAN'S ATHLETIC PROGRESS.

A time is foreseen by Harvard's physical director when women, as a result of their devotion to athletics, will overtake man in physical development. By grace of tennis, golf, horseback riding, swimming and through gymnasium training young women who have leisure for such pursuits have greatly improved their physique within a generation. Yet the progress made, Dr. Sargent thinks, is only the beginning. Fashion, freedom from worry and other causes are all helping a development which will eventually make woman man's physical equal, if not his superior.

It is not to be forgotten that woman is fast becoming man's equal in business and politics, as well as his partner in athletic sports, and that she may be expected to assume more of the cares and worries from which she is now free and which retard physical growth. There are other considerations. It has not been seen that a girlhood given to strenuous athletics is conducive to good health in middle life or that an uncorrected outdoor existence fosters the desired symmetry of outline in the matron. Fashion may yet interpose objections. It is not impossible that a regulation of feminine college sports in the interest of scholarship and class standing may be enforced as the result of masculine agitation for an equality of the sexes sport. But these considerations are beside the question. Given woman's attainment of physical superiority, will she temper her rule with mercy? Will she love, comfort and cherish him in return for centuries of masculine chivalry while her sex remained subject? Or will she emphasize man's inferiority, as in the case of the lower orders of life in which the female dominates?—From the New York World.

"DAD, HERE'S TO YOU."

We happened in a home the other night, and over the parlor door saw the legend worked in letters of red, "What is Home Without Dad?" The mother was another brief, "God Bless Our Home."

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and the needles and the yarn afterward. Mother does up the fruit, well, dad bought it all, and jars and sugar cost like the mischief. Dad buys the chickens for the Sunday dinner, carves them himself and draws the neck from the ruins after every one else is served. "What is Home Without a Mother?" Yes, that is all right; but what is home without a father. Ten chances to one it's a boarding house, father is under a slab and the landlady is the widow. Dad, here's to you—you've got your faults—you may have lots of 'em—but you're all right, and we will miss you when you're gone.

