

DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET!

Case Against the New Tax Fairly Presented by the Liberals.

Tactics of the Mine-Owners Believed to Have Hurt Their Cause—Debate on Army Reform Delayed—Labor War Threatened.

London, May 5.—As the debate in parliament on the coal export duty clause of the budget was adjourned until Monday, it is folly to speculate, as the government papers do, on how large the government's majority might have been if a division had been forced last Thursday night. No doubt the tactics of the mine-owners and their friends, in and out of parliament, has hurt rather than helped their cause with fair-minded members of the opposition, and the public threats of great strikes and the closing down of mines are not to the point.

The case against the new tax has been presented fairly and clearly by such men in parliament as Sir William Vernon Harcourt and Thomas Burt, of Newcastle, the latter a native of the coal region, and associated with the mining industry all his life. Burt's speech in the Thursday night debate had great force.

Moreover, in the face of the arguments made in various conferences, it is not in parliament, the chancellor of the exchequer has seemed to be wavering more than once on the subject of this coal duty. Doubtless the mildest and wisest of the protesting deputations have overstated their case, but their assertions have had some effect. The theatrical devices of stirring up the wrath of some hundreds of thousands of Welsh and English miners, or pretending to, and threatening to shut down all the mines, however, have produced a revulsion of feeling among disinterested people who were at first inclined to protest against the tax.

DELAY ARMY REFORM DEBATE.
The adjournment of the coal tax debate is likely to throw the debate on Brodrick's scheme of army reform over for another week. This is a matter on which the Liberal party as a party is much more united than in opposition to the budget.

Mr. Brodrick, the secretary of state for war, has publicly declared that the government will stand firmly by the proposed reform, and give no heed to the cry to postpone such a measure until after the war. The leader of the Liberal forces in opposing Brodrick's plan is Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, while in the inevitable debate, which promises to be a heated one, it is expected that Winston Churchill will emulate his father, the late Lord Randolph, with whom he is already compared thus early in his parliamentary career. The amendment proposed by Campbell-Bannerman amounts practically to a censure of the government, and upon it probably the debate will hinge.

Meanwhile, though Herbert Gladstone has to some extent taken back the words he uttered last week in regard to the present unfitness of the Liberal party to take up the business of government, there exists a feeling that in case the opposition is strong enough to compel the resignation of the ministry, the only result would be a Unionist victory in the new elections, and the reinstatement of practically the same ministry.

ENIGMA IN SALISBURY'S PLANS.
It seems impossible to get at the exact truth in regard to Lord Salisbury's health and his plans for the future. The belief prevails, even in ministerial circles, that Arthur Balfour's promotion is imminent. The story that the King has asked for a dissolution of parliament as soon as the war is over is absurd on the face of it. The most sanguine prognosis now is that war cannot be ended for another four months. The last of the large body of reinforcements of men and horses sail on Monday.

KING RECEIVES THE CATHOLICS.
Specially, the reception by the King at St. James's Palace of the Catholic delegations headed by Cardinal Vaughan and the Duke of Norfolk was not more important than the reception on the same day of various other delegations, such as the London Jews, the Coroners' Society, and the Presbyterians, but it was actually the most significant incident of the day. All over London glaring yellow posters were put up calling upon Protestants to protect themselves and the English constitution against the designs of the Papists. The formal function of declaration of allegiance was brief but full of dignity and splendor. The cardinal dutifully kissed his sovereign's hand. There was no Irishman, churchman or layman, in the company.

CARDINAL RAMPOLLA'S AMBITION.
From Rome comes a seemingly well authenticated story that Cardinal Rampolla, in view of the fact that a Papal secretary rarely succeeds to the tiara, is about to cause his own dismissal from his high office in order to strengthen his eligibility. Rampolla is the most powerful member of the Cardinals' College, and it is said that one of his own adherents will take his place as secretary of state.

Some of Pope Leo's most significant acts are credited by persons professing an insight into the politics of the Vatican to the powerful Sicilian cardinal's influence.

INTEREST IN WALL STREET.
The stir in Wall street has been a prominent topic in London this week, and the prodigious prosperity of America is dwelt upon as an object lesson for procrastinating and too conservative Britons. An energetic leader writer calls for new methods to compete with "a patriotic population of 80,000,000 souls wild with pride in the greatness of America," but fails to state what the new methods should be. Nor has any English financier or student of finance uttered publicly a wise or serious word in regard to the matter.

LABOR WAR IN PROSPECT.
A seemingly trifling dispute of the London and Northwestern Railway Company with some of its employees is believed here to be the first outward manifestation of what may prove to be an important capital and

labor conflict. The organization of railway workers here is powerful, complete, and severe in its rules. It is believed that the company is merely trying to test the strength of the labor organization and bring matters to a crisis.

The preliminary census figures, showing an increase of a little over 200,000 in population of London, is not received with great enthusiasm. The falling off of such parts of the metropolis as the city of London itself and Westminster is easily accounted for, but a computation shows the increase elsewhere is less than normal. No do the figures thus far received from rural neighborhoods account for the deficiency.

ZOLA'S NEW OPERA.

Albert Bruneau's opera or music, "L'Aragan," with the libretto by Emile Zola, produced superbly at the Paris Opera Comique last week, is a powerful and modern work, probably too steadily serious in its drift to become popular, but sure to arouse advanced students of the drama and music to enthusiasm. The concentration and elevation of the work are remarkable. The poem shows Zola at his best, and is beautifully simple and dramatic, involving few personages, but encompassing in its tragedy of love and jealousy a wonderful play of elementary human passion. The hurrican of passion contrasted with the great storm at sea, which has its place in the music, is dramatic, while the pictorial production is superb.

NEW CONDUCTOR IN LONDON.

In the past week's musical festival much honor has been accorded to an English musician and orchestra leader, who has held his own in competition with Saint-Saens, Tsaya, and Neolome, all of whom held the baton at various times. Wood is hailed as possessing the temperament and talent of a great conductor. He is a young man who has had much experience in English musical enterprises and has composed an oratorio and operetta and conducted numerous theater bands.

IN LITERARY CIRCLES.

An English translation of Maurice Maeterlinck's newest work, "The Life of the Bee," will be published on Tuesday. In this the Belgian mystic poet records his impressions and fancies as an experienced beekeeper, carefully avoiding the scientific and technical.

John Murray says the demand for copies of the Quarterly Review, containing the article about Queen Victoria is so large that still another edition of the Review is in press. He smilingly preserves the secret of the authorship of this intimate article, who may, after all, prove to be some smart journalist of the Van Dam type.

Of the publication of the Queen's diary, about which so much has been cabled to America, no details have yet been decided upon.

This year the British Museum will use up all its storage space. The annual increase in collections is amazing, and there must either be some weeding out or the museum must be enlarged.

DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

Kipling, who has arrived here, denies that he is dramatizing his "Jungle Book."

Charles Wyndham will soon revive Jones' smartest comedy, "The Case of Rebellious Susan," and Mary Moore resuming their former roles of Susan and Sir Richard Kato, and Violet Vanbrugh taking up the part of Mrs. Quesnel.

Some of Weber & Field's turns have been skilfully sketched in "The Girl from Up There," which is drawing crowds.

Bearbom Tree achieved a noteworthy histrionic success this week at the benefit matinee as Robert Macaire in the R. L. Stevenson and W. S. Henley version of the old French play.

Florence Girard, widow of Henry E. Abbey, is seriously ill in London.

The gay season has fairly begun, and the prospects are that London will be as crowded as ever until August. All the theaters are doing a big business, and hotels and lodging-houses are asking extravagant prices.

SALISBURY WILL STAY.
Another correspondent says: Lord Salisbury's health is reported to be mending slowly and members of his family in office are striving to create the impression that his courage and interest in public life have revived, and that he has no intention of retiring from the stage. He will not lack their encouragement, for their own importance as ministerial figures depends upon his retention of office. The word has been passed around the government benches that the prime minister will remain in public life until the coronation and that Chamberlain will not leave the colonial office until the South African question is settled.

Old Tories are greatly relieved and are grateful to Sir Michael Hicks Beach for holding his ground and resisting Chamberlain's influence. They assert that Chamberlain could not keep the majority together if he were in command of the commons, and that Balfour could not be spared from the leadership.

CONCILIATORY POLICY HELD BEST.

The political experts agree that a conciliatory attitude is more important than a firm front, when a large body of followers needs to be kept under discipline, and a faction rest opposition must be lashed into good behavior. Chamberlain is a hard fighter, but not tactful. Balfour's amiability oils the wheels of legislation. He can pay a great compliment to John Redmond for the sake of being relieved of vexatious obstruction, and he never hurts friend or foe without privately expressing regret.

A MODEST REQUEST.

Mrs. Chatterton—I should like to go shopping this afternoon.
Chatterton—But, honest, my dear, I haven't got a dollar in my pocket.
Mrs. Chatterton (lightly)—Oh, well, then, you might give me 98 cents.—Puck.

TEN PERSONS PERISHED!

Fatal Fires in a Montreal Hotel and a Chicago Tenement.

Several Others Were Fatally Injured—Freight Train On a Crossing Keeps the Firemen From Proceeding to the Rescue.

Chicago, Ill., May 5.—Seven persons were burned to death, and three fatally injured and several others badly burned and otherwise injured, while asleep, in a fire that destroyed a three-story apartment building at No. 9,136 Marquette avenue, South Chicago, early today.

Dead—Mrs. Josephine Carey; Mabel Cooley, daughter; Annie Cooley, 15 months old, daughter of Mrs. Cooley; Peter Zook, owner of the building; Mrs. Peter Zook, Victoria Zook, and Nicholas Zook.

The seriously injured are: William Cooley, husband of Mrs. Josephine Cooley, badly burned, will die; Mrs. Louisa Christensen, face and body burned, will probably die; Mabel Christensen, two years old, daughter of Mrs. Cooley, Christensen, severely burned, will die; Harry Murphy, slightly burned and both legs broken by jumping from third story, will recover; John Zook, badly burned and bruised about body, will recover; Mrs. Julia Erwin, burned and bruised.

While the occupants of the burning building were struggling with the smoke and flames, in hope of forcing their way to safety, the firemen, who were responding to the alarm, were vainly waiting for a freight train, which blocked the way of the fire engines, to move away from the crossing and give an open road to the fire.

Marshal Driscoll, in charge of the firemen, called to the conductor and brakemen to move the train, but they refused to comply with the request. The police were sent for and the crew were arrested. Then, under orders of the fire marshal, the train was backed from the crossing, but by the time the firemen reached the burning building the structure had been destroyed. Scattered among the embers were found the charred remains of the victims. The bodies were burned beyond recognition, and were identified in various ways.

The train crew, who live at Elkhardt, Ind., are being held without bail, pending the verdict of the coroner's inquest.

The origin of the fire is unknown. The building was an old one, built of wood, and burned so rapidly that all avenues of escape by stairways were cut off before the occupants were aware of the fire.

THREE MORE VICTIMS.

Montreal, May 5.—Shortly after 3 o'clock this morning the small hotel and restaurant kept by Hirsch Brunell, at No. 885 Notre Dame street, in flames. It was useless to try and save the building, so the efforts of the firemen were directed to saving the lives of the inmates, who were wrapped in slumber when the fire broke out. All were saved with the exception of Mrs. Brunell, wife of the proprietor; Octave Fontaine and Rosanna Lussier, a young girl who was living in the hotel. The three unfortunate people were burned to death, their remains being afterwards taken from the ruins. The damage is estimated at \$15,000.

OTHER FIRES.

Chicago, May 5.—Fire Saturday destroyed the plant of the A. B. Friedman Manufacturing Company, makers of butterine, situated in the heart of the stockyards. Loss \$150,000, covered by insurance.

Brandon, Man., May 5.—Fire destroyed the west wing of the government immigration building here Friday evening, with contents. The loss is about \$1,200.

IN LABOR'S REALM

Illinois Carshops Men to the Number of 8,000 or 9,000 Get an Increase in Pay.

Chicago, May 5.—Between 8,000 and 9,000 employees in the 43 shops of the entire Illinois Central Railroad system have been granted a horizontal increase of 5 per cent in wages. Although just issued the order was made to take effect May 1, and will increase the annual pay roll of the company nearly \$300,000.

A STRIKE.

Scranton, Pa., May 5.—More than 1,000 employees of the car shops of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad at this place went on strike.

WESTERN ONTARIO

Live Items Culled for Busy People's Information.

Mrs. Annie Gordon, a dining-room maid employed at the Farmers' Hotel in Walkerville, will relieve the mind of her husband and the police authorities by revealing her whereabouts. She has been missing since last Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Mary Grear went all the way from Sarnia to Windsor to engage a barrister in a land dispute. She related her case, and finally persuaded Barrister Arthur Kerby to enter action. Kerby went to Sarnia, but says he discovered that the alleged wrong existed only in the mind of his client. He informed Mrs. Grear that she had no case. Then Mrs. Grear demanded her money back, and was not satisfied with the assurance of Barrister Kerby that the remuneration he received barely covered his expenses. Mrs. Grear sued him in the division court for \$25, pleaded her own case and got a judgment for \$18.

Leamington lost one of her oldest residents on Thursday when Michael G. Heatherington passed away. Mr. Heatherington was born in Romney township 71 years ago, and had resided in Leamington for about 45 years. For several years he occupied the position of tax collector. He has been a member of the Masonic lodge for about 40 years, and occupied every position in the lodge. He is survived by a widow and a grown-up family. The sons are Jason, of Ottawa, and Cecil, of Carberry, Man. The daughters are Mrs. Joseph James and Mrs. Chas. Johnson, of Leamington; Mrs. Sisson, Essex, and Miss Winnifred, at home.

The death of Finlay McKinlay, of Plympton, took place Wednesday morning. Mr. McKinlay, who was almost a life-long resident, was among the best known and most highly respected men in the township. He was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, in 1838, and came to this country with his father's family in 1851, being then a child of 3 years. In 1875 the deceased was married to Janet McKinnell.

of Dunwich, Elgin county, who came to this country in the same ship with him, she being two years his junior. She and eight children survive him. The children are Donald, Duncan, Finlay, Robert, Hugh, Jennie, Katie and Annie, all at home. One brother and seven sisters are living, viz.: Arch. McKinlay, Plympton; Mrs. Chas. Greer, Port Huron; Mrs. D. McBean and Mrs. J. M. Mackenzie, Forestburg, Ont.; Mrs. Geo. Scott and Janet, Kato and Elizabeth McKinlay, Plympton. Angus McKinlay, sen., is a cousin of the deceased.

"Better out than in"—that humor that you notice. To be sure it's out and all out, take Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Cornelius G. Carr, a carpenter, 67 years old, Syracuse, N. Y., drank carbolic acid and then hanged himself in his bedroom.

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