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After nine and a half years of glori- another place." The failure of our

of the earth.

A Retrospect thepast; and in the record of the last which the House of Lords had abused teeth of a fierce resistance; much that Bill and the Government were cona strong Government fresh from con- al strike of coal-miners. war against the enemy of the British increasing party bitterness.

year (1908) it accepted the Old Age be buried in oblivion. months of valuable time.

Lloyd's George's Budget fare." Little wonder that the year George were principally responsible. 1909 opened with the Liberals despondent, and the Conservatives, tho Sir Edward Grey's conduct of foronly a small minority, exultant thanks eign affair since 1906 has been dis-

ous, crowded life, the great Liberal efforts to induce Germany to agree to Covernment which came into office in a reduction of the money spent on to be. The armaments compelled a large increase the London Chronicle. It cost of Old Age Pensions, Mr. Lloyd came steathily, silently, ingloriously. George was faced in his first Budget A blast of war's mephitic breath kill- (1909) with a deficit of over £15,000,ed in a night a Government that had 000. Instead of being deterred by emerged scathless from many a fur- this, Mr. Lloyd George contrived to pluck the flower "safety" by firmly What? Selling Elastic Cement To Librals its extinction is a cause grasping the nettle "danger." A rau- Paint. Your dealer sells it in 1, of deep sorrow. But they can take cous outcry arose from the vested 2, 5 and 10 gallon tins, also in barpride in the reflection that the Gov- interests against his proposals for ernment which has just passed away new taxation, and in the autumn the has to its credit a noble record of ac- House of Lords, disregarding the adcomplished work, and that it has left vice of some of its most distinguished Time To Stop Gambling a deep and an enduring mark on the members, like the late Lord James history of our time. With what bright and the late Lord Peel (ex-speaker of hopes its advent was hailed in Janu- the House of Commons), flung out the ary 1906, when the electorate con- Budget. This encroachment of the firmed Sir Henry Campbell-Banner- Peers into the domain of finance anman's Ministry in office by an unpre- gered the nation, but they had succedented majority—a majority of 354, ceeded at last in bringing down a pow including the Irish Nationalists; one erful Government and compelling of 270 without them! How hopefully to go to the country on a Budget reformers looked forward to an era which, whatever its merits, did imof social reconstruction—to the lop- pose a heavy additional burden of ping off of privileges, and the remov- taxation. "We can hardly win the elal of inequalities at home, to the ection," calculated the Tory leaders, reign of amity and peace abroad. How "but at any rate on a taxing Budget little did any of us imagine that be we are likely so far to succeed as fore a decade had passed and while to make the Liberals dependent on Liberalism, with all its devotion to the Irish vote." The election of Jan-money. peace, was still in power, Britain uary, 1910, justified the latter half of would be engaged in a gigantic world- this shrewd anticipation. Mr. Aswar, far more terrible than that quith's Government remained in powwhich our ancestors waged against er, but its majority (including the Napoleon, a war whose convulsions Nationalists) had shrunk to 124. In seem to shake the very foundations April the Lords accepted the rejected Budget; and then the Government began to make ready for the struggle But the great war cannot rob us of for the restriction of the powers

Social and Political Reforms Another General Election took age and inspirit them. Much of what place in December of 1910, this time was accomplished was done in the on the one issue of the Parliament was projected was defeated by the firmed in power by a majority of 125. House of Lords. Never in its history The session of 1911 saw the curbing had the Second Chamber made a more of the power of the House of Lords ruthless use of its power than when, by the passage of the Parliament Bill in 1906, it killed the Education Bill into law, and also the enactment of and the Plural Voting Bill, for these the great Insurance Act. Thus conmeasures had been passed by im-stitutional and social reform went mense majorities in the House of hand in hand. The year was early Commons, and they emanated from darkened by the menace of a nation

A perilous situation was handled in Lords would have liked to main the masterly style by the Government, free constitutions bestowed upon the and the Miners' Wage Act put on the Transvaal and Orange Free State; but Statute Book. A similar principlehappily this was beyond their power, the establishment of a minimum be this vital matter the Govern- low which wages cannot be beaten ment, using the power of the crown, down by competition-had been recogwas supreme. The blessed fruits of nized in the Trade Boards Act of hat magnificent act of trust and re 1908 dealing with "sweated" labor. conciliation in 1907 we have since This same Session saw the passage reaped in the formation of the Union of the Irish Home Rule and the of South Africa, and in the inspiring Welsh Church Bill through the Comspectacle of General Botha, at one mons for the first time under the and the same time Prime Minister Parliament Act. In 1913 and 1914 the and Commander-in-Chief of the Un-process was repeated in the case of ion, taking the field in the present both Bills, to the accompaniment of

The year 1907 saw the successful break of war in August, are fresh in passage into law of the Territorial recollection. We had the threat of Forces Bill, the admirable measure civil war in Ulster, the Curragh inwith which Mr. Haldane began his se-cident, the very lamentable affray in ries of momentous Army reforms. To Dublin in July, and the repercussion its credit be it told, the House of of these events on the temper of the Lords placed no obstacle in the way Ministerial party in the House of Com of the Territorial Forces Bill. Next mons. These things had better new

Pensions Bill, albeit with a maledict- That the Government committed erion, but it destroyed without compunctors in its nine years of life is undetion the Licensing Bill, a measure niable. The executive power was lasadly needed and upon which the mentably weak in Ireland, and the House of Commons had bestowed five handling of the women's suffrage \$12.00. question was anything but judicious. But, take it all in all, the Govern-Licensing reform, education reform, ment's work, alike in administration electoral reform, Irish self-govern- and legislation, has been splendidly you ment: on every road leading in these done. One of its noblest characterisdirections the House of Lords had in- tics was its freedemocratic spirit, for scribed the words, "No thorough- which Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd

Terms It "Greatest" to the exertions of their friends "in tinguished before all things by love or jue14,m,w,t,eod

balance of power in Europe. At the Admiralty first Mr. McKenna and then Mr. Churchill succeeded in maintaining the strength and efficiency of the Navy so that when war came our superiority was decisive in men and ships, in guns and ammunition. Meanime, thanks to Lord Haldane, the Army had been reorganized from bottom to top on scientific modery

n peace adapted itself rapidly to war conditions. Mr. Lloyd George's mag-nificent work on the Treasury last August spaved off a financial panic and a commercial calamity. Mr. Harcourt at the Colonial Office. Mr. Mc-Kenna at the Home Office, Mr. Samuel at the Local Government Board, were adequate to every situation. As for Mr. Churchill's swift, skilful and darearly days of August, it was one of those master-strokes that determine

To sum up, this country has never been governed by an abler body of men than the group of 20 Liberals over whom/Mr. Asquith presided so offmay be the last Liberal Administration that the country will know, for or not, it is incontestably the greatest Liberal Administration in been worthier of its rich, fruitful and

Everybody's doin' rels.-ap14,eod

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