

Without the Irish votes, the Conservatives could not have driven Gladstone from office. The actual defeat came on an amendment to the budget condemning the increase in the beer and spirit duties.

Lord Salisbury became Premier but he had no majority except what the Nationalists gave him. He had an understanding with Mr. Parnell, or it was thought he had. In any case, the Irish expected more from Salisbury than from Gladstone. Parnell threw his influence in with the Tories in the elections which ensued in December. As in the present general election, the boroughs, that is the cities and towns, voted with the Government. The counties, however, voted against a possible Home Rule compact and Salisbury was defeated. In other words, Salisbury being then in much the same position as Asquith was in January, 1910, the country people of England defeated him. These same country people, or their descendants, have almost done in January, 1910, what they did in December, 1885.

Then came a peculiar swing to events. When the House met the Liberals had the same number of votes as the Conservatives and Nationalists combined. Lord Salisbury was out and Mr. Gladstone was in, but how could Mr. Gladstone get along without a majority? Apparently his only hope was to detach the 86 Nationalists from Salisbury. It was the hour of triumph for the 86 bellicose Parnellites. They held the balance of power. If Mr. Gladstone was to get support for his government he must swing from coercion to Home Rule. And swing he did.

When the swing came, Mr. Chamberlain, then a member of the Gladstone ministry, and others resigned. Undaunted Mr. Gladstone introduced his Home Rule Bill and a great debate began. The Opposition to the Bill grew. Lord Salisbury was reinforced by Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Hartington, who had refused to take office under Gladstone. The two latter statesmen became the leaders of the "Liberal Unionists," nearly one hundred in number. When the fight was ended the Bill was defeated by a majority of 30, and a general election followed in July, 1886. The result was

Conservatives.....	316	Liberals	191
Liberal-Unionists....	78	Nationalists ..	85
	394		276

Mr. Gladstone resigned and Lord Salisbury formed a government. From 1886 to 1892, the Conservatives, assisted by the Liberal-Unionists, kept Mr. Gladstone out of office. However, once having taken up Home Rule, he persisted in its advocacy and in the general election of 1892 the result was as follows:

Conservatives.....	269	Liberals	274
Liberal-Unionists....	46	Nationalists ..	81
	315		355

Mr. Gladstone became Prime Minister for the fourth time. The Irish Nationalists were again triumphant. It is interesting to note that in this ministry were Rosebery, Asquith, Campbell-Bannerman, Morley and Bryce. A new Home Rule Bill was introduced in February, 1893. Mr. Gladstone argued that the English opposition to Home Rule had declined from 338 to 268. The fight lasted until September and the Bill was carried by a majority of 34. The Lords, however, smashed it with a vote of 419 to 41. Next year Mr. Gladstone gave way to Lord Rosebery.

THIS summary shows that the Irish Nationalists have always forced Home Rule into the very forefront every time they got an opportunity. They allowed nothing to take precedence of it, when their support was necessary to carry on a government. Redmond apparently is a greater man than Parnell. He takes a broader view. He has the opportunity that Parnell had in 1886, but he refuses to demand the pound of flesh. He agrees that there are other questions of more pressing importance than Irish Home Rule and that he and his followers are willing to give the other reforms precedence. Even sympathisers with the Unionists, must admit this is not peanut Parnell politics.

Unless something sinister, such as a deal between Asquith and Redmond can be proven, this attitude marks the latter as a greater man than the Canadian public believed. It might even reconcile some enemies of Home Rule in this country to Irish local self-government.

MONTREAL is having a great fight over early closing of its liquor-selling houses. Unlike most other Canadian cities, Montreal is known as an "open" town. This does not mean that it is vicious, but it is not prudish. It makes no effort to appear better than it really is. Nevertheless there is a strong movement there to curb the evils of the liquor trade. Those interested in the trade maintain

that the first duty is to get out of the hotels, men who will not observe the laws, who sell bad liquor and who do not exercise reasonable control of their premises. The temperance people are moving to have all bars closed at ten o'clock on five days in the week and at seven o'clock on Saturday. Apparently the matter will not be settled by the present council which goes out of office on Monday next. It will be left over for the newly elected body.

The temperance people might gain more in such cases as this, if they would go directly to the leading wholesalers and brewers and make an arrangement which both can support. Both are interested in keeping the trade respectable and in eliminating its greater evils, hence they should co-operate.

MR. TWIGG ON THE NAVY

By WILLIAM HENRY

ONE of the many delights in returning to Shreveport was the opportunity it gave of again visiting my old friend Mr. Twigg. I found him in the same cane-bottomed arm-chair, sitting close to the kitchen fire. His newspaper was discarded and he was preparing his second pipe of the evening. After exchanging warmer greetings than usual, because of my long absence, and making a few commonplace remarks about my trip, I plunged into the subject of which I was most anxious to obtain information.

"Mr. Twigg," said I, "what is your candid opinion of Canada's naval program?"

"Which one?" he questioned, holding his match over the top of his pipe and pressing the tobacco down firmly with his finger. "There's so many nowadays," he continued without giving me time to reply. "Let's see, there's the Givers, the Lenders, the Doers, and the Do-naughters. Manitoba Roblin," he continued, "is the head of the Givers. Send England money for one, two, three, four or more, Dreadnaughts, he says. Sir C. P. R. Shaughnessy started the Lenders. Have England build a couple of Dreadnaughts on Canada's account and get a few dollars a year rental for them, is his idea. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Brodeur—I am sorry to hear Mr. Brodeur is sick just now—are the heads of the Doers. They want Canada to build, man, maintain and fight with her fleet. Mr. Monk heads the Do-naughters. I am not quite sure of Mr. Borden," he continued reflectively, "but it seems to me that he is working a sort of combination program of Number One, Two and Three."

Mr. Twigg stopped, lighted another match and proceeded to make sure this time that his pipe was properly lighted. I waited some minutes for him to continue, but he smoked in silence until I asked which one of the several plans had his approval.

"Well, now, I don't know that I should tell you," the old man replied hesitatingly, "for I'm thinking of sending Sir Wilfrid a state paper on the subject. I have given considerable thought to it and have arrived at the real solution of the problem."

Mr. Twigg spoke slowly, but with the conscious pride of a man who has succeeded in bringing order out of chaos where bright minds had tried and failed.

"There are several parties to please in the matter and there are very few statesmen capable of getting to the bottom of the thing—as a matter of fact, it isn't a problem for a statesman at all. It's more in the line of philosophy and that's probably why I have interceded," he added apologetically. "You see there is the Britisher bearing the staggering burden of the naval expense and needing help; then there is the Canadian who wants to build up the shipping industry and is willing to support a navy in order to do it; there is the other Canadian who takes more stock in bread-and-butter than in glory. And you would be surprised to find how many Canadians there are these days of the bread-and-butter type, men who reason that, perhaps, it is not free trade that has caused all the unemployed and unemployable in England, and that fiscal reform will perhaps not be the great panacea for the ills of the United Kingdom. They just can't help thinking perhaps the burden of the gold-braid navy man may have had something to do with the situation. Many of these Canadians are farmers who at some time in their lives have kept a good looking thoroughbred around the farm for the sake of occasionally passing other fellows on the road and of knowing how soon he can eat his head off.

"But I have the solution," said Mr. Twigg, coming back to the subject just as I thought he was wandering far afield. "We'll have a Canadian navy!" he exclaimed, raising his voice and shaking his pipe, which by this time had gone out. "We'll build it in our own shipyards, too. I tell you it's a great scheme, and as I've not yet explained it to the Government I hope you will regard it as strictly confidential. Some one once said 'war is hell.' He had in mind the Civil War in the United States which was fought mainly by land forces. With a navy, both war and peace are hell. The expense of maintenance of a navy is about the same in times of peace and of war. The key of my theory is that England's danger lies not in her possible conquest by Germany, but in national bankruptcy through the growing burden of naval expenditure. That being the case, our duty is obvious. Canada's navy should consist of ships carrying food to the British navy free of cost. Our vessels will have a real commercial value. Our sailors will be trained in the art of peaceful trade. If we present to the United Kingdom several Dreadnaughts we simply add to the burden of its naval expense and hasten the day of her downfall. If we build a navy to carry Canadian cereals, meats and dairy products for the consumption of the Imperial navy we relieve Britain's burden, build up a Canadian mercantile marine and remove the Canadian farmers' competitors in the markets of the world."

Mr. Twigg had spoken quickly and with an earnestness that made apparent his sincerity. He paused and looked to me for approval. I must confess that I had not been carried away with his argument.

"I see," he continued, "you haven't grasped my idea fully. Think it over. I did not expect that the ordinary lay mind would appreciate my plan at first but the more you turn it over the better you will like it. Why man, think of the time wasted by the gold braid navy in world-touring the high seas, burning coal, eating food, and wasting ammunition in search of exercise. That sort of navy some people would plan for Canada. Think my plan over and tell me what you think about it later."