

GREAT STRUGGLE IN ENGLAND.

Budget Rejected by the Lords Because it Taxed the Classes Represented in Upper House.

There has been no hesitation on the part of the popular forces in England in taking up the challenge thrown down by the House of Lords...

THE ACTION OF THE LORDS THE SOLE ISSUE.

The House of Lords would be delighted if they could confine this struggle to that issue, and to that alone. For then the Lords would blindly declare they had submitted the Budget to the country...

Who can doubt that the answer of any free people will give to this demand on the part of the Peers of England? I say no word of the attitude of my own people to such a pretense put forward by such a body...

There is scarcely one of the millions who were driven to this land of liberty and of possibilities, penniless, ruined, broken-hearted, whose exile was not the direct creation of the land system and of the landlords...

Deep answereth unto deep and the defiant challenge of the Lords has been met by a resonant response from the Commons...

JOHN BRIGHT'S WORDS A REMINDER OF THE PAST.

If we may judge from the first notes of battle, victory is already assured. "If our forefathers," said John Bright, "on the eve of another fray two hundred years ago, refused to be bondsmen to the king, shall we, who struck the lion down, shall we pay the wolf homage?"

The Peers say they are fighting the demagogues. Never did reaction give the demagogue a better chance, and the use they will make of it may be seen from the opening sentence of the manifesto in which the National Democratic League says the Lords have declared war upon the people...

OLD AGE PENSIONS IN DANGER.

The Peers have exposed themselves to this damaging attack by carrying Lord Cromer's amendment decreasing the Old Age Pensions act should end in 1915. The amendment was flung out by the Commons because it conflicted with their privileges...

GREAT STRUGGLE.

The first of a series of demonstra-

tions against the action of the House of Lords, organized by the National Democratic League, was held in Trafalgar Square on Dec. 4. Thousands of workmen came in from all parts of the metropolis...

LLOYD-GEORGE AWAILS THE VERDICT.

Chancellor Lloyd-George, speaking at the Liberal Club, said if the Budget were buried it was in the sure hope of a glorious resurrection. As to the action of the Lords, they had to arrest a criminal and see that he perpetrated no further crime...

CONSERVATIVES FAIL TO PUT MAIN QUESTION IN THE BACKGROUND.

The plan of the Conservative leaders to force tariff reform to the front in the election campaign and thrust the question of the Lords' veto in the background has miscarried. The campaign is being waged with a bitterness not seen in British politics in many years...

A CRITICAL CONTEST COMING.

The Conservative Morning Post in an editorial warns the Party that the coming contests will be a critical and severe one, and that if the Unionist cause is to triumph its adherents must display tactical ability as well as courage and vigor.

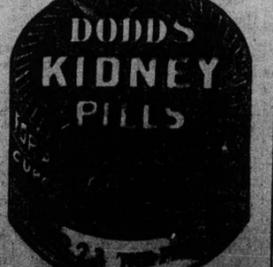
The land owners in the House of Lords who would be affected by the land tax proposed in the rejected Budget comprise the whole House, with exception of a mere handful. None of the Lords own so little as a thousands acres. Most of their holdings can be reckoned in tens of thousands, while the holdings of twenty-three members exceed 100,000 acres each.

The latest survey from which figures can be compiled shows that the peers of all parties hold 16,411,956 acres, or one-fifth of the total area of the United Kingdom. The peers who defeated the Budget hold together 10,078,979 acres. The average holdings of the dukes is 142,564 acres each, of the marquises 47,500 acres, of the earls, 30,217 acres, of the viscounts 15,324 acres and of the barons 14,162.

So far as can be ascertained the railroad directors in the House of Lords number forty-two and the bank directors and bank partners forty-four, but there are possibly more. Lords Rothschild, Avebury, Strathcona and Swaything, formerly head of Montague & Co., are the most conspicuous banking names.

ORDINATION AND FIRST MASS.

Mr. James Toner, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland, was ordained to the holy priesthood on Tuesday, Dec. 21, in the Cathedral of Peterborough Ontario, by His Lordship Bishop O'Connor. Rev. Father Toner was educated in the Irish National schools of his town, studied his classics in Buffalo, took up his philosophy at St. Laurent College, and his theological course at the Grand Seminary. He sang his first solemn Mass in St. Mary's Church, Buffalo, N.Y., being the guest of Very Rev. Father Walsh, the pastor. Father Toner will immediately enter upon the work of the holy ministry in the diocese of Peterborough, and his many friends hope he will long be spared to do all the good of which his years of preparation have given so bright a promise.



Local and Diocesan News.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.—Following along the lines of the celebration held annually in the Church of the Aracoeli in Rome, was the unique festival which took place on Sunday last at St. Patrick's Church. The story of the great happenings of that Christmas night in the long ago was told in song and verse by the children's schools and the Christian Brothers' schools and the precision and clearness of enunciation reflected very creditably upon the excellence of their training.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

The following resolution of condolence was passed by the Brothers of Division No. 4, A.O.H., to Brother M. Sullivan, financial secretary: Dear Brother,—Whereas it has pleased Almighty God in His good and wise providence to remove from our midst one of the most esteemed members of St. Agnes Parish in the person of your sister, Mrs. Nellie Sullivan, be it resolved, that we, the Brothers of Division No. 4, Ancient Order of Hibernians, do hereby tender you our most sincere sympathy in this hour of your sad bereavement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to you and also a copy to the True Witness and National Hibernian. (Signed) E. J. CONNORS, D. ENDICOTT, R. P. PERRY, WM. SHOWERS, Committee.

CHRISTMAS CLOSING AT ST. ANN'S SCHOOL.—The parents and friends of the pupils of St. Ann's School assembled in large numbers in St. Ann's Hall to witness the closing exercises of the pupils under the presidency of Rev. Father Rioux, pastor of St. Ann's. A programme of songs and choruses by the choir under the direction of Prof. J. I. McCaffrey, Indian club swinging and a drama in three acts entitled "The Boys of St. Ann's," was creditably rendered. The different parts of the play were well taken by F. Hyland, W. Brady, A. McKenna, N. Ellis, J. White, T. Sullivan, J. O'Brien, M. Donovan, T. Gavin, E. Moynihan, R. O'Reilly, J. Ellis, F. McMullan, under the direction of Mr. J. S. Kennedy.

Master Norbert Ellis read a complimentary address to Reverend Father Rioux, to which the pastor responded by giving the boys some wholesome advice for the holidays.

MIDNIGHT MASS AT ST. ANN'S.

Midnight Mass in St. Ann's was vested with unusual impressiveness. Rev. Father Rioux officiated, assisted by Rev. Father Walsh as deacon and Rev. Father Fortier as sub-deacon. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated and illuminated with many colored lights which encircled the magnificent white marble altar, made it glow with dazzling brightness. The numerous and well-trained sanctuary boys attired in red cassocks under white surplices, were graceful and edifying. The vast edifice was filled to its utmost limit with pious worshippers, a large number of whom approached the Holy Table.

The musical programme was in every way worthy the grand occasion. The choir, composed of eighty voices, men and boys, under the direction of Professor J. I. McCaffrey, organist, and Mr. M. Norris, leader, rendered Gounod's Messe Solennelle in splendid style. The solos were well taken by Messrs. M. Norris, E. O'Brien, W. Costigan, A. Ryan, M. Sullivan, W. O'Brien, M. Foley, A. Vanneste and Masters Pinell, Latimer and Guilfoyle.

Costiveness and its Cure.—When the excretory organs refuse to perform their functions properly, the intestines become clogged. This is known as costiveness and if neglected gives rise to dangerous complications. Farnell's Vegetable Pills will effect a speedy cure. At the first intimation of this ailment the sufferer should procure a packet of the pills and put himself under a course of treatment. The good effects of the pills will be almost immediately evident.

ONLY ONE SOLUTION.

"Speaking last year before my accession to the Premiership, I described the Irish policy as the one undeniable failure of British statesmanship. I repeat to-night what I said then, and on behalf of my colleagues and, I believe, on behalf of my Party I reiterate that this is a problem to be solved only in one way—by a policy which, while explicitly safeguarding the supreme, indivisible authority of the imperial Parliament, can set up in Ireland a system of full self-government as regards purely Irish affairs. There is not and cannot be any question of rivalry or competing for supremacy subject to these conditions. That is the Liberal policy. For reasons which we believe to have been adequate the present Parliament was disabled in advance from proposing any such solution, but in the new House the Liberal government at the head of a Liberal majority will be in this matter entirely free."

Mr. Asquith defended the Budget as necessary to social reform, and in this respect Old Age pensions were the first step. The Budget, he continued, had been thrown out by the House of Lords to control in levying taxation; second, the claim of the same House to the right to compel dissolution of the popular chamber, and, third, the assertion of the House of Lords of its power to make and unmake the executive government of the Crown. What has been done may be done again. It becomes our first duty to make its recurrence

LIBERAL POLICY OUTLINED

Premier Asquith Finds Only One Solution and That is a System of Full Self-Government.

The declaration of Prime Minister Asquith, at a monster meeting in Albert Hall, on Dec. 10, that the Liberal Party pledged itself to Home Rule for Ireland, was received with the greatest enthusiasm by the enormous audience. He asked for a curtailment of the power of the House of Lords by placing upon the statute book as part of the British constitution an Act of Parliament declaring that the Lords have no power to meddle with any bill dealing with the finances of the Nation.

THE ABSOLUTE VETO OF THE LORDS MUST GO.

This statement of Liberal policy, the first authoritative one made since the rejection of the Budget by the upper house, forced a dissolution of Parliament and an appeal to the Nation, has caused jubilation in Irish Parliamentary circles, where it is recalled that Mr. Asquith all through his career had been at the most but a half-hearted supporter of Home Rule, which he regarded as a matter of expediency rather than of principle. The directness of the Premier's attack on the House of Lords, though not unexpected in view of his speeches during the Budget debate, has set a rest—a rest—no doubt that the Liberals would take up the gauntlet thrown down by the Peers. "The absolute veto of the second chamber must go," declared Mr. Asquith, and the wild applause which followed showed that his auditors are determined that it shall.

The meeting was marked by the greatest enthusiasm on the part of the audience, which filled the vast hall and which greeted Mr. Asquith and the Ministers who accompanied him with round after round of cheers. The Prime Minister in his speech pointed out that just four years ago Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Prime Minister, had outlined in Albert Hall the policy of a new Liberal government which included many reforms. The representatives of the people in the House of Commons had labored faithfully to carry into law the measures promised, but their will had been nullified, and as a fitting climax the supplies which the House of Commons had voted had been stopped upon by the House of Lords.

THE PRINCIPLE OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT MUST BE DEFINED.

"Therefore," said the speaker, "the House of Commons was now on the eve of another dissolution, and it has fallen to my lot to take up the burden. The last time the government had reckoned without its host, but it is not going to make that mistake again." He proceeded: "I tell you in the name and on behalf of the Liberal Party, we have at this moment laid upon us a single task—a task which dominates and transcends because it embraces and involves every great and beneficent social and political change upon which our hearts are set. That task is to vindicate and establish upon an unshaken foundation the principle of representative government."

Referring to the education and licensing bills, the Premier said that the government stood, in the main, upon the principles of the bills which the House of Lords rejected. The franchise law, he added, was still incumbered with artificial distinctions and impediment, for which there was no justification. After referring to the action of the House of Lords in regard to the matter of Welsh religious equality and the fate of certain Scottish land bills, Mr. Asquith turned his attention to Ireland, which he said had been fortunate for once, because the measures set up in her behalf did not come voluntarily in thwart the prejudices of the House of Lords. He continued:

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impossible. We shall therefore demand authority from the electorate to translate an ancient, unwritten usage into an Act of Parliament, and to place upon the statute book recognition explicit and complete of the settled doctrine of our constitution that is beyond the province of the House of Lords to meddle with any law to any degree or for any purpose with National finances.

THE COMMONS WILL NO LONGER SUFFER REBUFFS AND HUMILIATIONS.

"Neither I nor any other Liberal Ministry supported by a majority in the House of Commons is going to submit again to the rebuffs and humiliations of the past four years. We will not assume office unless we can secure safeguards which experience shows to be necessary for the legislative unity and honor of our Party. The Liberal Party is not promoting the abolition of the House of Lords or the setting up of a single chamber, but it tells the electorate that the House of Lords must be confined to functions proper of the second chamber and that the absolute veto must go. I personally do not underestimate the odds against which I have to contend, but the government is unanimous in demanding the absolute control of the Commons, the maintenance of free trade and an effective curtailment or limitation of the power of the House of Lords.

The meeting carried a resolution declaring unabated confidence in Mr. Asquith's leadership. David Lloyd-George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who moved a vote of thanks to the chairman of the meeting, received an ovation—Irish World.

ELOQUENT APPEAL OF MISSIONARY.

Zeal, Privations and Hardships Have Brought About Loss of Sight.

Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, France, December 8, 1909. To the Editor:

Dear Sir,—A number of your readers are friends of our Indian School at Duck Lake, Sask., Canada, and have taken a lively interest in our missions of the far North by perusing the simple narratives of my missionary life, which I sent from time to time to your most appreciated paper. I beg to inform them through your kind insertion of these few lines in the columns of your paper, that my superiors have allowed me to come to France in order to seek a cure for my falling sight.

The increasing weakness of my eyes compelled me to interrupt the writing of the sketches of our missionary experiences in the extreme north. The scores of years which I spent amongst the Northern Indian tribes travelling and camping, most of the time, in the snow, have so seriously damaged my eyes that they are now doomed to blindness. This is the decision of the best doctors, whom I have consulted. They tell me that this blindness will overtake me within a couple of years. It is a sad prospect, but I am resigned to the holy will of God. However, I still hope, the surgical operation to which I shall soon be submitted may be successful. Our Lady of Lourdes, to whose maternal protection I abandon myself, is so good and so powerful!

It is on the lovely day, the Feast of her Immaculate Conception (and my own birthday as well), and from the grotto of her virginal apparition, that I address to you this letter. Let it be, dear sir, the messenger of my best wishes for yourself and for our friends of St. Michael's School, for a holy Christmas and a happy New Year.

These lines are also an appeal to charity; such a journey as mine and the cost of the attendance of doctors are very expensive. If this heavy expense should have to be borne by our school, my voyage would appear to me to be a trial instead of a rest. Two good ladies of the United States have already helped me, with a generous offering, for the first part of my trip. Should this meet the eyes of these good ladies, I wish to say to them that I will never forget, in my prayers their charity towards a poor, nearly blind, old missionary.

May our Immaculate Mother bless them, and may she inspire some others of her faithful children with the same generous and merciful feelings towards me. Restored to sight, or blind, I shall return, indeed to our Indian school, and devote to the last my life to our missions.

I beg to thank, in advance, our dear benefactors, and to promise them, in return, a good share in my prayers and the merits of the last part of my missionary career.

With best regards and wishes, dear sir, I am, sincerely yours,

FATHER A. LECORRE, O.M.I. My address during my stay in France, until the spring of 1910, will be: Rev. A. Lecorre, O.M.I., Hospital, Rue Lesage, Vannes, (Morbihan) France.

Please use a five cent postage stamp.

The progress being made with the construction of new White Star liners at Harland and Wolff's yard at Belfast is said to be very satisfactory. The work is immense, and is exciting the utmost interest in Belfast. The work involves great industrial activity.

GRAND TRUNK New Year Holidays

Round Trip Excursion Tickets will be sold from Montreal to all stations in Canada, including the undermentioned points. Also from Montreal to Canada to Buffalo, Suspension Bridge, Rouse's Point, Massena Springs, Island Pond, Vt., as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Station, Price. Quebec \$4.00, Toronto \$4.00, Ottawa \$4.00, Hamilton \$4.00, London \$4.00, Port Huron \$4.00, Detroit \$4.00.

SINGLE FIRST CLASS FARE Going December 31, 1910. Return limit Jan. 3, 1911.

FIRST-CLASS FARE AND ONE-THIRD. Going December 29, 30, 31, 1909, and Jan. 1, 1910. Return limit, Jan. 5, 1910.

EPIPHANY, JANUARY 6, 1910. SINGLE FIRST CLASS FARE. Between all stations in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Ottawa, Colton Jct. and West of there. Good going January 5 and 6, Return limit, January 8th, 1910.

CITY TICKET OFFICES, 130 St. James St. Phone Main 6905, 6906, 6907, or Bowen ure Station.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

Christmas and New Year Excursions.

Table with 2 columns: Station, Price. Toronto \$10.00, Hamilton \$10.00, Ottawa \$10.00, London \$10.00, Quebec \$10.00, Sherbrooke \$10.00, St. John's, Q. \$10.00, Ste. Agathe \$10.00.

and all other stations in Canada, Fort William and East; also to Detroit and Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Buffalo, Black Rock, Suspension Bridge, and Niagara Falls, N.Y., and to Canadian Pacific stations in Vermont and Maine at

One Way First-Class Fare.

Good going December 31, 1909, and January 1, 1910; return limit, January 8th, 1910.

Good going December 29, 30, 31, 1909, and January 1, 1910. Return limit, January 5, 1910.

Special fares to points in Maritime Provinces.

City Ticket Office 29 St. James Street Next Post Office

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

BOVAVENTURE UNION DEPT. New Year Holidays

RETURN TICKETS AT SINGLE FIRST FARE. Good going Dec. 21st, 1909, to Jan. 1st, 1910, returning up to January 31st, 1910.

Epiphany

Reduced fares, going 5th and 6th Jan. Returning up to Jan. 7, 1910.

TRAIN SERVICE

7:40 a.m. (except Sunday), for St. Hyacinth, Quebec and intermediate stations. 12 noon, MARITIME EXPRESS, daily, for St. Hyacinth, Lévis, Québec, Rivière du Loup, Ste. Flavie and intermediate stations. 12 noon, MARITIME EXPRESS, except Saturday, for the above mentioned stations and Campbellton, Moncton, St. John, Halifax and Sydney.

4 p.m., except Sunday, for Nicolet and intermediate stations.

CITY TICKET OFFICE: 130 St. James Street, Tel. Bell M. 68. H. A. PRICH, G. RO. STRUBBER, Asst. Gen. Pass. Agt. City Ticket Agt.

PAIN EXPELLER

Persons who suffer from rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, headache, toothache, etc., will find relief in the use of Pain Expeller. It is a powerful analgesic and antiseptic, and is used by the medical profession in all cases of acute pain.

Catholic Sailors' Club

ALL SAILORS WELCOME. Concert Every Wednesday Evening.

All Local Talent invited. The concert is in the City pay us a visit. MASS at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday. Sacred Concert on Sunday evening.

Open week days from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. On Sundays from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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