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FIERCE CONTROVERSIES STIRS BRITISH POLITICS

Welsh Disestablishment, Manhood Suffrage, Votes For Women, Will Result in Historic Fights—Insurance Act Perplexing—Ulster Brooding Over Home Rule.

By W. B. Thompson.
LONDON, Feb. 10.—It is understood that about six weeks after the reassembly of parliament the prime minister will introduce the government's home rule bill. Ministerial members of the house of commons expect it in the first week of April at the latest.

If the government survives 1912 the country will not be short of topics for fierce political controversy. Mr. Asquith must deal with home rule, Welsh disestablishment, manhood suffrage, and votes for women.

If the insurance act can be made to work at all—which is by no means certain—millions of people may be required to pay for the insurance for which they will not get any benefit. If the act is hung up till next January (or forever) the nation will suffer disaster from the lack of insurance and if it is forced on the country in the present chaotic lack of form there will be a heavy penalty for the ministry to pay.

Multiplicity of Difficulties.
What with insurance, the disestablishment, and disbandment of the Church in Wales, disensions and private and public war of members of the cabinet on women's suffrage, to say nothing of the difficulties of the electoral reform contained in the Manhood Suffrage measure, the government might easily crumble to ruin in any month.

But above all, as if the parliamentary cart were not already loaded enough, they have to produce their home rule bill. It will not only arouse the Unionists to blazing antagonism; we have yet to discover if it will content the Irish Nationalists; and if it does, England will rise in revolt at the price she has to pay for setting up an unnecessary parliament in Dublin as the reward for Mr. Redmond's services to the country.

So, also there are other vast issues at stake, home rule will provide the great battles of one of the most memorable years in British political history. It is the expectation of the Scotch and Welsh home rulers that the Irish bill will foreshadow the concession of similar legislatures in their countries. Indeed, they say, if the Irish have their own parliament, no logical refusal to follow of separate houses of parliament to Scotland and Wales and England.

Exciting Prospect.
The prospect is tremendously exciting. It is admitted by all politicians that the house of lords must never again be alighted as it was in December by having several great measures thrust into its hands at the far-end of a session. Therefore, Liberals will demand an

early start and that the home rule bill shall have first and privileged place in the sessional program. It will be put thru the house on a time-table. If the periods allotted for the various stages are generous—which is doubtful—even then "scenes" will be frequent. But if the government use the "gas" as unscrupulously as they did in the insurance debates, the Unionist fight will be of the most desperate character permitted by parliamentary usage.

High Pressure Campaign.
Simultaneously with the struggle in the house the campaign in this country and in Ireland will be sustained at high pressure. The strain upon speakers on both sides, in the house and up and down the land on platforms, must be intense. Mr. Bonar Law is no believer in half-measures. When he gets to business the government will be fully aware that something is going on. Side by side with his unimpaired attack, Mr. Balfour's brilliant criticism will have a no less powerful effect.

The ex-leader is in better health than he has enjoyed for a long while, and is looking forward to his share in the session of 1912 promises to take the opposition a long way on the return road to office, and it is far from impossible that it may carry them the whole way.

All Eyes on Ulster.
In the short time available before the reopening of parliament for platform work, all eyes will be on Ulster. On Feb. 8, Mr. Winston Churchill addressed a home rule demonstration in Belfast. Now Belfast is the very core of the Ulster rising against home rule. With characteristic vigor the Unionist Convention, the most influential body in the Orange province, passed a resolution in answer to the challenge involved in the arrangement of this home rule invasion: their answer to it, and therefore to Mr. Churchill, Mr. John Redmond, Mr. Devlin and Lord Pirrie was that they would "take steps to prevent any meeting being held." But the meeting was held.

The home rulers, of course, want to make out that in Belfast there are a great number of electors who want home rule. But there are not.

Now, the duty and the rights of the Belfast Unionists are these: As the home rule demonstration is implicitly supposed to represent the feeling of Belfast, they were at liberty to attend it.

In 1884 the Radicals of Birmingham were irritated at Lord Randolph Churchill's Conservative demonstration franchise bill, and they planned a counter demonstration outside the park. In the end there was a riot, and Lord Randolph, Sir Stafford Northcote and the learned and witty judge had narrow escapes from falling into the hands of Radical pursuers.



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THE SLIDES

And it came to pass that as they had long since proscribed or put the kibosh upon all the improper liberties of the people, that the scribes and pariahs gathered together in council saying: "Behold, we have done all that obviously lay in our way to be done. We have circled and curtailed the liberties of the simple folk until there is little else that they may do upon the Sabbath save to breathe and eat. Should we now cease men will forget that we are great, and men of mighty power, wherefore it behooves us that we should get busy and dig up yet other activities that we be not forgotten of men."

Therefore it was ordained that each and every one of them should journey abroad in search of further activities. And it came to pass that as they went forth seeking what they might prevent, one of their number came upon a great course where slid down the sides of hills and laughed merrily as they slid, and as they trudged back up the sides of the hills. Thereupon, he that had seen merry where the people slide, and now went and reported unto his fellows, and said: "Behold, the people laugh and are merry where they slide, and this is an evil thing among men who should sorrow for their sins." And they said, "Perchance we must prevent it. Also be sure it is sinful as this sliding was conceived by the mind of man which is sinful, and how shall a sinful man play or evolve aught else than evil?"

And behold they laid in wait and upon the Sabbath beheld the people slid and laughed, and took council together, saying, "Behold we have them on the hip, they are even now in our mitt."

And they arose and went unto the city fathers even unto those who ruled the destinies of the city, and they said: "Lo, the people slide and laugh, and they are merriful on the Sabbath. They journey into the open and come not unto our churches and our collections are small and our needs are great."

And the city fathers listened unto them and were moved to abolish the sliding upon the Sabbath. And they said: "Lo, places where the people slide, and now they slide upon them upon the Sabbath, which is sinful, for have not the preventers declared that they are merriful upon the Sabbath and that that is a sin of the second magnitude?"

And behold, the people who had set ed stations, even given them their jobs, murmured and gathered together in great numbers to kick, but the fathers feared the plea of the people for they said, "Be-necked and of little worth."

And they said, if they would slide, let them slide upon other hills, other hills, which we have prepared and made safe, even let them slide upon their backs, and hap they shall be smitten for their sin.

J. P. H.

STIMULATING PLANT LIFE BY MEANS OF ELECTRICITY.

Some remarkable developments in recent research upon the electro-culture of plant life were demonstrated before the Royal Botanic Society in Regent's Park, London, recently. They were the outcome of study by two German scientists along the lines suggested by Sir Oliver Lodge and Professor Priestley, and showed that not only can the vitality of plant life be appreciably stimulated by electric influence, but that it is also possible, under similar treatment, to preserve vegetation against external and internal parasitic attack.

In the first instance, wheat grains were caused to germinate in fifteen minutes. In describing the process The London Standard says that a number of dry grains were placed in a fine layer of earth upon a copper plate, and after moisture with an insecticide current. At the conclusion of the period they were examined and declared by many of the visitors to exhibit distinct signs of germination. The demonstrator showed that not only could electrical treatment hasten the initial development of the seedling, but that plant food could be "pumped" into weaklings. It was also possible permanently to protect vegetation against external and internal parasitic attack.

The apparatus employed was capable of producing currents of low tension

DOES YOUR BOY DRINK?

Do you know that there are new Drunkards made every day? When a young man starts to Drink he thinks it is mainly to stand up at the Bar with other so-called Good Fellows until the barkeeper turns them out and they go staggering home, where their distracted Parents are wondering what will become of them. They have started on a downward course which has only one end, and that is Ruin, unless they can be brought to realize before it is too late

that the liquor which makes them Good Fellows temporarily is slowly but surely making them Nervous and Physical Wrecks, with bright prospects blighted. Fathers and Mothers, just think. What of the future of your boys? Investigate the merits of The Gatlin Treatment for the Drink Habit, which in Three Days absolutely removes all Craving and Desire for Liquor. Home Treatment for those who cannot come to the Institute. Call, write or phone for Booklet and Copies of Contract.

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A. HARGRAVE, MANAGER.

Overfatness Condemned

Fat, or even fatten women readers who want to be in the mode this year must understand that the demand is for lines, not curves, and govern themselves accordingly. That means OFF with the fat. It has become a duty. Many are trying exercise or dieting; but it is certain they will find these methods too slow, and undesirable. The cheapest and wisest way to get in form for the Directoire mode is by Marmola Prescription Tablets. Any druggist (or the Marmola Co., 37 Farmer Bldg., Detroit, Mich.) will give you a large case of these elegant little fat reducers, for seventy-five cents, and even this quantity should be enough to make a decided impression on your excess fat. Many have lost as much as a pound a day.

These Marmola Prescription Tablets may be used with impunity and likewise perfect confidence, for, being made chiefly in accordance with the famous Marmola Prescription, they are, of course, quite harmless. They are rather medicinal than otherwise, in fact, never disturbing the stomach or causing a wrinkling of the flesh.

Councilman—I've come to see, sir, if you will subscribe anything to the town cemetery?

Old resident—Good gracious! I've already subscribed three wives.—Tit-Bits.