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British Politics.

WHAT policies can the Liberals or Conservatives of Britain have that the Coalitionists under Lloyd George did not seek to develop?

Can any one party come out of the election with a working majority? Can the Coalitionists Liberals and the Asquith Liberals come together? Does Labor want to rule in Britain, and if so would they follow their avowed policy of nationalization of such things as mines, transportation and other facilities? When one starts to go into the political situation in England right now, he can sit down and do nothing but answer questions that suggest themselves.

It is easy enough now to attack the Coalitionist government, and call it an opportunist affair, anxious to see at which corner the band wagon of popular approval was going to turn. Fusion government cannot be otherwise, because they have to suit men of widely divergent lines, and the price of the continued existence of such a government is very often that it will not hew to the line, but consent to follow the chips. It may for the moment centralize its powers on a single issue, while it will not subscribe to a given platform as a permanent policy because it dare not.

CAN Labor stand alone? There can be no doubt of the strength of the movement in recent years, but there are 707 seats in the House of Commons, and it takes a large following to control the situation. During recent strikes, especially the protracted one in the coalfields, when the fight was made for nationalization of this industry, the support of a large body of the more conservative people was lost to the Labor party, although some of the senior leaders are very pronounced now in their statements that the nationalization of industry is not now an issue.

Grant that such a claim may be put forth, and with a certain amount of force behind it, does it not, while placing the conservative element in the Labor group, cut off support from the radical wing? The latter will want to go on from anything the Lloyd George government ever did. It is doubtful if Labor can hold its present strength if it does not hang up a very advanced program. If it does this, then it cuts away from any chance for a working agreement with the Liberals. The Labor party is squeezed going, coming or standing still.

Then, again, there is the question of where Labor stands to make its greatest gain—holding the reins of government or holding the balance of power, in the latter situation being able to force concessions as the price of continued support.

A balance of power situation, skilfully handled, is about as powerful a club as can well be placed in the hand of any party.

VOLUMES have been written of the fortunes of the Liberal party in Britain, and in recent years it is not pleasant reading, except for the political enemies of the party. It is necessary to get back to the late '80's to come to a time when all Liberals came together and "found shelter under the big umbrella of Gladstone."

Of recent years it can be truly said that the Liberal party was at its best between 1906-10. Asquith is the one leader left who can command a good following, and it is a tribute to his powers that through all the turmoil and coalition change, the phrase "Asquith Liberals" refers to a very large percentage of the people of that particular political persuasion. To many of the old-time Liberals the move of the former chief lieutenants of Asquith—Lloyd George and Churchill—to the ranks of the Unionists, meant that they had left the party for all time.

Scant courtesy is paid to Asquith in some quarters, but let it be remembered that the awful responsibility of declaring war was placed on his shoulders, and his judgment and courage were of true British worth. He was turned out in 1916 by means that it is not necessary to discuss here, but even in the hour of demotion and since his course has been marked by a quiet dignity and an adherence to certain principles that he would not abandon. But Asquith can't come back. It is not possible that he should stage such a come-back as Gladstone did in 1880, when, after having retired for five years in 1875, he returned to the Commons, and it was at once seen that he was the Gladstone of old, master of the situation.

Of other leaders of the Liberal party, McKenna has left politics apparently because he can make more money in business. Sir John Simon opposed conscription, and has paid the price; Lord Haldane was great as a war executive and organizer, but it is continually held against him that he should have known in 1912 that Germany meant to have war, and that having discerned this, he should have interpreted these aspirations to the British people. Sir Edward (now Viscount) Grey knows diplomacy as few men do, and he is admirably schooled for leadership. His honesty is of the trans-



parent type, and his standing high, but as a member of the House of Lords he is out of it as Liberal leader. If the old-time Liberals back Asquith, and it seems certain they will, where does Lloyd George come in? They have already announced a tentative platform, one of the chief planks of which is their avowed adherence to free trade, coupled with the announced intention of dealing with the protection of industries act, now in force.

Parties must start out on new lines and well-marked lines. War-time talk will not win an election in England, because the people there realize they are living in 1922 and facing the future.

Events are moving rapidly, and it is necessary that the parties place their cases plainly before the people. We will know more of the lineup before many days have passed.

A Good Point.

DE PALMA, the auto racer, was doing 70 miles an hour on the road, and so he went to jail for ten days and parted with \$100 as well.

When he gets on the racetrack and does his 70 or 90 miles an hour the people get up and yell their approval, after which he goes to the box office and rakes in his share of the receipts.

When he puts on the same performances on a public highway, the people run to find shelter behind trees or crawl in some nearby culvert.

Other car drivers might make a note of this.

When they want to speed, hunt up the nearest racetrack.

A Trifle Too Gay.

KING ALPHONSO of Spain is a fairly decent sort of a king, at least people who know him say so. We can't recollect that he ever did anything very brilliant, but then he has the good quality of having kept out of a lot of trouble.

Wherever he goes he smiles, and shuffles around in a way that earns for him the title of being a good fellow.

But he has a fault or two, and one of them seems to be of spending money. Remember, he's not the king of a rich country—far from it. On the contrary, he's the first citizen in a very poor and very highly taxed land. Reports have it that when he attends functions where dancing takes place, he presents each partner who dances with him with a diamond brooch, ornamented with the Spanish crown and the royal initial. The report is that six of these have been handed out, not a few of them to American girls. No scandal attached, but simply a big lot of money from a people who can't afford it.

Meanwhile underfed Spaniards are being more or less driven to support a war with Morocco in which they are not even interested. Alphonso might do well to pin that elevator sign over his front door, "Watch Your Step."

Is This Right?

A FEW weeks ago a jury in Hamilton brought in a verdict granting a widowed woman \$5,000 on account of her husband having been killed on the railroad track.

The lawyer who handled the case did so at the time without remuneration, although he may have been paid for his services since, but the circumstances of the plaintiff were such that she could not afford to pay out large sums for counsel.

As soon as the verdict was given the railroad company served notice that it would appeal the case and carry it to a higher court.

This means that the woman, who is without means, as she cannot receive the \$5,000 on account of the appeal, will have to do one of two things: (1) drop the case, or (2) go

on, without money and fight it through the next court. The company can go on with law, and the woman cannot.

Now, we pride ourselves in this country that we do things in good order, and that there is a spirit of fairness in all our dealings. In this case, though, there seems to be something out of tune. The country provides a criminal with a lawyer if he has not the money to pay himself. Why should there not be an equal consideration shown here? We are not advocating that the government should make a business of providing lawyers for every person who wants to go to law, but there is the situation, and it is not the only one of its kind—it is only one of many, where a person with a very just and worthy claim has to drop out and lose because of inability to fight in the courts.

LITTLE 'TISERS

It's a high piece of luck when you find that last year's rubbers will fit this year's boots.

Quite a lot of this generation seem to think one way of becoming a star is staying out all night.

The most upright and stiff-necked man we ever saw had a bolt right where his back collar button hit.

A man lost his life once by being too prompt. He dropped a box of dynamite because the noon whistle blew.

Juries in Canada must be careful or else they will go too far in declaring that every murderer is insane.

After looking over S. E. Toronto, we can't help wondering why every person turns Tory as soon as they move to Toronto.

Newspaper heading says: "Loose Nut Wrecks Car." The story doesn't say if he was driving at the time, but we suppose he was.

A New York detective has a story in which he brags about the number of crooks he caught. Yes, but look at the crowd he had to pick from.

When you hear women complain about corns, bunions and ingrown toenails, you can guess right off that they've got a quart foot in a pint shoe.

One way the man can have the last word in an argument with his wife is to say: "All right, woman, go ahead and do just as you hang well please."

A young man named LAWRENCE HAMMOND has invented a device to give movies the third dimension, depth, which they lack. Perhaps, but we've seen a few that had too much depth—in the plots.

We just read a column and a half

about a coroner's jury. It could have been summarized like this: "Express train and auto raced for crossing. Both arrived at the same time."

A Sarnia man was put in jail. Next door to his apartment was stored liquor seized by the police. He immediately became friendly with the next-door place and accumulated one excellent drunk. If this thing keeps up there will be no great demand for prison reform in Sarnia.

Well, now—here is an intimation that women are going to wear their hair pompadour, and use rats once more. Excellent, we say, for with the passing of the short skirt, the writers of paragraphs were being robbed of the makings of many poor sayings. Let the rats and the pomps come in.

Listen. France has taken up with prize-fighting, and since Sikl put Carpenter out of the running, many women are wearing little black paper pugilists pasted on their bare arms. It may be that if the Paris women investigate farther they may yet hear of the rolling pin, against which no man, black, white or copper, can stand.

In British India last year 19,396 residents were killed by snake bites, and some 3,400 others eaten by wild animals. With the autos chasing people off the streets in our highly civilized countries, and snakes biting them in the jungle lands, we reckon our own back yard's the finest little place under the sun.

Sugar is costing the people of United States a cent and a half per pound more since the high tariff went into effect. High tariff advocates can possibly answer this by saying that cuckoo clocks, cuttlefish bone and turtles don't cost any more than they used to. The apologists for the gougers have the greatest repertoire on earth.

Conservative papers greet the returns of the voting in S. E. Toronto as an indication that Toryism is triumphant. Four candidates in the field brought out 7,095 votes. In the last contest three candidates received 16,562 votes. The real answer is that the people in S. E. Toronto didn't seem to care a hoot how the election went.

Our Own Country.

COUREURS DE BOIS.

Q.—Who were Coureurs de Bois? A.—Coureurs de Bois, or "wood runners," were a class of fur traders who traveled through Canada during the period of the French regime and with the fur companies since.

GYPSUM.

Q.—Where is the world's best supply of gypsum found? A.—Canada has, it is said, the world's best supply of gypsum, and that in Nova Scotia, and especially in Cape Breton, where large plaster rocks are everywhere to be seen.

Rev. Benjamin Clement of Clinton is in the city.

A small fire occurred at the home of Mrs. Ann, 370 Waterloo street, about 2:30 this afternoon. The brigade soon extinguished it.

John W. Cheney died at Bryanston yesterday, aged 78.

Mr. Martin O'Meara took control of the Griggs House yesterday at 11 o'clock.

Rev. W. M. Seaborn has resigned as pastor of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church on account of his advanced years, and a successor will be chosen shortly by the vestrymen.



H. G. WELLS

FAMOUS

OUTLINE OF HISTORY

The Romance of Mother Earth

Egypt's Heyday and Decline.

THE story of Egypt from the 4th to the 15th Dynasty is a story of conflicts between alternative capitals and competing religions, of separations into several kingdoms and reunions. It is, so to speak, an internal history. Here we can name only one of that long series of Pharaohs, Pepi II., who reigned 90 years, the longest reign in history, and left a great abundance of inscriptions and buildings.

An Invasion by Shepherds. At last there happened to Egypt what happened so frequently to the civilizations of Mesopotamia. Egypt was conquered by nomadic Semites, who founded a "shepherd" dynasty, the Hyksos (18th), which was finally expelled by native Egyptians. The invasion probably happened while that first Babylonian empire which Hammurabi founded was flourishing, but the exact correspondences of dates between early Egypt and Babylonia are still very doubtful. Only after a long period of servitude did a popular uprising expel these foreigners again.

After the war of liberation (circa 1,600 B.C.) there followed a period of great prosperity in Egypt, the New Empire. Egypt became a great and united military state, and pushed her expeditions at last as far as the Euphrates, and so the age-long struggle between the

allies of Necho I. were taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon.

When, in the sixth century B.C. Chaldea fell to the Persians, Egypt followed suit, a rebellion later made Egypt independent once more for sixty years, and in 323 B.C. she welcomed Alexander the Great as her conqueror, to be ruled thereafter by foreigners, first by Greeks, then by Romans, then in succession by Arabs, Turks and British, until the present day.

Such briefly is the history of Egypt from its beginning; a history first of isolation and then of increasing entanglement with the affairs of other nations, as increasing facilities of communication drew the peoples of the world into closer and closer interaction.

The Conquerors of India. The history we need to tell here of India is simpler even than this brief record of Egypt. The Dravidian peoples in the Ganges valley developed upon parallel lines to the Sumerian and Egyptian societies. But it is doubtful if they ever got to so high a stage of social develop-

ment; they have left few monuments, and they never achieved any form of writing.

Somewhere about the time of Hammurabi or later, a branch of the Aryan-speaking people who then occupied north Persia and Afghanistan pushed down the

northwest passes into India. They conquered their way until they prevailed over all the darker populations of North India, and spread their rule or influence over the whole peninsula. They never achieved any unity in India; their history is a history of warring kings and republics.

The Persian empire, in the days of its expansion after the capture of Babylon, pushed its boundaries beyond the Indus, and later Alexander the Great marched as far as the border of the desert that separates the Punjab from the Ganges valley. But with this bare statement we will for a time leave the history of India.

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