

His very first Budget was a paralyzing shock to his Conservative contemporaries. He encountered the fiercest opposition in the House and outside, but at the General Election which followed, a considerable majority approved his financial onslaught on the royalty-owning, landed and licensed interests. Then he waged his campaign with sure demagogic insight, on the cry of the poor against the rich, the many against the few, the masses against the classes.

Later followed the Insurance Bill which stirred up all England. It was a gigantic scheme. Germany spent many years in working out a feasible method and employed the keenest minds in every sphere of life. Lloyd George worked like a man of steel. A careful study of the question reveals the largeness of the problem and the stupendous amount of work it involved, but with that iron determination which characterizes all his efforts, he fought the bill through the House. Although amendments were made by the hundreds, the credit for a scheme that will be of untold benefit to the poor families of England, is due Lloyd George.

Sydney Brooks says, "This bill marks, by far, the longest step that has yet been taken by the British State to protect the national health, and to insure the workers of the country, men and women, boys and girls, to the number of nearly fifteen million, against the effects of sickness and unemployment. Among all the experiments in social well-being that have been brought forward by the Liberal party, none equal in magnitude or daring, Mr. Lloyd George's Insurance Bill. Whether one looks to the ideas and principles behind it, or to the number and intricacy of its provisions, or to the vast machinery it sets in motion to war against misery and despair, it must be pronounced one of the greatest measures ever submitted to the British Parliament."

Time will not permit dwelling upon the many measures introduced and supported by this man for the relief of the poor and downtrodden of England. A glance at the Ireland of today as compared with the Ireland before Lloyd George entered the British Parliament, will give ample support to the statement that he has ever been the champion of the poor and the defender of the rights of the laboring man.