

MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION SINCE CROMWELL DAYS

Rejection of Budget by House of Lords Cause of Britons' Trouble—"Tacking" Reason for Its Rejection.

By Frederic J. Haskin.
Washington, Jan. 21.—The general parliamentary election now in progress in England is in many respects the most important political campaign since the ballot box was invented. The peculiar issues involved are such that whatever the result of the voting, the constitution of the British empire will be radically changed. Usually it is impossible to weigh the importance of a political campaign in advance; but from the first it has been known that a Liberal victory would mean the reduction of the power of the house of lords to the extent that it might not veto nor amend bills affecting revenues, and that a Conservative victory would mean that the power of the house of lords would be augmented, and that of the house of commons reduced to a point approximating the condition of affairs before the Revolution under Oliver Cromwell.

A Real Burning Issue.
Here England decides whether it will adopt the newest notions of political reform and advance toward socialism, or whether it will return to a more pronounced individualistic system. The campaign was the most exciting that England has known for more than a century and a half. The most important reason for the unprecedented interest in this particular campaign is the fact that there was a real, living, burning issue at the beginning of the campaign. At the beginning of the campaign the peers were clear cut, and it was sufficient to get the country thoroughly awake. Then other questions were injected, until, at the close, the speakers were compelled to discuss many such issues, each of overwhelming importance. Seldom has so much been crowded into one campaign, never has so much depended on the result of an election.

In the Beginning.
To begin at the beginning: The Liberal party came into power in 1906 by an overwhelming majority. It attempted to legislate along "progressive" lines, but its great majority in the house of commons was of no account when the house of lords could veto or emasculate every measure. The house of lords is always overwhelmingly Conservative. The first prime minister, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, died, and was succeeded by Herbert H. Asquith, the present premier. David Lloyd-George became chancellor of the exchequer, a position which amounts, if transferred to the United States, to a combination of all the power held by the secretary of the treasury, Speaker Cannon, Senator Aldrich and Chairman Tamm of the house committee of appropriations.

Budget Causes Trouble.
Each year the chancellor of the exchequer makes up the budget, a bill providing for the collection and expenditure of all the revenues of the country. This budget goes into effect as law on the day it is introduced in the house of commons. It is just as if Secretary MacVeagh had the power to draw up a bill fixing all taxation, including the tariff, and making all appropriations, including fixed charges upon future administrative expenses, such a bill would become law at the moment it was transmitted to congress. However, the budget, although already in effect, must be passed by parliament and approved by the king. The king's approval is purely perfunctory, as the crown has not exercised the right of veto since the days of Queen Anne.

The budget introduced April 29, 1909, is the cause of all the trouble. It provided for the revolutionary process of taxing land values. After much stormy debate it was passed by the house of commons by a huge majority and sent to the house of lords. That body, on

WHEN TEDDY GETS HIS GUN



(Copyright by the New York American.)
Colonel Roosevelt examining a rifle preparatory to entering the jungle for rhinoceri. The picture was taken by Cherry Kearton, the famous photographer of animal life, who has just left New York to return to Africa and spend another few weeks before the former president starts for home. The picture is one of the first to be published in the United States of Colonel Roosevelt amid African scenes.

November 20, 1909, rejected and vetoed the budget, in effect, by adopting an amendment to it declaring "That this house is not justified in giving its consent to this bill until it has been submitted to the judgment of the country." This action was taken by a vote of 350 to 75. Whereupon the campaign was on.

Political Practices.
Some understanding of the nature of the British constitution, and of the sharp practices by politicians of both Liberal and Conservative parties, is necessary to explain this crisis. The British constitution is not a written document like that of the United States, but is the collection of governmental precedents from early times until the present. Since the reestablishment of English affairs after the Cromwell revolution, the house of lords, under the accepted constitution, has had no right to reject or materially amend revenue bills. The budget has been exclusively the work of the house of commons, and the assent of the lords has been given just as the perfunctory approval of the king is required.

The Liberal government was unable to pass its proposed "progressive" legislation in separate bills, so the whole social reform scheme was tied up with revenue measures and introduced in the budget. In this form the budget might have been open to the charge of containing extraneous matter of legislation not strictly in the revenue class—a system of legislation formerly common in the United States, when "riders" were attached to appropriation bills. In England the system is called "tacking." The lords might have objected to the budget on this score, but the quarrel then would have been indeterminate. They did not dare to undertake a step so revolutionary as to reject the bill in toto. The "referendum" amendment was the result. By its adoption the house of lords admitted that the social reform measures in the budget were "in order," and not subject to the charge of "tacking." The lords also forced a dissolution and asked for an election. For more than a century the power to dissolve parliament has not been exercised by the lords.

Not So Much Interest in 200 Years.
The campaign began with this clear-cut issue: Has or has not the house of commons the sole control of the purse strings of the nation as exercised since the days of Cromwell? The Liberals declared in the affirmative, accused the lords of defying the constitution and asked the people to return the Liberal government and to limit the power of the lords. The Conservatives, on the

other hand, did not meet the issue squarely, but set up the claim that the amendment by the lords was not a rejection, but a referendum to the people. Beneath this quibble, however, the Conservatives were stirred to mighty effort and the peers, themselves, awoke to action such as they have not dreamed of in 200 years.

With one of the great parties thus unwilling to meet the issue which caused the election, it was inevitable that the waters should become muddied. The Conservatives, led by the former prime minister, Arthur J. Balfour of the house of commons, and by Lord Lansdowne of the peers, offered tariff reform, meaning protection instead of free trade, as a substitute for all the relief offered in the Lloyd-George budget and proceeded to make their campaign upon that issue. In addition, they charged that the Liberal government had failed to provide for the adequate defense of the nation against what they believe to be an imminent attack by Germany.

Asquith as Leader.
Thus the two parties went to the country. Premier Asquith leading the Liberals, although all but overshadowed by the great Lloyd-George, in the defense of the budget and in the attack upon the house of lords, endeavored to keep the original issue clearly before the people. The lords and the Conservatives, who forced the referendum on that issue themselves, under the leadership of Mr. Balfour, sought to place the emphasis upon tariff reform. Mr. Balfour has a record of many years as a free trader and also as a severe critic of the house of lords, so that his part in the campaign was most difficult. But he was thoroughly in earnest in opposition to the land tax and land valuation features of the budget, and he used the best weapons at hand with which to fight. If the campaign could have been kept to the issue upon which the referendum was taken, there would never have been a doubt of a sweeping Liberal victory and the practical abolition of the house of lords. The Conservatives were forced, by the law of self preservation, to bring in the tariff reform issue.

Thunder Sounds Familiar.
The Liberals tell the people that they suffer because the land is held by a few men who do not use it to the best advantage, and that these land owners must share in the burdens of public taxation. The Conservatives tell the people that free trade has brought them to their low estate and that if they will adopt a protective tariff there will be work for all the unemployed, a job for every man, and that the foreigner will pay the taxes to run the government. To American ears the campaign thunder is strangely familiar.

Not least among the interesting features of this remarkable campaign is that both parties have gone to the United States for precedents and examples to prove their case. The Liberals have pointed out that all land is taxed in America, and the Conservatives have retorted with the amazing discovery that the land tax has kept down the price of real estate in Boston! The Conservatives have pointed to the high wages and prosperity of American workmen as the product of the protective tariff, and the Liberals have retorted with the price of butter and eggs in Kansas City! Thomas Jefferson is quoted in attacking the house of lords and Alexander Hamilton is brought forth to defend that institution. Mother England seems quiveringly to learn something from the Yankees, but at the same time she has much to teach the United States about the business of conducting campaigns and managing elections.

Tomorrow—"Politics on Billboards."

WILCOX GIVEN GAS FRANCHISE AT DALLES

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
The Dalles, Or., Jan. 21.—At the mid-monthly meeting of the city council John D. Wilcox of Portland was granted a 20 year franchise to conduct a gas plant in The Dalles. By the franchise he is permitted to use the streets and alleys in which to construct mains for the purpose of transmitting gas for light and heating.
Mr. Wilcox states that work of erecting the plant and constructing mains will be commenced as soon as the weather will permit. He expects to be in readiness to furnish the people of the city with gas before the end of the year.

Wireless at St. Helens.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
St. Helens, Or., Jan. 21.—St. Helens is to have a wireless telegraph station. The St. Helens Mill company, under the management of Charles R. McCormick & Co. of San Francisco, and H. A. McCormick of St. Helens, have erected on Washington square in the western part of this city a complete plant to be used as a wireless station. The McCormick company has five steam vessels carrying lumber from its large mill here to San Francisco. Each vessel will be equipped with wireless. One, the Klamath, just out with her maiden cargo, is already equipped.

DUKE GOING TO AFRICA TO HUNT

His Grace of Connaught Will Make the British Taxpayer Foot the Bills.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
London, Jan. 21.—Believing that Theodore Roosevelt has not killed all the beasts in the East African jungles and desiring to head off the former American heavyweight champion, Jim Jeffries, reported to be planning an African trip, the Duke of Connaught, King Edward's brother, left London today, bound for British East Africa. In the duke's party are the duchess, their son, Prince Arthur, and their daughter, Princess Patricia. The party will sail from Marseilles on the German mail steamship Admiral for Mombasa. The Admiral bore Roosevelt and his entourage to the lair of the lion.

In connection with his trip, the duke will make a semi-official tour of inspection of the various posts in British East Africa, but the main object of his trip is to slay.
The party has no notion of roughing it, but the cost of the journey into the wilds will be enormous. Roughly it is estimated that the expedition will cost \$50,000, although the party expect to return to England early in May.
The Duke of Connaught is not a rich man, in spite of the statement to that effect made in connection with rumors of his contemplated appointment to the governor generalship of Canada. For a duke, he is abjectly poor. He can afford this trip, however. It was given a semi-official character so that the British taxpayers might share in meeting the bills.

Ontario Short of Cars.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Salem, Or., Jan. 20.—Complaint was made to the railroad commission yesterday that the shortage in stock cars at Ontario is acute and that measures for relief have been exhausted without result. Complaint was made by C. R. Emison, cashier of the Ontario National bank. It is also charged that the stockyards at Ontario are without watering troughs.

Abiqua Farmer Fined.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Silverton, Or., Jan. 21.—Alfred Murray, a farmer living in the Abiqua basin, was arrested yesterday for having a deer in his possession out of season, and taken to Salem, where he was fined \$50.

PORT COLLECTOR THREATENS FINE

Liner Carrying World Tourists Alleged to Be Violating Navigation Laws.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
San Francisco, Jan. 21.—Fred S. Stratton, collector of the port, is preparing to enforce a fine of \$132,000 against the Hamburg-American line because the company's steamship Cleveland is bringing 661 passengers here from New York after a tour of the world. The fine is to be levied and collected under the federal law which says that "no foreign vessel shall transport passengers between ports in the United States either directly or by way of a foreign port, under a penalty of \$200 for each passenger so transported or landed."
The Cleveland is due to arrive here January 31. She is scheduled to discharge her passengers and take on 700 passengers for a tour of the world with New York as her destination. Should the fine be levied and upheld by the courts it is likely that the Hamburg line will have to pay a fine of \$140,000 for the privilege of entering New York harbor.

Collector Stratton heretofore has rigidly enforced this law and there will be no alternative but to follow precedent when the Cleveland arrives here.
Sea lawyers here are inclined to believe, however, that Frank S. Clark of New York, who chartered the vessel from her German owners, either had assurances from Washington that the passengers could be landed or has decided to land them at a British Columbian port and bring them to this city by boat. It is pointed out, however, that chartering a steamship does not transfer a foreign into an American vessel.

MEAGER SUPPLY OF FIRST CLASS FORESTERS

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 21.—"Picking a successor to State Forester Lull, resigned, is a task of more than ordinary difficulty and no start has been made toward the selection," said Governor Gillet yesterday. "The peculiar combination of great technical training and practical experience which the office demands is rarely met. It is possible that a man may have to be sent from the forestry service at Washington."

BATTERED MAN IS FOUND AT DALLES

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
The Dalles, Or., Jan. 21.—A man whose head was terribly mangled and who was unconscious was found in a boxcar in the O. R. & N. yards here last night. He was taken to The Dalles hospital.

Salem Realty Board.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Salem, Or., Jan. 20.—Preliminary steps were taken at a meeting of the real estate men of Salem last night for the permanent organization of the Salem Realty Board along the same lines as similar organizations now existing in Portland and other large cities. A committee was appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws and report at another meeting to be called next Wednesday evening. The meeting last night was presided over by H. A. Johnson, temporary chairman and Fred S. Bynon, secretary.

GERMANY AND FRANCE SUFFER FROM FLOODS

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Paris, Jan. 21.—Chaotic conditions prevail throughout eastern and southern France as the result of the disastrous floods that have swept those sections for the past three days.
While little loss of life has been reported, it is estimated that property damage aggregating many millions of dollars has been done. Business is practically at a standstill in the large towns. Farms in the southern districts have been flooded. Despite the vigilance of the authorities, much looting is going on in the stricken towns, where the lack of food is a serious menace.
Dispatches from Berlin state that similar conditions exist in southern and western Germany. Additional damage has been done in Switzerland, where hundreds of tourists are reported to be marooned at pleasure resorts.
Journal want ads bring results.

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