

earner, a square deal for the employer, a square deal for the general public that keeps its valuables locked up in safes. To get this square deal I think we should have a thoroughly efficient and well equipped commission on this business of getting something for nothing. The business ought to be a material issue and not a moral issue, but if we can't get a square deal through this commission but instead get crooked deals, then the business of getting something for nothing becomes emphatically a moral issue.

"What we desire in this business of getting something for nothing is such a measure of protection for the getter of something for nothing as will equalize the cost of production between here and abroad. If it costs more abroad to get something for nothing than it does here, we want a good stiff head tax on the foreign getters in order that our industry may be protected. If the contrary is the case we can hoe our own row.

"Here's where the commission comes in. If safe-breaking tools and lobbying expenses are higher here than abroad, of course we do not fear the competition of cheap foreign labor. The American public wants the getter of something for nothing put on an equality with the foreigner so that the American standard of living may not be lowered. But the American public does not want to see this business of getting something for nothing so protected that it will benefit primarily a few wealthy men.

"Now, if the court please, in the conduct of my business of getting something for nothing, I have always had in mind these principles of equity, and have striven to avoid the building of any monopolies that might rob the people to an unreasonable extent, and prejudice them against our honorable trade.

"I have used the most perfect tools obtainable, and have opened safes so skillfully that little damage was done, and have always made it a point not to take the postage stamps and small change from the cash box.

"I have made it a point to take from those who were well able to spare from their surplus, and have divided my hard earnings with the poor and the helpless.

"Now, if it please your honor and you gentlemen of the jury, I sincerely submit that in view of the facts that the whole country is solidly committed to the principle of getting something for nothing, and that I in my humble and quiet way have faithfully endeavored to carry out these principles and have avoided the creation of monopolies or the raising of moral issues, that I should be declared by this jury and this court as not guilty, and should be allowed to go free."

I do not believe this story because Dobbs also said that the jury found the man guilty and the court sent him to jail.

GEORGE V. WELLS.

LLOYD GEORGE AMONG HIS OWN PEOPLE.

A Letter Written by Louis F. Post from Bangor, North Wales, Under Date of Jan. 21, 1910, to the San Francisco Star—Published in the Star of Feb. 12.

In this quaint town of 12,000 people, on the strait that connects St. George's Channel with the Irish Sea between the Island of Anglesey and the mainland, which is inhabited by working Welshmen but owned by Lord Penrhyn, Lloyd George spoke last night at two meetings to his own people. He had been campaigning for other candidates, and now he began his home campaign for his own election to Parliament. . . .

The two meetings that greeted this distinguished radical Minister and Parliamentary leader here, were held in the same hall—one at 6:30 and the other at 8:30. Its seating capacity does not exceed 1,500, but there must have been from 2,000 to 2,500 at each meeting. Every available inch of standing room was occupied, even to mere toe-holds on the edge of the unrailed platform; and the audiences were tremendously enthusiastic for the man, for his argument, and for the neighborly manner of his speech. He is one of themselves, who has risen to great heights yet remained one of them. For a poor Welsh boy to have risen to be a leading minister of the Empire is to these simple bread-winning people what it was to us to have a rail splitter and a canal boy sit in the Presidential chair.

Mr. George's appearance is not at all suggested by his portraits. These give one the impression of a slight, quick, good-natured fellow, nervous and gritty. Gritty he is; and quick, and humorously witty. But he is not slight of body nor nervous of manner. Balfour is the nervous man in public speech; Lloyd George is as composed and intimate of manner upon the platform as if he were conversing in a drawing-room with friends. In build he is stocky, and upon his shoulders he carries a head of the massive type, supported by a neck which, while free of fatness, is large and muscular. Although it is evident that he sat for his photographs, and while in the front face view he may be recognized by them, his appearance differs greatly and much for the better.

In manner of speech he is conversational, and in substance expository, as if he were a schoolmaster; yet poetry as well as argument runs through all he has to say, and occasionally there are flights of oratory. A question or an interruption of any kind brings an instant and apt reply, always courteous and good-natured and generally effective as an argument or appeal.

At one of the meetings last night he spoke in both English and Welsh. Beginning in English he dropped into Welsh, then back again into English, and back once more into Welsh, and so on to

the end. He was delivering, however, not two speeches but one, for each was a translation of the other. From the applause and laughter and interruptions he must have been speaking as well in the Welsh as in the English. And why not? Welsh is the common tongue here, although there are few who do not speak English quite as well as it is spoken over the line in England. It is systematically taught in the public schools of Wales and is used, of course, in the homes. Lloyd George absorbed both languages in his boyhood.

Many were the blows this greatest of radical leaders struck at "tariff reform" as they call protection over here, and quick the recognition of his points. One of his statements is of special interest on the American side. It was in reference to tin-plate making in South Wales.

"Take the tin-plate trade of South Wales," he said; "a striking and almost sensational illustration of what can be done by people who take their courage in both hands, and instead of sitting down and moaning and sucking their thumbs, and calling out for 'tariff reform' and 'protection,' fought their own battles with their own brains. What happened there? A real blow was undoubtedly delivered at the tin-plate industry of South Wales by the American tariff. We used to sell millions of pounds' worth every year of tin-plates, from South Wales to America. Then comes the Dingley tariff of 50 to 60 per cent, directed no doubt at the Welsh tin-plate industry. What did they do? They set about improving their machinery. They set about reconstructing their business. They imported new scientific methods, and in the course of a few years, they not merely recovered lost ground, they advanced to a position they had never held before; and at the present moment the tin-plate industry of South Wales is far and away the most prosperous in the whole world. Not only does it compare favorably with similar industries in other parts of the world, it is on a firmer foundation than it ever was—more secure, more unassailable, and that is purely and simply because they cast themselves upon their own resources instead of whining and whimpering and clamoring for subsidies and protection from the state."

The responses from the audience, composed in the great majority of workingmen and of men acquainted with the condition of the Welsh industry Mr. George had described, fully verified his statement as to the prosperity of the tin-plate industry of South Wales.

This is a message that should be appreciated in the United States, where the blow struck with such futility at Welsh tin-plate workers by our tariff has produced one of our great trusts and strengthened our whole trust system, but without the slightest benefit to American workingmen in whose name and pretended behalf our tin-plate tariff was adopted. . . .

BONNIE L. G.

Dumfriesshire Young Liberal for June, 1910.

Air—"Bonnie Dundee."

To the Lords in Convention 'twas Asquith who spoke,
Ere the Commons go down there are Lords to be broke;
Then let Liberals true, who for Freedom would stand,
Come follow the banner of "Budget and Land!"

Chorus—

Come fill up the cup, come smash up the Peers,
Come rally our forces, and cease Whiggish fears,
Come tax their Land Values and let us be free,
For it's up with the Landlords, say David and we!

Lloyd George he is winning by field and by street,
The Dukes are dumb-founder'd, the brewers are beat,
And the Tories are whispering, "Best let it be,
For the country seems daft about bonnie L. G."

Chorus.

There is wealth that's unearned from the Channel to Forth,
There are sites in the South, there are mines in the North,
There are rural land values ten thousand times three
Should be taxed by the Budget of bonnie L. G.!

Chorus.

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THE ARCH-DRUID OF DOWNING STREET.

Portion of a Cartoon in Punch of September 21.



A Musical Correspondent at the Eisteddfod* writes:—"Mr. Lloyd George then obliged with 'Land of My Fathers.' The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his rendition of the famous Land song, gave its full site value to every note."

*A congress of bards and minstrels held periodically in Wales in continuance of very ancient custom.—Editors of The Public.