

**British Politics.**

The second resolution regarding the Lords' veto (p. 348) came to vote in the House of Commons on the 14th. Prior to the hour set for closing the debate, Mr. Asquith attempted to describe the course the Ministry would pursue should the House of Lords reject the proposed veto resolutions; but the Tory leader, Mr. Balfour, raised a point of order which the chairman of committee of the whole sustained. Mr. Asquith thereupon announced that he would make his statement on moving to adjourn. When the vote was taken in committee on the veto resolution, the resolution was adopted by 351 to 246. This was followed by the adoption by 334 to 236 of a resolution altering the duration of Parliaments from seven years to five.

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Mr. Asquith now formally introduced in the House the Ministerial bill embodying the veto resolutions, following with the statement he had been prevented from making in committee of the whole. His statement is cabled in the news despatches as follows:

We are confronted by an exceptional, perhaps a unique case. The Government's effective existence depends upon the passing of the resolutions into law. If the House of Lords fails to accept or declines to consider our policy, the Government will feel it their duty to advise the Crown as to what steps are necessary to insure their policy receiving statutory effect. It would not be right for me to disclose the terms of that advice, but unless the Government find themselves in a position to give their policy statutory effect they will either resign office or recommend dissolution of Parliament. But in no case will they advise dissolution except under such conditions as would insure that in the new Parliament the judgment of the people as expressed at the elections would be carried into law.

The last sentence implies that pledges from the King to appoint enough new Lords to "swamp" the present Tory majority in the House of Lords will be demanded by the Ministry.

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From the moment it appeared in the proceedings that the Irish members under Redmond's lead were cooperating with the Labors and the Liberals, the Tories were fierce in their denunciations, and with interruptions and offensive accusations and epithets they produced almost unprecedented disorder. Mr. Balfour in his Opposition speech charged a bargain through which the Irish had "agreed to swallow the Budget," in order to get home rule, and Mr. Asquith as having "bought the Irish vote at the price of the dignity of his office and its great traditions." Other Tories yelled across the chamber at the cheering Liberals: "Why don't you cheer Redmond, your master?" "Cheer the Irish victory!" "Cheer the dynamiters

and associates of Patrick Ford!" etc., while others shouted "Dynamitards!" at the Irish members.

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Meanwhile Mr. Asquith had given notice of a resolution to be introduced on the 18th, providing for consideration of the Budget of 1909, all its legislative stages to be completed on April 27th; and on the 18th this resolution was adopted by a vote of 345 to 252. The Budget of 1909 was accordingly introduced by Lloyd George on the 19th.

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The London correspondent of the New York World makes this lucid and probably correct summary of the situation:

There is little doubt that the Irish party will decide to vote for the Budget as an essential step in their support of the Government in its campaign against the Lords. It is the obvious policy of the Irish now to strengthen the hands of the Government in every possible way, and by carrying the rejected Budget by a handsome majority they will assist in discrediting the Lords. The King is said to be intensely worried by the dilemma in which he is now placed as the arbiter in the biggest Constitutional fight since the revolution of 1688. He recognizes that Balfour and Lansdowne, in taking the unprecedented step of rejecting the Budget, are the persons responsible. They forced the crisis even against his advice and rejected his suggestions for a compromise.

The surmise in this World dispatch to the effect that the Irish party will vote for the Budget, was confirmed on the 18th by Mr. Redmond. He announced the decision of the party to give cordial support to the Asquith ministry, including support of the Budget. Their reason as he stated it was that financial injustice to Ireland is only remediable by securing home rule, and the merits or demerits of the Budget are trivial in comparison with the abolition of the veto power of the House of Lords.

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**Australian Politics.**

Meager news dispatches from Melbourne tell of an overwhelming defeat at the elections for members of the Commonwealth parliament (vol. xii, p. 678; vol. xiii, p. 148), of the fusion led by the Protectionist Liberal, Alfred Deakin. The Labor party was victorious. It is reported to have gained ten seats in the House of Representatives and probably six in the Senate, which furnishes it with a working majority in both Houses.

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The Labor party had formed a Ministry in the Commonwealth parliament in November, 1908, having a plurality in the lower House but not a majority. The leading plank in its platform was a graduated tax on land values. Some six months later a fusion of the opposition parties was ef-

fect, with Mr. Deakin as leader, and late in May of last year the Labor ministry was defeated by a vote of 39 to 30. Some of the members of the old parties supported the Labor ministry, but it was nevertheless in a minority against the fusion. The Labor leader—Prime Minister Fisher—tried to secure a dissolution at that time but was defeated by the fusionists, who supported Mr. Deakin in the formation of a new ministry. In January the Parliament came regularly to an end, and at the elections there were but two parties, the Fusion and the Labor, and as noted above the Labor party won. The incoming Parliament will be the fourth of the Commonwealth.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The second annual Conference on City Planning and the Problems of Congestion is to be held at Rochester, N. Y., May 2 to 4.

—San Francisco is planning a "Panama-Pacific International Exposition," to be held in 1915 at the time appointed for the completion of the Panama Canal.

—Miss Margaret Haley is to speak before the Chicago Single Tax Club, in the Schiller Building, Friday evening, the 22d, on "Education and Taxation in Chicago."

—Senator La Follette has been invited by the Chicago Federation of Labor to address a public meeting on "The Game Big Business Is Playing Upon the Country."

—The national Conservation Congress will meet in Convention Hall, Kansas City, early in September. Gifford Pinchot, President Taft and ex-President Roosevelt are announced as speakers.

—A series of sixty-two earthquake shocks swept through Costa Rica on the 13th, 14th and 15th. Nearly every building in San José, the capital, was thrown down or damaged, but no lives were lost.

—H. Martin Williams, one of the earliest supporters of Henry George in the United States, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for representative in the Illinois legislature from Jefferson County.

—Emil Seidel, the Socialist Mayor of Milwaukee (pp. 339, 346), was inaugurated on the 19th, the City Council having first organized by the election of Edwin T. Melms (Socialist) as president and Carl D. Thompson (Socialist) as city clerk. The new Mayor delivered an inaugural address.

—Duncan B. Cooper, who with his son was convicted of assassinating the late Senator Carmack of Tennessee a year and a half ago (vol. xii., p. 301), was pardoned by his friend Governor Patterson on the 13th. Robin J. Cooper, the son, was given a new trial by the Supreme Court of the State.

—The "No vote, no Tax League" of Chicago (p. 276) adopted resolutions on the 16th declaring President Taft's anti-suffrage speech "un-American and in disregard of the principles of our government." Arrangements are being perfected by the league to oppose the collection of taxes that are unfair in

comparison with the taxes of the influential rich. At the meeting noted above it was reported that 130 tax paying women have authorized this litigation in their behalf.

—A conference which met in Chicago on the 18th elected provisional officers and made plans for a National Farm Land Congress under the auspices of the Chicago Association of Commerce. The provisional officers are Don Farnsworth president, C. A. Walsh secretary and George E. Roberts treasurer.

—The profit-sharing plans of Sir Christopher Furness for the future operation of his ship yard at West Hartlepool, England, which went into operation about a year and a half ago (vol. xi, p. 687) have been abandoned. On the question of continuing them through another year, the employes voted adversely 598 to 492.

—Sir Robert Giffen, journalist, financial writer and statistician, died in London on the 12th at the age of 73 years. Some of his publications included "American Railways as Investments," "Stock Exchanges as Securities," "Essays in Finance," "The Progress of the Working Class in the Last Half Century" and "The Case Against Bimetallism."

—Tom L. Johnson (p. 322) and Joseph Fels were the guests at dinner in London on the 11th of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Thomas F. Walker of Birmingham presiding. Mr. Fels wrote on the 8th that Mr. Johnson was then "getting on finely, improving daily," and London dispatches of the 12th told of his intention of going soon to Glasgow.

—In a by-election to the Reichstag which has just come off in a country district in East Prussia which had been carried by the Conservatives for forty years, a National-Liberal has been elected by 3,000 votes. Popular dissatisfaction over the Prussian government's suffrage reform bill which carries but slight reform (pp. 275, 349), is held to be partly responsible for the radicalization of the district.

—Prof. William G. Sumner of Yale University died at Englewood, N. J., on the 12th. Born in Paterson, N. J., in 1840, Prof. Sumner graduated from Yale in 1863 and later studied abroad. He was instructor at Yale from 1864 to 1866, when he was ordained into the Episcopal ministry. He preached in Morristown, N. J., until 1872, and then he returned to Yale. Political economy was his subject at Yale. He was a political economist of the classical type and a free trader of the Manchester school.

—Mount McKinley, in Alaska, has been ascended by Thomas Lloyd, Daniel Patterson, W. R. Taylor and Charles McGinnigle, members of the expedition which left Fairbanks, Alaska, December 15, for the purpose of climbing the peak as soon as the weather permitted in the spring, and before the snows should melt. The topmost peak was reached on the 3d of this month. The mountain is declared to be 20,464 feet in height. The members of the expedition report that no trace of the proofs Dr. Frederick A. Cook alleges he left behind when he made his supposed ascent of the mountain were found (vol. xii, p. 1020).

—The International Harvester Co. announces a system of compensation to employes suffering from