

British Politics.

Cable dispatches regarding British politics (p. 934) disclose the confusion into which the Conservative party has been thrown by the land clauses of the Budget. T. P. O'Connor cables to the Tribune of the 3rd that—

the future of the Budget is in as complete doubt as ever. The action of the House of Lords changes every hour. The moderate organs like the Spectator counsel caution, but the Times astounds everybody by its leading article on Friday, declaring after long hesitation and other advice for the rejection of the Budget. At the same time there appeared a manifesto giving the same advice signed by Rothschild and other city magnates, who were supposed to be hostile to the rejection of the Budget because of the financial derangement which would follow.

Mr. O'Connor adds that the liquor interests and the protectionists demand rejection, and that the Irish, though for other reasons, hope for it, believing that this would destroy the Lords and give home rule to Ireland. Our own private advices are to the effect that the radicals of Great Britain also hope for rejection, believing that the people are now so aroused that a more radical measure would result. William T. Stead cables to the Chicago Examiner of the 3rd that the rejection talk is all bluff. He says:

Talk in town still runs on dissolution, the general election and revolution. It is positively declared that the Budget will be thrown out by the Peers. Lord Rosebery, it is said, will move the rejection of the bill, which will be thrown out, suspended or otherwise put out of existence by the Lords. Everybody says this course has been decided upon. It is said to be as fixed as fate. I do not believe a word of it. All this talk about dying in the last ditch is "bluff." At the last moment Rosebery will run away and the Peers will not come out of the woods. The Budget will get through and dissolution of Parliament will take place next year. Why dissolution, if the Budget is not thrown out? Because, if the Lords are brought to swallow the Budget they will knife every other Liberal measure and it will be necessary to appeal to the country for a mandate to extinguish their veto. It would suit the Liberals better to appeal on the Budget. This is so obvious that I do not believe the stupidest of Peers will play into their hands. But, whether the Budget passes or does not pass, the country will have pronounced its decisive opinion before many months. Whether the voters wish to be governed by the Peers or the Commons the opposition does not venture to prophesy. All it hopes to do is to reduce the Liberal majority. If it does this drastically the only result will be to make John Redmond and his home rulers masters of the situation. If the majority is not reduced drastically it will be a far more potent weapon for radicalism than the present majority, for not a member will be returned who will not be pledged to make short work of the veto by the Lords.

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By mail we learn of a great demonstration in

Glasgow on the 18th, far surpassing that of London in July (pp. 610, 727, 824, 883), the difference in the size of the two cities considered. According to the Glasgow Herald of the 20th, 150 organizations took part, the procession numbered 40,000, there were 100,000 on the speaking ground and 10 speakers' platforms. The character of the organizations represented is significant. There were Liberals of course, and land-value taxationists, socialists, Irish home rulers, Scotch home rulers, co-operators, temperance reformers, etc. "Though sharply divided on many points," says the Glasgow Herald, "the various sections fraternized" at this demonstration in support of the Budget land clauses. Among the banners was one which read: "Pass the Budget. End the House of Lords. Home Rule all round." Another feature of the procession was a coffin with a coronet on top and on the side the word "Landlordism." On the speaking grounds the coffin was committed to the flames. Ex-Baillie Peter Burt, J. P., a land value taxationist since the historic Scottish tour of Henry George in the '80's, was the chief marshal. He also presided at platform No. 1, where J. Dundas White, M. P., moved the resolution. At platform No. 2, John Burgess, president of the Glasgow Trades Council, presided and Charles Fenwick, M. P., presented the resolution. The Socialists had stand No. 3. Councillor Alston presided, and G. N. Barnes, M. P., moved the resolution. Among the single taxers prominent at this meeting, besides those already named, were Graham Cassels, David Cassels, Dr. Clark, W. R. Lester and Edward McHugh. Mrs. Barton presided at the ladies' platform. Lloyd George had sent the following telegram, which was read at all the platforms: "Success to your meeting. The Government mean to fight for the Budget right through to the end. We expect Glasgow, as one of the most progressive cities of the Empire, to help us to win." At bugle call, 6:15 p. m., the following resolution was adopted simultaneously by the crowds at all the platforms:

That this meeting heartily welcomes the important provisions contained in the Budget for taxing monopolies and socially created wealth, and particularly for securing a complete valuation of all land in the United Kingdom, holding this to be essential to any policy of land and social reform. It further hopes that the Government will firmly resist any mutilation of their proposals dictated by selfish interests, and will seek an early opportunity for so extending them as to secure the best use of the land, which must result in increased employment, better housing for the people, and greater prosperity for our national industries.

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In the course of a reply to Lord Rosebery (p. 943) the day before the Glasgow demonstration and in the same hall in Glasgow in which Lord Rosebery had spoken, Alexander Ure, M. P., a

member of the British ministry as Lord Advocate for Scotland, as reported in the Glasgow Herald of the 20th—

enumerated six reasons for giving exceptional treatment to land. First, land owed its existence to the hand of the Creator; second, land was strictly limited in quantity; third, land was essential to man's existence; fourth, land owed its value to nothing which its owner does nor spends; fifth, land owed its value exclusively to the presence, energy and expenditure of the community; sixth, dearest of all to the heart of the tax collector, you cannot carry land away and you cannot conceal it. (Cheers.) Lord Rosebery admitted that all but the fourth and fifth were strictly accurate. He denied the truth of the fourth and fifth, but Mr. Ure confessed himself puzzled. Lord Rosebery must be thinking of one thing while the bill spoke of another. The contagion, as Lord Rosebery called it, would never spread to the owners of consols and railway shares as they did not possess one of his six characteristic features of land. . . Lord Rosebery's theory of politics belongs neither to the old Liberalism, which he betrayed over Armenia, nor to the new, which he deserts today. It is the mere impulsive reflection of the unthinking timidities of wealth.

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The speech at Birmingham on the 22d by Mr. Balfour, Tory leader and former Premier (p. 943), is published in full in the British papers which are now at hand. In this speech, he said, after explaining that the old industrial system of England has broken down:

We have to choose now not between the old and the new, not between the traditional policy and the novel policy, not between a new scheme of tariff reform and an old scheme which calls itself free trade. We have to choose between two schemes both new, both embodying principles different from those which have been accepted for the last forty years in this country. It is between these two new proposals, not between the old proposals and the new proposals, that you and the country will have ultimately to decide. That is why I said earlier in my speech that I believe we have now reached a moment in which a more important decision has to be taken by the people of this country than they have had to take for many a long year past; but remember, please, that this is no fortuitous accident, it has been obviously inevitable for some years. All the tendencies of modern commerce, all the tendencies of domestic politics have gradually been working up to this particular crisis, this particular moment at which even those who have been most reluctant to say "aye" or "no" will have to say "aye" or "no" (applause), will have to commit themselves on one side or the other. Are you going to begin what at all events I think is the upward, the hopeful, and the forward movement of tariff reform [protection]? Or are you going to take the first, but yet not short step on that downward track which leads you to the bottomless confusion of socialistic legislation ("No")?

More Public Ownership in Great Britain.

By Associated Press of the 30th from London, it is reported that after prolonged negotiations the British government has completed arrangements to take over (vol. xi, pp. 258, 379, 403, 580, 589; vol. xii, pp. 5, 148) all the coast stations of the Marconi wireless system, excepting the long distance stations at Poldhu and Clifton, which the company retains for its projected trans-Atlantic service. The Government pays \$75,000 for the stations taken and gets also the right to use all existing patents and all improvements made during the next fourteen years. Under the control of the British postoffice the Marconi stations will be opened for communication equally with all ships, irrespective of their wireless system. The postoffice is taking over also all the Lloyds' wireless stations. "The Admiralty," continues this report, "has long urged the vital importance of vesting the control of wireless telegraphy in the Post Office and there is a widespread sentiment against allowing the establishment of a private monopoly in wireless telegraphy."

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The Spanish Capitalistic War in Morocco.

The occupation by the Spanish of Mount Guruga in the Riff country of Morocco, after much hard fighting, led to the belief in Spain that the little Spanish mining war (p. 946) was coming to an end, and Madrid celebrated the event with illuminations on the 29th. But on the 1st news of an ambush of Spanish troops, with heavy fighting in which General Diez Vicario lost his life, together with the retirement of the Spaniards from Mount Guruga, became known to the rest of the world, though partly withheld by censorship from the people of Spain. It was announced on the 2d in Madrid that 15,000 men were to be sent as reinforcements to General Marina, the Spanish commander in Morocco. It is reported at Madrid that the Sultan Mulai Hafid (p. 711) is secretly encouraging a holy war, urging the tribesmen about Fez to join the Riffians, and expel the Christians from Morocco. Some fear is felt in Europe lest success on the part of Spain should lead to her territorial establishment in Africa, to the exclusion of other great Powers.

NEWS NOTES

—A "play festival" is to be held at Garfield park in Chicago, on the 9th, by the Playground Association.

—At the national Unitarian conference in Chicago on the 30th Horace Davis of California was elected president.

—The tribesmen on the northwest of India (vol. xi, pp. 134, 159), presumably incited by the Afghans,