

British Politics.

The finance (or Budget) bill of 1909 (p. 368) passed all the steps up to and including its first reading in the House of Commons on the 20th inst., by ample majorities. Of the situation at this time, T. P. O'Connor, M. P., says in his Chicago Tribune cable letter of the 22d that—

the suspense of the week has ended in the complete identification of the Liberal and Irish parties with the veto campaign and whole hearted support of the Budget. This has naturally produced an aftermath of tranquillity. . . . The Tories, jubilant for weeks in the hope of defeating the Liberals by the Irish vote on the Budget, now are sunk in despair. The Budget is passing through all the stages with perfect tranquillity, even apathy, after many months of fierce denunciation. Every Liberal is looking to the next election and a straight fight over the veto of the Lords with perfect confidence, while the Tories are resigned to despair. The Tory papers already are raising a cry of compromise, but no compromise is possible on the terms which the Liberals, Tories, or Irish could accept. . . . All Ireland stands enthusiastically behind the action of Redmond, with which the Irish in England, who always have favored the Budget, especially the land taxes, are generally sympathetic. The Liberal and Labor parties are inexpressibly relieved at the avoidance of a rupture between the English and Irish democracies. The two democracies, indeed, are more closely knit in this fight than in any previous epoch of the history of the two nations. The Irishmen in England will swell the gigantic popular demonstrations now preparing to demand the abolition of the Lords' veto. All of the British democracy also is immensely grateful to Redmond for that firmness of attitude which induced the Liberal cabinet to finally adopt stern, uncompromising, and prompt action in the campaign against the Lords.

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The French Elections.

Early reports of the 25th from the elections in France on the 24th (p. 322), indicated no substantial change in the 597 seats of the Chamber of Deputies, and on the 26th, the distribution of seats, with only nine districts not yet heard from, was as follows:

Republicans	57
Radicals and Radical Socialists	154
Independent Socialists	10
Unified Socialists	28
Progressists	43
Nationalists	12
Conservatives	53

Second ballotings will be necessary in 231 districts, no candidate having in those districts received a majority.

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An Echo of Mr. Roosevelt's Visit in Egypt.

In a speech to 10,000 Egyptians at Cairo on the 3d, as reported in the correspondence of the New York World and the Chicago Inter Ocean, Ali Bey Fahmy Kamel, vice president of the

Egyptian Nationalists, denounced amid loud cheering Mr. Roosevelt's speech at the Cairo University on March 28 (pp. 297, 313, 319). Kamil Bey said in part:

We are not met to recall the evils of British occupation, but to protest against him who has dared to mock our demand for a constitution; against him who has sought to oppose our aspirations toward independence.

We should have preferred to have welcomed Mr. Roosevelt as a broad-minded citizen of a free country, and as such to wish him godspeed, but he has only sought to appear in Egypt as a true English imperialist, and to make us forget he is one of the foremost citizens of free America.

Mr. Roosevelt, having just stepped upon Egyptian soil, has delivered himself, from Khartoum to Cairo, of repeated praises of Lord Cromer and of the present condition of our country. There, as here, he has been the omniscient orator, knowing everything of Christianity, of Islam, of militarism, of the constitution, forever giving his advice, forever preaching his doctrines. He seems ready to proclaim his anxiety to turn his coat according to the country in which he hunts, and, because in America he chose for his prey the wealthy classes to protect the poor, he comes here to Egypt to hunt down those who desire independence, to defend the British occupation.

Oh, Roosevelt, spare us your oracles! Take just a little time to glance over the history of this country, whose important position in the world you have been able to appreciate. Is it worthy of you, on treading for the first time the soil of Egypt, to use your renown to destroy that hope which is the soul and the life of the oppressed, and without which a people can never attain the heights of their destiny? Where have you read that men live happy beneath a foreign yoke which sheds their blood and wastes their treasure and withholds from their sons the fair remuneration of labor which insures their existence and their independence?

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The Famine Riots in China.

The rioting at Changsha, China (p. 370), has spread into disorders at other points in the province of Hunan. News of the 23d from Peking emphasized the famine causes assigned last week (p. 370) for the trouble. The Chicago Record-Herald dispatch asserts that "the rioting is not primarily due to anti-foreign feeling, but was turned against foreigners only upon the discovery that the Governor's efforts to prevent the exportation of rice were balked largely through foreign influence. Thousands are on the verge of starvation, owing to failure of the crops. Several weeks ago the Governor, to prevent high prices, prohibited all exportation of rice. British and Japanese merchants and shippers engaged in the rice trade, protested to their respective legations at Peking in an effort to induce the diplomatic corps as a body to protest. This was frustrated by the refusal of the American and German legations to join. The British and Japanese then protested to the Wai-Wu-Pu, which in view of treaties now