

against them, and all the great men of the past, all the moderate and impartial men of the present. . . . The whole movement of the world is against the gradual intrusion of the House of Lords upon legislation. As democracy becomes more numerous and educated, more varied, more complex and more powerful, it is necessary that the House of Lords should recede and retire. It is necessary that it should count less and less. Most men expected that gradually, as things happen in the history of our country, the House of Lords would pass peacefully and painlessly away. That would have been a natural evolution (laughter). Much better for us, and much better for them (renewed laughter). But what do you see? On the contrary, the House of Lords put their claims higher every year. They now claim to reject every bill, no matter by what majority it is supported, in the House of Commons, or how newly elected that house is (hear, hear). They claim to tinker, tamper and meddle with every kind of subject, many of which they very imperfectly understand. They have mutilated the principal legislation of this Parliament until at last a climax has been reached, and by a violent act the executive government has been brought to a standstill; and so we come to a dissolution, in which the House of Lords comes face to face with the electors in a fierce collision which must involve a constitutional change (cheers). The control of finance is the root of all civilized government. The whole plan of the executive and the administration depends upon finances. The power of finance cannot be exercised by two chambers, unless those two chambers act together in general unity. And you are brought to this clear alternative. Finance must be given wholly to one chamber, as it has been in the past, or else both chambers must be elected simultaneously (cheers). The alternative brought about is the absolute breakdown of the constitution and the administrative machinery. I must say it with composure and deliberation, that is why we as a government will not be willing to discharge the responsibilities of government, whatever our majority, under the state of things which the action of the House of Lords has created (loud cheers). Is it not of real advantage to the country that there should be two great parties, each capable in turn of providing responsible government administration for services to the crown? Does not that fact, that men of both parties and millions of working men have a chance from time to time to help to choose the government—does not that associate the whole body of the nation in one way or another in the high duties and with the glorious inheritance of the British Empire (cheers)? How much better our system of government has worked upon this balance than in those countries where there is a permanent governing class, with all the interest of wealth and privilege massed around them keeping the rest of their fellow countrymen in sullen subjection by force of arms. That is the position of more than one European country today. A powerful Imperialist and militarist combination, holding all the power and confronting the vast Socialist party, utterly estranged from the fundamental institutions of the state—that is a condition which everyone who cares about the future of our country and who understands the story of these famous islands would labor and would struggle to save us from (hear,

hear). But that is an inevitable result of the change in the constitution which the House of Lords has now attempted. If no Liberal government were able to pass any measures except those which commend themselves to a permanent majority of their political opponents; if every Liberal government could only hold office from year to year by the favor and upon the sufferance of their bitter foes in the House of Lords; if at any moment, upon some pretext or other, a Liberal government was liable to have the whole structure of the nation's finance brought clattering about their ears, it is certain that the reign of two great parties, differing widely, no doubt, in conviction, in sentiment, in character and motive, but united in a common loyalty to the crown and empire, would be closed for ever, and we would be face to face with a period when parties should necessarily be grouped upon violent lines, and when brute force and class hatred, instead of forbearance and public spirit, would become the characteristics of British political life (cheers). It is from these perils that we rely upon the genius and sagacity of the British electors to preserve at this juncture the foundations of the state (loud cheers).

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The Nicaraguan Revolution.

José Santos Zelaya, the deposed and fleeing President of Nicaragua (vol. xii, p. 1255), arrived at the City of Mexico on the 29th. He declares himself to be still the titular President of Nicaragua. Dr. Zelaya is reported to have sent messages to the recently inaugurated President, Dr. Madriz, urging the liberation of Zelaya's son-in-law, Joaquin Passos, arrested in connection with the looting of the Nicaraguan treasury (vol. xii, p. 1255). General Estrada, leader of the revolutionists in the east, remains firm in his determination not to recognize the election of Madriz. This refusal receives endorsement from Cardenas, a former president of Nicaragua, who was overthrown and exiled by Zelaya twelve years ago. Cardenas is now in Costa Rica. Estrada is reported to have entered upon a westward campaign, with Managua, the capital city, as his objective point. He has published a proclamation outlining his policy for a provisional government. He states that it will abolish all monopolies; restore individual rights; encourage mining, agricultural and commercial industries; guarantee the freedom of the press; initiate free elections; and establish schools on the highest ideals. Immigration will be favored and foreigners will be guaranteed rights and privileges equal to those enjoyed by the native born.

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"Conservation and Equal Rights."

Speaking before the University Club in New York on the 27th, Gifford Pinchot made an address on the above subject which he had been scheduled to deliver before the People's Forum at New Rochelle on the previous day, and which had been sidetracked by a blizzard. Though de-

livered modestly to a group of publishers, the address has apparently blown a blizzard through the Administration entourage, and imperils the impending investigation of Mr. Ballinger as a whitewash (vol. xii, pp. 1156, 1201). Mr. Pinchot is reported as saying:

The American people have evidently made up their minds that our natural resources must be conserved. That is good, but it settles only half the question. For whose benefit shall they be conserved—for the benefit of the many, or for the use and profit of the few? The great conflict now being fought will decide. . . .

Special interests have made repeated attacks on the United States forest service, and these attacks have increased in violence just in proportion as the service has offered effective opposition to predatory wealth. Since the forest service called public attention to the rapid absorption of the water power sites and the threatening growth of a gigantic water power monopoly, the attacks upon it have increased with marked rapidity. I anticipate that they will continue to do so. Still greater opposition is promised in the near future. There is but one protection, an awakened public opinion. That is why I give you the facts. We must face the truth that monopoly of the sources of production makes it impossible for vast numbers of men and women to earn a fair living. Right here the conservation question touches the daily life of the great body of our people who pay the cost of special privilege. And the price is heavy. That price may be the chance to save the boys from the saloons and the corner gang, and the girls from worse, and to make good citizens of them instead of bad; for an appalling proportion of the tragedies of life spring directly from the lack of a little money. Thousands of the daughters of the poor fall into the hands of the white slave traders because their poverty leaves them without protection. Thousands of families, as the Pittsburg Survey has shown us, lead lives of brutalizing overwork in return for the barest living.

The people of this country have lost vastly more than they ever can regain, by gifts of public property, forever and without charge, to men who gave nothing in return. It is true that we have made superb material progress under this system, but it is not well for us to rejoice too freely in the slices the special interests have given us from the great loaf of the property of all the people.

There is no other question before us that begins to be so important, or that will be so difficult to straddle as the great question between special interest and equal opportunity; between government by men for human welfare, and government by money for profit; between the men who stand for the Roosevelt policies, and the men who stand against them. This is the essence of the conservation problem today.

The "Insurgent" Movement.

At a "dollar dinner" given by the "Progressive Republicans" of Iowa at Des Moines on the 1st, Senator A. B. Cummins opened violent war upon

the "standpatters." The Chicago Record-Herald reports him as saying:

Upon an occasion like this the only materiality of the suggestion I have been making is that it affords strength and standing to remember that we who are following the progressive banner are not a horde of wild-eyed, tumultuous anarchists who have precipitated ourselves into the calm and quiet of a standpat community, but are simply fighting a battle which has been in progress since the world began, and that all the victories which our civilization recalls with gratitude and pride in the whole course of 2,000 years are the victories of the progressives over the standpatters. It helps us also to be serene and confident in the faith that the standpatters will go down before our assault just as they have gone down in the conflicts of twenty centuries of warfare. . . . For years the standpatters successfully resisted the demand for a revision of the tariff, but finally the progressive force in the rank and file of the party compelled the national convention to recognize the necessity and justice of a revision; and to make sure of an adequate change in the duties, the party for the first time in its history defined with accuracy and emphasis the doctrine of protection. It was then speedily discovered that while the convention was progressive the Congress was standpat. I do not attempt to obscure or to minimize the extent of our defeat, but if any one harbors the delusion that the passage of the recent tariff law ended the fight for fair and reasonable protective duties, it would be wise for him to at once reform his conclusion.

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A New Morgan Merger.

"The greatest banking institution in the world," as the Chicago Inter Ocean describes it, was formed in New York on the 3rd, when J. Pierpont Morgan merged his own trust company with those of Thomas F. Ryan and Levi P. Morton. This brings the total banking capital under Mr. Morgan's control up to \$1,809,000,000.

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"The Strike of the Forty Thousand."

The Triangle lockout and strike of waistmakers—eight-tenths of them women and girls—in New York (vol. xii, pp. 1133, 1227), was followed by a strike of ten thousand waistmakers in Philadelphia, starting on the 20th, for shorter hours, higher wages and a recognition of their union. A mass meeting held at the Arch Street Theater on the afternoon of the 22nd, was addressed by Mother Jones, Mrs. Raymond Robins, president of the National Women's Trade Union League, and Agnes Nestor. The theater was filled a half hour before the meeting began, and an overflow meeting was held at the Labor Lyceum. Six Philadelphia firms had surrendered to the demands of the strikers by the 22nd.

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In New York seven employers yielded on the