

ing been born June 3, 1865. His speech upon the assembling of the Privy Council in the throne room at St. James' was as follows:

My Lords and Gentlemen:—My heart is too full for me to address you to-day in more than a few words. It is my sorrowful duty to announce to you the death of my dearly loved father, the King. In this irreparable loss, which has so suddenly fallen on me and the whole Empire, I am comforted by the feeling that I have the sympathy of my future subjects, who will mourn with me for their beloved Sovereign, whose own happiness was found in sharing and promoting theirs. I have lost not only a father's love but the affectionate and intimate relations of a dear friend and adviser. No less confident am I in the universal and loving sympathy which is assured to my dearest mother in her overwhelming grief. Standing here little more than nine years ago, our beloved King declared that so long as there was breath in his body he would work for the good and amelioration of his subjects. I am sure that the opinion of the whole nation will be that this declaration has been fully carried out. To endeavor to follow in his footsteps and at the same time to uphold the Constitutional government of these realms will be the earnest object of my life. I am deeply sensible of the very heavy responsibilities which have fallen upon me. I know that I can rely upon the Parliament and upon the people of these islands and my dominions beyond the seas for their help in the discharge of these arduous duties, and their prayers that God will grant me strength and guidance. I am encouraged by the knowledge that I have in my dear wife, one who will be a constant helpmate in every endeavor for our people's good.

Thereupon the King took an oath of office, and, in accordance with custom, the members of the Cabinet offered him their resignations. He returned the resignations, and the Cabinet officers swore allegiance. The new King was formally proclaimed in the City of London with medieval ceremony on the 9th.

The new Queen Consort, born in London at Kensington Palace May 26, 1867, is a great-granddaughter of George III, her mother having been a daughter of his youngest son, the Duke of Cambridge. Her father was the Duke of Teck, a middle age duchy which now belongs to Wurtemberg. Originally affianced to the present King's elder brother, Clarence, who died January 14, 1892, she was married to George at St. James' Palace July 6, 1893. Of their four sons and one daughter, the eldest son, Albert Edward, becomes successor apparent to George V.

Return of Tom L. Johnson.

Tom L. Johnson landed in New York from the *Mauretania* (p. 420) on the 6th. He was then reported by the Associated Press as saying in response to questions:

"I shall stay in New York a few days and then go

on to Cleveland. I went away a sick man. I am a good deal better than I was, although I have not recovered entirely." "Are you out of politics?" he was asked. "I am in politics until I die," was the answer.

Since then he has returned to Cleveland, and his health is clearly better than when he left.

While in London, Mr. Johnson was entertained, April 27, at dinner under the House of Commons by thirty-five members of Parliament. The occasion is jocularly reported to have been notable, in addition to its tribute to Mr. Johnson, for being the first time all the radical wings in Parliament—Labor party, Irish party and radical Liberals—have "trusted themselves and one another to meet socially in one room." Among those present whose names have floated across the Atlantic were Redmond, O'Connor, Dillon, Wedgwood, Chancellor, Whitley, Hemmerde, Raffan, Neilson, and Keir Hardy. While the dinner was in progress the members went up into the House to vote on the Budget (p. 417), and then returned for the after-dinner speaking, at the end of which they went again into the House to listen to the discussion on the "Verney resolution," which is explained below.

The "Verney Resolution" in the British Commons.

A resolution, adopted by the British House of Commons after the Lloyd George Budget (p. 417), gives added significance to that most historic of British budgets. The resolution was introduced by F. W. Verney (Liberal), on the 27th of April, as follows:

That, in the opinion of this House, the present system of taxation, rating and tenure of land tends to restrict the best use of the land and the application to it of capital and labor, thereby hindering the production of wealth and causing unemployment.

S. Walsh (Labor) seconded the resolution, and it was forthwith debated at length. In the course of the debate the approval of the Ministry was declared. The resolution was adopted by 179 to 136—a majority of 43.

The President's Railway Bill.

A collapse in the Standpat policy with reference to President Taft's railway bill (p. 419) is reported to have occurred. Both houses on the 3d struck out the provisions permitting pooling, and the Senate struck out the one permitting mergers in cases in which one railroad owns more than 50 per cent of the stock of another. This triumph of the Insurgents caused the President to cancel speaking engagements (p. 420) and hurry back to Washington.