

had received their second-class rates in December, we were still waiting for a favorable answer. The first month it was possible for us to put on "Entered as second-class matter" was in March, though the acceptance was received by us shortly after I wrote you. I think we received our notification of the acceptance on Jan. 24 or 25. I know it was not till our magazine for February was out, and certainly was not received by us before the 24th of January.

To Mr. Flower's magazine, then, the second class privilege was delayed not merely a month longer than to Mr. Grant's, as Mr. Grant asserts, but nearly two months longer.

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Calculated in months, Mr. Grant got his second class privilege in a little less than two after application (from September 29 to November 24), whereas Mr. Flower was delayed for three and a half at least (from the first week of October to the 24th of January). Calculated in days, Mr. Grant got his privilege in 56, whereas Mr. Flower was delayed 109, or 53 days longer. Calculated by magazine issues, Mr. Grant got his privilege in time for the third, whereas Mr. Flower did not get his until after his fourth had been mailed and his fifth had been printed.

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The correspondence quoted above will, we think, satisfy any reader of the fairness of these conclusions:

(1) That the statement of fact in our editorial which Mr. Grant denounces, was justified by the source and character of our information.

(2) That in our investigation, when the truth of that statement had been denied by Mr. Grant, we sought the best evidence.

(3) That in allowing second class privileges to Mr. Flower and Mr. Grant, the Department delayed the application of the former and expedited the application of the latter.

(4) That we were mistaken in saying that there had been five or six months' delay in Mr. Flower's case; but it was something more than three months and a half, and long enough to affect four issues of his magazine financially, besides depriving him of his entry notice in the fifth.

(5) That we were not mistaken in saying that Mr. Grant got his mailing privilege promptly. He did get it promptly, compared with Mr. Flower. For he got it in less than two months after application, instead of three months and a half, and after only two issues of his magazine were published instead of four.

(6) That it is a reasonable inference—at least until the Post Office Department at Washington

shall be less reticent and make a reasonable explanation—that in comparison with Mr. Flower's magazine, Mr. Grant's was consciously favored by the Department. What legitimate explanation can there be for having withheld Mr. Flower's mailing privilege 109 days, and yet allowing Mr. Grant's in 56?

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before, continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, May 3, 1910.

Adoption of the British Budget.

The Lloyd George Budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1910 (p. 394), has, without alteration, now become law in Great Britain. It passed its third reading in the House of Commons on the 27th by a majority of 93. Going immediately to the House of Lords it passed the usual perfunctory first reading there on the same day, and its third on the 28th. It was signed by the King on the 29th.

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The vitally important feature of this bill, that which makes it revolutionary and radical, and consequently of world-wide interest, is its provision for an immediate valuation of all the land of the Kingdom as of April 1, 1909, and for perennial revaluations hereafter. No capitalized valuation of the lands of that country has ever been made. The machinery for this, now in process of organization under the direction of Lloyd George as Chancellor of the Exchequer, is to be a permanent institution, and upon the basis of the records it makes and revises, the Imperial government will, simply in consequence of the growing necessity for revenues, to say nothing of growing radicalism, develop a system of land value taxation in accordance essentially with the ideas of Henry George—that land values are public values and should be devoted to public uses.

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When the Budget had become a law Parliament adjourned until May 26th.

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The Outlook in British Politics.

British politics will now center about the question of the Lords' right of veto (p. 368.) There

may be an early election and there may not. It will depend upon whether the King accedes to the policy of the Ministry. If he accedes, the Lords will doubtless relinquish the veto as to financial legislation and make themselves content with an advisory veto as to other legislation, and the Liberal Ministry, in co-operation with the Irish and the Labor parties, will go on with its progressive policies; if the King does not accede, elections for a new Parliament will soon be held.

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The following extracts from T. P. O'Connor's cable letter to the Chicago Tribune of May 1, are the best indications as yet available in this country, of the outlook in British politics since the enactment of the Lloyd George Budget:

The contrast between the enthusiastic, chattering, and chaffing House of Lords which met to reject the Budget last November, and the sullen, silent assembly which passed it last Thursday at breakneck speed symbolizes the changes in the temper of both parties. Since, to add to the confusion of the Tories in the House of Lords, Lord High Chancellor Loreburn, one of the stoutest of the Radicals in the ministry, reasserted in emphatic language the determination of the Liberals either to resign office or break down the veto power of the House of Lords, the Tories exhibit the same confusion and despair in the House of Commons. They cannot hope for any great change in the situation before another election. Their most sanguine prophets do not claim a change of more than twenty or thirty seats, which would leave the Liberals still a handsome majority sufficient to carry the anti-veto legislation. This prospect seems a scarcely sufficient return for the immense expenditure of money which another election would call for from the Tories, with their funds depleted by the enormous cost of the last election, and with the big brewers and publicans so hard hit by the Budget as to be unable to subscribe largely to this election. Barring some unexpected accident, I see no reason to doubt that the road to Liberal success and to home rule within three years now is clear and open. At present the lull before the storm, which may continue to come for weeks. Yet the country is strangely quiet to all appearances, but much volcanic stuff is bubbling underneath. The Liberals are organizing huge meetings; hundreds already are taking place every week and when the summer is more advanced giant gatherings will take place in all the great centers. Half a million will gather in Hyde Park, where the cabinet ministers will take the unusual course of appearing on open air platforms. Gatherings on the same gigantic scale are preparing in Manchester. The English and Irish masses are acting cordially together in this campaign. Two hundred thousand London Irishmen will swell the Hyde Park gathering, with the bands and banners of every Irish organization. The same will happen in Manchester, where there is a large Irish population. . . . Even the Tory attacks on the Liberal ministry tend to augment the prestige of the Irish party. Their whole cry now is that Asquith attacks the King by demanding the guarantees

on the dictation of Redmond. These attacks doubtless will rally large masses of the ignorant anti-Irish Tories, but will help, on the other hand, to increase the respect and gratitude of the real British democrats to Redmond and his colleagues for forcing the issues against the Lords to the present vigorous and promising campaign. The talk of a compromise in the Tory journals is not worth consideration except as flags of distress. A referendum is vaguely haunting certain minds in the hope of avoiding the expense and trouble of a new election, but a referendum is impossible without the assent of the Tories and the House of Lords. Such assent is unlikely. A large section of the Liberals and Irish were equally hostile, so a general election in the middle of June, with a Liberal triumph, still seems inevitable. It came with a rush in the end. For weeks, running into months, the struggle over the form in which the guarantees are to be asked from the King at once divided the Irish from the Liberals and even the rank and file of the Liberals from the cabinet. That body, consisting of heterogeneous and partly conflicting elements, first had to arrange its own differences before it could meet either its Liberal followers or Redmond. Redmond and the Liberals were consistent in one demand. That was that the guarantees should be asked from the King. . . . The whig element in the cabinet fought against a policy so radical; the courtiers among them shivered at the idea that such a blunderbuss should be presented at the head of the King; and cabinet council succeeded cabinet council, now leaning one way, then another, and breaking up continually with nothing decided and often with only the question of how many members of the cabinet would resign if either of the two policies were adopted. It was to be Grey and Haldane if the radical policy were adopted, Lloyd George and Winston Churchill if the timid policy were preferred. The whole cabinet, face to face with the inscrutable attitude of Redmond, with the revolt in its own ranks, with the specter of Lloyd George and Winston Churchill leading a great Radical and Irish revolt against it, took the plunge at last. All hesitations were swept away and in an hour the cabinet unanimously agreed to Asquith's tremendous statement.

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Finland Struggles Against Being Assimilated.

The constitutional committee of the Finnish Diet recommended on the 30th that the Russian proposition for joint legislation which would in effect extend the authority of the Douma over Finland (p. 370), should be returned to the Czar without action. The Associated Press dispatch states that the Imperial ukase accompanying the measure limited the Finnish Diet to a consultative role, and that body was instructed simply to submit its views thereon to the Imperial Parliament, in which the legislation was introduced. The committee declares that the manifesto is unconstitutional. The bill appropriating \$2,000,000 as a Finnish military contribution for 1910 has been the subject of violent debates in the Diet. The appropriation will be refused.