

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, February 1, 1910.

The Parliamentary Elections in Great Britain.

During the week since our last report (p. 81) the Liberals have partly recovered lost ground, and on the 1st the results stood:

Ministerialists.	
Liberals	274
Laborites	40
Nationalists	82
Total	396
Opposition.	
Unionists	273
Still to be elected	1

Although all the Irish Nationalists are entered here in the Ministerial group, twelve of them, under the leadership of William O'Brien, are not expected to vote with the Ministry.

+

T. P. O'Connor, cabling under date of the 29th to the Chicago Tribune, says:

It is now admitted by Harmsworth in the Times, who is usually the first to sniff a coming change in popular whim, that it is impossible to pass protection by the votes of sleepy, idle, and poverty stricken rural England, which alone has rallied to the Tories against such a decisive vote of all England which is robust, industrial and wealthy.

Nevertheless "Tay Pay" believes that—

—whatever advance the Tories have made they have made by the cry of protection. A number of manufacturers, seeing in it an increase of their profits, have gone in its favor, though the overwhelming majority of cotton manufacturers in Lancashire are against it.

The strength of the Ministerialists has lain, he believes, in the land provisions of the Budget. This new principle of taxing the unearned increment, it is that "has had the effect of sending the large landlords into spasms of rage and despair; and, on the other hand, has enthused the working people to more violent delight than they have shown in any previous election for a generation."

+

From mail sources we learn of some of the protectionists' efforts. Lord Curzon is reported as having made at Manchester this boomerang argument:

Thus, you see that these benighted Protectionist

countries (Germany, France, United States) are building up their manufactures, and are actually becoming independent of the products of your Lancashire spindles and looms. Your competitors can buy as cheaply as you, they pay less wages, they work longer hours.

To show the results of tariff duties on food products the London Daily News publishes this little table in its issue of January 18:

Saturday's Wheat Prices Compared. (Official Market Prices.)

	Per Quarter.
Berlin	52s. 9d.
London	40s. 6d.

The German import duty is 11s. 6d.

On the same page appears this amusing letter:

Tariff Reformers' Dilemma. A Paris Dialogue.

Sir—I have just returned from Paris (where there happens to be a tax on corn), where I had a rather interesting experience.

On Monday night, in the hotel I was staying at, were two enthusiastic English "Protectionists." The conversation turned on to the cost of living under Protection. One of them said he was going to take back from Paris some bread as an object lesson, to show that the cost of bread is no more than in England, in spite of the tax. "They won't be able to get over that," he said.

The head waiter was called, and the following dialogue ensued:

"William, I am going to buy some bread in Paris to take home with me, and I want it very cheap. What price shall I have to pay?"

"What sort of bread?"

"Oh, the cheapest I can possibly get. What the French working man gets."

"Ah, yes, I understand. Well, you will have to pay 5d. or 6d. per kilo."

"Per kilo! Why, that's 2½d. per lb. You don't understand. I am going to buy absolutely the cheapest bread to be had in Paris. Not what you use here."

"I understand perfectly," said William, "but you cannot possibly buy it in Paris less than 2½d. per lb."

"Don't you have bread here such as we get in England made up in square loaves?"

"Oh, yes. We get that, and we call it 'toast bread.'"

"That's what I want. I'm going to take some of that back with me."

"Yes, that costs about 1d. per lb. more than the other bread. (Collapse of Protectionist.) Come into the pantry, and I will show you what I mean."

They went into the pantry, and in a few minutes returned.

"It's no good," said one Protectionist to the other, "we can't take that back with us."

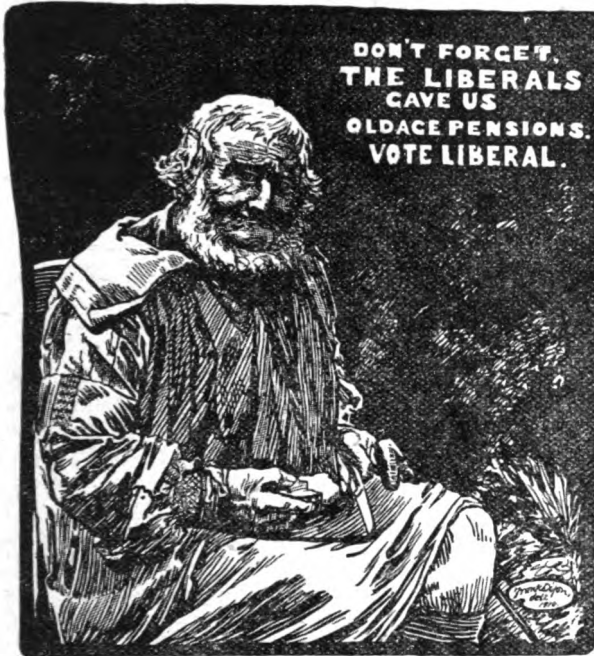
William then went away and his assistant was called. "I'll see if he says different to William."

The assistant, however, gave the same figures as William, so the Protectionists said no more about it. They simply dare not take that bread back to Eng-

land. The truth would kill their case, so they prefer to leave it alone.—Yours, etc.,

WILFRID S. TAYLOR.

Caithness Drive Liscard, Ches., Jan. 13.



Cartoon From the London Daily News of January 19.

The question of which party could claim credit for old age pensions, and make good on them, has been tossed back and forth. Speaking at Trowbridge on the 17th, Mr. Balfour is thus reported:

"Old age pensions, first suggested by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain—(loud cheers)—are now, as far as they go, on the Statute Book of the country. They cannot be diminished without a new Act of Parliament, and let me tell you that no new Act of Parliament for which either party is going to be responsible connected with old age pensions is going to do anything but extend the benefits which old age pensions give. I do not pretend that we have the monopoly of anxiety to improve the existing systems. I do not deny that our opponents are as anxious as we to make the system as good as it can be, but I do protest in the name of political honor against this misuse of political insinuation, political calumny, political whispering behind doors intended to prejudice the minds of electors when they have great national and imperial interests to decide upon." (Hear, hear.)

It now appeared, continued Mr. Balfour, as far as he could understand it, that it was the present government, and not tariff reform, which was going to fail to get the money. (Cheers.) There was every indication that the taxes which the present Budget imposed would not produce either the revenue which was anticipated by the Minister who put on the taxes, or the revenue to meet our national and imperial responsibilities. (Cheers.)

At Newtown on the 18th, Mr. Lloyd George commented—

Mr. Balfour had claimed credit for old age pensions. Really, of all the cool things said in this election that took the first prize. Mr. Balfour when in office had never lifted a little finger to give these pensions. Mr. Asquith never promised them, but he was the man who granted them. (Cheers.) Opponents were always inviting Liberals to copy Germany in its worst habits and never in its best. And every land had got its best. Germany had got a good side—its splendid educational system, and its great ideas of organization, and its magnificent system for looking after the sick. But the Tories said, "Why don't you copy the Protection of Germany?" which meant black bread and horseflesh. They also said, "Why don't you copy the conscription of Germany and its great military expenditure?" He replied, "No, let us copy Germany in all that is right and best, as in her great scheme to provide against the evils which befall a household when the breadwinner is ill—a great scheme of national insurance." (Cheers.)

+

Mr. Philip Snowden, re-elected at Blackburn by an increased majority (p. 58), wrote thus of the character of this campaign in *The Christian Commonwealth* of the 19th:

This is the fourth Parliamentary contest I have fought. Three of them have been in Blackburn. I fought my first election during the Boer war, but I have never had a contest like this which is now drawing to a close. In former elections I have had to work up the enthusiasm and to rouse the opposition. But on this occasion it was there ready made at the very beginning of the contest. Men who have seen fifty years of political life in this borough tell me that they have never seen the people so stirred as they have been these last few weeks. I think this is accounted for by the action of the House of Lords. It has deeply stirred the thinking part of the electorate. There is everywhere a vast mass of political ignorance, and I do not believe that anything could move that. But the votes which are going against the Peers at this general election are the votes of men who are feeling deeply on the grave issues at stake. The votes given against the Peers may be reckoned as the enumeration of the number of electors who have so far developed morally as to put national welfare before selfish interests.

The Labor Leader gives this lively little heckling story:

Mr. Douglas Vickers (of Vickers, Maxim and Co.), Tory candidate for Brightside, Sheffield, was asked at one of his meetings how old he was. "My age has nothing to do with my candidature," he replied, "but I don't mind telling you. I am 45."

"That will do for me," the questioner replied; "I axed for a job at your works t'other day, and was told I am too old at 42. You are too old for my vote!"

+

The Floods in France Subsiding.

The devastating floods in France which when reported last week (p. 85) were still rising in