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We wish to inform the public that the Small & Fisher, Ltd., has been reorganized with entirely new Management, and that any orders entrusted to them will have prompt and careful attention.

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WOODSTOCK, N. B.

March 4, 1908.

## HARTLAND DEPARTMENTAL STORE

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**John T. G. Carr**

Hartland, April 1, 1908.

### The Asquith Cabinet.

What strikes one as most notable about the new Asquith Cabinet is the prominence given to men of fighting capacity, at the expense of men of social prestige. Lord Tweedmouth has become a sort of honorary member of the Cabinet; and Lord Elgin is dropped altogether. The office of Colonial Secretary, held by Lord Elgin since the Liberals came into office, goes to Lord Crewe, who, in addition to whatever other qualifications he may have, is Lord Rosebery's son-in-law. He has not always agreed with Lord Rosebery, but doubtless it was thought expedient just at this time, even at the expense of Lord Elgin, to conciliate the man with the caustic tongue who was once Prime Minister. This is all the more interesting in view of the statement, which has been made with considerable freedom, that Mr Asquith has been for some years back by no means the docile follower of Lord Rosebery he is generally credited with being. As the Cabinet is now composed, the Liberal party has the satisfaction of seeing its first class fighting men in positions where their influence can be exerted with the greatest effect. Mr Asquith, Mr Lloyd-George and Mr Churchill and Mr Birrell are the ablest political gladiators on that side, now that Mr Morley is reduced to only occasional appearances, and the four are so placed that they must bear the full weight of the protectionist attack. Sir Edward Grey has a certain effectiveness, but it is the fashion in the Foreign Office to keep out of home politics.

### THE CROWN OF A GREAT CAREER.

It must be conceded that Mr Asquith has earned the high honor that has come to him in his prime. He carries off the illustrious precedent set by Sir Robert Peel and Mr Gladstone, for like them he first made his

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mark by a brilliant college course, obtained high political recognition early in life, and has continued to gain by dint of sheer capacity for burden-bearing. Like Peel, and like Gladstone, he is the sort of man who can take the burden of any sort of measure, or of many measures together. It was this talent for specialising about everything that marked him out as pre-eminent in the present circumstances. Like Peel and Gladstone, also, he has been able, thanks to rugged health and indomitable perseverance, to take as his own those high rewards which in England are invariably considered as belonging of right to members of the higher orders. How difficult it is, what energy it takes, for a man of the plain people to shove his shoulders through the upper crust, is not easily understood in this democratic community. It is easy nowadays, however, to see with what persistence the Queen tried to ignore Mr Gladstone after he had won the election in 1880, and how court influences made Lord Rosebery Prime Minister in 1893 against the wish of dominant Liberalism. And not yet, but before very long, we shall have the story of how Lord Salisbury was able to pass on the succession to his nephew, completely without regard for the fact that Mr Chamberlain and Mr Chamberlain alone, had preserved the credit of the Government during long and difficult years; and it did not take Mr Chamberlain long to prove that what he had held together he could also destroy. Mr Asquith has been more fortunate than Mr Chamberlain, another of the same hardy race, of which D'Israeli might be cited as a fifth. Indeed it is curious to note the reflected influence of Mr Chamberlain upon the present Cabinet. It was after Mr Chamberlain had left him that Mr Gladstone took to Mr Asquith, in whom he found what he needed badly, a man who could stand up to the "first class fighting man" from Birmingham. Mr Lloyd-George was stoned in Birmingham, when he spoke there in the wartime, and Mr Churchill it was who entered the lion's den to argue against protection. Colonel Seeley, now in the ministry, is another who bolted the Conservative party over that issue. Mr Asquith did well when in an aggressive Opposition, he has performed wonders of endurance since the party came in, and his position is assured upon all except one critical question. Can he keep his following together as well as "G-B." did? Many doubt it. As to that, he is henceforth on trial, and upon his success will depend his reputation and career.

### A FIGHTING RADICAL CHANCELLOR.

In the new cast Mr David Lloyd-George becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer. No doubt this is partially a recognition of the fact that Mr Asquith is not as fully trusted by the forward section of the party as "G-B" was, which being the case it became necessary to have a pronounced "forward" man well in front. Mr Lloyd-George is the most pronounced sort of Radical, as advanced, relatively, as Mr Chamberlain was when Mr Gladstone was astonished to learn that the Radicals wanted other guarantees in the Cabinet besides his own good will. The new Chancellor is Radical about Free Trade, Radical about education, Radical about land, Radical about Irish questions, Radical about labor questions. He owes his position mostly, however, to his remarkable courage. When Mr Asquith and Sir Edward Grey had fallen in behind Mr Chamberlain over the Boer war, Mr Lloyd-George fought him tooth and nail. It was a courageous thing to do, with public opinion running in a torrent against him. He went to Birmingham, was stoned, and escaped from the hall in the uniform of a policeman; but he didn't let up. When Mr Balfour brought on his chequered education bill, Lloyd-George led the obstruction to it in the House, and it was largely due to him that the temperature was raised to the point where "passive resistance" in the country became the fashion. He is an orator amongst Welsh orators. Nevertheless, his successful application of the methods of conciliation to an apparently irreconcilable conflict between the English railways and their employees won him the admiration even of those who are born and bred with a dislike for orators and a distrust of Radicals. His announcement that he will go to Manchester to help Mr Churchill is quite in keeping with his record. A Canadian judge, when the lawyers would abjure him about the jurisprudence, used to say "The jurisprudence? What of it? It is we who make it." So as to the habit of ministers, Mr Lloyd-George might well argue that it is they who make it. The Queen used to scold Mr Gladstone for his undignified habit of making speeches outside the House, and he used to try to explain to her the difference between speaking to his electors and speaking to other electors. If the Opposition have been working for two years at Manchester, just waiting for the day

when Mr Churchill's elevation to the Cabinet would give them a chance for their revenge and his friend and fighting mate would like to help Winston and put spirit into the party, why shouldn't he? The court may no like it but the court doesn't busy itself winning elections for Liberals or making up to them for defeats.

### THE PRIZE OF AUDACITY AND COURAGE.

The fact that Cabinet reconstruction throws Mr Churchill into the limelight will not be wholly displeasing to that interesting young gentleman. They may beat him in Manchester, but they will have to fight for it. His career, so far, has been almost as spectacular as his father's, his success has been as notable, and his judgment appears to be better. He has the Churchill habit of believing in himself. He began in politics by an impudent thanksgiving that he did not agree with Mr John Morley about anything, and in the course of a couple of years had taken up the advocacy of Mr Morley's especial political principles. And he does it well. Having adopted the Gladstonian doctrine that liberty is the active principle of progress, he talked like a statesman of twice his years when the South African constitutions were going through. Sir William Harcourt, polished phrase maker that he was, could hardly have bettered his recent saying that, "all this talk you hear about the broadening the basis of taxation means—and can only mean—one thing; making the poor pay more." In the same speech, on another phrase of the protectionist issue, he said:—"It is argued that, in consequence of the preference which would be accorded to Canada in respect of corn, and to Australia in respect of mutton and beef, the farmers in those great colonies would be able to make larger profits out of the British workingmen, and that just as they made more money out of us they would love us more dearly than they do. What a grovelling conception to take of Imperial unity! What a reckless and perilous proposal for achieving it!" The language, brutal in its directness, is characteristic. It explains his power over audiences whose blood is stirred. It is this kind of aggressiveness that, in Mr Gladstone's phrase, "makes the pot boil quickly," the gift Mr Chamberlain had above all others of his day. It helps explain how a youngster of thirty-three comes to be the third or fourth most important figure in the greatest political body in the world, the Cabinet of Great Britain.

BOSTON, April 12.—Fire devastated more than one square mile of the manufacturing business and tenement district of Chelsea today, entailing a loss of about \$6,000,000. The fire started at 10:40 a. m. near the Boston Blacking Company's works, on West Third street, near the Everett city line, and crossed the city, a distance of one mile and a quarter to Marginal, opposite the East Boston shore. The fire was still burning furiously this evening, but the firemen hoped to control it before the night was well advanced. So far as can be learned there were no fatalities, but half a hundred persons were injured. Reports at seven o'clock at the temporary police hospital shows at that time there had been one death and about fifty people treated for injuries. A great portion of these injuries were of a minor character, but three cases were considered as probably hopeless. In the cases of two, absolution was given by Roman Catholic priests. It is not known whether the person dead is a man or a woman, the body being so badly charred. The body was picked up at the corner of Highland and Suffolk streets. Aid was asked from the Boston Nurses' Home and a corpse of nurses was dispatched to help out the various hospital staffs. The Marine and Naval hospitals were filled up at seven o'clock and the Parkway Social Club building in Everett was pressed into service. The day nurses somewhat burned, had 35 children removed in safety. Among the buildings burned were 15 churches, the Frost hospital, children's hospital, Fitts public library, five school houses, a dozen or more factories and about 300 tenements and dwellings. The residential section of the city, where the wealthier class resided, escaped the flames.

A despatch from Berlin, Ont, says that Allen Huber, Berlin's Mayor, at a special meeting of the Council while criticizing the purchase of a horse for the scavenger system, was called a liar by Councillor Lang. Huber asked a policeman to lock Lang up, and the policeman refused. "Well," said he, "all I can say is that you are a liar, too." The Council will cancel Huber's salary, and will give him to understand he cannot run the town. Mr Huber is a bluff old gentleman who holds rather pronounced views on most questions, and never yet called a spade by any other name. He has run for Mayor no and off the last twenty years.

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1m-17

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CANTERBURY, N. B.

Finally tired of his importunities the Berlin folk elected him this winter in a three cornered battle, and the Council meetings now attract more attention than a minstrel show. Mayor Huber is a commercial man, has frequently visited this town, and on one occasion waxed exceedingly angry at the whole local post office staff, winding up with a vigorous five page complaint to the postmaster general.

Richard Gray's trial will begin at the Court House on Tuesday, 28th inst. Hon Harry F McLeod the new Solicitor General is to represent the crown. The prisoner will be defended by T Carleton L Ketchum. His Honor Judge McLeod is to preside.