

DECKS CLEARED FOR FIGHT ON THE VETO

Government's Scheme for Reforming the House of Lords--Powers Will be Limited--A Second Chamber Constituted on a Popular, Not a Hereditary Basis.

London, May 5.—The text of the House of Lords Veto Bill has been issued. It is based on the resolutions introduced in the House of Commons on March 21 and recently adopted by that body. These resolutions declare, first, that it is expedient that the Lords be prevented by law from rejecting or amending a Money Bill, but that such limitation shall not in any wise affect the rights and privileges of the Commons as they now exist; and, second, that it is expedient the powers of the House of Lords respecting all other Bills be restricted, so that if any such Bill shall be passed by the Commons at three successive sessions and rejected by the Lords at each of these sessions it shall become a law without the assent of the Lords or Royal assent being given, provided that at least two years shall have elapsed between the introduction of the measure and its third passage by the House of Commons. The third resolution set forth that it is expedient to limit the duration of a parliament to five years.

PLANS OF REFORM

The bill will be submitted to the House of Lords when parliament re-assembles on May 26. The preamble foreshadows that action will be taken later for the reform of the House of Lords, with which the resolutions do not deal. It says that it is intended to substitute a Second Chamber constituted on a popular instead of a hereditary basis. Such substitution, the preamble declares cannot immediately be brought into operation. Provision is also made for limiting and defining the powers of the new Second Chamber.

PASSING OF THE BUDGET

The cardinal feature of the British domestic politics the past week has been the passage of the Financial Bill of 1909-10, which has taken 12 months to pass, has cost the country a general election, and has been the means of giving the venerable British Constitution a rough jar, from which it still vibrates. Last fall the Bill passed the Lower House by a majority of 247. It has now, after its rejection by the House of Lords and the consequent general election, been rushed through the House of Commons again, but by a majority of 95 only, and this only after a deal with the Nationalists, to whose will the government had to bow in order to extricate itself from the impasses. The Bill was immediately re-pesent to the Lords, who, after a brief debate in which Lord Lansdowne made an able speech justifying the Peers' action, and Lord High Chancellor, in a powerful reply, reaffirmed the government's position, passed the Bill without a division, thus, according to their opponents, "eating the leek" or according to their supporters, honorably making good their promise not to oppose the measure if a new House of Commons submitted to it them for the second time. Therefore, for the good or ill, the budget goes into effect and the arrears of taxation will be collected forthwith.

THE DECKS CLEARED

To politicians, whether in parliament or on the outside, as well as to the general public, there is an immense sense of relief that the budget has departed from the stage and that the political atmosphere is cleared of the oppression which had become almost intolerable to a majority of the public. The proceedings of parliament during the past week, notwithstanding their importance to the nation, were followed in a bored way or not at all. The public sought relief in news of the aviation race to Manchester. After the King's assent to the Finance Bill was declared on Friday with the ancient Norman French form, unaltered for centuries Parliament adjourned for a month's vacation and the Ministers fled from London.

GRAVE ISSUES IMPENDING.

Meanwhile, graver issues are impending, which may change the Constitution. The resolutions crippling the House of Lords, popularly called the Veto resolutions, which have already passed the House of Commons will come before the Lords as soon as that body finished with Lord Rosebery's reform resolutions, which will be the first business of the Peers when they reassemble May 26. The Government Bill embodying the Veto resolutions will be sent to the House of Lords. The Lords' action thereon will bring matters to a head.

ALL DREAD ELECTION.

In Liberal circles dissolution is still regarded as a foregone conclusion. The leading Ministerial organ yesterday asserted that the Ministers expect a general election in July as almost certain and that all preparations are being made for the dissolution at the end of June. There is no certain indication whatever of how another appeal to the country

will eventuate. It is notorious that all the parties dread the prospect and all would be glad, though for different reasons to avoid it. It is not surprising, therefore that means of escape are being discussed. There is much talk of a compromise among the more moderate members and newspapers of both the Liberal and Conservative parties. To this the unbending stalwarts on either side will not listen. The Saturday Review emphatically opposes compromise. It urges a fight to the last ditch. One of the suggested compromises is that the Veto resolutions shall be passed by the Lords as they stand without being backed by a Bill. The resolutions would thus have the force of custom and would work without the need for a written constitution.

The Liberal weekly, the Nation, observes that the suggestion is not lightly to be discussed, but doubts if the Peers could be trusted to observe the custom. Another panacea for escaping a general election is to submit the Veto resolution to a popular referendum. This is the favorite scheme of the Liberal-Unionist Spectator, which urges the Lords to refuse to discuss the Veto resolutions until they are given concrete legislative shape. The Government then, it thinks, could not refuse to embody them in a Bill, which would be sent to the Lords in the ordinary course. The Upper House ought then to add to the Bill a clause declaring the Bill inoperative until it is submitted to a referendum. Lord Courtney, a Liberal, advocates a referendum.

NO COMPROMISE.

The Times in an editorial admits that a referendum would be the practicable course, having the obvious advantage of keeping the Sovereign out of party politics. The paper declares emphatically against compromise and a referendum. The real policy of the fighting men of the two democracies is Mr. O'Connor says to go ahead with their fight. It is safe to say that another general election is nowhere more dreaded than among the members of the Nationalist party. The hostility to the Budget among the Irish people is as strong as ever. Mr. Redmond's deal with the Government, involving Nationalist support of the Budget has cost him the loyalty of his former followers in Ireland.

Many meetings of protest have been held and local councils have denounced the betrayal of Irish interests by the representatives at Westminster. The situation in Ireland is full of encouragement for the O'Brien and Healy section. They have consistently opposed and voted against the Budget. A general election will soon unquestionably send them back to Parliament with greatly strengthened numbers.

EMPIRE WHEAT SHOULD BE FREE OF TARIFFS

(Standard of Empire.)

Mr. Balfour's statement about the Imperial Preference on wheat has caused a considerable stir in Tariff Reform circles, and has by no means pleased all his friends. There is a considerable divergence of view among Tariff Reformers on this question. Mr. Chamberlain's original proposal, it may be remembered, was that foreign wheat should pay 2s. a quarter and wheat from the Oversea States should be exempt. But though this was satisfactory to the Imperialists, it was not altogether agreeable to the champions of the British farmer, who felt that he ought to have a little more protection. Moreover, the whole idea of food taxes was regarded with anxiety in some quarters as playing too much into the hands of the Free Traders and offering an opportunity to raise the dear food cry. The Tariff Commission, after long deliberation, adopted a middle course. It decided that wheat from the Dominions was to have a preference over that from abroad, but was nevertheless to pay a small tax of a shilling a quarter. Mr. Balfour has now dismissed this suggestion, and reverted to the original idea of free Empire grain. From the Imperial point of view this is welcomed. But some of the active practical workers for Tariff Reform are disturbed because they are afraid that the proposal will not go down well in the agricultural constituencies, where the farmers would like a little more protection than the tax on foreign wheat alone would give them.

A FALSE ALARM.

Dechard's tailor (forcing his way into the house)—Sir, I want my money.

Dechard—You relieve me; I thought it was mine you were after.

OPENING UP OF THE GREAT WEST

Under Laurier the Western Prairies have Been Converted into Prosperous Farming Communities.

The department of the interior has recently issued the eighth edition of what is known as the Homestead map. It contains complete information relative to almost every subject touching the settlement and disposition of government lands in the west.

The early issue of these maps showed only the conditions of settlement on the even numbered sections, but duplicates were issued showing the disposition of the odd numbered sections. The reason for this was that the government of that day decided in 1881 upon the policy of reserving all odd numbered sections, or half the area of the whole country, to be granted as encouragement to and aid in the building of railroads, and owing to that policy homestead settlement was confined from 1881 to Sept. 1, 1908, to even numbered sections.

Not all the lands granted to the railroads were earned, and it was not until about 1907 that the railroad companies to whom grants had been given had earned all the land they were entitled to, and a map could be made showing the amount of land the railroads had earned, about 32,000,000 acres in all.

The policy of the reservation of lands in aid of railroads was the policy of the Conservative government, which was undertaken in 1881 and continued until that government went out of power in 1896. The policy inaugurated by the Liberal government was that all agricultural land should be open to settlement and no land granted to railroads; and as fast as railroad companies defaulted in the earning of land grants their rights were cancelled. A map prepared by the department in 1898, but not published, showed the odd numbered sections in the three prairie provinces divided up among railway enterprises. The first complete odd numbered section map, issued in November, 1907, showed the land earned by the railroads as finally selected and showed by comparison with the old maps the direct gain accruing to the people for free homesteading by the change of government in 1896, a gain of somewhere between 20,000,000 acres of land.

A remarkable fact to be gleaned from the maps of odd and even numbered sections, issued in 1907, is that the amount of land granted to railroads by the Conservative government from 1881 to 1896, and earned by the railroads up to 1907, was equal to the area of all the lands that had been disposed of as homesteads from 1870 to 1907. In fifteen years the Conservative government gave to railroads land actually earned by them amounting to 32,000,000 acres, while in twenty-seven years both governments were able to give away as homesteads only about the same amount.

The land act which into force on September 1908, was the final declaration of the Liberal policy with regard to land administration. The railroad companies having received all the land they were entitled to, from that date both the odd and even numbered sections remaining became available for homesteading. Consequently a map of the prairie provinces showing the progress of settlement since that time, must show both the odd and even numbered sections. The map just issued brings the condition of settlement on both odd and even numbered sections up to Jan. 1, 1910. It is one of the most comprehensive and useful maps ever issued in any country by any government.

A feature of the Land Act of 1908 was that, with regard to a certain section of the country, wherein there was still a large amount of public land, but which had not up to that time been attractive to railways looking for grants or homesteaders after farms, provision was made for the granting of purchased homesteads and pre-emption rights; that is, a man who had already earned a homestead and by the general law was debarred from securing another, was allowed to take another within this area upon the same terms of settlement as before put was required to pay the fixed price of \$3 per acre, while the man who had never had a homestead, if he took one in that area was allowed to take an adjoining quarter section as a pre-emption. In his case, by doubling on a homestead, and by paying \$480, he was able to get 320 acres of land, whereas in other parts of the country he got less.

The new map shows how attractive this concession has been, and how it has induced settlement in a part of the country which had not previously attracted either settlement or railways. The map shows the alienated agricultural lands in five colors, and shows that settlement is spreading in all directions from the area now occupied. At the same time it shows the marvellous uniformity and great desirability of the land throughout the whole vast surveyed area of the west.

The figures relating to settlement for the eighteen months that the modern policy of the present government has been in force, as compared with the figures of a quarter of a century preceding 1897, showing striking

ENGLISH MAGAZINE ATTACKS THE KING

Publishers of Contemporary Review With draw May Issue because of In- judicious Article on the King.

London, May 5.—A sensation has been caused by the announcement that the publishers of the Contemporary Review have decided to withdraw the May number in consequence of criticism excited by its references to the King's position in the present constitutional struggle in an article which is given a leading place in its pages.

The article, which is unsigned, is of an unusually outspoken character when one considers the tenderness with which English writers are accustomed and expected to display in dealing with royalty.

The writer plainly tells the King he has failed in his duty in having allowed the struggle between the Lords and the Commons to reach the present position of apparent impasse, and warns him of the consequences to monarchy, unless he insures a peaceful settlement.

Following are some of the most striking passages in the article:

"We respect our Kings because we have found them useful. The moment we cannot exploit them for our purpose we get rid of them."

"No dispassionate observer will deny that in failing to avert this collision the King, whether through misfortune or by fault, disappointed the expectations of the nation."

"Confidence in the Crown as the honest broker between the parties received a rude shock when it became evident that the King was unable to prevent the rejection of the budget. It was openly said that if the late Queen had still been on the throne the catastrophe would not have overtaken us."

"The divinity that doth hedge a King wears somewhat thin in an atmosphere of dinner parties and race courses. His Majesty is a man of the world, going freely into society, but not even the most servile courtier would say that he has ever, whether as Prince or King, surrounded himself with men who are influential in either House or Parliament."

"The King in fact has neither the strong character, the firm resolution nor the keen interest in political men and political measures which would have added to the influence always appertaining to the throne the immense weight of a commanding personality."

"A wise king, judicious, far seeing, resolute and energetic, might easily, without violating any constitutional limitations, be the most powerful man in the realm, but a king indolent, indifferent and given to self-indulgence, would soon be a mere cipher in the State."

"King Edward will not find it easier to compose the quarrel than he did to prevent it. The only hope that the very extremity of the danger threatening the realm may arouse him to unwonted energy of action; for it is not merely the House of Lords that is at stake; the monarchy itself is on trial, and the issue will show whether King Edward will be able to maintain, or, rather, restore, the confidence of his lieges in the beneficent influence of the crowned peacemaker."

The Contemporary has the reputation of being one of the staidest and soberest of the reviews, and the appearance of such opinions in its pages created widespread astonishment. Their publication is understood to have given deep offence to the King, and most probably the withdrawal of the May number is due to a personal protest from him.

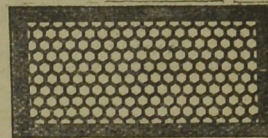
The Daily Chronicle, however, says: "On making inquiry there does not seem to be any ground for suspicion that suppression of the Contemporary Review article was due to any representation made by the King or by any courtier acting with or without his authority."

contrast between the results obtained under Liberal administration and those accruing from the former policy of the Conservative government. In a year and a half under the new Land Act, or from September 1, 1908 to February 28, 1910 there were taken in round figures 33,000 separate homesteads, 29,000 homesteads with pre-emptions, and 2,000 purchased homesteads, a total of 64,000 separate contracts for individual occupation and cultivation, as compared with 70,000 similar contracts, the total number of homestead entries made during the twenty-four years from 1874 to 1897 inclusive. Or in other words, the present government, under the new policy, is effecting about the same amount of settlement in one month as was accomplished in a year by the Conservative government.

The extraordinary rapidity with which settlement has been carried on since September 1, 1908, may be fairly considered as manifesting the wisdom of the government in opening the odd numbered sections to settlement and in enhancing the inducements to settle by the granting of pre-emptions and purchased homesteads in the central southern area.

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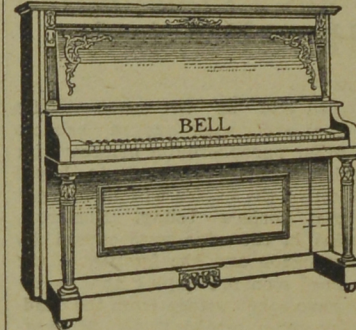
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To Albert E. Everett of the City of Fredericton in the County of York an Province of New Brunswick, Hotel Keeper, and all others whom it may in any wise concern:—

NOTICE is hereby given that by virtue of a Power of sale contained in certain Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the twenty-sixth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and made between the said Albert E. Everett, of the One Part, and me, the undersigned B. S. Ranney Murray of the City of Saint John in the County of York and County of the other Part, registered in the Office of the Registrar in the City of Fredericton, on Book J-5, pages 301, 302, 303, and 304, there will for the purpose of satisfying the moneys secured by the said Indenture, default having been made in the payment thereof, contrary to the Provisions of the said Indenture, be sold at Public Auction in front of the Post Office in the City of Fredericton, on Saturday the Twenty-eighth day of MAY NEXT at the hour of twelve o'clock Noon, the leasehold lands and premises described in the said Indenture, Mortgage as follows:—All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Block Number Seventeen in the Town Plat of Fredericton aforesaid, bounded as follows:—"Beginning at the point of intersection of the South Western side of Brunswick Street with the North Western side of Westmorland Street in the City of Fredericton, thence from the said point running South Westerly along the North Western side of Westmorland Street aforesaid one hundred and thirteen (113) feet, thence at right angles North Westerly and parallel to Brunswick Street aforesaid one hundred and sixty-four (164) feet three (3) inches, thence North Easterly right angles and parallel to Westmorland Street aforesaid one hundred and thirteen (113) feet to the South Western side of Brunswick Street aforesaid, thence along the same South Easterly one hundred and sixty-four (164) feet, three (3) inches to the place of beginning, containing one rood and twenty-seven perches more or less, and being part of Lots Number 263, 265 and 267 in said Block Seventeen Town Plat of Fredericton (except as therein excepted.)

Together with all and singular the buildings and improvements thereon and the privileges and appurtenances to the said premises belonging, or in any way appertaining; together with the Indenture of Lease relating to the same and all benefit and advantages thereunder. Dated this thirty-first day of March A. D. 1910.
(Signed) E. S. RANNEY MURRAY Mortgagee. (L. S.)
A. J. GREGORY, ESQ., Solicitor for Mortgagee.

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THE BUSINESS VIEW.

Brown—The insolence of that Gold-berger! He says he's gladly give fifty marks to box my ears. What do you think of that?
Moss—If I were you I'd wait a little longer—perhaps he'll give a hundred.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER.

Mouquin—How do you like the weather these days?
Beauregard—Exceedingly disagreeable.
Mouquin—And how is your wife?
Beauregard—The same, thank you.