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THE NEW BRITISH MINISTRY.

(From our London Correspondent.)

The list of Ministerial changes contains few surprises, and there is certainly no change which has not been foretold. With regard to the two accessions to the Cabinet, it is generally agreed that no better choice could have been made. Both Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Runciman are new to high administrative office, and, though there is perhaps a distinction in the degree of their respective abilities, it is held that their presence in the Cabinet carries with it an added vitality. The appropriateness of Mr. Churchill's position at the Board of Trade, should he be returned again for North-West Manchester, as seems inevitable, is much appreciated in his constituency; and the *Manchester Guardian* has already given him a call to arms with a magnificent flourish of trumpets. Mr. Runciman, coming from the Treasury, is no doubt accustomed to perplexities; but we wish him the best of good fortune at the Board of Education with no small sense of misgiving. He will indeed be a fortunate as well as a wise man if the tangled skein will be smoothed out by his fingers. The changes in the positions of Lord Crewe and Lord Tweedmouth are in precisely opposite significance to one another: Lord Crewe goes from the not too responsible, if not purely ornamental, office of the President of the Council to watch over the Colonies; Lord Tweedmouth leaves the Admiralty in order to replace Lord Crewe as President. This change makes possible the appointment of Mr. McKenna as First Lord of the Admiralty, a position in which, it is to be hoped, he will give the lie to rumours of his being a "little Navy" man. Of the minor appointments none will be more popular, on both sides of the House, than that of Colonel Seely as Under-Secretary for the Colonies.

The bestowal of two peerages had also been foreseen, although with more confidence in the case of Mr. Morley than in that of Sir Henry Fowler. The honour shewn to the latter will be approved of wherever his services, which have been many and distinguished, are known. With regard to Mr. Morley, the choice was, as he admitted to his constituents, one between the India office and the House of Commons; and it is a source of satisfaction to know that, while his powers last, Mr. Morley will devote himself to the problems of the Indian Government. Otherwise, his migration to the Upper Chamber would have seemed to contradict the firm democratic attitude he has always maintained towards it.

The point on which speculation is most rife is in what degree the changes in the *personnel* of the Administration point towards a substantial change in policy. The more advanced wing of the Liberal party is frankly dissatisfied with the reconstruction, in so far as it holds that the changes are not representative enough of the most progressive opinion. The position of Mr. Lloyd-George, however, at Mr. Asquith's right hand (for it is assumed that he will succeed Mr. Asquith as deputy leader) is regarded as a sort of guarantee that the broad lines of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's policy will not be abandoned for more Conservative principles. At all events, it is on Mr. Lloyd-George's influence that most of the guess-work, most of the prognostication is centred. In view of the extremely exceptional circumstances of the late Premier's resignation, at the very climax of a critical session, Mr. Asquith's wisdom in deciding to give up his

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position as Chancellor of the Exchequer has met with widespread approval. It is recognized, by friends and opponents alike, that in determining to lead his party in the full sense by throwing off every supplementary yoke, he has taken the only consistent course in giving up his office, in spite of dangers, to Mr. Lloyd-George.

Although the changes are not comprehensive, it is more than likely that their significance will be appreciated before very long. Unless the Government mean to shelve the larger issues of Free Trade and Home Rule in favour of less important legislative measures, or unless they can avoid placing before the country measures, like the Licensing Bill, which menace their popularity directly, there will be some sharp fighting in the House and up and down the constituencies. There is, on the other hand, the probability that Mr. Asquith's cautious and conservative temper will prove stronger with his colleagues than the traditions of the last Government, and it is certainly conceivable that by a policy of compromise and moderation Mr. Asquith might do much to strengthen the hold of his party on the country. That he will, in any sense, justify in the eyes of the nation the overwhelming majority which his predecessor has left at his back is a more remote probability. Mr. Asquith has the respect of the House and of his colleagues; but it is quite another matter for a Minister to establish the personal ascendancy necessary to hold together a party composed of somewhat diverse elements. Great tact and great moderation will be required not only of the Premier but also of his colleagues, if the Administration is to win back the approval of the nation after it has been slipping so rapidly out of its reach.

GENERAL NEWS.

KING EDWARD'S RETURN TO ENGLAND.

His Majesty King Edward arrived at Paris from Biarritz on Wednesday evening and continued his journey to London yesterday, arriving at Victoria station at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, which was slightly earlier than had been previously arranged.

Queen Alexandra, accompanied by the Dowager Empress Marie of Russia and Princess Victoria, arrived at Buckingham Palace shortly before 7 p.m. on Wednesday, from Sandringham.

WHY LORD TWEEDMOUTH LEFT THE ADMIRALTY.

In the course of a speech delivered at Dartmouth on Wednesday, Lord Tweedmouth stated that his retirement from the office of First Lord of the Admiralty was due to the present Premier's conviction that the heads of departments which handled large sums of money must be members of the House of Commons, in order to be able there to account for their actions to the representatives of the people.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

NEW APPOINTMENTS.

The following announcement relative to the completion of Mr. Asquith's Ministry has been made: Financial Secretary to Treasury . . . Mr. C. E. Hobhouse. Secretary to Admiralty . . . Dr. T. J. Macnamara. Secretary to Local Government Board . . . Mr. C. F. Masterman. Secretary to the Board of Education . . . Mr. M'Kinnon Wood.

The Marquess of Ripon will retain the office of Privy Seal, but, at his request, the Earl of Crewe will be the Government Leader in the House of Lords.

The King has been pleased to approve of Mr. Thomas Lough, M. P., being sworn of the Privy Council.

As was foreshadowed in the debate on the Address, the Government contemplate raising the status and emoluments of the Board of Trade and the Local Government Board, at the same time appointing the Presidents of these Boards—now Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. John Burns respectively—Secretaries of State. The present salary attaching to each of these two posts is £2,000, while that of a Secretary of State is £5,000.

RECONSTRUCTED MINISTRY.

The Ministry outside the Cabinet is now complete, as follows:—

Lord Lieut. Ireland (£20,000)	Lord Aberdeen.
Lord Chan. Ireland (£8,000)	Sir S. Walker.
Attorney-General (£7,000 and fees)	Sir W. S. Robson.
Solicitor-General (£6,000 and fees)	Sir S. Evans.
Attorney-Gen. Ireland (£5,000)	Mr. Cherry.
Solicitor-Gen. Ireland (£2,000)	Mr. Redmond Barry.
Lord Advocate Scotland (£5,000)	Mr. Shaw.
Solicitor-Gen. Scotland (£2,000)	Mr. Ure.
Chief Whip (£2,000)	Mr. Whiteley.
Secretary of Treasury (£2,000)	Mr. C. E. Hobhouse.
Lord of Treasury (unpaid)	Mr. Whiteley.
Secretary, Admiralty (£2,000)	Dr. Macnamara.
Civil Lord of Admiralty (£1,000)	Mr. Lambert.
Under-Sec. Foreign (£1,500)	Lord Fitzmaurice.
Under-Sec. Colonies (£1,500)	Col. Seely.
Under-Sec. War (£1,500)	Lord Lucas.
Financial Sec. War (£1,500)	Mr. Acland.
Under-Sec. India (£1,500)	M. Buchanan.
Under-Sec. Local Gov. (£1,200)	Mr. Masterman.
Under-Sec. Education (£1,200)	Mr. M'Kinnon Wood.
Under-Sec. Trade (£1,200)	Mr. Kearley.
Paymaster (unpaid)	Mr. Causton.
Lords of Treasury (£1,000 each)	Mr. Pease, Mr. J. H. Lewis, Capt. Norton.

RETIRING MINISTERS.

The announcement from Downing-street published above shows that two other Ministers retire—Mr. Edmund Robertson, who was Secretary to the Admiralty, and Mr. Thomas Lough, Under-Secretary for Education, who is now made a Privy Counsellor. The two new Ministers are Mr. M'Kinnon Wood and Mr. Masterman; the former takes Mr. Lough's place, and the latter that of Dr. Macnamara, who takes in turn Mr. Robertson's office. Mr. Hobhouse, the former Under-Secretary for India, takes the Secretaryship to the Treasury, vacant by Mr. Runciman's Cabinet promotion.

PARTY MEETING CALLED.

The following official announcement was also issued at 10, Downing-street, on Tuesday night:—"A general meeting will be summoned of the Liberal party, to be held at the Reform Club, on Tuesday, April 28, at twelve o'clock."

THE N. W. MANCHESTER ELECTION.

The extent to which men differ in opinion when engaged in political conflicts was never more forcibly shown than in the two following extracts, one taken from the election address of Mr. Joynson-Hicks and the other from the election address of Mr. Winston Churchill. Shown in parallel columns they are very striking:—

(Continued on page 2.)

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WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Moderate north-westerly winds, more cloudy, slight showers later, somewhat cooler.