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The Daily Record

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THE ENGLISH POLITICAL FIGHT.

GENERAL ELECTION IN JANUARY?

(FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.)

There is a growing feeling that great changes are imminent in the political situation, and the two great speeches recently delivered by Mr. Asquith and Mr. Balfour respectively are regarded as clarion calls to the two parties. On every hand the Lords are exhorted to end the present muddle by throwing down the gage to the Government, and peremptorily refusing to endorse the "Penal Budget." According to well-informed Unionist writers, whether the General Election which is universally expected comes in November or January—and latest opinion inclines to the January theory—there is no doubt that politicians on all sides fully recognise the momentous nature of the impending struggle, and are losing no time in preparing for it. At party headquarters vigorous steps are being taken. It is officially confirmed this (Tuesday) evening that a Unionist candidate is in the field for nearly every division in Great Britain. Over 400 new men will fight for Tariff Reform against Socialism; and in regard to the vacancies yet to be filled, a responsible official said: "We have more good men than places for them."

The Tariff Reform League announces that they have arranged for the issue of some millions of pamphlets within the next three weeks. The Liberal Unionist Association have arranged to hold their annual meeting at Plymouth on December 3, with Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Austen Chamberlain as the chief speakers—"unless the dissolution arrives before that time."

The Press Association states that a special appeal has been sent to about 100 Radical members who were present at none of the late sittings of the House of Commons last week to assist in whatever arrangements are necessary to secure the completion of the Committee stage of the Finance Bill. The narrow majorities of Friday morning were largely due to the desire of many Radicals, in view of the great uncertainties of the political situation, to spend long week-ends in their constituencies, and it is pointed out that, however strong local electoral considerations may be at the present moment, a defeat of the Government, even on a matter of small moment in itself, would be an irretrievable disaster. Meanwhile it is becoming evident to both parties that the expectations of a prorogation in October are not now likely to be fulfilled. A time-table compiled by a leading Unionist member carries the Session as far forward as the first week in December; but obviously so extreme a prolongation of the work of Parliament could be avoided by the dropping of the London Elections Bill and some measures of minor importance.

INTERVIEW WITH AN ENGLISH POLITICIAN.

Mr. Abel Brewster, of Carlisle, England, with his wife and daughter, are among the recent English arrivals. They have come to spend two weeks in Dresden, and will go on to Berlin for another week. Mr. Brewster is a prominent worker among the Liberals of Cumberland, which in the expected General Election will, it is believed, be the centre of a sharp contest. Answering a direct question put by a *Daily Record* correspondent, Mr. Brewster said: "Mr. Lloyd George's Budget will probably be the stiffest nut of all to crack. Personally, I consider it a masterpiece of progressive finance, and one quite in accordance with the best tenets of the Radical faith. True, it hits the landlords and monopolists very hard, but it is nevertheless far from being a distinctively proletarian Budget. The middle classes, for instance, will suffer equally with the upper ten. In a nutshell, the situation is this: Money is wanted on every hand, and it must be obtained somehow. Have any of the protests made by the Tories thus far been in the nature of practical alternative proposals? Decidedly not. Up to now the Finance Bill has been met only with negative criticism."



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"What is your opinion of the General Election, that, according to Unionist statements, is imminent?" asked our representative.

"I am inclined to believe such statements premature. The issue depends entirely on the attitude the Lords see fit to adopt when the Finance Bill goes before them. From all the signs opinion in the Upper House is sharply divided. There are a number of young hotheads who would throw out the Budget simply as a challenge to the people, but the older Peers know quite well that the temper of the country dare not be trifled with. Personally, I am absolutely convinced that if the Bill is summarily rejected, or rendered impossible of acceptance by Radicals owing to stultifying amendments, we shall witness in England a Constitutional crisis unparalleled save by the convention of the Rump Parliament. The average Englishman has a hereditary respect for the Peers, but each succeeding generation weakens this feeling, and as matters stand today it would not be allowed to interfere with the just administration of the country.

"The Liberal party at large would welcome the throwing down of a gage by the Lords, and we are quite prepared to go to the country on that issue. The hereditary system of legislation must of necessity be abandoned sooner or later by an enlightened electorate, and there is, after all, no time like the present. You will have judged from Mr. Asquith's recent speeches that the Cabinet is at one on this point. The party refuses utterly to tolerate dictation and arbitrary bullying from the Lords any further. If every measure which does not exactly meet with the approval of their Lordships is to be simply guillotined, then the House of Commons might as well be permanently dissolved without further ado as an expensive nonentity."

SPANISH VICTORY IN THE RIFF.

The following important telegram arrived from Madrid yesterday: Official despatches under date of September 28th from Melilla state that a body of Moors advanced bravely right up to the line of earthworks, so that a hand-to-hand combat ensued. Dense darkness mantled the scene, the black veil being continually rent by the red flashes of rifles and explosions of shells. The Spanish troops stuck manfully to their positions, pouring in a withering fire on the enemy and taking aim by the flash of the hostile guns. A party volunteered to make a reconnaissance and did so under a heavy fusillade from the tribesmen, who shot dead a major, a sergeant, and three soldiers, besides badly wounding a captain, two sergeants, and twelve soldiers. Eventually the enemy were driven off from the trenches with terrible slaughter. King Alfonso has sent a telegram to General Marina in which he congratulates the general and his heroic troops on the brilliant operations near Seluan. Spain, says his Majesty, is proud of such an army, and the King, as the first personality in Spain, participates in the general joy. A skirmishing party from Melilla have come across the corpses of more than 100 Spanish soldiers who fell in the combats of July 23rd and 27th, piled up in a ravine. In another ravine of the Gurugu hills 50 further bodies have been found.

Another telegram from Melilla, under date of the 28th instant, reads: Last night the Moors made an attack on the Beni Sikar territory, and opened a heavy rifle fire against Suk el Had. Further details of the occupation of Seluan state that the troops from Nador formed two detachments, which finally rushed Seluan after beating off two Moorish attacks and dispersing the enemy. Amid great cheering the Spanish flag was hoisted over the dwelling formerly inhabited by El Rhogi. The troops have received strict orders to respect mosques and holy ground.

THE FRENCH AIRSHIP DISASTER.

At Versailles on Tuesday afternoon the funeral of the four victims in the recent terrible catastrophe to the military airship "République" took place, the ceremony being of a most impressive nature. As representative of President Fallières and the Ministries the following gentlemen were present: Minister President Briand, Minister of Public Works Millerand, and War Minister General Brun. All the military attaches of the foreign Powers attended. The Bishop of Versailles and clergymen of the town performed the rites and headed the funeral procession. The uniforms of the dead men covered the coffins, and on every uniform was pinned the cross of the Legion of Honour. The hearses were richly decorated with flags and escorted by officers. In front of the cathedral, towards which the procession slowly proceeded, an enormous crowd of sympathetic spectators had gathered.

A Paris telegram states that MM. Paul and Pierre Lebaudy, the famous airship builders, have offered to the War Minister, as substitute for the ill-fated "République," a new airship, which will be completed in a short time.

The correspondent of the *Eclair* at Moulins sends the following explanation of the breaking of the "République's" propeller:—

In the accident at Jussy-le-Chaulieu the engine and mobile parts sustained shocks which injured the metal. The first requisite repairs were hastily carried out by skilled workmen, and further repairs were done by sappers of the 1st Engineers. The latter repaired notably the axles of the screw and the screw itself. A non-commissioned officer of the Aeronautic Corps states that one of these axles, even after a prolonged hammering, had not been absolutely rectified, so that the screw revolved slightly out of the true. This led to a gradual wearing away of the propeller blade, ending in its snapping at the point of least resistance, that is, at the spot where it was attached to the shaft.

The correspondent declares that the military authorities ordered the "République" to take part in the manoeuvres against the advice of technical experts. A badly finished piece of machinery showed signs of the strain then, and caused uneasiness to Capt. Marchall.

The *Eclair* has reason to believe that posthumous promotion will be given to the victims of the disaster.

The entire Paris press yesterday devoted many columns to comments on the funeral. The Conservative organs lay stress on the fact that the Ministers also attended the religious service. With grateful words the papers acknowledge the sympathetic tributes from abroad, including that from the German Emperor. The *République Française* writes: "Nobly has the Emperor associated himself with the general mourning. All Frenchmen will appreciate the great worth of this sympathy. For all proofs of sympathy bestowed upon us in this affair we must thank the victims of the 'République.' All honour to their memory!"

The Lebaudy brothers stated to a reporter yesterday that the airship they have offered to the War Ministry to replace the "République" in most respects will resemble the destroyed vessel. Many improvements, however, which are daily discovered will be embodied in the new airship. Possibly the propellers will be constructed of wood, in accordance with the recommendations of some aeronauts.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

A sad case of hydrophobia is reported from Cologne. A boy of five years old belonging to Reudeltz was bitten by a mad dog in the height of summer, and inoculated. But the inoculation failed of its effect, and the child has now gone mad, and is dying in hospital.

The military district Court at Wilna has convicted six prisoners of an attack on a mail train at Besdany; sentencing three of them to death, and the rest to imprisonment with hard labour for periods varying from two to seven years.

(Continued on page 2.)