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A REMARKABLE ELECTION.

We write this article at a moment when the fifth polling day in the General Election has concluded. Up to now the battle has been fought fairly and squarely, and one fact at least stands out clear: that the Unionists, if they do not succeed in getting a clear majority over the heterogeneous coalition against them, will at least return to Parliament with an enormously increased minority, a minority which cannot fail to exercise a potent influence on the legislation of King Edward's second Parliament. At Thursday midday they were only five short of the total number of Unionists who sat in the late House of Commons, and this with only a little more than half the members elected. While the extreme optimists profess to be still disappointed with the results, this feeling is far from being shared by the bulk of Unionists at large; and it certainly is having a discouraging influence on the Liberal press. The Liberal news-papers have completely dropped the tone of triumph they adopted on the eve of the polls. The Daily News, it will be remembered, prophesied that "this General Election, we are able to state on the best authority, will be even better than 1906. We are assured of victory, of course, but we are confronting another landslide." Had these words appeared in a Unionist journal, they might have been justified; but in view of the figures up to date, they make the Daily News look rather ridiculous.

Another thunderbolt has crashed into the midst of Liberal hopes. On the assumption-based on Mr. Asquith's statement at the Albert Hall-that a Liberal victory would mean Home Rule, the Irish leaders have practically pledged themselves to sup-port the Liberal cause. Now they are informed by Mr. J. A. Pease, the authoritative Liberal Whip, that "there was no pledge given at the Albert Hall that Home Rule will be given to Ireland. What was said was that the ban placed by the Liberal party on itself at the last General Election was removed, so that the Liberals are free, if they so desire, to ex-tend self-government to Ireland. But, of course, every one in the Government is pledged not to give to the Irish an independent Parliament, but to give self-government consistent with the Union of the United Kingdom and Ireland."

Commenting on the Irish view of this complete volteface, the Dublin correspondent of the Times tele-

graphed on Tuesday night:-

"Consternation prevails among Irish Nationalist electors as the result of Mr. J. A. Pease's statement at Saffron Waldon on Monday. Every one of the Irish elections is being fought on the question of Home Rule, Mr. Redmond has imposed this issue on Ireland on the strength of Mr. Asquith's statement at the Albert Hall that if the Liberals came back to power they would be free to introduce a Home Rule Bill. Mr. Redmond, Mr. Dillon, and other Nationalist leaders, and every Nationalist candidate, have interpreted this promise as a definite pledge that if the Liberals won the General Election they would introduce and pass a Home Rule Bill in the next Session of Parliament. For the sake of this supposed pledge Mr. Redmond has persuaded the Irish electors to make a great and deliberate sacrifice of their material

"Today their newspapers tell them that, in the words of the Liberal Whip, the Liberal party are under no pledge to grant Home Rule. Mr. Asquith, it seems, merely meant that the Liberal party, 'if they so desired,' would be free to introduce a Home Rule Bill, but a Bill not inconsistent with the union of the two countries. Mr. Pease's statement has been received in Ireland with indignation and amazement. So far no explanation is forthcoming from Mr. Red-

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mond. The universal belief is that Mr. Asquith, whether he has or has not tricked Mr. Redmond, has deliberately tricked the Irish electors. It is assumed that after Saturday's pollings Mr. Asquith concluded, rightly or wrongly, that his party will have a ma-

undertaking given at the Albert Hall. "Mr. Pease's statement will certainly affect many voters at the coming elections in Ireland."

jority independent of the Nationalist vote, and at

once directed his Whip to disown the now unnecessary

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

NEW YORK, Friday.-The Evening Post, a recognised authority on commercial questions, publishes a leading article on the German-American commercial treaty which is now fast running to a close. It says in part:

"Everybody must hope that the exclusion of Germany and France from the list of countries living on peaceful tariff terms with the United States will only be temporary. A tariff war with Germany or France could have only disastrous results, similar to those which occurred during the Franco-Swiss tariff war. The fundamental and sole necessity is a sensible spirit of conciliation on either side to reach an eventual agreement. The Washington authorities should remember that the Payne Tariff has already caused enough odium."

The Globe lays stress on the size and importance of commerce with Germany and the calamity which would ensue if tariff war breaks out. "It is fortunate for both countries that President Taft is no tarili fanatic. It cannot be too strongly or too frequently repeated that there is no anti-German feeling in America, and that there is not the least inclination to adopt differential treatment towards that country."

The World says: "Through her unwise policy of taxing the many for the benefit of the few and doing everything possible to discourage those commercial nations to whom she is under heavy obligations, America has been sowing the wind for many years

WASHINGTON, Friday .- It is authoritatively reported that the Government has no intention of dropping its legal demand for the dissolution of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railroads merger.

NEW YORK, Friday.-According to cable advices from Managua (Nicaragua), President Madriz has broken off peace negotiations in view of General Estrada's new attitude and is gathering great reinforcements round him for another and decisive onslaught on the insurgents.

NEW YORK, Friday.-The striking signalmen of the railroads passing through Chicago have arrived at a temporary agreement, and resume their duties

NEW YORK, Friday.-A Peking report says that the Japanese Government has informally notified the Chinese authorities of its intention, in agreement with Russia, to reject State Secretary Knox's proposal for the neutralisation of the Manchurian railroad. The notification adds that China must be considered

responsible for the proposal, and has thereby been guilty of an unfriendly act against Japan.

COPENHAGEN, Friday.-The University Board last evening published an announcement in general agreement with the report issued on Wednesday by the Cook investigation commission. The announcement states that when the rector of the University was first in receipt of Dr. Cook's documents and note books he expressed a desire to be put into direct communication with the explorer. Mr. Lonsdale, who at that time was filling the post of private secretary to Dr. Cook, at once telegraphed to his employer, but later informed the University that he had received no answer.

LONDON, Friday .- Several hundred striking miners at Horton colliery, near Seaham Harbour, Durham, attempted yesterday to forcibly seize a quantity of coal for their own use, but were driven back by a strong force of police. The crowd then commenced to stone the constables, who fired a volley, wounding six miners. The hail of stones was kept up, however, and four policemen were injured.

BUCHAREST, Friday .-- Prince Elizabeth of Roumania had a slight accident while bob-sleighing yesterday, and sprained her foot. The injury is of no importance.

BERLIN.-Another attempt to improve Anglo-German relations is about to be made by a students' committee. This committee is discussing ways and means for the establishment of an institution similar to that recently founded in London under the name of the Anglo-German Students' Committee.

BUCHAREST, Friday.-Placards were yesterday posted at all the street corners demanding in violent language the removal of Professor Jonescu, deacon of the medical faculty, from Bucharest University. Some time ago Prof. Jonescu discovered a new method of performing operations without anæsthetics. The placards denounce the professor as a charlatan. He has asked by telegram that an investigation be conducted into his discovery. The professor is the brother of a Roumanian Cabinet Minister.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Friday.-The committee of investigation into the causes of the fire at the parliament buildings believe that it was due to a criminal act. Meanwhile the Chamber is meeting at a Minister's house not far from the Yildiz.

INNSBRUCK, Friday.-Phenomenal snowfalls are reported from all parts of the Tyrol. Telegraphic and telephonic communication is for the most part interrupted. Railroad traffic is also much hampered as many trains are snowed-up and parts of the line have been swept away by avalanches.

PARIS, Friday.-The Seine has risen to such a height that the river steamers have been compelled to cease running. All France, according to reports received here, is suffering greatly from the inclement weather. Whole tracts are inundated. At Besançon every cellar is flooded. Train communication between Belfort and Basle is at a standstill. Hundreds of dead cattle are visible floating down the rivers. At Déhault, Dept. of Sarthe, the flood caused a subsidence of the railway track and two persons were killed.

PARIS, Friday.-It is reported from Oran that a French aviator had a miraculous escape on the flying ground at Senia yesterday. His monoplane became entangled in the telegraph wires, one of which severed the connecting pipe between the benzine tank and the motor. In a few minutes the apparatus was enwrapped in flames and crashed to the ground. Except for a few burns on the face, however, the aviator escaped without injury.