

'SUICIDE PARTY'

Called Section of Liberal Party That Stands Against Increasing Cost of British Navy—Liberals Get Strong Acquisition in James Bryce.

London, Jan. 28.—Whether Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will persist in support of that section of the Liberal party which is making a stand against the increasing cost of the navy, and which is called the "Suicide Party" by the Unionist press, is a paramount question in political circles. Should he do so he must set himself up against Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, who has declared that the increase in the naval estimates which he would submit during the coming session of parliament is the actual minimum for the safety of British supremacy at sea, and also against Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister, who has agreed that the increase is absolutely necessary in view of the steps being taken by the continental powers.

There is no doubt that there is a struggle on not only within the Liberal Party, but also in the cabinet itself, over this question of armaments. Heretofore, the big and the little navy men in the cabinet have been able to smooth out their differences but in face of a still bigger bill for the navy, and the pressure from the Liberal party for a reduction, those who believe that England is safe with her present navy and can afford to put the break on, will be more inclined to oppose the demands of the admiralty. If Lloyd George should press his demand for a halt before the cabinet there is the possibility of a disruption of the Government. Mr. Churchill, who has been completely converted to the bigger program for the navy, and a big vote for aerial development, will certainly stand out for what he will term the minimum for safety. It will then be a tussle between him and Mr. George. Both are extremists when it comes to a fight, and it will take all the eloquence of the moderate men of the cabinet to prevent serious discord.

Lloyd George has given a few reasons for his belief that England can now call a halt in her naval expenditures. His first is that relations between Germany and England are infinitely better than for years and both have learned that they have nothing

to gain by quarrelling. Another reason is that the continental powers are now concentrating on their armies and that Germany can not stand the strain of both a supreme navy and a supreme army and therefore she is no competitor against England for command of the sea. His third reason is the spread of the "revolt against military oppression throughout the whole of Christendom."

According to the Daily Chronicle, the paper which might almost be considered Mr. George's organ, Mr. George says "the common sense of the industrial classes, be they capitalist or labor, has risen against this organized insanity (of naval expenditure) and this is a propitious moment for reconsidering the question of armaments. Unless Liberalism seizes the opportunity it will be false to its noblest traditions, and those who have the conscience of Liberalism in their charge will be written down for all time as having grossly betrayed their trust."

These words coming after the Prime Minister and the First Lord of the Admiralty had practically declared that an increased vote for the navy is necessary bodes ill for continued cohesion of the Liberal party. On the same day that this Lloyd George interview was published, Sir John Brunner, president of the National Liberal Federation, issued a letter on the same subject, which is practically an attack on the Prime Minister, who had declared to a deputation of the Federation that it was necessary to keep up the expenditure on armaments. Sir John used much the same arguments as Lloyd George and urged every Liberal association to strengthen the hands of those who would like to see an arrest in the expenditure for the navy. It is clear therefore that the "Radical Economists," as they have been dubbed, are to fight hard against increased estimates next session.

The acceptance of a peerage by James Bryce late Ambassador to Washington, and his consequent seat in the House of Lords, is the greatest acquisition the Liberal party has received to its membership in the Upper Chamber since Lord Morley took a similar step.

Of the whole membership of the Liberal party no man has more influence with the people of England than Lord Bryce. His support of any question pending will consequently be most valuable to the government, and

as he is a thorough radical, it is not likely that the government can produce anything particularly in the line of social reform that will not meet with his approval.

Home rule also gains a valuable advocate in the Upper House, for Lord Bryce, although himself an Ulster man, has always favored Gladstonian home rule for Ireland. His influence, however, will no doubt be used to bring about a settlement by consent with his old colleagues, Lords Loreburn, Courtenay, Morley and Haldane with other liberal peers fighting the cause of the government in the House of Lords Ireland will have able supporters if she cannot secure the vote of a majority in that chamber. The Conservatives, although outnumbering the Liberals enormously in the Upper House, have no match for the quartette mentioned.

Colonel J. E. B. Seely, Secretary of State for War, has, like Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, established the reputation of being a very versatile minister. The Colonel, also like Mr. Churchill, was formerly a Conservative, going over to the Liberal party, when the Conservatives adopted tariff reform as against free trade. He also fought through the South African war and won the Distinguished Service Order. His versatility, however, has been more pronounced since he succeeded Lord Haldane as civil head of the army. A series of pictures just published show the Colonel as a member of the crew of the lifeboat of the Isle of Wight in which he frequently goes out in all sorts of weather; as an airman, a rider, a vaulter and a climber. He might almost compete with Colonel Roosevelt as an "all-around" man, for he goes in for every kind of sport. He took to flying before Mr. Churchill and has been up in every kind of a machine. A favorite snap shot of Colonel Seely shows him vaulting railings in Hyde Park. It was on the occasion of a review of troops and the War Minister, silk hatted and frock-coated, being late, took each set of rails with easy bounds. Still another shows him atop of a monument many feet above the ground. He had been invited to unveil the monument, but the string became entangled when he pulled it, and the athletic minister quickly climbed up from the monument and did his unveiling from the top.

What would you do?—Advertisement.

BRING INDICTMENTS

(Continued from Page Five.)

gard to connecting with the sewerage system is obeyed. Dr. Bolles stated that the extensions to the sewerage system were made in order that the surface closet might be done away with almost entirely. The extensions have been completed in the northern and southern sections of the city, and in a short time now there should not be many surface closets in the city, it was stated at the meeting.

A letter was read from Chairman J. O. Carr, of the County Board of Education, with reference to sanitary closets and deep wells at the rural schools. Chairman Carr asked for detailed plans for the closets, which the Board of Health stated could not be provided by that body. As to deep wells they are needed at nearly all the schools in the county. There are four deep wells at as many rural white schools in the county. Prof. Catlett, county superintendent of education and member of the Board of Health, stated that he had long urged deep wells at all the schools and the only reason they had not been provided was because of the lack of funds. He assured the board that it was the purpose of the Board of Education to work in perfect harmony with the Board of Health and to carry out the wishes of the body as far as possible. The purpose of the letter of Chairman Carr, as he understood it, was in order to get some aid in a matter which the health department is supposed to know more about. After some discussion, Dr. Nesbitt was authorized to answer the communication for the board, offering whatever suggestions he thought of benefit to the school board.

Dr. Nesbitt said that the work of draining ponds and filling in the low places where water stands on private property was proceeding under the direction of the health department. The property owners are having the work done. The purpose of draining the ponds is to exterminate the mosquito. There are some places in the streets which should be attended to by the city, said Dr. Nesbitt, and he suggested that the street department lend the health department a man for this purpose. Mayor Moore said he would take the matter up with Councilman Merritt. Dr. Nesbitt mentioned several streets that he said needed

to be ditched. The plan is to use oil on these places that cannot be drained.

Plan Public Meeting.

For the information of the members of the board and also to get their opinion on the question of holding a public meeting here, Prof. Catlett read a letter which he had received from Dr. C. W. Banner, of Greensboro, chairman for North Carolina of the American Medical Society for the Conservation of Vision, stating that a number of physicians had been appointed to give lectures on this subject wherever and whenever requested. Dr. J. G. Murphy, of Wilmington, is one of those appointed to make lectures. Dr. Banner stated that he would be glad to arrange for a meeting in this city or county at which lectures on the subject would be given, if desired. No charge will be made. The Board of Health thought it would be a good idea to hold a public meeting. Prof. Catlett is to write Dr. Banner for more specific information as to the nature of the lectures. Chairman Willard and Dr. Nesbitt were not ready to make report on a proposed system or checking up the health officers, but will probably have report at the next meeting.

AT THE VICTORIA.

The Victoria Theatre's present big bill closes with two performances tonight, and during which all new films will be presented by the big Victoria-scope, the photoplays being changed daily. Theatre-goers who have not seen the present big and swell show should take advantage of the chance tonight and be in on the good thing. Tomorrow, beginning with the usual matinee, and which is so popular with ladies and children, the Victoria will present an entirely new show and all new vaudeville stars. The bill will contain many features and it is glad-some news that a sister team, one of the best, will make its appearance. Sister teams are always popular, especially in Wilmington, and in the Vallerie Sisters will be found one of the strongest acts on the vaudeville stage. Another great act, one in which lots of dancing will be introduced, will be furnished by the well known team of Josie and Willard Barrows. There will be other stars, new pictures and a new musical program. The last part of the week is going to be a big one at the Victoria, the home of Keith Vaudeville.

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