

stacle in the way of increasing educational facilities and of enlarging the civic functions of the State and of the municipality. Educational facilities, for example, lag behind the demand of the times because of a lack of money; but a fund can be utilized which may do for the schools of to-day what the land grant system did for those of the last century. City sanitation betterment, the reform of penal institutions and a multitude of other urgent improvements are also delayed because of lack of funds. Higher rates of taxation upon land values and franchise privileges of various sorts would, therefore, not only aid in improving the industrial efficiency of the nation, but would enable organized society to carry on those activities which a complex economic system and crowded population centers have forced upon it.

The old worn-out cry of "socialistic" is utterly inapplicable here. Individualism demands these improvements. Special privileges constitute the menace which threatens individual initiative, personal freedom of action, and equal opportunity for all.

FRANK T. CARLTON.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

London, June 15.—The political situation in Great Britain has greatly changed since last I wrote (p. 57), and I fear, not for the better. The death of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has left a gap in the ranks of truly progressive and democratic politicians it will be difficult to fill. In truth, the late Prime Minister stood for everything most sane and most elevating in British politics. A sturdy, simple, honest man, with a broad understanding and keen insight into the social ills accompanying our advance in material civilization, and inspired to action by a firm belief in the fundamental principles of democracy and a passion for human progress. To my mind, for truly moral grandeur he towered above any statesman that has ever occupied the foremost position in the political field in Great Britain. Certain it is that the cause of radical Land Reform owes more to him than to any other Liberal politician. During the past few years he made use of his undoubted hold of the affection and confidence of the people to bring home to them the dire need and paramount importance of radical Land Reform, and above all of the Taxation of Land Values. And there is good reason to believe that he has done much "to democratise", if I may use the word, the younger Liberal politicians who had gathered round him. It is earnestly to be hoped that they will remain sturdily true to his inspiration and teachings.

Sir Henry's retirement, of course, necessitated a reconstruction of the Liberal Ministry. His high of-

fice, if not his mantle, passed to Mr. Asquith, who in his cabinet had filled the high position of Chancellor of the Exchequer. To me Mr. Asquith is one of the most interesting personalities in the field of British politics. His intellectual ability and brilliant debating power are manifest, and are admitted alike by his friends and his opponents. Sir Henry was wont to refer to him as "the sledge hammer," which certainly well indicates his power as a debater. Whether Asquith really possesses the moral fervor and broad sympathy without which no Liberal statesman can ever attain to true greatness, I should prefer to leave an open question for the present, for he is not a man easy to read. Self-reliant and self-contained, he promises to rule his party as Campbell-Bannerman never ruled it. He will plan, and his colleagues will carry out his instructions; but he is not the man to reveal his plans till it is time to act. His speeches since his accession to the office of Prime Minister undoubtedly indicate the influence and inspiration of his late leader; for they certainly reveal a warmth and breadth which were conspicuous only by their absence in his speeches of a few years ago. The immediate destinies of the Liberal Party are in his hands; and there are many indications that he abundantly realizes the great opportunity for real radical social reform to-day within their reach, and only awaiting bold and effective leadership. A quotation from his latest address to his party, delivered on Friday last, June 12th, seems to me worth reproducing, as indicating his appreciation of the duty and work of the progressive party in Great Britain. "The Liberal Party," he said, "has no reason for continued existence, nor certainly for the continued possession of power, unless it be prepared to stake its fortunes on great social reforms." Whether by "great social reforms" Mr. Asquith means what we mean, I would not like to say. But I am inclined to believe that the Prime Minister means what he says; that with favorable opportunities his deeds will better his promises; and that he will yet carry even the laggards of his party with him in the direction of truly great and radical social reforms. But Mr. Asquith carries neither his heart nor his plans upon his sleeve, for his opponents to peck at.

Of Mr. Asquith's colleagues I need say little, as they are certainly lesser men. The most prominent, and, I think the most popular, amongst them is Mr. Lloyd George, who relinquished his Presidency of the Board of Trade, where he had been doing excellent administrative work, to succeed his chief as Chancellor of the Exchequer. And the next Budget will certainly tell us how far both Mr. Asquith and his Chancellor of the Exchequer are in earnest to promote real social reform. There are undoubtedly many objections to carrying such reforms by means of the Budget, but recent events, more especially the treatment by the House of Lords of the Land Valuation (Scotland) Bill, should have served abundantly to convince the country that no other course is to-day open to Liberals. Over the Budget the House of Lords has no power—it cannot amend and it dare not reject the Budget, and the practical importance of this fact is becoming daily more appreciated. Hence it is that next to the Prime Minister the Chancellor of the Exchequer is by far the most important man in the Ministry. Whether Lloyd George will rise to the occasion, it would be dangerous to prophesy.

'One cannot but admire him both as a man and a politician. Under a great leader he is undoubtedly competent to render great and valuable services to the country, but Lloyd George has yet to make manifest any real insight into the social question, as well as the possession of those higher moral qualities necessary to the making of a truly great Liberal statesman.

As was expected, Winston Churchill, one of the hardest workers and keenest and most active minds in the political arena, succeeded Lloyd George at the Board of Trade. The Tories hate him; most Liberals believe in him, and we social reformers suspend our judgment, though there is reason to believe that he was, at all events for a time, profoundly influenced by the inspiring leadership of the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. Verily, despite Mark Antony, the good that men do lives after them—so, alas! does the evil.

Other changes need no special mention, though the Ministry has undoubtedly been strengthened by the appointment to minor offices of many young rising Liberals. Altogether the political atmosphere is more healthy and invigorating than it has been for many years. The presence of a strong, able and active Labor party seems to me to be having a very wholesome and beneficial effect. Outside the House they are the most enthusiastic, self-sacrificing and deadly-earnest party in the country. Their leaders in the House have no interests opposed to those of the masses of the industrial population, and in every respect compare favorably with the rest of the members. What hampers their usefulness is that for the most part they are inclined to what you, Mr. Editor, would term "artificial," bureaucratic and enslaving socialism rather than to natural socialism—voluntary co-operation under equality of opportunity, which is the aim and aspiration of the true Progressives amongst the English speaking races of the world. But there are many signs that closer acquaintance with practical politics and with officialdom is serving to incline many of them more and more in this direction. However this may be, their presence in the House certainly helps to purify and elevate the political atmosphere.

L. H. BERENS.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, July 7, 1908.

The Democratic Convention.

The national Democratic convention met at Denver (p. 323) at 12:25 o'clock on the 7th. Thomas Taggart, chairman of the outgoing national committee, called it to order, and Bishop Keane, of Wyoming, pronounced the invocation,

Theodore A. Bell, of California, was then introduced as temporary chairman. His keynote was this sentence: "Against the evils of special privileges, we urge the benefits of equal opportunities."

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Before the convention met there had been much newspaper gossip as to its possible outcome. At first it was vigorously reported that Governor Johnson of Minnesota would be nominated in spite of Bryan's overwhelming majority, admitted to exceed by 100 or more the necessary two-thirds vote. Johnson's managers themselves claimed this. But on the 5th they abandoned the field. It is now explained that the Johnson campaign was never intended to be anything but a play for position in 1912. The next diversion of the newspaper gossips grew out of the announced purpose of Alton B. Parker, the Presidential candidate of four years ago, to offer at the convention a tribute to the memory of ex-President Cleveland which should reflect upon Bryan, or, as Walter Wellman expressed it, should unsheath "a knife for the living behind each word of praise for the dead." This diversion, also, was soon sidetracked, at any rate in the newspaper reports. The remainder of the gossip, except the Guffey incident noted below, has related to the nomination for President, to the platform, and to the nomination for Vice President. The situation in all respects seems at this writing to have been best reflected by Walter Wellman in his correspondence from Denver of the 3d:

This is one of the proudest days in the career of William J. Bryan. It is the day which marks the beginning of the end of his enemies. Out of the East came to-day the big men of Democracy who have the mighty "interests" behind them, the interests which for ever so long have been doing all in their power with skill and brain and money to make the nomination of Bryan impossible. There came Tammany and its boss, men from Standard Oil and Pennsylvania, the representatives of Tom Ryan, the respectable Judge whom they together sacrificed upon the Democratic slaughter table four years ago. And what do they find? Bryan in complete possession of the field, master of the situation. The convention his, to do what he likes with, and hardly a possibility of breaking down his rule. The national, the broad, the historic, the hopeful significance of it is this: Plutocracy has been overwhelmed by the tenaciousness with which the people have stood by the man who in their belief represents principles. Men have beaten dollars. The idolatry of the Democratic hosts for one man has proved a greater power than organized and aggressive wealth, with all its resources and hired cleverness. There remains nothing for the men from Wall street and from the "interests" to do but make as graceful a surrender as possible. And during the next few days much of the news will pertain to the manner and method of this inevitable bowing of the knee by plutocracy to the plowboy of the Platte. Here are the heroics, here is the drama of the hour. A man has conquered