

The Latter-Day Lloyd George Concluded from page 3

Thus we find him rapidly attracting nation-wide attention as an antagonist of special privilege. His career in the House of Commons was spectacular for England was eager for someone to destroy the assurance of the British upper classes.

In Parliament Lloyd George, at twenty-seven, became known as a man whom Gladstone could not ignore. When Chamberlain became prime minister Lloyd George forced this calm speaker to wince, leap to his feet and ask permission for a second speech in reply. That was the first occasion which caused members to say among themselves that Chamberlain, gladiator that he was, had met his match in Lloyd George. Then followed a career of daredevil statesmanship, devoted to the correction of long-standing abuses in class legislation. When the Boer War broke out he was outraged at the thought that a great people like the British nation should attempt to crush a tiny race even under provocation. As the fiery pacifist of this war, Lloyd George journeyed to Birmingham, where his attempt to make a speech was a signal for a riot. The furnishings of the hall were destroyed, one man killed, several injured, and Lloyd George was smuggled out of the hall in a policeman's uniform. This is an especially significant story to bear in mind when contrasting the early Lloyd George with the present prime minister.

Then along came the culminating fight in the career of the early Lloyd George for a new social order in which privilege would defer to majorities. He was given the post of chancellor of the exchequer by Mr. Asquith, who was then prime minister. Immediately he planned a new system of taxation of the rich which would provide insurance of workingmen against illness and unemployment, and the payment of old age pensions. This was to be done by an income tax.

When the House of Lords killed the budget Lloyd George broke the power of Lords. He called for a general election, which returned the Liberal Government to the House of Commons with a majority of one hundred and twenty-four. On April 28, 1910, his budget was passed from the House of Commons to Lords, who, in turn, ratified it without further comment. The creation of five hundred new peers was the threat that forced the House of Lords on August 9, 1911, to agree to more restrictions of their powers.

Then came the war. The pro-Boer dropped the pacifist tendencies and flung himself into the struggle. One of his first moves as finance minister was to summon his former enemies, the leaders of the commercial and financial world, to 10 Downing Street. By a bold stroke he, the arch-fiend of yesterday, won their confidence and a glimmer of praise from the Northcliffe press. Soon he became minister of munitions. Then adroitly, in a preface to a book, he made a direct attack on the cabinet, of which he was a member. Conspiration came and the downfall of his chief, Mr. Asquith, with the subsequent elevation of himself as prime minister.

Only has one to look at his cabinet, and his associates, to see how rapidly he has traveled through the Liberal camp to an ultra-conservative position. His minister of foreign affairs is Lord Curzon, the lord-

liest peer in all England, with an inordinate contempt for the rights of subject peoples. His minister of war is Winston Churchill, who is a militarist to his fingertips, and is responsible, with Lloyd George's approval, for the cabinet's military campaign for imperialistic purposes in India and Mesopotamia.

Bonar Law, another conspicuous member of his cabinet, has been a consistent anti-Labor man while Arthur Balfour, Lloyd George's old enemy in the budget fight, functions as the prime minister's most trusted advisor and emissary to the League of Nations. Moreover, Lloyd George now finds the companionship of the conspicuously wealthy Sir Philip Sassoon and Lord Riddell, who has amassed an immense newspaper fortune by the publishing of the *News of the World*, which is a sensational sheet devoted almost exclusively to divorce court scandal, more congenial than the former devotion of the common people of his origin.

In his present-day policies he seems to have lost all his sympathies for the common man. Once an ardent opponent of the Boer War, because of his sympathy for weaker nations, he now orders an immense army into Mesopotamia and India. Formerly a great stickler for parliamentary rights, his cabinet displays an open contempt for the ordinary questions raised in the House of Commons and he shows an impatience when questioned too closely

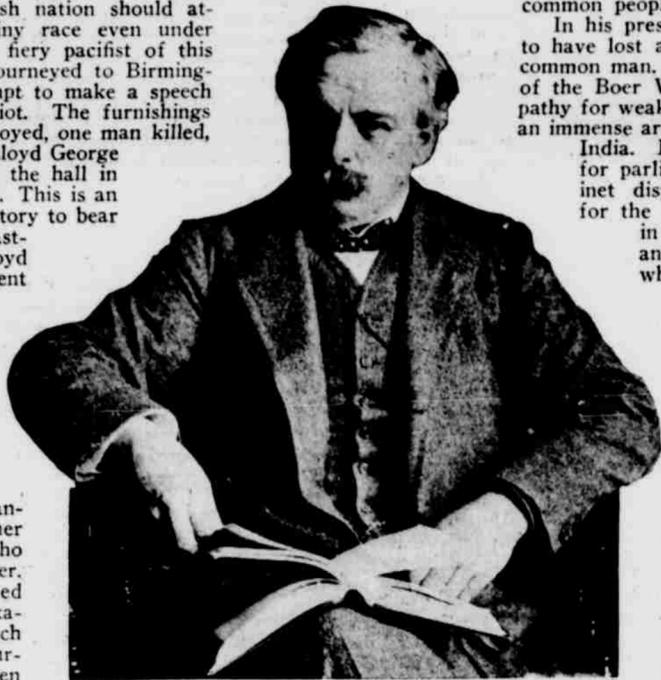
by Parliament on matters of governmental administration. A former critic of imperialism, he devotes most of his energies at the various peace conferences and meetings of the supreme council to the advancement of Great Britain's imperial interests. When he deals with Labor it is no longer in a conciliatory mood, but entirely with the air of the gentry against whom he fought his legal battles as a young solicitor.

Lloyd George is charged with having

neglected the interests of the dominions and colonies in the empire. There is an increasing conviction that the British Empire can be held together only by the reconstruction of the machinery of representation which would result in an association of the dominions in a mutually helping empire, instead of the old procedure in which London dictates the trade and political policies of far-away dominions. Here is the great problem confronting England today, yet Lloyd George, in the opinion of his countrymen, has tried to sustain the old, self-assured air of the country with suppliant dominions and helpless colonies. Yet time and again one hears in England that the English are tired of "bearing the white man's burden" and they are yearning for the time when England will lay down her troublesome burdens as an imperialistic power.

England sighs for a new prophet. They feel that the latter-day Lloyd George has assumed the rôle of an imperialist which ill suits him. The middle class feel that he has deserted them. The upper classes, with whom he has now cast his fortunes, can never forget their old hatred of the man who dealt a death-blow to the House of Lords.

The increasing restlessness of the English people with the old order is rapidly focusing in an opposition to the one man who gained their confidence as a prophet of the new, and then squandered his power in a wild effort to sustain old injustices.



The present-day Lloyd George

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Under the Dome of the Congressional Library Concluded from page 11

Congress purchased Thomas Jefferson's library, which was the nucleus around which the big institution that now exists was built. The books procured from Jefferson numbered 7,000 and in 1851 the total in the library numbered only 55,000 volumes. Another fire reduced the number to 20,000. The Congressional Library as it exists now really began to develop in the sixties with the purchase by Congress of the Peter Force collection of 60,000 books and documents that related exclusively to America. But no one heard much of the institution until the present magnificent building was erected about 20 years ago, and since then everybody knows of the structure but comparatively few are familiar with its contents.

The Congressional Library is not a free circulating establishment like the regular public library. Only members of Congress and high officials in Washington can take out books *ad libitum*, but anyone by going to the reading rooms may make use of any of the available material there. Scores of students and writers and investigators are always there. More than 1,000 readers can be taken care of at one time.

But, in emergency or by stress of necessity, books can be procured by anyone from the Congressional Library. They can be had in two ways, by appealing to members of Congress or to local libraries. In lending books or documents to unofficial outsiders the library never deals with individuals, who, however, can write and obtain information about books. The library frequently lends books or documents to public libraries for the use of patrons and sometimes the assistants spend days running down some bit of obscure information for someone far from Washington.

The Congressional Library serves as a sort of feeder for lesser libraries which in numerous cases use the classification system adopted in Washington and in the case of several of the big public libraries in the cities, carry a file of the Congressional Library catalog cards.

"What people should learn is that the contents of a library represent concentrated brains," said one of the officials. "A library isn't a mere place for bookworms or readers of light literature. It is an institution that can and does render service in any and every branch and function of life and activity. A library is just as much a business as a literary institution."

But Congress takes the view usually, that even the Congressional Library is a mere depository of literary lore; and that, aside from the building being a show place for visitors to Washington, it can render little service of a practicable nature. For Congress follows a rather niggardly policy with regard to the working force in the library. It is claimed that, though a high school graduate may qualify for a \$1,320 clerkship in the government departments, a junior librarian, who must be a university graduate with two years' postgraduate work in a library school, is paid only \$1,200. And the entire force that has to do with making the contents of the 3,000,000 volumes in the library available on need to persons not in nor able to go to Washington costs the government less than \$15,000 a year. The chief of the force, a noted bibliographer with almost a lifetime's record of service with the government, is paid only \$3,000. And the foregoing is why the librarians are not eager about the general availability of the Congressional Library being widely advertised.

The Wood Hollow Papers

By ROBERT PAGE LINCOLN

BIRDS may unconsciously do harm in the vineyards, apple orchards and berry patches but these do not belong in the natural scheme of things; they are artificial growths reared by man. The berries and fruit in general that grow in the world of nature are for the birds to select from and feast upon as they will. Hence the question always arises: should men kill birds regardless of their value as insect destroyers because they steal a few berries? Berry growers kill a number of birds found vandalizing their fields. The ruddy sides of apples will also be scarred and pecked into by the birds, thus spoiling them for sale in the market. This is exasperating and merits condemnation but the hand is stayed by the inevitable thought that arises in most minds: that, in spite of the small harm done the actual value of these birds should not be cheaply or scornfully reckoned. Raspberries, blackberries and currants in season are relished by many birds, and often as not the robin is as crimson around his beak with berry stains as any lad who ever inserted his face in a jam-jar. The robin is a ground-feeding bird; and I doubt if there is a more active destroyer of the cutworm than the robin, though of course here we have to consider the toad which holds first place, cutworms being with the toad foremost on his bill of fare. I am of the belief that save for the toads and the robins the cutworm would be a veritable scourge and would clip down every garden plant close to the ground. Through countless centuries of adapting itself to its surroundings it has come to be that the cutworm issues forth only at night; so nature, all-wise nature, counteracts by sending forth the toad at night to keep down the surplus and so preserve the unalterable law of balance and proportion. But likewise has she set the robin to run along the earth and help by day while the toad is at rest. See the robin turning leaves, lumps of wood and grass and dragging them out; but the berry grower pays no attention to whether the robin is working on the ground or on the bush!

The brown creeper, *Certhia familiaris americana*, is always with us in the land of snow, but by reason of its retiring disposition and its ability to keep out of sight one sees very few of them. Nevertheless there are numbers of them busy in every wood in our northern region; and two or three of them at one time have been around my seed boxes though I have never noticed that they have taken a seed. They come merely to pay a visit. Seeing so many birds tending this way they like to "follow the crowd." They loiter around, clinging to the tree bark and take all the time in the world to explore every inch of the wood they cover. The brown creeper generally starts at the bottom of a tree and works upward; almost inevitably he starts at the bottom. He is never really flighty or nervous. I have passed one just starting in at the roots and two hours later have noted with surprise the same fellow at it, though by this time well up on the tree. He is exceedingly painstaking. He hates to leave a tree until he is sure that there are no crevices left uninvestigated. He works up the tree in a spiral fashion, the upward, round-about fashion of a corkscrew. His bill is slender and curved. The reason for this is that it can be worked into the side galleries that the straight-billed birds cannot reach. When he does probe in a hole he feels around inside and you can rest doubly assured that if there is a living thing therein he will nip it. Is it not wonderful? First come the straight-billed birds to glean the outer surface. Next come the especially equipped birds to work into the galleries!

The brown creeper is a forsaken, apart fellow; does not indulge in any notable melodies—a persistent, never-ceasing plunger, one of the greatest friends of man. In coloration he is clouded-white underneath, with a back that is brownish, striped with gray. The tail and wings are reddish brown, the wings partially relieved with gray. It is remarkable how this coloration merges in with the hue of the wood it works upon. Standing at a likely distance you can positively swear there is a feathered creature working on the tree upon which you are directing your eyesight but for the life of you, you cannot make out the bird. You approach slowly, keeping your eyes riveted on the trunk. At a distance of twenty feet you make out the creeper—and you are amazed by the fact that it looks like a piece of bark!

The brown creeper has a sharpish tail which acts as a brace when it is on a rather disagreeable angle on the tree. It is like the triangle bracket we put up against houses when laying down scaffolding. The slanting section of the bracket acts much the same as the bird's tail set in against the tree.

The bill of one of the winter birds of the North is an oddity, to say the very least. I am referring to the crossbill, a bird that keeps itself almost wholly to the pines; in fact, it feeds largely upon pine seeds. To aid it in its task of wrenching out these seeds from the cone, nature has crossed its bills, much as you would cross your forefinger with your long finger. This appears to be a vast help to the bird, an evolutionary process, an adaptation.

(Continued next week)