

# PEOPLE TO DECIDE

**Balfour's Speech Accepting  
Referendum Stirrs Voters.**

**GIVES PLEDGE ON TARIFF**

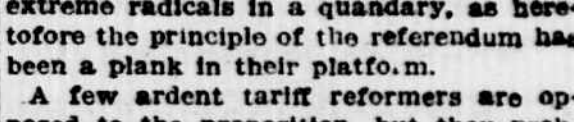
**Demands That Liberals Do the Same  
on Home Rule Issue.**

**IRISH TALK OF THE SWORD**

**Ministers Sign Address, Declaring  
They Will Never Submit to a  
Parliament in Dublin.**

LONDON, November 20.—The acceptance by A. J. Balfour, leader of the opposition in the house of commons, of the policy of the referendum in the case of tariff reform has given the campaign a new complexion. In a political address in Albert Hall last night Mr. Balfour announced that in the event of victory in the approaching elections he would be willing to submit the question of tariff reform to a referendum.

The declaration of the unionist leader is received with great enthusiasm as the bulk of the party, who believe that it will help to win votes in the north, where protection has not made the same headway as elsewhere. It also places the



ably will accept the suggestion, as Joseph Chamberlain, who is encouraging his followers through letters from the sick room, has been urging them to concentrate their efforts on the constitutional question involving the house of lords, to which the content of the parties also carried over which the parties are carrying on the narrowest kind of a fight.

**Voting Begins Saturday.**

The results which will have been declared by Saturday night should provide a fair indication of the outcome. At least the election will be decided without contest. Saturday night will see polling for forty-five seats as far as now arranged. Of these twenty-five are at present held by liberals. Amongst them are the seats of the unionists, of which the unionists are making every effort to capture. Should they succeed they will win the rest of the country will be in Ireland.

In Ireland, where the voting will take place on the national day, the unionists, indicating the present members. Shane Leslie, the nationalist, is again contesting London, and in this city the unionists are making every effort to capture. The unionists are making every effort to capture. The unionists are making every effort to capture.

**Pledge Given by Balfour.**

Mr. Balfour in his address last night gave a pledge that if the unionist party was returned to power at the coming elections it would not adopt a tariff until the question had been submitted to the electors of the United Kingdom by a special referendum. The significance of this pledge was instantly recognized by the vast Albert Hall audience. They rose to their feet in a frenzy of enthusiasm and the school boys in the galleries gave an unexpected holiday.

"Without question tariff reform is a great change. I admit this election cannot be held on the subject of tariff reform, and I have not the least objection to submitting the principles of the tariff reform to a referendum. I do not object to the tariff reform project taxation in the interests of individuals or classes? If tariff reform is the subject, it is great national and imperial policy, and I am perfectly willing to submit it to the judgment of the country."

Mr. Balfour then appealed to his opponents to do the same regarding home rule, saying:

"I should respond with the generosity of honorable combatants, and say: 'Well, you have consented that home rule should be made the subject of a referendum. We agree if you do that home rule shall also be made the subject of referendum.'"

**Unionists Defy Home Rulers.**

The Irish unionists sent a message of defiance of home rule to Mr. Balfour, and communications from the Non-Conformist Unionist Association of England and 600 ministers of non-Episcopal churches in Ireland have addressed Mr. Balfour in opposition to home rule. The reading of the message to Mr. Balfour at Albert Hall caused much enthusiasm.

"We now declare that home rule will bring Ireland not peace, but the sword," he said, "and we call up the unionists of the south, allied with the men of Ulster, will not acknowledge it until they have shown they are ready to pay its taxes."

M<sup>r</sup>. Balfour pronounced strongly against the referendum as the best method of settling deadlocks between the two houses, without requiring the reform of the constitution. He declared that if the referendum was introduced before the house of lords was reformed. This he declared would be "Lansdowne's last gasp." The speaker said, would be nearer \$1,000,000 than the estimate of the liberals—\$100,000.

### Denounces American Dollars.

M<sup>r</sup>. Balfour denied that the veto conference had been broken up by the unyielding attitude of the lords. He asserted that the conference was dissolved by the resolution, based on the want of one particular section, who boasted that they had not yielded an inch from the position of Parnell. He concluded by declaring that the cabinet was governed by its noisiest members, who were governed by the landlord, who was governed by Patrick Ford.

"Don't trust the puppets who are persuaded by their own state," he admonished M<sup>r</sup>. Balour. "Don't trust the Irish wire-puller. Don't trust the Americans. Trust alone the sound judgment and"

### Building Permits Issued.

The following building permits were issued today:

To George Scheele, for one two-story brick dwelling at 2867 G street northwest; architect, W. C. Allard; builders, Allard & Appleby; estimated cost, \$4,800.

To Edith H. Gottwald, for one two-story brick dwelling at 618 Howard street northwest; architect, W. L. T. Williams; builders, D. B. Gottwald; estimated cost, \$2,000.

To William Engle, to repair store at 1001 G street northwest; architect, A. P. Clark; contractors, Boryer & Smith; estimated cost, \$1,400.

To the Metropolitan Investment Company, to install two electric passenger elevators at 1001 G street northwest; contractor, The Thomas & Peckham Elevator Company; estimated cost, \$7,400.

### Fee for Protection of Patents.

THE HAGUE, November 30.—Parliament has adopted a bill granting state protection to foreign patents on payment of a small fee. Until now foreign patents have been protected only by private contract.