

## COLONEL ROOSEVELT IN CAIRO

IT might ordinarily seem perfectly prudent and almost commonplace to denounce assassins and their sympathizers and warn a nation against trusting too implicitly in a "paper constitution," but just as some commonplace things are dangerous in a powder-mill or on an Alpine snow-field, so we find that an explosion of feeling in Egypt and an avalanche of comment in England have followed the expression of these platitudinous sentiments by our ex-President. "Think what a disaster it would be if British rule were removed from the Sudan," he remarked at Omdurman, where many natives think just the opposite. In receiving a degree from the University of Egypt he made a speech in which he observed that a university should "make it evident that its management, financial and otherwise, is conducted with absolute honesty." This made the college authorities look at one another. Then he warned them against "the too great tendency to train men merely for literary, professional, or official positions." He alluded to the assassination of Boutros Pasha by saying, "I hope to see this university take the lead in forming public opinion to hunt down the man who preaches assassination, or condones it after it is done," and then advised the students of the university against trusting in what he called "a paper constitution." Of the murder of the Egyptian Prime Minister he further said:

"All good men, all men of every nation whose respect is worth having, were inexpressibly shocked by the assassination of Boutros Pasha Ghaly. It was a greater calamity to Egypt than a wrong to the individual himself. The type of man that turns assassin is the type possessing all the qualities which alienate him from good citizenship; the type producing poor soldiers in time of war and worse citizens in time of peace. Such a man stands on the pinnacle of evil and infamy. Those apologizing for or condoning his act, by word or deed, directly or indirectly, encouraging such an act in advance or defending it afterward, occupy the same bad eminence."

These remarks are taken to indicate that our ex-President favors the British occupation of Egypt, and frowns upon the Nationalists, who would cut loose from alien rule, as the American Colonies did in 1776. *El Sahib* (Cairo), an extreme organ of the National party, plainly expresses its disappointment at the monarchical and imperialistic sentiments of the great American, and declares bitterly:

"We are astonished that this advocate of autocracy ever came to be elected President by a people who shed their blood in defense of their liberty when tyrannized over and persecuted by the same Power that is now tyrannizing over and persecuting Egypt. No wonder he lost the respect and support of his countrymen, who have even refused to grant him a retiring pension."

In England the Conservative papers warmly applaud his utterance, while the Liberal and Radical press show more sympathy with the Egyptian Nationalists and believe Mr. Roosevelt made a bad blunder. Among his admirers is the London *Daily Mail*, which observes approvingly:

"Mr. Roosevelt is a man of proved courage and is not likely to be intimidated into silence. His praise of British rule in the Sudan and his warning to native officers not to mix in politics have roused the anger of the Nationalist newspapers in Cairo. The

attacks made upon him cast discredit on the common sense and on the manners of the capital, and will be deplored by none more than the Khedive, who has given signal proof of his pleasure at meeting so distinguished a visitor. No surer method could have been adopted to strengthen Mr. Roosevelt's conviction that the continuance of British rule is necessary for the welfare of Egypt. He has borne testimony to the fact that our Administration has rescued the Sudan from degrading slavery, and has added enormously to the wealth and happiness of the Nile provinces. In Cairo, too, he must have been assailed on every hand by evidences of the benefits conferred by British occupation. This miniature Paris on the Nile, with its abounding prosperity and activity, is hardly recognizable as the city which 12 years ago was swarming with beggars and crowded with signs of decay."

On the Radical side we find this comment in *Reynolds's Weekly* (London):

"Mr. Roosevelt gets on one's nerves. He has a strong vein of common sense, but he has as much tact as a bull in a china-shop. Modesty is not one of his failings. He does not seek to conceal the fact that he feels competent to manage the affairs of the world. We have not desired to dissent from the many excellent platitudes he uttered with so fierce an emphasis at Cairo. Our only comment is that it is a little ridiculous that he should think it necessary to interfere between the British Administration and the people of Egypt."

"Neither party appreciates his efforts. The spectacle of Roosevelt in goggles and weeds stalking about like an *enfant terrible*, setting everybody by the ears, is more likely to cause the Administration embarrassment than relief. We will be glad to welcome the wanderer to our shores, but we must prepare for a few bumps."



A SITTER; OR, BIG GAME TO THE LAST.

MR. ROOSEVELT—"Steady, Kermit. We must have one of these."  
—*Punch* (London).

(The cable reports say Mr. Roosevelt was delighted with this cartoon, and expressed a desire to have the original drawing.)

## WHY THE IRISH HATE THE BUDGET

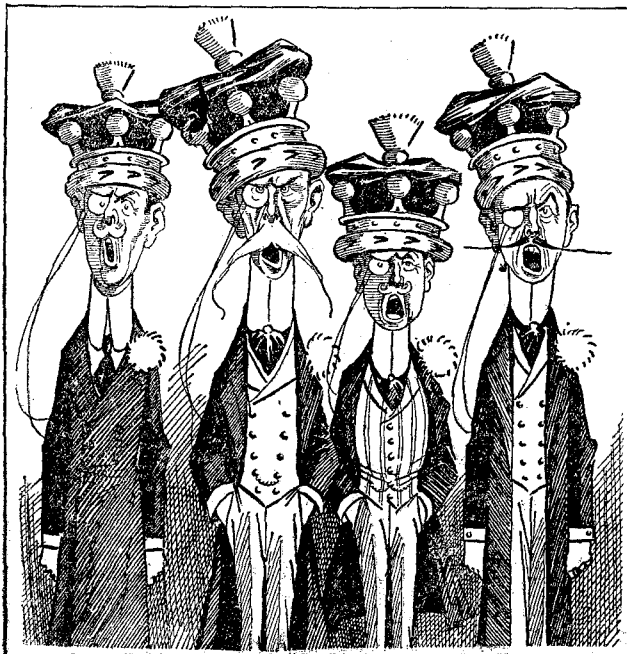
ANY one can go without spiritous liquors or tobacco, which are highly taxed in Ireland by the new budget; but what of the tenant's-right tax? In this tax originates the repugnance felt by the Irish in general for the budget of the Asquith Ministry. It is considered to be as hateful to the ordinary Irishman, says T. M. Healy in *The National Review* (London), as the Roman census was to the Jews of Palestine. To quote the words of this M.P. for North County Wexford:

"The hatred of the budget in Ireland resembles nothing hitherto known. Its authors showed such ignorance of, or indifference to, the necessities of the country that they refused in debate to make any substantial modification of its oppressiveness. With a high hand the proposals of the relentless tax-gatherers who advise the Government from the Custom House, Dublin, were pressed through the House of Commons. In England, if an official suggests a tax, his ideas filter through and are modified by the mind that receives them, and that mind is one acquainted with the conditions of the country in which the tax would operate. Ireland has no such protection; and the Dublin officials whose schemes reach the Chancellor of the Exchequer are not Irishmen, and care little how revenue is raised, or for the economic or social effect of their devices on the population. They are skilled and able officials, but adopt the point of view of conquerors in a hostile country engaged in providing the cost of military occupation."

The main thing which Ireland resents at a time when the land-question is becoming to some degree solved is a tax which, Mr. Healy says, "smote Ireland to the bone." This is the tax which

is to be imposed upon those who rent land or houses in Ireland—a tax proportioned to the amount they pay for the leased property. As this Irish M.P. remarks:

"This proposal is the real mainspring of Irish hatred for the budget. Other impositions, of course, aggravate the grievance,



CHORUS OF THE "BLUE-BLOOD QUARTET"—"We're Boys of the Bulldog Breed!" —Reynolds's Newspaper (London).

but they are taxes on what are called 'luxuries.' Abstinence can avert the effect of an increased levy on whisky or tobacco, but no avenue is open to escape from the taxes, which the budget creates, on the tenant's interest in his farm. Such taxes are levied, not off luxury, but off thrift. They are, moreover, raised off the product of the struggles and sufferings which, through heroic generations, reversed the Irish code of confiscation and entrenched the tenant in the soil, with a legal recognition of the right to sell and transmit his interest. They were devised because they can not affect England, and correspond in design with the policy which raised the duty on whisky, and left English beer and cider untouched."

This writer explains as follows exactly what this new tax will amount to:

"If a tenant rents a holding which he can sell for £300, the budget makes him pay a doubled duty on £300. But if the same holding has been bought out for another £300, the State, which allows 69 years for repayment, will, if the tenant dies, exact from his widow and orphans a doubled duty on £600, viz., £300 on the tenant-right, and £300 on the money borrowed to pay off the landlord. The excuse for this depends on the supposition that the day the tenant strikes a bargain with his landlord for purchase, the value of his holding is doubled, and therefore that, in the case put, he could sell his interest for £600. This proposition is doubtful; but, if sound, one may ask when did an auctioneer's appraisal become a just test for the taxation of a cottager's all? When the occupier dies the widow and orphans are no richer in revenue than before, save for the difference between the old rent and the State annuity. They do not want to sell. They want to remain and work the farm of the dead tenant, and for 69 years will still have to pay the State annuity. Why, then, for taxing purposes, should the budget discount the transaction, as if the loan had been cleared off and the £300 mortgage were realized wealth? Then, every time the death of an occupier occurs during the 69 years, a fresh death-duty on the farm will be exacted on the same basis. Poor men will be broken by these crushing and unexpected demands, coming, too, inevitably, when sickness and burials have depleted the family resources—already perhaps mortgaged to the bank."

Speaking of the increased tax on whisky and tobacco, this writer makes light of it, but condemns the budget solely because it taxes what comprises practically the tools and implements of the agriculturalists' trade, and we read:

"We may lament that German-potato spirit, or the by-product of yeast-factories, should supplant the produce of barley, and kill an ancient industry; or that our woful regiment of lunatics should be further swelled by such leprous distillments. Can we take consolation in the knowledge that cocoa is 'grateful and comforting,' and that free trade with San Thomé remains as a much-prized blessing for untaxed industries? Bad, then, as are the taxes on whisky and tobacco, they have not advanced death's pale flag on any cottager's croft. If the peasant drinks or smokes, he must pay for his pleasures like every one else; but the soil and its resources are the tools of his trade, and should no more bear death-duty, or stamp-tax, than do the implements of the British artisan."

## ANCESTOR-WORSHIP IN BRITAIN

THE whole theory of ancestry, heredity, and nobility of blood and birth is up for discussion in the House of Lords these days, and the defenders of the old order are shaking their fingers in the faces of their fellows and asking if they have lost faith in their ability to hand down the fine qualities their ancestors have transmitted to them. If not, why then do they vote to adopt Rosebery's resolution declaring that "possession of a peerage shall no longer of itself give the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords"? Most of them make no reply, but vote for the resolution, or absent themselves from the chamber while it is passed. Only 17 have the hardihood to vote against it. One of them, Lord Bathurst, grew so vehement in his denunciation of it that he roused peals of laughter when he shouted: "Beware lest your descendants of the third and fourth generations turn and rend you!" Lord Halsbury, ex-Lord Chancellor, said:

"The throne is hereditary, the succession to landed estates is hereditary, and in various forms, and in various parts of the world, that system is known and understood. As I have said before, is



TERRA INFIRMA.

—Punch (London).

it not practical wisdom to know what is going to be substituted for it? No one has ever yet suggested what is to be done with what are called the undesirables. I do not believe in the existence of the undesirables in the sense in which, through the election, that word has been used. Bankrupts and lunatics form, apparently, the majority of this House, according to statements made in various election speeches. That is a statement which, I suppose, the