

parties will be even. The number of Members of Parliament representing the Labor element has been materially reduced, and the people of England appear to be almost evenly divided between the Unionists and the Liberals, Scotland holding loyally, however, to the Liberals and to free trade. The next Government must therefore be a coalition Government; a combination of the Liberals and the Laborites will probably make a safe working majority over the Unionists standing by themselves, but not over the Unionists and Nationalists if the latter should choose to cast in their fortunes with the Unionists. The fate of the Ministry will therefore be at all times in the hands of the Irish Home Rulers, and the Nationalist vote will be used, as it always has been used, with no regard to the interests of either party, but with sole regard to the interests of Ireland. A very difficult situation will be created for the Prime Minister. If the Nationalists had any reason to attach themselves to the Unionists, or any love for the House of Lords, they could arrest Liberal policies. But all the concessions they have received so far have come from the Liberal party, and they are not likely to forget that the House of Lords has thrown out every Home Rule bill presented to it. On the other hand, many of them hold that the decline of Irish industries has been largely due to the free trade system, and they do not love the land tax. If the Nationalists had a large sum of money at their command, they might play fast and loose with the Liberals. But they have no money to spend on elections. They are intent on getting all they can for Ireland, and the probabilities are that working relations can be established between them and the Liberal Government; in which case the Government will be able to carry through its financial policy and to modify in some form the constitution of the House of Lords.

#### A NOVEL POLITICAL PLATFORM

One of the most conspicuous figures politically, but one of the most interesting personalities in the recent election in England, was Mr. Maurice Hewlett. There is probably no man now writing in the world with whom it is more difficult to associate political methods and party

traditions than the author of "The Forest Lovers" and "Open Country," a man whose genius places him outside conventional lines, and whose freshness and charm lie in the fact that he cannot be counted in any organized category of human beings made along conventional lines. Mr. Hewlett issued a platform as characteristic as any of the stories in "Little Novels of Italy." It would have been interesting to be present at a meeting of laboring men whose interests Mr. Hewlett has at heart when this extraordinary pronunciamento of an ingrained romanticist without a creed, who has lived most of the time in the age of chivalry or in the Renaissance, was read. What could Hodge make out of such a platform as this?

What, then, gentlemen, do we want, as workmen, husbands, and fathers of families, out of the Parliament which we are going to choose?

(1) That every Hodge-King should have at least one white-and-green surcoat, one gold baldrick, one suit of plain black mail, three white palfreys, and a milch cow.

(2) That no laborers' cottages shall henceforth be built without having each a buttery hatch, an outer bailey, and a phalanstery hung with black arras.

(3) That all and sundry, irrespective of social status, shall be christened by names likely to voice their inherent claims to natural respect. I believe that access to a romantic nomenclature is absolutely necessary to every honest and able member of the State. Names like Mellifont, Pietosa, Malise, Spiridion, Osric, and Fulk should no longer be the monopoly of orgulous lordlings, but be available to every workingman, Heaven help us, like you and me.

(4) That heraldry should be a compulsory subject in all provided schools.

... All this vamping and stressful blustering about Empire and All-Red maps is the most ineffable Panjandrumblather that was ever exuded from the limbo of a pseudo-Goliardic gallimaufry. The only All-Red color that counts is the bloom of healthy blood in the ruddy cheeks of some dark woodland elf.



#### THE TARIFF WAR WITH GERMANY

While Great Britain has been suffering from a naval "war scare," with Germany as her prospective antagonist, a good deal of disturbance has been created in the United States by "scare" headlines in the newspapers prophesying a tariff war between Germany and this country. Latest despatches from Wash-

ington indicate that this war has been averted and that the two countries will probably continue to carry on their trade relations under present conditions. Germany will not raise her tariff against this country on February 7, and the President will not therefore be compelled to apply against Germany on April 1 the maximum penalty of twenty-five per cent *ad valorem* provided in the Payne Law. The main point of commercial irritation between Germany and the United States is in the meat business. Germany has very stringent inspection and regulation of American imported meats and cattle, which amount practically to prohibition. These regulations profess to be made upon grounds of sanitation and health. As a matter of fact, they are probably established through the influence of the German Agrarian party, which, like the English squirearchy, wishes to exclude foreign food products in order to enhance the value of agricultural property. Like most petty wars, however, the whole controversy is somewhat amusing to the impartial observer. The real dyed-in-the-wool American protectionist in the bottom of his heart wants all foreign products and manufactures that compete with his own interest excluded. He would be almost willing to pay an income tax to supplement depleted customs revenues in order to accomplish his object. His indignation at Germany for doing this very same thing seems, therefore, a little inconsistent. Moreover, American producers of meat products say that the prevailing high prices against which the entire country is trying to go on strike are largely due to the fact that the demand for meat products is very much greater than the supply. If this is so, why should we endeavor to create a great German market for American meats? It is time enough to seek a foreign market when the American supply becomes greater than the American demand. The whole controversy with Germany on this tariff question illustrates the difficulties of trying to do international trade after the manner of a cross-country hurdle race. Hurdle and fence jumping are very good sport for the expert horseman, but the man who desires to get as much horse power as possible out of his animals in hauling produce to market

seeks the smoothest and most level road. Tariff hurdles develop some very expert jumpers, but they do not promote international trade.

#### THE BALLINGER-PINCHOT INVESTIGATION

The Congressional investigation which is generally but not accurately described by the title just given began on Wednesday of last week before the Joint Committee of the two houses of Congress. The first witness heard by the Committee was Mr. Louis R. Glavis, whose charges against the conduct of the Interior Department with reference to the Cunningham claims and other matters were not approved by President Taft, and resulted in the dismissal of Mr. Glavis from the public service. Mr. Glavis was represented before the Committee by Mr. Louis D. Brandeis, of Boston, whose name is known to our readers in connection with the Savings Bank Insurance Law of Massachusetts and other efforts in behalf of the public welfare. It became evident at the outset that, as there are no charges officially formulated against any one, and as the Congressional Committee is one of investigation rather than of a judicial kind, it is of importance that counsel for all the persons officially concerned with the matter should be given free privileges in outlining the views and the facts their clients wish to present. Thus, Mr. Brandeis was called upon by the Committee at once to state just what it was sought to establish by Mr. Glavis's testimony; among other things, he asserted that Mr. Ballinger, as Land Commissioner, had acquired certain knowledge about the claims which made it improper for him later to appear as counsel for the claimants, and, while no charges of corruption were made against Mr. Ballinger, it was declared that he had acted improperly in ordering certain claims to patent hurriedly and without giving Mr. Glavis a chance to investigate fully, or in other ways following up accusations which had been made. It is too early to attempt to summarize the evidence presented to the Committee. It should, however, at the very opening of the case, be thoroughly understood that the country at large will not be satisfied with a perfunctory or incomplete in-