THE MEN WHO WON THE WAR

Mr. Lloyd George’s View.

IMPORTANT OF THE POLITICIAN.

Advice to Aspiring M.P.’s.

Mr. Lloyd George’s View.

Mr. Lloyd George yesterday delivered his address as Lord Rector of Edinburgh University, and took as his subject what he described as “The New Rand—Thoughts of Politicians and Their Difficulties.” The Lord Rector, who was the guest of honor at the Principal, Sir Alfred Ewing, was waited upon outside the Principal’s residence in the morning by forty University Blues, and one or two students attended in the Welsh national dress. He was driven in an open carriage by his servants from Moray-place to the McEwan Hall.

Meanwhile scenes of great liveliness, and, indeed, rowdiness, were taking place outside the Hall. For this students who had been disappointed at not obtaining tickets of admission to the Hall had congregated outside, and the number of letters of admission received by the Hall they were served with eggs, oranges, powder, and tomatoes. Inside the Hall pandemonium reigned. The chief missile from the undergraduates in the gallery were rolls of toilet paper, of which they had an innumerable supply. The atmosphere was thick with powder, peas, and more.

Many of the women students took a prominent part in the proceedings by scattering confetti. The ex-Prime Minister was eulogized by the display of a dummy figure of the Kaiser suspended from the top gallery, while a huge bunch of leeks was also hung aloft.

REQUISITES OF A POLITICIAN.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE described at the outset of his address the training politicians undergo in their earlier years, likening it to a peace manoeuvre of armies. He continued:—When, therefore, great issues arise you have a body of men trained to instruct, to appeal, to organize, and to carry through a great purpose of a great cause to victory. Questions are arising which involve the very foundations of our social and economic system. It is we that they should be settled by a highly-trained political people. What happens in the absence of this education and discipline is seen in the state of Russia to-day.

You can find no better illustration of the value of the political training for which our partisan warfare is responsible than the case of these politicians who were put during the Crimean War. It will give you an idea of the importance, in a grave national emergency, of political training which the institutions of this country afford. When men had to be raised for our armies the campaign was conducted largely by our great political organizations; when money had to be raised to pay the expenses of the war the politicians with his gifts of appeal to the masses was invaluable; when the sale of the nation flagged to losses and despair the hope of the politicians, who raised gifts of money from all parts of the empire, from the rote tired seal and rekindling exhausting appeals, was indispensable; when employers had to be persuaded to convert their factories into arsenals, and the soldiers to be persuaded to work overtime, the politicians had to be mobilized.

WANTS GERMAN EVIDENCE.

It is interesting from this point of view alone to read the remarkable letters written by the Germans to explain their defeat. The facts themselves drive you to the conclusion that there is much to be said for the criticism put forward by the great German military leaders that the complete failure of the disaster was due largely to the fact that the German politicians did not do their duty in organizing and keeping up the spirit of the nation behind the line. Congress was mobilized, but not sufficiently. There was no one in Germany to arouse the patriotism of the people, to raise their spirits, to infuse iron into their blood, to inspire them to endure hardships, to face anxieties, to bear growing burdens. For the want of free demobilization the politician is essential.

QUALITIES FOR SUCCESS.

What qualities do you require to achieve success in politics? A great career, politics demand intelligence, industry, imagination, concentration, unity, and inaction in life and conduct. You may win popularity with excursions, but you cannot retain it without real quality. But if I were to choose the gifts which you specially need more in politics than in any other profession I would begin with courage. There is no nation which makes a more constant draft on courage. Our courage is prompt, but most of the courage that lasts is with the fall of disillusions and hurries. Politicians work in an atmosphere of criticism and quarrel. There is no need of a very long discussion to explain the purpose of disputing, finding fault, and condemning the principles, the words, the actions, even the very deed and phrase is terminated by trained eyes with a microscopic microscope. If one is not exaggerated, at least approximated in the dimensions in which they appear through the microscope. There are those who attract more criticism than others. Everything they do, everywhere everything they say fail to say or do, is promptly fastened upon. Some could not walk across a golf course without being reproached two or three others might tear their balk on the church step the other. I have seen men who had faced death and torture in every form and before the risk, the eminently successful, who burned and tossed in every vise, and do not, when so exposed, say what it is he knows he will never hear the end of it. There is a profession which is carried on under such excitement, irritating, mortalizing exercises.

A Barrister or a Doctor.

Imagining what would happen if a barrister or a doctor had to discharge the duties of a politician, he would be under conditions which befitted the life of the politician. Let us take the case first of all of the barrister. He has to conduct a very difficult and complicated case, and he does his best for his client; but the whole of his work is in the name of the bar. Under the public law, and when the case is over, he is paid. Whatever is said or written that is the kind of comment which would, if he were kept in the bar, it is not easy to do such work. The barrister is not a politician. The barrister is a lawyer, and the barrister is not a politician. The barrister is a lecturer, and the barrister is not a politician. The barrister is a writer, and the barrister is not a politician. The barrister is a doctor, and the barrister is not a politician.

The case of the case of Brown v. Robinson on Mr. Earnest Pleader, K. C., yesterday, is, by every one, the least disappointing. As we have repeatedly pointed out in these columns, the plaintiff’s case at first is a case of a bad case. We are aware that a knowledge of law and justice, is in this stage, but we are aware that the position of a voice of crude communism, which appeals to a certain type of public mind, is a fair argument. But, however, even that resource failed him completely. He was completely defeated by the interest of the case, the jury, looked with sus-
only limits the circle of talk. It substitutes the boudoir for the assembly room. The man, therefore, who desires to become a talker must come face to face with the difficulties of public speaking. There are two solutions about public speaking that are still accepted by shallow observers. The first is that if a man speaks with ease, charm, and force he is not much of a thinker, and that he is still less of a speaker. The other is that a man who hesitates in his speech and finds difficulty in expressing his thoughts possesses thoughts too deep for expression.

Thirty years in the House of Commons ought to earn any man of these solutions. The level of speaking in the House of Commons is high. I am not going to pretend that from these o'clock on Friday the wooden panelled House of Commons resounds with much of Demosthenic eloquence. It is not Demosthenic, neither is it driven. Most of the speeches are excellent expositions of the point of view which the speaker seeks to enforce.

How to Succeed as an M.P.

Let me give this bit of advice to any man who has an ambition to enter upon a Parliamentary career. To be a successful member of Parliament you must not only be a good speaker, but also a good listener. Good speaking is not absolutely indispensable to political success. "Trusting to the inspiration of the moment" is a fatal phrase, upon which many promising careers have been wrecked. The surest road to inspiration is preparation. The more valuable you are naturally, the harder you ought to labour. A natural gift is a fatal error for the indolent. I have seen many brilliant young spirits and admired by their own talents. I have seen many men of indomitable courage and capacity fail for lack of industry. On the other hand, I have seen many a clumsy but persevering orator make a successful man of himself. The mastery in speech can only be reached by industry in your subject.

A Word Against Passers.

May I utter another caution? Do not play a selfish game. Don't calculate too closely whether, from your personal point of view, a bill is worth doing. Don't be always reckoning the attractiveness of a duty by the amount of publicity it brings you. If you always weigh the points of view of the advertising value which you will find that the general public will in the end discover what is only advertiseable. What is the test of success in politics? Office, position, or decorations? No. The only test of high success in a political life is service. In office or not of office your motto should be not "I get on" but "I serve." To sum it all up: he who feels a call to serve his country and generosity in politics is seeking a hard but a high vocation. There is no other career except one in which a man who is fitted for it and devoted his energies to its success can do more for mankind.

GUEST OF THE STUDENTS.
The University's Contribution to the War.

In the afternoon Mr. Lloyd George was the guest at luncheon in the Students' Union. There was a company of about 200, presided over by Mr. A. J. M. Butler, President of the Union.

Mr. Lloyd George, in responding to the toast of his health, spoke of the great part the University had played in the war, not only by the contribution of her sons, but in the realms of science. In the end the brains of Britain's Universities beat those of the Germans. Their Principal's discoveries, the organisation which he set up, were the discoveries by means of this organisation, brought to their knowledge things of which the Fleet could not have operated successfully without which the Fleet could not have operated successfully, without which it would have been difficult for the anti-submarine campaign to be carried out. "I say more than that," (continued the speaker), "It is in his work that gave us the information which ultimately brought America into the war." (Cheers). That story will one day be told.