

NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET. THE CHANCELLOR'S DIFFICULTIES.

The visit of Mr. Lloyd-George to Germany has revealed the close relations in which Mr. Harold Spender stands towards the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and, in consequence of this revelation, attention is now being directed in the City to an article from the pen of Mr. Harold Spender, in the current number of the "Contemporary Review." This article has for its object the discussion of "Next Year's Finance," and it contains some very important statements and suggestions which have all the look of "inspired" pronouncements.

A few references to this article will suffice to give our readers some idea of the admitted difficulties with which the present Chancellor of the Exchequer is faced. The writer's estimate of additional burdens for 1900-10 is naturally low. He puts £8,000,000 down to pensions under the new Act; £3,000,000 to the Navy; £1,000,000 to Education; but, while admitting that unemployment will require £3,000,000—£5,000,000 if it is to be dealt with at all, and that agreements under the Irish Land Purchase scheme, "amounting to £40,000,000, are awaiting settlement, and are only fended off from the Treasury by the dilatoriness of the law"—he proposes to deal, for the purposes of special discussion, with only the more immediate needs arising out of Pensions, the Navy, and Education (in all £12,000,000). Where is this money to come from?

"The impression prevails widely in the House of Commons that they (these £12,000,000) can be met almost entirely by suspending the payment of Debt. Mr. Asquith, as we all know, has promised a substantial relief in that direction." The Government, however, set aside £15,000,000 in their last Budget. Naturally, says Mr. Spender, the amount which any Chancellor could propose to suspend could not extend to the whole of such a sum. He could not, in fact, put aside less than the £5,000,000 fixed by Mr. Goschen in 1886. That would leave the Chancellor £10,000,000 to play with. But the alteration in the sugar tax has diminished revenue by £3,500,000 already; and trade is not so good as last year, and actually shows no sign of improvement. Mr. Spender, however, allows himself to hope that an increase in the death duties may be expected to cover the deficiency under the Sugar Convention. He estimates a falling off in trade which shall reduce the revenue by £8,000,000 for the financial year. Thus the Chancellor can only be expected to enjoy some £2,000,000 by way of margin of the revenue, after the very low sum of £5,000,000 has been set aside towards payment of the National Debt. On any showing, therefore, a sum of at least £10,000,000 has somehow to be raised.

With regard to death duties, Mr. Spender naively remarks:—"There are already some symptoms of exhaustion." Many an alienated county family will bear out Mr. Spender's perspicacity. From death duties (most experts think "it will not be possible to squeeze more than another million out of death duties") Mr. Spender estimates a possible £2,000,000.

As to the taxation of land values, Mr. Spender gives utterance to expressions which we shall long cherish as auguries of future action. "Before land can be taxed, either in town or country, we must have a new system of valuation. During the last two years two efforts have been made by the Government to pass measures through the House of Lords in order to set up machinery for that purpose. North of the Tweed. Both efforts have been defeated. Those defeats remain at present unavenged. . . . Until the Liberal party steel themselves to a serious combat with the House of Lords of determining to break the powers which produces these futile results, it seems less than business-like to discuss the possibility of advancing along these lines."

Passing from this consideration to that of a graduation of income tax, Mr. Spender considers the findings of the Committee of 1906 to be against the practicability of any scheme of graduation at present. His remarks concerning a super-tax on incomes over £5,000 are more favourable in character, and distinctly more significant in tone. "It lacks," says Mr. Spender, "the fine light and shade of a tax proportionately adjusted to the needs of all classes. . . . but it has, for present purposes, the advantages of facility and promptitude." In round figures, the writer calculates that £3,000,000 could be obtained by some super-tax of the kind named.

Turning to pensions, Mr. Lloyd-George's secretary presents us with a really diverting consideration. Should the Lords be so "foolish"

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MRS. BARNETT.

The remains of the late Mrs. Barnett, wife of a highly esteemed and prominent citizen, Mr. Arthur R. C. N. Barnett, were laid to rest at St. Mary's Cathedral last Sunday morning amidst every manifestation of respect and sympathy. The demise of this lady after a few weeks illness, and cut off in the bloom of womanhood, is deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends to whom her gentle and loveable disposition had endeared her, and universal sympathy is expressed with Mr. Barnett and family in the great sorrow with which it has pleased Providence to visit them. The funeral was of immense proportions, representative not alone of all classes and creeds in the city but many parts of the country as well. The cortege left the residence of the deceased, Ennismore, Ennis Road, at ten o'clock. The coffin was strewn with beautiful wreaths and crosses, but there were so many more in addition that a carriage had been requisitioned to convey them to the graveyard.

The chief mourners were—Mr. Arthur R. C. N. Barnett (husband), Master John H. Barnett (son), Mr. R. W. Barnett (brother-in-law), and Mr. John McBirney.

The staff of Messrs. McBirney and Company occupied a prominent part in the procession, and there were also numerous representatives from the other drapery houses.

The clergy present were—Rev. R. H. Semple, Rev. L. E. McVicker, Presbyterian Church; the Dean of Limerick, Rev. T. B. Robertson, Rev. S. E. Taylor, Rev. Benson E. Gentlemen.

It would be impossible to give a full list of the general public, so omissions are inevitable.

The following were present from the staff of Messrs. McBirney and Co.—Messrs M. O'Loghlin, Mulcair, J. O'Neill, Johnson, J. O'Neill, W. J. McNab, Killeen, McInerney, Grey, H. Gilmer, T. Ryan, P. Cronin, S. O'Connor, J. Larkin, O'Leary, J. Galligan, J. Mitchell, S. Bolster, C. O'Callaghan, A. Ruttle, J. G. Thompson, Kelly, M. McEnery, R. Sturgeon, P. Lynch, M. Hanly, P. Fitzgibbon, D. Mangan, McInerney, J. O'Farrell, J. O'Dwyer, J. Lang, J. Strand, L. Mills, J. Stephenson, Alexander, — Bishop — Ormiston, W. Phillips, J. Timoney, P. Crotty, James Shanahan, J. Mulcahy, J. Carmody, W. Watson, Rose, T. Carey, T. Noonan, J. R. Gibb, Cauty J. Coghlan, T. Bourke, J. Walsh, O'Brien, Daly, M. Fitzgibbon, W. Ivers, E. Kelly, F. McKee, C. Cregan, W. McNamara, R. Shanahan, M. Murphy, R. Cooke, D. Hynes, M. Collins, J. Hogan, E. Carew, J. O'Halloran, J. Curry, P. Fitzgerald, N. Keane, J. Harty, P. Burns. From Messrs Todd & Co.—Messrs Wm. Owens, Frost, F. Crowe, N. O'Neill, A. Gleeson, J. Sheehan, M. Culhane, W. Honan, H. Cremin, T. Long, W. Kirwan, J. Hewson, Bruce. From Messrs Cannock & Co.—Messrs W. Walpole, D. Enright, M. Hayes, J. Toppin, E. J. Daly, J. P. Gleeson, J. Galvin, J. Hamilton, P. J. Caffrey, T. Kirwan, T. Beakey, S. Ryan, T. Malone, M. Daly, D. O'Connell.

Amongst those also present were—Sir Vincent Nash, D.L., F. G. Kennedy, J.P., W. L. Stokes, J.P., John Dundon, solicitor, Archibald Murray, J. Ellis Goodbody, J. S. Gaffney, Crown Solicitor; James Quin, J.P., John Hayes, Military Road; Philip K. Toppin, W. Walsh, Dra. Gelston, Lee, Kennedy, and Mulcahy, J. H. Thompson, P. E. O'Donnell, solicitor; J. Dodds, solicitor; J. N. Russell, C. Downey, F. C. Cleave, E. G. Fitt, T. Rice, M. Caffrey, J. E. Todd, E. G. Stokes, W. F. Pike, H. V. Mordry, D. L. Roche, M. L. Jaffe, Robert Evans, J. Feeny, T. Beckett, J. Waters, F. Cockburn, W. H. Watson, J. Cleland, A. J. Eakins, J.P.; H. Fogerty, John Joynt, R. Harris, B. Gubbins, P. E. Bourke J.P.; George Owens, J. W. Hall, B. Plummer, Philip Rookby, D. Tidmarsh, T. A. Ferguson, T. Ewart, J. C. Day, D. Thompson, C. Cross, S. E. Lee, J.P.; J. Rowand, C. Hill, G. Ledger, T. P. Ledger, Z. Ledger, J. M. Stack, A. Cunningham, M. Slade, C.E.; J. Welpy, G. Trousdell, T. Grubb, W. Webb, F. Mitchell, M. Dooley, B.C.; C. Metcalfe, W. H. Owens, J. Wheatley, J. Barry, J. Riddell, L. O'Brien, Kelly, B.L.; Wm. B. Smith, A. Shier, J. H. Roche, J.P.; E. H. Wright, Cooper O'Donoghue, R. J. Lee, R. Gibson, Mulgrave street; J. O'Donovan, Ennis road; W. Ebrill P. Kennedy, builder; J. McNamara, D.C.; J. G. O'Brien, B.C.; — Taylor, Eden terrace; — Griffiths, W. Christy, Peter Hamilton, W. F. Hanna, E. Christy, E. A. Wickham, W. J. Finlayson, A. M'Kenzie, J. W. Elliott, P. Hartigan, J. H. Hallowell, W. Eggars, J. G. Wilkinson. — O'Neill, Shannon street; — Dowling, North strand; J. G. Kelly, T. O'Brien, Kelly, J. H. Scanlan, Ralph Nash, solicitor; Dr. Shanahan, E. B. Duggan, W. Muller, E. Holliday (Ennis-road), J. H.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF ROSSE, K.C.

A Birr correspondent telegraphs that the Earl of Rosse died on Saturday night at his residence, Birr Castle, King's County. Deceased, who was born in November, 1840, has been a representative peer for Ireland since 1868, a year after he succeeded to the title. He was a generous employer, and scores of labourers on his estate have been provided with comfortable cottages by his philanthropy. The Earl was President of the Royal Irish Academy for several years. One of his brothers is the Hon. C. A. Parsons, of turbine fame. He is succeeded by his eldest son—Lord Oxmantown.

His Lordship had suffered from serious internal malady for the past few months, and on his return to Birr from London a fortnight ago his condition became more serious. Members of his family were summoned on Saturday, and he gradually sank during the afternoon, the Countess of Rosse being at the bedside until the end.

"Who's Who" gives the following particulars of the late Earl:—

Rosse, 4th Earl of (cr. 1806), Lawrence Parsons, K.P., J.P., Hon. D.C.L. Oxford, Hon. LL.D. Cambridge and Dublin; F.R.S; Bt. 1677; Baron Oxmantown, 1792; Representative Peer for Ireland since 1868; H.M.'s Lieutenant of King's Co. since 1892; Chancellor of University of Dublin since 1885; (William Parsons became Lord Deputy of Ireland, 1640; 2nd Earl was in the Irish Commons an able speaker against the Union of 1800; 3rd Earl, K.P., P.R.S; built the famous telescope at Birr and became P.R.S); b. Birr Castle, 17 November, 1840; s. of 3rd Earl and Mary d. of John Wilmer Field, Heaton Hall, Yorkshire; s. father 1867; m. Hon. Frances Cassandra Harvey Hawke, o. c. of 4th Baron Hawke, 1870. President Royal Dublin Society, 1887-92; President Royal Irish Academy, 1895-1900.

A HANDBOOK OF LIMERICK MANUFACTURES.

There is no movement of the present day which appeals more forcibly to all sections of the Irish people than that concerned with the development of the country's industrial resources. It is a movement begotten of the truest instincts of patriotism, and hence it is that within the ranks of the Associations established throughout the land to instruct the people as to their duties and responsibilities in this respect, we find men and women whose views, to say the least, on other subjects are quite diverse. Like other places Limerick has taken its stand in this great industrial renaissance, and co-operated in no half-hearted way to make the products of the country known. During the past few years the Limerick Industrial Association, which embraces a section for men and a section for ladies, has rendered signal service to this very praiseworthy cause, and now when their labours have to a great extent reached fruition, there comes into existence a brochure which adds considerably to the Association's reputation for energy and enterprise. Within the past week the Women's Branch has compiled and published a list of local manufacturers, as well as a guide which shows where Limerick-made goods can be procured. Looking through the pages of the booklet, which is issued at a penny, one cannot fail to be struck with the amount of labour bestowed on its turn out. There is a well-arranged index, and every second page contains the name and address and telephone number of the manufacturer or vendor of Irish goods. It is on the whole highly creditable to the compilers, and constitutes a "vade mecum" for intending purchasers.

CLAIMS TO PENSIONS.

Officers' Heavy Task.

The "Standard" says the Inland Revenue authorities appear to recognise the seriousness of the demands that will be made on their officers' time in connection with the Old Age Pensions Act, for they have given instructions that no leave of absence is to be granted after the 1st of October—the date from which claims for pensions may be submitted for investigation. They have also directed that such relief from ordinary duties as may be considered necessary shall be afforded to officers engaged in pension work. The total number of officers available for pension work will barely exceed 1,500, and as the number of relief officers (assistants) does not exceed six hundred, just two-thirds of the total number employed as pension officers will also have to attend to their ordinary duties as Excise officers, except in

NENAGH U

Mr. R. B. St. John meeting of the N. other members of Cadell, M. Guilfoyle John O'Brien, E. Reidy, P. J. Gubbi Thomas M. Tobin.

In reply to the reduction in price of lamps, the secretary—"The directors carefully consider reduction in the to I am instructed to original tenders were of 6s. 6d. per 1,000 concessions were given our price to its present, and this was the goal and other exp vanishing point. you considerable account outstanding years' contract into a third tender into consideration, you that they can further concessior find that our contri the prices paid in 1 ing towns."

The Clerk here for the lighting of lamps at 10s. 9d. a

In reply to Mr. the cost to private 1,000 feet, and onl due. The other demanded, and it l fore January.

Mr. Caddell were practically a benefit, that only ness.

The Clerk memorial from the regard to the ex was continuing to natories—

Mr. Gubbins—Y ing further, as you the gas consumers

Chairman—Tha have had too muc matter, and I th meeting to consid

Mr. Cadell said of the situation of nothing to do but Company.

It was decided t regard to the light and mornings p winter fairs.

In accordance Chairman (Mr. St. Hall in future sho of bazaars, aucti interest of the trac

The motion was A motion standi M. Carroll, J.P., in future for boxi owing to Mr. Carr the meeting.

Mr. St. John re the military wou there was a regime while another re there. He thoug some move to have to Nenagh.

Mr. Flannery—that military wou The Clerk rem made.

It was decided t the subject.

L.P.Y.M.A.

This match wa grounds a few day for Limerick City

W. Thornhill, W. Keane b J. Lynch b A J. Curran b M M. Thornhill W. "Mack" e