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THE MORNING GUARDIAN

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 23, 1903.

THE SITUATION IN BRITAIN.

There is a troubled political situation in Great Britain at present. The resignation of Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Ritchie and Lord George Hamilton has been followed by the retirement of Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the Secretary for Scotland, and Alfred R. D. Elliot, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. The resigned ministers represent opposite extremes of fiscal policy, showing that the Premier's "open mind" attitude is acceptable to neither the trade preference men nor the free traders in the cabinet. Our dispatches give the particulars of the partial reconstruction that has been effected, but it is apparent that the Unionist Administration is badly shattered and is probably beyond successful repair.

In fact Lord Salisbury's enforced retirement was the beginning of the end. Only a most able and experienced leader could hold together the Unionist party in the grappling with troublesome questions that have come to the front. The Boer war was fruitful of mismanagement, but while it was in progress the spirit of patriotism which it aroused strengthened the Government against all attacks. It is different now that the war is over and the startling revelations of the commission of inquiry are presented to the public gaze. Lord Salisbury's weaker successor was already also feeling the hostility caused by the education bill when Mr. Chamberlain announced his contemplated departure from free trade in favor of a preference to the colonies. This has now led as we have seen to the partial disruption of the Administration in the face of an Opposition which is somewhat stronger and more united than it has been for years.

Thus a situation is created in which an appeal to the country cannot be long delayed. And when an election follows close upon the partial disruption of a party that has been long dominant in the country, the outlook for securing a new lease of power cannot be said to be bright. What seems most probable is that the fiscal questions raised by Mr. Chamberlain may within the next few years, overshadow all other issues and result in a reconstruction of parties upon new lines. The tariff has not been for a generation past a question at issue in British politics. It may now come to the front there and assume as great prominence in the near future as it held in Canada a quarter of a

century ago. New men will come to the front and British politics will be lifted out of the old groove. The near future will be a period of transition and the result may be of the most momentous character not only as regards the United Kingdom but as affecting the Empire at large. For not only the fiscal policy of the Kingdom, but its relations to the outlying colonies and dependencies are coming under review as never before.

These are questions which of necessity it will take years to settle upon a definite and well defined basis. Down to the present no imperial or colonial statesman has formulated a complete plan for the re-organization and unification of the Empire. It may take years to formulate so great a scheme, and when at length it has been evolved it will necessarily take a considerable time to secure its acceptance by the different members of the imperial fabric that is to be. Much educative work will have to be done in the British Isles and in the colonies alike. It is most earnestly to be hoped that no great war may spring up to embarrass the campaign of education and so delay the process. Britain's wars have been so frequent during the century past that the pauses between them have been all too short to permit of the working out of needed internal reforms and the work of imperial consolidation.

THE CAMEL'S HEAD.

"Where the camel's head goes his body follows," says an Oriental proverb. It's the same way with disease. A small opening will give it an entrance and when disease once has a place in the body a large number of ills may follow it.

The opening for disease is often found in a "weak" stomach. When the stomach is "weak" the body also becomes weakened by lack of nutrition, and disease attacks the heart, liver, lungs, kidneys and other organs.

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