

LLOYD GEORGE "OUT," BUT FOES WATCH WARILY FOR HIS NEXT "COMEBACK" AS POLITICAL POWER

Little Welshman Only Surviving "War Premier" Succumbs at Last, but May Crop Up as the Leader of His Own Party

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE—the man without a party! Only a few years ago, the man around whom the most antagonistic political factions in disrupted England rallied; today, cast off and repudiated by Conservative, Liberal and Laborite alike. Will Lloyd George quietly accept the verdict of his political opponents and retire from public life to the quiet of his little Welsh village? Those who know him best probably will scoff at the idea.

For Lloyd George has faced other crises in his tumultuous life; he has found himself before this surrounded by snarling wolves of hatred and bitterness. And he has smiled into their teeth and made a sudden adroit move, and come out unscathed.

Lloyd George has resigned now. He and his Cabinet have stepped out of office; but he has, in lesser degree, used the same maneuver before and returned triumphant.

It would not be altogether surprising to find that Lloyd George

their countries through the dark days of the World War and the perhaps darker days of the so-called peace. He alone was able to weather the storms of post-war discontent and reconstruction, and he particularly was surrounded by new problems almost as serious and difficult as those of the international struggle.

The "fall" of Lloyd George has been predicted for two years or more. Internal upheavals, foreign complications, Irish revolution,

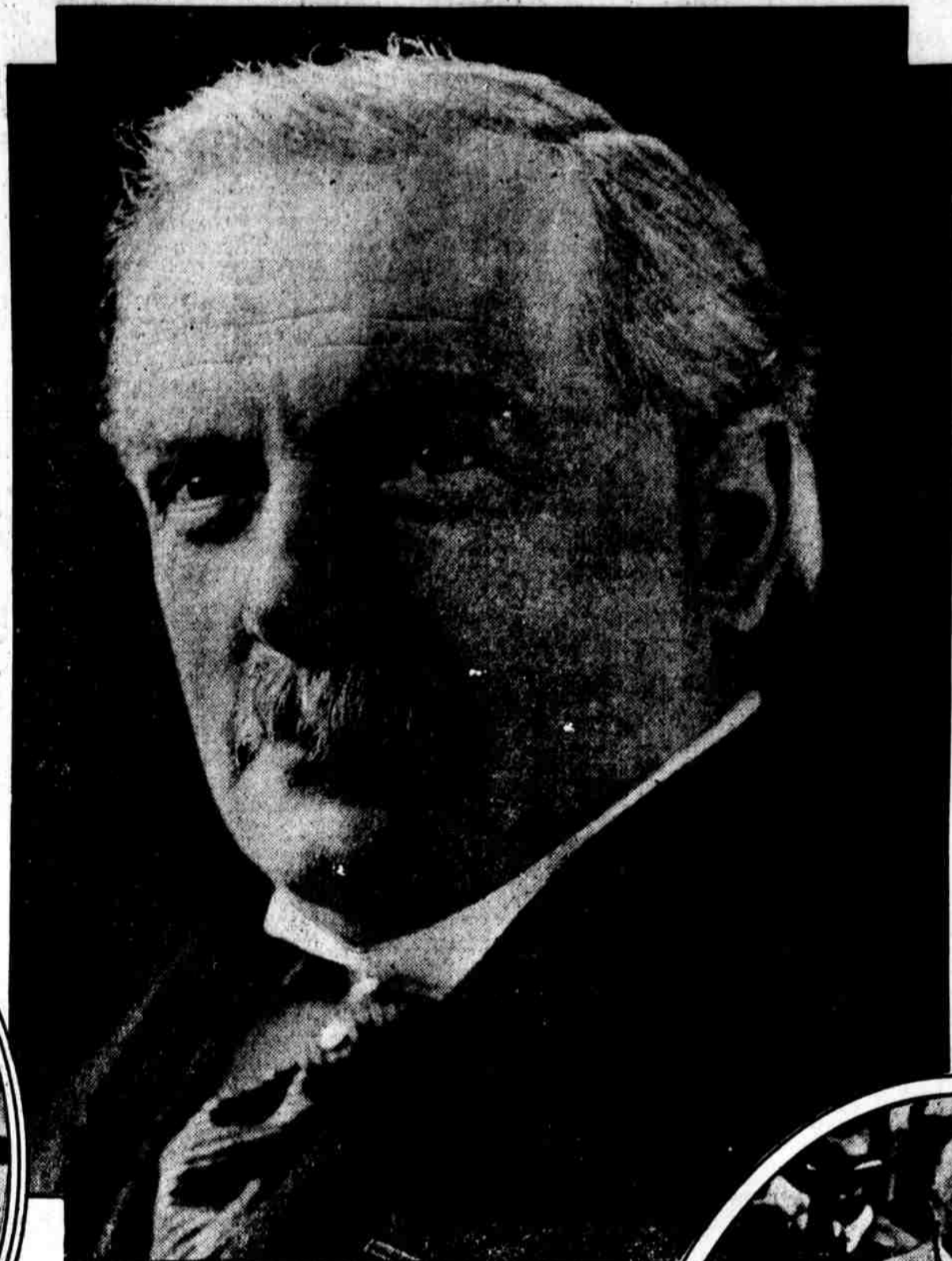
was full of rumors of dissolution of the Government and an appeal to the country.

The Premier was taken suddenly ill with a cold. But he ignored the pack at his heels and went for a vacation into the Welsh hills.

Resignation Predictions Often Failed in Past

How far wrong some of the politicians were in dopping out the Premier's immediate future plans was indicated in the statement made in New York at that time by a London editor when he said the Premier would resign within a week.

But the Welsh Wizard kept on saying nothing, like Brer Rabbit, until the storm blew over, when he went back to Downing Street and about his job as if the air had not been thick with trouble.



Lloyd George

Guided Britain Through Crises of World Conflict, but Fell on Internal Problems

which Lloyd George carried an appeal until the court of last resort upheld Lloyd George and the Non-Conformists.

Clerical Fight Gave First Upward Start

This fight against clerical arrogance, and especially the vigorous way in which the young lawyer carried it on, made Lloyd George famous throughout Wales, and at the next by-election in the district of Carnarvon Burghs he was elected to Parliament, in his twenty-seventh year. It was this district which returned him regularly to Parliament at every election thereafter.

In the House of Commons the young Welshman soon became one of the most prominent guerrilla fighters, conspicuous for his audacity and pungency of utterance and his capacity for obstruction while the Conservatives were in office.

Events were soon to carry Lloyd George on to a wider field. In the autumn of 1899 he was traveling in Canada when the news of the impending storm in South Africa arrived. He instantly hurried home.

He was not precipitate in his judgment about the Boer War. He was clear that Kruger was wrong in his treatment of the Uitlanders and in attacking the British forces, but he was certain that with better statesmanship the issue could have been settled without war. He was in no sense a pacifist, and his sympathy then and now with small nations has been always tempered with a strong sense that they have no right to live unto themselves alone.

What inflamed, however, every instinct of his nature was his sense that certain aspects of the imperialist policy represented the same hateful spirit of domination which he had spent his early life in fighting in Wales.

As long as it was a question of repelling the Boer advance on Natal and

for him that his friends had to close around him to insure his safety.

Jumped Into Cabinet At a Single Bound

With the overthrow of the Conservatives and the beginning of the Liberal regime under Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman in 1905, Lloyd George entered the Cabinet at a bound. He was made president of the Board of Trade, where he justified his appointment by the successful handling of a threatened railway strike which would have paralyzed the whole kingdom. Lloyd George exercised such vigorous tactics that he forced the railway magnates into arbitration.

When Asquith became Premier in 1908 he appointed Lloyd George to the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, which was applauded generally in financial circles.

However, when the time came for the presentation of the budget in 1909-10, when the Government faced a deficit of some \$75,000,000, Lloyd George contrived the budget which introduced drastic reforms in taxation which put new burdens on the moneyed classes.

It was this remarkable Finance Bill with its heavy super-taxes and with its curtailment of part of the unearned increment of land that precipitated the war on the veto power of the House of Lords—an institution which Lloyd George declared should be thrown "in the scrap heap."

War Budget Burdens Shouldered With Smile

When, with the sudden outbreak of the European war in 1914, internal politics was eclipsed by England's entrance into the war, Chancellor Lloyd George was shouldered with the chief responsibility of financing the empire's part in the great conflict. Though he had been one of the chief obstructionists to great military expenditures on the part of Great Britain in peace times, face to face with the war he tackled the problem of raising money with his whole strength and set in motion the first of the great loans which were floated to meet Britain's war cost—estimated at \$10,000,000,000 a year.

In the midst of these financial problems Lloyd George was called to assume a new role, as Minister of Munitions, when in May, 1915, a coalition Cabinet was formed and when it was charged that Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, had failed to supply the army with sufficient guns and ammunition.

The manner in which Lloyd George tackled this new problem was typical of his energetic career. He hurried the passage through Parliament of a special munitions bill which gave the Government broad powers of control over all factories that were making or capable of making war munitions. The bill made strikes and lockouts illegal, gave power to fine "shockers" limited the profits of employers and provided for a volunteer army of workers who should pledge themselves to go wherever the Government required them to work in the factories.

Unconventional Methods Used With Big Success

Lloyd George directly he became Prime Minister applied to the national affairs the same direct, energizing unconventional methods which he had used in the Board of Trade and the Munitions Ministry.

The Cabinet disappeared, to be replaced by a War Cabinet of five men, without departmental functions, possessed of supreme power. The Ministers, including even the Foreign Secretary, were to be satellites called in only when their own subjects were under discussion.

Unity of Command Was Problem for Lloyd George

But unity of efforts was more difficult. There was the difficulty of placing the troops of one nation under the command of a general of another nation. There was the difficulty of inducing the various Governments to forgo their independence sufficiently to submit to a common authority.

It was the disaster of Caporetto, foreseen by Lloyd George, that enabled him for the first time to bridge the gulf. The Italian Army announced that the plans for assistance were brought into play, and Lloyd George himself hurried off to Italy.

The success of French and British troops was sufficient to stop the Austro-German attack and at Rapallo Lloyd George secured the agreement of the Allies—cordially assented to by President Wilson—in the constitution of a Supreme War Council.

One other act Lloyd George took during the darkest days of 1918, the military arrangements of the Versailles Council had broken down. The military council had made the plans, but difficulties of many kinds had prevented their fruition when March 21 came.

Lloyd George decided immediately for Marshal Foch as generalissimo. Lloyd George's influence in the armistice negotiations and in the Paris peace treaty conferences has been too widely described to need retelling here.

Handling of Irish War Added to His Enemies

His handling of the Irish question brought renewed opposition from the old-time Conservative element upon whose toes he had formerly trod with such impunity. Then came the Near East crisis and the virtual backsliding of England from the high standard first announced by the Premier. He had to back down. He found no solidarity of public opinion to back him up.

His last great speech, made just a few days ago at Manchester, was his reply to his critics. But it would not have mattered what he might have said there. The Conservatives never have liked him, he himself has denounced the Radicals and the Laborites. Hereafter they have none of them been able to get along without him. So he has gone his own way in spite of them.



Above, the former Premier and his family, and at the right Mr. Lloyd George at his favorite sport, golf

himself is perfectly satisfied with the event as it has happened; that he will find in it the opportunity to rid himself of a lot of unpleasant political associations that have hampered him and win a chance to fling himself into the public arena as a champion of his own individual policies and the head of his own individual party.

It will be just like Lloyd George to do the unexpected. He has always done that. Even his bitterest detractors admit that his whole career has been a series of successes won as much by startling and disconcerting surprises as by any genuine greatness of character.

And yet, for all the unpleasant and uncomplimentary things that have been said about him, for all of the general agreement that he is a crafty politician rather than a statesman, a vacillating and inconsistent temporizer, without deeply rooted ideals, rather than an inspired leader of great causes, scarcely a man in the whole history of British public life can point to such a list of supreme victories which are bound to leave their impress on the world for generations to come.

Lloyd George is the sole survivor of the national leaders who guided

Near East storm clouds—all have served to threaten him, but he emerged still the leader to the discomfort of his enemies.

Never has the British been more a one-man Government than it has been under Lloyd George. He is a marvel physically, else he could not have stood the strain. His chief relaxation is golf, or walking, or spending hours outdoors with his family or close friends. He seeks further relaxation on Sunday evenings by singing Welsh hymns in the privacy of his home. For six out of every seven days, however, he is generally working on six cylinders.

When some months ago the Northcliffe press was storming about the futility of holding a Genoa parley, and when there was a crisis over the position of the Conservatives in the Government and the

Premier declared he would not tolerate the dictation of Sir George Younger, chief Tory whip, the air



The camera caught him on the way to Parliament

Genoa Climax Was Similar To Others in His Career

The story of the Genoa crisis has been the story of all of the crises through which he made his way to repeated victories.

Lloyd George was born in Manchester January 17, 1863. His parents were Welsh, and always Lloyd George, whose bringing up was in Wales, has been a champion of Welsh nationalism and had such a grip on the affections of his admirers in that country that they called him sometimes "The Prince of Wales."

The son of a schoolmaster, who died while Lloyd George was an infant, the future Premier knew the extremes of poverty as a youth. He hardly tasted fresh meat, and his greatest luxury in those days, he said once in a public speech, was an egg which he had to have with his brother on Sundays. He received only a limited education, but obtained an apprenticeship with a firm of lawyers and finally succeeded in establishing his own little practice in Wales.

He gained his local reputation by defending the right of Non-Conformists—the himself was a Baptist—to burial in the Anglican parish churchyards without the usual rites of the Church of England.

A law establishing this right had been passed, but an irascible vicar of a little church in Wales, outraged by the passage of the law, had refused to allow the burial of a Non-Conformist quarryman beside the body of a daughter. He forced the burial of the body in a plot set aside for the burial of suicides.

Lloyd George's leadership was enlisted by the indignant Non-Conformists of the village, and he led them in a raid on the graveyard, where they removed the body from the suicide plot and placed it, as they wished, beside the grave of the quarryman's daughter. The enraged vicar instituted a lawsuit, in which he was sustained by court after court,

Cape Colony he was cautious. But after the fall of Bloemfontein, when it became clear that annexation was the policy of the Government, he came out in favor of the war with all his might and main.

Fought Boer War Party Against Public Clamor

He entered upon a campaign from one end of the country to the other. He attacked Joseph Chamberlain, the leader of the war party, and the most formidable debater in Parliament, and on one occasion so successfully that Chamberlain got up and crossed the floor of the House and shook his fist in Lloyd George's face.

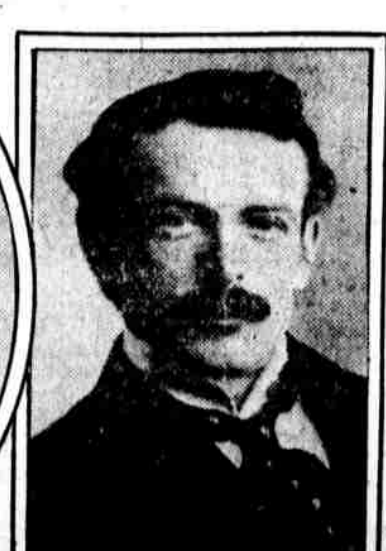
He went down to Birmingham, the stronghold of the war party and almost the pocket borough of Chamberlain, and took the Town Hall to speak against the war.

The crowd became so violent that they drove Lloyd George and his friends off the platform into a little back room, shouting for his blood. The chief constable deemed the situation so critical that he insisted on Lloyd George donning a policeman's uniform and passing out in the disguise as the only method of saving his life.

But only a few months later the tide began to turn. He brought a very unflattering audience at Nevin, also in Wales to its feet in a storm of enthusiastic cheering by spontaneously turning and saying in Welsh:

"See here now—five years ago the electors of the Carnarvon boroughs handed me a strip of blue paper, the certificate of my election, to hand to the Speaker as their accredited representative. If I never again represent the Carnarvon boroughs in the House of Commons I shall at least have the satisfaction of handing back to them that blue paper with no stain of human blood upon it."

At the general election in the same year Chamberlain brought returned him to Parliament with the largest majority he had yet achieved. On that occasion the crowd was so enthusiastic



At various ages, the former Premier is shown before he entered politics; then when he first went to Parliament; next just after the war began and at the present